



A Critical Discourse Analysis on Barack Obama's Speech To the Congress

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Abstract

The aims of the study are to find the Critical Discourse and language used by the Barack Obama's Speech to the congress. Discourse is known as spoken or written language in a social context. The theory of types Critical discourse analysis (henceforth CDA) subsumes a variety of approaches towards the social analysis of discourse (Fairclough and Wodak 1997, Pecheuk M. 1982, Wodak and Meyer 2001. Based on the analysis, it is found that there Barack Obama Speech there are structure Obama speech. Genre (26,41%), Framing (16,98%), Backgrounding/ Foregrounding (3,77%), Preposition (5,66%), Topicalisation (9,43%), Agency (3,77%), Delition/ Omission (1,88%), insinuation (1,88%), Conotation (1,88%), Conotation (1,88%), Register (3,77%), Modality (11,32%), Opening (5,66%), Content (3,77%), Closing (3,77%).

Keywords: critical discourse analysis, structure and ideology

Abstract

Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menemukan Wacana Kritis dan bahasa yang digunakan oleh Pidato Barack Obama di depan kongres. Wacana dikenal sebagai bahasa lisan atau tulisan dalam konteks sosial. Teori jenis Analisis wacana kritis (selanjutnya CDA) memasukkan berbagai pendekatan terhadap analisis wacana sosial (Fairclough dan Wodak 1997, Pecheuk M. 1982, Wodak dan Meyer 2001. Berdasarkan analisis, ditemukan bahwa di dalam Pidato Barack Obama terdapat struktur pidato. Aliran(26,41%), Rangkuman (16,98%), Latar Belakang (3,77%), Katadepan (5,66%), Topik (9,43%), faktor (3,77%), Kelalaian (1,88%), sindiran (1,88%), konotasi (1,88%), List (3,77%), Modalitas (11,32%), Pembukaan (5,66 Isi (3,77), Penutup (3,77%).

Kata kunci: analisis wacana kritis, struktur dan ideologi

Introduction

Discourse is known as spoken or written language in a social context. In linguistics; discourse refers to a unit of language longer than a single sentence. In the humanities and social life, the term discourse describes as a formal way of people thinking that expressed through language. Discourse is limited to the social which

defines what statement can be said about a topic. According to Van Dijk (1997) discourse describes at the syntactic, semantic, stylistic and rhetorical levels that need to be understood in terms of intercultural processes of production, reception, and understanding. As opposed to the linguistic conception of language as a generally stable, unified, abstract symbolic system, discourse denotes real manifestation of language-actual speech or written. In addition, the idea of discourse often signifies particular awareness of social influence on the use of language.

Language is used by human of a system of sound and words to communicate (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, 2013:834). In societies people use language to communicate with people around them which is aimed purpose to exchange the ideas or opinion and to give the information. There are two ways in delivering the information that is verbal and nonverbal. Verbal is expressed in spoken words; oral rather than written. Nonverbal is those aspects of communication such as gesture, and facial expression, that do not involve verbal communication but which may include nonverbal aspect of speech itself. Every people who do the communication have a purpose or intention that they delivered. Talking about verbal language, one of the forms of verbal language is a text. A text is referring to not just to the written transcriptions but any kind of symbolic expression requiring a physical medium and permitting of permanent storage (Taylor and Van Every, 1993). Text is use in linguistic to refer to any passage, spoken and written of whatever length that does for unified whole. One of written form of text is speech. Speech is the way in which a particular person speaks (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, 2013:1431). Usually speech delivered by a person who gives speeches and statements about an event that important and should be discussed. Nowadays there are several kinds of speech that can be found such as religious speech, national speech and political speech. Every speech has use purpose. Generally, the purpose of the speech is to inform, persuade or entertain an audience. One of the most speeches that is usually found is political speech. Political speech is a speech conveyed by political figures or leaders in a campaign or political meeting. Considering politic discussion always exists in society life which is strongly affect almost all aspects of social life in a country.

One of the phenomenal political figures is the former president of United State of America that is Barack Obama. The 44th president of United State was taking office on January 20, 2010 for the period 2010-2015. The number of vote's pros and cons of societies of United State and even the word community since serving as president is one of the main reasons for writers to examine more deeply. One of the speeches delivered by Barack Obama was a speech to congress on February 9, 2010 which reaped much positive and negative comment from the societies. This was the first time Barack Obama attended the congress since serving as president.

