

The Representation of China's Leader in Media: A Critical Discourse Analysis

Atifah Nabila Nurfaiza¹, Indah Tasia Manuela S.², Aceng Ruhendi Saifullah³

^{1,2,3}Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia, Bandung, Indonesia

Email: atifahnabila@upi.edu

Abstract

This study investigates the media representation of Chinese President Xi Jinping in a New York Times article titled "*Trump's Trade War Puts Bromance with Xi Beyond Reach*" through Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA). Using van Dijk's model, the research focuses on micro-level analysis, including macrostructure, microstructure, and superstructure. It applies linguistic tools such as actor description, level of description, and rhetorical devices. The findings reveal how the media constructs an image of Xi Jinping as an authoritarian leader with an anti-American stance and cautious diplomacy. The superstructure analysis highlights the use of subjective commentary and expert opinions, reinforcing a negative portrayal. This suggests ideological bias in Western media, particularly in how foreign leaders are depicted. The consistent negativity across macrostructure, microstructure, and superstructure reflects this tendency. The study emphasizes the role of discourse in shaping public opinion and recommends future comparative research on how U.S. leaders are portrayed in Chinese media to foster a more balanced understanding in global media narratives.

Keyword: Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), Van Dijk's Model, Media Representation, Xi Jinping, Ideological Bias.



A. INTRODUCTION

In human interaction, everyone has the right to have their own perception about any topic. The ways people discuss and make sense of the world in their everyday lives form an important part of the politics of nature (Olausson, 2020). As an example, we can see it from the news, it can be seen as a representation of how language is used in practice.

A news report can represent the writer's way of thinking. In mass media, news functions as a type of written communication (Anastasya & Effendi, 2023). Besides that, people's opinions show how the news is represented, such as through ideology. Ideologies are forms of mental representation that can be conveyed through language, conversation, and communication, traditional research on ideologies has typically not focused on their discursive or cognitive dimensions (Al-saedi, 2020).

The mass media always have a relationship with journalists. Journalists play a crucial role in shaping people's perception of the news. Journalists have several roles, such as analyzing and deliberating issues, monitoring and critiquing power structures, advocating for radical change, educating the public about development, and facilitating collaboration. They help drive political transformation, inform and engage the public, and contribute to government efforts aimed at promoting progress and societal welfare (Rojas-Calderón, 2024).

This paper aims to analyze the representation of Mr. Xi Jinping in selected news articles using van Dijk's Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) theory with a specific focus on the microlevel of analysis. By examining the macrostructure, microstructure, and superstructure of the news texts. This study seeks to uncover how linguistic elements and textual organization contribute to shaping public perceptions of these political figures.

The selected news is taken from the popular mass media, *The New York Times*, which is one of the media outlets that has a large audience from all around the world. This media is from an American daily newspaper based in New York City. It also has a wide range of topics, including politics and economics, from domestic and international news. This mass media is one of the oldest continuously operating newspapers in the U.S., and is widely regarded as a newspaper of record. As of 2023, it led the nation in readership with 9.13 million total subscribers, including 8.83 million digital-only subscribers. It also had 296,330 print subscribers, making it the second-largest newspaper in terms of print circulation after *The Wall Street Journal*, which is also based in New York City. The paper is published by The New York Times Company, which has been under the leadership of the Ochs-Sulzberger family since 1896. A.G. Sulzberger currently serves as both chairman of the company and publisher of the newspaper. The Times operates from its headquarters in The New York Times Building, located in Midtown Manhattan.

The topic in this study is chosen because the trade war between China and the US has been hot news lately. As people know, the US has been a leading nation on the world stage for a long time, and in recent years, China's economy has significantly increased. Nowadays, China is emerging as a leading force in international trade. This situation has triggered competition between the two countries. The trade war began in 2018 when Donald Trump implemented a series of tariffs and trade barriers on Chinese goods. China responded by imposing retaliatory tariffs on American exports. As a result, the conflict continues to the present day. The U.S.–China trade war remains a central issue in international trade relations, with both nations employing a combination of tariffs, strategic exemptions, and geopolitical alliances to navigate the ongoing economic confrontation.

