

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

In this chapter, I present some conclusions based on the discussion on the use of doublespeak in some of the political statements made by the U.S Department of Defense in the previous chapter.

After analyzing the speech, I find that in order to save the U.S Department of Defense reputation and get the heroic image, Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld, delivers a speech which contains doublespeak. The two types of doublespeak that the U.S Department of Defense has used mostly are euphemism and inflated language.

I have taken the sources of data with issues from the Missile Defense System until the Iraq War and the issue at Abu Ghraib prison, so that I could detect the use of doublespeak in different conditions and circumstances.

To justify the invasion of America to Iraq or Afghanistan, Rumsfeld always says that the purpose of the invasion to Iraq is to defend the United States from the threat of the enemy that American people consider to be terrorists and they are still keeping a nuclear weapon. Moreover, Rumsfeld says the purposes of the invasion to Iraq are also to liberate and to save the Iraqi people from the tyranny government of Saddam Hussein, which America thinks as the dictator and

the enemy. However, we can see from the fact the effects of the American invasion to Iraq are just creating new sorrows to Iraqi people. Many of them have been killed and suffered. Moreover, the widespread issue of the torture at Abu Ghraib through the photographs and the videos has been an embarrassing for the U.S Department of Defense because the accused people who tortured the prisoner are from the American forces. This will make the public wonder what American forces are actually doing in Iraq. We know from the news, or the other media that the purpose of their mission in Iraq is actually very contradictory to what American forces did at Abu Ghraib.

There are three ways for Rumsfeld to save the reputation of America by using doublespeak in his speech. First, to manipulate the audience to think that the enemy of America (Iraq and Afghanistan) to have a very bad image, so that the audience will support the U.S Department of Defense to invade those countries. He often uses inflated language to make the description of the enemy of America to be as bad as possible, such as *an outlaw regime or a rogue nation armed with missiles and weapons of mass destruction, an aggressor's capital, and the tyranny of a brutal dictator*. They manipulate the public with impressive words, such as *brutal, mass destruction, aggressor, and rogue* to make the public get an impression that the enemies of The United States are so dangerous and the audience must be aware of them. Rumsfeld called Saddam Hussein as *the tyranny of a brutal dictator* and Iraq with *aggressor capital*.

Second, is Rumsfeld often uses inflated language to give the good impression and create the air of importance in order to alter their negative perception about the invasion of America to Iraq and Afghanistan and the

embarrassing conduct of American forces did at Abu Ghraib. He uses inflated statements such as *a body blow*, *the really well-earned reputation*, *a force for good*, and *massive*. The reason they use this type of doublespeak is to show a good impression, a heroic image, and trustworthy image, so that the American audience will support and give the sympathy for them.

Third, is Rumsfeld often uses euphemism to make the sensitive issue such as the word of 'war', 'invasion' or the embarrassing conduct done by the American forces in Iraq to appear as implicit as possible in order to cover the unpleasant reality and keep the good image of America. He often uses euphemistic statements such as *heartsick*, *counter-offensive*, *replace the regime*, *Americans wearing the uniform*, *to occupy*, *a few*, *the building of a free state* and *the excesses of human nature that humanity suffers*, and *replace the regime*. He uses euphemism such as *heartsick*, *counter-offensive*, *the building of a free state*, *to occupy*, and *replace the regime* to soften the actual meanings of that phrase to become more tolerable than their actual meanings. For instance, when Rumsfeld uses the phrase of *counter-offensive* instead of *invasion* in order to avoid mentioning the sensitive issue to the audience. He also uses euphemism to give an implicit description such as *a few*, *the excesses of human nature that humanity suffers*, and *Americans wearing the uniform* to cover the unpleasant reality that will make the good image of the America tarnish.

I can not find any gobbledygook and jargon in the Department of Defense owing to the fact that after searching and analyzing the Department of Defense's speeches. I only find two kinds of doublespeak, namely euphemism and inflated language.

After analyzing the data of the use of doublespeak in the U.S Department of Defense's political statements, I conclude that the politicians use doublespeak to gain trust, get a good image and support from the public, though they are not as good as the reality. For example, the U.S Department of Defense has a high reputation in the front of the American public and the world, so they try their best to maintain their "heroic" and "good" image though they have done bad things or some illegal actions.

In my opinion, many people are unaware of the use of doublespeak in some speeches. We can see the effects from both the speaker and the audience. People sometimes are suspicious when some politicians give their speeches or opinions; as a result, people will not easily trust their government. Furthermore, if people are tired of the doublespeak found in the political speeches, people will no longer try to communicate with their own government because they think that it is useless. They will ignore the issues of political speeches whether it is important. As a consequence, government will be ignored and not be trusted by their public anymore due to the use of doublespeak in political speeches.

The victims of the manipulation of the doublespeak political speech are like the Iraqi people who become the victims of the Iraq War. Many Iraqi people have died because of the invasion done by the United States. Although the Department of Defense always says that they will liberate the Iraqi people, the fact is that many of the Iraqi people have died because of the invasion. That is the reason why we must be aware of the use of doublespeak. Moreover, we have to be aware of the use of doublespeak in our daily life as doublespeak is a kind of speech that is used to mislead people into falsehood.