

## RETHINKING FULL DAY SCHOOLS IN INDONESIA: THE DISCURSIVE PRACTICES OF INDONESIAN NEWSPAPERS

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### ABSTRACT

*Full Day School (hereafter FDS) has been a debatable issue after the Indonesian Education and Culture minister raised such a policy to the public. It was assumed to generate controversies among people, such as anxiety in the community, inadequate fund, human resources, facilities and infrastructure and disrupting the existence of madrasa diniyyaa (primary Islamic schools). This study examined six newspaper articles reporting FDS policy in Indonesia retrieved from the Jakarta Post and Republika as the corpora. These newspapers were selected because of their large-scale circulation, intensity of reporting FDS issues and English language journalistic form. Further, this study applied linguistic concepts and tools proposed by Richardson (Richardson, 2007). To illustrate, such analytical tools encompass predication, transitivity, modality, presupposition, rhetorical tropes and narrative as the primary foci of analysis. Technically, they were utilized as the knives to unveil the discursive practices embodied in such newspaper articles. Two layers of finding were identified, namely 1) the representation of FDS and people's reactions documented in both newspaper articles and 2) the pattern of discursive practices constructed by the text producers. The findings signified that those newspaper articles represented FDS as a disadvantageous policy, social injustice and unsympathetic governmental regulation in relation to its implementation in Indonesian educational system. In this case, it was presumed to trigger a huge number of protests, particularly from one of the largest Indonesian Islamic organizations and the teachers of madrasa diniyyaa. Discursively speaking, the audiences (readers) were positioned as the consumers and commodity of the marketized news due to the news producers performed their roles as the thought-provoking actors leading the audiences to possess a similar perception and judgment towards FDS as the elicited issue. In addition, both the Jakarta Post and Republika implied their ideology within their reports. This reinforced Richardson's postulate claiming that no media which neutrally provide information to the public (Richardson, 2007). With this in mind, people should be able to critically filter and analytically select the information broadcasted by the mass media to obtain the valuable information without being trapped on the mass media ideological construction.*

Keywords: *Full Day School, representation, discursive practices, Indonesian newspapers*

### INTRODUCTION

Recently, the minister of education and culture, Muhadjir Effendy has raised a debatable issue, full day school system (hereafter FDS) to enable the students to avoid juvenile delinquency, extend their learning hours, prevent and mitigate radicalism, and maximize their spare time to gather with their families (Adi, 2017; Dwinanda a, 2017; Hermansyah, 2017). Additionally, schools as the responsible educational institutions can possess more controls towards their students and this is in line with law of Education No. 20 of 2003, article 3, namely "The National Education functions to develop the capability, character, and civilization of the nation for enhancing its intellectual capacity, and is aimed at developing learners' potentials so that they become persons imbued with human values who are faithful and pious to one and only God; who possess morals and noble character; who are healthy, knowledgeable, competent, creative, independent; and as citizens, are democratic and responsible." (the Ministry of Education and Culture regulation No. 23 of 2017 on School Day). Such a regulation affirms that schooling should be held eight hours a day or 40 hours for five days a week (the Ministry of Education and Culture, 2017). However, the implementation of FDS seemingly encounters various challenges from people. For example, FDS is assumed to threaten the existence of informal educational institutions (Hermansyah b, 2017). In this case, *madrasa diniyyaas* as one of the informal educational institutions focusing on establishing religious education in Indonesia potentially become the victims of such a policy. In fact, *madrasa diniyyaas* have played crucial roles in building the students characters, particularly through religious education-based approach (Hermansyah b, 2017). Insufficient school human resources, facilities and inconsistent school agendas may arise other problems for not only the schools but also the people and government since the implementation of FDS seems to be organised hastily and forcefully. Another reactionary resistance originates from one of the heads of Islamic Organization in Indonesia (Hermansyah b, 2017; Dwinanda b, 2017). In this respect, he argued that FDS is counterproductive to the spirit of character building education glorified by Islamic traditional education system (e.g. *madrasa diniyyaa*), such as learning moral values, history and practices of Islam, etc. (Adi, 2017; Hermansyah b, 2017) A

few of mass media extensively broadcasting this issue are *the Jakarta Post (TJP)* and *Republika (RPB)* (e.g. Adi, 2017; Hermansyah a, 2017; Hermansyah b, 2017; Dwinanda a/b/c, 2017).

This article offers the exploration of practical discursive represented by both *TJP* and *RPB* on how their ideological perspectives of FDS. Richardson (2007) claims that no media which neutrally provide information to the public. With this in mind, people should be able to critically filter and analytically select the information broadcasted by the mass media to obtain the valuable information without being trapped on the mass media ideological construction.

*TJP* is a daily news site of Indonesia possessed by PT Bina Media Tenggara since 25 April 1983. *TJP* were established by minister of information and politicians having an important role in creating this media. Also, *TJP* has been supported by a political party, *Kompas* (Catholics), *Sinar Harapan* (Protestants), and *Tempo* in the process of developing this media. In addition, *RPB* is a national news media founded by Muslim community as a source of public news. This media emerged since 4 January 1993 and owned by PT. Abdi Bangsa. Modern, moderate, Islamic, nasionalistic and democratic has become the foresight of *Republika*. The mission of this media is to be a source of people's news in sophisticated, intelligent and wise ways (Kasman, 2010). Broadly speaking, these media have been considered as big Indonesian mass media broadcasted in English language. *TJP* and *RPB* have their own news contents to criticise the government's works. In relation to the FDS issue, these media have reported FDS based on their perspectives.