The previous study related to this topic has been analysed by Tanto and Tanusy (2024) with the title *The Representation of Indonesian Presidential Candidates in Media: A Critical Discourse Analysis*. The findings of this research show a negative portrayal of Mr. Subianto across the macrostructural, microstructural, and superstructural levels of analysis. The focus was on a specific political figure within the Indonesian context. This study, however, fills the gap by examining the media representation of both U.S. and Chinese leaders, offering a comparative analysis of how global media portray these major world figures. By analyzing the influence of power, ideology, and international narratives. It also provides new insights into the portrayal of both U.S. and Chinese leadership in global discourse.

B. LITERATURE REVIEW

Discourse functions as a medium through which speakers, guided by specific intentions, communicate ideas or perspectives to their interlocutors, whether in spoken or written form (Setyawati & Mulyana, 2020). To comprehend the communicative functions of news headlines implies exploring the linguistic elements that engage with broader societal dynamics, which is the core of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) (Malkawi et al., 2024). Critical Discourse Analysis was presented in the late 1980s and became a well-established domain within the social sciences (Saadeen & AlBzour, 2022). CDA addresses social matters as Wodak states that views discourse as a form of social practice, including language use in both spoken and written forms (Syahriani et al., 2024). CDA is employed to reveal how social and political inequalities are reflected and reproduced through language (Wooffitt, 2005, as cited in Pendri et al., 2024).

In addition, the Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) has been utilized as both a theoretical framework and a methodological approach to investigate language-use patterns related to various social issues (Hamdi, 2024). In line with that statement, Van Dijk's theory concentrated on political discourse. His approach to examining how language functions and meaning is constructed across various contexts as a foundation for identifying discursive patterns and their characteristics (Solopova & Naumova, 2025). Additionally, according to Van Dijk (1995), Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) provides a framework for analyzing both written and spoken forms of communication (as cited in Al-Furaiji et al., 2024).

In Van Dijk's model of Critical Discourse Analysis, there are two levels of analysis. The first one is known as macro-level analysis. It focuses on broad and ideological themes, especially those related to power, dominance, and inequality on a global scale. In contrast, micro-level analysis examines more specific and detailed aspects, such as language use, discourse, verbal interactions, and communication. It explores how these elements reveal underlying ideological issues within a particular text (Tanto & Tanusy, 2024).

In micro-level analysis, it is divided into three levels of devices. First is macrostructure, macrostructure is the overarching meaning or central idea of a text, which is typically observable through an analysis of its topic. Within this framework, the theme of a discourse encompasses not only its general content but also a particular dimension or facet of an event under discussion (Hermawan et al., 2022). Additionally, a macrostructural analysis is necessary to examine various aspects of language use. For example, language users often create abstracts or summaries of discourses that convey the primary topics or the overall meaning of the text being summarized (Afzal et al., 2022).

The thematic elements are the global meaning of discourse and also generally describe the theme of discourse on each news topic, in which there are essential points that refer back to the central theme. The second one, namely a superstructure, a text or discourse, typically follows a structured flow from the beginning to the end. This flow outlines how the different parts of the text are organized and sequenced to create

a cohesive meaning. A story usually follows two main structural patterns. The first is the summary, which includes the title and lead. The second is the full story, which contains the complete news content. Third is a microstructure that involves the analysis of semantics, syntax, vocabulary (lexicon), and style within a text (Huda et al., 2020a).

Moreover, the microstructure consists of several analytical components. The first is semantic analysis. Through a semantic perspective, Van Dijk asserts that news reports typically involve: (a) the *setting*, which refers to discourse elements that influence what is communicated; (b) *detail*, which pertains to how journalists control the information they present emphasizing favorable aspects while downplaying elements that might harm their image; (c) *intent and presupposition*, which relate to whether the message is delivered explicitly or implicitly, and how facts are structured and represented within the report; and (d) *presumption*, which functions as a strategy to shape public perception and construct particular social images (as cited in Anastasya & Effendi, 2023).

Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) has been extensively examined in previous scholarly research. One of them was done by Hermawan et al (2022) entitled “Van Dijk's Critical Discourse Analysis of the “*Dapur Keluarga*” Song and Its Relevance to the Corruption, Collusion, and Nepotism Phenomenon in Indonesia”. This study uses Teun A. Van Dijk's critical discourse analysis model. A study on the song *Dapur Keluarga* by Feast (2020) analyzed the discourse of social criticism using Teun A. van Dijk's Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) model, which includes text analysis, social cognition, and social context. Employing a qualitative descriptive approach, the research revealed that the song conveys a satirical critique of Corruption, Collusion, and Nepotism (KKN) in Indonesia. The lyrics reflect how individuals, particularly public officials and their close relatives exploit others' suffering for personal gain. The discourse was found to be highly relevant to real-life corruption cases in Indonesia, including the East Kutai regent scandal, the West Bandung social aid case, and corruption in the Supreme Court. The study concluded that *Dapur Keluarga* effectively mirrors the ongoing KKN phenomena in Indonesia through a socially critical lens.

Another study related to this topic analyzed by Pendri et al (2024), this study examines discourse in online media, focusing on Indonesia's Ministry of Education and Culture website, concerning challenges faced by the education sector during the COVID-19 pandemic (February 2020 - August 2023). Utilizing Van Dijk's (2009) Critical Discourse Analysis model comprising microstructure, superstructure, and macrostructure. The research focuses on teacher-authored texts addressing educational issues. The microstructure analysis highlights how teachers express diverse learning challenges and embed personal perspectives. The superstructure and macrostructure analyses reveal a deliberate organizational pattern that enhances message clarity and coherence. The findings emphasize the crucial role of teachers in structuring discourse to effectively communicate educational concerns during a time of crisis.

The study using the same framework also analysed by Allami et Barzegar (2020), this study analyzed the representation of ordinary people in the inaugural speeches of two Iranian presidents using a Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) approach. The researchers employed an integrated analytical model combining Fairclough's three-dimensional framework (1989), Van Dijk's socio-cognitive approach (1993), and Van Leeuwen's socio-semantic model (1996). Using both quantitative and qualitative methods, the findings identified statistically significant differences in vocabulary and structural usage based on the descriptive stages of Fairclough's and Van Leeuwen's frameworks. It then interpreted and explained these linguistic patterns through the lenses of Fairclough and Van Dijk. The findings revealed that despite differing portrayals of political self, both presidents employed similar discursive strategies to construct the identity of ordinary people within the Iranian sociocultural context.

C. METHOD

This research uses descriptive qualitative research because this research analyzes sentences, words, and phrases, and there are no graphs or mathematical calculations in this study. According to Creswell and Creswell (2018, as cited in Saragih et al., 2024), qualitative research focuses on individualism, groups, and issues in society. The descriptive method is obtained using the factual data that are in the news article. This study also uses the library research method to gather data regarding the representation of the Chinese and US leaders. The method revolves around the activity of collecting the data and reading the relevant data from relevant studies. The reading sources are gathered from various journals, book chapters, and news articles regarding the trade war between the two superpower countries (Feriyanto et al., 2024).

This research only focuses on the texts in the newspaper article. Therefore, the news article needs to be read many times, thoroughly, and carefully. Then, using van Dijk's Critical Discourse Analysis theory. Although there are three levels of analysis, which are the macrolevel, meso-level, and microlevel analysis, the news article text will be analyzed only using the microlevel analysis. The microlevel analysis itself is divided into three parts, which are macrostructure, microstructure, and superstructure analysis. The microlevel analysis itself started with the macrostructure analysis of Mr. Xi Jinping through the headline and lead from the news article. Then, in the microstructure analysis, the representation of Mr. Xi Jinping is done using linguistic tools such as the actor description, level of description, and the rhetoric, which will be analyzed with relevant sources. Lastly, the representation of Mr. Xi Jinping will be analyzed using the superstructure analysis, which deals with the organization or the schematic structure itself.

D. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. Macrostructure analysis

The macrostructure analysis is typically used to know the global topic of the news report, which can be found in the headline and lead of the news article. The headline consists of the main headline and the lower headline, and the source of the data comes from this part. The main headline of this news article is "Trump's Trade War Puts Bromance with Xi Beyond Reach." Meanwhile, the lower headline is "President Trump says he wants Xi Jinping, China's leader, to call him to talk tariffs. Mr. Xi is ghosting Mr. Trump, and markets are plummeting." In the headline, it was clearly stated that the two people that this article is going to talk about are the two superpower country leaders, President Donald Trump and Mr. Xi Jinping, because it was mentioned explicitly in the lower headline. The headline also gave us the reason why Mr. Xi is ignoring President Trump's calls to have something to do with the trade wars and the tariffs that the two countries put on each other, which made the economy suffer. The headline has also mentioned the word bromance.

According to Oxford University Press (n.d), Bromance is a combination of the words 'brother' and 'romance', which means a close relationship between two men. The word itself is ironic, since the two leaders in the article do not seem to have the best relationship with each other because of the ongoing trade wars. The writer wanted to emphasize that President Trump tried to fix things up and tried to get close to China's leader, but it was not successful since Mr. Xi ignored President Trump's attempt to make amends. It can be seen that this article wanted to represent China's Leader negatively as he was the one who coldly ignored President Trump's plea to bargain, hinting that he could be careless of the consequences of his actions.

Looking at the headlines and the lead, the global topic of this news article could be seen as Trump was the one who created the trade wars between the US and China. As a result of the ongoing trade wars, the market crash, which pushed President Trump to renegotiate with Xi Jinping, China's leader. It can be seen that the global topic wants to talk about Mr. Trump's attempt to fix the economy, but Xi Jinping refuses, which represents him negatively since he ignores him. It implies that Xi Jinping refuses to negotiate with Trump.

2. Microstructure Analysis

In microstructure analysis, one of the tools that can be used to find someone's representation is through the Actor Description. Actor Description is when there is an ideology about 'Us' and 'Them' (Almustafa, 2024), and it is used to portray a person or a member of a group negatively or positively (Saadeen et al, 2022). In this article, eleven data can be used to describe President Xi Jinping, which can be expanded through the description. The eleven data points of President Xi Jinping's description can be seen in the table below:

Table 1. Data Points of President Xi Jinping's Description

No.	Xi Jinping's Description
1	China's Leader
2	China's President
3	One of the two world's powerful men
4	A friend of Trump for a long time
5	A cheater
6	An authoritarian leader
7	Nationalist
8	Anti-America
9	A defender of national honor
10	A deliverer of China's national rise
11	A Cautious man
12	An ally to North Korea's leader, Kim Jong Un

There are only five descriptions that are referred to be positive. It was said that he is a nationalist, which can be broken down even further as a defender and deliverer of China's national honor and rise. Furthermore, a nationalist is someone who loves and is proud of their country, they also think that their country is the best in the world. Yet, the word 'nationalist' is being paired with the word 'anti-America', which is a very negative sentiment that means Xi Jinping has a very strong hatred toward the US, even before the 2025 trade war. Therefore, from the actor description tool, Mr. Xi Jinping is represented negatively in this news article.

The second linguistic tool that will be used is called the Level of Description, which is used to give a thorough description of a subject in a text (Tanto et al., 2024). By using this tool, the representation of Mr. Xi Jinping can be seen clearly. The writer of the news article provided a thorough detail about their opinion on China's leader's political stance and why it is seen as negative from another country's perspective. The negative representation of Mr. Xi Jinping can be seen in the table below:

Table 2. Xi Jinping's Political Stance

No.	Description of Xi Jinping's Political Stance
1.	Mr. Trump asserts that China has cheated on trade with the United States for decades
2.	But in Mr. Xi, he has encountered an authoritarian leader who steered his nation in a much nationalistic direction years before Mr. Trump ever took office
3.	He has even stoked anti-American nationalism by using propaganda around the Korean War
4.	Xi has devoted a large part of his presidency to building an image as a defender of national honor
5.	Xi has devoted a large part of his presidency to building an image as a deliverer of China's national rise.

