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Representation of Sexual Harassment Victims in English-based Indonesian Online News: A Critical Discourse Analysis

Muhammad Firnas Hibatulloh, Fathor Rasyid

*Department of English Education, Postgraduate Program, State Islamic
Institute (IAIN) of Kediri, Indonesia*

Corresponding E-mail: firmasmuhammad99612@gmail.com

Abstract

This study aims to investigate representations of sexual harassment victims in English-based Indonesian online news and reveal the underlying ideology behind the representation. This study uses critical discourse analysis with Fairclough's framework. Halliday's systemic functional grammar is applied in terms of the transitivity process. Data were news articles published in *Tempo.co*, *The Jakarta Post* and *Antara*. The data were analyzed using Eggins' transitivity analysis keywords and then classified based on the transitivity process. The result shows that there are 88 transitivity processes consisting of 44 material processes, 26 verbal, ten relational attributive, one relational identifying, four mental and three existential processes. The behavioral process is not found in news articles. All English-based Indonesian online news represents sexual harassment victims positively. All news agencies represent that sexual harassment cases are not handled properly. This representation shows that all online news agencies support the ideology of gender equality and feminism at a varied rate. *Tempo.co* are less clear in showing their partiality. The news agencies are clear enough in showing their partiality to the sexual harassment victim. However, all of the online news agencies still represent the victim as a powerless object towards the perpetrator's actions. However, there are misjudgments about the victim presented by *The Jakarta Post* and misrepresentation represented by *Tempo.co* and *Antara*. This implies that English-based Indonesian online news agencies still contain a patriarchal culture in their news reports.

Key words: *critical discourse analysis, English-based Indonesian online news, representation, sexual harassment victims*

Introduction

Sexual harassment has been widely discussed in recent years in Indonesia because the cases have increased, and the victims are more varied (Cahyaningtyas, 2021). Not only adults but adolescents, children and even toddlers are now in danger of sexual harassment. The National Commission on Violence Against Women reports that 299,911 cases of sexual harassment, with female victims, were recorded in Indonesia in 2020 as well as an increase in drastic data on complaints, which rose to 60 percent from 1,413 cases in 2019 to 2,389 cases in 2020 (Komnas Perempuan, 2021).

Among the sexual harassment cases recorded by the National Commission on Violence Against Women, sexual harassment against women in the education environment is a special concern for the government and the people of Indonesia. Education institutions that should be a safe place for them to learn are the contributors to sexual harassment cases. During the 2015 to 2020 cases, it was noted that universities ranked first with a presentation of 27 percent, followed by Islamic-based education ranked second with 19 percent, and high schools ranked third with 15 percent (Komnas Perempuan, 2021).

This phenomenon might happen because there are power relations in such educational institutions (Fitri et al., 2021). Perpetrators with influential backgrounds, such as professors and individuals holding dominant positions within the social structure, often make it challenging to resolve cases of sexual harassment. Additionally, the prevalence of patriarchal culture deeply embedded within the structures of educational institutions creates a vicious cycle. This cycle perpetuates victim-blaming and encourages behaviors that silence victims to protect the reputation of educational institutions.

Furthermore, public opinion of such cases is influenced by the media. Studies by Baum and Potter (2008) and Santos et al. (2022) show that mass media play a role in shaping public opinion of a case that occurs. Newspapers, as one of the mass media, have become a main source of information for the public since they follow journalism ethics,

which can be trusted. However, the narratives that are built sometimes even corner the victim and perpetuate victim-blaming. This can lead people to misjudgment, which makes the victims who are not mentally strong more stressed. Therefore, it is crucial to critically understand the meaning and intention behind news reports to avoid misinterpretation and misjudgment.

In the digitalization era, printed newspapers have gradually shifted to online newspapers because of their efficiency and practicality. *Tempo*, *The Jakarta Post*, and *Antara* are some news agencies that follow the trend. Nurhajati and Wijayanto (2019) stated that *Tempo* has successfully implemented self-regulation, free from media ownership intervention. This means that *Tempo* brings an image of independence in reporting their news and even tends to criticize or oppose power. Similarly, *The Jakarta Post* has the tagline *still bold, fiercely independent*, whereas, as the only official news agency of the government, *Antara* has been one of the main information sources for the people. Accordingly, it is essential to investigate those news agencies, with their own characteristics and social backgrounds, in representing sexual harassment victims and the underlying ideology behind that representation. Furthermore, investigating English-based reports is considered important since global citizens will more likely read English-based reports than Indonesian reports. Thus, the judgments of global citizens towards the sexual harassment issue in Indonesia will be less or more influenced by the portrayals in the English-based news reports.

