

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses some important aspects related to the research. The researcher explains the background of the research, identification of the problem, limitation of the problem, statements of the problem, objectives of the research, and significances of the research.

A. Background of the Research

Language, as a fundamental aspect of communication has various definitions. In general, the term “*language*” is interpreted as a communication tool to convey ideas and feelings. Whereas, the meaning of language deserves to be studied in more investigation. According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2004) in Flowerdew (2012), language is conceived as a source of communication and making meaning rather than as a formal system, as in many other forms of linguistics. Meanwhile, Confucius in Sun (2015) stated that language in the social domain function not only as a means of interhuman communication but also as a personal space where an individual develops personally in order to become a true human being. This means that language and morality are interrelated. From the definitions above, language is interpreted not only as a communication tool used to create meaning in the social sphere but also to reflect the human personality. In addition, language becomes an intermediary for humans to make themselves into real human

beings (Halliday and Matthiessen, in Flowerdew, 2012; and Confucius, in Sun, 2015). Therefore, language and communication are interrelated in human activities.

In social practice, humans need communication with the surrounding environment. First, humans are social beings who need each other. Communication becomes an intermediary to make it easier for humans to interact and know the conditions of the surrounding environment. In this case, humans have personal interests and commonly shared social interests (Inah, 2013). Second, humans as intellectual beings, use communication as a tool for sharing knowledge. Humans have a role to play in advancing civilization by transferring their knowledge. The case will have an impact on changing people's behaviours to more qualified ways of thinking based on the information transferred. Third, through communication, humans influence the minds of others through the discourse delivered. Humans attract the attention of others to have the same perception. Thus, communication is needed because humans as social beings need to establish relationships with others, form quality thinking, and build influence on other people's minds. Henceforth, it can prolong the discourse in society.

Discourse in communication is something that needs a concern. This is because discourse is a language arrangement in that has a domain or message that is in accordance with social life. However, humans must understand that discourse is not presented without hidden motives. According to Sipra and Rashid (2013), discourses have a significant role in the generation and

reproduction of unequal power relations among various ethnic, gender, age, social class, and professional groups. Discourse approach skills are needed, so that people can examine the neutrality of communication messages such as words, writing, pictures, and others (Silaswati, 2019). As for examining discourse more deeply, one of the analytical methods used is critical discourse analysis.

Critical discourse analysis becomes the framework or formal object used for analyzing discourse in communication. This method encourages people to be more critical of the true meaning, which is not limited to the language element but relates to the context conveyed. According to Fairclough (2001) in Amerian and Esmaili (2014), critical discourse analysis is an interdisciplinary method that explores politics and social contexts to emancipate ideology, dominance, hegemony, and social power. Meanwhile, Dijk (2008) in Jabar and Yunus (2017) defines critical discourse analysis as a type of discourse analysis research that aims to uncover the relationship between language, power, ideology, society, values, and opinions. In this case, critical discourse analysis attempts to dissect ambiguity through several indicators of dominance, language, ideology, power, inequality, society, hegemony, values, and opinions in the discourse (Fairclough, in Amerian and Esmaili, 2014; and Dijk, in Jabar and Yunus, 2017).

This issue is important to research in order to provide knowledge of the impacts of abortion both on the relationship between humans and themselves, the relationship between humans and other humans, as well as the relationship

between humans and God. The researcher and the reader will be unaware of how public figures' speeches contain hidden intentions in responding to issues to gain public trust. This will have a negative effect if there is no research on the subject. Moreover, the findings of this research can be applied to language teaching in educational institutions by enhancing students' critical reading and writing abilities of a discourse.

However, several researchers have conducted previous research using a critical discourse analysis method. Priatmoko (2013), conducted research on critical discourse analysis of Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's speech and shows that critical discourse analysis can explore the relationships among language, power, and ideology. Mohammadi and Javadi (2019) also conducted research on critical discourse analysis by comparing the use of language by Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump in speeches. In addition, Tahir, Shah, and Yasir (2021) carried out research on the critical discourse analysis of a Pakistani Drama specific on discourse and power relations. The last, from Tsani and Ratnadewi (2022), carried out the research about critical discourse analysis in Kamala Harris' speech focused on women and racism issues. The results obtained show that there are five types and uses of racism issues for women of color raised in her speeches; as well as a call to action against the justice of women of color. The researcher concluded that critical discourse analysis can reveal power, language, ideology, and inequality in discourse.

There are differences between this research and previous researches (see Priatmoko, 2013; Mohammadi and Javadi, 2019; Tahir, Shah, and Yasir 2021;

Tsani and Ratnadewi, 2022). The main differences from this research are constructed theory and method of analysis as well as the material object of research. The researcher used the theory of Teun A. van Dijk, and Spradley (1980) to analyze existing data. In addition, this research is choosing the issue of women's abortion from the point of view of Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Candace Owens, whereas previous studies did not.

