

CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE IN INDONESIAN ONLINE NEWS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Alemina Br. Perangin-angin^{1}, Ely Hayati Nasution¹,
Widya Andayani²*

Universitas Sumatera Utara¹

Universitas Negeri Medan²

Email: alemina@usu.ac.id

Abstract: The article concerns a critical discourse analysis (CDA) of women as subjects of violence in Indonesia during the current Corona Virus 19 (COVID19) pandemic. Through the framework of critical discourse analysis, it aims to determine how news online presents an overview and perspectives on the problem of women who experience intimate partner violence during the current pandemic. The research design chosen is qualitative research with the tools of content analysis. Critical discourse analysis describes the language employed to convey meaning in the content of BBC news online. While the BBC's online news online highlighted the existence of gender symmetry and stereotype abusers throughout the epidemic experienced by women, the BBC's online news online was able and daring enough to highlight the marginalization of women.

Keywords: *woman representation, Critical Discourse Analysis, online news*

INTRODUCTION

Since 2020, the Corona Virus (COVID19) outbreak has become a global threat. This virus transforms human existence across country, status, social, cultural, economic, religious, and political boundaries. Social distancing to anticipate viral development and spread paralyzes social life and kills the economy. Most people are unemployed or temporarily unemployed. People stay home because of social distance. UN Women's violence against women has escalated throughout the pandemic due to security, health, and inadequate living conditions. These situations trigger human life pressure from numerous aspects. According to United Nations Women, most 15-49-year-old women with

relationships have experienced sexual and physical violence during the pandemic. In addition, 30% of women encounter partner violence in their lives. Domestic violence represents an unhealthy partnership. It affects both sexes, but religious doctrine and patriarchal culture make women the principal victims. Women cope with violence by fighting back or counter-controlling their husbands (Johnson, 2006).

During the COVID-19 epidemic, the vulnerability of Indonesian women to violence, particularly domestic abuse, has increased by about one hundred percent, as indicated by an increase in reporting of violence against women from mid-March to April in several Indonesian regions. From March 2 to April 25, 2020, the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (PPPA) reported 275 occurrences of violence against adult women, with a total of 277 victims. Since the Covid-19 epidemic, the Women's National Commission and the Integrated Service Center for the Empowerment of Women and Children have seen a 75 percent increase. There are 14,719 incidences of violence against women in total. In addition, there were 5,548 instances of physical violence, 2,123 instances of psychological abuse, 4,898 cases of sexual violence, 1,528 instances of economic violence, and 610 instances of violence against migrant labor and human trafficking.

According to Komnas Perempuan, domestic violence stems from unequal power relations between men and women, in which women are subject to males. There is still a patriarchal culture in Indonesia in which men hold control and authority over other family members. Women are frequently persecuted due to societal constructs that are intimately tied to the patriarchal culture prevalent in society. Patriarchy is a system of male dominance rooted in an ethos of war that legitimizes violence and is sanctified by religious symbols. In this case, men dominate women by controlling female sexuality to pass property to male heirs. Also, it concerns men who are heroes of war are told to kill men and are permitted to rape women, seize land and treasures, exploit resources, and own or otherwise dominate conquered people (Christ, 2016). The patriarchal system is reinforced by culture, and many fundamental attitudes of society on the existence of men who must be dominant in the home and social control applied in the community.

Online news is one of the various forms of online journalism, periodically produced, of a general type, and containing accurate, up-to-date information about anything and anywhere in the globe for the benefit of readers. Newspapers are printed sheets with reports of local events and are of a general nature

(Effendy, 2005, p. 241). Online newspapers are either stand-alone publications or online versions of printed periodicals. Online news media contribute to highlighting the challenges that women face. The words supplied by the media convey public opinion and influence the topics at hand. It demonstrates that the media wields influence through their articles. The text depicts the community's social, cultural, and political realities. It is also information-providing print media with a more extended history than television, radio, and other sources of information.