One of the linguistic methods that can be applied to unveil the intended meaning of news articles in newspapers is critical discourse analysis (CDA). Van Dijk (2004) defines CDA as a research approach that analyzes text and talk in social and political contexts. CDA primarily examines how social power abuse, dominance and inequality are enacted, reproduced and challenged through discourse. One of the linguistic tools that is used in CDA is systemic functional grammar (SFG).

CDA and SFG cannot be separated from each other for two reasons: its purpose and function (Fitriani et al., 2021). First, like CDA,

SFG also aims to uncover the relationship between language and its social context by examining the grammatical properties of the text. Second, SFG provides valuable analytical tools for CDA in comprehensively investigating the meaning of texts and facilitating quantitative discourse studies when applicable. By utilizing SFG within CDA, researchers can better understand how language constructs and reflects social realities.

Fairclough (2015) states that in CDA, texts, or production and interpretation processes, are analyzed using language as discourse and social practice. The immediate circumstances of the situational setting and the institutional and social structures are included in analyzing the relationships between texts, processes and social contexts. Furthermore, Richardson (2007) argues that Fairclough's model of CDA is more accessible than any other CDA approach. Fairclough explains that analysis must be taken from the structure and function of the text, the relationship between the text's creation and consumption, and its relation to the larger society in which it occurs to understand what discourse is and how it works fully.

Furthermore, one linguistic tool applied in CDA is systemic functional grammar (SFG). It is a well-known work of Michael Halliday. Halliday and Matthiessen (2004) believe that language is a social symbol system as a resource for creating meaning. Instead of being a sentence-based perspective, SFG theory has evolved to be more discourse-based. It successfully uses a specific viewpoint to analyze the language; that viewpoint is functional. Here, SFG tries to investigate how language works. Halliday and Matthiessen (2004) identified three 'metafunctions' of language. The first is the ideational function (clause as representation), where language expresses an individual's world experience. The second is the interpersonal function (clause as an exchange), which explores how individuals interact with one another through language on a social level. The third is the textual function (clause as a message), which examines how linguistic forms establish connections between one another and the situational context. Analyzing language in this way can unveil social actions as representations, exercises of power and other significant aspects.

Several studies have analyzed discourse in media, either spoken or written, using the CDA framework and SFG as their analytical tools. Chen (2018) investigates Donald Trump's political intention in his inaugural speech by focusing on transitivity, modality, personal pronouns and coherence. Ikawati's (2018) study on the *Hidden Figures* movie unveils discrimination to the main cast, three Afro-American women. This study used more aspects of SFG, such as transitivity, mood, modality, polarity, pronouns and ellipsis. Li (2010) investigated *The New York Times* and *China Daily's* representation of the NATO bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Yugoslavia in May 1999. Two dimensions of clause grammar, transitivity and lexical cohesion were examined. Wang (2021) tries to compare two big news portals, *The New York Times* and *People's Daily*, in presenting news reports on COVID-19. It uses Halliday's analysis tools within Fairclough's three-dimensional framework in terms of lexical classification, transitivity, and modal verbs.

In the Indonesian context, quite a few studies use CDA and SFG to investigate the representation of social actors in news articles. One of them is a study from Fitriani et al. (2021), which investigates *The Jakarta Post's* representation of the 212 rallies by focusing on transitivity and metaphor aspects. Another study was conducted by Eklesia and Rido (2020), which takes *The Jakarta Post* and *The Jakarta Globe* as the objects focusing on the representation of people with HIV/AIDS.

Therefore, seeing the importance and value of SFG as an analytical tool in CDA, the present study applies SFG in CDA's framework to investigate the representation of sexual harassment victims in *Tempo.co*, *The Jakarta Post* and *Antara*, and the underlying ideology behind the representation. Those news agencies were chosen because they have different characteristics and social backgrounds, which can enrich the data of this research. Furthermore, there are still not many researchers who have investigated and compared the three news agencies. This study uses Fairclough's three-dimensional framework that consists of text (description), discursive practice (interpretation) and social practice (explanation). Furthermore, Halliday's systemic functional grammar in terms of transitivity is used as an analytical tool. This investigation is

conducted to extend empirical research on CDA and SFG and bring more of their appliance into the Indonesian context. The research questions are as follows.