Method

The data were taken from Barack Obama's speech to the congress on February 20, 2010. The transcript of Barack Obama's speech was taken from CNN blog on internet (<http://ww.cnn.com>.) In this study the data were collected from Barack Obama's speech to the congress on February 20, 2010. The method used in this study was documentation method. In analyzing the data, the researcher used descriptive method. Then, the data descriptively presented based on the theory that applied in this research. The first proposed by Huckin (1997) social approach to critical discourse analysis which is analysis the text into large text level features to small word-level.

Result and Discussion

The findings on the discussion of Barack Obama's speech to the congress are divided into three points. The first point is analyzing Barack Obama's speech text as a whole text which is divided into genre, framing, foregrounding/backgrounding presupposition, and discursive difference. Genre shows how the composition of the speech text is used. Framing describes how the content of the speech is presented to the listener. Foregrounding/back grounding describes certain concept that emphasizing by the writers. Presupposition describes about the speaker's assumption. Discursive difference shows the relation between the speaker and the listener.

The second point is analyzing Barack Obama's speech text at the sentence level and word-level which is divided into topicalization, agency, deletion/ omission, insinuation, connotation, register and modality. Topicalization describes the topic of a sentence based on speaker perspective. Agency describes the participant who takes action in the speech. Deletion/omission presents the point which is escape the uncritical reading. Insinuation describes the things that contain element of justification. Connotation shows the words or phrase that sounds unusual. Register describes how the technique, subject and field applied in the text. Modality describes the idea that express by using modal. The last point is analysis the ideology of Barack Obama's speech. The ideology presents the general idea of Barack Obama's speech to the congress.

Table 1. Structure of Barack Obama's Speech to the Congress

No	Structure of Barack Obama's Speech to The Congress	Occurrence	Percentage (%)
1	Genre	14	26,41
2	Framing	9	16,98
3	Back grounding/Foregrounding	2	3,77
4	Presupposition	3	5,66
No	Analysing Barack Obama's Speech Text in A Sentence- Level	Occurrence	Percentage (%)

5	Topicalization	5	9,43
6	Agency	2	3,77
7	Deletion/Omission	1	1,88
8	Insinuation	1	1,88
9	Connotation	1	1,88
10	Register	2	3,77
11	Modality	6	11,32
NO	Ideology on Barack Obamas Speech to The Congress.	Occurrence	Percentage (%)
12	Opening	3	5,66
13	Content	2	3,77
14	Closing	2	3,77
	Total	53	100%

1. Genre

Based on Barack Obama's speech to the congress, it is known that the genre of the text is hortatory exposition. Hortatory exposition is one kind of argumentative text. Hortatory exposition is the kind of text which persuades the readers or listeners that something should be or should did not the case. Hortatory exposition divided into four points namely thesis, argument, recommendation and language features.

Data 1

What we are witnessing today is the Renewal of the American Spirit. A new chapter of American Greatness is now beginning. A new national pride is sweeping across our Nation. And a new surge of optimism is placing impossible dreams firmly within our grasp."

Analysis:

From the sentence above, it can be seen that Barack Obama's discusses many things or aspects such as infrastructure, defense, tax, healthcare, and immigration. This will be a budget for public safety and national security, very much dependent on these two things, but there is something very powerful there. And that includes an extraordinary victory in the defense budget to rebuild a weak America when we really need it.

2. Framing

This point discussed how the content of the text is presented. Here will be show what perspectives that speaker take and it cannot simply be a collection of details but

put these details together into some sort of unified whole so the text will explain as a whole and detail in three points, they are opening, content, and closing.

Data 17

Nation around the world, like Canada, Australia, and many others have merit system-based immigration system.

Analysis:

So here Barack Obama's compared immigration system with others country which have a merit-based immigration system. Merit-based system is the principle essentially that those who wants to enter a country must be able to sustain themselves financially. Barack Obama's also said that the immigration system that they have is also considered outdated.

3. Backgrounding/foregrounding

Foregrounding refers to the writers emphasizing certain concept. Concept means a principle or an idea. Foregrounding shows the explicit things. Explicit things mean that state clearly and in detail.

Data 24

Tonight, as we mark the conclusion of our celebration of Black History Month, we are reminded of our Nation's path toward civil rights and the work that still remains.

Analysis:

The sentence above shows the main or important topic which is reminds United State societies that what just already happened to their country. Here he also remains the citizens to keep calm.

4. Presupposition

Presupposition is the use of a language in a way that appears to take certain ideas for granted, as if there were no alternative.

Data 26

My economic team is developing historic tax reform that will reduce the tax rate on our companies so they can compete and thrive anywhere and with anyone.

