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"CONTEMPORARY ISSUES ON SOCIAL AND CULTURE"

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Opening Remark

Assalamu’alaikum Wbt

Let's thanks to Allah SWT for His Blessing so that we can meet in Trunojoyo International Conference on Social and Humanities entitled: Contemporary Issues on Social and Culture today.

One of main strategy to enhance the education quality is through national and international seminar. This International Seminar is the effort from the faculty management to upgrade lecturers' academic competence. Through the International Seminar is expected the lecturers could develop their cXompetence and creativity in delivering their scientific idea related with actual issues.

The Implication of International seminar is not only to enhance lecturer's quality but also to increase institutional capacity of each departments in Faculty of Social and Culture Studies and automatically for University of Trunojoyo Madura.

Besides this International Seminar institutionally could lift up University of Trunojoyo’s rank in international education constellation, especially in Asian region, thus University of Trunojoyo is recognized internationally.

Privatelly and Institutionally I deliver my gratitude for Prof. Mark R. Woods, Ph.D, Dr. Moh. Nazri Latiff Azmi, Kongkrit Traiyawong, MA, Jennifer Kim, MA and Bangun Sentosa DH, Ph.D for your present, without your cooperation, it is impossible this seminar can be held.

Finally, I convey my appreciation for all of committee that hve been worked to facilitate and prepare all of things, and for all of presenters and participants congratulation, i hope this seminar can give us enlightenment

Wassalamualaikum wbt

Bangkalan, 20th November, 2013-11-12

Dean

Dr. M. Amir Hamzah, S.H., M.H
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THE STYLE OF POLITICAL COMMUNICATION OF TWO INCUMBENT PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES IN COMPARISON

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Abstract

This research is an attempt to explore the characteristics of the styles of political communication as displayed in the speeches of two incumbent presidential candidates, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Barack Obama. The research seeks to investigate whether the speeches of the two incumbent have things in common or not in the ways both the incumbent communicate the messages to their direct and target audience. Evidently both the incumbent set the tone of the political year in their official speeches. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono in his last state speech claimed the success of his first-term Administration and thereby set the tone for his bid for the second term. Meanwhile Obama through his State-of-the-Union address highlighted the message of the accomplished unity of Americans that enabled his first-term Administration to work for the common good of the people. If Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono through his declaration of candidacy made a bid for the second term to continue and further strengthen the previous claimed success, Obama framed his bid for a second term with a blueprint for American economy built to last.

Keywords: Incumbent presidential speeches, style of campaign speeches, SBY and Obama

1. Introduction

Political speeches are important for politicians as they have to communicate their platforms, persuading and convincing people to agree with them when they aspire for some political position or wish to have the people’s political support (Charteris-Black, 2005: 14; Cf. Beard, 2000, 35,36). Not the least important among political speeches are campaign speeches for presidential re-election. Obviously such a candidate for an incumbent presidential position has had a track record of his first terms of office as an entry point coupled with his convincing lines of thought for the proposed second terms of office. Still deeply rooted to the campaign, this paper is to focus on the styles of political communication of two incumbent presidential candidates, the first case is Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of Indonesia for his bid for re-election in 2009; the second case is Barack Obama of the USA for his bid for re-election in 2012. Presidential election in Indonesia by direct votes began to be conducted in 2004 (Pelita, 2013), whereas the USA has had a long tradition (cf. Hardy, 1990). The different traditions between these two countries inevitably has had different influence on the styles of political communication of the two incumbent presidential candidates. The term of style in this paper is taken to mean as “a distinct way of using language for some purpose and to some effect” (Verdonk, 2002: 5-6). The study of the style of the two incumbent

2. Theories and methods

The data for this paper were linguistic units in the forms of words, phrases, and clauses or sentences that were organized in terms of Beebe & Beebe’s analytical construct of “the central idea of a speech” as “a one-sentence summary of the speech content” (2009: 30-32). Furthermore the central idea is elaborated in terms of Beebe & Beebe’s analytical construct of “the main ideas of speeches” as “further subdivision of the central ideas into key points of the speech” (2009: 30-32). This paper is to examine how these constructs were used to organize the meaning resources in order to get across the important political lines of thought of both incumbent president candidates in their three initial speeches. Therefore the sources of the data were Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono’s prepared text of his state address (Susilo, 2008), declaration for re-election (Susilo, 2009a), and Jakarta Fair political speech (2009b), hereafter referred to successively as SBY 1, SBY 2, and SBY 3; Barack Obama’s prepared texts of Osawatomie Economic Speech (Obama, 2011), his State-of-Union address of 2012 (Obama, 2012a), and Virginia Beach Campaign Speech (Obama, 2012b), hereafter referred to successively as BO 1, BO 2, and BO 3. The approach used in this paper was qualitative method of inquiry (Creswell, 2003, pp. 208-213; Dörnyei, 2007, pp. 163-164, 268) as it deals mostly with the non-numerical data of the rhetorical means under study to be interpreted within a qualitative context (Dörnyei, 2007, p. 271).

