
REPRESENTATION OF NCLB IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM AND ITS IMPACT ON HISPANIC STUDENTS: A CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS ON MEDIA REPORTS

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ABSTRACT

No Child Left Behind (NCLB) aims to improve US education system. Every student in the US must have the same rights to get a quality education. The state is responsible for providing fair, equitable and quality educational facilities to the community. In reality, however, the NCLB was not entirely successful. While the law stipulates equality for underprivileged students, in reality, the richer students get better facilities and the best teachers. In addition, not all school teachers meet the standards. Based on these problems, this study aims to examine the challenges NCLB faced. It also intends to investigate the ideal implementation of NCLB and its effectiveness for students in the United States. This research also explores minority groups, like Hispanics. They are the largest minorities in the US. This research seeks to answer (1) How is the NCLB implementation reported in the media? and (2) What are the impacts of the NCLB implementation on Hispanic students?. This study uses the theory of Critical Discourse analysis from Norman Fairclough and Jager with news articles as data sources. The news articles were taken from the New York Times, usnews.com, dailynews.com, fivethirtyeight.com, and CBS News. The results found that the NCLB is still problematic that still there are achievement gaps, protests, and low performance. In addition, there are still wrong beliefs, discrimination, and dishonesty regarding the implementation of NCLB. Through some possible ways to solve the problem, like supervising and revising NCLB.

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INTRODUCTION

Education is one of the important parts of every country. Education will make people a wide knowledge that would be very useful for the future. Among the benefits of education is it helps improve communication skills. Being educated will make people can write, read, and speak (Abelencia, 2021). In addition, the common reason why people need education is that they need a job to continue their life, usually, people who have a high education will get better jobs than lower-educated people. Education also promotes gender equality because education teaches us that everyone has the same right to get a good education (Adhitya, dkk, 2022, p. 262).

The United States is not only a superpower in technology and industry but also in education. There are some world-ranking universities in America, such as Ivy League campuses. (Mauk & Oakland, 2009). Those colleges bring many students from other countries in Asia, Europe, Africa, and soon. It is proven that the US has a very good quality of education and a great influence on other countries (Ayuningtyas & Adhitya, 2021, p. 154).

In the history of education in the US, which started in the colonial period, the puritan asked the parents to teach their children to write and read. They learn the alphabet of theological series and they learn to read the bible. At that time, education was mostly only for the elite group and the planter's sons. Gender and class differences in school were also in existence (Mauk & Oakland, 2009; Rudy & Adhitya, 2022, p. 334).

Immigration is one of the important parts and the central aspect of US history. Immigration to the US was divided into several stages, for instance, the colonial period, the first wave of immigration (1680-1776), the second wave (1820-1890), the third wave (1830-1930), and the fourth wave (1965-present). In the colonial period, the people who established the colonies are considered the founders rather than the immigrants, because they created customs, laws, and institutions (Mauk & Oakland, 2009). In the colonial period, there were also several Spanish populations, that came to America in the 1500s-1600s. The Spanish people first settle in Florida, followed by others in New Mexico, California, Arizona, Texas, and Louisiana. Hispanic Americans are the American people who have descendants from Spain. They usually use the Spanish language to interact with each other. The states from which Hispanic Americans originate include Argentine, Bolivia, Brazil, Uruguay, Chili and Colombia. For Hispanic, no separate racial category because they do not constitute a race or national group. The main religion they embrace is Roman Catholicism. Hispanic Americans also get education in their country of origin, both formal and informal education (Al Fajri, Atmantika & Adhitya, 2022, p. 245).

The US provides both formal education and informal education. Education in the US starts from childhood education, elementary and secondary education, vocational and technical education, and postsecondary education. Primary and secondary school in America spans about 12 years of education; the four last years are called 'high school'. Students get the facilities to join the

extracurriculars provided by the school (US Department of Education). Nowadays, education in America is a massive social institution that includes millions of people and spends billions of dollars. More than 75 million of the US population, or one-fourth of the population, are attending schools.

