

THE UTILIZATION OF LOCAL FOLKLORE AS TEACHING MATERIAL

Maman Rukmana
 STKIP SETIABUDHI Rangkasbitung-Banten
 maman_ayah@yahoo.co.id

Abstract

Some discourses deal with folklore are presented by the authors of elementary school books for students. Unfortunately, the folklore presented does not considerate the level of meaningfulness for the elementary students. That is, the author forgets that the contextual material would have a higher significance level than the material in the form of folklore that is never recognized by the students. The problems in this paper are the criteria, and steps to arrange teaching material by using local folklore. The aims of this paper are to describe, and how to arrange language and Indonesian literature teaching materials source from the south Banten folklore for elementary school students in Pandeglang district. The method of this research is descriptive-analysis. Questionnaire technique is used to capture the teachers' opinion about the criteria and steps to make folklore as teaching materials. Folklore teaching materials of South Banten has fulfilled adequate criteria and considered the steps in arranging teaching materials. In the end to anticipate the limited teaching materials in the form of folklore from own region, the language and Indonesian literature teachers at an elementary school in Pandeglang can utilize it as an alternative and variety of teaching material.

Keywords : *local folklore, and teaching materials.*

INTRODUCTION

Folklore is literary work. It is the work of human creativity as well as culture and science. The works show humans' experience of pleasure, longing for, love, mourning, and hatred. Any feelings can be created in the literature. Likewise, the rules of a sacred meaningful life can be reborn in the literature. Even the literature appears to be parallel to the moral judgment. The parallelism between literature and moral can be explicit, implicit, and highlighted on every piece of literature that generally reveal many colors of life, therefore it contains a number view of life experience and the author's musings in an aesthetic form. Thus, every single of literary work is not only to entertain but also provide moral influence

and knowledge to the reader. There is belief on the existence of literary works that are useful and entertaining. Consequently, the teaching of literature at schools is considered very important.

Folklore is a part of the materials that needs to be delivered in literature teaching. The literature teaching has a role in achieving educational goals. Rusyana (1982: 6) explains that "the teaching of literature can give a maximum contribution to the educational aspects of moral, social, feelings, attitudes, judgments, and religious". To achieve these objectives, the literature teacher should have a high appreciation and wide horizon within literature, as well as having the initiative to

choose the appropriate teaching materials based on the students ability level. These abilities need to be closely related to preparing teaching materials. In order to the study of literature has clear cut role with the objectives of education. The teaching materials need to be prepared well.

Literature teaching materials are still problematic, regarding the teaching material which emphasizes theoretical literature, for example: the title of the books, author's names, year of publication, etc. The mentioned literature teaching materials must be changed and directed to a material form that enhances skills, at least in there is equality between theory and skills.

Some discourses deal with folklore are presented by the authors of elementary school books for students. Unfortunately, the folklore presented does not considerate the level of meaningfulness for the elementary students. That is, the author forgets that the contextual material would have a higher significance level than the material in the form of folklore that is never recognized by the students.

Elementary school textbooks which are published by the publishers and put the label of School Based Curriculum (SBC) are widely used in almost all elementary schools in Indonesia. Including in the South Banten District especially in Pandeglang, these books get a good assessment from some

quarters for being in accordance with the curriculum used.

There is a very unfortunate thing from the books. Especially what have been felt by the users of books in the South Banten district. Folklore materials presented in these books are unfamiliar to the students. For example, teaching materials for fourth grade elementary school students, there is East Java folklore called the *Keong Emas* (SnailGold), stories of the *Musium Wayang* (Wayang Museum) from Jakarta, *Tiga Anak Gadis Pemberani* (Three Courageous Girls) from Central Asia, and other unknown folklore for the students. Moreover, there is another form of folklore materials for fifth grade students, such as the story Teuku Umar (Teuku Umar), *Asal Mula Salat Tiga* (The legend of Salatiga) story and Reog Ponorogo (Reog of Ponorogo) from Central Java, *Legenda Asal Usul Nama Buleleng* (Legend of The Origin of the Name Buleleng) and Singaraja from Bali. The Folklore for 6th grade students, such as: *Cinta Seperti Garam* (Love is Like Salt) and *Pak Molla* (Mr. Molla) of Madura, *Legenda Sungai Jernih* (The Legend of the Clear River) and *Saudagar Amir* (Merchant Amir Tale) from Sumatra, *Berita dari Ciater* (the news from Ciater) from West Java. Only one of three books originally from Banten region, it is *Sang Prabu dan si Petani* (the King and the Peasant) from Malingping

Lebak, it does not talk about folklore, however, it is the stories of good people.

Based on the facts mentioned above will develop students verbally. The story presented is not realistic for the students. Students are forced to recognize, understand, and learn the stories of people who had not previously been familiar. If this unexpected condition is allowed continually, as the result the students will have low appreciation.

Regarding to that case, teachers ought to consider the beneficial of literature work that would be appreciated by students. In selecting the literature work for instructional materials, the teacher in addition should consider the terms of literature, didactic aspect, proximity to students and learning. For example, whether educative value or didactic value is presented in a literary work? This question should be answered before a literary work is defined as the teaching materials. Thus, the study of literature can achieve the expected goals and more meaningful for the students as well.

Learning materials of literary appreciation is not only limited to the materials contained in the source books and text books. Moreover, literature learning materials can be taken from the stories contained in these areas. Local folklore is easier digested and appreciated by students because the story is in their environment.

Based on the background of the problem above, the writer formulates the research problems as follow: How to compile language teaching materials and Indonesian literature adopted from local folklore for elementary school students in Pandeglang?

The Theoretical Framework

If we analyze in deep the curriculum of Indonesian language subject, especially in elementary school it can be concluded that the materials often and a lot to be prepared is the discourse or story with different themes. Discourse with a particular theme functions as a medium for language activities. Therefore, in a discourse or story there is material of study for language learning, understanding, and specific use. Included literature appreciation activities also can serve as a medium for language activities. Therefore, it is highly recommended to use literature work as a discourse of learning materials as often as possible.

According to Tarigan (1995: 60) at least there are two important things that should be known by the Indonesian language and literature teacher deals with discourse as teaching materials. Firstly, the teacher must know the different criteria used to determine whether the discourse is good or not as teaching materials. Secondly, teachers must be able to develop, compile, select, or adapt a discourse as teaching materials.

A discourse is considered appropriate if the discourse of teaching materials fulfill the following criteria: 1) meet the criteria in the curriculum, 2) the content of discourse can be made as an example, can establish the values and norms adopted by society, agree with the age, interests, environment, and the needs of students, and 3) do not mention the issue of Ethnic, religion and race. In addition, the structure of discourse should be well arranged. There is the introduction, content,

and closing which are interwoven. Coherent relationship between paragraphs, meanwhile, the length of discourse must be moderate. The language used in discourse must consider good spelling and proper punctuation, good diction, communicative word and sentence structure.

