

**STRATEGIC WAR RHETORIC: A CRITICAL
DISCOURSE ANALYSIS OF NETANYAHU'S EFFORTS
TO CONSOLIDATE THE ISRAEL-U.S. ALLIANCE
THROUGH THE CONGRESS
THESIS**



**UIN SUNAN AMPEL
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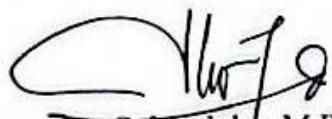
STRATEGIC WAR RHETORIC: A CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS OF
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ALLIANCE THROUGH THE CONGRESS

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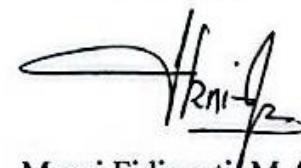
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ABSTRACT

Azzahra, H. A. (2025). *Strategic War Rhetoric: A Critical Discourse Analysis of Netanyahu's Efforts to Consolidate the Israel-U.S. Alliance through the Congress*. English Literature Department, Faculty of Adab and Humanities, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Advisors: (I) Suhandoko, M.Pd., (II) Murni Fidiyanti, M.A.

This study aims to analyze the political discourse strategies used by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in his 2024 speech before the United States Congress. The speech was given during rising military tensions between Israel and Hamas, coupled with growing international criticism of Israel's actions in Gaza. The primary objective of this research is to uncover how Netanyahu constructs political legitimacy, secures support from the United States, and reproduces ideological dominance through political discourse.

The research data consists of words, phrases, and sentences from the transcript of Benjamin Netanyahu's speech, obtained from the official website of the Israeli government. This study employs a Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) approach based on Norman Fairclough's three-dimensional model, which includes textual analysis, discursive practice, and social practice. The research uses a qualitative method focusing on linguistic features, rhetorical strategies, and ideological positioning embedded in the discourse.

Textual analysis reveals that Netanyahu's speech is grounded in a strong ideological framing through three main layers. Initially, a moral dichotomy was established, portraying Israel as a civilized and morally upright entity, while its opposition was depicted as an illegitimate, extremist threat. Second, relational and solidarity strategies are enacted through the use of warm addresses, "we/you" pronouns, rhetorical questions, persuasive modality, and euphemisms that normalize violence. Third, on the expressive level, Netanyahu positions himself as a protective and morally heroic leader, the U.S. audience as ethical allies, and opponents as negatively stigmatized actors.

At the level of discursive practice, Netanyahu exploits fragmentation within Congress and public opinion to bolster support from traditional pro-Israel group while suppressing criticism from progressive groups and pro-Palestinian communities. On the social level, the speech functions to preserve power relations and affirm Israel's position within the framework of Western ideology, which prioritizes democracy, freedom, and anti-terrorism. This discourse contributes to the normalization of hegemonic narratives and deepens global political polarization.

The findings of this study indicate that Netanyahu's speech constructs political legitimacy and ideological dominance by employing moral narratives and Western values to secure support and maintain power relations within the dynamics of global politics.

Keywords: Critical Discourse Analysis, Benjamin Netanyahu, U.S. Congress, Political Speech, Political Discourse

ABSTRAK

Azzahra, H. A. 2025. *Retorika Perang Strategis: Analisis Wacana Kritis atas Upaya Netanyahu untuk Menguatkan Aliansi Israel-AS melalui Pidato di Kongress*. Program Studi Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Adab dan Humaniora, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Pembimbing: (I) Suhandoko, M.Pd., (II) Murni Fidiyanti, M.A.

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis strategi wacana politik yang digunakan oleh Perdana Menteri Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, dalam pidatonya di hadapan Kongres Amerika Serikat pada tahun 2024. Pidato tersebut disampaikan di tengah meningkatnya konflik militer antara Israel dan Hamas serta tekanan internasional terhadap tindakan Israel di Gaza. Tujuan utama penelitian ini adalah untuk mengungkap bagaimana Netanyahu membangun legitimasi politik, mengamankan dukungan dari Amerika Serikat, dan mereproduksi dominasi ideologis melalui konstruksi wacana politik.

Data penelitian berupa kata, frasa, dan kalimat dalam transkrip pidato Benjamin Netanyahu, yang diperoleh dari sumber website resmi pemerintah Israel. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan Analisis Wacana Kritis (Critical Discourse Analysis) dengan mengacu pada model tiga dimensi dari Norman Fairclough, yang mencakup analisis teks, praktik diskursif, dan praktik sosial. Metode penelitian bersifat kualitatif dengan fokus pada unsur linguistik, strategi retoris, dan posisi ideologis yang dibentuk dalam wacana.

Hasil analisis tekstual menunjukkan bahwa pidato Netanyahu dibangun di atas bingkai ideologis yang kuat melalui tiga lapisan utama. Pertama, framing moral dikotomis menampilkan Israel sebagai entitas yang beradab dan bermoral, sementara oposisi digambarkan sebagai ancaman ekstrem yang tidak sah. Kedua, strategi relasional dan solidaritas dilakukan dengan penggunaan sapaan hangat, pronomina “we/you”, pertanyaan retoris, modalitas persuasif, serta eufemisme yang menormalkan kekerasan. Ketiga, dalam lapisan ekspresif, Netanyahu memposisikan dirinya sebagai pemimpin pelindung dan pahlawan moral, sementara audiens AS diposisikan sebagai sekutu etis, dan lawan digambarkan dengan stigmatisasi negatif.

