CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of study

In the 21st century, the fact that information is very important forces people to update their knowledge about what is happening. They usually find information through media such as television, radio, newspaper, magazine, and the Internet. In these media, information is showed in the form of a text. In order to understand the information deeply, people must know how to use language that involves both the text and the context.

The content of a text may contain an opinion or a perspective about a person, a group of persons, a place, an environment, a country, etc. The opinion or perspective may contain the judgment over whether the person or thing is good or bad. When all parts of the audience or all the readers have different opinions about the topic delivered by a speaker or a writer, it may be difficult to influence them.

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Consequently, the speaker or the writer must give their most convincing arguments with some relevant facts to support their opinion so that it becomes acceptable for the audience or the reader. Trying to persuade the audience or the reader to have the same opinion as the writer or speaker and to do something in accordance with our interest needs a right and clear position and a good argumentative discourse.

In this thesis, the reasons explained above are used to support the attempt to analyze a text of Obama's speech. In this speech, which was delivered at the first meeting of the strategic economic dialogue between the United States of America and the Republic of China on 27 July 2009 in Washington D.C., United States of America, Obama gave his argumentative speech about the relationship between America and China, especially to convince China to build a positive, constructive, and comprehensive relationship with America so that both countries can enhance their interests.

The speech of President Barrack Obama was chosen because he is well-known as a politician who is skillful in delivering speeches. He has a good mental library of words and his memory enables him to access the right words when required and also his attention to details is incisive. Besides, he is very good at expressing his intent and using words that efficiently describe his message (Frenkel). This thesis analyzes Obama's speech in the strategic economic dialogue between America and China because of two reasons. First, China was predicted to become a new economic superpower; therefore, every issue about China has become interesting information to consume for everyone

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around the world. Second, the America – China relationship is very influential in the world and any problem concerning it may affect other countries.

A text analysis which is based on van Dijk's Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) is presented to verify the representation of China in Obama's speech through his persuasive arguments. van Dijk (263) states that the justification of the inequality between self and other can be verified by using two strategies, namely the positive self-presentation and negative other-presentation. In addition, van Dijk (354) states that in order to show which strategies are used in a discourse, people can make three levels of analyses, namely the macro, meso, and micro levels. To limit the scope of this analysis, this thesis only presents the micro level analysis because this study totally focuses on the text itself rather than on power, dominance, and inequality between social groups (macro levels) or the intermediate level (meso levels), both of which are more abstract (van Dijk 31). The micro level analysis consists of the macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure analyses, which involve language use, discourse, verbal interaction, and communication to give a certain representation of someone or something.

The topic of this thesis is "*Text Analysis of the Representation of China in Barrack Obama's Speech*." The decision to do the micro level analysis in this thesis was made in order for the analysis to become more specific and focused. The micro level analysis includes the macrostructure, microstructure, and superstructure analyses.

This topic is considered substantial because a text analysis requires a very good understanding and knowledge about the text itself as well as the context,

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which is one of the basic tools for every English Department student to understand a text both explicitly and implicitly. A text analysis also can increase people's sensitivity in critical thinking, which is important not only for academic life but also for everyday life so that they can take part in developing human life. Thus, a text analysis is worth studying.

(750 words)

1.2 Statement of the Problem

This thesis is going to discuss the following problems:

1. Based on the macrostructure analysis, how do the global topics of the speech show the representation of China?

2. Based on the microstructure analysis, how do the lexicon, deixis, implicitness and rhetorical questions contribute to the disclosure of the representation of China in the speech?

3. Based on the superstructure analysis, how is the information organized to reveal the representation of China in the speech?

1.3 The Purpose of the Study

This study has the following purposes:

1. to find out how the global topics show the representation of China, based on the macrostructure analysis.

2. to find out how the lexicon, deixis, implicitness and rhetorical questions contribute to the disclosure of the representation of China in the speech, based on the microstructure analysis.

3. to find out how the information is organized to reveal the representation of the China in the speech, based on the superstructure analysis.

1.4 Method of Research

This research started by searching and finding an appropriate text to be the research data. Then intensive reading was done on some books that discuss Discourse Analysis and on van Dijk's journal articles of Critical Discourse Analysis, which are relevant to the topic of this study. After the theories about Discourse Analysis were gathered, especially the Critical Discourse Analysis of van Dijk's, the text was analyzed and finally the research report was written.

1.5 Organization of the Thesis

The thesis is divided into four chapters. The first chapter is Introduction, which consists of five parts − Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Purpose of the Study, Method of Research, and Organization of the Thesis. Chapter Two is Theoretical Framework, in which the theories and approaches used to analyze the text are elaborated. Chapter Three contains the text analysis and Chapter Four puts forward the conclusion of the analysis. Finally, this thesis presents its Bibliography and Appendices.

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