To understand the criteria in discourse or story as teaching materials easily can be presented through the following diagram:

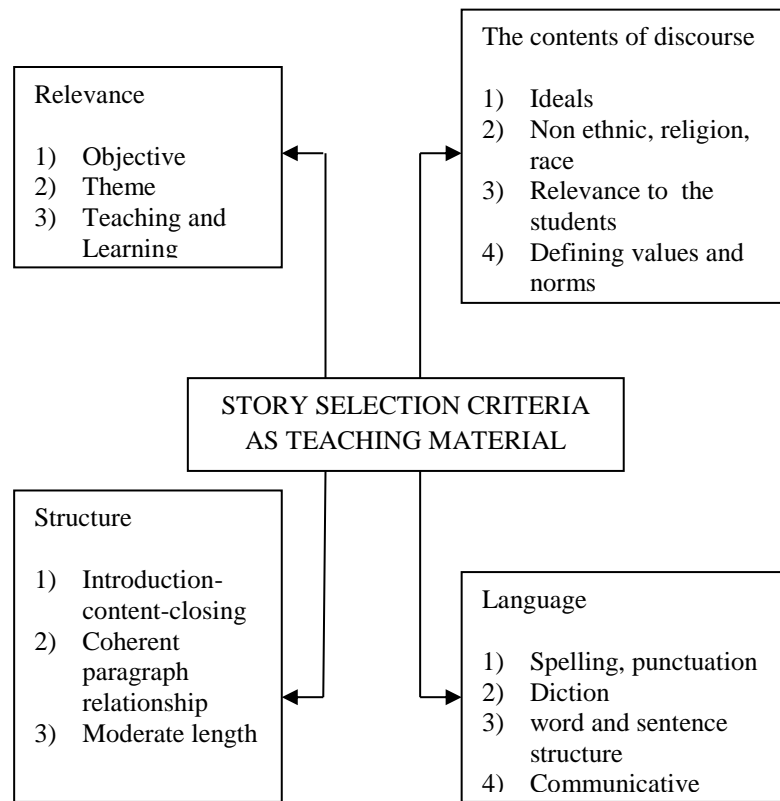


Diagram 1. Story Selection Criteria as Teaching Material

Procurement of discourse or story as a teaching material can be done in four ways. The first, arranging the needed discourse. Here the discourse is used as teaching materials are discourse or local stories composed by teacher. The second, teachers choose the appropriate discourse needed from the existing discourse then quoted it all. The third, similar to the point, the difference is the quoted discourse is repaired as necessary. The fourth, from the existing discourse adapted in order to create an adaptation discourse.

The way of arranging discourses as learning material can be briefly described as follows: Firstly, we choose a theme in accordance with the basic competencies listed in the curriculum as a theme of discourse. These themes are divided into a number of subthemes. Then we select one of the subthemes as the source of discourse

title. From this subtheme of titles translated into a number of discourses. Then choose one of the best titles that match the needs. The selected title of discourse made as the basis for arranging the discourse framework. Then discourse framework is described in detail. The detailed discourse framework is developed into paragraphs. In developing detailed framework of discourse into paragraphs, it applies drafting criteria of arranging discourse; and mixing other learning materials in these paragraphs. The partial compositions are combined into a whole discourse. The discourse that has been arranged must be reviewed and repaired. Having been repaired, then recopy to make it as teaching materials.

To facilitate the understanding the steps of developing discourse or story as a learning material can be presented through the following diagram.

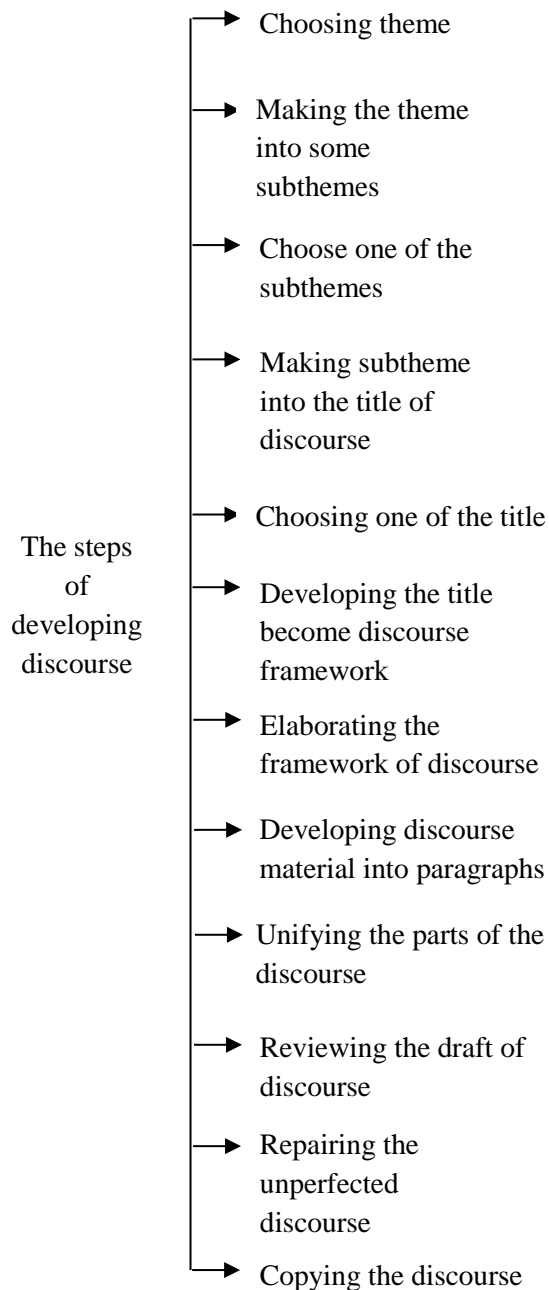


Diagram 2. The Steps of Developing Discourse

METHOD

The study site of the research is in Pandeglang district. The primary data source is the respondents who knew about the local myths, legends and tales. Elementary school teachers are defined as the people who know about the existence of local stories.

The method used in this study is descriptive-analytical methods. Descriptive method used is not only limited on the collection and arrangement of data but also analysis the meaning of data interpretation. It means not only doing a pure description,

but also defining the meaning, and drawing conclusions or implications. Therefore, this method also attempts to describe the facts logically.

Meanwhile, the technique used in this research is by distributing questionnaires to elementary school teachers.

Data collected through this research is qualitative data by conducting an assessment

DISCUSSION

Presentation and Interpretation of Data

1. Criteria

There are some criteria of the requirement whether a story is useable as teaching materials or not. Firstly, the relevance of the story with the objectives, themes, and course in the curriculum. That is, the story presented meets the standard and does not deviate from the curriculum. Seeing this requirement, so the aspects of the meaningfulness of environmental factors where the students live can not be separated, but there must be continuity. Therefore, based on a question given to the teachers as respondents, the teachers argued that teaching material (stories) that's made by teachers must consider the following points: 1) the teaching materials from ourselves environment will be more meaningful, meanwhile the story of other region are rarely known by students, 2) teaching materials from the our region will be easy to master, 3) higher memory; 4) more

of the suitability and level of appreciation with the demands of appreciation teaching at elementary schools. The study at this stage will underpin the efforts to compile Indonesian language and literature teaching materials, especially literature appreciation at elementary school.

interesting to learn; 5) contains elements of own culture; 6) more responsible to maintain it; 7) enriching vocabulary, and 8) knowing the history of the own region.

In addition, the benefit of using local stories of our own regions related to the second criterion is it contains the aspects of ideals, values, and morality. For example, stories of *Sheikh Mansyur* from Pandeglang demanded by the students, as the main character has good attitude, a noble character, it does helps the students to try to imitate him.

