

## Social Actors and Flood in Jakarta

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### Abstract

This present study examined the representation of Social Actors in articles from an online newspaper *centroone.com* about the flood in Jakarta in 2013 by using van Leeuwen's social actor network (2008). This study employed qualitative method to describe the representation and its significance. The collected data were 9 articles from an online newspaper *centroone.com*. The data were analyzed in the unit of words and sentences to reveal the representation of the social actors. The study disclosed that in the articles, the social actors were represented through the use of 6 ways, namely proper names, pronouns, social titles, institutions, general groups, and nouns. The representations then indicated 3 significant actors related to the flood in Jakarta in 2013: Joko Widodo, BNPB, and the citizens. Joko Widodo was indicated as the work of the government of Jakarta, BNPB was indicated as the work performed by the institution, not the institution, and the citizens was indicated as the people related to the flood; as the citizens and the victims.

**Keywords:** *Critical Discourse Analysis, Representation, Social Actors*

## INTRODUCTION

Newspaper is one of media that has a main function to inform things happening in the world. It becomes one of important tools in communication (Machin & Leeuwen, 2007). Newspaper nowadays gives the reader another choice, not only to absorb the information given in the text, but also to understand 'a set of practice' represented in the text. A Critical Discourse Analysis has been one of the approaches in discourse study that contributes to the social issues, such as race, politics, or media (Rogers, 2004 in Paltridge, 2006). It has the aim to reveal hidden ideas or values from the representation in the text. The critical analysis of this study is applied to reveal the representation of the hidden meaning brought by the text in related to the flood that happened in Jakarta in 2013, especially in related to the social actors related to the flood in Jakarta. The texts in this study are 9 news articles related to the flood in Jakarta in 2013 derived from *centroone.com* from 17 January 2013 until 27 January 2013. In the

analysis, the articles were analyzed using the social actor and social action network by van Leeuwen (2008) to see the social actors involved in the articles and the social actions attributed to them. Then the actors are categorized to see the significant actors related to the flood. This analysis then led to signification about the contribution of the actors to the flood in Jakarta in 2013.

## Discourse as the Representation of Social Actors

Van Leeuwen (2008) describes the conception of discourse as the re-contextualization of social practice. Built from many perspectives, he views text, all representation of the world, and what is going on in it, should be interpreted as representation of social practice. Further, he built a way of analyzing text by looking into what is employed, what is transformed, to be said, looking into the social practice. The difference between the social practice and the representation of the social practice needs to be clear.

Van Leeuwen (2008) also concludes that if texts are seen from the sense of social cognition, it means that a text has construction in it, and then it makes it possible to find the reconstruction of discourse. In van Leeuwen's sense, the reconstruction of discourse directs to the term social practice. The social practice has elements inside the text. At least there are 10 elements of social practice according to van Leeuwen (2008), there are participants, actions, performance mode, eligibility condition, presentation style, times, locations, eligibility condition of locations, resources, and eligibility condition of the resources. This study investigates only the social actors and the actions attributed to them from the practice in the texts.

Social practice must have participants (van Leeuwen, 2008). These participants must also have their own certain roles in the practice. In the re-contextualization of social actors, van Leeuwen proposed an approach in analyzing social actors by looking into the meaning potential which means that

there must be something that can be said from the roles of the social actors in the text (2008, p.23). This approach is also known as the analysis of sociosemantic inventory. It sees the ways social actors can be represented in text. Through the analysis of sociosemantic inventory, we can see the elements around the phrase, to search the context, who has the authority in saying the report, and it will lead to a specific role of a social actor. This sociosemantic inventory is the categorization of linguistic realization in analyzing representation of social actors.

As in the social actors, social action is also one of the elements in social practice (van Leeuwen, 2008). It is believed that the actions performed by the social actors are the core of the social practice because the actions are performed in particular sequence. In van Leeuwen's analysis of sociosemantic inventory of social action, he presents the critical analysis of actors by using the descriptive framework by relating the critical, sociosemantic categories with the grammatical realizations.

### **Media as Discourse**

Texts can be understood as one of the forms of social practice products. Texts are formed from the social practice, such as interaction of people in social life. One of forms of text in social life is newspapers. Newspapers have become one of important tools for communication. According to sociologists, the text that we call news is actually “a set of practice” which we have to understand socially and historically (Machin & Leeuwen, 2007). In addition to Machin & Leeuwen, van Dijk (1988) believes that news actually has a second level in meaning because in this case, news includes the media and mass communication.

Critical Discourse Analysis (henceforth CDA) is one of the approaches in a linguistic field of discourse study that concerns with social issues. Van Dijk believes that the analysis of discourse appears in the fields such as humanities and social science (as cited in Wodak and Meyer, 2009). In addition, Hyland and Rogers agree that CDA somehow is interested in issues of

politics, gender, or identity (as cited in Paltridge, 2006 p.178). Then CDA has the aim to reveal the hidden ideas or values from the representation. It also observes more to how such issues are used in the representation to form the hidden meaning.

