

ANALYSIS OF SOCIO-POLITICAL THEORY IN MARTIN LUTHER KING'S SPEECH : A CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

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Abstract

The research is conducted to present the critical discourse analysis of Martin Luther King's speech that entitled "When I Have a Dream" related to socio-political context. By analyzing the language choice, the researcher attempts to find out the motifs why Martin Luther King used that certain language. The speech of Martin Luther King carried a contextual background. The Blacks had their rights and racial discrimination. He struggled for struggled of Afro-American people. Not only struggling but also launching "Civil Rights Movement". It became the basis of the memorable speech. Negroes were considered socially, economically and politically had their rights as compared to the other race living in America. Politically and socially, negroes were considered inferior and through this speech Martin Luther King tried to make people aware of their rights and cause of discriminatory attitude of the whites.

Key words: Critical Discourse Analysis, Socio-political Perspective, Racial Discrimination

INTRODUCTION

The term of discourse analysis has many definitions. Discourse refers to the utilization of language, speech patterns, dialects and acceptable statements by the speakers and audiences (Journal & Kiranamita, 2021), (Fakhrurozi & Puspita, 2021), (Nababan & Nurmaily, 2021), (Pranoto, 2021), (Woro Kasih et al., 2019). Meanwhile, analysis refers to a process of evaluating the items by separating them into pieces (Endang Woro Kasih, 2018), (Qodriani & Wijana, 2021), (Oktavia & Suprayogi, 2021), (Kuswoyo et al., 2020), (Sartika & Pranoto, 2021). Simply, discourse analysis refers to linguistic analysis of writing and speech (EWK, 2018), (Robertson, 2020), (Kuswoyo et al., 2020), (Istiani & Puspita, 2020), (Septiyana & Aminatun, 2021). Discourse analysis focuses on the utilization of language in social context (Qodriani, 2021), (Ekleisia & Rido, 2020), (Ivana & Suprayogi, 2020), (Suprayogi et al., 2021), (Mertania & Amelia, 2020). Critical discourse analysis particularly considers how the language works between two aspects of discourse (K. Sari & Pranoto, 2021), (Al Falaq & Puspita, 2021), (Cahyaningsih & Pranoto, 2021), (Pradana & Suprayogi, 2021), (Nababan & Nurmaily, 2021). Those aspects are institutional and political discourse (Pettersson, 2009), (Woro Kasih et al., 2019), (Heaverly & EWK, 2020), (Kasih, 2018), (Kuswoyo et al., 2020). They act obviously to uncover inequalities on social relationships (Gita & Setyaningrum, 2018), (Istiani & Puspita, 2020), (Pradana & Suprayogi, 2021), (Aji & Dewi, 2017). The employment of language in speech and writing is seen as social practice which suggest a dialectical relationship between a discursive event, the situations, institutions and social structures which frame it (Kardiansyah & Salam, 2021), (Hasani et al., 2020), (Ngestirosa et al., 2020), (Nani & Ali, 2020), (Suwarni & Handayani, 2021).

Discourse is important since it can help to produce the relations of inequality power between ethnicities, genders, and social classes (Yulianti et al., 2021), (Puspita, 2021), (Fithratullah, 2021), (Setri & Setiawan, 2020), (Kaid, 2004). The inequality power

becomes one of the issues that we can find in our society when the specific ethnics, genders and social classes are dominant in our environment (Rusliyawati et al., 2021), (Nindyarini Wirawan, 2018), (F. M. Sari, n.d.), (Purba et al., 2019), (Panganiban1 & Madrigal, 2020). This research is conducted to manifest a critical discourse analysis of famous speech delivered by Martin Luther King. His speech points out how Martin Luther determined to Americans that Black can get the freedom to live and get the same equality. Through his speech, Martin Luther King motivates the audiences to get freedom and makes the audience ready against the racial discrimination.

The research focuses on analyzing the language choice that Martin Luther chose language to deliver the speech. By analyzing the language choice, the researcher attempts to find out the motifs why he used that certain language. Language takes a role as main tool to show retaliation to the powers exercised in the society. Related to that condition, the researcher designed two research question such as :

1. What the ideology of Martin Luther is reflected through language choices in language speech?
2. How does Martin Luther represent the broader socio-cultural and political relationship between White and Black community?

