

THE APPRAISAL ANALYSIS OF NATIONAL EXAM ISSUES: A DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

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Abstract

Appraisal is a system of interpersonal meanings. Martin and Rose (2003:22) explain that the term of appraisal for negotiating our social relationship, by telling our listeners or readers how we feel about things and people (in a word, what our attitudes are). This article tries to analyse the appraisal meaning from the news article. The appraisal analysis using discourse analysis based on Martin and Rose work. Then, the analysis focus on how texts are produced as social practice and how texts represent as an ideology (power struggle). The text is taken from news article from The Jakarta Post. The issues took about national examination issues. The result of analysis show that, the writer found three basic of appraisal meaning namely attitude, amplification and source of the text. The attitude is divided into three parts namely affect (feelings), judgement (character) and appreciation (value). In national exams issues many people give their feeling, judgement and appreciation. By knowing the appraisal analysis we will know how texts are produced as social practice. Also, the national exam issues have an ideology (power struggle). The ideology consist of two parts namely perspective and bias. Perspective refers to how do the people give their opinion, while bias means how do the texts affect the people.

Keywords : *Appraisal, interpersonal meaning, social practice, ideology, perspective, bias*

INTRODUCTION

In terms of social discourse analysis, as it explained by Martin and Rose (2003: 1) starting point then, is with texts in social contexts. social discourse rarely consists of just single clauses, rather social contexts develop as sequences of meanings comprising texts. Since each text is produced interactively between speakers and between writers and (potential) readers, we can use it to interpret the interaction it manifests. And since each interaction is an instance of the speakers' culture, we can also use the text to interpret aspects of the culture it manifests. In line with the theories of Martin and Rose above, the writer would like to analyze appraisal meaning of the

text. The type of text is news item; also the issues are taken from the national examination issues.

As we know that, the public attention is interested to the issues about national examination. The news about national examination is becoming the headline of mass media either print or electronic media. The news is the current issues of April 2013. As we know, the government officialled by Minister of Cultural and Educational held the national for the senior high school level on 15 -18 April 2013, and Junior High School on 22 – 25 April 2013. And then, as we can see, there are many problem in conducting of national exam for the senior high school, the problems namely

about printing and distributing of exams material, and the peak problem is national exam fiasco. This paper has the research question how is the appraisal meaning in national exam issues? And then, this paper aims to analyze the appraisal meaning of the text. The writer hopes that, by knowing appraisal meaning we will know how texts are produced as a social practice and also the ideology of the text. As a matter of fact, the writer interested to analyze this issue from the discourse point of view.

METHODOLOGY

This research is kind of discourse analysis based on Martin and Rose work (2003). Martin and Rose (2003: 3) explain that the framework of the discussion is the model of language in social context that has been developed within the broad field of systemic functional linguistics (SFL). SFL researchers have been actively concerned for several generations with the semantics of discourse. And then, the focus of the analysis in appraisal meaning. The news item texts have been chosen as the resource of material. The issues of national exam will be analyzed based appraisal meaning namely attitude, amplification and source.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Appraisal is a system of interpersonal meanings. We use the resources of Appraisal for negotiating our social relationship, by telling our listeners or readers how we feel about things and people (in a word, what our attitudes are). In this case, we want to analyze the news item text:

BPK asked to audit national exam budget

A lawmaker plans to ask the Supreme Audit Agency to examine the Education and Culture Ministry's national exam budget of Rp 600 billion (US\$61 million) following the postponement of exams in 11 provinces due to printing delays.

"Technically the cause for this delay could be anything. But we need to know what the audit says, from a budget perspective. We are talking about a lot of money here," education commission chief Asman Abnur said Monday.

He criticized the Ministry for failing to organize the exam properly. "The government knows that students prepared hard for the exam. Some have recited 'istighotsah' (call for help) prayers while studying," he said.

Asman suggested a committee should investigate the mess. He said legislators had visited a number of schools in Batam to check on preparations and during the exam.

Even further, he added, the lawmakers have discussed removing the exam from the education agenda.

"This hasn't been decided, but based on informal meetings, all factions agree that the exams should be ended," said Abnur.

The exam is widely seen as inefficient, but the government insists that it is the only way to determine whether a student passes or fails.(asw/dic)

Expressing our feelings (affect)

As we explore how people express their feelings in discourse, we find that they vary in two general ways. Firstly, we can have good feelings or bad feelings, so affect can be positive or negative. Secondly people can express their feeling directly, or we can infer how people are feeling indirectly from their

behaviour, so affect can be expressed directly or implied.

And then, let's look at positive and negative affect from the text above :

Technically the cause for this **delay** could be anything.

But we need to know what the audit says, from a **budget perspective**.

We are talking about a **lot of money here**.

He criticized the Ministry for **failing** to organize the exam **properly**.

The government knows that students prepared **hard** for the exam.

Some have recited '**istighotsah**' (call for help) prayers while studying," he said.

The lawmakers have discussed **removing** the exam from the education agenda.

All factions agree that the exams should be **ended**.

The exam is widely seen as **inefficient**.

But the government insists that it is the only way to determine whether a student **passes or fails**.

Table 1.1

Options for affect

| | |
|----------|---|
| Positive | The government knows that students prepared hard for the exam. Some have recited ' istighotsah ' (call for help) prayers while studying," he |
|----------|---|

said.

Negative

Technically the cause for this **delay** could be anything.

But we need to know what the audit says, from a **budget perspective**.

