

UNIVERSITI MALAYA

ORIGINAL LITERARY WORK DECLARATION

Name of Candidate: **Tengku Enaliza binti Tengku Zaman (I.C No: 740307-11-5122)**

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Media Construction of News Reports on Malaysia in a Singapore Newspaper

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ABSTRACT

This study analyses how language is being used in newspapers to transmit news on Malaysia in a Singapore newspaper, namely The Straits Times, and to express ideologies in order to influence readers' perception towards Malaysia. A sample of articles reporting on events concerning Malaysia in The Straits Times of Singapore are analysed to uncover the representations of Malaysia in the news. The analysis focuses on news reports. Based on Wodak's et al. (1999) framework, it is hoped that this study will uncover the discourse strategies, lexical choices and syntactical structures employed in the news pertaining to Malaysia and to promote Singapore's self-perception on the readers. The analysis revealed that the text producers had employed a variety of strategies to illustrate the events, situations and social actors in the news reports pertaining to Malaysia through lexical choices, syntactical structures and intertextuality for various intended purposes. It was found that the Strategies of Justification and Relativisation; and Strategies of Transformation were used to criticise Malaysia as well as cite Malaysia for various allegations. In describing social actors, the Strategies of Demontage (or Dismantling) and Destruction were used to describe them in an undignified manner by associating them with inappropriate behaviour and equate them with deceitful characters; as well as disclose descriptions that illustrate undesirable situations. Strategies of Perpetuation and Strategies of Transformation were found to be used in depicting outcomes which had adverse effects on situations. Constructive Strategies, on the other hand, were used to impose Singapore's 'national self-perception' by criticising Malaysia. Intertextuality which had negative connotations was also detected in the texts to portray a negative perception on Malaysia. These strategies appear to suggest the ideology of Malaysia as being politically unstable and in chaos, whilst Singapore would be a better country because Singapore is politically stable and safe.

ABSTRAK

Kajian ini membentangkan bagaimana bahasa digunakan dalam akhbar dalam penyampaian berita mengenai Malaysia di dalam sebuah akhbar Singapura, khususnya The Straits Times. Kajian ini juga ingin mengetengahkan ideologi yang digunakan untuk mempengaruhi persepsi pembaca terhadap Malaysia. Beberapa artikel yang melaporkan berita mengenai Malaysia di dalam The Straits Times Singapura telah dipilih untuk penganalisaan secara terperinci. Berdasarkan Rangka Analisis Wacana Kritikal (CDA) Wodak et. al. (1999), adalah diharapkan bahawa kajian ini akan mendedahkan strategi wacana, pilihan leksikal dan struktur sintaksis yang telah digunakan dalam teks artikel berita yang berhubungkait dengan Malaysia; dan juga untuk mempromosikan persepsi diri Singapura pada pembaca. Analisis ini juga mendedahkan penulis teks yang telah mengaplikasikan pelbagai strategi dalam penyampaian berita mengenai mereka yang terlibat dalam keadaan atau situasi, peristiwa yang berlaku, keadaan situasi ketika itu di Malaysia untuk pelbagai tujuan. *Strategies of Justification and Relativisation*; dan *Strategies of Transformation* telah digunakan dalam menyampaikan berita bertujuan untuk mengkritik Malaysia serta menghubungkan Malaysia dengan pelbagai dakwaan. Dalam memberi gambaran mengenai tingkahlaku mereka yang terlibat, *Strategies of Demontage (or Dismantling) and Destruction* telah digunakan dan didapati bahawa gambaran tingkahlaku yang tidak bermaruah telah diberi. *Strategies of Perpetuation* dan *Strategies of Transformation* diaplikasikan dalam menggambarkan impak buruk akibat dari kesan sampingan sesuatu situasi. *Constructive Strategies* juga telah digunakan dengan mengkritik Malaysia untuk membina persepsi diri nasionalisme Singapura. *Intertextuality* yang berunsur negatif juga telah dikesan dalam teks bagi memberi gambaran negatif terhadap Malaysia. Strategi-strategi ini mencadangkan ideologi bahawa keadaan politik Malaysia tidak stabil dan Malaysia berada didalam keadaan tidak tenang. Singapura pula digambarkan

sebagai sebuah negara yang aman makmur kerana keadaannya yang stabil dan selamat dari segi politik.

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