

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION

The final chapter of this study is to discuss the findings, the limitations of the study, and to state the implications for further research.

5.0 DISCUSSION OF THE FINDING

The premier objective of this study is to distinguish the different portrayal of two different social actors in news reports of wife abuse, an issue of domestic violence. The two social actors, who are the victims and the perpetrators, are being portrayed differently by the text producers, who are reporting on the cases. However, this may have remained oblivious to the readers. Mainly because very little attention have been given to the text producers' choice of the words and the generic structure of the texts.

One of the most significant differences between the portrayal of the victims and the perpetrators in the case of wife abuse is the text producers' choice of words in describing the two social actors. The text producers may or may not have preferably used words that would have demonized the image of the perpetrators and at the same time, it provides space for the victims to gain sympathy since the words used by the text producers to describe the perpetrators may assist the readers in making inferences of the state of the victims. The use of action verbs like *punching, hitting, assaulting* and etc to describe the perpetrators' actions strongly connotes a negative impression towards the perpetrators and instantly gain more sympathy towards the victims, who are affected by the action performed. Besides that, the verbs used are mainly transitive verbs which again highlight the perpetrators as the actor who initiated

the actions that have immediate negative effects on the victims. The use of words like *threatening, venting anger, trailing* and etc to describe the perpetrators' attention indicates that the perpetrators had had the intention to injure the victims.

The generic structure of the texts also contributes to the contradictory portrayal of the perpetrators and the victims. It is obvious that the text producers put heavier weight of the report on the perpetrators, compared to the victims. The reports begin with headlines that foreground the perpetrators' offence of injuring or assaulting the victims. The headline is then followed by the lead, which elaborates the headline briefly but sufficient to guide the readers of the direction of the reports. The lead is subsequently followed the paragraph on the main event or commentary or the background of the event reported. The subsequent paragraphs basically elaborate the events reported in full details. Interestingly, the reports in these paragraphs are cohesively and coherently tied to the headline and the lead of the texts. Hence, the information found in the subsequent paragraphs are not only in details but also sustain the claims made by the text producers in the headline and lead.

Identifying and analyzing the linguistic features and the generic structure may assist in understanding the social cognition of the texts. The linguistic features and the generic structure of the texts are significant resemblance of the discourses drawn by the text producers in producing the texts. They create the different schemas which are drawn not only in producing the texts, but also in interpreting the texts. It is oblivious that besides reporting on issue of domestic violence, the texts also had other discourses embedded. In order to interpret the texts successfully, the readers may have to draw different discourses, which are directly or indirectly related to the texts.

The linguistic features of the texts signal the different discourses which are to be drawn in understanding the texts, while the generic structure foreground and back ground events which would assist the readers in interpreting the texts. The schemas mirror the social cognition of the members of the society in looking at events that are represented in the texts.

5.1 LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The sample is relatively small in number, so only a qualitative study is carried out. It is possibly to claim that the restrictive number of data of the study have subjected to restricted and limited interpretations. One of the limitations of the study is that the study is restricted to news reports which have been classified as spot news. Spot news refers to the type of news which has no political intention. Spot news is news without political intentions, with low sensational values. Hence, spot news may have lower number of readers (Eriyanto, 2002). Unlike hard news, spot news rarely receives wide coverage from the newspapers. This actually explains the low and restricted number of data used in this study.

Besides that, the focus of the researcher is only on the local English dailies, which is very limited in the market that is virtually dominated by the national language, the Malay language. The researcher has chosen not to include foreign news reports or reports found on the internet, due to the sensitivity of the issue as the issue of religion and cultural practice may be discussed by parties, who are ignorant of the matters. Hence, this explains the small number of data gathered by the researcher in this particular study.

The limitation of the study is also set by the fact that the researcher is only focusing on news reports of couples who are legally married. In order to avoid confusion and diversion from the objectives of the study, the researcher would not be including news reports on wife and children abuse or reports on abuse that involved couples who are co-habiting. So, this is another factor that delimits the number of data to be included in the study.

5.2 IMPLICATIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

One of the draw back of this study is the focus solely on the local English dailies, which are relatively limited, compared to the dailies in the national language. Consequently, the data included in this study is small in scale. The findings of this study can be further sustained and strengthened in a followed up study, which could include foreign English dailies from the same or similar cultural background, to avoid confusion and derivation from the objectives.

Another interesting option for further research is to also include texts that are taken from the Internet. As claimed by Faridah Ibrahim (2010), online news reports are less subjected to the existing regulations. They are not required to annual licenses from the Home Ministry, under the PrintingPresses and Publications Act 1984 (PPPA). Hence, they are less monitored by the government and less subjected by the policies applied. Thus, they are more liberal in their reports, which may in return threat the neutrality of the reports and possibly more bias than its local counterparts. Furthermore, the genre of the reports could be different from the usual news reports in the newspapers. Hence, conducting a study on issue of wife abuse which

includes the reports taken from the internet may further sustain or challenge the findings of this study.

Finally, a comprehensive study between the field of linguistic and the field of sociology can be carried out to sustain the findings of the study. This is because the findings and framework used in the field of critical discourse analysis might not be as convincing, without the support from other fields of studies. Interdisciplinary study between the fields of linguistics and the field of sociology can be carried out to bring the findings to a further level.