

Critical Discourse Analysis on Iwan Fals' Song Entitled "Minyak Goreng": A Criticism for The Government

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ABSTRACT

The scarcity of cooking oil and the increase in its price in Indonesia put society under pressure instead of the fact that Indonesia was the world's largest palm oil producer. Therefore, Iwan Fals, the singer who often expressed his criticism through a song, also released a sharp criticism song entitled "Minyak Goreng." Since this song also functioned as a criticism, it contained some linguistic features that were referred to critic the government. This study analyzes Iwan Fals' song entitled "Minyak Goreng" by using Fairclough's critical discourse theories. The method used is qualitative with descriptive so that the researcher interprets the data in the lyric based on the happening phenomenon. The data are analyzed in three fields: linguistic features, text production, and social practice. This research shows that Fals uses some linguistic features such as pronouns, similes, metaphors, and probability phrases to express his criticism. Fals also put himself as the people of Indonesia who suffer from this cooking oil scarcity. Besides that, Fals also shows the anger of the people to the government. This research indicates that the text shows the relationship between language, power, and social construction.

Keywords: *song, the scarcity of cooking oil, critical discourse analysis*

INTRODUCTION

Language can be a tool to express the message from the sender to the receiver through the arbitrary symbol that both communicators know. The message has an idea and knowledge of human communication (Nasution et al., 2021). A communication method can be spoken or written. An example of spoken communication is talking to others by pronouncing some articulatory organs. Hence, written communication can be shown through messages, letters, newspapers, etc. Another way to communicate is through a song. A song is not only a lyric with a tone, but it also contains the message the writers want to show. It can also be used in the media to show the feelings and beliefs of the songwriter (Dewi, 2022). The song can also be influenced by the writer's feelings or the social conditions that happen in society. Some singers or musicians are concerned about social conditions and show this by creating song lyrics to criticize them. Ordinary people usually

access a song more quickly than other communication media. The song's lyrics will make ordinary people aware of the social condition being criticized. People's awareness of social conditions will be very supportive of the improvement.

One of the Indonesian singers who produced many songs containing criticism of the social condition is Iwan Fals. Fals is a senior Indonesian singer who criticizes the government and Indonesia's social and political conditions through his lyrics. His newest song is "*Minyak Goreng*," which means cooking oil. This song was composed when Indonesia faced the scarcity of cooking oil from late 2021 until the beginning of 2022. This song contains many criticisms of the government, the officials, and conglomerates. This song is not merely a group of lyrics but also has a meaningful message, especially the criticism of the government. Therefore, the researchers are interested in analyzing this song using Fairclough's critical discourse analysis approach.

Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) emphasizes how language has meaning, value, and ideas (Cheng & Machin, 2022). The language can be delivered through a speech, a text, a news, or a song. Those discourses have messages that the creator wants to express. This field can be analyzed using CDA approaches. Fairclough's CDA approaches have three frameworks: text, discourse practice, and sociocultural practice (Fairclough, 1995). Text framework refers to analyzing the linguistic feature and the grammar (structure) where the text is organized. Then, the discourse practice analyzes the text production process in making the text. Last, sociocultural practice is about the social context that influences text production. For instance, when a researcher is willing to analyze a TV program, he must also be involved in the program production process and the program's audience. This discourse practice is also related to the text distribution to whom the text is addressed. This is how text is chained into other aspects, such as politics and social economics in which the text is produced (Fairclough, 1995).

Several types of research have been conducted in CDA research, such as the CDA analysis in an eco-news report in the Philippines, which shows the result that the passive voice in a text has the purpose of eliminating the actor of the text, and it is related to the social context in which the text is organized (Garlitos, 2020). In delivering the sentence using passive voice, the writer eliminates the subject or actor and focuses on the action. Another study has also been conducted in CDA on the "Look What You Do" song by Avril Lavigne. This research results show that the song's author repeats several lyrics to emphasize that those parts matter and are also important. This analysis also involved the images of the video besides the lyrics (Alek et al., 2020). The research about Fairclough's CDA was also conducted about the ASN social movements in the Instagram community, which shows that the content in that social media aims to show the positive

value of ASN (civil servant) and reduce their negative stigma. This research shows that discourse must have implicit meaning because the writer does not mention the text accidentally (Prasetyawati, 2021).