Online news media are not only news transmitters but are also capable of constructing social realities. Regarding taking a stance in favor of women, it can package news and direct their efforts. Through the discourses they generate, information online can influence or alter their readers' opinions. Despite their ability to empower women socially, politically, and economically by eliminating poverty, illiteracy, gender-based violence, and social isolation, the media play a crucial part in the continuation of this social structure (Martin, 2002). Instead, media content perpetuates sexist, discriminatory perceptions of women. However, it must be noted that just a few news outlets cover gender issues as news content. The news coverage of women's rights and gender equality remains low: between 3% and 6% of news articles between 2005 and 2015 challenged gender norms (Macharia, 2015).

The online news function reporting on women's status, particularly during the COVID19 epidemic, provides knowledge regarding violence against women during the pandemic. With more Indonesian women than men, this endeavor by the media to represent women through their writings to fulfill women's rights as citizens to live a safe social life and have the government pay attention to their plight is only a minor step in the right direction. One of the online news is BBC. BBC Online was formerly BBC. It is a vast network of websites, including BBC News and Sport, BBC iPlayer and BBC Sounds, CBBC and CBeebies, and Bitesize. The BBC has had an online presence supporting TV, radio, and web-only activities since April 1994. However, it did not begin officially until April 28, 1997, after government clearance to fund it with TV license fee income as a separate service. Throughout its history, commercial rivals have complained about the BBC's online intentions, leading to public consultations and government investigations to evaluate their assertions that its massive presence and public funding skew the UK market. Since its inception, the website's branding has changed. BBC Online was renamed BBC before becoming bbc.co.uk. It was renamed BBC Online in 2008 but used the "BBC" trademark.

Domestic violence against women has been looked at in recent studies. However, it needs more exploration of women in the context of domestic violence. This study aims to find out how news online is being represented, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, where there is more violence than before. Strangely, the COVID-19 pandemic is a factor in the rise of the number of times women are abused. So, an interesting subject is how news online can represent women by the textual dimension of discourse analysis.

According to David Croteau and William Hoynes (2000), representation is the product of a selection procedure that emphasizes particular aspects while ignoring others. Representation of women in scholarly debate In the middle of the COVID19 pandemic, critical discourse analysis is an effort to bring attention to women's issues through news online discourse, facilitating efforts to improve women's conditions. According to Darma (2009), critical discourse is an endeavor or process (decomposition) to provide an explanation of a text (social reality) that is willing or being researched by an individual or dominating group whose propensity is to attain what is desired via a framework. Textual dimension discourse analysis It is possible to use Van Dijk's theoretical framework to express the subject matter of a speech or text.

The framework for discourse analysis in the text dimension outlined by van Dijk is composed of three structures or levels. Each system has a mutually supportive relationship: (1) Macrostructure, the meaning or global of a text that may be noticed from the issue or theme expressed in a text. (2) A document's framework indicates how the discourse's structure and contents are ordered in the text. (3) Microstructure or the local meaning of a book can be gleaned from its choice of words, phrases, and linguistic types (Eriyanto, 2005). The semantic connotation in the news text deals with what one wishes to highlight. By providing details on one side or making one side explicit while minimizing the other side, for instance. Setting, detail, intent, presupposition, perspective, nominalization. Syntax deals with the selection of sentences (form, order). Sentence structure, coherence, and pronoun usage are areas of emphasis in the English language. Stylistics concerns how to select the terms used in news articles. Rhetorical emphasis is on vocabulary describing how and why power is employed. It also looks at images, similes, and figurative language

METHOD

This article develops a descriptive qualitative technique. The study was undertaken using the content and textual analysis of national online news, in this case, BBC News. It was downloaded on May 19, 2020, from the website <https://www.bbc.com/indonesia/indonesia-52713350> and titled "Patriarchal Culture Derives from Grandmother's Teachings." Author: Ayomi Amindoni BBC Indonesian News During the COVID19 pandemic, the news is acquired by examining news articles providing gender-related information.

The BBC Online News was chosen because it frequently provides women's issues from various perspectives; therefore, it is fascinating to investigate the news texts they present to determine how this medium typically views the social conditions that affect women during the COVID19 epidemic. This study's theoretical foundation is Van Dijk's CDA (Critical Discourse Analysis). The researchers attempted to investigate the issue via the lens of a critical discourse centered on texts that depict how women suffered partner abuse during the COVID-19 pandemic. It examined how gender inequality is also manifested in the treatment of women via literary practice, social interactions, and discursive discourse (Fairclough, 1992). Critical discourse analysis is connected to language and power. Current usage of the word "CDA" refers to the critical linguistic approach that views the discursive unit of text as the fundamental communication unit (Weiss & Wodak, 2003).

