LEONARDO DICAPRIO'S MOVEMENT AND COMBAT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE ON HIS UN SPEECH

Pergerakan dan Perlawanan Leonardo DiCaprio terhadap Perubahan Iklim dalam Naskah Pidato PBB-nya

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Abstract

Leonardo DiCaprio was chosen as United Nations Messenger of Peace in 2014 and gave speech in the Paris Agreement on the U.N. This research aims to find out how climate change is described on the lexical choices used by Leonardo DiCaprio on his U.N. speech to convey his ideology. This research uses qualitative research design with critical discourse analysis approach proposed by Norman Fairclough. The datum of this research is Leonardo DiCaprio's speech at the opening of Signature Ceremony for the Paris Agreement by the U.N. The result is his ideology is represented on his lexical choices, which are positive and negative representation that describes his movement and combat against the climate change that represents on his U.N. speech as Messenger of Peace on climate change.

Keywords: critical discourse analysis, Leonardo DiCaprio, climate change, lexical choice

Abstrak

Leonardo DiCaprio terpilih sebagai Duta Perdamaian Persatuan Bangsa-Bangsa (PBB) pada tahun 2014 dan memberikan pidato pada Perjanjian Paris. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mencari tahu bagaimana perubahan iklim digambarkan melalui pilihan kata yang digunakan oleh Leonardo DiCaprio pada pidato PBB-nya untuk menyampaikan ideologinya. Penelitian ini menggunakan desain penelitian kualitatif dengan pendekatan analisis wacana kritis oleh Normal Fairclough. Data penelitian ini adalah naskah pidato Leonardo DiCaprio saat upacara pembukaan Perjanjian Paris oleh PBB. Hasil penelitian membuktikan bahwa ideologi Leonardo DiCaprio terwakilkan dari representasi pilihan kata, yaitu perwakilan kata bermakna positif dan negatif yang menyampaikan pergerakan dan perlawanannya terhadap perubahan iklim dalam naskah pidato PBB-nya sebagai Duta Perdamaian tentang perubahan iklim.

Kata-Kata Kunci: analisis wacana kritis, Leonardo DiCaprio, perubahan iklim, pilihan kata

1. Introduction

Climate change is no longer a new issue in this modern era. Climate change refers to a change of the climate that can be identified namely using statistical tests. Climate change may be due the solar radiation and volcanism that occur naturally and cause the natural variability of the climate system. It also may due to the change in composition of the atmosphere as an effect of industrial revolution which is the result of human activity (Solomon et al, 2007).

One of the organizations that really concerns on climate change is the United Nations. The U.N. established the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on 9 May 1992, at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. The UNFCCC has facilitated the intergovernmental climate change negotiations, namely the Kyoto Protocol in 1997 and the Paris Agreement in 2015 (UNFCCC. 2018).

Leonardo DiCaprio is an Oscar awardee actor. Leo was chosen as United Nations Messenger of Peace in 2014, because of his concern about climate change. Since 2014, the actor has stated many speech about climate change in grand moment namely, Oscar and at the U.N. His remarkable speech was his speech in the Paris Agreement on the U.N. This speech is also included in the movie, Before the Flood. Before the Flood is a 2016 documentary movie presented by National Geographic. This movie is talking about climate change features Leonardo DiCaprio as the United Nations Messenger of Peace traveling to five continents and the Arctic and also his speech in the Paris Agreement. In his speech, he talked about his experienced traveling over the world to see the defect of climate change. He was also talking about how we should act against the climate change which no longer in moderate level.

In Leo's speech at the Paris Agreement, besides of the topic that he declared, his choices of words were also interesting. Choice of word is part of semantics, since semantics are the study of meaning in language. Language in traditional linguistics is viewed as vocabulary containing in the literary work. The definition of language can be based on meaning or function. For example that definition is based on meaning is a noun is a name of person or a thing. Meanwhile based on function example is an adjective is a word that modifies a noun. Lexicon or words is chosen to give semantic interpretation. Semantics are sense (the meaning of words and sentences without the relation of the world) and reference (the meaning of words and sentences with the relation of the world) (Adisutrisno, 2008).

The basic unit in the dictionary is typically a single word. Lexical items other than words is idioms, Heley (as cited in Stede, 1999) found 21 idiomatic categories based on syntactic function, namely compound nouns (station wagon), adjectives (spick and span), prepositions (in spite of), adverbs (by and large), transitive verbs (point out that), untensed clauses (rain cats and dogs), sentences (I should think so).