Di tingkat praktik diskursif, Netanyahu memanfaatkan fragmentasi di Kongres dan opini publik untuk memperkuat dukungan dari kelompok pro-Israel, terutama Partai Republik, sambil menekan kritik dari kelompok progresif dan masyarakat pro-Palestina. Sementara itu, di tingkat sosial, pidato ini berfungsi untuk mempertahankan relasi kekuasaan dan meneguhkan posisi Israel dalam kerangka ideologi Barat, yang mengedepankan demokrasi, kebebasan, dan anti-terorisme. Wacana ini berkontribusi pada normalisasi narasi hegemonik dan memperdalam polarisasi politik global.

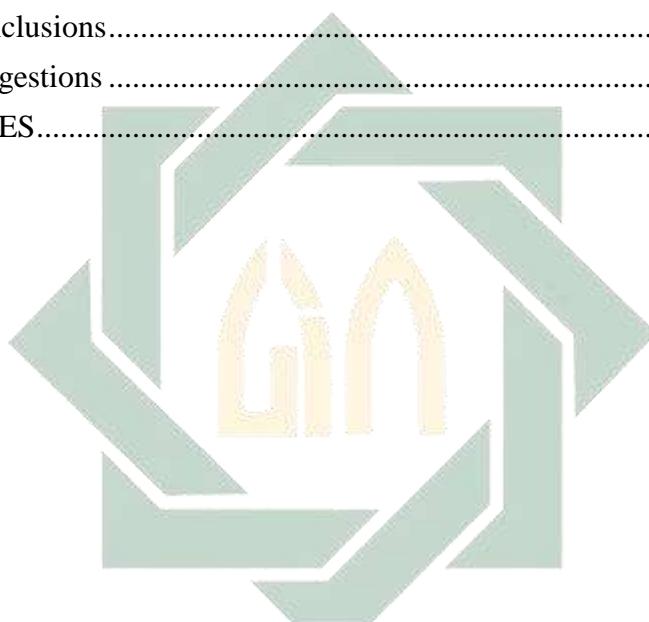
Hasil studi ini menunjukkan bahwa pidato Netanyahu membangun legitimasi politik dan dominasi ideologis dengan memanfaatkan narasi moral serta nilai-nilai Barat untuk mengamankan dukungan dan mempertahankan relasi kekuasaan dalam dinamika politik global.

Kata Kunci: Analisa Wacana Kritis, Benjamin Netanyahu, U.S. Congress, Pidato Politik, Wacana Politik.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INSIDE COVER	i
APPROVAL SHEET	ii
EXAMINER SHEET	iii
DECLARATION	iv
ACKNOWLEDGMENT	v
ABSTRACT	vii
ABSTRAK	viii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	ix
LIST OF TABLES	xi
CHAPTER I	1
INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background of the Study	1
1.2 Problems of the Study	7
1.3 Objectives of the Study	7
1.4 Significances of the Study	8
1.5 Scope and Delimitations	8
1.6 Definition of Key Terms	9
CHAPTER II	10
REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE	10
2.1 Critical Discourse Analysis.....	10
2.2 Fairclough's Model of Critical Discourse Analysis.....	11
2.2.1 Textual Analysis	12
2.2.2 Discursive Practice.....	15
2.2.3 Sociocultural	20
2.3 Political Discourse	22
2.4 Political Speech.....	23
2.5 Netanyahu' Speech to the U.S. Congress	24
CHAPTER III	26
RESEARCH METHOD.....	26
3.1 Research Design.....	26
3.2 Data Collection	27
3.2.1 Research Data	27
3.2.2 Data Source.....	27
3.3 Data Analysis Technique	29

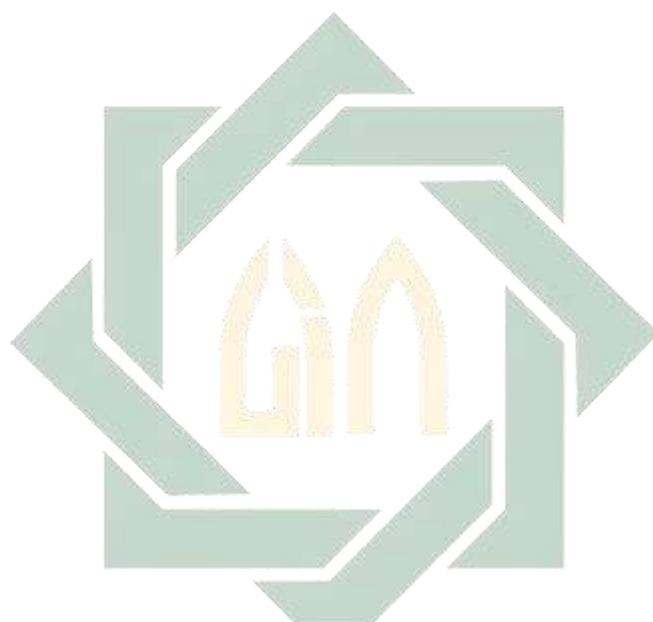
CHAPTER IV	31
FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION	31
4.1 Findings.....	31
4.1.1 Ideological Framing in Netanyahu Speech	31
4.1.2 Discursive Practice (Production, Circulation, and Interpretation).....	86
4.1.3 Sociocultural Practice and Power Structures	95
4.2 Discussion	98
CHAPTER V.....	107
CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS	107
5.1 Conclusions.....	107
5.2 Suggestions	109
REFERENCES.....	111



UIN SUNAN AMPEL
S U R A B A Y A

LIST OF TABLES

Table 2.1 Vocabulary as Textual Analysis Indicators.....	13
Table 2.2 Grammar as Textual Analysis Indicators	14



UIN SUNAN AMPEL
S U R A B A Y A

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