In the US, primary and secondary schools also have a good quality education because America has good regulations. In 2001, President George W. Bush drove an act called as No Child Left Behind Act for advancing the quality of education in primary and secondary schools in America. The act gives the rules for all students in America by making the change of concept in the school's curriculum, making a standard test for the student and each student has to pass the standard mark, in addition, this act also helps the disadvantaged students to get the chance to study in the school. NCLB has four important pillars that become the foundation of its act. Those are accountability for results, an emphasis on doing what works based on scientific results, expanded parental options, and increase local control and flexibility.

In 2015, President Obama change the name of NCLB and revised some policies in the NCLB Act. This act was being revised because the government see that the implementation of the NCLB was still not fulfilling the target. President Barack Obama changed the name of NCLB to become the Every Student Succeed Act (ESAA). By revising this act, it was expected that the poor and disadvantaged students can get a better and equal education. It is also expected that the student get their dream.

The goal of NCLB is to develop existing education in America. Every student in

America is expected to have good quality education so that no students are left behind. The act stated that the act must provide fair, equitable, and quality educational facilities for all students, in points 1 and 2 of the act it is stated that the objectives of this act are first, to meet the educational needs of low-achieving children in schools with the highest poverty rates in the US, children with limited language skills, children with disabilities, etc. Second, the Preparation of teacher training and accountability systems.

However, in reality, the practice of NCLB has not been completely successful. This Act mentions equality for disadvantaged students but in fact, the students from the rich class get more of the best facilities and the best teachers. In addition, the teachers who teach in schools have not all met the standards of good quality teachers. From these problems, the researcher wants to dissect why the application of NCLB is not that easy and not in accordance with what is in the act. The researcher wants to investigate How the real implementation of NCLB in students in America. The objectives of the research are first, to describe the effectiveness of NCLB's implementation as reported in the media, and second, to describe the impact of NCLB's implementation on Hispanic Students in America as reported in the media. This research particularly answers the two research questions: 1) How does the implementation of NCLB as reported in the media? and 2) What are the impacts of the implementation of NCLB for Hispanic Students?.

This research is conducted under the qualitative method. The purpose of Qualitative research is to understand and

interpret social interaction. In addition, it is used to understand concepts, opinions, and experiences. (Cresswell, 2009) The type of data in qualitative research is in the form of images, words, and objects. Because the data of this research is media and in the form of a sentence, this research is included as qualitative research. The final reports of qualitative research are in the form of a description.

Some previous studies have the same topic as my research, the previous studies also have the topic of the implementation of No Child Left Behind and a certain group of people. To mention some of them are written by Kinnucan et al (2012), Veney (2013) and Hursh (2007).

These previous researches also have differentiation from my research, in Kinnucan, the study is limited to the students of Alabama, while my research will investigate Hispanic students. The novelty of my research stands on the object of the research. In the previous studies, most used students and data reports as the object of the research, while my research will use the media or online news that will be used as the object to be analyzed in the research. The differentiation also stands on collecting the data, I will collect the data by searching the media or online news from the internet, while the previous studies used the interview.

This research will analyze the news from some media such as New York Times, Washington Post, CBS News, Fivethrityeight.com, and USNews. Then the news will be analyzed by using Critical Discourse Analysis (from Fairclough) and use the American studies framework (theory of representation). The aspects of CDA are

social wrong, obstacle to addressing the social wrong, place of social wrong, and some possible ways to solve the problem.

The data analysis in this research will be through some steps. The steps are analyzing the news, and article by using CDA, writing important notes, correlating the news and articles with the aspect of Fairclough's CDA, and the last is concluding.

DISCUSSION

The Implementation of NCLB as Represented in the Media

This research analyzes the news from The New York Times, entitled "No Child Law is not closing A Racial Gap" written by Sam Dillon. The second one, "No Child Left Behind Worked," was authored by Ben Casselman and published on Fivethrityeight.com. Then, the third article entitled "Teacher Protests No Child Left Behind Test" was taken from CBSnews.com. The fourth article entitled "No Child Left Behind Law Faces Its Own Reckoning," written by Motoko Rich and Tamar Lewin, was taken from The Washington Post.