1. How are the sexual harassment victims in education institutions in Indonesia represented in *Tempo.co*, *The Jakarta Post* and *Antara*?
2. What is the underlying ideology of the representation brought by *Tempo.co*, *The Jakarta Post* and *Antara* in their articles?

Method

Research Design

This qualitative research uses the critical discourse analysis (CDA) method. Creswell (2015) states that qualitative research is intended to explore and understand the meaning of individuals or groups to describe a social or human problem. Furthermore, CDA can refer to techniques used to study language and textual practice as social and cultural practices (Fairclough, 2010). Such a method is used because the focus of this research is to describe the representation of sexual harassment victims in the news reports of *Tempo.co*, *The Jakarta Post*, and *Antara* by analyzing the transitivity guided by the framework of Fairclough's critical discourse analysis and the underlying ideology behind the representation.

Data and Data Source

The data of this research are in the form of clauses, which are taken from selected articles. Meanwhile, the sources of the data are news articles from *Tempo.co*, *The Jakarta Post* and *Antara*, taken from their websites. There are three criteria for selecting the news articles. First, the publication time within 2020 to 2022 because, in this range of years, the cases of sexual harassment in educational institutions increased as well as being novel. Second, the context of the news is in the education institutions in Indonesia. Third, the news articles should be able to

represent the sexual harassment victims that can be seen from the presence of the victim or connection between the case and the victim. By setting these three criteria, there are nine news articles, with three from each news agency that fulfilled the criteria and were then analyzed. The details of the data sources including the name of the newspaper agencies, the number of articles taken, and the title of the news articles are presented below in Table 1.

Table 1. *The Detail of The Data Sources*

No	Newspaper Agencies	Number of Articles	Title
1	Tempo.co	3	<i>Riau University dean named suspect in sexual harassment case</i>
			<i>Teacher in Bandung faces 20-year imprisonment for raping 12 students</i>
			<i>Andalas University acts firm against lecturer accused of sexual harassment</i>
2	The Jakarta Post	3	<i>More victims report sexual abuse on campus, but few find justice</i>
			<i>'They laughed in my face': Riau student says university brushed off sexual assault report</i>
			<i>Rape of 'pesantren' students triggers national soul-searching</i>
3	Antara	3	<i>To address sexual violence, ensuring victims' rights crucial</i>
			<i>Victims of sexual violence are often criminalized: women's commission</i>
			<i>NWR case shows limitations of services to victims of sexual violence</i>

Research Instrument

Since this research is a content analysis, the researcher is the instrument of this research. As Neuman (2007) stated, in qualitative research, the researcher is the instrument to analyze the data. The researcher analyzes the data and then concludes. The researcher also uses some sources to produce a valid analysis. In addition, the researcher used books, journal articles, and information related to the theory to support the analysis.

Data Analysis

This study applies the model of critical discourse analysis proposed by Norman Fairclough (2015), known as the three-dimensional framework, to answer the research questions. The first stage of analysis is description. This stage is done by completing a textual analysis that relies on Halliday's systemic functional grammar, specifically the transitivity analysis. Transitivity is defined as a grammatical system in which clauses are described as representations (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004). In addition, the transitivity process consists of three parts: the process itself, the people involved in it, and any related conditions. As per Halliday and Matthiessen (2004), in the transitivity system, the person is portrayed through the nominal group, the process is depicted through the verbal group, and the setting is presented through the adverbial group or prepositional phrase (Bustam, 2011). The six categories of transitivity that Halliday articulated are the process that is material, mental, relational, verbal, behavioral and existential.

After the text is divided into clauses, each different type of process is identified and encoded by a projection table. The table uses the abbreviation or analysis keywords proposed by Eggins (2004). An example can be seen in Table 2.

Table 2. Example of Clause Projection

No	Code	Data
1	A1/P4/S2	<i>In the video (Cl), she (S) recalled (Pme) experiencing sexual harassment (Ph) as she conducted thesis guidance with the suspect (Ct).</i>

The interpretation stage of Fairclough's three-dimensional concept (2015) answers the first question of the study. Aiming at revealing the representation of sexual harassment victim in the text, this part requires the analysis of overall data to see the transitivity used concerning sexual harassment information that is further interpreted in terms of their situational contexts. Thus, interpretation examines how the conversation (or discursive process) and the text relate. The last stage of analysis, known as the explanation part, attempts to unveil the underlying ideologies behind the representation, which addresses the reason why sexual harassment victims are represented in such a way. This stage answers the second question of this study. In Fairclough's (2015) critical discourse analysis, this part discusses the relationship between the social and discursive processes (the creation and consumption of the text).