MATERIALS AND METHOD

This research uses a qualitative method. This method has an approach that explores and understands the problems in society (Creswell, 2014). The researchers typically interpret the data with a flexible structure. The qualitative method is also based on human perception without statistical analysis (Stake, 2010). The data are the lyrics of Iwan Fals' song "Minyak Goreng". These data are interpreted using Norman Fairclough's theory, which consists of three stages: linguistic feature, discourse practice (text production), and sociocultural practice. The Fairclough's framework chart can be shown as follows:

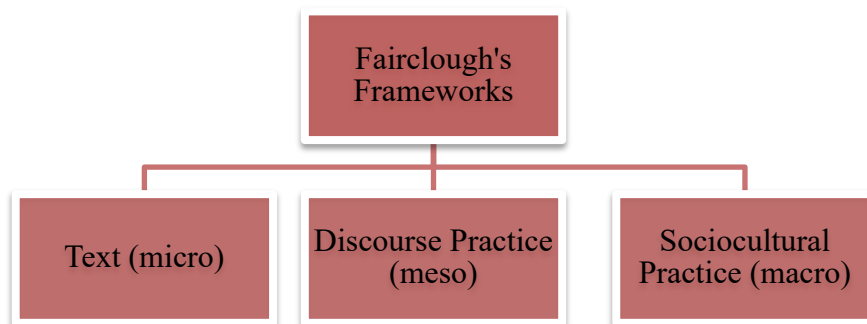


Figure 1 Frameworks of Fairclough's CDA

There are several steps in conducting the data. The first is to read the lyrics of Iwan Fals' song several times in order to know the context of the lyrics. The second is to read about the scarcity of cooking oil from many sources. This step helped the researcher to understand the meaning of the symbol and linguistic features mentioned by Fals. The third is to find the data based on linguistic features such as words and structures. The structures analyzed are simile and metaphor. Then, the structure also focuses on expressions with an implicit meaning, like probability phrases.

In linguistic features, the data are analyzed using microanalysis, i.e., the language elements used in the text. The second stage is text production. In this stage, the data about the singer's background or the song's composer is analyzed in meso analysis. The last is the social practice stage. In this stage, the data are analyzed in a macro analysis of the relationship between the social factor that influences the text and the power relationship between the singer and the government, which are influenced by the social construction of the society (Fairclough, 1995).

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

Result

The data analysis consists of three elements according to Fairclough's theory. Microanalysis, mesoanalysis, and macroanalysis are used. Here is the data analysis of Fals' song.

Linguistic Feature (microanalysis)

Word

Word is a part of the morphological system in linguistics. Each word has its meaning (Booij, 2005). Every word in the lyrics does not emerge by accident, but the composer has an implicit meaning in producing those lyrics. It can be rhythmic and show the meaning beneath the word's surface. *Minyak Goreng's* song's lyrics contain several words that show the singer's identity and the song's story. This can be seen from the pronouns used in the song.

1. *Aku* (I)

Aku kesal, kok konglomerat tega?

"I am upset, why is the conglomerate heartless?"

The pronoun *Aku* or *I* appears several times in the lyric. "I" represents Fals as the part of Indonesian citizens affected by the scarcity of cooking oil. He tries to show his anger and disillusionment to the conglomerate and the government because of the scarcity of cooking oil. The word "heartless" also shows that Fals considers this tragedy's cause to be them.

Aku resah, kok polisi tak berdaya?"

"I am fidgety, why is the police powerless?"

In this lyric, "I" also represents Fals as the singer and writer of the song who is fidgety about the condition of Indonesia. Fals assumes that this tragedy should be investigated by the police as law enforcement. However, this condition continues throughout the year, and the police cannot solve and punish the cooking oil mafia. That is why he said that the police are powerless.