By using Fairclough's CDA, it can be found the effectivity of the implementation of No Child Left Behind in America as reported in the media. It can be found the social wrong, obstacle addressing to social wrong, Place of social wrong, and the possible way to pass the obstacle.

Several social wrongs have been found in the news. These social wrongs are the Achievement Gap between the colored student and the white student (from New York Times); No Child Left Behind is still questioned and the school in Beverly

Massachusetts has failed to make “Adequate Yearly Progress” in standard tests (from fivethirtyeight.com); the protest done by the teacher in Madison toward the No Child Left Behind test (from CBS news); schools in the USA are recognized as low performance and failed under the No Child Left Behind Act (from Washington Post). The social wrongs that have been mentioned indicate that the implementation of No Child Left Behind is still problematic and it is not quite effective.

In the first news from New York Times, it can be found that the social wrong is the achievement gap between colored students and white students. According to the news, the colored student got a score that was very far behind white students, and the issue was described several times in the news. Black people were always got a bad stereotype in the US. Throughout its history, they have always been seen as dirty, poor, and uneducated, eventually, racism still existed in the US. The achievement gap between colored students and white students might be the result of racism toward black people.

In the second news, from fivethirtyeight.com, the social wrongs are the NCLB is still questioned and the school in Beverly failed to make AYP in the standard test. From the news, it was presented that 17 percents of students (who came from a poor family) are proficient in English. Also, the implementation of NCLB in Beverly failed within one year.

In the third news from CBS News, the social wrong is the protest done by the teacher in Madison toward the NCLB. the protest was done by a teacher named David

who thought the high score standard on tests breaks the human conscience and it will be difficult for the students.

In the fourth news from Washington Post, the social wrong is that schools in the USA are recognized as having low performance and failed under the NCLB. The news mentions that in one of the schools in the US called Ginn Academy, 88 percent of the students passed the test but the school is still claimed as failing and not meeting the standard set by NCLB. The high standard of AYP and the penalty for the school drive the protest both from teachers and students.

The obstacles to addressing social wrong are also found in the news. The obstacles include the problem that obstructs the implementation of No Child Left Behind. Based on the news, the obstacles are The big amount of colored students with low scores, old-fashioned thoughts of black people, Discrimination, Weaknesses in presenting data, lack of funding, Unsent voice, No-revised NCLB, and Divided parties. These obstacles indicate that solving social wrong of NCLB Act is quite difficult.

In the first news, the obstacles are the big amount of colored students and the old-fashioned thought. It was called an old-fashioned thought because based on the news, black people tend to think that “it is not cool for human to be smart”, this thought can hinder the development of human resources in the US.

The second news from fivethirtyeight.com, the obstacles are Discrimination, weakness in presenting the data, and lack of funding. Discrimination is

the different treatment toward a particular group with another. In the news, discrimination occurred toward poor students and colored students affected their achievement.

The obstacles of the third news from CBSnews.com are unmet voice and no-revised NCLB. The unmet voice means that if the message of the protest cannot be sent to the government, it can prevent the cessation of the protest. The no-revised NCLB means that if the government does not change the NCLB rule (the high standard of AYP), so the protest will always continue.

In the fourth news from the Washington Post, the obstacles are no-revised NCLB and divided parties. The revision of NCLB is needed because not all schools are in line with the NCLB program. Then the divided parties also hamper the resolution of the social wrong because if it wants to revise NCLB, it needs the agreement from the government so the resolution will be done.

In the place of social wrong, the NCLB gives a bad impact on the students in the US. From the first news, it can be explained that the Achievement gap between colored student and white students make a significant difference; in the second news, the unsuccessful of NCLB in school in Beverly make NCLB is claimed as failed and give a new method in collecting data; in the third news, the protest toward standard test was done by some people and trigger the repair of NCLB; and in the fourth news, the failed of NCLB in school cause the act from the government to reauthorize the law.

To make social wrong clear, there must be some possible ways to pass the obstacle. There are also some possible ways to solve the problem. The possible ways are to Supervise the implementation of the NCLB Law and the education system; Make a new law called “ESSA”; and Revision of NCLB law by giving flexibility in standards for each school.

