Critical Discourse Analysis of Norman Fairclough's Research Model in the Article "*Selamat Tinggal Paspor Indonesia*"

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Abstract
This article discusses how the structure of critical discourse analysis in Norman Fairclough's research model can dissect and analyze the ideology conveyed by the author through a newspaper article published in 'Kompas' on December 3, 2024. The method used for the analysis involves a functional approach, paying attention to the social and cultural contexts to uncover and understand the author's ideology and the context being conveyed through the article titled '*Selamat Tinggal Paspor Indonesia*'. According to Norman Fairclough's model, the analysis is divided into three structural levels: microstructural, mesostructural, and sociocultural studies. Findings demonstrate how media discourse shapes public understanding of complex socio-economic issues, particularly regarding human capital flight and national development disparities between Indonesia and Singapore. This analysis contributes to our understanding of how media texts influence public perception of national identity and economic mobility in Southeast Asia.

Keywords: Indonesia, Singapore, Developed Countries, Human Resources (HR), Benefits

1. Introduction

A recent article titled "*Selamat Tinggal Paspor Indonesia*" was published in Kompas media, both in print and digital formats, on December 3, 2024. The article reveals that more than 1,000 Indonesians have become Singapore citizens this year alone. Statistics show that between 2019 and 2022, approximately 3,912 Indonesians chose to adopt Singaporean citizenship. According to the Director General of Immigration, while there are multiple factors behind this significant number of citizenship changes, the primary reason is that many Indonesians perceive Singapore as offering better opportunities and a higher standard of living compared to Indonesia.

It cannot be denied that this is indeed true. In fact, this has been quoted by one of the educational media websites that exposes the 10 advantages of Singapore for students who make Singapore as their study destination country, the 10 advantages include having access to airports labeled the best airports in the world, Singapore has positive business growth, because positive business growth makes Singapore enter the ranks of the richest countries in the world, Singapore is also a multicultural country, Singapore certainly has a delicious culinary and fits the tongue of Indonesians, Singapore is also a country with the most expertise, Singapore has a high standard of quality of life, Singapore is a country that cares about cleanliness and has a high awareness of cleanliness, has a strong economy, and Singapore is a city with a reputation for the best academic excellence globally. From some of the above, of course Singapore is a country with very high life support potential so no wonder the country is a destination for doing business, accessing education or even a country to live in.

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In addition, the media also has an important role as a source of disseminating information. According to Assegaf, news is a report on facts and ideas that have mass and can attract the attention of readers (Scotney, 2023). So that something that is reported should be a statement report of existing facts and weighty ideas that can attract the attention of many curious readers. Meanwhile, according to Schramm, media is a technology that carries messages or information that is instructional and can be seen, heard, read, and even manipulated. Therefore, the media itself is sometimes not value-free or it can be said that the media sometimes takes sides.

Media plays a crucial role in disseminating information. According to Assegaf, news consists of factual reports and ideas that have mass appeal and can attract readers' attention (Scotney, 2023). This means news reporting should present substantive facts and compelling ideas that capture public interest. Schramm defines media as a technology that conveys instructional messages or information that can be seen, heard, read, and potentially manipulated. Consequently, media is rarely value-neutral and often takes particular stances on issues.

This paper aims to analyze how Norman Fairclough's critical discourse analysis model can be applied to understand the ideological underpinnings and sociocultural context of the article "*Selamat Tinggal Paspor Indonesia*." Through this analysis, we examine how media discourse shapes public understanding of migration trends and national development in Indonesia and Singapore.

2. Literature Review

The free circulation of various types of information requires us to be more cautious in evaluating the information we receive. It is essential to determine whether the information is useful, accurate, and appropriate for consumption (Permita, 2019; Samsuri et al., 2022). To achieve this, critical discourse analysis skills are necessary. These skills help us understand the author's ideology in writing, speaking, or disseminating information, the role of media in spreading and influencing audiences, and the broader social context behind the development of such information (Kartikasari, 2020; Masitoh, 2020). The focus of language/ideology studies on discourse change and practice is seen as a changing dimension of the balance of social power (Fairclough, 2013; Wibisono et al., 2016) where social power or socio-cultural dimensions can influence or background an ideology that is carried by someone.