Results and Discussion

Taking nine news articles from three English-based Indonesian online news agencies (*Tempo.co*, *The Jakarta Post*, and *Antara*) as the sample, 88 transitivity processes related to the representation of sexual harassment victims were used as the data for this research. *Tempo.co* contributed the least data with 17 clauses, followed by *Antara* in the second place with 25 clauses. *The Jakarta Post* contributed the most data with 46 clauses. The amount of data found is presented in Table 3.

Table 3. *Types of Transitivity Process Found in News Articles*

Type of Transitivity Process	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Material	44	50
Mental	4	4.5
Relational		
1. Attributive	10	11.4
2. Identifying	1	1.1
Behavioral	0	0
Existential	3	3.5
Verbal	26	29.5
TOTAL	88	100

Table 3 shows that the material process tops the frequency with 44 times of occurrence (50%), followed by the verbal process with 26 times of occurrence (29.5%) in the second place. In third place is the relational attributive process with ten times of occurrence (12.5%), followed by mental process with four times of occurrence (4.5%), and existential process is in the fifth position with three times of occurrence (3.5%). The last is relational identifying which only appears once (1.1%). The behavioral process is not found in these articles.

After completing description stage by conducting textual analysis above, then, the first problem statement is answered through interpretation stage. Interpretation is the stage of connecting textual analysis and social analysis. In this stage, the researchers relate the linguistic features from the transitivity analysis to the interaction that produces a theme reflected in the text. For each representation, one to two data are presented as the analysis sample. The representations of sexual harassment victims categorized in the following headings:

Victim as Someone Brave to Take Action and to Fight Injustice

Representation of a victim as someone brave to take action and fight injustice is found in all online news agencies with a total of seven data. This represents the victim as an active participant who can be recognized by the material process coded as an Actor. The portrayal of the victim who is brave and fights injustice is expressed by all of the news agencies, even with different frequencies. *Tempo.co* presents it twice while *Antara* presents it once. *The Jakarta Post* presents it the most with four occurrences.

Data 1: *The victim (A) with the assistance of the Pekanbaru Legal Aid then reported (Pm) the case (G) to the police.*

Data 2: *I (A) left (Pm) [his] office*

Data 1 is taken from *Tempo.co*. In Data 2, *the victim* as the Actor (A) and *reported* as the Material Process (Pm) signify that the victim has a positive portrayal that she is brave enough to fight against the perpetrator and report the case to the police. Meanwhile, in Data 2 which is taken from *The Jakarta Post*, the Actor (A) is *I* and the Material Process (Pm) is *left*. The *I* refers to the victim and means that the victim is not powerless against the perpetrator. Instead, she takes action while the sexual harassment happens by leaving the perpetrator's office.

Victim as Someone Who is Blamed by Society

The material process reflects the representation of the victim as someone who is blamed. In this representation, the victim is placed as the object or Goal. A total of four data sets were obtained from *The Jakarta Post* and *Antara*. The placement of the victim as the guilty party in this case is not by online news agencies but by the perpetrators or the society involved in it. Those data are presented below:

Data 3: *and THEY (A) accused (Pm) MNK (G) of defaming the cleric.*

Data 4: *Victims of sexual violence in Indonesia (G) are often criminalized (Pm) on charges of defamation*

Data 3 is obtained from *The Jakarta Post*, which places the victims, in this case represented by MNK as the Goal (G). Meanwhile, the Material Process (Pm) is shown by *accused*. The Actor (A) in Data 27 is *THEY*, which refers to followers or supporters of the perpetrator. Still, in the context of the same case, sexual harassment committed on a child by the leader of an Islamic boarding school, *The Jakarta Post* is intending to tell that the victim was not protected but instead was accused of defaming the perpetrator. In Data 4, from *Antara*, the victim is reflected by *Victims of sexual violence in Indonesia* as the Goal (G) and *are often criminalized* is the Material Process (Pm). This shows that *Antara* wants to reveal that the sexual harassment victim is often blamed.