In the first news from New York Times, the solutions are to supervise the implementation of the NCLB Law and the education system. Supervision is needed so that there are no errors in the implementation of NCLB. Supervision can make the distribution of quality people will be distributed fairly, for the poor and the rich so all the students can have good achievements.

In the second news from fivethirtyeight.com, the solution is to make a new law called ESSA. This solution was clearly stated in the news, ESSA could replace the position of NCLB and it was assigned on October 10, 2015.

In the third and the fourth news, from CBSnews.com and Washington Post, the solution is Revise of NCLB law by giving flexibility of standards for each school. This solution was delivered by Obama in his speech. Flexibility means that the government let the school choose what is the best rule or method for the students to study, and the method could make the students reach the achievement of the NCLB.

An American figure, George Miller also presents his concern about NCLB implementation. In addition, in a news from Washington Post (2020) entitled “18 years

ago, Mike Pence voted against No Child Left Behind. So did Bernie Sanders. Their reason weren't the same". also presents its concern. By using CDA from Jager, the analysis will be framed as below:

1. Context

NCLB issue is also brought by an important figure, George Miller. Through his speech on Youtube entitled NCLB hearing: Chairman George Miller and also by reading the transcript. In the video, Miller told that NCLB has a good hope for America that will provide equality for every segment. But, in fact, since its implementation in 2001, No Child Left Behind did not run well. George Miller regrets this case as he stated :

... are telling us that No Child Left Behind is not fair, not flexible, not adequately funded, we will not waver when it comes to accountability to setting high goals and standard of the current law that not negotiable ...

The article from washingtonpost.com presents that NCLB has become the pros and cons for the government in the United States. Each government figure has its own perception of the NCLB law after it was released in 2001. Joe Biden support and is optimistic that NCLB will be a great law that can bring education in the US better. Meanwhile, Mike Pence and Bernie Sanders did not support the ratification of the No Child Left Behind.

Critics warned that using test scores for high-stakes purposes was a misuse of the exams and that NCLB had set an impossible goal by declaring that virtually all students would be "proficient" in reading and math by 2014. The law's authors knew that was unrealistic but assumed the law would

be rewritten in 2007. It wasn't. Increasingly, schools — including high-performing ones — were considered failing because of peculiarities in the law's language and the way states implemented it.

Regarding the speech and the article, if compares with the previous four articles, it can be found that the position from both speech and article are in line and have similarities with the four previous articles. Those speeches, articles, and four previous articles assess that No Child Left Behind has not been implemented perfectly, there are still too many problems faced by the government, society, parents and students in the US.

2. Surface of the Text

The speech is structured by some elements. The first element is the screen of the speech which presents a picture of Miller who gave the speech in a huge room. Under the screen, there is a space for the title of the video and there is the transcript. The news from Washington Post is structured by 13 paragraphs. Before entering the paragraph, it is started with the picture of Bernie Sanders. The first paragraph tells about the NCLB ratification in 2002 which was assigned by President Bush. Then the next paragraph tells about the NCLB vote from an important figure in the US. The important figures were Joe Biden, Bernie Sanders and Mike Pence.

3. Rhetorical Devices

The NCLB issue has become a serious concern. There are problems faced by the government regarding the NCLB implementation. The four previous news stated the problem of No Child Left Behind.

The news describes NCLB issues such as the achievement gap between colored students and white students, schools that cannot meet the AYP standards, then there are still protests that allude to the standard of tests given to students and the last one is the low ability of students. The failure of the NCLB was also reinforced by figures, such as Miller, In his speech, George Miller argues that NCLB is not fair and not flexible.

To handle these problems, it should have a solution. It was stated that it will have the revision toward NCLB Act immediately. For the Democrats, the Act should be changed into a new act called “ESSA”. As Obama stated, the law must give flexibility to states in innovating how to improve the student’s abilities.

4. Content and Ideological Statement

In the first news from New York Times, the media seems to portray NCLB inequality. In the news, it is stated that students still have gaps, especially for minority and poor students, they have not performed well since the NCLB enactment. The news shows the NCLB weakness. It can be concluded that the New York Times does not support NCLB since New York Times is siding with the Democratic party, while No Child Left Behind was created by the Republican government.

