

APPLICATION OF FAIRCLOUGH'S CDA ON SHORT STORY THE ONES WHO WALK AWAY FROM OMELAS

Sekar Arum Prihaningtyas¹, Fitri Alfarisy²

^{1,2} Program of Applied Foreign Language, Vocational College, Diponegoro University Semarang, Indonesia, 50275

¹sekararumprihaningtyas@gmail.com ; ²fitri.alfarisy@live.undip.ac.id

Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui dominasi dan kekuasaan yang dibangun dalam cerita pendek *The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas* karya Ursula Le Guin. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif dengan menerapkan model analisis wacana kritis milik Fairclough. Selain itu, penelitian ini menerapkan tiga dimensi analisis berupa deskripsi (analisis tekstual), interpretasi, dan eksplanasi. Hasil dari dimensi deskripsi yaitu ditemukannya upaya untuk mendominasi kekuasaan di dalam cerita pendek tersebut. Di sisi lain, dimensi interpretasi dan eksplanasi menunjukkan latar belakang bagaimana teks tersebut diproduksi beserta penerapannya dalam konteks sosiokultural. Sebagai kesimpulan, penelitian ini menyoroti kekuatan dan dominasi kelompok mayoritas atas kelompok minoritas.

Kata kunci: CDA; Dominance; Le Guin; Fairclough.

Abstract

*This study aims to determine the dominance and power constructed in the short story *The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas* by Ursula Le Guin. This study uses a qualitative descriptive method by applying Fairclough's critical discourse analysis model. In addition, this study follows the three dimensions: description (textual analysis), interpretation, and explanation. The result of the description is that there is an attempt to dominate power in the short story. On the other hand, the interpretation and the explanation dimensions show the background of text production along with the application of sociocultural context. In conclusion, this research highlights the power and dominance majority groups over minority groups.*

Keywords: CDA; Dominance; Le Guin; Fairclough.



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INTRODUCTION

Literature nowadays is the result of creative art activities and the complexity of human life that uses language as an intermediary medium (Semi, 1993, as cited in Ardiyansyah et al., 2020). Literature, as a written work, may be a narrative art form especially novels, poems, poetry, and short stories. Grand narrative theory claimed that literary works are fictional and imaginative works that are not related to the world and society. However, in the 20th century, this theory shifted. Literature that is narrative in nature can be intended as criticism and can be related to cultural, societal, and historical contexts. As literary work can portray culture and society, it aligns with the use of language in the form of critical discourse analysis

Chaer (2014) described that discourse is a complete language unit, consisting of ideas, concepts, and thoughts that can be understood by readers or listeners. Discourse can be in the form of speech or writing. Meanwhile, discourse analysis is a study used to analyse the use of language from all perspective (van Dijk, 2013). Van Dijk argued that CDA is about the underlying ideologies, that play a role in the reproduction of or resistance against dominance or inequality (Franck Amoussou & Ayodele A. Allagbe, 2018). Fairclough also emphasizes the constitutive and constituted character of discourse. According to him, discourse is a form of social practice that constructs the social world, identities, and social relations. In addition, the existence of discourse is also dialectically related to and shaped by other social structures (Munfarida, 2014). It can be understood that critical discourse analysis is a study that analyses discourse critically in various aspects. In this study, the author is interested in analysing the short story *The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas*.

The short story "*The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas*" is a sci-fi short story written by Ursula Le Guin. It was published in 1973. The story has received the Hugo Award in 1974. Le Guin attempts to present a utopian society in a city called Omelas. It is told in the narrative that Omelas is a city full of happiness and prosperity for both the country and its people. But behind it all lies the secret that all the happiness and prosperity obtained is the result of an exile and misery of a child who is locked away under darkness. Le Guin enables the readers to function freely in the world-building process and transforms the way the readers comprehend the city of Omelas. Throughout the story, along with the reader, this so-called utopia gets shaped by the narrator. This narrator functions as a power that makes all of the readers perceive the real dynamics of this joyous society and the sufferings as the foundations of Omelas (Güranç, 2019).