6.	Because Mr. Xi is cautious, she said, Chinese officials prefer sending envoys to Washington to try to persuade Mr. Trump's aides to get the president to budge on the tariffs.
7.	Mr. Xi, an ally of Mr. Kim, no doubt recalls that history well.

It can be seen above that Mr. Xi Jinping's political stances are described negatively, at least from the US perspective. Looking at this description, it was seen that Mr. Xi Jinping and China have a polar opposite of the US. It was said here that his governing style is authoritarian, which implies that it is a government system that is fully controlled by the leader of the country (Bishara, 2023). It was said that the country that used the authoritarian government system often only pushes people to follow the rules without caring for their well-being and opinion (Oxford University Press, n.d.). Mr. Xi Jinping also has a close relationship with the North Korean leader, Kim Jong-un, who was also mentioned in the article is also not on friendly terms with Mr. Trump. Since The New York Times is based in the US, its political stances are different since the US adopts the democratic system therefore, they might find Mr. Xi Jinping's political stances in a negative light since they believe that it is an unfair and restraining system for the people.

The last tool that will be used to reveal the negative representation of Mr. Xi Jinping is through rhetoric. Rhetoric is a way of writing or talking to an audience using language by not saying what they mean to the target audience. It is either conveyed symbolically or metaphorically (Hoque et al., 2022). In the news article, three most commonly used rhetorical devices are used to reveal Mr. Xi Jinping's representation are anaphora, metaphor, and allusion.

The first rhetorical device is anaphora. According to Alyanto et al. (2023), Anaphora is a rhetorical device that is a repetition of words that are located at the beginning of phrases, clauses, or sentences. It can be seen in the news article that there are repetitions of the word "he has" that imply that Xi Jinping has certain qualities. It can be seen in line (12): "He has even stoked anti-American nationalism by using propaganda around the Korean War", and in line (13) "Xi (he) has devoted a large part of his presidency to building an image as a defender of national honor and a deliverer of China's national rise".

The word "he has" in the article is used to give the reader an idea of what kind of leader Mr. Xi Jinping is. In line (12), it can be seen that the anaphora is used to tell the reader that he is not a fan of the US government or the US in general, dating back to the Korean War, because the Americans tried to undermine China's Communist Party. By stating this information, the writer of this article wanted to paint China's president in a negative light as someone who hates the US. It is the polar opposite of the next paragraph, which he described in a positive light as 'defender of national honor' and 'deliverer of China's national rise'. It is not a bad thing to want the best for your country, want to preserve the country's honor, and want it to be a great and powerful country. Because the New York Times and the majority of the news media readers are American, they could see these things negatively, since they wouldn't

appreciate his hatred towards the US, just because of the differences in political stances.

The second rhetorical device is metaphor. Metaphor is said to be a comparison between the actual meaning of the word and what it is compared to (Rahmadhanti et al., 2022). In the newspaper article, the metaphor could be found in the word “ghosting,” which can be found in line (3). “Ghosting” is a word that is typically used in a relationship-related context. It is derived from the word ‘ghost’, which implies that the person that someone is trying to reach is deliberately ignoring their attempt at communication and disappearing like a ghost. It is typically used when a person intentionally ignores someone. In this context, it seemed that Mr. Xi Jinping ignored President Trump's attempt to reach him personally to talk about the tariffs that they put on each other. It was mentioned in the article that, according to Mr. Trump, the two are great friends, and Mr. Xi even sent him a congratulatory message regarding his re-instatement as the president of the United States of America. If what he stated was a fact, then there is no reason for Mr. Xi Jinping to refuse to negotiate with him, but in reality, he went to meet Southeast Asia leaders instead to ask for their support. This action does represent Mr. Xi Jinping negatively because he was seen as someone uncooperative and cold toward President Donald Trump, who has a positive motivation to talk to him.