Stated by Stede (1999), speakers use different words in different situation. The criteria of choice are various, it can be because of some genres have special vocabulary, some words have style, or some words might not express the speaker's attitude, et cetera. The meaning of words can be seen from the synonymy relation between words and the subject in the dictionary. Another way is by translating into another language. Two languages have the different term to communicate the same meaning.

A study by Wang (2010) analyzed Barack Obama's speeches by looking at the systemic and functional grammar to unlock Obama's strategy to persuade the public and get the public attention. Other study by Ghilzai, Ayaz, & Asghar (2017) did a critical discourse analysis on Imran Khans' speech by seeing the ideological and persuasive components to know his motive of his speech. This study is also the same case as both previous studies. Leonardo bravely stated explicit words that show his positive and negative representation

of his idea. Because of that the researcher was intrigued to have a critical discourse analysis on Leonardo DiCaprio's U.N. speech in order to know Leonardo's ideology on his speech.

In this study, the researcher used critical discourse approach proposed by Norman Fairclough. According to Fairclough and Wodak, critical discourse analysis views the discourse as a social practice that caused connection between situation, institution, and social structure that shaped it. In other words, critical discourse analysis is a method to analyze a discourse in a critical sense (Eriyanto, 2009). Critical discourse analysis looks at the relationship between language and social structure that impacts the social sciences as whole in general (Fairclough, 1995).

This analysis required a multidisciplinary approach because of the diverse aspects of the object of observation. The multidisciplinary approach used in this analysis was linguistics and social science. Linguistics support for grammar, semantics, speech acts, phonetics, and conversations aspects. Meanwhile, to understand discourse as social practice, social science helps to observe and analyze the structure of the problems (Haryatmoko, 2016).

In discourse analysis, Norman Fairclough offers three dimensional domains for analysis, namely text analysis, discourse practice, and social practice. Text analysis is crucial part of discourse analysis. Text analysis is done by seeing the text in various discourse, style and genre. In discourse practice it analyzes how the text is produced and consumed. Lastly, in the social practice it analyzes how text is formed and creates the social practice (Fairclough, 2003).

First, it looked at the lexical choice as the linguistic features, by dividing the characteristics into positive representation and negative representation. After that, the researcher studied the background of Leo so that it would answer the reason behind of his choice of words. From what has been discussed above, we would like to know how climate change described on the lexical choices used by

Leonardo DiCaprio on his U.N. speech to convey his ideology.

This research uses qualitative research design with critical discourse analysis approach proposed by Norman Fairclough. The datum of this research is Leonardo DiCaprio's speech at the opening of Signature Ceremony for the Paris Agreement by the U.N. The sources of datum are National Geographic website and movie of Before the Flood. The research instrument is the speech transcribe of the Leonardo DiCaprio's U.N. speech. The datum is collected by watching the Before the Flood movie and reading the speech which already transcribed on the National Geographic website (National Geographic, 2018). The datum is analyzed by using critical discourse analysis by Norman Fairclough. There are three aspects that will be analyzed, which are textual analysis, discourse practice, and sociocultural practice. The textual analysis is done by looking the lexical choice of the speech. The discourse practice is done by looking Leonardo DiCaprio's background so that we can understand why he chose those words on his U.N. speech. Lastly, the sociocultural practice is done by seeing the situational, institutional, and social context.

2. Findings and Discussion

In this chapter, it discussed three aspects, which are textual analysis, discourse practice and sociocultural practice.

2.1 Textual Analysis

In this section, it explained the linguistic aspect that is used in the speech. The researcher chose to analyze the lexical choice. The researcher identified the lexical choices into two representations namely positive and negative representation. The positive representation is how Leonardo DiCaprio giving the hope and movement that people can fight against the climate change. The negative representation is how Leonardo DiCaprio's view on climate changes that has changed people's life and the environment. It is described by showing his fear and the downfall caused by the climate change.

The positive representations consist of compound noun and verb. The negative representation consists of compound noun, verb, noun, and adjective.