Because of the interesting things above, to find out the phenomena that occur in society, especially related to domination and power. this research uses Fairclough's critical discourse analysis model. Then, a research question is formulated in the form of what power and domination appear in the short story *The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas*.

In addition, research on the short story has been conducted by Putri et al (2020) in her research entitled "Evil Society in Ursula K. Le Guin's "*The Ones Walk Away from Omelas*". Then, research entitled "*The Existence of Omelas Citizen in Ursula K. Le Guin's Short Story Entitled "The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas"*" (Ramadhani, 2018).

RESEARCH METHOD

This research is a descriptive qualitative method to understand the phenomenon in the source, behaviour, perception by describing the result in the form of sentences (Moleong, 2019). The data source of this research is a short story by Ursula Le Guin entitled *The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas*. Then the data is collected by close reading and note taking method. Close reading method is a method to obtain data by reading the data source carefully (Sudaryanto, 2015).

After close reading, the data was recorded and reduced based on relevant sentences with Fairclough's critical discourse analysis model. Fairclough's critical analysis model has three stages of analysis dimensions, namely textual analysis (description), discourse practice (interpretation), and social practice (explanation). In the textual analysis dimension, short story texts are analysed based on vocabulary, grammatical, and text structure (Mustika & Mardikantoro, 2018).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Result

The short story has many linguistic aspects that emerge for analysis in the descriptive dimension (textual analysis), interpretation, and explanation. In the descriptive dimension, linguistic aspects are analyzed to determine dominance and strength through vocabulary, grammatical, and textual structure analysis. Then, in the interpretative dimension, the relationship between text production and interpretation by the reader is found. Lastly, the explanatory dimension explains the sociocultural application that occurs regarding the findings of dominance and strength within society.

Discussion

Descriptive (Textual Analysis)

At the descriptive (textual analysis) stage, Fairclough emphasizes three things that must be analysed, namely vocabulary, grammar, and text structure.

1. Vocabulary

The short story texts are analysed based on the use of words including the use of vocabulary, rewording or overwording, synonym, hyponym, antonym, formal or informal wording, and metaphor. This study found the use of vocabulary, overwording, synonym, hyponym, antonym, informal word, and metaphor. Below is the data that shows the use of informal word and synonym.

1. *They were not simple folk, you see, though they were happy. But we do not say the words of cheer much anymore. All smiles have become archaic.*

Datum 1 above shows that the use of the word “*folk*” is an informal word. Informal words are used by the producer to give an informal atmosphere and a familiar impression to the reader. In addition, the use of the word “*folk*” a synonym for “*the people of Omelas*”.

Furthermore, the use of overwording was found in datum 2. Overwording is used to emphasize an important thing in the form of a word, phrase, or clause. Datum 2 can be seen below.

2. *It shuts its eyes, but it knows the mops are still standing there; and the door is locked; and nobody will come. The door is always locked; and nobody ever comes, except that sometimes-the child has no understanding of time or interval - sometimes the door rattles terribly and opens, and a person, or several people, are there.*

The datum above shows the use of overwording in the clause “*the door is locked*”. The producer text repeats the phrase to emphasize a situation of cruelty committed by the people of Omelas. The clause highlights a locked door, which means there is no place to be free.

The next analysis is on hyponym and antonym found in datum 3 and datum 4 below.

3. *No matter how well the matter has been explained to them, these young spectators are always shocked and sickened at the sight. They feel disgust, which they had thought themselves superior to. They feel anger, outrage, impotence, despite all the explanations. They would like to do something for the child. But there is nothing they can do.*
4. *Each one goes alone, youth or girl man or woman.*

Hyponym is used to provide detailed descriptions that can specify a particular aspect of a broader concept. Hyponyms are found in datum 3 in the word “*disgust*”, “*anger*”, “*outrage*”, and “*impotence*”. These words belong to the feeling group to express more specific feelings about the situation that occurs in the short story in order to convey an emotional connection to the reader.