There is also an allusion in this news article, which can be found in line (4), which mentions Mao Zedong, China's former leader. According to Swarniti (2022), allusion is a reference to something that happened in the past, whether it is in history or literature, and the success of the allusion depends on the reader's understanding of the event being referred to. In line (4), it was stated that the spokeswoman of China, who is an extension of Mr. Xi Jinping, who shares the same sentiment as him, shares a video of China's former leader, Mao Zedong. The video was about his statement that was made toward the US government back in the Korean War in 1953. The allusion in this was that Mr. Xi Jinping shared the same sentiment with his predecessor since they were facing a similar situation. Even though it is not a literal war, as we read the news articles, we can see that the ongoing trade wars have already taken effect in the US, where the US stock market is in turmoil and is almost reaching a recession. The allusion in the past implied that Mr. Xi Jinping and China would not surrender to what the US wants and yield until they win the trade war. Therefore, the use of rhetorical figures shows that Mr. Xi Jinping is represented negatively by the writer of the news article.

3. Superstructure Analysis

In superstructure analysis, it is used to identify how each part of the text is arranged. In general, almost all news articles have schematic categories such as lead, main event, comment, situation, previous event, consequences, verbal reaction, and background. However, each news report will have a different schematic flow. According to Van Dijk's theory, the superstructure of a text or discourse typically follows an organized sequence from the beginning to the end. This sequence

illustrates how the different parts of the text are structured and ordered to create a coherent overall meaning (Huda et al., 2020b).

In this particular news article, the most dominant schematic category that is used to describe Mr. Xi Jinping is the comment category. It is a category in which the writer included an opinion about the figure that was referred to. In paragraph (3), he refers to Mr. Xi Jinping as someone who 'ghosts' or avoids other people, and in paragraph (10), he refers to Mr. Xi as an authoritarian leader who holds absolute power in his country. In paragraph (11), the writer also refers to him as "the son of the Communist Party royalty". All of these descriptions clearly give a negative evaluation of Mr. Xi Jinping, especially when it comes from someone who does not have the same political alignment with him.

In order to support his personal comment, the writer also uses the schematic category of verbal reaction. In this news article, there are a lot of experts and politicians who gave their comments regarding the trade war, and also Mr. Xi Jinping's attitude toward Trump's attempt for a truce. In this article, the writer includes quotes from Ryan Hass, a Brookings Institution scholar and also the former China director on the National Security Council back then in the Obama administration, and Yun Sun, a China analyst at the Stimson Center. Their comment could be considered as trustworthy as their name, title, and institution are mentioned explicitly in this article. It is made so that the readers can be assured that their statements are reliable.

Hass stated that Mr. Xi Jinping is a "defender of China's national honor and a deliverer of China's national rise". Moreover, Mr. Hass stated that he would go a great-lengths in order to avoid being shown as being bullied into agreeing with Trump and America's terms. He also stated that Mr. Xi Jinping's administration does not want to cooperate with America since they do not view the increased tariffs as something that can be resolved with a negotiation, as China views this not only as a war of trade but also on their ideology. Furthermore, Sun stated that Mr. Xi Jinping is cautious and does not want to get humiliated like the Ukrainian president, Zelensky, and he does not believe that the problem will be solved just because it was negotiated on the phone. This means that Mr. Xi Jinping is represented as cautious and insecure by Sun. She also stated that the whole ordeal was a "contest of egos" between Mr. Donald and Mr. Xi Jinping. It shows that Mr. Xi Jinping wanted Mr. Trump and the whole world to know that China has the upper hand in the trade wars. Therefore, by pulling this move, Mr. Xi Jinping is seen as someone who is prideful because he does not want to comply to what Trump wants. Based on all of the verbal reactions above, it could be seen that the experts represented Prabowo negatively.

