

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Nowadays discrimination case has been a serious problem in the world. Many countries have been trying to solve this problem. Yet, this issue is not easy to be handled. Many factors can cause discrimination. For example, it can be skin colours, ethnic groups, races or even religions. Sometimes those who practise discrimination assume that they are different from and better than other people. This becomes a logical reason for them to do discrimination.

People can express their discriminative attitude through their actions or they can do it in writing. Many writers write texts containing discriminative opinions. In this thesis I intend to analyze Robert Spencer's way of thinking about Islam. For the source of data of my thesis, I will use Robert Spencer's article which I searched in the Internet. This text is found in Robert Spencer's own website. Robert Spencer is an American writer who specifically focuses on criticism toward Islam. Because of this, it is clear that he wants to discriminate Islam. He writes many books and articles which discriminate Islam.

In his books and articles he tends to give a negative representation toward Islam so that other people or the readers also assume that Islam is as bad as he thinks. He has a perception that Islam with its culture, Sharia (Islamic law), and the people (Muslims), is something bad. This condition makes Islam marginalized because his writings help create the bad image of Islam.

Seeing that the discrimination case is really interesting to be discussed, I choose this discrimination case as my topic of discussion in my thesis. My thesis topic is a text analysis of representation of Islam in Robert Spencer's article. I choose this topic because Robert Spencer's article contains a biased societal problem, in which Islam is assumed and represented as something bad. In his article, Robert Spencer tries to discriminate Islam and wants to give a negative representation toward Islam. Considering that Robert Spencer's article is biased and discriminative toward Islam, I find it interesting to analyze how Robert Spencer represents Islam in his article; in other words, how he gives a negative representation toward Islam in his article.

My thesis analysis belongs to Discourse Analysis (DA), one of the areas of linguistics. Furthermore, I will focus on the text analysis, which is an analysis of a text. In doing the text analysis, I will use van Dijk's theory as my basic theory. I decide to use van Dijk's theory because in my opinion, van Dijk's theory is more systematic and it really helps me to analyze how Islam is represented by Robert Spencer and what discriminative elements are found in Robert Spencer's article. In van Dijk's theory, there are three levels which can be analyzed. They are the macro level, meso level and micro level. Macro level relates to the writer's intention widely in writing a text. Micro level concerns more about the use of

language by the writer. The last level is meso level which constitutes one level between macro level and micro level. However, in this thesis I will limit the discussion to the micro level analysis only, which according to van Dijk contains three aspects, which are the macrostructure, the microstructure and the superstructure.

I believe that this topic is significant as people can be more critical in understanding a text. I hope my analysis can be useful and contribute something positive in the study of text analysis. Considering that a text sometimes tends to be discriminative, I believe that this topic is significant as people can be more critical in understanding the text. Therefore, we as the reader must be critical toward texts containing discriminative cases so that we can understand the writer's real intention in writing the text. That is why I am really interested in discussing this topic because we are sometimes presented with wrong information and discriminative opinions presented by the writer, which makes us have wrong perception as well toward something.

(702 words)

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

The problems that I will analyze in my thesis are as follows :

1. Based on the macrostructure analysis, how is Islam represented ?
2. Based on the microstructure analysis, how is Islam represented ?
3. Based on the superstructure analysis, how is Islam represented ?

### **1.3 Purpose of the Study**

This study is done

1. to find out how Islam is represented based on macrostructure analysis.
2. to find out how Islam is represented based on microstructure analysis.
3. to find out how Islam is represented based on superstructure analysis.

### **1.4 Method of Research**

First I began by finding and reading the reference books and the theory related to the topic which I want to analyze. Then I searched for the text to analyze. After that I analyzed the text and finally I wrote the research report.

### **1.5 Organization of the Thesis**

I divide the thesis into four chapters. The first chapter is Introduction, which consists of five parts – Background of the Study, Statement of the Problems, Purpose of the Study, Method of Research, and Organization of the Thesis. Chapter Two contains Theoretical Framework, in which I elaborate some approaches to analyze the data. Chapter Three is the analysis. Chapter Four is Conclusion of the analysis. At the end of the thesis, I put Bibliography and Appendix.