

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

This research is part of research that focuses on analyzing power relations in educational institutions, using the 'Indignation' movie as the context. This research will use two approaches, namely Critical Discourse Analysis and Systemic Functional Grammar. The study consists of research background, research problem, research objectives, scope and limitations, research significance, and definitions of key terms.

#### **A. Background of the Study**

Power is the ability to control the individual behavior of other people either directly by giving orders or indirectly by using all available means. Power is a relationship between those who rule and what is ruled. Power appears in various forms and raises debates about domination and oppression (Azwar & Mulion, 2020).

The practice of higher education from the New Order until the reform period was inseparable from the mechanisms of education and power relations. By its nature, higher education must be neutral and full of objectivity. It contains freedom of thought, critical reasoning, dialogical and argumentative attitudes. However, when higher education is used as a tool of power, a systematic discourse of obedience arises. Higher education is no longer structured by freedom of thought but has turned into a tool of control over

thoughts until uniformity of thought emerges. All educational tools are uniform. Starting from reading books, and curriculum, to methods.

In uniformity of thought, inequality in power relation arises. In such conditions, there is a strong demarcation between inferior groups who are regulated, educated, given direction, and superior groups who regulate. Unequal power relations position the superior party as the one who is all right and knows best, while the inferior party is forced to accept what comes from the superior as the sole truth. Unequal power relation often manifests in the relationship between lecturers and their students, parents and their children, celebrities and their fans, bosses and their employees, and so on.

The occurrence of unequal power relations can often be misused by the authorities, one of which is worrying is the occurrence of acts of harassment and sexual violence that have occurred in several campus institutions where after the action occurs, most survivors tend not to want to report or further process the events that happened to them. In fact, just to ask for help, the victim is reluctant to do so due to considerations and the public's response to him, not to mention if the perpetrator is an individual or group with power. In the end, survivors don't seem to have the opportunity to voice what happened to them.

The power relationship itself is a correlation or relationship that is formed between individuals or groups who have a certain level of interest different powers. Michel Foucault defines power relation as an organized structure in society to regulate and control groups or individuals, through existing rules and

norms (Abizadeh, 2021). In the element of power relation, there is an element of relationship strength social, that is, an individual can have the ability to change social behavior. This explanation leads to another explanation, namely, power has influence in shaping a program or activity, according to his interests, even in his fight. Power is an institutional network that dominates and is linked to relations other relationships such as kinship, which play a conditioning and conditioned role, in Foucault (Sumintak & Idi. 2022).

Individuals who have more power or authority use their special “rights” to carry out deviant actions and there are elements of coercion. Simply put, when there is an individual who is powerless, he will become an easy “target” for individuals who have more strength and power. In crude terms, the perpetrators, based on this power relationship, see other individuals as inferior and helpless compared to themselves. The perpetrator who has more power and power over everything is more fitting to be called an “overpower suspect”. Overpower suspect describes how the owner of capital, his legitimacy and authority, can impose his will on anyone he considers weak.

Cases of abuse of power relation are often carried out by institutions, agencies and organizations. Where the power relation held by these “rulers” can manipulate the structure of the organization as a whole, resulting in structural crimes. We can see this phenomenon in the history of the New Order, where President Soeharto with his authoritarian style was able to control almost all lines, even the press which had independent power could be “destroyed by

President Soeharto's power, and there were also structural crimes during the 32 years during which he was in office.

A movie is a form of visual literary work that contains elements in it. Movies depict events that occur in society and are directed in a scene (Kristianto & Goenawan, 2021). Events in movies are everyday phenomena that are integrated into television. As technology develops, literary works play a very important role as a medium for expressing the contents of human thoughts and feelings (Purwanto & Tjahjono, 2021). In this way, literary works can be accessed on various digital media so that readers do not experience difficulties in accessing these literary works. Literature is a record of human life experiences which contains art and beauty. Meanwhile, Budi Darma stated that literary works can be used as objects of study if the literary work contains inspiration, is sublime, provides thought, opens insight and awareness and contains high emotional power (Budianti, 2020).