The teachers' opinion deals with the aspect of ideal in the story of his own region as listed on the questions raised can be taken some essences, namely: 1) good moral messages will greatly assist the students in doing a positive act, 2) character building and mental development and morals of the children for living society life, 3) being the good foundation as early as possible, 4) creating emotional intelligent of human resources, and 5) easy to do in everyday life.

The third criterion is the structure of the story that includes an introductory structure, contents, closing, integrated structure of the relationship between paragraphs, and the structure of the discourse must be moderate length. Criterion requires that a story must consider the criteria mentioned above. That is, the story as the same as formal writing. Therefore, the manner of writing should be systematic and coherent from the very beginning until the end, no jumping and overlapping each other.

There are several advantages and overview given by the teachers regarding to these criteria as the following summary: 1) understanding the content of the story quickly, intact and not fragmented; 2) so that, the reader feels satisfied and can draw conclusions from the text, and 3) more interesting to read.

In contrast to, two respondents did not agree to these criteria, since elementary students do not need to present a story in detail, outline will be enough and easily understood.

The relationship between paragraphs in the story must be coherent and continuous. The third sub-criterion is well understood by the respondents. Generally, they totally agree. The presentation of the story for elementary school students should not be too long to be easily understood. The memory capacity of elementary school age underlies this argument. The students generally have

limited memory because of their mental age is limited.

The fourth criterion for creating a story that is the use of spelling, punctuation, diction, and sentence structure. Spelling and punctuation in the story must be based on the rules of its use as set out in guidelines issued by the National Language Institute.

There are several advantages when writing a story based on these criteria, namely: 1) easily, understand its contents, 2) as teaching materials or the right examples; 3) the students can use and understand the grammar correctly; 4) the rules of punctuation can influence grammatical aspects; and 5) not obscuring the intention of the story.

2. Constructing Discourse

There are four ways constructing the discourse or story as a teaching material of the kind described in the previous section. One of ways used is making the story made by teachers themselves. It means the discourse that is used as learning material is truly story or discourse made by teachers.

The ways of constructing discourse as teaching materials must consider the steps in making the discourse. At least, we have to follow these guidelines: 1) determining the appropriate theme with the students; 2) Dividing the themes into a number of subthemes, 3) subtheme is translated into a numbers of title, 4) creating a framework of discourse; 5) choose one of suitable title with

the needs and conditions of the region; 6) arranging a discourse into coherent paragraphs; 7) repairing and editing the discourse; and 8), copying the discourse or story. The best theme of the story is the theme which is known by students. In the folklore of South Banten there are many themes of the story that could be presented to the students functioning to unify language activities. On the language and Indonesian literature subject at elementary school, according to the curriculum that is used covers four language skills, they are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. In the implementation of four language skills are not taught one by one, but integrated and continuity between one skill and other skills. Therefore, it is needed a unifying theme in language activities.

Creating a frame work of the story is the next step after determining the theme, subtheme and title of the story which is appropriate for the students. Such as an activity in making an essay, so the story arranged by teacher needs to set up the framework of the story. The framework has a lot of benefits. A good framework will make the story easier to be understood by students. A story is composed by considering the next step which is suitable for the students need. By considering this step, the story will be presented and will be more meaningful for students. Rather than, if the story arranged is not suitable for the

students. This is an important step in order the process of teaching and learning activity can be fun and motivating the students to learn it.

3. The Steps of Developing Folklore.

As a recommended in previous discussion, it is presented and proposed a model of developing teaching materials from local story (folklore), as follow:

- a. Determining the suitable theme for the conditions of students. The theme adopted at this activity is 'humanity'.
- b. The theme is made into the subtheme. The subtheme is the explanation of the above theme, they are: (1) human should help each other, (2) no imposing the will to another, (3) holding religion value tightly, (4) keeping promise, and (5) breaking promise;
- c. Subtheme is made into a number of titles. The following titles of the story is the explanation of subtheme of 'breaking promises' that are arranged in the title of story in legend genre. The title intended: (1) The Origin of Baduy People (*Asal Usul Orang Baduy*), (2) Legend of Pamarayan Dam (*Legenda Bendungan Pamarayan*), (3) The Origin of Mortar (*Asal Usul Lesung*), and (4) The origins of the Tanjung Lesung (*Asal Usul Tanjung Lesung*); etc.
- d. Make the framework of discourse. Frame of discourse made should be systematically arranged. The

- arrangements are: (1) Introduction: the objective conditions, distribution, strength and weakness, (2) Content: contradiction or conflict, character or behavior, efforts to solve problems, and (3) Closing: the end of the story.
- e. Choose a title that matches to the needs and conditions. The chosen title of story is “The Origins of Baduy People” (*Asal Usul Orang Baduy*). Before making the story, firstly search the data and suitability of the story contents with the inheritors of the relevant folklore.
 - f. Arranging discourse in coherent paragraphs.

CONCLUSION

Having the author gave a discussion in the previous section, the author make a conclusion based on the deployment of questionnaires to the teachers relating to the story as teaching materials, teachers understand and agree that it would be more meaningful if the source of teaching materials is from local story or teachers' own

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composition. These teaching materials must be met the criteria, namely: (1) meet the criteria of the curriculum, it is more interesting, contains its own culture, vocabulary enrichment, (2) the content of the story can be good ideal, and establish values and norms adored by society according to age, interests, environment and the needs of the students, (3) has a complete structure and systematically written ranging from the introduction, contents, until closing, and (4) the language used covers spelling, punctuation, and diction should be based on the rules of correct usage and regulations.

In constructing the discourse or story must consider these steps: (1) determining the appropriate theme for the students, (2) themes are made into the subtheme, (3) the subtheme is made into a number of titles, (4) making a framework of discourse, (5) choosing a title that matches the needs and conditions, (6) making the discourse into coherent paragraphs, (7) repairing and editing the discourse, and (8) copying the discourse or story.

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TELEVISION AND WOMEN POLITICIAN
(A Study About Representation, Women Appraisal and the Idea of Women
Representation in Parliament Legislative Election 2009 on Television)

Widodo Muktiyo
Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Sebelas Maret University
muktiyo@yahoo.com

Abstract

Television plays an important role in shaping social cognition including in political domain. Television can construct social reality in line to its own interest that was playing for women politician to get good impression in political contestation for parliament election 2009. Correlation between television as one of mass media and woman politician was an important thing to describe a multifaceted of coordination and joint action to pursue a properly position for woman politician for parliament 2009. For these intentions, this research was done and executed in Gajahan, Pasar Kliwon Surakarta. Media technique and analysis were implemented here to reveal media tendencies for women politician in legislative election 2009. The results showed that television was still rarely describing women politician properly. Television just aired a few for women politician except celebrities that involve the contestation.
Keywords : television, representation, women politician, legislatives election 2009

INTRODUCTION

Television is one of mass media, which play a great role in the legislatives election 2009 within for context in Indonesia. Even Burton (2007: 7) revealed that television is able to form our thought about world. Television constructs our talk in everyday of life. Television is picturing our head. Shortly, television has a powerful to frame the social reality become media reality in accordance with the ultimate goal which was stated. As a kind of mass media, what is presented by television surely consider what is called news value. In journalistic parameter, what we call news can be a range of meaning. We can mention like these: bad news is good news; names make news and so on. The others example like the closeness element, relevance,

negativity, magnitude, proximity and significance of the event that are reported for example, it is going to be the basic consideration of reports for mass media. (McQuail, 1997: 270-271).