In the other hand, the antonyms found in datum 4 are “*youth*” or “*girl*” and “*man*” or “*woman*”. Antonyms in critical discourse analysis are used to create contrasts and power differences. Antonyms in this sentence are antonyms related to gender equality. Usually, these words indicate differences in power and differences in opportunities obtained. However, the sentence actually states an equality between the two. This arises because of the conjunction “*or*” which is a coordinative conjunction (a conjunction that exists in equivalent sentences).

Next is the analysis of metaphors found in datum 5 below.

5. *The crowds along the racecourse are like a field of grass and flowers in the wind. The Festival of Summer has begun.*

The use of metaphors in critical discourse analysis can identify how the producer text views the world. The use of metaphors shows how the producer text wants the reader to perceive the situation or character in the short story text through a simile. The metaphor found in datum 5 is in the sentence “*The crowds along the racecourse are like a field of grass and flowers in the wind*”. In this sentence, the producer text compares people to a grass and flowers blown by the wind.

The metaphor means that the people in the horse racing crowd are described as having fun as if they were on the wind. In addition, the use of the phrase “*a field of grass and flowers in the wind*” suggests that they tend to follow where the wind blows, where happiness takes them.

2. Grammatical

Grammar analysis can be done by analysing types of sentences, namely active, passive, positive, and negative. Then analyse the mode of sentences in the form of declarative, interrogative, and imperative. Then finally analyse the modality and pronouns contained in the short story.

Grammatical analysis is intended to find out how the relationship between agents and patients affects the reader's perception. The analysis of active and passive sentences can be seen from datum 6 below.

6. *One of them may come and kick the child to make it stand up. The others never come close, but peer in at it with frightened, disgusted eyes. The*

food bowl and the water jug are hastily filled, the door is locked, the eyes disappear.

The use of active and passive voice in a critical discourse analysis affects how an agent (subject) plays a role in a situation. The active voice is used to highlight the agent who performs the action over the object. Meanwhile, the use of passive sentences shows that the agent who performs an action is not considered important, but rather highlights the event or events that occur.

In datum 6 there are many active sentences, including the sentence “*One of them may come and kick the child to make it stand up*”. The sentence features an agent who is considered important as the main actor. The sentence pattern that appears in the sentence is Subject, Verb, Object (SVO) which belongs to the action types of process.

In addition, datum 6 also contains passive voice in the clause “*The food bowl and the water jug are hastily filled*”. The clause emphasizes the object without showing the agent performing the action. The use of passive voice emphasizes what is happening, that is the feeding that seems rough and disgusting. This is illustrated by the use of the adverb “hastily” which means hurriedly, then when it associated with the situation in the story indicates the rude actions against the child.

Meanwhile, datum 7 shows sentences with positive and negative sentences.

7. *Each alone, they go west or north, towards the mountains. They go on. They leave Omelas, they walk ahead into the darkness, and they do not come back.*

Positive sentences are sentences that contain facts and truths that are not negated. Negative sentences represent a statement that contains elements of denial, negation, and absence, such as “no” and “not”. They are used to indicate that the statement is incorrect.

Then in datum 8 to 10 below shows the presence of modes of sentences.

8. *In the room a child is sitting. It could be a boy or a girl. It looks about six, but actually is nearly ten.*
9. *For instance, how about technology? I think that there would be no cars or helicopters in and above the streets; this follows from the fact that the people of Omelas are happy people.*
10. *The traveller must pass down village streets, between the houses with yellow-lit windows, and on out into the darkness of the fields.*

The use of different sentence modes above can represent the roles and power contained within discourse texts. The use of declarative sentences signifies that the subject plays the role of the giver of information, while the addressee is the receiver. The use of interrogative indicates that the subject is asking something of the addressee, possibly requesting information. Lastly, the use of imperative sentences means that the subject is also asking something of the addressee, but the addressee is the direct actor in carrying out the request.