Various Investigations of CDA on newspaper articles have appeared extensively. As an example, Ahmadian and Farahani (2014) aimed to investigate how ideological differences manifested themselves in the discourse of the *Los Angeles Times* and *Tehran Times* dealing with Iran's nuclear program to have a wake-up call about the power of language in changing one's view about the events. The findings indicated that both newspapers represented the same issues differently according to their different ideologies by using two macro-strategies of positive self presentation and negative other-presentation realized by other discursive strategies such as: lexicalization, presupposition, consensus, hyperbole, illegality and disclaimer. Besides, Onifade (2015) examined about how Nigerian newspaper columnists narrated the power relations within the country and how they reiterated and rearticulated historical and political events in their analysis of the balance of power with regard to the upcoming presidential election in March 2015. The findings demonstrated that Nigerian newspaper publishers and columnists, while drawing historical events in the country, contributed to the escalation of ethno-religious conflicts through their ethnocentric narratives on sociopolitical events. Additionally, Kurniawan & Utami (2017) investigated the representation of Jokowi's figure as the governor of Jakarta, the presidential candidate, and the President of Indonesia in the *Jakarta Post* by using *nomination* and *predication strategies* of Discourse Historical Approach (DHA) proposed by Reisigl and Wodak (2001). The researchers argued that *the Jakarta Post* preferred to focus on Jokowi when he becomes the president since his every action represents the action that the government has taken. Second, *the Jakarta Post* tended to deploy positive predication strategies in presenting Jokowi's figure in all categories, except on the Corruption Eradication Commission (*KPK*) issue. Third, the signification of the representation indicated that *nomination* and *predication* strategies were utilised to represent the shift in political support towards Jokowi from positive to negative self-representation. However, scarce empirical studies have presumably addressed to delve how discursive practices are represented in newspapers, particularly in relation to the Full day school (FDS) policy in Indonesian educational context. Given this fact, the present study accentuated on how discursive practices were represented in Indonesian newspaper, notably in the case of FDS policy.

## METHODOLOGY

Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) is a form of discourse analysis that is a broad and complex interdisciplinary field with different theories, methodologies and research issues (Fairclough & Wodak, 1997; Wodak and Meyer 2001). Fairclough (1989, 1995a/b) states discourse practices as mediating between the textual and socio-cultural dimension to explain discourse as discursive practices. He contends that the discourse practices include aspects of text production, text distribution and text consumption (Fairclough, 1995b, p. 58). Discourse in media obviously reflects ideological interests and stances of those in powerful position, i.e. the elites, politicians, journalists, etc. (Fowler, 1991; Fairclough, 1989; 2001, 2003; Van Dijk, 1997, 1998a, 1998b; Richardson, 2007). Therefore, one of the basic roles of CDA towards media is as a tool to uncover the discursive practices represented in the media, such as online newspaper articles. The utilisation of CDA in analysing newspaper articles is to find the phenomena arising in society. CDA is an effective theory and method to investigate discursive practices in media.

More technically, the study adopted Richardson's newspaper analysis framework (2007). In this case, such a framework embraces a number of elements, namely *naming* and *reference*, *predication*, *transitivity*, *modality*, *presupposition*, *rhetorical tropes* (e.g. *hyperbole*, *metaphor*, *metonym*, *neologism*, *puns*), and *narrative*. However, the elements frequently appeared were *predication*, *transitivity*, *modality*, *rhetorical tropes* and *narrative*. As a result, the current study highlighted merely on those aspects to unveil more holistic analysis on discursive practices implied in media.

## ANALYSIS

The steps of analysing the data started from (1) navigating the online newspaper, (2) selecting the newspapers, (3) analysing newspapers based on the prescribed analysis framework (Richardson, 2007), (4) describing the analysis result, (5) interpreting analysing results, and (6) reporting analysing results.

## CONCLUSION

Full Day School (FDS) policy is not a program aiming to give an anxious psychological condition to the students and people in general. Cultural aspect of Indonesian students seems not ready to actualise FDS because of different perspectives. On the one hand, parents' perspective viewed FDS as a policy disrupting students' rest and play times, endangering students psychological and cognitive condition and influencing the students' health. On the other hand, FDS can be a promising policy facilitating the process of students' characters building. Both the Jakarta Post and Republika represented FDS as a disadvantageous policy, social injustice and unsympathetic governmental regulation in relation to its implementation in Indonesian educational system. As a result, such a policy was assumed to generate a plethora of protests, notably from one of the largest Indonesian Islamic organizations and the teachers of madrasa diniyyaas. Discursively, the readers were positioned as the consumers and commodity of the marketised news since the news producers played their roles as the thought-provoking actors leading the audiences to own the same perception and judgment towards FDS as the elicited issue. Ideologically, both newspapers implied their own ideologies in their news reports.

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