As common known, women representation in parliament (DPR RI, DPD, DPRD I, and DPRD II) are an issues which are valued by public as a serious problem. Political participation especially for woman in parliament frequently was perceived under of rate or was still below when it was compared with man. Public discussion about this seems to be held in many forums in society or in mass media such as television. Many aspect could be seen here to explain why this situation have happened around us. One of them is about

gender biases that portrait woman would be co-opted by man.

Another thing, it is caused by the placement 30% women representation candidates in parliament was not succeed yet. Many constraints appear obviously like the social culture in many stages that was not truly support the idea of the importance of women involvement in political world and the low of women interest to be a politician. This tendency seems continue until the general election of legislative 2009. Meanwhile, other problems like how to report an event and what the problem substance, which is revealed in the reporting correlated to the events reported are also the important problems in the reporting. This problem is commonly known as reporting frame that is the construction of media on reality. (Etman, 1993; Scheufele, 1999). Media construction on reality includes reality about women politician. It can be presented in stressing of the aspects of events or problem in reporting and in the packing of talk show and advertisement.

Principally, framing of media including television encompass two factors: selection and salience. How media workers gave selection and salience toward several of events in society. Why a journalist give event attention more than others. These are some reasons why mass media including

television conducted their mode of media like that. At this point, researcher must endeavour to find some reasons why they did not give attention properly for women politician who will compete in legislatives election 2009. In the general election of legislative 2009 period, women politician in Indonesia was presented in mass media but this presentation was less of stressing especially empowering and define woman who will participate in parliament was properly person who will prevail her duty well. Portrait of women politician in mass media was insufficient to support her position to get sympathy from people.

A various of reporting and talk show in television for example often emerges a figure of women politician mainly in champagne period. Nevertheless in fact, either in reporting or television talk show, the figures of men politician is much more presented. It raised questions for how and why. Some prejudices will appear here. For example, did mass media prevail their own duty to cover social events in line to idealism or material orientations. This question is an important to sharpen analytical perspectives. Meanwhile, some of public, including in Surakarta, take a part in this about how the television tendencies in presenting women politician activated in political world by becoming a legislatives

candidate, legislative incumbent, or as a functionaries of a political party.

A part of from many opinion or judgments about this problem and the role of television in promoting the idea of women representation in parliament. It can be understood clearly that many public in Surakarta is included in women participant. Women society in Surakarta as a part of the television audience pay attention on television reporting and talk show program in champagne period in various intensified. According to the context of this research, some important concept in media study especially about representation including stereotypes and annihilation is rarely found or it might be not presented in mass media. (See, Tuchman, 1987; Perkins 1979) in Jone and Jones, 1999)

Branston and Staffors, for example, as quoted by Jones and Jones (1999:104) revealed that representation process involved many aspects were media political problem in constructing reality ideologically. Even, some researches by Richardson, Alvarado, and Meehan show this tendency. According to that, this research gives a description for how the tendencies represented women politician in television and the public opinion (about women presentation in political world, mass media role especially television in supporting or promoting the idea of the

women representation in parliament), and the correlation between demography-socio variable (specially ages and education) with the appreciation of the presentation of women in political world.

However, based on the explanation mentioned above, questions research of it can be postulated as follow as:

- a. How television has been tendencies for shaping women politician who participated in legislative election 2009
- b. How television made a relation among socio demography that belonged by women politician who participate in legislative election 2009

METHOD

This research is descriptive by using media analysis method and survey. The researcher tracked the representation of women politician in television and the public appreciation toward the representation of women in political world, mass media role specially television in supporting the idea of women representation in parliament, and the correlation between socio-demography variable (especially ages and education) with the appraisal about the presentation of women in political world.

The research through media analysis method is conducted by paying attention to a various reporting and television talk show program in Indonesia. Then the researcher records and analyze about the content and how the message is delivered (Pawito 2007). Researcher collected data from any range of television programs that were aired during campaign in legislative election 2009. Survey method is conducted to 80 respondents who are choose incidentally in Surakarta mainly in Kelurahan Gajahan, Kecamatan Pasar Kliwon. This quantity is taken at least to study some population as sample that is at least present the population. These data was used to increase the validity and reliability the result that was obtained from media analysis.

DISCUSSION

According to the media analysis, it can be said that there is a general tendency of women representation in television that show that television reporting is less extensively emerge women politician in Legislative General Election 2009. Time of airing for women politician was not enough for describing properly to whom women politician were. Dimension of images that were needed to support the position for women politician could not be found within television program. This annihilation tendency can be seen such as through the

fact that television reporting correlates with Legislative General Election 2009 is dominated by men politician and rarely emerge the women politician. It is caused by the women politician are less than men politician in any of domains. Comparison among man and woman in political stages was imbalances. According to this fact, it can be said that in the political life context, specially correlated with Legislative General Election 2009 in Indonesia, Tuchman found that there is a gap between the emerge of man politician and the women one, especially in this research context is the emerging in television. Women politician in legislatives election 2009 was still muted. As a group that seek the power in parliament thorough legislatives elections, television was said poor.

However, it does not mean that television never broadcast the reporting of women politician. The women legislatives candidates from celebrities is emerging, even though not too often, in television reporting. This emerging at glance (around 30 seconds) in television especially in champagne period completed with the narration from the host seem to give us imperfection annihilation of the emerging of women politician in television. The emerging of Meutia Farida Hatta Swasono (The Chief Of Partai Keadilan) in the many

television station reporting, Rike Dyah Pitaloka, Nurul Arifin, and Yasmin Muntaz can be revealed as examples. The more important thing which is the exception is the emerging of Megawati and Puan Maharani who is amplified by television.

All names that were mentioned above or television aired them, can't be avoided by the fact that they are all public figures who were popular in the public. Therefore, it is natural when television aired them purposively. Media tends present in media content to whom has popularity in public. Names makes news can be seen by this practical. Of course situation become differently while it happens to women politician who are not public figure yet.

Then the same tendency i.e. the emerging of women politician in TV in many talk show programs more amplified celebrities figure who is well known by public. For example. It can be seen in Global TV edition Friday 27 March 2009 at 08.00 p.m. in the talk show program labeled *Panggung Demokrasi* which present candidate from artist profession which in it there are female DPR RI legislatives candidate, they are Raslina Rasiddin (legislative candidate from Partai Amanat Nasional / PAN) and Oky Asokawati (legislative candidate from Partai Persatuan Pembangunan / PPP). Beside

them, Tengku Firmansyah (man, legislative candidate from Partai Kebangkitan Bangsa / PKB) also arrived in this event.

As an example, talk show television program which is interesting to be next analyzed is talk show program that is broadcasted by TVRI Tuesday 24 March 2009 primetime. It is a live and interactive audience in studio or audience at home can ask a question or comment. The program that is named Pro Party (politics party profile) in this edition analyze a topic about women in political atmosphere. The PPP special music interlude inserted is as program variation and decrease bored. All candidates who come in this program are DPR RI female candidates for PPP from Partai Persatuan Pembangunan (PPP) is Dr. Reni Marlinawati PPP legislative candidate No.1 election area West Java IV, Dr. Nurkholisoh. Wk *sekjen* DPP PPP, and Hj. Ratih Sanggarwati, SE PPP legislative candidate No.1 election area East Java 1.al. Normally, this orientation was intended increase the public attention for women politician.