The next analysis is the analysis of modality found in the short story *The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas*. According to Fairclough (1989), modality is divided into two types depending on the authority displayed. Fairclough divides modality into expressive modality and relational modality. Relational modality relates to the relationship of authority to each other, such as may, must, should, shall, and others. Meanwhile, expressive modality deals with truth and possibility, such as would, will, can, could, etc.

The examples of relational modality found in the short story can be seen in datum 6 and datum 10. The sentences in these datums contain the modals “may” and “must” which indicate implicit authority over another. While expressive modality can be found in datum 2,3,8, and 9. These datums have modals “will”, “would”, and “could” which indicate the existence of ability and possibility.

Then, the use of pronouns also needs to be analyzed in the short story to determine the dominance and interaction between the producer text and the reader. The use of the pronoun “I” indicates the author’s dominance over the reader and emphasizes a superior intensity in the text. Meanwhile, the pronoun “you” is the author’s attempt to connect with the reader. In this context, the author invites the reader to imagine and interact through interrogative sentences in the text. Lastly, the use of the pronoun “we” aims to involve both the author and the reader.

3. Textual Structure

Textual structure is about how the whole text may have structure. However, since short story is a kind of narrative text, it is arranged sequentially from the beginning to the end based on the narrative text structure. The structure is orientation that contains introduction to the characters and the setting that occur in the story. Then, complication which shows the conflict. It may have a twist or challenge. Last, there is resolution that conclude how the story ends and resolving the conflict.

Interpretation

Interpretation is a dimension that refers to how discourse texts are created, digested, distributed, and interpreted within the framework of discourse practices that involve interactions between texts and persons or society. The interpretation stage emphasizes the relationship between text and interaction.

Short story “*The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas*” was produced by Ursula Le Guin. She is an American writer who has created many works in the sci-fi genre by raising specific details to society. The short story was published in 1973, presuming Le Guin authored it between the late 1960s and early 1970s. It refers to the potential of a fair or just society, and the desire for a genuinely happy society (in this case, American society) cannot be based on the oppression and scapegoating of others. Le Guin attempts to address the common moral issue that occurred in America during the period of short story production, named “discrimination against minorities”.

Identity

Le Guin created Omelas, a utopian ideal city. The name came from a road sign that said Salem, Oregon, which Le Guin later recognized as O, melas in her rearview mirror. It is located in America, which is where the text is produced. The narrative depicts Omelas as an ideal city. The people of Omelas are shown as a joyful society; free of abuse and enslavement. Given the absence of slavery, it is reasonable to infer that the people there live in harmony and contentment. This is consistent with the domestic initiative

"The Great Society", launched by former American President Lyndon B Johnson in 1964-1965. The initiative sought to eliminate poverty and racial inequality.

The Omelas people in that narrative, however, were not common folk. A few of them grinned and stopped using the word "*cheer*". This phenomenon stemmed from a shared Omelas secret involving the segregation of something thought to cause social calamity. This was also consistent with the circumstances both prior to and following the introduction of "The Great Society" program. America saw a number of campaigns promoting equal rights for women and minorities before it was published. The African-American community was then ostracized and considered a minority group.

Discrimination

The Omelas best-kept secret is the segregation of a young child under the city's most exquisite structure. The phrase "and that the Omelas train station is actually the handsomest building in town, though plainer than the magnificent Farmers' Market" (Guin, 2007) describes the structure. Eventually, it was found that Black people had been employed as low-paid farmers and servants for a long time prior to the Great Society program's implementation, namely during World War II (1939–1945). The child in that building represented the vulnerability and helplessness of Black people who belong to the majority group with this description.