Victim as Someone Who is Mistreated by Authorities

Representation of the victim as someone who is mistreated by authorities is reflected by placing the victim as the object or Goal in the material process. Such representation is found in *The Jakarta Post* and *Antara* with three data. However, the same as the former representation, it does not mean a negative but rather has a positive meaning. The mistreatment that the victim got here is carried out by the police and individuals at the educational institution where the sexual harassment case occurred. There are three descriptions of mistreatment found in *The Jakarta Post* and one data in *Antara*.

Data 5: *They (G) are often forced (Pm) to undergo forensic examinations and interrogations more than once, which only brings up traumatic experiences.*

Data 6: *Upon receiving a complaint from a victim, identified as Z, aged 19, who was gang-raped by four suspects and lost her baby in the ordeal, two police officers (A) in North Tambusai, Riau, instead threatened (Pm) Z (G) after she objected to how they were handling the case.*

Data 5 is obtained from *The Jakarta Post*. In Data 5, the victim is represented by *They* as the Goal (G), and the Material Process (Pm) is *often forced*. The actor is not named but refers to the police. *The Jakarta Post* shows that the victims receive inappropriate treatment because they are forced to undergo forensic examinations and are interrogated, which causes them trauma. Meanwhile, in Data 6, which is taken from *Antara*, the victim is shown by *Z* as the Goal (G) while the Material Process (Pm) is *threatened*, which is done by the Actor, *two police officers*. This finding shows that *Antara* has the intention to narrate the police officers' pressure on the victim, which shows a mistreatment of the victim.

Victim Who Needs Protection and Support Physically and Psychologically

Representation of victims as someone who needs protection and support since they are affected physically and psychologically is recognized by material, relational and existential processes. The victims' need to be protected is shown through the material process. Physical effects can be seen in Data 7 and Data 8, which are gained from *Tempo.co* as follows:

Data 7: *Some of the students became pregnant (At)*

Data 8: *...and three of them are currently pregnant (At).*

In Data 7 and 8, the attribute (At) given is that the victim became pregnant due to the sexual harassment that occurred, which is shown by the attributes (At) *pregnant* and *currently pregnant*. Furthermore, psychological effects can be seen from the relational process in Data 9 and 10.

Data 9: *The victim is still not stable (At), still terrified (At),*

Data 10: *so they grew increasingly powerless (At) to achieve justice,*

Data 9 is found in *The Jakarta Post* while Data 10 is gained from *Antara*. In Data 9, *The Jakarta Post* gives the attributes (At) *still not stable* and *still terrified* to the victim. Meanwhile, in Data 10, *Antara* represents the victim by using the attribute (At) *powerless* which shows that the victim needs support and protection.

Victim as a Powerless Object to Perpetrator's Action

Representation in which the social actor is undergoing or receiving the activity of others is called passivation. This passivation means that online news agencies portray the victim as someone weak, passive and submissive to the perpetrator. It is reflected by the material and verbal process, which places the victim as the object or Goal of what the perpetrator did. This kind of representation is found in all news agencies with seven data. The description is as follows:

- Data 11: *...that HW (A) had allegedly molested (Pm) 12 female students (G) who were still minors since 2016.*
- Data 12: *However, in the process of this conversation, KC (Sy) asked (Pv) the student to kiss him.*

Data 11 above is obtained from *Tempo.co*, which describes the victim with *12 female students* as the Goal (G) and Material Process (Pm) *had allegedly been molested*. As the Actor (A), the perpetrator is shown by HW, who has committed bad deeds since 2016. Furthermore, the verbal process represents the victim as a powerless object, as in Data 12, taken from *The Jakarta Post*. In Data 12, the Sayer (Sy) is the perpetrator signified by KC, and the Material Process (Pm) is *asked*. The data shows the perpetrator as the Sayer (Sy) who asks the victims to do something according to his command.

Misrepresentation of the Victims

Excessive Exposure to the Victim

Excessive exposure means that the news articles portray the chronology of the sexual harassment case that include references to the victim's body parts. Apart from placing the victim in a weak position as an object, this kind of depiction is a misrepresentation because it will make the reader imagine the incident that caused a traumatic impact on the victim. Not only mentioning the victim's body parts but excessive exposure also places the victims as active participants where they should not be.

