CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is very important for humans. As social beings, humans need language as a tool to communicate with others. There are enormous functions of language; one of them is to give representation. According to Hall (1997), "Representation means using language to say something meaningful about, or to represent, the world meaningfully, to other people" (p. 15). In giving representation, a person can use language to convey his/her ideology towards something, whether it is a positive or negative representation.

In analysing the use of language to give representation academically and thoroughly, there is a field of study in linguistics called Discourse Analysis. According to Brown and Yule (1983), discourse analysis is "the analysis of language in use" (p. 1).

A famous linguist, Teun A. van Dijk, develops a theory for analysing a discourse in a more critical way, namely Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA). He explains CDA as a "discourse analytical research that primarily studies the way

social-power abuse and inequality are enacted, reproduced, legitimated, and resisted by text and talk in the social and political context" (van Dijk, 2015, p. 466).

One of the media which comprise the phenomena of social-power abuse and inequality in the social and political context is a news report. According to Vocabulary.com dictionary online (n.d.), a news report is "information reported in a newspaper or news magazine". A news report aims to inform the readers of current events that happen in the society and even the world. The information described in a news report which is presented by a journalist needs to be objective. However, at times subjectivity takes place, usually by showing tendency to favour someone or a certain party.

In 2017 there is a case of a famous politician in Indonesia which attracts lots of attention not only from the country but also the world; it is the blasphemy case of Basuki Tjahaja Purnama, also well-known as Ahok, the former governor of Jakarta. He is convicted to be guilty of blasphemy regarding the speech he made back in October 2016, during his political campaign for Jakarta's 2017 governor election. He made a comment related to a chapter in Koran, Al-Ma'idah: verse 51, regarding the right of Muslims to vote for a non-Muslim to be a leader.

During his period as the governor, Mr. Basuki made a lot of improvements in Jakarta. Despite his famous personality of being fearless and assertive in ruling the capital city, his being Chinese and Christian aroused protests mainly from hard-line Islamic groups, who opposed the former Chinese Christian governor to rule Jakarta, a city dominantly populated by Muslim citizens.

When he ran for Jakarta's governor in 2017 election, many Muslim hard-liners went against him. The edited video of Mr. Basuki's campaign speech was

posted on Facebook by one of the hard-line Islamic members, which further provoked protests from mass rallies. Shortly after the edited video was published, Mr. Basuki was reported of insulting Islam. Until his case was brought to the court with the final decision of sentencing him to two-year imprisonment, the blasphemy verdict from the judges has renewed criticism over the country and even worldwide concerning the rightness of the verdict itself. This controversial case is interesting to be discussed.

I choose to analyse a news report about Ahok's blasphemy case from a foreign media, *The New York Times.* The news article was published on May 11, 2017 entitled "'Rot at the Core': Blasphemy Verdict in Indonesia Dismays Legal Expert". Even though the news articles from local newspapers discussing Ahok's case are in abundance, the foreign one can be considered to be more neutral in giving the information. It is feared that the newspapers from local media have taken side to a particular group so that the rightness of information is likely to be doubted.

The New York Times itself is an American newspaper. It is "a global media organization dedicated to helping people understand the world through unrivaled, on-the-ground, expert and deeply reported independent journalism" (*Nytco.com*, 2018). Their mission is to "inform people who want to understand the world by directing attention to what matters — without fear or favor" (*Nytco.com*, 2018).

By doing this kind of research, I believe people can be more critical in taking information from the media. They would be able to distinguish whether a media tends to have a particular ideology. Thus, they are expected to be wiser in responding to the information from the media so that they will not be easily stirred

up by others. In short, this thesis is significant to raise people's awareness and to make them more critical in responding to the events that happen around them.

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1.2 Statement of the Problem

There are three problems that will be analysed in this thesis:

1.   What is the representation of Indonesia's judiciary in Ahok's blasphemy verdict in the text based on the macrostructure analysis?

2.   What is the representation of Indonesia's judiciary in Ahok's blasphemy verdict in the text based on the microstructure analysis?

3.   What is the representation of Indonesia's judiciary in Ahok's blasphemy verdict in the text based on the superstructure analysis?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The aims of the thesis are:

1.   to find out the representation of Indonesia's judiciary in Ahok's blasphemy verdict in the text based on the macrostructure analysis.

2.   to find out the representation of Indonesia's judiciary in Ahok's blasphemy verdict in the text based on the microstructure analysis.

3.   to find out the representation of Indonesia's judiciary in Ahok's blasphemy verdict in the text based on the superstructure analysis.

1.4 Organization of the Thesis

This thesis is constructed in five chapters. It begins with Chapter One, Introduction. This first chapter consists of Background of the Study, Statement of

the Problem, Purpose of the Study, and Organization of the Thesis. Next is Chapter Two, which is Literature Review. Here, the theories that are used in the analysis are elaborated. Following this is Chapter Three, Methods of Research. It explains the methods that are used in the analysis. In Chapter Four, the analysis of the data is presented to answer the statement of the problem. The last is Chapter Five, Conclusion, which functions to give the personal opinion and comments concerning the findings. Finally, the thesis ends with References, where all the references of the thesis are listed, and Appendices, where the complete data of the thesis is stated.