

The Role of Critical Reading in Responding to Information On Religion-Themed News

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Abstract---The background of this research is that the large number of news spreading in the mass media is potential in influencing the mindset of its readers. The text has the power to lead readers' opinions to follow the writer's mindset. This study is aimed at creating a mind mapping pattern in responding to news text information on religion themes. The research method applied in this study is the descriptive analysis method. Research data is in the form of interview transcript. The subject of this study is the students of the Indonesian Language and Literature department, 10 students in total. Data are collected through interview and note-taking. The analysis is made upon data reduction, presentation and conclusion. Broadly speaking, the results of the study indicate that there are two arguments developed: the respondents' agreement and disagreement with the information conveyed in the news. That is due to the existence of indicators that require respondents to understand the implied meaning of the text and to apply the concepts in the reading itself. Based on these phenomena, it can be concluded that the need for critical reading in responding to the information read is crucial in filtering the truth of the news.

Keywords: critical reading, news, religion.

I. INTRODUCTION

The mass media present many news texts through printed and electronic media that can be accessed by readers of all circles. Readers can get information anywhere and anytime through the devices they have. The convenience obtained by readers is sometimes not accompanied by filters that are able to sort out whether or not the news text is read. Mass media information that is currently easily available requires readers to filter the truth that is conveyed.

Social media sometimes has a presumption in favor of one character or one thing that is profitable in the media. As stated by Suprihatin, Santoso and Subyantoro (2019), it was explained that media ownership affects a person's presentation. A person's background can influence and tend to side with one character [1]. The mass media today is very difficult to be neutral because it has a vision and mission of each. This will affect the content of the news text conveyed to readers. As with the articles from

Hasanah and Mardikantoro, it is concluded that the differences in the use of vocabulary and grammar have implications for the different orientation of language use conveyed by several online media which are able to determine the alignments of the mass media. The use of language is distinguished from the choice of vocabulary and grammatical language between one another [2].

Text stories contain sensitive matters to make the reader more emotional than the text message containing a common thing. Problems that are able to make more sensitive readers are news which have the theme of politics, religion, and race. In news texts that are popular today, there are news texts that make readers curious about what is being discussed a lot. The type of news text that makes the reader more emotional is the propaganda news text which contains sensitive things that are happening. The text usually contains views on issues that can affect readers and encourage readers to react in order to achieve certain interests.

The number of news texts spread in the mass media can influence the mindset of readers. The text has the power to steer public opinion in order to follow the mindset of the author. The spread of news texts that do not know the truth and cannot be consumed by readers properly and correctly, so that critical reading skills must be followed.

The process of critical reading gives the reader a filter to believe the information conveyed in the text. By reading critically, readers are able to evaluate the content of the text by comparing female texts from other sites and mass media. According to critical reading, it is an evaluation in critical reading starting from reading carefully, observing carefully, carefully every idea, idea, and information conveyed in the text [3]. Critical reading was also conveyed by Wheeler (2009) explaining that critical reading activities are reading activities to evaluate writing as well as in content and writing style based on accountable criteria [4].

Critical reading has a level that aims to understand the meaning of the text in depth and then apply it through critical thinking, involving analysis and evaluation skills in interpreting the contents of the text as a whole, both implied and explicit [5].

Nurhadi (2010) divides five aspects of critical reading skills which include 1) interpreting, 2) analyzing, 3) organizing, 4) assessing, 5) applying [6].

Research on critical reading has been conducted by several experts as follows. AghaJani and Gholamrezapour examined critical thinking skills, critical reading scales and foreign language reading anxiety scales. In the implementation of critical reading, teachers and students must consider critical thinking and critical reading skills. Teachers and students do not rule out between the two [7]. Other research from Tariq, Al-zahrani and Ali discusses the critical discourse of newspaper texts in Saudi Okaz. The result of this research examines the language used in the news text. The results demonstrate a deep understanding of Saudi culture and its people [8]. Glaveanu (2014) summarizes the psychological points of creativity in critical reading, including 1) asking bold, new and surprising questions, 2) reflecting on definitions, 3) analysis, 4) looking for unique and interesting samples and developing new methods, 4) build theory, 5) think of practical conclusions [9]. Carillo (2019) describes a series of educational standards that encourage the role played by readers in meaning construction, widespread use of the internet and technology, and political administration that releases fake news and denounces real news as fake news and provides alternative facts [10].