However it can said that the showing of this program was intended to increase PPP image that gives trust and actor for women even though PPP known as politics party that based on Islam mass. Some efforts like this were executed by party. But at the same time, it was wasting

time when media did not support this for some reasons that increase the popularity for women politician. In the media analysis contexts it can be said that women are represented as politics figure who has full confident. They want to fight to develop their nation and also to fight for similarity right with man in politics stage although still has tendencies such as more amplification politics women from artist profession. These portrait tends insufficient for women politician.

The next finding from survey research result can drawn as follow as:

(1) Appraisal about women involving in politics world, most of respondent (60%) has appraisal that women involving in citizenry representative organization or parliament organization (to be member of DPR RI, DPD, DPRD I and DPRD II) is a requirement if seen from importance the nation development generally. This problem gets majority strengthener (87.5%). Where respondent says that to be a women politics by sit on citizenry representative organization chair is not violate women right.

(2) Television role in amplification the idea about women representative that respondent relatively (with little difference) has opinion that television has been actor significantly in support the idea or promoting idea women representative in

parliament. This problem can be seen with number reality that there are 30 from 80 respondent (37,5%) who has opinion like that compare with 28 people (30%) respondent uncertainly and the more 22 people (27,5%) has appraisal on the contrary television is not significantly support or promote women representative idea in parliament. Then, in the same manner as the media analysis finding, most of respondent in survey research (40%) uncertain that television representation women politics be sufficient.

(3) The variable correlation socio-demographist with appraisal about women involvement in politics world (where seen from age side and education). The young respondent (17-40 years old) disposed has appraisal that women involvement in citizenry representative organization actually is a must if it is seen from importance nation development generally. There are 30 people (from 52 people; 57,7%) who has same opinion. But most of old age respondent (more than 41 years old) also disposed has same appraisal. This problem show up in reality that 18 from 28 people (64,3%) has same appraisal.

The same problem also found if seen about aspiration guarantee of women right, most of respondent has young age 22 from 52 people (42,3%, n=52) disposed has positive opinion about the women

involvement in citizenry representative organization can more guarantee aspiration fulfill and women right. Like wise the same disposing also find in old respondent. There are 16 from 28 people (57,1%) respondent who has old age has same opinion. So it can be said that age variable is not relative correlation with appraisal. Moreover men respondent and women respondent has same disposed that women involvement in citizenry representative organization is a must and important for women right aspiration representative in parliament.

But it will be seen an interesting finding if seen from appraisal correlation with education where most of respondent with low education (9 from 13 people, 69,2%) has appraisal that the women involvement in parliament (citizenry representative organization) is a must if seen from importance the nation development.

Then the same tendency also happen in respondent who has middle education. There are 29 from 47 people (61.7%) respondent who has middle education has same opinion. Next, respondent who has high education (diploma or scholar) divided into two groups appraisal that same its number, they are each of them 10 people (50%, n=20) for respondent who has appraisal not must and must. In spite of decreasing tendency in

appraisal about the guarantees of women right aspiration representative in parliament seen from education correlation. Where the most of respondent who has low education (8 from 13 people, 61.5 %) has appraisal that women involvement in citizenry representative organization can more guarantee fulfill aspiration and women right. Then most of respondent who has middle education (22 from 47 people, 46.8%) disposed has same opinion. Next, in high education respondent there are 8 from 20 people (40%) who has same opinion. Tendency of decreasing percentage from 61.5% then decrease to be 46,8% and finally decrease again to be 40% in appraisal that not definite from low education respondent then move to higher education.

If accurate by decreasing tendency that consistent in percentage from low education to higher connected with appraisal that women involvement in parliament organization is a must, that is from 69.2% then 61.7% and finally to be 50% and also decreasing from appraisal side the guarantee of women right aspiration representative in parliament from 61.5% then 46.8% and finally to be 40% probably can understand that factor or variable of education grade apparently has correlation with appraisal or opinion that women involvement in citizenry

representative organization will be more guarantee its fulfill aspiration and women right. In this relation, visible the tendency that respondent with lower education grade disposed has positive opinion to this appraisal, while respondent who has higher education impressed more critical.

CONCLUSION

Television in presenting representation of women politician is signed by many things that are annihilation (less tendency / rare) women politics in the news (except Megawati Soekarno Putri and Puan Maharani). Next, it can says that representation of women politics in television more see in many talk show program. But women politics representation more dominated by women politics former artist and selebritis like Oky Asokawati (former model and actress, PPP) Ratih Sanggarwati (former model, PPP), Nurul Arifin (former film actress, Golkar) and Rieke Dyah Pitaloka (sinetron actress, PDIP)

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This finding more amplified by research survey result which done where respondent (women chooser) in generally not sure mass media actor specially television in helping supporting the women representative idea (kuota 30%) in parliament. As much as 28 people (35%) respondent saying uncertain and 22 people (27.5%) else saying television not helping supporting the who has appraisal that television has been helping supporting this idea.

While from correlation side of socio-demography's variable, can get conclusion that age variable relative not correlated with appraisal. Where men respondent or women respondent in citizenry representative organization is a must and important for guarantee of women right aspiration representative in parliament. But its result inversely proportional if see education variable where known that higher education will influence high appraisal.

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UNREPORTED FEMINIST ISSUES IN THAILANDS SOUTHERN UNIREST

Sakiroh Yaena Benharoon
Faculty of Communication Sciences
Prince of Songkla University, Pattani Campus, Thailand
inshaki@yahoo.com

Abstract

This study aims to examine unreported issues on feminist in Thailand's southern unrest, and to explore their newsworthiness. In-depth interviews and focus group discussions of groups of academic experts, NGOs staffs, stringers and local news reporters, victims of the ongoing unrest, and youths in the area were conducted over a period of five months, starting from October 2010 to February 2011. This is to provide the data on what characteristics of information and stories relating to feminist that the key informants consider worth reporting during the crisis. The findings reveal that twelve unreported topics on feminists include (1) continuous aids and compensation for female victims, (2) ways to cope with the crisis, (3) government policy and solutions affecting females, (4) transformation of women's roles, (5) female participation in resolving problems and peace-building, (6) women's attitudes towards the southern unrest and possible ways out, (7) women's rights and roles in Islam, (8) women rights and gender equality, (9) women and education, (10) women and motherhood, (11) women's quality life and sexual violence, and (12) other issues relating Muslim women and their way of life, working women, women and social roles, women as career leaders, women as wives behind husbands' success, women as successful mothers, female reproductive issues, and women and the mass media. In addition, what should be dressed in the media include issues on (1) women working for social benefits, (2) women's participation in making a better society, (3) women applying religious knowledge to daily life, (4) women as roles model, (5) women behind family's success, and (6) educated women.

Keywords: *unreported issues; feminist issues; Thailand's southern unrest*

INTRODUCTION

The current unrest situation in Thailand's southernmost provinces has existed since 2004 when the Thai army's Fourth Engineering Battalion in Narathiwat province was attacked on January 4. Violence has continued unabated up to the present time. The ongoing conflict is complicating and threatening the lives of people, especially women in the region. They feel unsafe and concern about their daily life. Many lost their sons, fathers, husbands and other family members. The

violence has left many more women bereft of husbands and breadwinners. Sherly

During 2004-2009, there were 1,762 widows. Examinations of media portrayal on women during the unrest situation reveal that there has rarely been coverage on this particular issue. The news media pay special attention to negative events, such as daily killings, bomb blasts, beheadings, and destruction of state property. This study aims at examining unreported feminist issues of

the conflict and their newsworthiness to be presented in the media.