Nowadays, the capitalization of electronic media means that movies have the power and ability to reach various social segments so that they have the potential to influence the general public. Movie has the potential as a medium to include social, moral, educational, historical and cultural knowledge values and even as a tool to spread certain ideologies. Thus, the values contained in the movie can influence people's mindset (Suprayitno & Wahyudi, 2020). Viewers usually imagine and position themselves as characters who is in the story he is watching. This gives rise to feelings turbulent, such as feelings of

sympathy and empathy (Praditasari, Retnowati, & Hakim, 2019). It is not uncommon for us to find that when someone is watching a movie, they will be carried away by the atmosphere and even cause laughter and tears in accordance with the content of the story they are watching. This proves that movies can influence the mindset of the people who watch them. Literary works reveal individual facts and social facts that contain human experiences (Chairunisa, Sulistyowati, & Dahlan, 2022). “Indignation” is a 2016 movie directed by James Schamus, based on the novel by Philip Roth. This movie explores the themes of authority, rebellion, and pressure placed on the main character, Marcus Mesner, when he faces conflict with the dean of the campus where he studies. Set in the 1950s, the movie effectively depicts the conservative social norms of the time and the anxieties of youth, highlighting the struggles and consequences of challenges to existing power structures.

The dominant problem in the ‘Indignation’ movie is power relations. Power relations include the relationship between individual technology and technology domination (Nugroho, 2020). In this movie, the power dynamics between the two main characters, Marcus Messner and Dean Caldwell, are visible. By utilizing a post-structuralist conception of power, the researcher interprets various critical incidents in Marcus Messner’s interactions with Dean Caldwell as being at least partly shaped by the power relations that were continuously negotiated and contested in their relationship. These power relations are rooted in the historical development of their roles as students and deans, creating hierarchical relationships that manifest in various ways. For

example, Dean Caldwell's position of institutional authority and power allowed him to exercise control over Marcus Messner's academic decisions and personal life.

In the 'Indignation' movie it is seen that Dean Caldwell exercises power over Marcus Messner through subtle manipulation and control tactics. This is seen in the way Dean constantly scrutinizes and criticizes Marcus' behavior, rejecting his opinions, and putting him in situations where he has to conform to Dean's authority. Therefore, it is interesting to examine the characteristics and social background of each character and highlight how power relation are reproduced and enacted in the discourse between Marcus and Dean Caldwell. In analyzing language and social issues, such as what happens in movies, critical discourse analysis can be used as a framework for the investigation.

Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), according to Van Dijk (2004), is a research methodology that focuses on the examination of texts and speech in social and political contexts. The main focus of CDA is on how speech is used to create, maintain, and contest abuses of social power, dominance, and inequality. The intentional meaning of mainstream media, including movies, is also revealed through the use of CDA. Systemic functional grammar (SFG) is one linguistic tool utilized in CDA.

Researchers in the field of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) recognize Halliday's systemic functional grammar as the most suitable analytical model for the descriptive and interpretive analysis of language as text, conversation,

and semiotics. Social. The model explores the potential meaning of language by examining grammar and language metafunctions. According to Halliday, language has three simultaneous meaning functions in a text: ideational, interpersonal, and textual functions. This potential meaning at the lexicogrammatical level is fulfilled by the respective concepts of theme, transitivity, and mood/modality, and is connected to the contextual aspects of field, tenor, and mode.

According to Fitriani et al. (2021), there are two reasons why CDA and SFG are inseparable: their objectives and roles. First, by analyzing the grammatical characteristics of texts, Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG), like Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), seeks to illuminate the connection between language and its social context. Moreover, SFG offers CDA an invaluable analytical instrument for thoroughly examining textual meaning and, when necessary, helps with quantitative discourse investigations. Researchers can better grasp how language shapes and reflects social reality by applying SFG in CDA.

Several studies have been carried out in analyzing discourse in the media, both spoken and written, using the CDA and SFG frameworks as analytical tools. Mobarak (2021) investigates Donald Trump's political intentions in the Speech on Al-Baghdadi's death by focusing on transitivity and modality. The researcher concluded that Trump uses different linguistic turns to subtly spread, change and maintain the ideology of the audience. Not only in Speeches, CDA

and SFG are also used in analyzing movie. Sihura's (2019) study on the movie Frozen to determine the type of transitivity process and the dominant process type used in the movie Frozen. This research uses more aspects of SFG, specifically the transitivity process. This research also uses the Gay, Mills, and Airasian methods. From the results of the analysis, it was found that types of transitivity processes included, material process, mental process, relational process, verbal process, behavioral process and existential process. And the dominant type of process is the material process.

