

ABSTRACT

KURNIAWATI, VERONIKA ESTHER DIAH. (2026). **The Representation of Historical Suppression and Political Intimidation in Marching's *The End of Silence* (2017): A Critical Discourse Analysis and Thematic Structure Investigation.** Yogyakarta: English Language Studies. Graduate Program. Universitas Sanata Dharma.

Language does not have the characteristic of being neutral, specifically when it is implemented within discourse, in which rhetoric, manipulation, and deception are all factors involved during the process of establishing and distributing meaning. Consequently, discourse tends to be heavily utilized in the interests of authority holders, most notably in countries that suffer from government authoritarianism, political unrest, and, in some cases, violence, in order to ensure the retention of power and the control of ideology. As a result of such circumstances, the representation of historical suppression and political intimidation turns into a pressing issue for the reason that discourse dictates the way in which the past is recalled, restored, contorted, or even left unremembered. Further to this, the issue does not solely relate to representation, as it also has to do with the structure of the language and how it affects the interpretation of the reader.

For the purpose of responding to these issues, this present study adopts a qualitative approach that combines Critical Discourse Analysis and Systemic Functional Linguistics. In regard to the object of this study, it focuses on *The End of Silence* (2017), an oral history book authored by Soe Tjen Marching, which is a collection of first-hand accounts compiled from various sources bearing witness after the horrendous incidents that occurred in 1965 in Indonesia. The data originate from both direct and indirect sentences, reflecting historical suppression and political intimidation. With the implementation of this approach, it is possible to conduct a comprehensive examination of language, power, ideology, and meaning.

The findings reveal that historical suppression is manifested through repressive erasure, prescriptive forgetting, forgetting constitutive in the formation of a new identity, structural amnesia, forgetting as annulment, and forgetting as humiliated silence. political intimidation is represented through direct violence, detention, harassment, economic attacks, destruction of reputation, and threats to victims and their families. The analysis further demonstrates that these representations are constructed through unmarked topical theme, marked topical theme, passivized theme, interpersonal theme, predicated theme, thematized comment, and textual theme. Through these thematic choices, historical suppression is presented as persistent and systematic, whereas political intimidation is depicted as a mechanism of fear, coercion, and social control.

This present study makes a significant contribution to Critical Discourse Analysis and Systemic Functional Linguistics through its demonstration of the mechanism through which discourse and thematic structures interrelate in the representation of historical suppression and political intimidation. This study provides evidence that language is capable of preserving power relations and political objectives while providing guidance on how readers interpret historically sensitive matters. Therefore, this study improves insights into how linguistic choices facilitate the construction, transmission, and preservation of collective recollections embedded in historical violence accounts.

Keywords: *Critical Discourse Analysis, Systemic Functional Linguistics, Thematic Structure, The End of Silence*



ABSTRAK

KURNIAWATI, VERONIKA ESTHER DIAH. (2026). **The Representation of Historical Suppression and Political Intimidation in Marching's *The End of Silence* (2017): A Critical Discourse Analysis and Thematic Structure Investigation.** Yogyakarta: English Language Studies. Graduate Program. Universitas Sanata Dharma.

Bahasa tidak pernah bersifat netral, terutama dalam wacana, karena retorika, manipulasi, dan penyesatan turut membentuk produksi serta peredaran makna. Akibatnya, wacana kerap dimanfaatkan oleh pemegang kuasa, terlebih di negara yang dilanda rezim otoriter, kerusuhan politik, atau kekerasan, untuk mempertahankan kekuasaan dan pengawasan ideologis. Oleh karena itu, representasi penindasan sejarah dan intimidasi politik menjadi persoalan mendesak karena wacana memengaruhi cara masa lalu diingat, direkonstruksi, didistorsi, atau dilupakan. Selain itu, permasalahan tidak hanya terletak pada representasi tersebut, tetapi pada struktur kebahasaan yang memengaruhi interpretasi pembaca.

Untuk mengkaji persoalan tersebut, penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif yang mengintegrasikan Analisis Wacana Kritis dan Linguistik Fungsional Sistemik. Objek yang digunakan adalah *The End of Silence* (2017) karya Soe Tjen Marching yang memuat kesaksian langsung dari berbagai sumber atas peristiwa mengerikan yang terjadi di Indonesia pada tahun 1965. Data penelitian berupa kalimat-kalimat yang secara langsung maupun tidak langsung merepresentasikan penindasan sejarah dan intimidasi politik. Pendekatan ini memungkinkan kajian yang menyeluruh terhadap hubungan antara bahasa, kekuasaan, ideologi, dan makna dalam teks.

Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa penindasan sejarah diwujudkan melalui repressive erasure, prescriptive forgetting, forgetting constitutive in the formation of a new identity, structural amnesia, forgetting as annulment, dan forgetting as humiliated silence. intimidasi politik direpresentasikan melalui direct violence, detention, harassment, economic attacks, destruction of reputation, serta threats to victims and their families. Hasil penelitian juga menunjukkan bahwa representasi tersebut dibangun melalui unmarked topical theme, marked topical theme, passivized theme, interpersonal theme, predicated theme, thematized comment, dan textual theme. Melalui pilihan-pilihan tematik ini, penindasan historis ditampilkan secara terus-menerus dan sistematis, sedangkan intimidasi politik digambarkan sebagai mekanisme ketakutan, pemaksaan, dan kontrol sosial.

Penelitian ini berkontribusi pada Analisis Wacana Kritis dan Linguistik Fungsional Sistemik dengan menunjukkan bagaimana wacana dan struktur tematik saling berkaitan dalam merepresentasikan penindasan sejarah dan intimidasi politik. Penelitian ini membuktikan bahwa bahasa dapat melestarikan relasi kuasa dan kepentingan politik sekaligus mengarahkan interpretasi pembaca terhadap isu sejarah yang sensitif. Maka, penelitian ini memperluas pemahaman mengenai kontribusi pilihan kebahasaan terhadap konstruksi, transmisi, dan pelestarian memori kolektif dalam narasi kekerasan historis.