Data 13: *The female students (A) had even given birth (Pm) to eight babies.*

Data 14: *..and HE (A) kissed (Pm) her cheek and forehead (G).*

Tempo.co portrays misrepresentation in Data 13 by placing *the female students* as the Actor (A) and *had even given birth* as the Material Process (Pm). This kind of representation is categorized as misrepresentation because this places victims as an active participant that depict the victims as if they gave birth because of their own will. Furthermore, in Data 14, which is taken from *The Jakarta Post*, the misrepresentation is shown by the Goal (G) *her cheek and forehead*. The Actor (A) in both data is similar: the lecturer as the perpetrator, signified by *HE* in Data 14.

Revealing Victim's Identity

Although *Antara* mostly gives a positive representation of the victim, there is still misrepresentation in which *Antara* mentions the victim's name and does not give a pseudonym or initials. This is reflected by the existential process in Data 15, which shows the victim's name as Existent.

Data 15: *For instance, like the case in Bengkulu, there is Yuyun (Ex) what was inserted inside her and other body parts are objects.*

The words *is* and *Yuyun* signify the existential process as the Existent (Ex). However, the mention of the victim's name here is not correct because it can cause excessive exposure to the victim, which can cause trauma. The victim's name should have been written with initials or a pseudonym. If Yuyun is a pseudonym, an explanation should be given. Unfortunately, *Antara* did not include that information. This shows that *Antara* does not follow the code of ethics when reporting sexual harassment cases.

Misjudgment of the Victim

Misjudgment of the victim or impressions that put the victim in a corner appears in one of *The Jakarta Post* articles, which is reflected in Material and Verbal Process as seen in Data 16 and 17. In Data 16, the Actor (A) is *A Riau University student* while the Material Process (Pm) is *has accused and her lecturer* as the Goal (G). Here, *The Jakarta Post* uses the word *accuse* which implies that the case that occurred is only speculation and places and corners the victim as the guilty party for accusing the lecturer of committing sexual harassment. This can lead people to victim blaming.

Meanwhile, in Data 17 below, the Sayer (Sy) is the victim signified by *SHE* while the Verbal Process (Pv) is signified by *has claimed*. The problem here is the choice of the phrase *has claimed*, which tends to place all the burden and responsibility for the truth of the facts on the victim. This tends to corner and blame the victim.

Data 16: *A Riau University student (A) has accused (Pm) her lecturer (G), who is also a faculty official, of sexual harassment.*

Data 17: *...and SHE (Sy) has claimed (Pv) that university officials impeded her reporting of the incident.*

Cases Not Handled Properly

The material and verbal process recognize the representation of sexual harassment cases as something that is not handled properly. This is found in all of the online news agencies. From the Material Process (Pm), there are seven data that place the case as an active participant coded by Actor (A). Four data are from *The Jakarta Post*, and three data are from *Antara*.

Data 18: *However, her case (G) has yet to be brought (Pm) to the court.*

Data 19: *The delay in the resolution of the case of NWR, a victim of sexual violence from East Java (A), has highlighted (Pm) the limitation of services offered to victims of violence and the urgent need to reform them.*

The Goal (G) her case in Data 18 represents the case here, which is taken from *The Jakarta Post*. The point of the notion is that *The Jakarta Post* narrates that the case has not been handled properly since it has not been brought to the court yet. In Data 19, which is gained from *Antara*, the Material Process (Pm) is signified by *has highlighted*. In the data, *Antara* emphasizes that the delay of the case handling shows the lack of service offered to victims in Indonesia. Meanwhile, from the verbal process (Pv), there is a total of fourteen data which places supporting victim parties as the source of information.

Data 20: *The police have made no progress on the case one year after we've reported it,(V)" said (Pv) Ana Abdillah (Sy) of the Alliance of Santri City Against Sexual Violence, who had been accompanying MNK.*

Data 21: *As a result, many cases of violence were reported, but they were not handled well (V), she (Sy) noted (Pv).*

The Sayer (Sy) in Data 20, gained from *The Jakarta Post*, is an activist of the Alliance of Santri City Against Sexual Violence. The verbiage (V) is about the long process of handling cases of sexual harassment by the police. Furthermore, in Data 21, taken from Antara, the Sayer (Sy) is only one person, Andy Yentriyani, a National Women's Commission commissioner. The verbiage (V) displayed concerns the slow handling of cases of sexual violence, especially the handling and protection of victims.

Ideology of English-based Indonesian Online News Agencies

This section is the explanation stage of Fairclough's three-dimensional framework. Explanation concerns the relationship between interaction and social context, the social determination of the process of production and interpretation, and their social effects (Fairclough, 2015). In other words, it requires the researchers to connect what has been found in the interpretation to the social contexts. Thus, this section exposes the above findings to particular social contexts.