There are at least 4 main principles of CDA in analyzing texts that can be concluded from Fairclough and Wodak (as cited in Paltridge, 2006 p.179-184). First is that we can see the construction and reflection of the social and politic issues in the discourse. Second is that we can see the power relations that are negotiated and performed in a discourse. Third is that the discourse reflects and reproduces the social relations. And the fourth is that the use of discourse produces and reflects ideologies.

### **METHODOLOGY**

This present study examined the representation of Social Actors in articles from an online newspaper *centroone.com* about the flood in Jakarta in 2013 by using van Leeuwen’s social actor network (2008). This study employed

qualitative method to describe the representation and its significance. The collected data were 9 articles from an online newspaper *centroone.com*. The data were analyzed in the unit of words and sentences to reveal the representation of the social actors.

### FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The study finds that from 9 articles which have been analyzed, there are 200 representations of social actors and 174 representations of social actions. From the total of total 200 representations, the social actors are represented through the use of 6 ways: proper names, pronouns, titles, institutions, general groups, and nouns. Meanwhile, the social actions are represented through the use of 2 categorizations: action and reaction.

#### The Representation of Social Actors

Social actors refer to the participants of social practices (Leeuwen, 2008 p.23). They are ones of the elements that exist in a social practice. Based on the finding of these categorizations, there are 3 significant actors found in the articles, (1) Joko Widodo, (2) BNPB (Badan Nasional Penanggulangan Bencana), and (3) citizens.

Joko Widodo is represented through the use of proper names “Joko Widodo”/“Jokowi”, social titles “Gubernur DKI Jakarta”/“Gubernur”/“Gubernur DKI”/“pimpinan wilayah ibu kota”, and institutions/organizations “Pemda DKI”/“pemprov DKI”/“pemerintah DKI”. The appearance of Joko Widodo through the use of proper names tends to inform the readers about Joko Widodo as the governor of Jakarta and to show intimacy between Joko Widodo with the citizens.

	Sentence	Actor
1	Gubernur DKI Jakarta, <b>Joko Widodo</b> selaku pimpinan wilayah ibu kota tak mau disalahkan sendiri mengenai hal tersebut.	Joko Widodo

2	Menurut pria yang akrab disapa <b>Jokowi</b> , bukan hanya Pemprov DKI yang harus dipersalahkan dan dimintai pertanggung jawaban atas semua insiden tersebut.	Jokowi
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related to the flood in Jakarta.

Joko Widodo who is represented through the use of social titles tends to inform the readers about the function of Joko Widodo

He is as the governor of Jakarta is the most significant actor because he is the one who leads the government of Jakarta.

No	Sentence	Actor
1	Di sisi lain, Marzuki yang juga Wakil Ketua Dewan Pembina PD mengusulkan kepada <b>Gubernur DKI</b> harus melakukan moratorium izin-izin pembangunan gedung.	Gubernur DKI
2	Marzuki menegaskan, <b>Gubernur</b> harus memikirkan penuntasan jangka panjang untuk masalah Jakarta.	Gubernur

Further, Joko Widodo represented through the use of institutions/organizations indicates the work performed by Joko Widodo as a person and the work performed

by the government of Jakarta as the institution. Joko Widodo is the actor who talks as the governor and as the representative of the government.

No	Sentence	Actor
1	Menurut pria yang akrab disapa Jokowi, bukan hanya <b>Pemprov DKI</b> yang harus dipersalahkan dan dimintai pertanggung jawaban atas semua insiden tersebut.	Pemprov DKI

The second significant actor is BNPB. BNPB is represented through the use of proper noun “BNPB”, proper names “Medi Herliyanto”/“Medi”, and general groups “badan khusus” and “lembaga-lembaga terkait”. The proper noun “BNPB” is the acronym of Badan Nasional Penanggulangan Bencana. It represents a national institution of disaster tackling in Indonesia. Through the use of proper names “Medi Herliyanto”/“Medi”,

the articles inform about the actor related to the flood in Jakarta. Proper names “Medi Herliyanto”/“Medi” inform a person related to the flood in Jakarta; Medi Herliyanto as the head of BNPB. Slightly the same with the representation of Joko Widodo, BNPB represented through “Medi Herliyanto”/“Medi” indicates the work performed by BNPB because the function of Medi to talk in behave of BNPB

No	Sentence	Actor
1	Menurut <b>BNPB</b> , Badan Penanggulangan Bencana Daerah (BPBD) Pemerintah Provinsi DKI yang harus bertanggungjawab.	BNPB
2	<b>Medi</b> mengaku tidak mungkin BNPB melakukan pengawasan secara langsung dengan segala keterbatasan yang ada di BNPB.	Medi

Meanwhile, BNPB also represented through the use of general groups. It does not give any specific information about BNPB. It

informs that BNPB is included into a kind of institutions/organizations which is formed by a group of people.