We are talking about a **lot of money here**.

He criticized the Ministry for **failing** to organize the exam **properly**.

The lawmakers have discussed **removing** the exam from the education agenda.

All factions agree that the exams should be **ended**.

The exam is widely seen as **inefficient**.

But the government insists that it is the only way to determine whether a student **passes or fails**.

| | | |
|--------------|---------------------|---|
| Direct state | Emotional | <i>Failing, properly, hard, ended, inefficient</i> |
| | Physical expression | <i>Delay, a budget perspective, a lot of money, istighotsah (call for help), removing, ended, passes or fails</i> |

Judging people’s character

As with affect, judgement of people’s character can be positive or negative, and they may be judged explicitly or implicitly. In this case, there are two kinds of judgement namely personal judgements of admiration or criticism and moral judgement of praise or condemnation. Let’s see the following table:

Table 1.2

Judgement of character

| | | |
|----------|-----------|---|
| Personal | Admire | The government knows that students prepared hard for the exam. |
| | Criticize | He criticized the Ministry for failing to organize the exam properly . All factions agree that the exams should be ended . The exam is widely seen as inefficient . |
| Moral | Praise | Some have recited ‘istighotsah’ |

(call for help) prayers while studying,” he said.

Condemn

How texts are produce as social practice

The text above is the type of news item text. News text is the text that report the news in our social environment; it is usually in written form. News item reported about the current issues and information, it help public to get the information quickly and update. News item has also special feature in grammar and vocabulary. Therefore, a journalist should mastery English written well.

Table 1.3

Generic structure of News Item

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Title news | BPK asked to audit national exam budget |
| Newsworthy event | <i>A lawmaker plans to ask the Supreme Audit Agency to examine the Education and Culture Ministry’s national exam budget of Rp 600 billion (US\$61 million) following the postponement of exams in 11 provinces due to printing delays.</i> |
| Background event | <i>“Technically the cause for this delay could be anything. But we need to know what the audit says, from a budget perspective. We are talking about a lot of money here,” education commission chief Asman Abnur</i> |

said Monday.

He criticized the Ministry for failing to organize the exam properly. "The government knows that students prepared hard for the exam. Some have recited 'istighotsah' (call for help) prayers while studying," he said.

Asman suggested a committee should investigate the mess. He said legislators had visited a number of schools in Batam to check on preparations and during the exam.

Even further, he added, the lawmakers have discussed removing the exam from the education agenda.

"This hasn't been decided, but based on informal meetings, all factions agree that the exams should be ended," said Abnur.

Source

The exam is widely seen as inefficient, but the government insists that it is the only way to determine whether a student passes or fails.(asw/dic)

How texts represent ideology (power struggle)

- **Perspective**

As we have seen, the news about National exam interested the public attention. The problem is about the exam fiasco and the postponement exam in 11 province on Senior High school. In this case, The public giving response that, the Ministry of Education and Culture should responsible to the national exam fiasco. Though, the Ministry blame to the company which fail to distribute the exam material in 11 provinces. That's why, there was a delay national exam in 11 provinces. As matter fact, the public hopes that, this problem would not happen in the future anymore. The Ministry in this case, must be prepare well for the exam and giving the punishment to the company who failing to fulfill the target. The government is also should evaluate and investigate the process of national exam. Beyond the problem, we can say that, there are many the controversy of exam, namely the standar exam scoring, the item test and the human resources. As matter of fact, the lawmakers have discussed removing the exam from the education agenda.

Finally, the decision is in the government hand, whether the exam is still to defense as the education agenda for the following year. The government should aware to the criticism and suggestion from the expert. Therefore, there will be a good solution for the exam problem and its implementation.

- **Bias**

There are two point of bias about final examination. In one hand, the government insist that it is the only way to determine whether passes or fail. It is a

measurement to evaluate students ability studying at school. In addition, there is a standard of score for each subject matter, namely Indonesian language, mathematics, English and science. Consequently, the teachers have a duty to responsible passing the student for the exam. They tries hard for the successful national exam, for instance giving the extra course out of regular teaching learning. On the other hand, there are many people disagree about the national exam; even they hope that, it is should be removed from the education agenda. They have reason, that the exams have many problems such as the standard of scoring, the process in distributing exam materials, the student mental and the peak of problem is the delay of exams 2013 in eleven provinces. As a matter of fact, they hopes that, the government removed the exam from the education agenda.

CONCLUSION

As we have seen above, appraisal is a system of interpersonal meaning. As Martin and Rose (2003) explain that the term appraisal for negotiating our relationship, by telling our listeners or readers how we feel about things and people (in a word, what our attitudes are). In this paper, the writer has explored appraisal meaning in positive and negative affect of the participants and judgement of participant character. And then, the issues of national exam consist of ideology and bias. The ideology means how is the people perspective about national exam for instance there are many the controversy of exam, namely the standar exam scoring, the item test and the human resources. As matter of fact, the lawmakers have discussed removing the exam from the education agenda. Therefore, the decision is in the government hand, whether the exam is still to defense as the education agenda

for the following year. The government should aware to the criticism and suggestion from the expert. Therefore, there will be a good solution for the exam problem and its implementation. And then for bias, There are two point of bias about final examination. In one hand, the government insist that it is the only way to determine whether passes or fail. It is a measurement to evaluate students ability studying at school. On the other hand, there are many people disagree about the national exam; even they hope that, it should be removed from the education agenda.

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