The media do not simply report events that are naturally newsworthy. In fact, news is the end-product of a complex process, which begins with a systematic sorting and selecting of events and topics, according to a socially constructed set of categories. This involves selecting from the many contending items within any category, those that are felt to be of interest to readers. At the general level, this consists of an orientation to items that are 'out of the ordinary', which in some way breach our 'normal' expectations about social life. News reports tend to play up extraordinary, dramatic, and tragic elements in each story in order to enhance its newsworthiness. A news report works by using words, text, and pictures, still or moving combined in different ways through the practices and techniques to construct social reality for the public.

According to Poole, news is a conservative phenomenon, a construction based on a consensus which sets limits and maintains pressures. The nature of the news itself, the kind of production it generates, together with physical limitations of time and space, and the need to attract audiences, imposes constraints both on what events make the news and on the kind of treatment they receive. As a result, news is a

reproduction of the dominant ideology of leading groups in society.

Galtung and Ruge came up with a pioneering list of interrelated factors that help to identify values in the news. They argued that events are likely to meet the criteria of newsworthiness if they satisfied the conditions of frequency, intensity, unambiguity (clarity), cultural proximity, relevance, consonance, predictability, unpredictability, continuity, composition, elite persons and elite nations, negativity and ethnocentricity. In addition to those attributes, a good piece of news should be accurate, clear, concise, and unbiased.

The theory of news values best explain how journalists and reporters have chosen to report some things over others, it is important for this study. Feminism has been defined as a movement to end sexism, sexist exploitation, and oppression. Practically, it is a definition which implies that all sexist thinking and action is the problem, whether those who perpetuate it are female or male, child or adult. It is also broad enough to include an understanding of systematic institutionalized sexism. It is, thus, open-ended. To understand feminism, according to Hooks, it implies one has to necessarily understand sexism. Most people think that feminism is always and only about women seeking to be equal to

men and anti-male. Furthermore, masses of people continue to believe that women are subordinate to men in the domestic household. Even though masses of women have entered the workforce, even though many families are headed by women who are the sole breadwinners, the vision of domestic life which continues to dominate the nation's imagination is one in which the logic of male domination is intact, whether men are present in the home or not. The wrong minded notion of feminist movement which implies it was anti-male carried with it the wrong minded assumption that all female space would necessarily be an environment where patriarchy and sexist thinking would be absent.

In addition, feminist theory also focuses on analyzing [gender inequality and the promotion](#) of women's rights, interests, and issues, as well as seeking to establish equal opportunities for women in education and employment.

METHOD

This study focused on unreported feminist issues of unrest situation in the Deep South of Thailand, where the majority is Melayu-Muslims. They constitute a small minority within Thailand as a whole. However, they form a near absolute

majority in the southernmost provinces of Pattani, Yala, Narathiwat, and four districts of Songkhla; Tepha, Nathawee, Chana, and Sabayoy. In-depth interviews and focus group discussions were conducted with academic experts, NGOs staffs, stringers and local news reporters, victims of the ongoing unrest, and youths in the area. This is to provide the data on what characteristics of information and stories relating to feminist that the key informants consider worth reporting during the crisis. They were carried out over a period of five months, starting from October 2010 to February 2011.

DISCUSSION

Since early 2004, news reports on the southernmost provinces have been associated with unrest and violence situation. The media have presented the issues in particular and negative ways by using strong words, such as killings, bomb blasts, and destruction of state property. These topics frequently appeared in the mainstream media. Examinations of news reporting on feminist issues in the southern unrest reveal a tendency for journalists and reporters to represent events and issues in a particular way by using words that emphasize the losses or facing the losses during the conflict. The predominant appearances of women in the media were

more often in the passive role rather than the active role, for example, violent victims who have lost beloved ones and/or beneficiaries of government aids. This suggests that the media intentionally pick some stories over others. Qualitative analysis reveals that twelve unreported feminist topics that the media have uncovered, the details are as follow:

Continuous Aids and Compensation for Female Victims

The media laid emphasis on the issues of aids and compensation for female victims at the beginning when they bereft of husbands, sons, fathers, and other family members. During that time, the media focused more on government aids, the government was presented as an agent, which has played a significant and positive role in helping the victims' families. Most female victims appeared in passive role as beneficiaries of the government aids. However, the media did not cover stories about their life after losing breadwinners; how difficult they live and struggle to find jobs, to earn a living in the ongoing conflict. It is apparent that no explanations in details were reported or even appeared in the media.

Ways to Cope With The Crisis

The southern unrest has left many more women lost their breadwinners.

According to the Office of Women's Affairs and Family, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security of Thailand, there are 1,762 widows in the southernmost provinces (June 10, 2009 est.). Of the total 1,762 widows; 612 were from Pattani, 541 were from Yala, 539 were from Narathiwat, and 70 were from Songkhla respectively. All have been widowed as a result of the violence since 2004. Living in the conflict area of southern Thailand is difficult for widows; they have to take responsibility for living expenses of family members. The impact on women's way of life and their reality is little known to the public. The news media do not reflect the reality of women's life but construct and reproduce social reality for the public.

Government Policy and Solutions Affecting Females

The government's policy and solutions affect people in general and women in particular. The media did not devote to this sensitive issue although there was an effect on females. This is another important issue that should be presented. Over the past years, the Thai government has tried to solve the problems in the south by cooperating with people in both governmental and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Many development projects were carried out to improve the

quality life of people. At the same time, many projects have created problems affecting women, for example, setting military base in Muslim community. Most of the soldiers are Buddhists from outside the southernmost provinces. They do not truly understand Muslim culture and way of people's life here. In addition, they did try to be close with women in community. As a result, many rape cases and unmarried sexual problems emerged among Muslim girls in the south. This issue has never appeared in the media.

Transformation Of Women's Roles

The violence affects both men and women. This brings change in gender roles since 2004. In the previous time, the traditional male role was as a breadwinner and the female role was as a housewife whose duty was to raise righteous children. Unrest situation have led problems. It not only created negative events but also affected economic and society as a whole. Many women bereft of breadwinners started to make a living. In some cases, men lost their jobs because they were suspected of being involved in the violence by authorities. Women were forced to find jobs. This led to changes in women's role; they had to work outside, as well as to do the housework.

Female Participation in Resolving Problems and Peace-Building

During the ongoing unrest, women have tried their best to find solutions to stop violence in the area. They have participated in peace-building activities through seminars, trainings, and dialogues. Women play an important role not only as housewives and active mothers but also peace lovers who make a culture of peace possible in the south.

Women's Attitudes Towards The Southern Unrest and Possible Ways Out

This is another issue that should be presented in the media. When examining news coverage on the southern unrest, there rarely was coverage on this issue. Most of airtime and space were devoted to ruling elite and government views to define problems in the south. Women, who live in the conflict area, are voiceless. It clearly showed news to be a reproduction of the dominant ideology of leading groups in society.

