CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1   Background of the Research

News media both online and printed is not only meant to send message but it also could direct people paradigm and perception in the readers' mind, as news media has the authority to present the news based on what the perception that they wanted to convey to the readers. The news text has power to reflect the event based on the reality or manipulate it, as the fact the text in news is not purely independent. According to Van Djick (1988) as cited in Kurniawan and Utami (2017), there is no neutrality in news reporting and news media. It will always stand point for one party. It is because the news has certain ideology. In addition, the representation of text creator's ideology could be biased from the real event, even though the news media should be an independent tool for the readers in searching the information.

As stated the event that was presented by the news text could not be really neutral and it could lead inequalities and injustices in society if the news writer manipulated it based on their intension or the order from powerful people. Further, how the media tend to take side to one party than another will be depicted from the way it used the language in the text. In addition, it could be verified from the way it represented the actors and the action from the way the news writer chose one word to another (lexical choice). The lexical choice (lexicalization) or word choice in the sentences could give contribution to the readers' perception toward the event

presented. The lexical choice of the writer can have its purpose in the news text. It can intend to portray the event with good coverage or conversely. As Van Dijk (1995) cited in Zaher (2009) stated that lexicalization is never neutral. He stated that in choosing of one word than another to refer the same meaning might signal the opinion of the speaker or in this case is the news producer.

This study uses critical discourse analysis as framework to analyze the coverage of the Islamist protest toward the blasphemy of Al-Qur'an in Jakarta in two outlets of online news media versions: Aljazeera and The New York Times which only focused on the textual analysis. The textual analysis employed in this study is proposed by Richardson (2007) which it is an approach from one of Fairclough's three-dimension frameworks (*textualanalysis, discursive practice and socio-cultural practice*) of critical discourse analysis by looking at the lexicalization in the news text in Aljazeera and The New York Times in portraying Islamist demonstration in Jakarta toward the blasphemy of Al-Qur'an (The holy book of Islam). This theme of news was selected as this event was happened in Indonesia and it became big issue which it also lead another action such as the action on December 2nd, 2016 or well known as action of defend Islam "212". So that, this study is conducted to see how Aljazeera and The New York Times online news coverage report the event in Jakarta from textual features. The textual features that is analyzed in terms of the lexicalization of the text which it also includes the lexicalization in coverage the event, in choosing referential strategy for naming the actors of the event and predicational strategy that the text used. (Richardson, 2007).

1.2   Objectives of the Research

This study compares the way of the New York Times and Aljazeera online version in presenting the news coverage about the demonstration in Jakarta on November 4th, 2016 or well known as action of defend Islam 411. This study is conducted by using critical discourse analysis (CDA) approach which only focused on textual analysis in lexicalization, naming reference and predication. The objective of this study is to examine how the text representing and positioning the actors and the actions of Islamist demonstrators in the text through the lexicalization in naming, reference and predication in Aljazeera and The New York Times in representing the actors and the action of Islamist demonstration in the text.

1.3   Research questions

Based on the background and the purpose of the research above, this study formulated three questions of the research:

1. What kinds of lexicalizations are employed in representing the actors and the event?
2. What kinds of referential strategies are utilized in naming the actors?
3. What kinds of predicational strategies are attached in describing the actors and the event?

1.4   Limitation of the Research

This study only focuses on comparing two news articles between Aljazeera's article entitled "Indonesia: Thousands rally against blasphemy in Jakarta" and The New York Times' article entitled "Islamist march in Jakarta demanding Christian governor be jailed". The analysis of this study only focuses on the textual analysis of the three-dimensional framework of critical discourse analysis by Fairclough (1995) which analyzes the lexicalization of the news text from denotation and connotation of the word choice, naming reference of the actors in the event and the predication strategy that the text procedure used in characterizing the actors and their behavior. In addition, Aljazeera is chosen because this is an eastern media. On the other hand, The New York Times is chosen because this media is one of western media and it is the largest newspaper on USA according to Alliance for Audited Media in 2013 (Saariaho, 2015).

1.5   Significance of the Research

The study is expected to provide more information and references for other researchers who would like to do critical discourse analysis in news text or in different medium. In addition, it is expected to give more information about how text producer created different perspective from the real event in the news text through their lexical choices. In addition, the study might allow the readers to recognize the importance of having critical thinking and critical literacy in reading text especially news text. It is necessary as news is media to get the information of social event and also there is possibility for news producer representing the event based on their

concern, so that, it is crucial for the news readers to use their critical thinking in reading the news text.

1.6   Key Terms of the Research

CDA   : An approach of discourse analysis to analyze the text that examines the issue such in social and cultural such as race, politics, gender and it identified why such discourse is used and what the implication of the use of this discourse (Paltridge, 2012).

Lexicalization   : Lexical choice of each word

Referential strategy   : Linguistics devices to refer person, things, places or event (Kurniawan and Utami, 2017).

Predicational strategy : The strategy to represent the actors with positive or negative traits or attributes to represent the actors positively or negatively, deprecatorily or appreciatively.