

Language and Solidarity: The Rohingya Case

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The irregular migration in the Indian Ocean had raised the concern of seventeen countries and several international organizations and gathered them in a special meeting on May 29, 2015 in Bangkok. The issue has created a discourse which clearly marks the solidarity of the ASEAN countries and which, at the same time, expose the conflicting interests of of the parties involved. Five kinds of discourse participants can be identified on the issue, namely Myanmar as the country where the migrants allegedly come from, Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia where the migrants temporarily reside, the United States of America where the migrants may hope to go, the international organizations, and the journalists reporting the news. The five kinds of participants express their different ideas and interests in an acceptable way which can foster the hope of the case solution.

This paper presents the analysis of the sentences which the five parties use to express their different ideas and interests but still keep the cooperative atmosphere and the ideas which the sentences express. The theories on systemic functional grammar (Halliday and Matthiessen 2004, Eggins 2004, and Clark 2000) are used to analyze the sentences, and the theories on discourse and critical discourse analysis (Gee 20, Fairclough 1995 and 2001, and Wodak 2009) are used to analyze the meanings of the meanings of the sentences.