No	Sentence	Actor
1	Sehingga harus ada <b>badan khusus</b> yang menanganinya.	Badan khusus
2	Untuk itu diperlukan <b>lembaga-lembaga</b>	Lembaga-

	<b>terkait</b> seperti BNPB agar terus mengawasi proses pasca bencana sangat dibutuhkan.	lembaga terkait
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The last significant actor related to the flood in Jakarta is the citizens. The citizens are represented through the use of general groups; “warga”/”masyarakat”/”rakyat”,

“korban banjir/korban”, and “ibu-ibu”. From the analysis, the representation of citizens indicates the people related to the flood as the citizens/society and the flood victims

No	Sentence	Actor
1	Dijelaskan Didi bahwa hal itu merupakan karena kurangnya kesadaran <b>warga</b> terhadap sikap disiplin dalam menjaga kebersihan lingkungan.	Warga
2	Kedatangan Marzuki dan rombongan JSI akan memberikan pengobatan gratis kepada <b>korban banjir</b> .	Korban banjir
3	“Ekonomi pun ikut berhenti, untuk itu kami juga membawa sedikit bahan pokok bagi <b>ibu-ibu</b> yang selama ini di penampungan, yang rumahnya masih terendam, paling tidak bisa untuk memasak, ini hasil dari urunan anggota semua DPR,” ungkapnya.	Ibu-ibu

### Social Actions Attributed to the Social Actors

Based on the analysis of social action network (Leeuwen, 2008), the actor Joko Widodo can be represented whether as active or

passive. The actions attributed to proper names “Joko Widodo” or “Jokowi” tends to be active actions. From the analysis, some actions attributed to the proper names “Joko Widodo” or “Jokowi” are found. The



actions mostly show verbal action, such as *tegas* (to firm; firmly stated), *ketus* (to retort; sharply stated), *ditambahkan* (to add), and *menjawab* (to answer). The actions found that attach to Joko Widodo as institutions tend to make the actor passive. There are 6 actions attributed to it: *Dipersalahkan* (to be blamed), *dimintai* (to be asked), *Diserahkan* (to be given), *Harus bersama* (to be together), *Menangani* (to solve), and *Membenahi* (to fix).

The actor BNPB also can be represented whether as active or passive. It is found that most of the actions attributed to BNPB as the proper noun “BNPB” are active. The actions are *mencegah* (to prevent), *meminimalisir* (to minimize), *menanggulangi* (to handle), *mengawasi* (to control), *memberikan* (to give), *mengundang* (to invite), and *menginformasikan* (to inform). As passive, BNPB is receiving the actions such as *menganggarkan* (to budgeted), *bentuk* (to form), and *melakukan pengawasan* (to control).

The actor citizens are represented as active and also passive. Citizens are represented as

active through the use of “warga”. The actions attributed to it are “*menjaga*” (to take care of), “*menghadapi*” (to face), “*mempunyai*” (to have), “*tidak mempunyai*” (to not have), and “*merusak*” (to damage). The rest of the representations indicate citizens as passive actors. It can be seen in the sentences that place the representation of citizens as object of the sentences. The actions attributed to them are *memberikan* (to give) and *membawa* (to bring).

## DISCUSSION

Joko widodo who was the government of Jakarta is represented active as individual and passive as institutions. Joko Widodo as an active individual was revealed from the actions attributed to his representation. Joko Widodo seemed to move as individual when he performs actions to solve the problem. Joko Widodo as passive is represented through the use institutions/organizations. The representation refers to the government of Jakarta. From the analysis, it was revealed that the

actions attributed to it indicate blaming and asking for responsibility. It is found that the government of Jakarta was blamed for the lack in solving the problem related to the flood, and the government was also responsible to the worse situation of the flood in Jakarta.

BNPB as the second significant actor is also represented as active and passive. BNPB was indicated as active with the actions attributed to it that indicate problem solving. BNPB was appraised to be active in solving the problem. It was seen to do the job as the national institution of disaster tackling. Meanwhile, BNPB represented as passive does not show negative sense. BNPB is only place as the object of the sentences. It is taken as the institution formed by the government to solve problems related to disaster.

The last significant actor, citizens are also represented both as active and passive. The citizens are represented as active through the use of general groups "warga" /"masyarakat" /"rakyat". From the

analysis, the citizens were active in a negative way. They are the actor that caused the flood and made the flood worse. However, the representation as passive is found more than as active. The citizens as passive were indicated as the victims of the flood. They received help from other actors when the flood happened.

## CONCLUSION

This study had analyzed the representation of social actors by using the theory of social actor network and social action network by van Leeuwen (2008). It analyzed the role of the actors in the articles by looking at the actors' role categorizations and the categorizations of the actions that are attributed to the actors.

The study found that there are 3 significant actors represented in the articles through the use of 6 categorizations, namely proper names, pronouns, social titles, institutions, general groups, and nouns. The 3 significant actors are Joko Widodo, BNPB, and citizens. Joko Widodo who is represented through the use of proper names,

social titles, and institutions, indicates the work performed by the government of Jakarta and also as the actor who talks as the governor and the representative of the government. BNPB is represented through the use of proper names and general group. It indicates the work performed by BNPB, not indicate the institution. And the last is citizens. The citizens are represented through the use of general groups. The representations indicate the people related to the flood as the citizens and the victims.

Furthermore, the researcher hopes that this study can help the readers to advance more in obtaining and absorbing the information taken from mass media. Therefore the readers can include the meaning

beyond the information despite only accept the words given.

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