Aku marah, kok pemerintah begitu mudah dipermainkan?"

"I am mad, why is the government easy to be manipulated?"

The pronoun "I" shows that Fals, as the singer, wants to deliver his anger through his song. He is mad at the government. The government should ensure the prosperity of society,

and this case shows that, according to him, the government is easily manipulated by the mafia of cooking oil, which causes suffering in society.

"Aku geram, kok kasus itu terus berulang?"
I am infuriated, why is this case repeated?

Fals, as the singer and writer of this song, tries to show his anger by using four pronouns "I" repeatedly. In this lyric, Fals is astonished about the scarcity of cooking oil. This case happened several times and has not been solved, whereas the government has the responsibility to solve this case.

2. Kita (We)

"Bahan kita banyak, sawit jutaan hektar"
"We have many raw materials, there are million hectares of palm oil"

The word "we" shows that not only Fals is in that context but also all the people of Indonesia. He also refers to Indonesia, which has a large of palm oil plantations. According to Fals, this condition is ironic with the scarcity of cooking oil. He also shows that there is oddity in this condition. This word shows the sharp criticism of the government. Besides that, Fals also tries to make Indonesian people aware that this scarcity is strange.

Structure

1. Metaphor

Besides words, the linguistic feature in Fals' song also appeared in structural forms, such as metaphor and simile. Metaphors and similes have figurative meanings because they use other things with similar grounds to compare (Kendenan, 2017).

"Minyak goreng menguap"
"The cooking oil is evaporated (disappeared)"

Fals also uses metaphor to express his feelings. In his lyrics, Fals describes that the condition of cooking oil, which is evaporated, is like a liquid thing that changes into vapor and disappears. A metaphor compares two things (Lukmana et al., 2019). He tries to compare cooking oil with water. The ground of a similar thing is liquid. The scarcity of cooking oil is described as the evaporation of water.

"Kalaupun ada harganya selangit"
"If there is cooking oil, the price is exorbitant"

In this part of the lyric, Fals uses the metaphor of the sky to compare the high price of cooking oil. The sky means (*langit*) in Bahasa Indonesia and refers to something untouchable. The position of the sky is high above the earth, and it is not easy to be reached. Those two things have a similar ground, which is difficult to achieve. Fals use figurative language to express the condition of cooking oil prices. Indonesian citizens faced difficulty in buying cooking oil because of the high price, just like the position of the sky.

2. Simile

“Ini seperti tikus mati di lumbung padi”
“This is like the dead mouse in rice barn”

A simile is also figurative language. Simile usually uses the word “like” or “as” to compare one thing to another (Natanael, 2022). This simile compares the condition of the scarcity of cooking oil. Fals tries to be skeptical about this condition and does not believe in what is happening because it seems impossible if Indonesia is facing a scarcity of cooking oil. This condition looks pretty ironic, considering that Indonesia has a vast source of palm plantations.

3. Probability

“Oleh siapa? Konon oleh tujuh konglomerat tambun”
“Who did this?” It is said that it may be done by seven conglomerates”

Probability means that the speaker is unsure about what happens. This expression also has an uncertain meaning. Fals uses this probability in order not to accuse the suspects directly. This language style also has a meaning that Fals does not want to point out because it is not his authority to say that except if the court has made a sentence about this case. That is why Fals uses this kind of language. By using probability, society can also interpret whether it is true. Fals also mention seven conglomerates to emphasize the suspect to be highlighted by society. People may not know who they are. Therefore, Fals wants to tell society and the curiosity of people’s minds. This sentence also has a purpose or message to the government that those conglomerates should be investigated.

