



Representation of Women in Sexual Violence News on *Kompas.com*: Sara Mills' Perspective

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Abstract: *The aim of this research is to describe the subject-object position of women in the sexual violence news kompas.com using Sara Mills' perspective. The subjects of this research are journalists and the objects of this research are women. Women who experience sexual violence are positioned as victims without resistance. This research data was taken from kompas.com using Sara Mills' critical discourse analysis. The research results in news text 1 show that the woman or victim is in the object position. The victim experienced an act of rape by her stepfather. The second news story shows the victim in the position of the object. The victim was still in elementary school and was molested by an old man. Victims not only experience harassment but are also threatened to keep quiet and given money to cover up the perpetrator's behavior. The third news shows women in the position of objects and as victims.*

Keywords: *sexual violence, women, feminism, Sara Mills*

I. Introduction

The representation of women in Indonesian media is often shown to be discriminatory. This can be seen from the many news titles that demean women, misogynistic news content, and the imbalance of male and female sources presented in the news. As a result, women are vulnerable to being objectified by the media (Salsabila, 2022). In Indonesia, patriarchy is still strong, discriminatory portraits of women in the mass media are considered normal. People are used to it and think it is normal because they are used to the news. Women are stereotyped as weak, whiny, and always dependent on men. This view places women in the gender inequality that exists and develops in society.

Gender inequality is manifested in various forms of injustice such as marginalization or the process of economic impoverishment, subordination or the assumption that it is not important in making decisions, the formation of stereotypes, violence, longer and more workloads and the socialization of gender role ideology (Fakih, 2013). Violence is one of the injustices that most often occurs and is experienced by women, both children and the elderly. Violence is divided into sexual violence, verbal violence, psychological violence. The factor causing violence against women is the existence of a patriarchal culture.

The presentation of information in the mass media cannot be separated from journalists as news seekers and writers. Journalists and editors are important elements in writing news. Journalists must be open and aware of what to write, issues that are developing, and gender issues that are developing. Editors play an important role in editing and editing news before publication. Government policy also influences the content of the news.

Online media presents information that is easily accessible and fast. There is a lot of information that can be accessed, including news about the misfortunes experienced by women. Sexist crimes and violence (based on certain genders) are daily news, with women as the main objects (Esfand, 2012). The news presented in online media varies, from culinary delights to cases of sexual violence or sexual harassment. Kompas.com provides a lot of news

about sexual violence or gender-based sexual harassment experienced by women.

Van Dijk (1988) states that discourse analysis is a process of analyzing language and language use that aims to obtain a more explicit and systematic picture of what is being conveyed. Furthermore, discourse analysis has a definition, namely the study of message structures in communication or the study of various functions (pragmatics) of language (Sobur, 2012: 72). The language analyzed is not just language but the context within that context. This context is used for certain purposes and practices, including power practices to marginalize individuals or groups (Badara, 2013: 28). Language in a critical view is understood as a representation that plays a role in forming subjects, discourse themes, and strategies therein (Badara, 2013: 20).

This research aims to describe how the position of women is presented in texts with the object of research being news in the online mass media *kompas.com* with the title (1) Child in Surabaya Allegedly Victim of Rape by Stepfather, (2) A Grandfather in South Buton Abuses Child Aged 11 Year, the victim was threatened with death if she told the story, and (3) molested her stepdaughter until she became pregnant, the grandfather in Blora was threatened with 15 years in prison using Sara Mills' critical discourse analysis theory. Critical discourse analysis focuses on the power relationships and ways of producing speech and text with methods that have been influenced by linguistics and cultural theory, and they can provide more complex models of discourse functions and effects on its users (Mills, 2001). Sara Mills, who looks at news texts from the perspective of feminist discourse, says that women tend to be shown in texts as being in the wrong, marginal compared to men (Eriyanto, 2001). In newspapers, language can provide an image of the reality of the media and the audience (Badara, 2013).

This research focuses on online media, namely *kompas.com*. The news texts analyzed were taken from the media *kompas.com* in the period of May 2022, totaling three news stories. The analysis used is Sara Mills' critical discourse analysis.

II. Literature of Review

Previous research on sexual violence against women in online news using Sara Mills' critical discourse perspective is as follows. First, Asmara's research (2023) titled "The Position of Women in *Merdeka.com* Sexual Violence News: Sara Mills' Perspective". This research discusses incidents of sexual violence that occur in society, especially women. The aim of the research is to describe the position of women in online news texts *merdeka.com* on cases of violence against women from the author's perspective, namely the perpetrator and the victim. The research method is critical discourse analysis from Sara Mills' perspective. The results of his research, online news *merdeka.com*, depict women as objects that tend to be labeled negatively. News texts also contain gender bias in depicting the position of women as victims of sexual violence.

Second, Kania's research (2023) with the title "Representation of Women Behind News Vocabulary (Sara Mills Critical Discourse Analysis of Sexual Violence in Indonesian Media)." This research focuses on sexual violence that occurs against women in online media content. This research uses Sara Mills' theory. The findings of this research indicate that news texts depict women unfairly in online news media.

