VERBAL VIOLENCE USING PREDICATIONAL STRATEGY IN COMMENTING NEWS UPDATE ON FACEBOOK

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Abstract: This article address the issue of verbal violence articulated by Facebook users using predicational strategies as proposed by Wodak when commenting news update posted on Indonesian news portal fans pages under the topic of Paris tragedy. As the realisation of predicational strategy, this article explores the form and the meaning of verbal violence linguistically articulated by the users. The data of verbal violence are taken from user comments in four different news fans pages, namely Detik.com, Kompas.com, Liputan6.com, and Tribunnews.com. Employing predicational strategies, there are several linguistic realisations of verbal violence, such as attributes, redicative verb, object or complement of predicate, predicative noun, and predicative adjective. These also reveal several meaning, such as violent action, violent trait, bad habit, mental deficiency, bad condition, exclusion from a social identity, and inclusion to a social identity.

Keyword: verbal violence, predicational strategy, Facebook, news update, fans page

INTRODUCTION

Verbal violence is often understood as the use of language abusively to insult other people usually with the lower social status. This phenomenon is often associated with an inequality in the context of domestic relationship and juvenile delinquency. By the emerging of social media, it seems that verbal violence also happens in the context of social media interactions. Some previous research, like Rahayu (2012), Skorik dan Kwan (2013), Raikundalia, et. al., (2014), Putri (2015), Akbar dan Utari (2015), shows that verbal violence occurs within social media interaction under the term of cyberbullying. Yet, those researches still give greater focus to the psychology point of view than the linguistic point of view. This article will explore the form and the meaning of verbal violence linguistically articulated by the users using only predicational strategy.

Verbal violence refers to the use of language to do violence which is defined by Galtung (1996: 197) as an avoidable insult to human basic needs, and more generally to life, by lowering the real level of need satisfaction bellow what is potentially possible. There are four classes of human basic needs, namely survival needs (negation: killing), well-being needs (negation: misery), identity need (negation: alienation), and freedom need (negation: repression) (Galtung, 1996: 197). Additionally, there are three types of violence, namely direct violence, structural violence, and cultural violence. Verbal violence is classified into direct violence and is responsible to harm mind or spirit (Galtung, 1996: 31).

Predicational strategy is an aspect of linguistics analysis setup by Ruth Wodak in her discourse historical approach (DHA) theoretical framework (Reisigl and Wodak, 2001: 54; Wodak in Meyer, 2001: 63; Weiss and Wodak, 2001). In her theoretical framework, linguistically Wodak focuses on five selected questions, by which person are discriminated against an ethnicist or racist manner, which orientates to: 1) How are person named and referred to linguistically? 2) What traits, characteristics, qualities and features are attributed to them? 3) By means of what arguments and argumentation schemes do specific person or social group try to justify and legitimise the exclusion, discrimination, suppression and exploitation of others? 4) From what perspective or point of view are these namings, attributions and arguments expressed? 5) Are the respective discriminating utterances articulated overtly, are they even intensified or are they mitigated? (Reisigl and Wodak, 2001: 44; Wodak in Wodak and Meyer (eds.), 2001: 72-73).
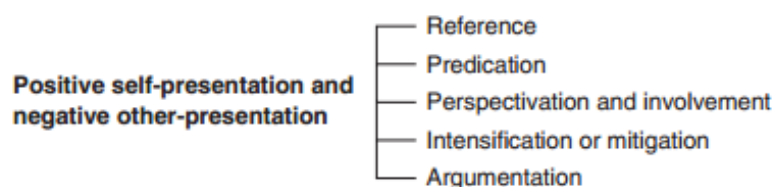

Figure 1. Strategies of self-and other-representation (adopted from Reisigl and Wodak, 2001: 46)

Following these five selected questions, the analysis is interested in five types of discursive strategies which all involved in positive-self or negative other-representation, namely referential strategy (corresponding to question number 1), predicational strategy (question number 2), argumentation strategy (question number 3), perspectivation strategy (question number 4) and intensification and mitigation strategy (question number 5) (see figure 1). Strategy here refers to a more or a less accurate and more or less intentional plan of practice (including discursive practice) adopted to achieve particular social, political, psychological or linguistic aim (Reisigl and Wodak, 2001: 46; Wodak in Meyer, 2001: 73). Additionally, discursive strategies are concerned with systematic ways of using language.

