

**REPRESENTATION OF THE VIEWS OF INDIVIDUAL
AUTHORITIES AND PRESSURE GROUPS ON PPSMI IN
MALAYSIAN ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS**

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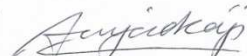
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**TO MY FAMILY, FRIENDS AND EVERYONE WHO HAD GIVEN ME
MOTIVATIONS.**

ABSTRACT

This study is aimed at analysing the discursive construction of controversy about the medium of instruction (MOI) for schools in the news media discourse in Malaysia. The data were collected from two mainstream English newspapers, *The Star* and *The New Straits Times* (January 2009 – June 2010). In Malaysia, national schools at the primary and secondary levels; and vernacular (Chinese and Tamil) schools at the primary level use English, instead of the national language, *Bahasa Malaysia* (BM), to teach Mathematics and Science, upon a directive issued by the Education Ministry in 2003. The policy is popularly known as PPSMI (*Pengajaran dan Pembelajaran Sains dan Matematik Dalam Bahasa Inggeris*, tr., Teaching of Mathematics and Science in English). However, in 2009, the Ministry decided to reverse the PPSMI policy and revert to BM as the medium of instruction. The reversal of the policy was discussed widely including in the space of the media. This study looked into how the English print media, specially, the two mainstream newspapers, *The Star* and *The New Straits Time*, covered the issue through the genres of news reports, editorials and opinion editorials. More specifically, the study aimed at analysing how different individuals and pressure groups in the country co-constructed and negotiated the issue as their voices were mediated by the columns of the editorials or news reporters. The analysis involved an exploration of the contents, linguistic means of realization (i.e., description of linguistic items and interpretation of the linguistic items), and an analysis of the stances based on the discourse-historical approach (DHA) constructed by Reisigl and Wodak (2001), Wodak et al. (2001), Wodak (2009) within the paradigm of critical discourse analysis (CDA) which involved national language, culture, constitution and education in Malaysia. The analysis shows that the authors of the texts used ‘selective’ mention of individuals and authorities, which ultimately facilitated a particular reading of the texts.

ABSTRACT

Kajian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis kontroversi wacana penggunaan medium arahan (MOI) dalam wacana media massa di Malaysia. Data yang dikumpulkan adalah daripada dua surat khabar berbahasa Inggeris yang utama, iaitu The Star dan The New Straits Times (Januari 2009 - Jun 2010). Di Malaysia, sekolah-sekolah kebangsaan di peringkat rendah dan menengah, dan sekolah vernakular (Cina dan Tamil) pada peringkat rendah menggunakan bahasa Inggeris, bukan bahasa kebangsaan, iaitu Bahasa Malaysia (BM), untuk mengajar Matematik dan Sains, atas arahan yang dikeluarkan oleh Kementerian Pelajaran pada tahun 2003. Dasar ini dikenali sebagai PPSMI

(Pengajaran dan Pembelajaran Sains dan Matematik dalam Bahasa Inggeris). Namun, pada 2009, Kementerian Pelajaran memutuskan untuk menghapuskan dasar PPSMI dan kembali ke Bahasa Malaysia sebagai media pengajaran dan pembelajaran. Pembalikan dasar itu dibahasecarameluastertmasuk di dalam ruang media. Kajian ini melihat secaramendalam bagaimana media cetak yang berbahasa Inggeris, khususnya, dua surat khabar utama, The New Straits Times dan The Star, meliputi masalah melalui genrelaporan berita, editorial dan cadangan kepada editorial. Lebih khusus, kajian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis bagaimana individu yang berbeza dan kumpulan penekan di negara ini bekerjasama merundingkan isu dan menjadikan media sebagai perantara kepada suaramereka. Analisis ini melibatkan eksplorasi isi, kebenaran dan sudut linguistik (iaitu, keterangan item linguistik dan tafsiran item linguistik), dan sebuah analisis sikap berdasarkan pendekatan wacana-sejarah (DHA) yang telah dipraktikkan oleh Reisigl and Wodak (2001), Wodak et al. (2001), Wodak (2009) dalam paradigma analisis wacana kritis (CDA) yang manamelibatkan bahasa kebangsaan, budaya, undang-undang dan pendidikan di

Malaysia.

Analisis menunjukkan bahawa penulis menggunakan secara 'selektif' untuk merakam kata-kata individu dan pihak berkuasa, yang akhirnya memudahkan pembacaan tertentu teks.

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On the first day I have made my decision to take this course with the 6 +1 option, what comes to my mind at that time was that I wanted to produce a quality paper. But how can I produce a script that is really high quality, preferred by the readers, arousing, gives rise to a deep impact, and sense of touch. I was lack of capability to do so.

My days were packed because I teach in Sekolah Kebangsaan Kulim, Pasir Puteh, Kelantan. The days were solid enough to learn to write and produce a dissertation, so this is a gift and a blessing in disguise for me to learn from my supervisors, Doctor Mahmud Hasan Khan and Associate Professor Doctor Kamila Ghazali, how to survive the world of writing.

I really felt how hard to write a dissertation which is most importantly for my own understanding of what is discussed in it, before other people understand what it is all about. In completion of this dissertation, I am still unsure that the paragraphs which are sources of ideas and which are among the paragraphs, which can represent the central idea that the fabric for the fabric which would satisfy my readers.

The ideas were often sound easy to go around with, however, so heavy rolling and sometimes when I want to take a pen and a notebook, but so to have a pen and notebook in hand, what I wanted to pour all of the ideas and inspiration

had gone, disappeared. Finally the numerous ideas I had would only just dissolved in my neurons.

Well I now have written and presented a dissertation which shared numerous ideas from the other authors of the famous experts in the field in order to strengthen my stands.

The topic I discussed in this study was very interesting, but I apologize if my writing unable to engender interest to you as my readers.

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