

# A Discourse Analysis: A Video of Five Years Old Girl in Criticizing UK Prime Minister about Homeless People

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**Abstract:** *This paper aims to discuss and analyze a video of five-years-old girl in criticizing UK Prime Minister about homeless people. It will use a critical discourse analysis (CDA) approach to analyze the content of the speech in the video. Since the issue of homeless people in UK rose up, this five-years-old girl made a video which criticizing UK Prime Minister's work in taking care of homeless people. The intentions or purposes of this discourse are (1) to inform and reassure UK citizens and government that their country still has a lot of homeless people, (2) to criticize Prime Minister and government's work, and (3) to ensure the homeless people in UK will get a proper treatment from the government. In summary, the video which gone viral by five-years-old girl prove the power of spoken discourse. It shows that a five-years-old girl could stand up and speak to help homeless people in her country.*

**Keywords:** *discourse, critical discourse analysis (CDA), homeless people*

## 1. Introduction

As a human being, we need to communicate. Communication is used in giving and achieving messages (spoken or written) across with others to know and understand the needs. Therefore, people use language as a tool for communication. Some scholars defined language as a discourse. Scollon & Scollon (2001) as cited in Hassen (2015) explained that "a discourse is a language or system of representation that has developed socially in order to make and circulate a coherent set of meanings about an important topic area. It refers to socially shared habits of thought, perception, and behavior reflected in numerous texts belonging to different genres". Furthermore, Hassen (2015) summarized that discourse can be defined in three ways (1) language beyond the level of a sentence, (2) language behaviors linked to social practices, and (3) language as a system of thought.

Moreover, a discourse could be interpreted differently according to the purpose and context in society. In order to avoid misinterpretation, there are some approaches that can be used in analyzing a discourse; one of them is CDA (Critical Discourse Analysis). Fairclough (2012) defined that "Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) could bring the critical tradition of social analysis into language studies and contributes to critical social analysis a particular focus on discourse and on relations between discourse and other social elements (power relations, ideologies, institutions, social identities, and so forth)". In addition, Van Dijk (2001) as cited in Hassen (2015) defined Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) as:

"Critical discourse analysis (CDA) is a type of discourse analytical research that primarily studies the way social power abuse, dominance, and inequality are enacted, reproduced, and resisted by text and talk in the social and political context with such dissident research, critical discourse analysis take explicit position, and thus want to understand, expose, and ultimately resist social inequality".

Furthermore, Fairclough (1992) explained three stages in analyzing a discourse. In the first stage of CDA analysis is the personal experience and knowledge of the speaker by keeping in view his beliefs. Secondly, how social relations affect the discourse and thirdly, speaker realizes about the reality and identity. Those stages were not far from Young (2006) stages. Young's (2006) stages in CDA consist of (1) the object who involved in the discourse, (2) the attitudes, beliefs and opinions, and (3) the cause and effect on the discourse to the society. This

paper aims to discuss and analyze a video of five-years-old girl in criticizing UK Prime Minister about homeless people. It will use a critical discourse analysis (CDA) approach to analyze the content of the speech in the video. Furthermore, it will explain the impact of the video which had gone viral to the society.

Since the issue of homeless people in UK rose up, this five-years-old girl made a video which criticized UK Prime Minister's work, in taking care of homeless people. The video had less than one minute duration, it had been gone viral on Oct, 4<sup>th</sup> 2016 in social media and watched by billions of people across the world, and it was recorded by her mother. It caught up people attention and some people were amazed by that. Also, when she declared her speech, she is still five years old. Moreover, the purpose of this video was not only to help homeless people but also to criticize the government's work in UK.

Based on the Annual Review (2016): Support for single homeless people in England, the range of homelessness are being categories in different ways. These are the categorization:

TABLE 1: Homelessness Categorization

<b>Statutory homeless</b>	Households deemed to be homeless, eligible for support from their local council and in priority need.
<b>Single homeless</b>	Those who are homeless but do not meet the priority need criteria to be housed by their local authority under homelessness legislation. They may live in supported accommodation, e.g. hostels and semi-independent housing projects, sleep rough, sofa surf or live in squats. They may also be referred to as non-statutory homeless.
<b>Vulnerably housed</b>	People without accommodation and people in temporary, insecure or poor quality accommodation which including overcrowding or those who are threatened with homelessness.
<b>Street homeless</b>	People sleeping rough.
<b>Hidden homeless</b>	People not recorded in official statistics, who tend to reside in squats, on the floors or sofas of friends and families, or sleep rough in concealed locations.