The last schematic category found in the news article is background. According to van Dijk (2019), background gave the reader information regarding the political or the socioeconomical facts or general knowledge that the reader have to know in order to understand what caused the issues or the conflicts in the news article. There is not much description of Mr. Xi Jinping's past background. There is only three paragraph that shows his past background, they are paragraph (9), (10), and (10). Those three

paragraph highlights the political background of Xi Jinping which states that he was an authoritarian leader, a communist, a hater of America nationalism, and is a loyal nationalist of his country. All of those-description is the opposite of what democratic country like the US stands for. For his past background it could be seen that the writer wanted to portray Mr. Xi Jinping negatively by highlighting his political stance.

E. CONCLUSION

According to the findings of the analysis, it clearly shows that this news article represented the leader of China Mr. Xi Jinping negatively. The three attributes of micro level analysis that are the macrostructure, microstructure, and superstructure indicate the same result where the writer consistently tries to portray Mr. Xi negatively in any aspect such as the chosen words to describe him both as a person or a leader and his political stance. Furthermore, in superstructure analysis reveals that this news article is dominant with comment, this category means that the writer conveyed an opinion regarding the referenced figure. The writer's perspective appears to be more subjective, as it is grounded in personal opinion rather than objective analysis. However, the writer also incorporates background information and verbal reactions to further substantiate the opinions presented. Based on the results of this analysis, the article illustrates how language and media discourse are used not merely to inform but also to shape public perception in line with broader ideological and geopolitical narratives. This study contributes to a deeper understanding of how American media may construct representations of foreign political leaders in ways that reflect their negative sides. In this context, the media often emphasize the weakness of foreign leaders in order to reinforce a positive perception of their domestic leadership. Future research could expand this analysis by comparing representations of U.S. leaders in Chinese media, thus offering a more balanced and comparative perspective on media discourse in global political contexts.

REFERENCES

1. Al-Furaiji, W. L., Ali, E. H. F., Ahmed, Z. A., Hassan, H. O., Eltom, S. O., & Zaeid, H. F. (2024). Atrocity in Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*: A Critical Discourse Approach. *Theory and Practice in Language Studies*, 14(4), Article 4. <https://doi.org/10.17507/tpls.1404.25>
2. Almustafa, A. (2024). Manipulating news language on Gaza War: A critical discourse analysis. *Pakistan Journal of International Affairs*, 7(2). <https://doi.org/10.52337/pjia.v7i2.1046>
3. Al-saedi, H. (2020). A Critical Discourse Analysis of the Representation of Iraq in Media Discourse (Newspaper Headlines). *International Journal of Language and Literary Studies*, 2(2), Article 2. <https://doi.org/10.36892/ijlls.v2i2.307>
4. Anastasya, Z., & Effendi, A. (2023). Study of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) Teun a van Dijk in Jokowi News Sentil Minister Related to Oil Price Increase in Beritasatu.com. *Britain International of Linguistics Arts and Education (BIoLAE) Journal*, 5(2), Article 2. <https://doi.org/10.33258/biolae.v5i2.892>