Predicational strategy concerns with how a discourse producer uses 'predications' to construct a positive-self or negative other-representation. This may be realized as stereotypical, evaluative attributions of negative and positive traits in the linguistic form of implicit or explicit predicates (Reisigl and Wodak, 2001: 45). Mainly, predicational strategy realized by specific form of reference, by attributes, by predicates or predicative nouns/ adjectives/pronouns, by collocations, by explicit comparisons, similes, metaphors and other rhetorical figures, by allusion, evocation, and presupposition/implication (Reisigl and Wodak, 2001: 54).

METHOD

The data for the research include Facebook users' comments responding to news updates brought by four different Indonesian news portal fans pages, namely Detik.com,

Kompas.com, Liputan6.com, and Tribunnews.com under the topic of Paris tragedy. All of the news updates were posted on Facebook during and after the incident occurred in a time that ranges from November 2015 until January 2016. The collected data were analyzed qualitatively by the merging of cultural violence approach developed by Galtung (1996: 196-210) and discourse theory setup by Wodak (Reisigl and Wodak, 2001: 31-89; Wodak in Meyer (ed.), 2001: 63-93) – only this paper makes use of the linguistic analysis due to the constraint of space.

FINDINGS

There are only five realizations of verbal violence employing predicational strategy in the Facebook comments presented in this paper due to the constraint of space. Those are verbal violence as attributes, as predicative verbs, as object or complement of predicates, as predicative nouns and as predicative adjectives.

Verbal Violence as Attribute

As attributes, verbal violence can be realized linguistically in the form of adjectives, appositions, relative clause, conjunctional clauses or participial clauses or groups. It has grammatical function as pre-modifier or post-modifier of noun. This realizes several meaning, such as *violent activity*, *bad habit*, *bad condition*, *mental deficiency*, *inclusion to a social identity* and *exclusion from a social identity*.

Violent Activity

Realizing the meaning of violent activity, verbal violence is realized in the form of relative clause. Some relative clauses in the following example, such as yang membunuh ribuan orang (who killed thousands people), membunuh orang balita sampai manula (killing all kids and old men), yang bom bunuh diri (who did a suicide bombing) negatively construct the social actors.

1) Apa bedanya dengan agama Lu <u>yang membunuh ribuan orang</u>? Itu agama yang LOL, *<u>membunuh orang balita sampai manula.</u>*
2) Penjarakan mereka, Pak Polisi, *<u>yang telah sengaja menebarkan kebencian!</u>*
3) Mereka *<u>yang bom bunuh diri</u>* selalu mengatasnamakan agama Islam

Bad Condition

Realizing the meaning of bad condition, verbal violence is found in the form of relative clause, such as yang sangat memalukan di seluruh dunia (which is really shameful in the world), yang LOL (which is 'LOL' (laugh out loud)), and adjective, such as sesat (deviate), as presented in the following utterances.

1) Memang betul-betul agama *<u>yang sangat memalukan di seluruh dunia</u>* yaitu Islam.
2) Apa bedanya dengan agama Lu yang membunuh ribuan orang? Itu agama *<u>yang LOL</u>*, membunuh orang balita sampai manula.
3) Wah, kamu bahaya, sudah terkena doktrin agama *<u>sesat</u>*.

Bad Habit

Realizing the meaning of bad habit, verbal violence is found in the form of noun, such as bangsa(t) (rascal) as post-modifier which manipulatively put before the head Zionis; in the form of relative clause, such as yang diantaranya ga tau diri itu (who among others are cads); and in the form of adjective, such as munafik (hypocritical), in the following utterances:

1) ISIS anak didiknya *bangsa(t)* Zionis
2) Prancis udah kebablasan memberikan kebebasan bagi imigran-imigran Timur Tengah *yang diantaranya ga tau diri itu* alias ISIS-ISIS itu.
3) Mereka orang-orang *munafik.*

Mental Deficiency

Realizing the meaning of mental deficiency, verbal violence is found in the form of adjective, for example, such as gila (insane), tolol (foolish), bodoh (stupid), and relative clause, such as yang tak paham demokrasi (who know nothing about democracy) and yang gagal paham agama (who failed to understand religion), in the utterances below:

1) Orang *gila.*
2) Siapa pun yang berani mengutuk tragedi Paris berarti dia manusia *tolol yang tak paham demokrasi.*
3) Menurut saya ini bukan penjagal sadis tapi tak lebih dari *orang bodoh yang gagal paham agama.* Dan di hatinya gak ada rasa damai, tapi penuh dendam karena terhasut ISIS.

