THE SOUNDNESS OF PRESIDENT MAHMOUD AHMADINEJAD’S SPEECH IN THE 65TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

A Final Project
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by
Rangga Permana
2201407077

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF LANGUAGES AND ARTS
SEMARANG STATE UNIVERSITY
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ABSTRACT

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The purposes of the study to identify the soundness of arguments of H.E Dr. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad’s presidential speech at the 65th session of the United Nations General Assembly 23 September 2010.

The type of the data in this study is qualitative. The data were twenty arguments found in H.E Dr. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad’s presidential speech at the 65th session of the United Nations General Assembly. They were collected using the following steps: reading the transcript of the speech, identifying the arguments presented in the speech, and inventorying the data using the table, to be further analyzed in order to find out the soundness of the speech. The analysis of the data was conducted using the method of criteria approach suggested by William Hughes which included the following activities; (1) Identifying the main conclusion, (2) Identifying the premises, (3) Identifying the structure of the argument, (4) Checking the acceptability of the premises, (5) Checking the relevance of the premises, (6) Checking the adequacy of the premises.

The results of the analyses show that 11 of the 20 arguments presented in H.E Dr. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad’s speech are sound. Only 9 of those 19 arguments failed to meet the William Hughes’ criteria of sound argument. 4 arguments failed to meet the criterions of adequacy, 2 arguments failed to meet the criterions of adequacy, and 4 arguments failed to meet the criterions of relevance and adequacy. 3 of the 20 arguments failed to meet all the three criterions. Therefore, I conclude that Mahmoud Ahmadinejad’s presidential speech at the 65th session of the United Nations General Assembly is the strong or the sound one.

After drawing the conclusions, several suggestions were offered. First, good speakers should prepare their speech well before delivering it to the audience. Second, good speakers have always to make efforts to enhance their communication skills. And third, In order to be able to deliver a persuasive and convincing speech, it is better for speakers to enrich their knowledge with technique of public speaking, such as presenting arguments by considering the course of reason and logic.