Women's Rights and Roles in Islam

As ethnic minority in Thailand, Muslim women and their roles in Islam rarely covered in the media and little known to the public. Public perception of women and Islam is devoutly obedient to parents and husband, and mothers who shape children's life. In reality, however, the holy

Qur'an states that men and women are moral equal in God's sight and are expected to fulfill the same duties of worship; prayer, faith, almsgiving, fasting, and pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia [8]. The media as a powerful source of public information can play a crucial role in presenting what women's rights and Islam is about.

Women Rights and Gender Equality

Apart from the women's rights and roles in Islam, gender equality is another topic that was uncovered in news stories of the conflict in the south. As mentioned earlier, in Islam, both men and women are equal and also the Qur'an states that "men are the protectors and maintainers of women, because Allah has made one of them to excel the other, and because they spend from their means. Therefore, the righteous women are devoutly obedient and guard in the husband's absence what Allah orders them to guard" (Qur'an, 4: 34). Although the Qur'an does say this, the superiority of men is interpreted in terms of strength by the context – men maintain women. This verse, however, refers to a relationship between a husband and a wife, not as a society in a whole. Journalists and reporters should, thus, have a clear understanding and appreciate Islam in the context of the southern region.

Women and Education

Education is a basic human right. It equips people with useful skills for life improvement. At present, women in the conflict area have equal access to education, as compared with men. Education provides a great opportunity for women to be part of social and economic development, as well as finding solutions to stop violence in the area.

Women and Motherhood

Mother is the first teacher in everyone's life. She teaches children how to eat, to walk, to talk and everything to raise righteous children. Furthermore, a mother plays multiple roles in the household as a spouse, a housewife or even a worker. Building a happy and loving family depends very much on mother. In the southern ongoing conflict, a mother is the most significant person to bring peace in family, a small but yet very important unit in society. This maternity role should be portrayed in the media.

Women's Quality Life and Sexual violence

Women's quality life and sexual violence, particularly domestic violence occurs everywhere in the world but little was covered in the media due to its private nature. The domestic violence includes physical, verbal, sexual or emotional abuse.

According to Rosidah Pusu, a reporter and also NGOs' staff in the area said that violence against women is increasing each year. Living in difficult situation, women face both the unrest and family violence. The media should pay attention to domestic violence to stop this in the long run [9]. Ones, who confront this problem, dare not let others know, except family members and/or intimate friends due to problems within family.

Other Issues

These include (1) Muslim women and their way of life, (2) working women, (3) women and social roles, (4) women as career leaders, (5) women as wives behind husbands' success, (6) women as successful mothers, (7) female reproductive issues, and (8) women and the mass media.

In the social context of Thailand, women are dominated by men; they are expected to be neat and polite. It is men's responsibility to protect and maintain women. All issues concerning feminist are considered as sensitive issues. When reporting on violence in the south, reporters and journalists pay attention on daily killings, bomb blasts, beheadings, and destruction of state property because these attract human's interest and affect lots of people in the country. News values of human interest and impact are primary

factors that determine the newsworthiness of a potential story. Feminist issues, by contrast, have little effect to people in general though it is importance but only a small number of audiences who really want to know what has happened to women in the conflict area.

In addition, what should be dressed in the media include issues on (1) women working for social benefits, (2) women's participation in making a better society, (3) women applying religious knowledge to daily life, (4) women as roles model, (5) women behind family's success, and (6) educated women. Regarding the concept of feminist theory, gender is a social construct specifying the socially and culturally prescribed roles that men and women are to follow. However, gender roles and relations change, often quite rapidly, as a result of social, economic and technological trends. Gender roles in Thailand's southernmost provinces have transformed since 2004. The conflict has left many women lost their breadwinners. This forced them to earn wage and raise children alone. Women have to work outside work and do their housework. Moreover, they have also participated in resolving problems as well as in peace-building to make peace happening in their homeland.

CONCLUSION

One of the reasons why feminist issues rarely covered in the media is due to less female reporters in the south, as compared with males. Male reporters have represented repeating attitude that women are weak and responsible for male to protect and maintain them. It is not surprising that women in the southern unrest appeared in limited issues, such as violence victims and beneficiaries of the

government aids. This showed that the reporters intentionally picked some stories over others. In order to overcome this limitation, numbers of local female reporters should be increased, as one of reporters in the area suggested that a new generation of women journalists and reporters should be more and more to be responsible for feminist issues in particular. All issues concerning women, they know well and best reporting.

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THE ROLE OF SOCIAL NETWORKING ON POLITICAL CONSCIOUSNESS OF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN LOWER NORTHEASTERN REGION, THAILAND

Nalinee Thongprasert

Faculty of Business and Management, Ubon Ratchathani Rajabhat University,
Thailand

nthongprasert@hotmail.com

Abstract

This research aims to investigate the behavior of social networking in receiving political information and involving in politics of the university students in lower northeastern region and to examine the relationship of the reflection after receiving information through the social networking and the democratic and power-oriented consciousness of the respondents. The effect of the political consciousness on political involvement and monitoring of politician's work through the social networking are also the focus of the study. The research used a mixed-method of quantitative and qualitative approaches. A focus group was employed in the qualitative data collection from which 21 samples including chairman of the student were selected. The qualitative collected data were analyzed in order to that the results could be used to base the survey questionnaire. The questionnaire was then utilized to collect the quantitative data from 427 sampled students in eight universities. The statistics including frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation, Pearson's product moment correlation, and multiple regressions analysis were employed in data analysis. Receiving political information three to four times a week is found in mean frequency of the respondents. The behavior of the information recipients found not to voice their opinions and not to pass on the received information to other people on Facebook or other social networking is very close in proportion to those sharing their views and passing on the information to friends on the social networking. Only getting interested but not wanting to get involved in politics is the main reason of the samples. The reflection after receiving information results in most respondents saying they are able to understand, analyze, and identify facts of the received messages. And the ability in identifying of facts is related to the respondent's democratic consciousness while the inability in identifying of facts is relevant to the power-orientation. Hypothesis test indicates the democratic consciousness having relationship with the positive effect of political involvement and monitoring of politician's work whereas the power-oriented consciousness is found to be opposite in that the more the consciousness found to be power-oriented the less tendency to get involved in politics and monitoring of politician's work of the respondents exists.

Keywords: social networking, political consciousness, political culture

INTRODUCTION

In a democratic system, a political participation is very crucial to a development of democracy which is the political system with more emphasis on people. In this system people can express their needs and the potentate can serve by implementing them to the political policy.

A political participation has a verity of forms such as vote, campaign, group activities both legal and illegal acts. In a democracy the people must participate in a voluntary not sedition. For a voluntary participation is possible only when people have a democratic sense so they are

interested in monitoring political leaders use their power. The public expression of political participation can be expressed in a variety of channels. The channel known as public spaces that allow both public and the government discuss and exchange the ideas. This channel is influential factors to politicians in setting a state policy at both local and national levels. With the arrival of new technology, traditional public spaces have changed into a new online communication. In this type of space, information spreads fast and widely. Most popular Internet media that support a public space in communication are social web. Based on the statistics available (<http://www.it24grs.com/2012/Thailand-internet-yser-2011>), students make a considerable contribution in exchanging information. It leads to a social phenomenon known as 'online society'.