While in the second news from Fivethietyeight.com, the media seems to support the NCLB existence, despite its failure, still shows positive rights. Then the news from CBS News does not support NCLB because it invites the audience to say “yes” to the NCLB failure. On the other hand, CBS News is siding with Democratic

Party since NCLB is siding with the Republican government.

Then the next news from washingtonpost.com displays NCLB weakness. The media gives the failure of NCLB too much. The media performs criticism toward NCLB. Washingtonpost is the media that is built by the Democratic party, so this media is indeed an opposition toward NCLB.

5. The Article Peculiarities

The speech of George Miller also has peculiarities. The peculiarities of the speech are the government's persistence to provide a good education for students in the US by improving the NCLB Law. The other peculiarity of the article from the Washington Post is that NCLB got controversy about its policy. This will emerge in the debate among the people in the United States.

6. The Article Position and Messages

The speech position is in line with the 4 previous news and it goes a line with the article from the Washington Post. Then, the message from this speech is that education is an important part of our lives, and all part of people in the world should get an equal education no matter they come from, how poor they are, what color of their skin, in addition, the government should review NCLB policy, so there will be the advancement of the education. Then, the message from the article from the Washington Post is that the government must work together to build a better American education. Criticism from various parties is needed to revise No Child Left

Behind which will become a learning reference for all students in America.

The Impact of NCLB on Hispanic Students

The education of Hispanics in the US is a disadvantage, according to Schneider, Martinez & Ownes (2006), the activity in the home also influences the education of Hispanic people. Most Hispanic families do less literacy toward their children because they only speak one language, Spanish language. There are two news used to analyze. The first is from usnews.com entitled “Gain in Reading for Hispanic Students Overshadowed by Achievement Gap”, and the second is from dailynews.com entitled “Academic Achievement Gap Persists for Hispanic Students”.

In usnews.com, the social wrong is Underachievement in reading for Hispanic students. Based on the news, Hispanic students have left three places lower than the other students. This is like a threat because Hispanics are the largest minority in America that have a big influence on the progress of America. The news explained that only 2% of Hispanic students can speak English, which is troubling. This emerges the achievement gap between Hispanic students and white students.

Then, in the news from dailynews.com, the social wrong is different treatment in education for Hispanic students resulting the achievement gaps for Hispanic students. The news told that Hispanic students face unfair treatment, for example, they get the minimum facilities than white students. The funding for Hispanic students is also less, and as a result, it creates achievement gaps

between white students and Hispanic students. A Washington Post article (2020), mentions that there is a “funding gap” for African and Hispanic students, they need more money but they get less. Hispanic and African get an average fund of about \$5,000 for each student. People also tend to see that colored students have fewer competencies than others, it is called racial profiling toward Hispanic students and it should not happen.

Then, the next is the obstacle in addressing social wrongs. Based on the news, the obstacle to addressing social wrongs that can be found in the low performance of Hispanic students and low motivation from the student. The ability of Hispanic students is still minimum and it can make them difficult to understand the lesson. Second, low motivation hinders the learning process, based on the news, many Hispanic students do not understand the materials that were given by the teacher because they lack motivation.

In the news from dailynews.com, The first obstacle is the racist thought and lack of attention toward the Hispanic students. The racist thought has been mentioned in the article clearly, it explains that the people in the US have the understanding that Hispanics and other colored people have a lower status in society and lower competencies than white students. So they think that white people are better than colored people. The second obstacle is the lack of attention toward Hispanic students. The lack of attention has been presented clearly in the article, the examples are the lack of funding for the Hispanic students so they cannot get good facilities in education,

and the Hispanic students are also taught the easier material than the white students.

The possible ways to solve the problem are also found in the news and some articles. The possible ways are motivating Hispanic Students with some strategies, managing personalities, and reauthorization of five core NCLB principles.

In the first news, the possible ways are to motivate students and manage their personalities. Motivating the students, it can make the students stay longer in school, perform better in school, and they can do tests well. There are intrinsic and extrinsic motivations. Some strategies can add to students' motivation, such as setting the tone of the classroom, varying the teaching method and giving the students options.

