

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

In everyday life, to say whether a thing or a person is good or bad is expressed by giving our opinion or judgment about that particular thing or person. Yet, we will not convince others, especially those with opposite opinions to ours, that our opinion is right and reliable without being supported by some convincing facts and arguments. When we are trying to convince other persons to take our side, we should make a good argumentative discourse.

Making an argumentative discourse is not an easy task because we not only give information to the hearers but also present arguments about the particular subject we are discussing. We have to take a clear position and try to persuade the hearers to do things they do not want to do or to change the opinion they do not want to change. In short, we try to persuade our target hearers to do something according to our interest. That is exactly what the Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, does in his argumentative speech in front of the United Nations, which is the data of this study. This speech was delivered on the 64<sup>th</sup>

anniversary of the UN General Assembly, on September 24, 2009, the day after President of Iran, Ahmadinejad, delivered a speech about the Holocaust.

Globally speaking, in his speech, Netanyahu gives some arguments to the United Nations delegations about the negative things of the Iranian regime and the positive things of Israel so that the United Nations delegations will take some actions according to Netanyahu's interest. Interestingly, Netanyahu also presents some negative judgments about the United Nations for the purpose of making them realize that they have been wrong all this time.

For the reason explained above, I finally decide to do a text analysis of Netanyahu's speech. Text analysis is a subfield of Linguistics which is very useful and helpful to examine how language is arranged in a particular way to make the text meaningful and unified. Specifically, I am going to do a text analysis which is based on van Dijk's Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) to examine whether Netanyahu gives a positive or negative representation of the United Nations. As van Dijk (263) states, in discourse analysis, there are two strategies used in order to justify the inequality between self and other, namely the positive self – representation (face-keeping) and the negative other – representation (derogation). van Dijk (354) also adds that in order to show which strategy(ies) is(are) used in a discourse, we can conduct three levels of analysis, namely the macro, meso and micro levels. In this thesis, I am going to analyze only the micro level analysis. This level constitutes the macrostructure, superstructure and microstructure analyses which deal with how language use, discourse, verbal interaction and communication are arranged in a particular way to give a certain presentation of a person or a thing.

The topic of my thesis is “*Text Analysis of the Representation of the United Nations in Benjamin Netanyahu’s Speech*”. I choose to do a text analysis or the micro level analysis instead of the whole Critical Discourse Analysis because I only want to focus on the text itself so that my analysis will be more focused. In this micro level analysis, I will do three analyses, namely the macrostructure, microstructure and superstructure analyses. By doing the three analyses, I can make a very thorough and clear analysis because they help me to examine the text from various perspectives.

I decide to analyze the representation of the United Nations in my thesis. I am interested in the fact that Netanyahu in his speech challenges the United Nations to do something about the Iranian regime for the UN is an international legitimacy, whose main purpose is “to promote international cooperation and to achieve peace and security” (“The History of the United Nations”). At a glance, Netanyahu gives the impression that the United Nations has been wrong all this time for supporting the Iranian regime. For that reason, I want to know more how Netanyahu gives this representation of the United Nations in a more academic way. I choose to analyze a speech by Benjamin Netanyahu because he is known for his excellence in polishing and crafting good speeches by his own style and language characteristics (Avineri). I choose this particular speech because in this speech, the arguments given by Netanyahu are so clearly stated and interestingly organized, which makes the arguments in this speech undeniable for the hearers and worth studying for me as a researcher.

The topic is significant because a text analysis requires close reading that is important for students of any fields, especially for students of the English

Department, in order to get the deep understanding of a text meaning. It can also sharpen our critical way of thinking, which is important not only for academic life but also for everyday life. Therefore, a text analysis becomes worth studying and worth conducting even though it is not a simple thing to do because we have to choose and apply the right theories to get the best and most accurate analysis.

Total words: 856 words

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

In this thesis, I would like to discuss the following problems:

1. Based on the macrostructure analysis, how do the global topics of the speech show the representation of the United Nations?
2. Based on the microstructure analysis, how do lexicon, local syntax and interactions help reveal the representation of the United Nations in the speech?
3. Based on the superstructure analysis, how is the information of the United Nations representation organized in the speech?

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

The purposes of this analysis are as follows:

1. To find out how the global topics show the representation of the United Nations, based on the macrostructure analysis.
2. To find out how lexicon, local syntax and interactions help reveal the representation of the United Nations, based on the microstructure analysis.
3. To find out how the information of the representation of the United Nations is organized, based on the superstructure analysis.

#### **1.4 Methods of Research**

I began the research by searching and finding a suitable text to be the data of my research. After that, I read some books about Discourse Analysis and journals by van Dijk about Critical Discourse Analysis which were related to the topic discussed. Then I browsed some further explanation about the topic discussed in van Dijk's electronic journals and other sources in the Internet. After that, I started doing the analysis. Finally, I wrote a research report.

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

I divide the thesis into four chapters. The first chapter is the Introduction, which consists of five parts – 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, in which I elaborate the theories and approaches used to analyze the text. Chapter Three contains the text analysis of the text and Chapter Four is the conclusion of the analysis. At the end of the thesis, I put the Bibliography and Appendix.