

Abstract

This research analyzes paintings as text and examines three political paintings visually from the perspective of its author to understand the messages they provide to the audience. All three paintings were created by Indonesian painter Alip Jon in the time of his red period that spanned in 2022 until 2023. The paintings mainly focus on social and political affairs in which several interesting events unraveled during those years. The research examines the social commentary that was made by Alip Jon through his paintings and how such alternative media is able to express a more direct criticism rather than mainstream media. The analysis is presented using Teun Van Dijk's model of discourse analysis in analyzing painting as a text using certain discourse categories such as metaphors/symbolism, color, and text. It was found that the model suggests understanding the painting's context, local meaning, social cognition/ideologies to further understand the message behind the painting. Furthermore, the titles of all three paintings provide an informative character and show the inspiration for the art. The research suggests that by viewing paintings as texts, it becomes clear that the artist communicates his social commentary through his artworks with the support of the artistic elements present.

KEY WORDS: *painting as discourse, social commentary, political art, discourse as power.*