Wilson & Barton (2017) defined the structural factors which contributing to homelessness includes:

- A lack of affordable housing supply in England which is more acute in some areas than others.
- The social housing sector has declined as a proportion of all housing in recent years.
- The affordability of home ownership has been impacted by tighter mortgage regulation and the requirement for higher deposits from first-time buyers. Even in areas where house prices are relatively affordable, mortgage regulation can act as a barrier to access.
- Personal factors that trigger homelessness include relationship breakdown, mental illness and addiction issues, discharge from prison and leaving the care system.

Therefore, this young girl concerned making that video to criticizing government's work especially the UK Prime Minister. In order to achieve her goals in helping homeless people in UK, she gives a short speech which can persuade people in power to help the homeless people. The video was being shared through one of online channel in the internet.

## 2. Discussion

In this discussion, the analysis will use Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) approach by Young (2006). To begin with, the script of the video by a five-years-old girl will be described as follow:

TABLE II: The Video Transcript

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- Look. My name is Brooke Blair and I'm five years old.
  - I've got something to say to you, Theresa May.
  - Yesterday night I was out on the streets and I saw hundreds and millions of homeless people.
  - I saw one with floppy ears, I saw loads.
  - You should be out there, Theresa May.
  - You should be [giving] biscuits, hot chocolate, sandwiches, and building houses.
  - Look, I'm only five years old, there's nothing I can do about it.
  - I'm saving up money and there'll never be enough.
  - You've got the pot of money, spend some and help people.
  - That's what you've got to do, because we've had lots of wars in this country and I do not like that, Theresa May.
  - I'm very angry.
- 

## 2.1. Who is doing what to whom

The discourse above is aimed for the UK Prime Minister and the government, UK Citizens, and homeless people in UK. However, as a speaker, Blair also involved herself in the discourse through the word *I*. In addition, she also mentioned the word *you* referring to UK Prime Minister, Theresa May and the government; the word *people* referring to homeless people in UK; and the word *we* referring to UK citizens including herself. Those specific words that mentioned by her has meaningful purpose on her speech. It was addressed for some people such as UK Prime Minister, the government, UK citizens and homeless people in UK.

The intentions or purposes of this discourse are (1) to inform and reassure UK citizens and government that their country still has a lot of homeless people, (2) to critics Prime Minister and government's work, and (3) to ensure the homeless people in UK will get a proper treatment from the government. Those purposes are the explicit message which she shared through her speech. However, it can be taken from some utterance that she used.

*"Yesterday night I was out on the streets and I saw hundreds and millions of homeless people."*

This utterance is used to inform and reassure UK citizens and government that their country still has a lot of homeless people that should be looked after. Although she still five years old, she could understand the condition of other people around her. However, she still not yet understands what makes homeless people begin to increase day by day in her country.

*"You should be out there, Theresa May."*

Then, this utterance is used to criticize the government's work. Theresa May, as mentioned by Blair, is the new Prime Minister 2016 in UK. She wanted to ensure UK's governments are working hard to decrease and prevent the number of homeless people in UK.

*"You've got the pot of money, spend some and help people."*

At last, this utterance is used to express another purpose of the speech which is to ensure the homeless people in UK will get a proper treatment from the government. The word *you* is referring to the government. She used this utterance to suggest what the government should do to the homeless people in UK. They need to look after them and make sure that they will get a proper treatment whether it will be about food, education, work or home to stay.

Those utterances mentioned before were the further explanation to the purpose of Blair's video. She used some utterances which could express the purpose of the video. Those utterances also clear enough to tell the listener about the condition of the homeless people, critics to the government, even suggestion for them.

## 2.2. Attitudes, beliefs and opinions

In this part of discussion, it discusses the attitudes, beliefs, and opinions from the speaker. Through Blair's video, it can be seen that she felt sad, angry, disappointed and has a desire to help homeless people in her

country. The impression of the speaker's feeling could be seen from some utterances. Also, some utterances were used to demonstrate her state of mind.