“Mungkin mafia dan aparat ada main?”
“The mafia and the officials may have conspiracy”

This sentence sharply points out the conjecture that there is a conspiracy between the oil mafia and the officials. This is because Fals is amazed that this case has not been investigated. He also uses the word *may be* which has an uncertain meaning, in order not to accuse directly without legal evidence. This probability expression shows uncertainty and the critical thinking of Fals, in which he is unsure and also rebels about what causes this worst condition.

Discourse Practice or Text Production (*meso analysis*)

At the end of 2021, Indonesia faced not only the covid-19 pandemic situation but also the scarcity of cooking oil. This scarcity condition lasts until the beginning of 2022. Then, in March 2022, Fals released a song entitled "*Minyak Goreng*" on YouTube in order to give the government sharp criticism about the social condition that happens. This condition makes the citizens suffer since cooking oil is a needed commodity in food. Although the government has made policies to solve this problem, the scarcity of cooking oil cannot be solved until March 2022 (Irmanelly, Affrizal et al., 2022). The scarcity of cooking oil causes citizens to endure a significant burden because this is the commodity used in everyday life. The response of the people who watch this song on YouTube is to express and show their respect and gratitude to Fals, who has released this song as an aspiration from the Indonesian citizens. They also say that if Fals released a song that considered social criticism, it means there is a big problem in this country that urgently needs to be solved.

The text production deals with the background of the songwriter, Iwan Fals. Fals was born in Jakarta on 3rd September 1961. His real name is Virgiawan Liestanto. He is popular as a songwriter who often criticizes society's social and political conditions. Several of his masterpieces are *Wakil Rakyat* song, which expresses criticism of the House of representative; *Ethiopia* song, which expresses sympathy about many people who die because of hunger in Ethiopia; *Oemar Bakri*, which expresses criticism about the onerous duty of being a civil servant (the teacher) who has a very low salary from the government. Then, the recent song released in 2022 entitled *Minyak Goreng* became a stern critic of the scarcity of cooking oil in Indonesia.

False started his career as a street musician who always busked from one House to another, one market to another, to perform and sing. People usually give him money after the performance. Then, one of the producers asks him to record his song. He also becomes a member of "*Amburadul*" music group. Unfortunately, his album is not successful.

His career started to get better when he joined the Musika Studio label. In 1987, he usually performed on television and became popular. However, Fals is banned from performing

his song during the new period. The government assumes that his song can provoke the disturbance in the society. Therefore, many concerts scheduled for him are canceled. This is because of Fals's track record, which always creates a song that contains criticism of the government or the officials. In the "*Minyak Goreng*" song, Fals tries to express the people's feelings about the scarcity of cooking oil. Fals considers himself one of the Indonesian citizens suffering from this condition and criticizes the government through his lyrics.

Sociocultural Practice (macro analysis)

One of Fals' latest songs that criticizes the social condition in Indonesia is entitled "*Minyak Goreng*." As he mentions in his lyrics, he expresses Indonesian citizens' feelings about the scarcity and price of cooking oil, making the homemakers and the husband grumble. Besides that, this song also criticizes the government and several people whom he calls seven conglomerates that should be responsible for this condition.

The seven conglomerates are the people who own big palm oil companies. They have an important role in making decisions and regulating the spread and import-export of cooking oil. Fals assumes that there is a manipulation between the government and the mafia (the conglomerates). The government also permits the export of cooking oil abroad rather than domestically. This is because cooking oil abroad costs higher than in Indonesia. They get a profit if they sell abroad. This condition affects the scarcity of cooking oil in Indonesia. The citizens find it difficult to buy cooking oil. If the stock is ready, the price is unaffordable. The impact of this is that many street sellers have to increase the price of their goods while the purchasing power is low. This causes economic instability in Indonesian society.

Fals erodes in seeing this condition, so he creates this song. He also positions himself as one of the Indonesian citizens affected by this condition. He protests the government, complains, and shows his anger through his lyrics. The lyric contains a sharp criticism of the government, the conglomerates, and also the officials.