LITERATURE REVIEW

The research was analyzed by applying Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) in speech of Martin Luther The researcher focuses on coherent speech in specific socio-cultural context by having an ideology that influences the cognition of audience (Al Falaq & Puspita, 2021), (Ahdan et al., 2019), (View of Exploring the Relationship between Formal Management Control Systems, Organisational Performance and Innovation_ The Role of Leadership Characteristics.Pdf, n.d.). The research is applied Fairclough's model to analyze the part of speech. The data was collected from the historical speech of Martin Luther that delivered on August 28, 1963. The title of speech was "When I Have Dreams". The speech reflects the aspirations and consisted of demands of all blacks in all over the world.

The Researcher selected 3D framework that was proposed by Norman Fairclough(1992). 3D framework introduced three aspects for the critical analysis of any discourse or text to be analyzed. They consists of text, socio-cultural practices and discursive practices in a society. Text is analyzable as socio-economic and political factors influence the discursive practices in the society. According to (N. Fairclough London) described the objective of this approach as a contribution to the general rising of consciousness of exploitative social relations, through focusing upon language.

METHOD

The researcher used Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) as theoretical framework of this research. Critical discourse analysis critically analyzed the discourses and revealed the social practices for instance hegemony and exploitation victimization (EWK, 2018), (Ahluwalia, 2020), (Pinem, 2018). Critical discourse analysis is an interdisciplinary field that brings social factor and linguistics factor at the same platform (F. M. Sari & Oktaviani, 2021), (F. M. Sari, 2020), (Mastan et al., 2022).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The researcher has analyzed the data and interpreted by applying Fairclough's 3D model which discusses about relational, expressive and ideational values. Critically it analyzed the whole text of speech related to two aspects such as text analysis and context analysis. This research was applied critical discourse analysis as a theoretical framework of this research and it focused the text that revealed social inequality and racial discrimination by looking at the text from socio-cultural.

Text Analysis

Text is the main pillar for the analysis on Fairclough model. Analysis of text is strongly linked with the language used by people in the real condition. Text analysis serves the analysis of lexical choices that focus on the particular theme and broader socio-political perspective of the speaker.

Through the speech, Martin Luther repeated words and sentence. It was a very outstanding feature that called repetition. If we study the selected part of the speech more carefully, it was easy for us to find many other examples of repetition used :

Extract 1

..... *"One hundred years later, the life of the Negroes still sadly crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination"* (King 1963).

..... *"One hundred years later, the Negro lives on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity"* (King 1963).

In extract 1, "one hundred years later" has been repeated four times. It clearly indicates that there has been a long time for African-Americans aspire for the freedom and equal rights without any discrimination based on color and creed.

Context Analysis

Extract 2

"It would be fatal for the nation to overlook the urgency of the moment and to underestimate the determination of the Negro. This sweltering summer of the Negro's legitimate discontent will not pass until there is an invigorating autumn of freedom and equality. Nineteen sixty-three is not an end, but a beginning. Those who hope that the Negro needed to blow off steam and will now be content will have a rude awakening if the nation returns to business as usual. There will be neither rest nor tranquility in America until the Negro is granted his citizenship rights." (King 1963)

The speech of Martin Luther King carried a contextual background. The Blacks had their rights and racial discrimination. He struggled for struggled of Afro-American people. Not only struggling but also launching "Civil Rights Movement". It became the basis of the memorable speech. Negroes were considered socially, economically and politically had their rights as compared to the other race living in America. Politically and socially, negroes were considered inferior and through this speech Martin Luther King tried to make people aware of their rights and cause of discriminatory attitude of the whites.

CONCLUSION

For the conclusion, the speech attempt to achieve some specific purpose. It brings all those prerequisites that speech must have to propagate the ideology in a sophisticated manner. It seems to be syntactically well-organized with frequent repetitions emphasizing the main theme which is inequality of socio-cultural rights and racial discrimination on the basis of color and creed. Persuasively, he succeeded in achieving the strength and support of the powerless without creating any conflict. Specifically, there are several other factors like social cognition in this speech.

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