*"Look. My name is Brooke Blair and I'm five years old."*

The word *look* indicates Blair's emotion that she wants to seek for people's attention. In this phrases or sentence, she used a clear and short introduction to introduce herself. Also, she emphasize her ages by saying that she is still five years old.

*"I've got something to say to you, Theresa May."*

Next, this sentence indicates that Blair's is going to state her opinions/critiques which addressed directly to Prime Minister. She gives specific utterance by mentioning her name. So that, the messages that she wants to share, goes to the right person.

*"Yesterday night I was out on the streets and I saw **hundreds and millions** of homeless people."*

*"I saw one with floppy ears, I saw **loads**."*

Furthermore, in this sentence there are some phrases that could be analyzed. From the phrase *yesterday night*, Blair wants to show the viewers about her experience that night. She is telling the reality that happen around her neighborhood. However, Blair exaggerates the reality that she has experienced. She tells the viewers that by traveling in one night; she could see hundreds and millions of homeless people. By stating that reality, she wants to tell the people that the number of homeless people in UK still not decreasing yet. In those utterances, we can see the speaker's feeling. She felt sad because of the condition of homeless people.

*"You **should** be out there, Theresa May."*

*"You **should** be [giving] biscuits, hot chocolate, sandwiches, and building houses."*

Then, in those utterances, Blair wants to give the advices/suggestions/instructions to the UK government and Prime Minister, so that they could give more attention for the homeless people. We can see the speaker's feeling through those utterances. She felt disappointed about the government's work 'till she gives advices.

*"Look, I'm **only five years old**, there's **nothing I can do** about it."*

*"I'm **saving up money** and there'll **never be enough**."*

Next, Blair also expresses angry and disappointed at the same time through those utterances. She tried to convince people that she has no power in helping those homeless people. She explains her ages and her struggle in trying to help them. However, she cannot do that due to her limitation. She convinced and persuade people with power to help them.

*"You've got **the pot of money**, spend some and help people."*

Furthermore, in this expression, Blair wants to convince people that UK Prime Minister has more power in helping the homeless people. The phrase *pot of money* has clearly explaining that condition.

*"**That's what you've got to do**, because we've had lots of wars in this country and **I do not like that**, Theresa May."*

Hereafter, Blair again expresses her disappointment and angry. Blair tells Theresa May about what she should have done to her people in UK as a Prime Minister. Blair is angry by stating her personal feeling for the condition and government's work in her country. Lastly, there is one utterance that stands out as an indicator of the speaker's feeling.

*"I'm **very angry**."*

This expression is stands out more than the other expression because she expressing anger of her personal feeling. And it is directly addresses from person who has no power to a person who has power. In sum, those utterances, that the speaker shared to the viewers, gives meaningful content and context to the current situation in the society. The contribution of it through the social media gives another big impact for the object discussed.

### 2.3. Holding the discourse together

In this part, the analysis of the discourse will be hold together. There are words and phrases which the speaker uses to let us know that she is focusing on particular theme or topic.

*"Yesterday night I was out on the streets and I saw **hundreds and millions of homeless people**"*

*“I saw **one** with floppy ears, I saw **loads**.”*

The speaker focuses on topics about homeless people. She mentions about homeless people in the beginning of her speech and gives another pronoun that could replace the homeless people. From the whole analysis, although the speaker still young, she could state clearly about the reality happens in surrounding. She could convince people that a person who has more power could give impact/help to the object discussed. She also gives advices and suggestions and expresses her feeling. The ideas that she shared through a speech with structured sentences which has a meaningful power could change people's mind.

### 3. Conclusion

In summary, the video which gone viral by five-years-old girl proves the power of spoken discourse. It shows that she could stand up and speak up to help the homeless people in her country. In order to make a powerful statement, the speaker need to understand the issue, criticize the work and give suggestion. Furthermore, after this video gone viral, the government put more attention to the homeless people in UK. They put more budgets on preventing the homeless people. They put the budget on the education, health, work and housing. This impact of the video could prove that discourse in speech could change people's mind.

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