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Candace Owens are well-known figures in America. First, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez is a politician and activist. Several issues, such as the environment, LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender), education, immigration, and abortion became the topics of her concern. As for expressing her opinion on an issue, Alexandria uses her YouTube account, namely Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. Meanwhile, Candace Owens is known as an activist, political commentator, and talk show host. Various topics were conveyed in her speech, which included issues of ideology, abortion, climate issues, LGBT, women's rights, and immigration. In addition, the YouTube account, namely Candace Owens Podcast and Candace Owens is the mass media for expressing Candace's opinion. Moreover, some of the issues that are of common interest to Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Candace Owens include the issues of immigration, LGBT, and abortion.

However, abortion became the dominant topic on Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Candace Owens' YouTube channel. Both have different views on expressing their alignment with a group. First, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez is a pro-abortion rights activist. Alexandria expressed her support for women who

are fighting for abortion rights. According to Alexandria, abortion is a right inherent in women, and they can choose to give birth or abort their foetuses. Alexandria also promotes fundraising to facilitate women who want abortions. Meanwhile, Candace Owens is an activist against abortion rights. Candace opposes the right to abortion for women because she realizes that abortion endangers the mother's health, is against religious beliefs, and is aborted out of fear for the family.

Regarding the different views of Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Candace Owens in addressing on abortion, this is very interesting to examine through critical discourse analysis. These speeches' appeal lies not only in differences of opinion but also in their strength in expressing opinions. This includes telling other people's experiences with abortion, and mentioning bad opinions of other public figures to gain positive representation. Building public trust is the objective of this discourse. Thus, the ideology of Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Candace Owens will be revealed through a critical discourse analysis.

This research focuses on ensuring that Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Candace Owens have different ideologies. The researcher believes that applying Dijk's theory of critical discourse analysis can reveal that Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez adheres to a liberal ideology and Candace Owens adheres to a conservative ideology. As a result, the researcher and the reader will be more critical in understanding a reality of why and how these opinions are presented, especially on the abortion issue. Therefore, the researcher is interested in conducting research entitled **"The Study of Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and**

Candace Owens' Ideology on Women's Abortion Through Critical Discourse Analysis Framework”.

B. Identification of the Problem

Based on the background of the research, the problem studied in this research are formulated as research questions below:

1. What is Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Candace Owens' speech structure compare which are macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure?
2. How are the discourse concerned with race findings of Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Candace Owens' speech?
3. How are the ideological representations of Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Candace Owens?
4. How do women react to the statements described in the speeches of Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Candace Owens?

C. Limitation of the Problem

In line with problem identification, the focus of this research is the utterances delivered by Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Candace Owens on YouTube regarding abortion using a critical discourse analysis approach. By identifying discourse findings in utterances and ideology adhered based on the character's race, it can consider the importance of a critical discourse analysis approach as a strategy in identifying and analyzing utterances that imply ideology as well as general discourse conveyed by the two speakers to the public as the audience.

D. Statements of the Problem

Based on the limitation of the problem, the researcher statements the following research problem, such as:

1. How are the discourse concerned with race findings of Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Candace Owens' speech?
2. How are the ideological representations of Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Candace Owens?

E. Objectives of the Research

Based on the statements of the problems, the research objectives of the research are as follows:

1. To explore the discourse concerned with race findings of Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Candace Owens' speeches viewed from Critical Discourse Analysis.
2. To reveal the ideological representation of the thoughts of Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Candace Owens viewed from Critical Discourse Analysis.

F. Significances of the Research

The results of the research are expected to provide benefits both theoretically and practically:

1. Theoretically

The results of this research are expected to make a positive contribution to enriching knowledge about critical discourse analysis and also be used as a reference in linguistic studies, especially in research using the critical discourse analysis method to find hidden ideologies from public figures in

speeches. Additionally, readers are anticipated to gain understanding about the issues surrounding abortion through this research, enabling them to respond to the material more intelligently.

2. Practically

a. The Readers

The results of this research can provide insight to readers about the important of critical discourse analysis and then implement it in response to a discourse.

b. The English Lecturers

This research is expected to be a reference for English lecturers as teaching materials in language learning, especially in improving productive skills, namely reading and writing, using a critical discourse analysis approach in a discourse so as to enrich repertoire and increase students' critical abilities, especially in the English Education Study Program STKIP PGRI Pacitan.

c. The Other Researchers

The results of this research are expected to be useful as a reference for other researchers who are interested in conducting research using critical discourse analysis methods, especially in expressing hidden ideology in utterances.