In the second news, the possible way that can be done in passing the obstacles from the sixth article are to abolish the racist thought in American people and the government should give more attention to Hispanic students. The act that can be done is by managing personality that racist thought is not a good thing. Some steps that can be done to stop racist thoughts are acknowledging differences, seeking out friendship from different groups, focus on the difference. The second is the government should reauthorize the five core principles of NCLB. Those are a high expectation, accountability, knowledge, intervention, and support. Obama also delivered the speech regarding No Child Left Behind, by using the CDA from Jager, the analysis framed as below:

1. Context

In 2011, Obama delivered a speech regarding the NCLB Act. He commented that NCLB still has deficiencies, and its implementation, NCLB is still labeled as a failure and Obama wanted NCLB to be revised immediately.

But experience has taught us that, in its implementation, No Child Left Behind had some serious flaws that are hurting our children instead of helping them. Teachers too often are being forced to teach to the test. Subjects like history and science have been squeezed out. And in order to avoid having their schools labeled as failures,

Obama gave the solution that he would give flexibility to the teacher in each region. Obama admits all the US states to do flexibility toward NCLB implementation. Flexibility means that Obama liberates all the nation states to do innovative ways to give the children skills to advance their careers and set the high standard.

Obama's speech is in line with the usnews.com article. In the news, the existing social problem is the underachievement of Hispanic students in reading ability, then in Obama's speech, what makes NCLB fail is the problem of reading ability. Although the news is more concerned about racism, both of them tells about NLCB shortcomings.

2. Surface of the article

Obama's speech is structured in 23 paragraphs. The speech started with the title then it will be followed by the paragraphs. The 1st until the 5th paragraphs contain the greeting of Obama, and he mentioned some of the figures who also have a role in the

government. Then the 6th paragraph contains the problem that is faced by the US. The 7th and 8th paragraphs tell about the economic condition of the US. Then, the 9th paragraph tells study is an important part of the students. The 11th and 12th paragraphs tell about the Race to Top program that will help the teacher to make an innovation in teaching. Paragraphs 13th and 14th tell about the importance of the reformation of NCLB. The 16th paragraph tells the program of Obama that will give flexibility to the states in developing the NCLB policy. And the following paragraph tells the example of the school that failed.

3. Rhetorical Device

The problem stated in the two news and the speech Obama reflects that the implementation of NCLB is still failed. So the solution is like revising NCLB Act, motivating the students, and the involvement of American parents and society to build a better American education is also very much needed.

4. Content and Ideological Statement

Based on the first news that came from USNEWS.com, the news supports and sides with NCLB, and the media is included in the media side with the republican party. The problem that occurred in the first news was explained that Hispanic students lacked skills in reading. With these problems, this news wants to revise and improve NCLB.

5. Peculiarities of the article

The peculiarities of the speech were that the speech was delivered in a friendly manner as evidenced by the laughter and enthusiasm of the audience who applauded. The speech was delivered clearly so that it

was easy to understand. As well as familiar greetings and nicknames were given by Obama to his colleagues.

6. Position and message from the article

The speech is in a position that is almost in line with the first news relating to Hispanic students, although it is slightly different in several ways. Furthermore, the message that can be conveyed from the speech is that improving the quality of NCLB is important for the advancement of education in the US. In addition, the role of government and society is needed for the advancement of education so that the US does not become a country that lagged behind other countries.

CONCLUSION

The NCLB Act implementation in the field is neither as expected nor fit for NCLB. There are still many weaknesses and some of its aspects should be repaired. There are several social wrongs, such as the achievement gap, protests, the schools being recognized as low performance and the NCLB problem of finding obstacles to addressing social wrong, such as old-fashioned thoughts of black people, discrimination, lack of funding, unmet voice, no-revised NCLB, and divided parties, and therefore, there must be ways to solve the problem regarding NCLB implementation, such as supervising NCLB Law and the education system; making a new law called “ESSA”; and revising NCLB law by giving flexibility of standards for each school. In addition, the Hispanic students also experienced the impact of the NCLB implementation to them.

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