Inclusion to A Social Identity

Realizing the meaning of inclusion to a social identity, verbal violence is found in the form of appositive, for example, such as alias ISIS-ISIS itu (alias those kinds of ISIS) and kaum unta Arab ('Arabian camel' group) which metaphorically refers to conservative Muslims, in the following utterances:

1) Prancis udah kebablasan memberikan kebebasan bagi imigran-imigran Timur Tengah yang diantaranya gatau diri itu *alias ISIS-ISIS itu.*
2) Kasihan Ente *kaum unta Arab*.

Exclusion from A Social Identity

Realizing exclusion from a social identity, verbal violence is found in the form of relative clause, for example, such as yang tidak punya agama (who have no religion) in the following utterance:

1) ISIS tidak beragama, manusia *yang tidak punya agama.*

Verbal Violence as Predicative Verbs

As predicative verbs, verbal violence in the Facebook comment is realized in the form of verbs or verb phrase. These have a grammatical function as predicate of

transitive or intransitive construction. Verbal violence as predicative verbs realize several meaning, like bad habit and bad condition.

Bad Habit

Realizing the meaning of bad habit, verbal violence is found in the form of verb phrase, for example, such as Jangan asal berkoar saja (do not just shout randomly) which presuppose 'there are people randomly shouting' and sok tahu (pedantically know) in the following examples:
1) Jangan *asal berkoar saja* kalian!
2) *Sok tahu,* Lu!

Bad Condition

Realizing bad condition, verbal violence is found in the form of intransitive verb, for example, such as menjijikkan (nauseate), and passive verb sudah terkontaminasi (have been contaminated), in the examples below:
1) Sungguh *menjijikkan* mereka.
2) Bodo amat, mereka *sudah terkontaminasi* radikal teroris.

Verbal Violence as Objects or Complements of Predicate

As objects or complements of predicate, verbal violence can be realized in the form of noun, noun phrase, verbal phrase, adjectival phrase, prepositional phrase or clause. These realizes some meaning, like violent action, bad habit, bad condition and exclusion from a social identity.

Violent Action

Realizing the meaning of violent action, verbal violence is found in the form of nouns which has a function as object of predicates, such as kekejaman, pembunuhan (violence, killing), kekerasan (violence), pembunuhan, pembantaian, kekejaman (killing, massacre, violence), in the examples bellow:
1) Agama ini melakukan *kekejaman, pembunuhan mengatasnamakan Tuhan*.
2) Islam itu sebenarnya mengajarkan *kekerasan* terhadap sesama manusia.
3) Agama ini selalu melakukan *pembunuhan, pembantaian, kekejaman* dengan mengatasnamakan Tuhan.

Bad Habit

Realizing the meaning of bad habit, verbal violence is found in the form of adjectival phrase as complement, such as paling mulia, suci (the most noble, holly), paling benar (always correct) and verbal phrase as complement such as bikin rusuh (making riots), in the following examples:
1) Agama ini selalu menganggap mereka *paling mulia, suci*.
2) Yang satu ini parah, selalu bikin onar, rese', merasa *paling benar*.
3) Imigran Timur Tengah emang suka *bikin rusuh*.

Bad Condition

Realizing the meaning of bad condition, verbal violence is found in the form of noun *sampah* (garbage) as complement in the following example:

1) Jadi mereka itu adalah <u>sampah</u>.

Exclusion from A Social Identity

Realizing the meaning of exclusion from a social identity, verbal violence is found in the form of noun phrase as complement, for example, such as anak-anak setan (children of Satan), in the following utterance:

1) Mereka bukan muslim. Mereka adalah *<u>anak-anak setan.</u>*

Verbal Violence as Predicative Nouns

As predicative noun, verbal violence is realized in the form of noun or noun phrase and has a grammatical function as predicate. These realizes some meanings, like bad habit, inclusion to a social identity and exclusion from a social identity.

