

TUN DR. MAHATHIR'S POLITICAL SPEECH: A CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

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This research aims to analyze the construction of power, dominance, and ideology of the Previous Prime Minister of Malaysia, Tun Dr. Mahathir's political speech, from Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) point of view.

The corpus consists of one political speech on internal and international issues that brought up by Tun Dr. Mahathir at the 54th UMNO General Assembly on 19 June, 2003. The speech was also the last speech conducted by Tun Dr. Mahathir during UMNO General Assembly which was held annually. Internal affairs mostly concerned on the issue of UMNO party and the impact of oppositional party for modifying the interpretation of Islamic beliefs among Malay Muslims in Malaysia. Meanwhile, the international affairs focused on the deeds of Western Countries and the threats that Malaysia and other countries should aware of.

This study used the three-dimensional CDA framework by Fairclough (1995) as its theoretical basis. This study reveals the construction of power and dominance in Tun Dr. Mahathir's political speech and the contribution of ideology in his construction of power and dominance. The speaker showed power and dominance within his choice of language and the type of discourse chosen also steered to create solidarity with his audience, in which such approach may ease the transmission of his ideology in terms of acceptance. There are some nature of political discourses found in his speech, the use of rhetorical question, persuasive argumentation, use of various pronoun and cohesive markers, additional intensifiers, modality, replacement of nominalization and passive forms in sentence structure.