The Underlying Ideology and Agenda

Based on the interpretations of transitivity choices in English-based Indonesian online news agencies, as elaborated in the previous section on sexual harassment victim representation, online news agencies attempt to convince their readers to consider the presence of sexual harassment victims as a marginalized group in Indonesia. The means of convincing are realized through the representations of sexual harassment victims served by the three online news agencies in which their agendas are embedded. These online news agencies tend to take the side of the victim. The partiality can be identified through the existing power relations that will reveal the media's interest, position and purpose. According to Fairclough (1995), media are defined as something that exercises power in their products by determining the

content of their products, and the tendency of media can be revealed by investigating the use of sources of information in their news reports.

The statements by supporting victim parties are the most frequently presented in the texts published by these online news agencies. The findings indicate that these media seem to represent the agenda of gender activists for the realization of sexual harassment prevention, people's empathy for the victim, as well as appropriate treatment and protection for the victim. This means that *Tempo.co*, *The Jakarta Post*, and *Antara* support gender equality and feminism at various rates. Feminism strives for a transformation in the social system, advocating for equal rights between women and men, irrespective of gender (Ariani & Sunarto, 2021).

This study shows that online news agencies often place victims as active parties in the discourse. According to Van Leeuwen (2008), the representation of social actors as the active and dynamic forces in an activity is called Activation. This activation means that the news agencies want to portray the victim as someone important to be recognized. This finding is different from that of Weatherall (2002), who stated that in news reports, women are marginalized by being denied the role of active agents. This shows that the online news agencies want to depict the victim's resilience toward the case, which is later called a positive representation in this study.

Related to the variation of news agencies' partiality, *Tempo.co* tends to support the victim as a party that dares to fight back but, at the same time, is also affected by the sexual violence that occurred, which is intended to gain the reader's sympathy for the victims. *Tempo.co* also brings different sources to support the idea of the news. Following this finding, Rahmi et al. (2021) also found that *Tempo.co*, in its reports, tries to present information supported by many sources. More than one source was interviewed for one news item.

However, the representations and alignments that *Tempo.co* tries to narrate are a bit vague due to the limitation of the existing narrations, one of which is due to the short nature of the articles. This aligns with the

study of Kurniawan et al. (2021), who investigated textual discourse analysis of educational news in *Tempo.co*. The study revealed that *Tempo.co* tends to be neutral by utilizing dysphemism and informal vocabulary and not giving certain attributes to the issue. Furthermore, *Tempo.co* misrepresents the victims by placing them as active participants where they should not be. This can make news readers unaware of the perpetrators' actions (Adinda & Roeslie, 2022).

Different from *Tempo.co*, *The Jakarta Post* clearly shows its partiality to the victim. *The Jakarta Post* fills in all of the positive representations from its news reports. This shows that *The Jakarta Post* supports the sexual harassment victim. This is in line with the study of Evayani and Rido (2019), who found that *The Jakarta Post*, by using a suppression and backgrounding strategy, wants to get sympathy from the readers for the victims. However, there is still misjudgment and misrepresentation of the victims who are represented by *The Jakarta Post*, as can be seen from inappropriate material and verbal processes and also, from the excessive exposure to the chronology of the sexual harassment that depicts the physical involvement of the victim. This is in accordance with Diana et al. (2019), who state that *The Jakarta Post* provides misrepresentation, rape narrative and objectivity of the victim, indicating submissive and passive woman representation in media.

Similar to *The Jakarta Post*, *Antara* is clearer in representing sexual harassment victims positively than *Tempo.co*. *Antara* accomplishes all of the positive representations of the victim. This means that *Antara* wants to support sexual harassment prevention and handling in Indonesia as it is also one of the main concerns of the Indonesian government recently. This is in line with the study of Isnaeni et al. (2021) which found that *Antara*, as a news service that is under the authorization of the Indonesian Government, delivers the news in such a way as to cast a good impression of the government on particular issues to be positively accepted by the citizens of Indonesia.

Although *Antara* mostly gives a positive representation of the victim, there is still misrepresentation in which *Antara* mentions the

victim's name and does not give a pseudonym or initials. This shows that *Antara* does not follow the code of ethics in reporting sexual harassment cases. The ethics include protecting the victim's identity, name and personal information and avoiding writing the sensational details of the assault chronology, which can objectify the victim (Adinda & Roeslie, 2022).