The objective of the present research was to study the use of social networking by university students of lower northeastern region in accessing information and a political activity. Attention was set on a relation and participation in a political activity in the wake of using the social networking. The research also studied a relation and an impact of political consciousness and a political participation via social networking. The research could be used as

a tool to enhance knowledge and understanding a political system suitable with a democratic system which had a constitutional monarchy.

METHOD

The study used a multi-method approach of a qualitative and quantitative research (Bryman, 1998). A qualitative approach focused on a group discussion as a guide to gain information to raise acquire an in-depth details. In-depth information obtained from a group discussion was used as a questionnaire divided into four parts: general information, use of media to receive and exchange information as well as a response following getting an access to information, questions on political consciousness in terms of political participation, monitoring politicians' performance, opinions and others.

The assumption of the research was that a reaction after information was received or exchanged was associated with a democratic political consciousness and an authoritarian one. The variables used in the research consisted of a response after the information was received and exchanged together with a democratic political consciousness and an authoritarian one. Statistics used in testing a hypothesis was Pearson's product moment correlation. The second hypothesis was that a

democratic and authoritarian political consciousness was related to and had an effect upon a political participation and follow-up of politicians' performance via social networking. Statistics used in a hypothesis test was a multiple regression analysis.

Research instrument was constructed and tested by compiling documents and relevant researches to a group discussion and a conceptual framework. Questions were made for a group discussion and tested for content validity. Information acquired from a group discussion was synthesized to be questions in a questionnaire and tested for reliability. Cronbach coefficient was equivalent to 0.89. The questionnaire derived was used to gather information from the 480 third and fourth year students who were members of social networking, 60 students were chosen from each university. The total of the questionnaire that was returned was 427 accounting for 89%. The research findings were as follows:

DISCUSSION

The majority of the samples were females representing 68.6% and males accounted for 31.4%. The subjects were aged between 18-25 years of age, accounting for 99.1. The correspondents were studying in the Faculty of Business

Administration (46.8%); Humanities (30.2%) and other faculties (8.9%). The majority of them had a monthly spending of more than 157.28 US\$ (26.9%); 23.7% of them had a monthly spending of 94.40 – 125.82US\$; 21.8% had a monthly spending of 125.85-157.28 US\$; 14.1% had a monthly spending of 62.94 - 94.37US\$ and 10.3% had a monthly spending of 31.45-62.91US\$.

The average of accessing political information from social networking of the groups under study was 3-4 times a week. Considering a behavior following getting an information, there was an equal proportion of those who did not express their opinions and those who did. The reason in explaining for not participating in a political activity was the subjects were just interested but did not want to participate in the activity. As regards the reaction or response following getting the information, the samples were mainly able to analyze and distinguish between facts of the information.

Result of Inferential Data Analysis to Test a Hypothesis

The first hypothesis

Knowledge and ability of university students of lower northeastern region to analyze and distinguish information derived from social networking were

related to a democratic and authoritarian political consciousness. The analysis result was shown in table.

Table 1. Analysis of Correlation Coefficient Values

Response to derived media	Political Consciousness	
	Democratic	Authoritarian
Understanding the media	-0.039	0.053
Not understanding the media	0.100	-0.093
Able to analyze	-0.048	0.005
Not able to analyze	0.014	-0.280*
Able to distinguish facts.	0.135*	0.054
Not able to distinguish facts.	0.011	-0.039
Able to analyze and distinguish but require time	0.054	-0.012

*Statistically significant at .05

From table 1, an analysis of correlation coefficient values between a response of the university students in lower northeastern region following getting the information via social networking and political consciousness found that the groups that could distinguish facts of information they were exposed to were related to a democratic political consciousness at a statistical significance of .05 ($r^2=0.135$, $p=.022$); the group that could not analyze the information obtained was related to an authoritarian political

consciousness at a statistical significance of .05 ($r^2=-0.280$, $p=-.017$).

The second hypothesis

A democratic and authoritarian political consciousness was related to and had an effect upon a political participation and follow-up of politicians' performance via social networking. To find out whether or not the variables were connected, the researcher synthesized a correlation of a democratic political consciousness and an authoritarian political consciousness; the researcher found that independent variables had a variance inflation factor (VIF)

equivalent to 1.00, which was less than 10. It indicated that independent variables had a relation without causing multicollinearity. The researcher had analyzed a multiple regression analysis by giving more

attention to politics news and monitored a political activity via social networking and by using a political consciousness as a predictor as seen in table 2.

Table 2. A multiple regression analysis by using a political participation and follow-up of a political activity through social networking as a criterion

Political consciousness	Students' role in political participation	S		
		Beta	t	p-value
Constancy	-0.313	0.165	-1.895	0.059
Democratic	0.810	0.065	18.819	0.000
Authoritarian	-0.108	0.051	-	0.012

F= 261.696 Adjusted R² =0.550

**statistically significant at .01,

* statistically significant at .05

From table 2, it was found that a democratic political consciousness of students in study was related to and had a positive effect on a political participation and on monitoring a political activity with a statistical significance of .01. An authoritarian political consciousness was related to and had a negative effect upon a political participation and follow-up of a political activity via social networking with a statistical significance of .05.

DISCUSSION

Based on a relation between a response of students under study to information in social networking and a democratic and authoritarian political consciousness, it was found that university students able to distinguish facts of information they received was related to a democratic political consciousness. They played a part in the process of idea exchanging and decision making. The

finding was consistent with a study conducted by Sombat Tamrongtanyawong (2523) and Josh Pasek and others (2006) who found that the Internet had potential to present data and information. It led to a popular political participation. The group unable to analyze the information developed an authoritarian political consciousness as the group viewed that political affairs did not concern them. Students in the group could not analyze information because they did not express an opinion or get involved in political participation.

An analysis of relations and an effect upon political consciousness in participating in political affairs found that the students who had a consciousness in democratic political affairs were more likely to pay attention to and participate in the political activity, and monitor politicians' activity. The explanation was that the subjects had a participatory political culture and appreciate a participation in political activities. Their aim was to control those authorized to exercise power in a right way. The researches that were conducted by Maleenee Somphocharoen (2547), Pandaree Chorum (2549), Hallvard (2008), Josh Pasek and others (2006) found that online social communication had an impact

on a participatory political consciousness or democratic culture.

CONCLUSION

The students who had an authoritarian political consciousness were in contrast with those who had a democratic consciousness. In other words, the more authoritarian political consciousness there was, the less a political activity was. The finding was in line with the study undertaken by Almond and Verba (1965) who explained that there was political culture in which people had a political consciousness and declined to take part in political activity. The populace in that culture was willing to acquiesce, obey and follow the law. The receivers of a message of this type were like the aid receivers who were supposed to revere and fear their patrons. It is a society that reflects an inequality between students and politicians. That was the key obstacle to expression and participation in political activities of students (Thongprasert, 2009). A growing concern was that the more students had an authoritarian political consciousness, the less their political activity was likely.

The following were the activities to be enhanced by the university. A forum was to be held to keep students informed of the rights, duties in a democratic system by using a social networking as a medium.

Instructors were advised to teach, and motivate students to take part in political activities and exchange a political opinion.

Students were to be encouraged to analyze the media especially online media to be cleverly selective of the information made available in the media.

Students were to be encouraged to be the informed groups able to analyze and correctly understand political information. They were to be advised to persuade their friends to take part in a democratic network, which can be another alternative to make best use of social networking to benefit individuals and society as a whole.

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