2.1. Power Relations and Production

Power relations theory is closely related to discourse, which often occurs in everyday life and often without realizing it, which shapes the ideology and socio-cultural structure of a community group. Power is divided into 5 related things, namely:
1) Power can be exercised from various places and relationships
2) Not a hierarchical structure (power and control)
3) Power comes from below
4) Intentional and non-subjective
5) Closely related to anti-power (Foucault, 1990).

2.2. Cultural Conflict Theory

According to Sellin (in Scotney (2023)) explains that cultural conflict is a conflict that arises when values and beliefs that are related or acceptable among a society experience conflict or collision so that they cannot coexist. This study can indirectly relate to the reasons why or the many phenomena of Indonesian citizens who flock to change citizenship.

3. Methods

This research utilizes Norman Fairclough's critical discourse analysis model through a functional approach that examines both social and cultural contexts. The analysis focuses on uncovering the author's ideology and contextual meanings in the article "*Selamat Tinggal Paspor Indonesia*" published in Kompas on December 3, 2024. The method involves systematic data collection from the article and analysis through Fairclough's three-dimensional framework: microstructural (text dimension), mesostructural (discourse practice), and sociocultural studies. Through this analytical lens, the research examines how language use reflects power relations, ideological positions, and broader social implications regarding Indonesian citizenship and migration to Singapore.

4. Results and Discussion

Discourse is a form of oral and written text or what is called discourse. Cook (in Wibisono et al. (2016)) Discourse consists of a use of language in communicating both in writing and orally. At first, discourse analysis only analyzed the elements of discourse, is discourse the same as paragraphs? Discourse in the form of text is divided into oral and written linguistics (Nurmutia, 2025; Sun Education Group, 2024). Discourse analysis is a form of interpretation while critical discourse analysis is a tool to dissect something related to power relations, ideology, and gender written in a discourse text (Sulaiman et al., 2023). Discourse itself involves several disciplines including pragmatic studies, semantic studies, and syntactic studies that can be used to dissect an ideology contained in a discourse text, one of which is critical discourse studies according to Norman Fairclough.

Discourse Studies according to Norman Fairclough requires understanding the functional language order as well as syntax (Abkoriyah & Dewi, 2017; Saraswati & Sartini, 2017). The model used by Norman has three stages, namely the text dimension (covering microstructure) then there is discourse practice (Mesostructure), and the sociostructural practice dimension (socio-cultural studies).

4.1. Text Dimension

4.1.1. Representations

The discourse text "*Selamat Tinggal Paspor Indonesia*" shows how the author expresses that living in Singapore is more promising than living in Indonesia. According to the author, who is identified as Anggrek, living in Singapore for a Mathematics graduate offers more promising job opportunities as a software engineer, which is different from Indonesia, where one can only become a lecturer or a teacher. Additionally, Singapore is a safe country with adequate facilities that reach all corners of the country, unlike Indonesia.

This can be proven through the following excerpt: "*In Indonesia, the opportunities are mostly limited to being a teacher or lecturer. Here, it's more expansive,*" said the alumnus of Nanyang Technological University (NTU), who works as a software engineer.

4.1.2. Relation

The discourse text "*Selamat Tinggal Paspor Indonesia*" shows that there is a relationship indicating that Singapore is more suitable than Indonesia, especially in terms of security, transportation, and education, which are much more guaranteed. This is because Singapore is indeed the most advanced country among other ASEAN countries.

4.1.3. Identity

The identity expressed in the discourse text "*Selamat Tinggal Paspor Indonesia*" shows statements from individuals with initials Anggrek and Edi, which highlight the many advantages, facilities, and advancements that Singapore offers. They believe that living there will be much brighter and more promising for the future, according to their perspective.

This can be proven through the following statement excerpt: "*For Anggrek, Singapore is a safe and comfortable place to live. He doesn't worry about not being able to drive a car. What for? Public transportation that works well reaches every corner of Singapore. At night, anyone can walk or exercise in public spaces without worrying about being mugged or anything else.*"

4.2. Discourse Practice

The mesostructural dimension, or consumption, in the use of the discourse text "*Selamat Tinggal Paspor Indonesia*", can be shown by how the individuals with initials Anggrek and Edi compare Singapore and Indonesia rationally, and how the writer expresses positive impressions of Singapore compared to Indonesia, which is not as developed. It also discusses facts about expensive public-school fees for non-Singaporeans but cheap for Singaporean citizens, considering the high quality of education in Singapore.

