

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

5.1 Conclusion

This study analyzes 6 articles from three Western media The Guardian, The New York Times, and The Wall Street Journal. Two articles representing 411 rally (November 4th 2016) and 212 rally (December 2nd 2016) are taken from each media. This study aims to show how *Aksi Bela Islam* was fabricated in the three media. It is conducted by identifying and analyzing the distinctive features of each news in providing information about *Aksi Bela Islam* rallies. In order to answer the research question, transitivity system of Systemic Functional Linguistics postulated by M.A.K Halliday and judgment aspect of attitude in Appraisal Theory postulated by J.R. Martin and P.R.R. White are employed.

Three issues appear on the articles: election wrapped in ethnicity and religiosity, religiosity and ethnicity in the context of election, and patronage-based political system. The New York Times constructs the case as election wrapped in ethnicity and religiosity since the journalist portrays that both ethnicity and religiosity are being utilized by opponents in order to weaken Ahok in election. On the other hand, The Wall Street Journal constructs the case as religiosity and ethnicity in the context of election since the sentiment towards Ahok' s religiosity and ethnicity has existed before the blasphemy case came to surface. However, The Guardian has a different stance in both articles. In the first article, the journalist constructs the case as election wrapped in religiosity and ethnicity. Meanwhile, in

the second article, the journalist constructs the case as religion and ethnicity in the context of election.

The fabrication mechanism of the three media is executed by mostly employing material and verbal process to safeguard Ahok as the so-called victim in the blasphemy case and position the protesters as the party who started the conflict and are not loyal to the legal process. It is strengthened by the journalist's positive judgment in pointing out Ahok's good work performance as well as negative judgment in pointing out protesters' violent behaviors.

Another mechanism to fabricate the contestation between religiosity, ethnicity, and politics is by providing quotations. Although some of the articles provide direct quotation from the protesters, the journalists however only choose to present statements which highlight the negative behavior of the protesters. In order to underpin their point of views, the journalists also quoted statements from political experts. However, it should be taken into consideration that the journalists purposively select opinions from experts they think suitable to the media's disposition. The New York Times chooses to display opinions from Azyumardi Azra, Marcus Mietzner, Philips J. Vermonte, and Bonar Tigor Naipospos whose researches concern on Indonesia's politics and Islam. Meanwhile The Wall Street Journal chooses to display opinions from Sidney Jones and Yon Machmudi whose researches concern on radical Islam movement in Indonesia. Meanwhile, The Guardian does not provide any opinions from experts in constructing the issue and therefore the reliability of information provided by that media is questionable.

In conclusion, in news reporting, the journalists possess the power to control the discussion in the articles. It is executed through the choice of lexical grammar features as well as experts' opinions presented in the articles. It should be taken into account that there are always tendencies of media to construct issues as how they desire to be. Therefore, news readers should be able to think critically whenever reading the articles since biases in news are putatively subtle.

5.2 Suggestion

Mass media has a crucial role in shaping public's perception towards social issues. However, it should be taken into consideration that media has its own disposition in presenting issues. Therefore, readers should not easily believe what is written on news since media also has possibility to be biased in covering the news. Hopefully, this study can help readers to be more aware whenever reading news. As this study mainly focuses on textual analysis, the writer suggests that future study can conduct research from the perspective of Eastern media by employing Critical Discourse Analysis method to provide more information of the journalists who play crucial role in the text production.