

DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURAL SPEECHES IN ENGLISH
AND IN BAHASA INDONESIA: A COMPARATIVE TEXT ANALYSIS

510600

A Dissertation
Presented to the Faculty of Graduate School
Language and Literature Department
College of Liberal Arts
De La Salle University

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the Degree of Doctor of Arts
in Language and Literature

Simon Sira Padji

October 1994

AKLATANG EMILIO AGUINALDO



DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY

ABSTRACT

The ultimate aim of the teaching and learning of English in Indonesian schools is reading for comprehension; after six years of learning English, high school graduates are expected to be able to read textbooks written in English when they enroll in colleges or universities.

The facts, however, show that the high school graduates are still very poor in English; they cannot read with good comprehension. There have been a lot of efforts-- from the government and interested individual as well-- aimed at solving this national problem.

Looking at the problem from the point of view of Discourse Analysis Theory and Contrastive Analysis Hypothesis, the present study is conducted, with the hope that the findings might be of some help in solving the problem.

The study is descriptive comparative. It tries to describe and compare two presidential inaugural speeches in English and two in Bahasa Indonesia, in terms of macro-semantic structure, topical progression, thematic structure and cohesion.



DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY

The comparison across texts is done by computing the percentage of the frequency of use of the aspects of comparison in each text, while the comparison across language groups is done by computing the percentage mean of the two sample texts in each language. The results of the comparison reveal that there are more similarities than differences between the English and Indonesian text structure. In the texts examined, there are more instances of parallel progression than sequential progression, more thematized NG than any other word groups, more instances of Repetition than any other cohesive devices. In terms of macro-semantic structure, however, there slight differences between the English and the Indonesian texts. /

The study tentatively concludes that the following points might be culturally universal: 1) political presidential inaugural speeches consists of the justification of the programs, the presentation of the programs, and the appeal to the audience to take part; 2) in presidential inaugural speeches, there are more instances of parallel topical progression than sequential progression, with personal pronoun we as the most frequently topicalized item; 3) in presidential



DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY

inaugural speeches, the most frequent thematized item is the NG; and 4) in presidential inaugural speeches, the most frequently used cohesive device is repetition.

In spite of the similarities between the English and Indonesian text structure, the study still argues that if the Indonesian students have to read English, they need to be taught the English text structure as described in this study, and the Indonesian text structure can be used as points of reference. In the presentation of the English text structure, however, careful attention should be given to 1) the macro-semantic structure, 2) the assignment of topic of each sentence, 3) conjunctions, and 4) repetition, since they even pose problems to the native speakers.