This can be supported by the following excerpt: "*One of the advantages of being a Singaporean citizen, according to Edi, is that they can access quality education for free. This top-notch facility is not available for residents with PR status. In addition, AB acknowledges that public schools in Singapore are of good quality, but expensive for non-Singaporeans. He gives an example of his child's secondary school fee. For foreigners, the fee is 900 Singapore dollars per month (equivalent to IDR 10.6 million as of November 30, 2024). Meanwhile, PR status holders are charged 600 Singapore dollars, equivalent to IDR 7 million per month. "While Singaporean citizens only pay a contribution fee of 10 Singapore dollars per month,*" he explained.

4.3. Sociostructural

4.3.1. Institutional Level

In the excerpt of the discourse text "*Selamat Tinggal Paspor Indonesia*", it is shown that there are many shortcomings or issues that need to be improved in Indonesia when compared to Singapore, which is much more advanced in managing human resources (HR) and the education system for its citizens, as well as in Singapore's prosperity. This can serve as a reflection for Indonesia to improve its quality of human resources (HR) starting with education, which is a fundamental right for everyone. Then, there should be a focus on infrastructure development that is more comprehensive and expansive, reaching the deepest parts of the country. The development of transportation accessibility should not be centered only in Java (Java-centric) but should be distributed throughout the entire nation. Furthermore, there should be development and innovation related to opening new job opportunities, particularly in regional sectors, so that economic growth in Indonesia can be more evenly distributed. Other improvements need to be considered in order for Indonesia to achieve the status of a developed country.

4.3.2. Situational Level

In the discourse text "*Selamat Tinggal Paspor Indonesia*", it is emphasized that Singapore has more advantages across various sectors compared to Indonesia because Singapore is a developed country with the best quality of education. In addition, Singapore's passport is considered a powerful one, which supports the mobility of Singaporean citizens to travel to any country around the world.

This is seen as a positive step for Singaporean citizens to explore other countries, particularly for the purpose of achieving their goals and securing better education abroad.

This is also expressed in the discourse text through the following statement: "*Becoming a Singaporean citizen is the answer, because holders of the red passport can enjoy visa-free access to 195 countries. 'If they have a strong passport, it will support their studies and careers in the future*,' he said."

4.3.3. Social Level

The social level built in this discourse reflects the image that life in a developed country is indeed more guaranteed than life in a developing country. This is clearly seen through the way the writer presents their viewpoint on the matter, thus constructing an image that is not favorable toward Indonesia, which still has many shortcomings and a lack of public awareness. On the other hand, there is also the perspective that living in a developed country like Singapore offers many benefits, particularly in terms of the quality of facilities, which are certainly far better than those in developing countries like Indonesia.

Table 1. Source Media Identity

Media	Kompas.co.id
Website	https://www.kompas.id/artikel/selamat-tinggal-paspor-indonesia
Title	*Selamat Tinggal Paspor Indonesia*
Date	3rd December 2024
Article contents	(Attached)

Figure 1. Text of the article "*Selamat Tinggal Paspor Indonesia*"
Source: Kompas Newspaper

Figure 2. Text of the article "*Selamat Tinggal Paspor Indonesia*"
Source: Kompas Newspaper

5. Conclusion

Based on the results of research according to the Norman Fairclough model, it can be found about some of the advantages written by the author on his views on living in developed countries, it can be seen how the author builds a good image of the point of view of developed countries. On the other hand, it is a slap in the face for Indonesia which is a comparative country, Indonesia still has many shortcomings that must be improved where the factors that influence it are also many such as large areas that are difficult to reach due to heavy terrain, uneven economic growth and education in line with inadequate infrastructure growth. Thus, it is difficult to compare with Singapore which has a much smaller area and easy access to various parts of Singapore due to the absence of heavy terrain such as mountains, wide rivers, oceans, and forests such as geographical conditions in Indonesia. The lack of public awareness of education also greatly influences how social patterns in Indonesia and Singapore are vastly different.

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