Discussing CDA and SFG in newspapers, there are several studies that apply the framework. Firdausi, & Sahayu, (2022) investigated the representation of Indonesian newspapers in English and Indonesian. This paper uses Fairclough's three-dimensional framework as well as Halliday's SFG and Multimodality by Kress and Leeuwen. 20 news articles were selected from each newspaper with a total of 40 news articles for both newspapers regarding news related to Covid-19. From the analysis, it was found that there were social, political and cultural ideologies in news articles. Both newspapers are trying to make the public aware of Covid-19 by presenting informative news articles. In addition Wang, (2021) the researcher to compare the ways in which two major news portals, The New York Times (TNYT) in the United States and People's Daily (PD) in China, presented news on Covid-19. In terms of lexical categorization, transitivity, and modal verbs, this research applies Halliday's analytical methods inside Fairclough's three-dimensional



framework. In order to bolster their reports, PD and TNYT employ a variety of actors and verbs in the material process and choose reliable sources or speakers.

In Tian's (2021) study, the specific relationship between traditional ideology and power in implicit discourse is examined. Through concentrating on specific areas of modality analysis, personal pronoun analysis, and transitivity analysis. The study's findings demonstrate that, while traditional discourse analysis always examines the composition and structure of discourse in terms of its linguistic features, critical discourse analysis (CDA) enhances language analysis by delving deeply into the potential of language and methodically interpreting discourse's complex meaning. This study uses physicality, modality, and personal pronouns as its framework, Halliday's systemic functional grammar as its theoretical foundation, and a particular corpus, namely Trump's TV speeches, as linguistic material. The purpose of this study is to investigate how political speech speakers utilize language to bridge social gaps. And win affirmation and community support in the analytical aspects of transitivity analytical modality, and personal pronouns.

From the studies above it can be concluded that the use of SFG as an analysis tool in CDA is important and valuable. Therefore, This research also applies SFG within the CDA framework to investigate representation of power relation within educational institutions in the 'Indignation' movie as well as the underlying ideology behind the representation. The three-dimensional Fairclough framework that this study employs is composed of text

(description), discursive practice (interpretation), and social practice (explanation). As analytical methods, Halliday's Systemic Functional Grammar in transitivity is then applied. The purpose of this project was to increase the empirical literature on CDA and SFG and to provide further applications within the Indonesian context.

#### **B. Problems of the Study**

1. How is power relation manifested within educational institutions in the "Indignation" movie depicted through transitivity?
2. What ideology is depicted in the power relation within educational institutions in the "Indignation" movie?

#### **C. Objectives of the Study**

1. Examining power relation within educational institutions in the "Indignation" movie depicted through the view of transitivity.
2. Describing the ideology of power relation within educational institutions in the "Indignation" movie.

#### **D. Scope and Limitation**

In this research, the researcher only focuses on analyzing power relations in educational institutions in the 'Indignation' movie. Apart from that, the researcher brings up Norman Fairclough's (1989; 1995: 2) three-dimensional

framework theory and Michael Halliday's (1985) systemic functional grammar with a focus on transitivity aspects.

## **E. Significance of the Study**

By conducting this research, researchers hope that the results can provide meaning both theoretically and practically. This is presented as follows:

1. Theoretically, this research is intended to expand research on Critical Discourse Analysis, especially Fairclough's theory and Halliday's Systemic Functional Grammar. Apart from that, it can be information, sources and examples for future research that has similar concerns in CDA and SFG.
2. Practically, this research can enrich future researchers who have the same research interests and can provide scientific knowledge to readers about how to read information critically so that correct interpretations can be concluded.

## **F. Definitions of Key Terms**

### **1. Critical Discourse Analysis**

A type of discourse analysis that examines the complex relationships between discursive practices, events, texts, and broader social and cultural structures and has the goal of uncovering the underlying power dynamics and ideological influences that shape these practices.

## **2. Systemic Functional Grammar**

A way to describe the lexical and grammatical choices of a system of words that explains how language is used to realize meaning.

## **3. Transitivity**

A grammatical system in which clauses are described as representations identified by participant, process, and circumstance.

## **4. Ideology**

A set of beliefs and values that rationalize a society's structure of power and privilege.

## **5. Power relation**

Power relation are organized structures in society to regulate and control groups or individuals, through existing rules and norms.