FINDINGS/RESULTS

Macro Structure

The macrostructure deals with results and debate on how women, events, individuals, groups, situations, conditions, or anything else are portrayed and described in the text of the national news online BBC News. Based on the study of the macrostructure of the information reported in the text of the BBC Online News online, the dominant theme was instances of domestic abuse perpetrated against women by their partners during the COVID19 epidemic.

Superstructure

Each paragraph's superior organization is a collection of topics. The entire paragraph focuses on the condition of women who experience intimate partner violence, the sorts of intimate partner violence they experience, and the repercussions of these acts of violence on women's lives during the COVID-19

epidemic. The theme of violence in each paragraph of the discourse is organized to complement the overall framework of the discourse. It explores why, how, and why women experience violence.

Micro Structure

It examines the semantic description of micro-structure elements or micro-text structures (the meaning that is emphasized). The microstructure of the discourse is associated with semantics or meaning emphasis, comprised of context and nominalization. For example, the journalist brought up the case of a woman named Marina (pseudonym) and Yuli (pseudonym), who experienced domestic violence at the hands of their spouse during the pandemic COVID 19. The rising difficulty of life amid a pandemic provokes aggression against women due to the inherent patriarchal culture of the social system, in which women's status is always regarded as subordinate to that of men.

The journalist believes that women are moving targets due to the COVID-19 pandemic's effect on all parts of life. The journalist's perspective is that of a reporter who provides the victim's initials. Journalists also use the first person, employing straight statements from violent women (Aimee, 2015). It is indicated by using the pronoun "I" (Marina/pseudonym) to refer directly to female victims of domestic violence and a third person named Yuli. From a journalist's perspective, women are frequently the subject of rage due to the patriarchal understanding of social life and the assumption that they are weak creatures. To draw attention to the predicament of women affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, it is vital to describe in detail the brutality they have endured during the epidemic.

Syntax specifies the elements of a unit and their relationship to one another, including functional and semantic links. For example, journalists employ news sentences to describe the phenomenon and the status of women during the pandemic at the beginning of the news. The sentences are constructed as statements to explain the information to be reported to the reader.

"...Social constructions strongly tied to patriarchal society also perpetuate the violence experienced by Marina (not her real name), a 24-year-old woman who claims to have endured domestic violence at the hands of her younger brother, whom she refers to as 'in authority at home...'"

"...Marina acknowledges that in Pasuruan, East Java, where she was born and currently resides, there is still a patriarchal culture with a conservative outlook."

The author concludes the news with a new sentence containing possible answers for women who have been abuse victims. The purpose of the final sentence is to complete the text.

PPPA Minister Bintang Puspayoga explained that her party had developed an offline service mechanism for women and children through referrals from UPTD for Women's Empowerment and P2TP2A in provinces and districts/cities or through reporting persons who come directly to the Ministry of PPPA...

During the adoption of social limitations, however, several institutions developed work-from-home regulations, including support and counseling institutes for violence against women, which restricted services for women who had experienced abuse...

Journalists frequently employ first-person pronouns and direct language. Direct statements are denoted by the pronoun "I (Marina/pseudonym)" as shown in the following examples.

In my family, patriarchal culture stems from my grandmother's beliefs, passed down to my mother," Marina told BBC News Indonesia...

"I was forced to the floor. Then, when I brought this up to my mother, she stated that the youngster was not in the wrong..."

"I'm not the only one who has suffered my sister's aggression; my mother has also been shoved to the ground," She claimed.

"My mum believes that boys do not deserve to do that," she explained.

"Actually, I'm not the only one who has experienced my sister's violence; my mother has also been shoved to the ground," she remarked.

Also, the use of the pronoun of a third person named Yuli. These concise sentences convey the substance of the work to the reader.

Marina is not alone. Yuli, a 28-year-old woman who claimed to have been physically and verbally attacked by her spouse, also experienced gender-based violence.