Even though the placement of victims as active participants and positive representations is raised quite often by news agencies, there are still placements of victims as passive and powerless objects towards the perpetrators' actions. Van Leeuwen (2008) states that representation in which the social actor is undergoing or receiving the activity of others is called passivation. Online news agencies depict victims as individuals who exhibit weakness, passivity and submission to the perpetrator, as indicated by this process of passivation. This finding is in line with Ardianto and Polii (2009), who also find that Indonesia's media coverage shows the existence of gender imbalances in portraying a woman's image as an object, with identity calling and lowering a woman's status as represented in the linguistic patterns.

Since there are still some misjudgments and misrepresentations of the victim as an object, this also implies patriarchal culture, although the amount of representative data is not significant. This is following Amiruddin (2013), who reveals that there is an influence of patriarchal culture on newspaper coverage of rape issues. Hunnicut (2009) states that patriarchal culture views men as dominant and having the ability to exercise their power over women.

News Agency Background

To clarify the media's position, a deeper exploration of the powers influencing the media is essential. The main point of investigation lies in uncovering details about media ownership. *Tempo.co*, a creation of Tempo Media Group, operates within the PT framework. *Tempo Inti Media* is a publicly traded private enterprise. Share ownership spans

various institutions, individuals and the general public. Susanto (2021) outlines that this diversified ownership empowers *Tempo* to uphold its autonomy, as final determinations regarding news content are reached within the editorial meeting, not by the shareholders' meeting.

Moreover, *The Jakarta Post*, which is owned by PT. Bina Media Tenggara operates under the control of four media groups: *Kompas*, *Tempo*, *Suara Karya*, and *Sinar Harapan*. Among these stakeholders, *Kompas* and *Tempo*, both recognized as secular or democratic media entities, have played a role in advancing the democratization process among Indonesians (Utami, 2018). Meanwhile, *Antara* stands as the sole Indonesian domestic media outlet designated as a state-owned enterprise, falling under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of State-Owned Enterprises of the Republic of Indonesia. As highlighted by Rahmi et al. (2021), being reliant on government support and funding, *Antara* tends to approach critical issues tied to government decisions more moderately. In this case, it is included in providing government support and partiality to the victim of sexual harassment. Regarding the information about the prevailing powers influencing the media, particularly in terms of ownership, it could be inferred that the media powers are subject to the democratic principles upheld by their ownerships. This fact reinforces the orientation of these media agencies towards supporting victims of sexual violence and advocating for feminist ideals and gender equality.

People's Social Background

Misjudgments and misrepresentations of the victim as an object reflect a patriarchal culture in Indonesia, especially in educational institutions. The patriarchal culture is considered rooted in Indonesian academia as the cause of the low female participation and the limited gender equity knowledge among senior male faculty members (Haekal & Fitri, 2020). Fitri et al. (2021), who interviewed students at the university level, revealed that if they experience sexual harassment, they will not report it since they do not want to get into trouble with their academic

activity. A study in Indonesia highlighted that the tendency to conceal and protect an institution's reputation might be potentially influenced by religious and cultural aspects (Istiadah et al., 2020). It described the difficulty of dealing with sexual violence cases as the institution often showed limited support, and the survivors tended to remain silent (motivated by socio-cultural and religious dogma) to shield themselves and the institution.

Conclusion

Based on research findings and discussions, the English-based Indonesian online news agencies, represented by *Tempo.co*, *The Jakarta Post* and *Antara*, mostly represent sexual harassment victims positively. They portray the victim as the one who is brave enough to take action and fight injustice, the victim as someone who is blamed by society, the victim as someone who gets mistreated by authorities, and people who need protection since they are affected by the case physically and psychologically. Related to the issue, all of the news agencies represent that sexual harassment cases are not yet being handled properly. This representation shows that all of the online news agencies support the ideology of gender equality and feminism, even if at a varied rate. *Tempo.co* is less clear in showing their partiality. Meanwhile, *Antara* and *The Jakarta Post* are clear enough in showing their partiality towards the sexual harassment victim.

However, all online news agencies still represent victims as powerless objects to the perpetrator's actions. Moreover, *The Jakarta Post* presents misjudgments of the victim, and *Tempo.co* and *Antara* represent misrepresentations. This shows that, realized or not, English-based Indonesian online news agencies still contain a patriarchal culture in their news reports.

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