Positive Representation

- a. Compound noun showing positive representation
- (i) Hope. Reference: More countries have come together to sign this agreement today than for any other cause in the history of humankind and that is a reason for hope but unfortunately the evidence shows us that it will not be enough (par. 10, line 1). Analysis: Leonardo wanted to give a proof that there is hope to fight against the climate change and one of ways of fight against the climate change is by signing the Paris Agreement.
- (ii) Upheaval and massive change. Reference: An upheaval and massive change is required, now (par. 11, line 1). Analysis: an upheaval and massive change here is a way that is really needed to fight the climate change which people need to leave fossil fuels and change into renewable fuel. This showing that Leonardo wanted to give enlightens how to fight the climate changes.
- (iii) Collective consciousness. Reference: One that leads to a new collective consciousness (par. 11, line 2). Analysis: this phrase is a continuum from number 2 above, that an upheaval and massive change into renewable fuel is coming from the collective consciousness of people. This also showing that Leonardo wanted to give enlightens how to fight the climate changes.
- (iv) Collective evolution. Reference: a new collective evolution of the human race inspired and enabled by a sense of urgency from all of you (par. 11, line 3). Analysis: This showing that Leonardo wanted to give enlightens how to fight the climate changes that collective evolution is started from people's awareness.
- (v) Reversing the course. Reference: We all know that reversing the course of climate change will not be easy, but the tools are in our hands if we apply them before it is too late

- (par. 12, line 1). Analysis: Leo wanted to give hope although combating the climate change is not easy but there is a way to reversing the course or to cooling down the heat of the earth.
- (vi) Bold unprecedented action. Reference: Now is the time for bold unprecedented action (par. 15, line 2). Analysis: bold unprecedented action means an action against climate change. Leonardo has stated previously that combating climate change will not be easy, so that it needed not only bold but an unprecedented action and it does not mean impossible to be done, it is possible.
- (vii) No more talk. Reference: ...,but after 21 years of debates and conferences it is time to declare no more talk (par. 17, line 2). Analysis: Leonardo stated that climate change has been discussed for about 21 years but still there was no clear action together among nations, so Leo wanted to declared it was the time to take the action combating the climate change not only talk about it.
- (viii) No more excuses. Reference: No more excuses (par. 17, line 3). Analysis: in line with number seven's explanation above, it is a continuum that Leonardo emphasizing people's need to take action without no more talk and no more excuses.
- (ix) Last best hope. Reference: We shall nobly save, or meanly lose, the last best hope of earth (par. 20, line 2). Analysis: Leonardo said that the people are the last best hope to save the earth before it depraved. He wanted to emphasize that people are the last hope to fight the climate change.

b. Verb showing positive representation

(i) Lauded. Reference: You will either be lauded by future generations, or vilified by them (par. 18, line 1). Analysis: in here Leonardo described, if people do an action combating the climate change, in the future, the nowadays people will be lauded by the future generations.

Negative Representation

a. Compound noun showing negative representation

- (i) Unprecedented droughts. Reference: In America I have witnessed unprecedented droughts in California and sea level rise flooding the streets of Miami (par. 6, line 6). Analysis: this phrase is one of effects brought by the climate change; Leonardo emphasized it with unprecedented means that has never been done before. Here Leo wanted to give a proof that climate change gave serious effect to the environment.
- (ii) Rapidly disappearing: menghilang dengan cepat. Reference: In Greenland and in the Arctic I was astonished to see that ancient glaciers are rapidly disappearing well ahead of scientific predictions (par. 6, line 7). Analysis: Leonardo wanted to give a proof that climate change gave serious effect to the environment and the evidence was real by giving emphasizing word 'rapidly' which means happening in a short period of time.
- (iii) Runaway freight train. Reference: It has become a runaway freight train bringing with it an impending disaster for all living things (par. 8, line 4). Analysis: Leonardo assumed runaway freight train as climate change. Runaway train itself is a type of railroad incident which unattended rolling stock is allowed to roll on the main line accidentally. In result the moving train does not have enough braking power, unable to stop in mean time and becomes a train wreck. Leonardo described climate change was like a runaway freight train that is frightening nightmare for human race.
- (iv) Impending disaster. Reference: It has become a runaway freight train bringing with it an impending disaster for all living things (par. 8, line 4). Analysis: in line with the analysis on the number three above, the runaway freight train brings an impending disaster. The real runaway train will end up a train wreck, so does the climate change. Leonardo wanted to describe that climate change surely brought a disaster which impending disaster or it is going to be happen soon.

b. Verb showing negative representation

(i) Choked. Reference: I have seen cities like Beijing choked by industrial pollution (par.