Furthermore, Le Guin purposefully leaves the gender of the child character unspecified. This enables readers to visualize the character being described. But because of this ambiguous gender, Le Guin refers to the child by the pronoun "It" rather than "He" or "She." The way the pronoun "It," which is usually used to refer to an item or thing, is employed influences how the child interprets the character. Put another way, the role and humanity assigned to the character "the child" are influenced by the use of the pronoun "It." The use of this pronoun to refer to "the child" connotes an object that is limited, and an object and a human person are not the same thing. Le Guin aims to depict the treatment of Black people in that era.

Le Guin stated at the conclusion of the narrative that some Omelas residents are beginning to feel uneasy about this (discrimination by the majority group against the minority group). Furthermore, people who are uneasy fear that they will face prejudice since they have chosen to support the minority group. This circumstance resembles a contradiction in life. In the end, Omelas residents who are uneasy but do not hold a lot of authority decide to leave in order to break the cycle of discrimination. Le Guin merely says that they travel to a dark and unfathomable area without elaborating on where they go. Another way to look at this would be as a kind of freedom. But it is impossible to define freedom from a single viewpoint.

Explanation

Discourse as an element of social practice is the main emphasis of the explanation dimension. This dimension seeks to portray speech as a part of social processes, shaped by social structures, and having a cumulative effect on them that can either maintain or modify them. According to Fairclough, speech affects society structures and is a component of social struggle. This dimension examined contemporary societal issues or challenges. The detail explanations of them are follow:

Racial Discrimination

Discrimination is known as unfair treatment of individuals based on attributes like color, gender, age, or sexual orientation. This social issue stems from emotions of superiority toward other people or a distinct group, which causes affected individuals to alter physically and behaviorally. Racial discrimination, or racism, is the kind of discrimination that can be seen in the short story *The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas* when viewed through an interpretive lens. Racism does not only affect Black people; it also affects any of people including Asian. Despite ongoing racism, Black Americans are already recognized as being of Black American heritage in the United States.

The Stop Asian Hate movement is currently being strongly supported globally, especially in America, in regard to the challenges that Asian people confront. It began after a young guy in Atlanta killed eight Asian persons, six of them were Asian women, during the Covid-19 outbreak, sparking the start of this organization. Before then, Covid-19 was characterized to as “*the Chinese Virus*” and “*Kung Flu*” by former President Donald Trump, a blatant example of racism. The origin of the virus and its propagation in 2020 were viewed from a white nationalist standpoint in these words. The marginalization of Asian populations in America has been impacted by such statements. CNN reports that in 2021, there was a 164% rise in crimes committed against Asian Americans. This is corroborated by research from Cal State University San Bernardino's Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism, which links the increase in crime to the former president's amplified use of stigmatizing language (Campbell, 2021).

CONCLUSION

In summary based on the findings above, this study was conducted by analyzing text, interpreting, and explaining the whole discourse in the stages of Fairclough's critical discourse analysis. Textual analysis has three things that must be analyzed, that are vocabulary, grammar, and text structure. Overall, the producer text wants to create as close a relationship as possible with the reader by using informal words, metaphors, expressional modality, and the use of pronouns “*we*” and “*you*”. In addition, the producer text also creates a dominance of power which is shown by the use of antonyms, relational modality, and the use of the pronoun “*I*”. In addition, the short story has the text structure of orientation, complication, and resolution. Meanwhile, in the interpretation section, the finding shows how discourse is produced and interpreted. This is related to the background of the discourse production which is related to the situation in America at the time of the discourse production. During this time period, there was a lot of discrimination based on race, gender, and other minority groups. Then in the explanation dimension or sociocultural, discrimination still appears today, especially racial discrimination.

In conclusion, the findings portray Americans as dominant people to abuse power against minority groups. This study can serve as a reference for future scholars interested in using CDA, particularly in the context of domination and power in narrative discourse.

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