Third, research by Novianty (2020) entitled "Gender Bias in the News "The Case of an Online Taxi Driver Having Sex with a Student from Malang in the Car" (Critical Discourse

Analysis of Sara Mills)." This research discusses cases of violence experienced by students from Malang in an online taxi. This research uses Sara Mills' critical discourse analysis model. The results of the research were that the media covered up the victim's identity and portrayed the victim in a weak position or as a weak woman. The news describes the chronology of events, not the fate of the victims. In this news, there is gender bias and social relations between men and women.

III. Research Methods

This research uses a descriptive qualitative approach. A qualitative descriptive approach to interpreting and describing a subject using words or sentences, namely identification, classification and interpretation (Arikunto, 2010). Data collection techniques are documentation techniques and note-taking techniques. The documentation method is used to search for data regarding things or variables in the form of notes, transcripts, magazines, agendas, and others (Arikunto, 2010). The documentation process is for online news with the theme of sexual violence or sexual harassment. The analysis technique, namely using Miles' (2014) interactive model

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The discourse analysis model used in this research is Sara Mills' critical discourse analysis. Van Dijk considers discourse analysis as a method of seeing how structures in a text have the power to convey a discourse on the representation and ideology behind the text (van Dijk, 2008). The subject of this research is the newspaper *kompas.com*, while the object of this research is gender-based sexual harassment of women. Sara Mills' critical discourse analysis is seen from the subject-object position and the reader's author.

IV. Results and Discussion

Reporting in online media is in the form of news text. The language style used is formal and straightforward. The news presented varies from incident news to investigations. *Kompas.com* also provides a lot of news about women, from achievements to gender-based violence against women. The following is an analysis of Sara Mills' critical analysis.

News 1: Child in Surabaya Allegedly Victim of Rape by Stepfather (Setiawan, 2024)

In news text 1, the position of women is placed in the object position. News about rape committed by a stepfather occurred in Lakasantri District, Surabaya, East Java. This rape occurred since October 2023. The perpetrator committed sexual violence against his stepson almost every night when his wife was asleep, namely around 22.00 at night until 02.00 in the

morning. The victim's mother and Boni as legal representatives from the Legal Aid Institute (LBH) reported this incident to the Surabaya Police. In news 1, the victim, a 15 year old child, is positioned as the object of the active sentence so that the reader understands that the child is the victim. The subject position in news text 1 is the writer/journalist who describes the act of rape committed by the stepfather against his stepson. In this title, *kompas.com* focuses on sexual violence in the form of rape committed by a stepfather against his stepson.

The 15 year old boy was suspected of receiving sexual harassment from his stepfather with the initials YT (60) at night. At that time, the victim's mother was resting after selling in a faraway place. "Doing it in the middle of the night, so around 22.00 WIB until 01.00 WIB. Because his mother just woke up at 02.00 WIB to prepare the sale," he explained.

Based on this data, it can be seen that the results of the journalist's construction focused on sexual violence in the form of rape committed by a stepfather against his stepdaughter. The problem of rape experienced by women is an example of the low position of women regarding the interests of men's sexuality (Novianty, 2020: 81) . The appearance of the victim who is positioned as an object defined by "the 15 year old boy, allegedly received sexual abuse from his stepfather with the initials YT (60) at night" is intended to provide an understanding to the audience that rape occurs anywhere, at any time, by people closest to him. , and deserves full attention because it involves acts of sexual violence.

"So his (perpetrator's) wife sells far away in the Keputih sub-district, lives in Lakasantri. So after Maghrib or Isha he was asleep, so that opportunity was taken," added Boni. Based on the victim's confession, said Boni, the boy experienced rape from his stepfather almost every day. Currently, Boni and the victim's mother have reported the case to the Surabaya Police. They are still waiting for information on how to proceed with the case. Head of Public Relations for Surabaya Police, AKP Haryoko, confirmed that there was a report of alleged rape. Haryoko suggested directly confirming the matter with the Head of Children's Services (PPA) AKP Rina Shanty Dewi Nainggolan. "Let's make it clear to the PPA (Head of Unit)," said Haryoko. Meanwhile, Rina and Head of Criminal Investigation Unit for the Surabaya Police, AKBP Hendro Sukmono, have yet to respond regarding the continuation of the alleged rape case.

Surabaya Police Commissioner AKBP Hendro Sukmono clearly conveyed the alleged rape committed by his stepfather in Lakasantri District, Surabaya, East Java. Hendro also stated that he would follow up on allegations of rape where the victim was still a minor seriously and professionally. Violence against women is a manifestation of historical inequality in relations between men and women which has resulted in domination and discrimination against women by men and obstacles in their (women's) progress (Novianty, 2020: 81).

News 2: A grandfather in South Buton molested an 11 year old child, the victim was threatened with death if he told the story (Neke, 2024)
Cases of gender-based violence against women are one of the cases that continue and occur frequently in society. Various modes of crime were used to carry out this act of sexual violence. The violence that occurred was also carried out with threats so that the victim would submit and not rebel. Women are always objects of sexuality by men, so that in the mass media women are also used as objects to increase media popularity by showing the weaknesses of women (Novianty, 2020: 82–83) . The subject position in news 2 is the writer/journalist who describes the chronology of the incident of sexual abuse experienced by an 11 year old child by a grandfather in South Buton. The second news story explains that sexual violence in the form of molestation of an 11 year old child by his own neighbor is the object.