The difference between previous research and this research is that previous research discusses the results of students' critical thinking and critical reading skills, the second shows that critical reading can increase in-depth results about Saudi culture through language. Meanwhile, this research discusses the role of critical reading in responding to news information.

Critical Reading is able to make readers more careful in reading news, especially on religious themes. This is due to friction sensitive to be discussed. The news conveyed by the mass media can be filtered by readers through a critical reading process. Readers are also able to evaluate the information received from the text message read. This study aims to map the mindset of readers in responding to religious-themed news texts. So the news delivered can be accepted and understood. Readers are not affected by things that are reported incorrectly.

II. METHODS

The research method used in this research is a descriptive analysis method. Data collection techniques by means of interviews and reading note technique. The interview technique was used to add the data needed to explore the research results. The reading note technique is done by reading carefully the data obtained and then recording the conclusions and results of the reading. The research data is in the form of arguments given by the respondents on the

instruments provided by the researcher. The data were obtained from 10 respondents of Indonesian language education students randomly. The research results were analyzed using data reduction techniques, presentation and conclusions. The results of the interviews and the respondents' responses were described and analyzed using the indicators that had been prepared. Furthermore, the results of the data description are used as conclusions.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results and discussion of this study include several things in the form of a description of the reader's response. There are several indicators presented in this article. Following is the results and discussion of the research.

Readers perform in-depth analysis of the news text they read. The ability to remember and recognize reading as the first step in critical reading. So that it can grow a foundation in critical reading. All respondents stated that they were able to remember the contents of the text they read. Through interviews, the respondent also explained that the contents of the text could be well-remembered and understood. This explains that the respondent performs a critical reading process because it is able to understand the content of the reading in religious-themed news texts.

Respondents are able to interpret the meaning implicitly in the content of the news text. In this case, the reader must be able to understand the implied meaning in the text because it is not openly stated by the author. In this process, the reader is asked to be able to distinguish right from wrong in the facts of the information conveyed in the text. Respondents are able to know the implied and express meaning of each paragraph conveyed. There are nine respondents who are able to interpret the implicit meaning in religious-themed news texts. One cannot fully understand the implied meaning because it has individual emotional feelings.

The ability of individuals to apply concepts to reading has been carried out by ten respondents. Respondents are able to apply the concepts contained in the reading to problematic situations. Respondents are able to argue that the writer directs the reader to think the way the writer wants him to. Through critical reading, the reader finds the concept of the content of the text outside of the title of the news text that is conveyed.

The next is the process of analyzing the content of the reading. Readers are asked to see the elements that are able to form a reading as a whole. Thus, readers are able to analyze the overall content of the news so that it is easy to conclude. Eight respondents were able to carry out the process of analyzing the reading well. Two respondents have not maximally obtained the reading analysis results because they are still confused in finding the main idea, but in the end they are able to find the main idea. Therefore, it can be concluded that all respondents

are able to analyze the reading content of the news text presented. The ability to make conclusions is one of the stages in critical reading. Respondents are able to make conclusions from the religious news text delivered. The reader's ability to make conclusions can be seen from the way the respondent responds to the text given.

The next step is to assess the content of the reading. This stage is the highest stage in critical reading. The reader must be able to read without easily believing the information read. Before judging, reading must first assess the content of the reading. The truth in the text is obtained at this stage. Readers must be able to distinguish between fake and true news. Several respondents gave different responses but the same direction. Although the arguments differ, it is still seen that the respondents are able to assess the content of the reading well. Broadly speaking, all respondents are able to judge the content of the news text given, indicating that all respondents are able to judge the content of the text.

Based on the description that has been conveyed, it can be said that critical reading skills are a reading activity that requires understanding, thoroughness, and in-depth analysis. Not many people can carry out the critical reading process because there are still some respondents who have not yet carried out the critical reading indicator stage. Most of the respondents were able to judge the content of the reading, so they did not easily believe the content of the text they were reading. Readers in general can also do the things stated above carefully so that they are not easily provoked by the contents of the news text on behalf of religion, politics or race.

IV. CONCLUSION

Based on the research results, it can be concluded that critical reading skills are a reading activity that requires understanding, thoroughness, and in-depth analysis. The results showed that there are indicators that require respondents to understand the implied meanings in the text and apply the concepts in reading. Based on this phenomenon, it can be concluded that there is a need for critical reading in response to the information read, so it is not easy to accept news that is not necessarily true. Therefore, it can be concluded that the respondent is able to perform the stages in critical reading. Critical reading can be used as a way to sort out which information is correct and which information is wrong so as not to be easily fooled by the author's goals.

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