- 6, line 3). Analysis: Leonardo gave a personification to industrial pollution that choked Beijing. The pollution is too painful resulting unable to breathe. He wanted to give a proof and emphasize on the cause of climate change (industrial pollution) and the effect (choked/unable to breathe) at the same time.
- (ii) Vilified. Reference: You will either be lauded by future generations, or vilified by them (par. 18, line 1). Analysis: in here Leo described if people do not take action on combating the climate change, in the future, the nowadays people will be vilified by the future generations.

c. Noun showing negative representation

- (i) Crisis. Reference: As a UN Messenger of Peace, I have been travelling all over the world for the last two years documenting how this crisis is changing the natural balance of our planet (par. 6, line 2). Analysis: Leonardo called climate change as a crisis. Crisis means a great danger that a problem must be solved. He wanted to emphasize that climate change is not merely a problem but in urgent to be solved.
- (ii) Scourge. Reference: You know them better than I do, and more importantly, you know what will happen if this scourge is left unchecked (par. 8, line 1). Analysis: Leonardo compared climate change as a scourge which something that cause a trouble. He described climate change as a nightmare for the human race.
- (iii) Shame. Reference: Now think about the shame that each of us will carry when our children and grandchildren look back and realize that we had the means of stopping this devastation, but simply lacked the political will to do so (par. 9, line 1). Analysis: Leonardo brought the word 'shame' to describe about if people did not take action to fight the climate change. He simply described not combating the climate change is a downfall for people.
- (vi) Devastation. Reference: Now think about the shame that each of us will carry when our children and grandchildren look back and realize that we had the means of stopping this devastation, but simply lacked the political will to do so (par. 9, line 1). Analysis: Leonardo

described the effects of climate change as devastation. He wanted to give an image of future if people let this climate change keeps going on. As devastation has negative imposition rather than positive one.

- d. Adjective showing negative representation
- (i) Terrified. Reference: All that I have seen and learned on this journey has terrified me (par. 6, line 9). Analysis: as he witnessing himself the caused and the effects of climate change, he felt a fear about climate change as a whole.

We can conclude that, Leonardo DiCaprio's view on climate change is linguistically realized by positive and negative representation. Positive representation is his movement and hopes to combat the climate change. Meanwhile, negative representation shows his fear and describes a downfall caused by climate change.

2.2 Discourse Practice

In this section, it discussed about the historical background of Leonardo DiCaprio's that influence his U.N. speech.

Leonardo DiCaprio grew up near downtown Los Angeles, which is the surrounding are not nature surrounded. Despite of that, what he does every weekend is go to the Natural History Museum. Since he was kid, he was fascinated with species that had become extinct. Started on his young age, 24-year-old along with the success of Titanic in 1997, he established a non-profit foundation devoted to environmental awareness, namely Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation in 1998. When he was 25, he was invited to give a speech on Earth Day 2000 in Washington and where he had the chance to interview about the global warming to the President of the United States on that time, Bill Clinton.

Leonardo DiCaprio has received praise from environmental groups, namely the Martin Litton Environment Award from Environment Now in 2001. He has been an active supporter of numerous environmental organizations and has sat on the board of the World Wildlife Fund,

Global Green USA, and International Fund for Animal Welfare and the Natural Resources Defense Council. Those involvements made him one of the most active celebrities in the climate change movement

In 2007, Leonardo co-produced, co-wrote, and narrated a documentary about people's relationship to nature and global warming, which he had major role, The 11th Hour. The benefit from his film, he has raised nearly \$40 million towards his foundation. By July 2016, his foundation awarded \$15.6 million to help protect wildlife and the rights of Native Americans along with combating the climate change. In November 2010, Leonardo himself donated \$1 million to the Wildlife Conservation Society at Russia's tiger summit. In 2014, he was appointed as an U.N. Messenger of Peace on climate change.

2.3 Sociocultural Practice

Lastly, the sociocultural practice is done by seeing the situational, institutional, and social context. In the appointment of Leonardo DiCaprio's on being the United Nations Messenger of Peace on climate change, as in Before the Flood (Stevens, et al, 2016), Ban Ki-Moon as the Secretary General of the U.N. gave explanation to the press,

I know that he (Leonardo DiCaprio) has been a very committed and effective environmentalist and that is why I really count on your leadership and vision (Stevens, et al, 2016).

Then right after his appointment, many the U.S press claimed that Leonardo DiCaprio was not the one who should got that role. The FIVE by FOX NEWS Channel reported,

Secretary General, Ban Ki-Moon called Leo a credible voice in the environmental movement, which is like calling Jeffrey Dhamer a credible voice for stew (Stevens, et al, 2016).

