

SUMMARY

The Australian Government's View on Indigenous Issues

Kyoko Nakanishi

[Adjunct lecturer at Doshisha University]

This paper attempts to analyze the text, "Sorry Day and the Stolen Generations" posted on the Australian government's website, using a method of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) in order to unveil the current government's view on indigenous issues, including the Stolen Generations. Theoretical frameworks adopted in this paper are based on the studies of N. Fairclough (2003), Van Leeuwen (1996, 2008) and M.A.K. Halliday (1994).

Van Leeuwen (1996) highlights the importance of investigating characteristics of each stage of a text. Here in this website article, it is found that at the beginning of the text, 'governments and missionaries' as 'Social Actors' are represented less explicitly. However, in the middle part, where the text goes on to show how smoothly the reconciliation has been progressing, 'the government' as a Social Actor becomes more explicit and is placed particularly in the initial position of grammatical clauses.

The strategies of 'Aggregation' and 'Nomination' are also spotted in the latter part of the text to showcase how successful a series of apologetic social events have been and how many Aboriginal individuals have now made social advancement in the field of art.

In conclusion, this text is supposed to infuse and stabilize the peaceful image that the reconciliation is progressing without any difficult problems in Australian society.