5. Bishara, A. (2023). Political Culture and Democratic Transition: a reassessment. *Al-Muntaqa*, 6(3).
6. Feriyanto, F., & Anjariyah, D. (2024). Deep Learning Approach Through Meaningful, Mindful, and Joyful Learning: A Library Research. *Electronic Journal of Education Social Economics and Technology*, 5(2), 208–212. <https://doi.org/10.33122/ejeset.v5i2.321>
7. Hoque, Z., Mai, K., & Ozdil, E. (2022). Accounting as rhetorical devices during the COVID-19 pandemic: Evidence from Australian universities. *Journal of Public Budgeting, Accounting & Financial Management*, 34(6), 168–191. <https://doi.org/10.1108/JPAFM-09-2021-0137>
8. Hamdi, S. A. (2024). Mining misinformation discourse on social media within the 'ideological square.' *Discourse & Society*, 35(3), 329–344. <https://doi.org/10.1177/09579265231211490>
9. Hermawan, E., Nurohman, T., & Widiastuti, W. (2022). Van Dijk's Critical Discourse Analysis of The "Dapur Keluarga" Song and Its Relevance To The Corruption, Collusion, and Nepotism Phenomenon in Indonesia. *International Journal of Social Sciences Review*, 3(1), Article 1. <https://doi.org/10.57266/ijssr.v3i1.79>
10. Huda, M. F. N., Hidayat, D. N., & Alek. (2020a). An Investigation of Macrostructure, Superstructure, and Microstructure on Online News Text. *NOBEL: Journal of Literature and Language Teaching*, 11(2), Article 2. <https://doi.org/10.15642/NOBEL.2020.11.2.149-161>
11. Malkawi, R. J., Fareh, S. I., & Rabab'ah, G. (2024). Framing the shooting of Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh in English and Arabic news headlines: A critical discourse study. *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*, 11(1), 1–13. <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41599-024-03784-x>
12. Olausson, U. (2020). Making sense of the human-nature relationship: A reception study of the "Nature Is Speaking" campaign on YouTube. *Nature and Culture*, 15(3), 272-295. <https://doi.org/10.3167/nc.2020.150303>
13. Oxford University Press. (n.d.). *Oxford Learner's Dictionary*. Retrieved from: https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/authoritarian_1?q=authoritarian
14. Oxford University Press. (n.d.). *Oxford Learner's Dictionary*. Retrieved April from: <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/bromance?q=Bromance>
15. Pendri, A., Andayani, A., Wardani, N. E., & Suhita, R. (2024). A Critical Discourse Analysis of Online Media Discourse on Educational Problems during the COVID-19 Pandemic. *International Journal of Society, Culture & Language*, 12(2), 14–27. <https://doi.org/10.22034/ijsc.2024.2018254.3305>
16. Rahmadhanti, R. W., Simanjuntak, M. B., & Sihombing, J. (2022). Metaphor analysis and meaning of the song "Different world". *FORDETAK: Seminar Nasional Pendidikan: Inovasi Pendidikan di Era Society 5.0*.
17. Rojas-Calderón, A. (2024). Constructive Journalistic Roles in Environments of Social Complexity and Political Crisis. *Journalism and Media*, 5(2), Article 2.

<https://doi.org/10.3390/journalmedia5020042>

18. Saedeen, M., & AlBzour, N. N. (2022). Donald Trump's Denial Speeches of the 2020 United States Presidential Election's Results: A Critical Discourse Analysis Perspective. *Advances in Language and Literary Studies*, 13(1), 32–40. <https://doi.org/10.7575/aiac.all.v.13n.1.p.32>
19. Setyawati, M. I. (2020, August). A Critical Discourse Analysis on the Instagram Account of @filosofi_jawa Based on Van Dijk Model. In *1st International Conference on Language, Literature, and Arts Education (ICLLAE 2019)* (pp. 279-283). Atlantis Press. <https://doi.org/10.2991/assehr.k.200804.055>
20. Solopova, O. A., & Naumova, K. (2025). Just War: Critical Discourse Analysis of US Presidential Speeches. *International Journal of Arabic-English Studies*, 25(1), Article 1. <https://doi.org/10.33806/ijaes.v25i1.604>
21. Syahriani, I., Supriadi, S., Mustafa, M., Saifullah, A. R., Riski, H., & Mubarak, Y. (2024). Power Dynamics in a Classroom Interactions Context: Critical Discourse Analysis. *International Journal of Society, Culture & Language*, 12(3), 65–79. <https://doi.org/10.22034/ijsc.2024.2037993.3632>
22. Tanto, T., & Tanusy, J. (2024). The Representation of Indonesian Presidential Candidate in Media: A Critical Discourse Analysis. *Lire Journal (Journal of Linguistics and Literature)*, 8(1), Article 1. <https://doi.org/10.33019/lire.v8i1.218>
23. Van Dijk, T. A. (2019). *Macrostructures: An interdisciplinary study of global structures in discourse, interaction, and cognition*. Routledge.