Bad Habit

Realizing the meaning of bad habit, verbal violence can be found in the form of noun and noun phrase, for example, such as pengecut (cowards), asu (dog), pelacur ISIS (ISIS' whore), in the following utterances:

1) ISIS *<u>pengecut</u>*.
2) Media *<u>asu</u>*!
3) NS *<u>pelacur ISIS</u>*

Inclusion to A Social Identity

Realizing the meaning of inclusion to a social identity, verbal violence can be found in the form of noun and noun phrase as predicate, for example, such as racist (racist), agama teroris (terrorists' religion), pembela teroris (terrorists' protector), as the following utterances.

1) Mereka itu (muslim) *<u>racist.</u>*
2) Memang Islam *<u>agama teroris.</u>*
3) Artinya, Jokowi *<u>pembela teroris.</u>* Sekarang malah membela. Plinplan.

Exclusion from A Social Identity

Realizing the meaning of exclusion from a social identity, verbal violence can be found in the form of noun and noun phrase as predicate, for example, such as pasukannya Dajjal (Dajjal's troops), bukan Islam (not Islam), musuh pertama Islam (first enemy of Islam) in the following utterances.

1) ISIS itu *<u>pasukannya Dajjal</u>*.
2) ISIS *<u>bukan Islam.</u>*
3) ISIS *<u>musuh pertama Islam.</u>*

Verbal Violence as Predicative Adjectives

As predicative adjectives, verbal violence is realized in the form of adjectives or adjective phrase and has a grammatical function as predicate. These realize some meaning, which is violent trait, bad habit, bad condition and mental deficiency.

Violent Trait

Realizing the meaning of violent traits, verbal violence can be found in the form of adjective phrase, for example, such as sungguh kejam (so cruel), memang jahat (really evil), and adjective such as biadab (cruel), in the utterances below:

1) _Sungguh kejam_ ajaran si Muhammad ini.
2) Islam _memang jahat._ Ajarannya kacau balau.
3) Islam itu _biadab_.

Bad Habit

Realizing the meaning of bad habit, verbal violence can be found in the form of adjectives, for example, such as plinplan (inconsistent) and adjective phrase such as sok pinter banget (so pedantic) and picik sekali (narrow-minded), in the following utterances:

1) Jokowi ini _plinplan_. Sekarang dah mengutuk. Kemarin dari Tolikara diundang ke Istana.
2) Ini siapa sih yang punya TS-nya. _Sok pinter banget!_
3) Mau nyalahin hijab ya? _Picik sekali_ hatimu.

Bad Condition

Realizing the meaning of bad condition, verbal violence can be found in the form of adjectives, for example, such as aneh banget (so freak), kacau balau (so chaotic), parah (really bad) in the following utterances:

1) Mas, emang bener sedikit disindir dan dikritik emosi? Bunuh orang? _Aneh banget_ ajaran keyakinannya. Lol.
2) Islam memang jahat. Ajarannya _kacau balau._
3) Yang satu ini _parah_, selalu bikin onar, rese, merasa paling benar.

Mental Deficiency

Realizing the meaning of _mental deficiency,_ verbal violence can be found in the form of adjective phrases, for example, such as _memang nggak waras_ (really insane), _sangat dangkal_ (really superficial) and adjective, such as _bodoh_ (foolish) in the following utterances:

1) Kalau ada yang bilang ISIS = Islam itu karena _otaknya memang nggak waras._
2) Pengetahuan Ente tentang kebebasan berekspresi dan demokrasi _sangat dangkal_, Bung.
3) Karena Arab _bodoh_, Bro

CONCLUSION

To sum up, this research shows the form and the meaning of verbal violence produced by Facebook users employing predicational strategy in responding news update under the topic of Paris tragedy. Linguistically, the verbal violence is realized as attributes, predicative verbs, object or complement of predicate, predicative nouns and predicative adjectives. The verbal violence also displays some meaning, such as violent action, violent trait, bad habit, bad condition, mental deficiency, exclusion from a social identity and inclusion to a social identity by which others are negatively constructed and marginalized.

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