Jeffrey Dahmer was an American serial killer and sex offender who committed the rape,

murder, and dismemberment of 17 men and boys from 1978 to 1991. Jeffrey Dahmer was a cannibal. He would make a stew out of the left over body parts. Other News on FOX NEWS Channel was,

Who better to educate world leaders on made up climate change in a crisis that doesn't exist than an actor from Hollywood with zero years of scientific training (Stevens, et al, 2016).

This is how press of the U.S. reported and reacted towards Leonardo Dicaprio's appointment. They were unsure about the U.N. decision on Leo's appointment, although for years Leo has established his LDF which is not only concern on wildlife but also the environment, including climate change. It is important to have familiar faces and voices to represent the importance of subjects such as climate change. Moreover, many political figures welcome high-profile influencers to address political issues, environmental issues, et cetera, and it is also the high recognition that they have.

In his journey to witness the climate change over the world, Leonardo DiCaprio found interesting issues on how each country react to climate change, right after his appointment. There are pro and contra on each country about the climate change issue itself. In the United States, the scientists have to combat with the Congress and the fossil fuels industries. Many scientists agree that the cause of climate change is due to fossil fuel burning and other human activities, but they are also fighting with the massive disinformation campaign to confuse the public. In China, although they are the first contributor to the cause of the climate change because still heavily relying on fossil fuels, they are moving into the light side on combating the climate change by moving to renewable fuel faster than anyone anticipated. Those are some of the evidences on some countries around the world, witnessed by Leonardo himself on his journey as Messenger of Peace on climate change.

Not only the causes and the effects of climate change that it brings, but Leo also

observed the solution that actually people can do. Starting from the diet (beef-less) and using solar and wind as energy utilities. In Denmark, the country produces over 100% of its electricity needs from wind, which is renewable. Moreover, Sweden is the first nation to become fossil-fuel-free nation. These facts gave Leonardo a new perspective to combat the climate change.

The goal of Paris Climate Summit or COP 21 is the world leaders could come together properly to open the window to go back to a stable planet. Johan Rockstrom, a professor on environmental science, in Before the Flood said.

Last time we had our climate summit (before the COP 21), you (Leonardo Dicaprio) couldn't say that we could go to scale on high tech, clean energy solutions. But now in Paris, we can say so. We actually have the proof (Stevens, et al, 2016).

The proofs here are the climate change evidence on each country around the world, including the methane gas, the reef, the sea level rise, et cetera.

In Before of Flood (Stevens, et al, 2016), Leo narrated,

Nearly a quarter of century of global climate talks have come to this pivotal moment in Paris. 195 countries saying they'll do everything in their power to change. There is no doubt that this agreement (Paris Agreement) is a massive step forward. But does it go far enough? (Stevens, et al, 2016).

By this narration, we could see that Leonardo is pessimist on how Paris Agreement can mitigate the cause and the effect of climate change. Leo added, "We just have to take it on faith that all these countries are gonna follow through with what they say. How likely is that?" (Stevens, et al, 2016).

Leonardo is likely wanted to believe what each country are promise to take the action, but he could not take it for granted.

Dr. Piers Sellers, an astronaut of NASA was talking to Leo,

You know, the facts are crystal clear. The ice is melting, the earth is warming, the sea level is rising. Those are facts. Rather than feeling, oh my God it's hopeless, say, okay, this is the problem. Let's be realistic. Let's find a way out of it. And there are ways out of it (Stevens, et al, 2016).

Sellers was spreading the positive attitude while combating the climate change, that there is a hope on this case. Almost the end of the movie, Leo narrated,

A planet that we collectively have left to ruin. The question is, can we change our course in time? ... The only thing that we can do is control what we do next, how we live our lives, what we consume, how we get involved and how we use our vote to tell our leaders that we know the truth of climate change (Stevens, et al, 2016).

In here we could see that Leo is putting a hope and combating the climate change to every people around the world is possible.

3. Conclusion

In conclusion, the background of Leonardo DiCaprio towards environmental issues, namely climate change, his appointment becoming the Messenger of Peace, his journey travelled over the continents, and meeting people who are expert in the climate change and also take action to fight the climate change has influenced his choice of words or his lexical choice. His ideology is represented on his lexical choices, which are positive and negative representation that describes his movement and combat against the climate change that represents on his U.N. speech as Messenger of Peace on climate change. By knowing his choice of words and connecting it with his

background as an actor and environmentalist, we can acquire his ideology on climate change. Although he is a famous actor, he is not a newborn as an environmentalist. His experience and dedication are mainly influence his ideology on climate change. By his choice of words we can see his movement and combat against the climate change.

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