SOCIAL POWER: THE GAP BETWEEN MAJORITY AND MINORITY GROUPS IN MARTIN LUTHER KING Jr.’s SPEECHES

A THESIS

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Approval Sheet

(I)

This thesis entitled Social Power: The Gap between Majority and Minority Groups in Martin Luther King Jr.’s Speeches prepared and submitted by Sylvia Christy Hendarto, S.S (8212715017) has been approved to be examined by Thesis Board Examiners.

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I declare that this thesis is my own writing, and it is true and correct that I did not take any scholarly ideas or work from others dishonestly, and that all the cited works were quoted in accordance with the ethical code of academic writing.

I also declare that I agree to submit my thesis entitled “Social Power: The Gap between Majority and Minority Groups in Martin Luther King Jr.’s Speeches” to Widya Mandala Catholic University library and fully understand that it will be made public via internet and other uses of online media.

Surabaya, 9 May 2019

Sylvia Christy Hendarto, S.S

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ABSTRACT


**Keywords**: discourse, critical discourse analysis, power, social power, majority group, minority group

Nowadays, racial segregation issues still take place as a part of society even though the idea of equality is promoted to society. For example, lately in Indonesia the topic of segregation becomes the trending topic especially in relation to the politics. In the United States, the racial segregation against minority groups still remains as a controversial issue until now. In 2016, the racism issue was on high concern in public as represented in cases involving US police who shot and killed black people. Those series of cases raise back the awareness of racial segregation back then in 1950 which becomes the greatest momentum of conflicts in the history of racial segregation (Rbedi, 2016).

This study examines the social power represents in Martin Luther King Jr.’s speeches. This study further investigates types of social power used, and how the gap
between majority group and minority groups reflects in the speeches. It employed critical discourse analysis with socio cognitive approach was applied. The data were taken from three speeches of Martin Luther King Jr.: “I Have a Dream”, “Our God is Marching On”, and “I’ve Been to the Mountaintop”.

The result reveals that five types of social power were used in the speeches (French & Raven, 1959; Raven, 1965, as cited in Raven, 2008). The gap between majority and minority group was reflected in their social status and roles in society.