

CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY

The methodology used in the study of a transitivity analysis of the representation of Thai Muslims in the Bangkok Post can be explained and divided into three parts: data collection procedure, data analysis, and verification of the analysis. The details of each part are discussed as follows.

Data Collection Procedure

Data used in this study are 20 news articles obtained from the search engine program - NEWSCenter 3.0 provided by Kasetsart University. NewsCenter is a real-time on-line news and information database with comprehensive content as well as bilingual full-text search. With the powerful search engine, hundreds of information sources and a massive database of stories dating back more than a decade, NewsCenter provides easy and convenient but reliable news and information. It also provides a wide range of content categories ranging from News, Articles, Press Releases, Financial information about securities and money markets, Polls and Research, Information from government organization and more.

By using the program the researcher narrowed the data searching down with the keywords search for “Muslim teacher”, “Islamic teacher”, “Muslim student”, and “ponoh” in news published in the *Bangkok Post* between the years 2004-2005. The main reason that the researcher chose this period for monitoring and collecting data is because during the time the news associating Thai Muslims with many conflicts started to become rather a big political issue in Thailand. However, given the limited number of English newspapers published in Thailand, the research project had to limit the scope of the media analysis in terms of the availability of the source. According to Wikipedia (2007), there are three English daily newspapers in Thailand; *Bangkok Post*, *The Nation* and *International Herald Tribune*. According to the source, the

Bangkok Post is one of the two most popular English language newspapers in Thailand with a daily circulation of approximately 75,000 copies. Thus, the data used in this study are taken only from the Bangkok Post because it is available in the database-NEWS CENTER program.

By using the keywords; “Muslim teacher”, “Islamic teacher”, “Muslim student”, and “ponoh”, the database program returned hundreds of news headlines. After that, 20 news articles are selected by the focusing on the headline using the same keywords mentioned. However, as for some selected headlines, which are not directly show the keywords, they are to be understood that, for example, religious teachers mean Muslim teachers. The data consists of 20 news articles. The headline and the approximate length of news articles are presented in Table 1 below.

Table 1 The Selected News Headline and the Approximate Length of News Articles

Headline of news articles	Approximate Length of News Article (words)
Aid rolls in for ponoh school after registration	550
Eight Muslim teachers face terror charges	500
Islamic schools face curbs	700
Muslim clerics warn Thaksin to take care investigating schools	400
Muslim student held over arson attack	500
Muslim teacher says he took militant training in Malaysia	600
Muslim teens to be trained in patriotism	350
Ponoh official takes blame for murder	500
Ponoh school's fate sealed	650

Table 1 (Continued)

Headline of news articles	Approximate Length of News Article (words)
Ponohs slam police indoctrination claim	600
Ponohs told to check staff records, watch their conduct	400
Released Islamic teacher insists he is not a terrorist	500
Religious schools told to fly national flag, submit to checks	300
Religious teacher arrested on charges of ordering arson spree	350
Schools 'are not breeding unrest'	500
Tadika school transfer worries	500
Teacher, student arrested	400
Teachers blamed for shootings	300
Three Muslim teenagers with 'marked' city map detained	400
Islamic teachers held	500

Data analysis

The data analysis consisted of two main stages. First stage was the identification of processes found in the corpus of texts. The last stage was the analysis of the frequencies of occurrence of words found within the processes.

The first stage involved the identification of the processes, used to present Muslims teachers, Muslim students, and ponoh schools, found in the corpus. The selected news article corpus are first assigned the numbers from 1-20. The analysis was done piece by piece from news numbered 1 to 20. In order to analyze the representation of Muslims teachers, Muslim students, and ponoh schools, aspects of transitivity analysis introduced by Simpson (1993) were employed in this study. The analysis framework, which is transitivity analysis, is applied to analyze the data piece by piece; from news numbers 1 to 20. The transitivity analysis, the analysis of clause representation, is applied and interpreted focusing on verbs and associated processes in clauses. The analysis of transitivity concentrates on describing the different types of process and their associated configuration of participant roles and tries to identify the participants as actors and goals. An actor is a participant who plays an important role in a particular clause. A goal is a participant who receives the consequence of the action (goal). The different types of processes being studied are:

1. Material processes are verbs of doing or action. The components of this process are:

- Actor : doer who performs an action
- Process itself
- Goal : person or entity affected by the process or action
- Circumstance

2. Mental processes are verbs of sensing, feeling or perception. The components of this process are:

- Senser: the conscious being that is perceiving, reacting or thinking
- Process itself
- Phenomenon: that which is perceived, reacted to or thought about

3. Relational processes, which are verbs of being, are divided into:

3.1 Attributive: the kind of process is to describe of the entity.

The components of this process are:

- Carrier: the topic of the clause
- Process itself
- Attribute: a description of the topic

3.2 Identifying: the kind of process is to identify one entity in terms of another. The components of this process are:

- Identified: an element which is to be identify
- Process itself
- Identifier: an element which serves as identity

4. Verbal processes are verbs of saying. The components of this process are:

- Sayer: the individual who is speaking
- Process itself
- Verbiage: that which is said

For this stage, all texts were read and investigated in terms of their information content. Then, the corpus was analyzed according to the criteria. The criteria applied in the analysis of verbs in each process type are based on the framework of Simpson (1993). The examples of the verbs in each process type are as follows.

Table 2 The Example of the Verbs in each Process Types

Process types	Example of verbs
Material	give, donate, go, stay, leave, test, carry, avoid, do, run, play, serve, have, take, make, cook, kick, shoot, beat, ring, deliver, survive, get, travel, pay, sprang, fell, etc.
Mental	think, hate, believe, understand, know, like, fear, hear, see, love, want, feel, realize, regret, disappoint, convince, decide, hope, etc.
Relational: <i>Attributive</i>	is, be, are, become, turn, grow, turn out, state out, end up, keep, stay, remain, seem, sound, appear, look, taste, smell, stand,
Relational: <i>Identifying</i>	is, am, are, equal, add up to, make, signify, mean, define, spell, indicate, express, suggest, act as, symbolize, stand for, refer to, exemplified, etc.
Verbal	ask, tell, say, talk, demand, command, discuss, announce, etc.

The last stage was the analysis of the frequency of occurrence of words found within the representation of each group. This stage particularly concerned the investigation of the word frequency found within the texts. After the results from the transitivity analysis were obtained, the findings were explained in tables. To be able to identify the frequency of words found in each process type used to present Thai Muslim teachers, Thai Muslim students, and ponoh schools, the corpus of texts was created in the form of a computer readable single text file. Then, a computerized concordancing program named “ConcApp Concordance and Word Profiler Version 4” developed by Chris Greaves (2005) was used to conduct the analysis. The analysis

recorded the occurrence of words and calculated of the percentage of the frequency of words found in results of the transitivity analysis in the texts. This program generated word lists based on text files. Word lists were shown both in alphabetical and frequency order.

Verification of the Analysis

To avoid problems of reliability attributable to the study, the criteria applied to the transitivity analysis and the analysis of lexical choice were presented and checked by an English native speaker who is a lecturer in the Department of Foreign Language. The analysis was revised and refined according to the feedback gained from the lecturer.

In short, this chapter presents the information related to the methodology used in this study. The results of the study are presented in the following chapter.