

CHAPTER 3

METHODOLOGY

This chapter describes the methodology that is used in the discourse analysis and the rhetorical analysis of the Dhamma discourses recorded by S. N. Goenka and given to participants during the ten-day Vipassana meditation courses at his meditation centers. Numerous elements from the content of the discourses are collected and examined to present a meaningful form of the communication. The chapter presents the procedure used in formation of the discourses, combining theme, discourse content, and rhetorical devices used, and it reveals how these components work together to create specific types or purposes of communication.

Research Design

The research is conducted to understand the communication between Goenka and people attending the ten-day Vipassana meditation courses; the discourses are conducted during the Dhamma discourse period. The descriptive qualitative method is used to determine the procedure in the discourses. Rhetorical analysis is used to determine the different types of rhetorical devices used in the discourses. The method will also be used to analyze how the components in the procedure of the discourses work to communicate the meaning of the Dhamma discourses.

The ten video CDs of Goenka's Dhamma discourses comprise the material to be studied. The content in the video CD for each day of the discourse is evaluated, and the components in the procedure of the discourses are determined.

The researcher then presents the types of communication appearing in the Dhamma discourses. The selected communication types or purposes include informative, persuasive, and directive communication.

Data Collection

Each video CD contains approximately an hour of discourse, which is given each day of the meditation course. For this study, the contents of the VCDs are transcribed into a written text by the researcher for further analysis.

Research Instrument

As the video CDs of the Dhamma discourses of Mr. Goenka delivered during the ten-day Vipassana meditation courses are the materials in the study, the ten-days series of the discourses recordings are transcribed into readable texts, which the selected parts of the transcription appear in the Appendix of this thesis.

Data Analysis

Descriptive qualitative method is used to analyze the data. Theme, discourse content, and rhetorical device of the discourse are determined. The analysis is performed for the discourse pre-recorded for each day. The analysis results in detail are presented for determination of the procedure to construct the discourses. The types of communication will also be examined.

Summary

The research is designed to collect the data from the Dhamma discourses recorded by Goenka and delivered to attendees in the ten-day series of the Vipassana discourses. Descriptive qualitative method is employed for the data analysis and interpretation of the result. The research is also designed to examine the procedure in formation of the discourses, as well as how the procedure leads to good communication.