Fals should have an inferior position compared with the government because the government has a higher position. The government has the right to make the policy to the citizens, including him. However, Fals' lyric shows that he is not inferior. Bravely, he criticizes the government by using sharp words. Fals's song shows that he wants to express the citizens' feelings without caring about the power relation and social status of the person to whom the song is referred. He shows that he also has the power to criticize the government and the officials. Based on the analysis points, songs have many language-teaching and learning functions. By using CDA,

it focuses on teaching and learning grammar. Besides that, songs can be used to teach and learn other aspects of language, such as vocabulary, pronunciation, and literary study.

Discussion

Fals released this song in March 2022. This song contains a lyric that criticizes the scarcity of cooking oil by the government. The lyric of Iwan Fals' song entitled "Minyak Goreng" is analyzed based on Fairclough's theory. This research shows three perspectives, i.e., linguistic feature, text production, and sociocultural practice. The linguistic feature describes the use of words and microstructure in the lyrics (simile and metaphor). We also emphasize probability expression. Then, the text production is concerned with the context of the song-making or the context of the lyric production. Lastly, sociocultural practice emphasizes the relationship between the singer and the government. The singer is an Indonesian citizen, and the government acts like an institution with power above its citizens. It can be concluded that there is a relationship between language and power.

In addition, songs can be used as a medium in teaching and learning language, for example, teaching grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, and literary study, such as figures of language; one of its uses is criticism. The song is not only a group of lyrics. It can be a medium to dig for the meaning beneath those lyrics through critical discourse study. Figure 2 result analysis classification.

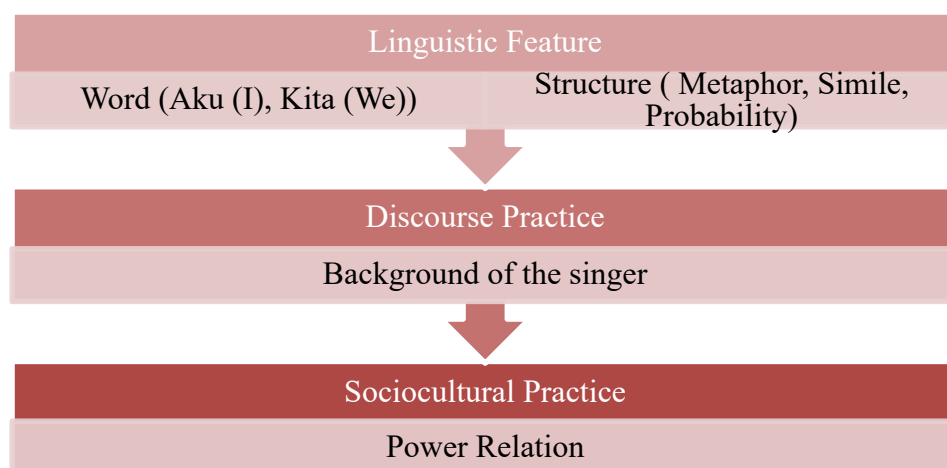


Figure 2 Result Analysis Classification

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this research shows several results based on three stages of analysis. In microanalysis, two linguistic features are found in *Minyak Goreng's* lyrics. Fals uses the pronouns

"I" and "We" to show his anger. He uses the pronoun "I" four times. It can be concluded that Fals emphasizes that he is angry about the condition. Then, he also uses the pronoun "we" to show that he is one of the Indonesian citizens who also feels the suffering of the scarcity of cooking oil. Besides that, he also uses some figurative language, such as metaphor and simile. This figurative language implicitly compares the condition of Indonesia with other similar grounds. Besides that, Fals also uses probability expression when he points to the oil mafia in order not to accuse directly. In microanalysis, Fals is popular as the songwriter concerned with social and political conditions. He also likes to write songs that criticize the government. Through his lyrics, he expresses the people's voice. In macro analysis, he tries to criticize the government, the conglomerates, and the officials for the scarcity of resources. Although he has an inferior position to the government, he tries to show that he is brave and has the power to criticize them. This research can prove that the text can show the relationship between language and the social construction in society.

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