Analysis:

The word “*my economic team*” here indicates an existential presupposition and show if word economic is exist and it is belonging to some people that is economic team. Based on the statement above Barack Obama informs that the economic team seeks or develops text reform that can be reduce tax rate on the existing company and the aims is to make companies able to compete anywhere with anyone and provide massive tax relief for the middle class.

Data 29

Since my election, Ford, Fiat-Chrysler, General Motors, Sprint, Softbank, Lockheed, Intel, and many others, have announced that they will invest billions of dollars in the United States and will create tens of thousands of new American jobs.

Analysis:

The topic of the sentence above is about the changes that have been occurred when he was elected president. But, in this case, it is not necessary that these companies will invest for United State because they only announced that they will invest. Word “will be” here could have changed a time to be will not.

5. Deletion/Omission

This point deals with the agent. Agent or omission of agent, who escaped the uncritical reading of many notices and it is often occurs through nominalization and the use of passive verbs.

Data 36

The rebellion started as a quiet protest, spoken by families of all colors and creeds --- families who just wanted a fair shot for their children, and a fair hearing for their concerns.

Analysis:

Word rebellion here shows that if there is rebellion but does not tell how many rebellions there. The word also does not explain what kind of rebellion. So here the word rebellion explains for general.

6. Insinuation

Insinuation is suggestive comments that have double meanings. Which is writer can deny if challenged. Make as if have only one of these two meanings.

Data 37

We've financed and built one global project after another, but ignored the fates of our children in the inner cities of Chicago, Baltimore, Detroit - - and so many other places throughout our land.

Analysis:

This statement explains that the financing available here is for other people rather than societies of United State. In the other word, financing is more concern for other people rather than people of United State them.

7. Connotation

Connotation comes from some word or phrase that often use by speaker. The connotation can be negative or positive and sometimes connotation is conveyed through the use of metaphor or others figures of speech.

Data 38

Each American generation passes the torch of truth, liberty and justice --- in an unbroken chain all the way down to the present.

Analysis:

The denotative meaning of torch is a small electric lamp that uses batteries and that you can hold in your arm (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, 2013:1577). The connotative meaning is as justice or enforcer of truth, which is mean for American generation.

Data 51

Protecting our workers also means reforming our system of legal immigration. The current, outdated system depresses wages for our poorest workers, and puts great pressure on taxpayers.

Analysis:

There will be a new system of immigration which aims to reduce the crime that occurred in United State that harms the societies. Barack Obama also showed his

concern for all the families of the victims of crime and also the families from those who died for serving for country.

Data 52

Sitting with Susan is her daughter, Jenna. Jenna: I want you to know that your father was a hero, and that tonight you have the love of an entire country supporting you and praying for you. To Jamiel, Jenna, Susan and Jessica: I want you to know --- we will never stop fighting for justice. Your loved ones will never be forgotten, we will always honor their memory."

Analysis:

Here Barack Obama also gave his respect to senior chief William Ryan Owens a special operator has who died for the country and therefore Barack Obama called him as a Americans hero that they never forget. Barack Obama also provides sense of support while providing strength to victim's family.

Conclusion

This chapter focus on analysis on Barack Obama's speech to the congress using Huckin's theory, it can be seen that all the structural aspect of the theory are applied in Barack Obama's speech to the congress. This chapter presents how the structure of Barack Obama's text in the congress of intended meaning as the first has been explained in the previous chapter has been explained using the two main theories that have been explained in the previous chapter. The first point contains the findings of the Fairclough Discourse analysis (1952: 132) analysis which aims to systematically explore often opaque relationships of causality and determination between discursive practices, events and texts, and wider social and cultural structures, relations, and processes; to investigate how such practices, events and texts arise out. The first point is analyzing Barack Obama's speech text as a whole text which is divided into genre, framing, foregrounding/backgrounding presupposition, and discursive difference. The second point is analyzing Barack Obama's speech text at the sentence level and word-level which is divided into topicalization, agency, deletion/omission, insinuation, connotation, register and modality.

Meanwhile, the ideology is a goal that can be achieved. The main goal of Barack Obama is he wants to make societies believe in him and to make societies do not worry about their future. President Obama put health care reform into a broader historical perspective, where the nature and role of the government has been the subject of historical debate, and compared his reforms with Social Security and Medicare. He ended his speech by returning to Kennedy's theme of the character of our country.It

can be seen from the content of his speech such as infrastructure, tax, healthcare, defense and immigration.

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