3. Finding and discussion

A close scrutiny of both the central ideas and the main ideas of the speeches under study reveals the basic organization of meaning that: (1) unlike SBY 1 that underlay the claimed success of his 2004-2009 Administration for the continued progress of Indonesia, BO 1 focused more on rebuilding the American middle class economy; (2) unlike SBY 2 that placed his claimed success for his bid for re-election, BO 2 framed his bid for re-election for the unified pursuit of American economy to last; (3) Unlike SBY 3 that underscored the goal for the establishment of a clean government and the attainment of the people’s welfare, BO 3 underscored the attempts to undertake the proposed programs to relieve the American promise.
### Table 1: Central ideas of the two candidates’ speeches

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>SBY’s Speeches</th>
<th>Obama’s Speeches</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Indonesia was growing stronger by the claimed success of SBY’s 2004-2009 Administration, and thereby the Indonesian people had to work out for the continued progress of Indonesia</td>
<td>America had to reclaim the American Promises by restoring the middle class economy supported by market economy system and fair tax code.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>To forward the claimed success of his 2004-2009 Administration, SBY declared his bid for second term of presidency office of 2009-2014</td>
<td>The unity of all Americans in order to achieve their common goals toward the establishment of American economy to last.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Appeal for supporting SBY-Boediono as 2009-2014 president and vice president in order to enable Indonesia to establish a clean government and improve the peoples’ welfare.</td>
<td>Appeals for reliving the American Promises by realizing programs congruent to the vision that everybody gets a fair shot, does their fair share, and plays by the same set of rules.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 2: Most dominant main ideas of SBY 1 and BO 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>SBY 1</th>
<th>BO 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>The success of SBY’s development strategy: growth with equity.</td>
<td>Grass-root optimism of the nation and reclaiming the American values to overcome the national financial crisis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>The success of all the government programs.</td>
<td>Reforming tax codes for rebuilding stronger middle class economy and continued fight against inequality.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>The success of the three agenda: realization of secured and peacefull Indonesia, just and democratic Indonesia, and increased welfare of the Indonesian people.</td>
<td>Restoring middle-class security: everybody’s fair play, fair shot, and fair share.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>The increase of the National Revenues and Budget and more reliance on the internal sources for the national budget.</td>
<td>Restoring American middle class.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 3: Most dominant main ideas of SBY 2 and BO 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SBY 2</th>
<th>BO 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Resolute determination to further the success of the Indonesian</td>
<td>1 Unity for the common good of all Americans.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>development.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Securing God’s wishes and People’s mandate for SBY-Boediono’s 2009-</td>
<td>2 Restoring the strength of American manufacturing, and boosting as well</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014 Administration.</td>
<td>protecting the American trade and business.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Continued furtherence of the success of SBY’s 2004-2009 Administration.</td>
<td>3 Restoring stronger American economy: securing job markets and opportunities; Reformations of education, immigration, business regulations, tax and government regulations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Appeal to vote for SBY-Boediono’s victory</td>
<td>4 Continued commitment for world peace.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4: Most dominant main ideas of SBY 3 and BO 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SBY 3</th>
<th>BO 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 President had done his best for the accomplishment of his promises during his 2004-2009 Administration</td>
<td>1 Reclaiming the American Promises</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Proposed five agenda and 2009-2014 five national short-term plan.</td>
<td>2 Appeal for the need of Obama’s re-election</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Economic development for the people’s welfare</td>
<td>3 Democratic economy vis-à-vis Republican economy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Development program for the people</td>
<td>4 Democratic approach on tax</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 SBY-Boediono Administration of 2009-2014 was to realize a clean and effective administration for the sake of the people</td>
<td>5 Securing further rebuilding of the nation with the right vote for Obama</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Based on Tables 1-4, SBY's style of political communication for re-election can be summed up as follows:

Contemporary Issues On Social and Culture
Table 5: SBY’s style

Claimed success of SBY’s 2004-2009 Administration → forward the progress
Claimed success of SBY’s 2004-2009 Administration → SBY’s bid for re-election
To establish a clean government and improve the peoples’ welfare → vote for SBY-Boediono

Based on Tables 1-4, Barack Obama’s style of political communication for re-election can be summed up as follows:

Table 6: Obama’s style

Reclaiming American Promises → rebuilding middle class economy
Unity of all Americans → establishment of American economy to last
Reliving the American Promises → programs congruent to everybody’s fair shot, fair share, and play by the same set of rules

4. Conclusion

Based on a close scrutiny of both SBY’s and Obama’s organization out of the meaning resources at their disposals in terms of the central ideas and the main ideas of their political speeches under study, some insight into their respective style of political communication can be gathered that:

(1) As text-makers, both incumbent presidential candidates did their best to provide strong arguments for their bid for re-election.
(2) SBY’s bid for re-election was heavily backed up by the claimed success of his first term of office.
(3) More than what SBY did, Obama’s bid for re-election was broadly backed up by the cultural and economic frame to reclaim the American Promises and restore the middle class economy.

Reference


Certificate

This is to certify that

Dr. Samuel Gunawan, MA.

has participated in the

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as a

Presenter

at

University of Trunojoyo Madura
20-21th November 2013

Dean.

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Surabaya, 20 Mei 2019

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