"... Yuli, a 28-year-old woman who claimed to have been physically and verbally harassed by her husband, likewise suffered gender-based violence..."

Yuli revealed to BBC News Indonesia that she began receiving abusive treatment from her spouse approximately three years into marriage.

"...they endured fight after fight in their rented residence in Jakarta, frequently accompanied by loud language and crass nonsense, until Yuli miscarried her first kid." The husband then expressed regret and pledged to modify his behavior.

"...Yuli allowed her husband to reform. However, this never occurred. His anger is worsening..." Yuli stated, "Therefore, envy is ambiguous, as is defamation, and occasionally my actions are inappropriate."

"If he knew he would get angry with me, he even struck me," She said later.

"...In fact, Yuli was forced to give birth to her children twice without the presence of her husband..." According to Yuli, the most significant violence she has ever encountered occurred when she and her husband had a heated argument over her husband's debt problem last year. Then, her husband compelled her to sell her jewelry to pay off the debt..."

"He compelled me, I was upset, struck me again, gave me two slaps. I slapped back. "Enough with the injections while I'm pregnant," Yuli explained. Finally, I screamed, and the neighbors threw him out. "He eventually departed," She continued.

"...Since then, Yuli and her spouse separated a year ago." However, this does not resolve the violence she experienced..."

"...Yuli, who lives alone with her two one-year-and-five-month-old children, stated that she had to fight desperately to meet her daily necessities. Moreover, the pandemic condition has exacerbated economic difficulties..."

"...When she implored her husband over the phone to be responsible, she received angry comments..."

Yuli opted to return to her parent's home in Martapura, South Sumatra because she was helpless in the face of the situation.

She claimed to have reported the assault to LBH Jakarta, and her case is currently under investigation.

In terms of stylistics, the journalists use exact words and use colloquial language commonly used in informal conversations. There is no language style, making the message easy for readers to comprehend by directly quoting the utterances of victims of violence. The purpose is to clarify the meaning journalists wish to share and make the text more interesting for readers.

Concerning rhetoric, the sentence emphasizes the victims of violence's direct statements. The author created the essay to convey women-related difficulties during the COVID-19 pandemic.

CONCLUSIONS

The media have a crucial role in promoting gender equality and women's rights, which are frequently ignored by the patriarchal system in society. In the BBC's online news online debate, the efforts of news writers to bring up the subject of violence against women during the pandemic were discovered. Sentences taken directly from the words of victims of violence facilitate comprehension of the intended message. The submitted works attempt to stir individuals in positions of authority, suggesting that the speech texts written on the news online can alter to influence the reader.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The research presented in this article was primarily financed by the Universitas Sumatra Utara TALENTA research initiative for young lecturers/beginners for the 2020 fiscal year. 299/UN5.2.3.1/PPM/SPP-TALENTA USU/202020

REFERENCES

- Aimee, V. (2015). *New Media Coverage of Woman Asia Pacific Media Education*. University of Wollongong: SAGE
- Carol, P. C. (2016). *A new definition of Patriarchy Control of Woman's Sexuality Private Property and War*. SAGE
- Eriyanto. (2005). *Analisis Wacana Pengantar Analisis Teks Media*. Yogyakarta: LKis
- Effendy, O. U. (2005). *Ilmu Komunikasi Teori dan Praktek*. Bandung. Remaja Rosda Karya
- Darma, Y. (2009). *Analisis Wacana Kritis*. Bandung. Yrama Widya.
- Fairclough, N. (1995). *Critical Discourse Analysis: the Critical Study of Language*. London: Longman
- Johnson, M. P. (2006). Conflict and control: Gender symmetry and asymmetry in domestic violence. *Violence against women*, 12(11), 1003–1018.

- Martin, M. (2002). An unsuitable technology for a woman? Communication as circulation. In E. Meehan & E. Riordan (Eds), *Sex & money, feminism, and political economy in the media*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press
- Van Dijk, T. A. (1985). *Discourse and Communication*. Walter de Gruyter.
- Wodak, R. & Chilton, P. A. (2005). *A New Agenda In (Critical) Discourse Analysis Theory, Methodology, and Interdisciplinary*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishing Company.