

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Language is an important thing for human beings. Whether we realize it or not, we cannot express our thoughts to others without using language as a tool. In expressing our thoughts, language serves many functions such as giving information, arguing, debating, delivering speeches, or even making a positive or negative representation about something. Many leaders, especially political leaders and country leaders, are generally demanded to have a skill in using language as they often deliver speeches on many occasions. There are many purposes of speeches, and there may also be some reasons behind the speeches. However, whatever the purpose of the speech is, there must be a representation about something in the speech, either it is a positive representation or a negative representation.

In a political speech, for example, a group or a party that supports the government will show a positive representation by mentioning the good side and the achievements of the government. On the other hand, an opposition group or party may represent the negative representation of their own government by pointing at the faults and weaknesses the government has made. One of Hitler's speeches in Munich also shows the negative representation of the Treaty of

Versailles as well as the German government who had signed the treaty.

Looking at German historical background, there was a period when Adolf Hitler and his NAZI party came to power. It began after the period of the First World War when the Germany was defeated by other European countries. After the Germany had lost the war, the German government was forced to sign a treaty. In the treaty, it was stated that Germany had to pay for the reparations of all the damages caused by the war.

In the difficult situation of the country, Hitler and the NAZI party felt disappointed for their government. They also wanted a new form of government. As a result, they began to act against their government. Adolf Hitler as a great orator thought that they needed a great mass support to fight against the government. Thus, in some of his speeches, he gave a negative representation of the treaty and what its bad effect was for the country. The negative representation was used in order to gain mass support and to make the German people hate their own government.

In this case, we can see that language can be used as a manipulation strategy in order to achieve certain purposes. In my opinion, it is quite interesting to analyze how language is used and how language reveals the meaning behind a text. By analyzing a text, we will know how language operates and how words, clauses, and sentences make a paragraph and how they connect with the whole context of a text. In the realm of discourse studies, those things can be explained in details in terms of text analysis.

Halliday and Hasan define a text as “a unit of language in use” (1). In linguistics, a text generally refers to a spoken or written form of passage in any length which forms a unity (Halliday and Hasan 1). A text can also create representation. Fairclough explained that “language in text always simultaneously functions ideationally in the representation of experience and the world” (6). For

that reason, I am interested in choosing the topic of text analysis in order to reveal the negative representation of the Treaty of Versailles found in Hitler's speech. According to van Dijk, representation refers to the language used in a text or talk to assign meaning to groups and their social practices, to events, and to social and ecological conditions and objects (van Dijk).

The source of data in the analysis is taken from the Internet, that is Adolf Hitler's speech in Munich on April 12th, 1922. In the speech, Hitler talks about the Treaty of Versailles and Nazi movement. However, the topic that will be analyzed in this thesis is the Treaty of Versailles, because in this speech the most dominant topic is about the treaty. Moreover, the movement that is mentioned in the speech is used as a respond to the treaty as well as a kind of persuasion in order to gain supporters. This text has been translated into English, and because the content of this speech is supported by the historical facts, I assume that this speech is accurate enough to represent Hitler's representation of the German government.

In analyzing the data, the theory of text analysis will be applied as the major theory of my analysis. This theory will be used to reveal the negative representation of the Treaty of Versailles that is found in the speech. In doing the analysis, I will apply some of van Dijk's negative other presentation strategy.

I believe that the topic is significant to discuss as it can make the readers more aware and more critical in their daily life, especially in listening and observing to speeches or any information given.

(822 words)

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

In this thesis, there are two main problems that I will analyze. Those problems are stated as follows.

1. What representation of the Treaty of Versailles is created in Hitler's speech?
2. How is van Dijk's negative other presentation strategy used to show the representation of the treaty?

1.3 PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

In this thesis, there are two purposes of doing the analysis, namely

1. To find out the representation of the Treaty of Versailles in the speech.
2. To show how the negative other presentation strategy reveals the representation of the treaty.

1.4 METHODS OF RESEARCH

I began the research for this thesis by searching some books and collecting some data from the Internet that are relevant to the topic discussed. After gathering the data, I analyzed and wrote the research report of the chosen data by using the theories of text analysis and some theories that are related to the topic.

1.5 ORGANIZATION OF THE THESIS

This thesis is divided into four chapters. The first chapter is the Introduction, which consists of the Background of the Study, Statement of the Problems, Purpose of the Study, Methods of Research, and Organization of the Thesis. Chapter Two contains the Theoretical Framework. Chapter Three

contains the analysis of the speech. The last chapter is the Conclusion. In the end, I will put the Bibliography and Appendix.