CHAPTER FOUR

CONCLUSION

In this chapter I would like to draw some concluding points about the representation of China in Barrack Obama's speech. The concluding points are based on the result of the discussion in Chapter Three, which covers the three analyses, the macrostructure, microstructure and superstructure analyses.

In the macrostructure analysis, the representation of China cannot be seen clearly whether it is positive or negative. The important parts of the speech, which are the thesis statement and the recommendation, do not clearly show the representation of China. In the thesis statement, I find out that Obama wants China to have a good relationship with the United States of America in order to enhance their interest while in the recommendation Obama states he thinks China should have a positive, constructive, and comprehensive relationship rather than a confrontation with the United States of America.

In my opinion, the role of the macrostructure analysis is to reveal the global topic and not to show the real meaning of a text in detail. We can only get the meaning of the speech on the surface, which is about the relationship between the United States of America and China but we cannot get detail information,

which can be significant evidence for revealing whether the representation of China is positive or negative.

In the microstructure analysis, there are four tools which are used. The tools are the lexicon, deixis, implicitness and rhetorical questions. From all of the tools which are used, it can be concluded that the representation of China in Obama's speech is positive. It is obviously seen that in this speech, Obama uses the tools as a significant approach to create an image that the United States of America sees China in a positive way.

In the lexicon analysis, we can clearly see how Obama chooses some words which have drawn a positive representation of China. Through the twelve data in the lexicon analysis, I conclude that Obama intentionally praises China as a great country. I think Obama explicitly praises the country as a way to convince China that the country is a suitable partner for the United States of America.

The second concluding point is based on the use of deixis. The use of inclusive and exclusive "we" has brought a positive representation of China. In my opinion, the use of deixis used in this speech is very important because the speech talks about a relationship, in which the use of "we" and "us" can be so effective to show the representation of China. Especially for the inclusive "we," the use of deixis has shown the involvement of two parts, the United States of America and China as they have a great role in maintaining the relationship. Both countries have responsibility to maintain the relationship.

In implicitness, it appears that Obama does not want to explicitly disclose the truth about the human rights issues to China. In the speech, he neither speaks frankly nor describes in detail what China should do in dealing with the human

rights issues. Moreover, it appears that he de-emphasizes the negative points of China implicitly in dealing with the human rights issues. I think what Obama has done with the way he talks about the human right issues is strategically appropriate. In my opinion, if Obama had talked deliberately by telling the naked fact about China in dealing with the human rights issues it might have upset China. It becomes quite possible that China will not want to do what Obama wants in the speech.

The last concluding points are based on the use of rhetorical questions. In the rhetorical questions, actually Obama implicitly delivers his opinions that China is a very important partner for the United States of America in facing the 21st century global challenges and the five main global issues, which are economics, energy and the environment, nuclear power, security and human rights. In my opinion, the use of rhetorical questions in Obama's persuasive speech is very appropriate because the interaction of sharing ideas between the speaker and audience can be established. If the interaction has been established, the distance between the audience and the speaker will not exist. If there is no distance, in Obama's case, he will make China believe that Obama is more like a friend who wants to give a solution rather than someone older or in a higher level who just wants to control China to do what is right or wrong for China. It is also appropriate because it is more effective to predispose people's thinking and feeling. In the speech, for example Obama ask, "Will growth be stalled by events like our current financial crisis? Will we cooperate to create balanced and sustainable growth, lifting more people out of poverty and creating a broader prosperity around the world?" By presenting two contrasting choices, it will be

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more effective to predispose China naturally to choose the best and the most positive choice. Thus, I can conclude that in a hortatory exposition or in any other persuasive speech, the use of rhetorical questions is very important.

In the superstructure analysis, the representation of China cannot be seen because Obama delivers the speech in a conventional form. He strictly follows a sequential order of a hortatory exposition. In my opinion, Obama use a conventional way because he wants to deliver his persuasive message effectively. He wants to speak directly to China about his persuasion rather than make China get confused or misunderstood by an implied meaning, which may occur if he used the unconventional form.

Finally, in this last paragraph, I would like to give my suggestion to linguistic students who want to use van Dijk's Critical Discourse Analysis as the approach of research in their thesis. I suggest the students be meticulous when examining all the analysis, especially the microstructure analysis. I also suggest they not only focus on the text as their object of analysis but also give more attention of some facts outside the text, which can give background information of the topic being discussed, for instance who the speaker is, who the audiences are and what the relationship is between the speaker and the audience.

(1029 words)

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