An unmoved grandfather with the initials LAK (55) was arrested by the Batauga Police Criminal Investigation Unit at his home in Batauga District, South Buton Regency, Southeast Sulawesi, Wednesday (7/2/2024). The perpetrator LAK was arrested because he had the heart to molest his 11 year old neighbor with the initials WM. "We from the Batauga Police received a report, after we carried out investigations it turned out that the victim was indeed molested by the perpetrator who was a parent or grandfather," said the Head of Criminal Investigation Unit for the Batauga Police, Aipda La Ode Asrun, in his office, Wednesday (7/2/2024).

The news excerpt above explains that the perpetrator of the sexual abuse of a grandfather with the initials LAK (55) was arrested at his house in Batauga District, South Buton Regency, Southeast Sulawesi. This abuse occurred on an 11 year old child with the initials WM. The perpetrator of the abuse is the parent or grandfather of the victim. This shows that sexual harassment can be carried out by people closest to them and can even be carried out by their own parents. Sexual harassment can also occur anywhere, even at home which is considered safe but in fact does not guarantee the safety of the family members themselves. In the media, women are always portrayed as weak figures and as sexual gratification for men (Novianty, 2020: 83) . Furthermore, the news text contains opinions and facts as follows.

The police who received the report then arrested LAK at his house. The perpetrator did not put up any resistance so the police immediately took the perpetrator to the police station. According to Asrun, this sexual abuse case has apparently occurred since 2023 when the victim was still in grade 3 of elementary school. "After we developed it, this child was often molested by the perpetrator. "The victim was given Rp. 5,000," he said again.

With this media perspective, the problem of sexual crimes can be seen as a result of social relations, both relations between the environment and society and between men and women (Novianty, 2020: 83) . In the text, it is known that this sexual abuse case occurred when the victim was still in grade 3 of elementary school. The perpetrator carried out this sexual abuse since 2023 when the victim was still in grade 3 of elementary school. The perpetrator of this sexual abuse was arrested at his home without any resistance. According to Asrun, to cover up his depraved behavior, the perpetrator gave the victim a sum of money. The victim was given Rp. 5000 as compensation for the act of sexual abuse committed by the perpetrator. This case adds to the list of cases of sexual harassment committed by people closest to them. Many victims and perpetrators have close family ties so that when violence occurs it is difficult for victims to speak (Prastiwi, 2021).

Threatening the victim not to tell anyone after each depraved act, the perpetrator often gives money and threatens the victim not to tell anyone. "The perpetrator threatened the victim that if other people or his parents found out, the perpetrator would kill him. "So the victim is afraid to tell the story," said Asrun. This heartbreaking incident was revealed when residents saw the victim leaving the perpetrator's house. Residents then took her and questioned her so that the victim admitted that she had been molested by the perpetrator. This then prompted the victim's family to report LAK to the police. tt Currently the LAK perpetrator is being held in the detention room at the Batauga Police Headquarters. The perpetrator was threatened under child protection law with a sentence of 15 years in prison.

At the end of this news text, the disclosure of sexual abuse is explained. Asrun revealed that the perpetrator threatened the victim that if his parents or other people found out, the

perpetrator would kill the victim. The perpetrator's actions were revealed when residents saw the victim leaving the perpetrator's house. Residents then brought and questioned the victim about what happened. Finally, the victim admitted that he had been molested by the perpetrator. Then this sexual abuse case was reported by the victim's family to the police. The LAK perpetrator was detained at the Batauga Police Headquarters, threatened under child protection law with a sentence of 15 years in prison.

News 3: Molesting Stepdaughter to Pregnancy, Grandfather in Blora Threatened 15 Years in Prison (Pradana, 2024)

Gender-based violence is often experienced by women, especially women. The gender bias that develops in society places women in an inferior position. Women are considered weak and submissive. This is what makes many women victims of sexual violence. Even the person closest to you can commit this act of sexual violence. The subject position in this third news text is the writer or journalist who describes the chronology of the act of molesting a stepdaughter until she became pregnant by a grandfather in Blora. In the third news text, it is explained about sexual violence that occurred to a stepdaughter who was impregnated by her stepfather.

A teenager with the initials V (16), a resident of Plantungan, Blora District, Blora Regency, was molested by her stepfather, W (70), and became pregnant in October 2023. The incident occurred in his own room. The incident began when suspect W saw the victim lying on the bed because he was sick.

In the text excerpt above, it describes sexual violence in the form of sexual abuse that occurred to a teenager with the initials V (16) by W (70) until she became pregnant. This incident occurred in Plantungan, Blora District, Blora Regency. W (70) molested V (16), who was his stepson. In this case, V was the object that received an act of sexual violence in the form of sexual abuse. This abuse resulted in V becoming pregnant in October 2023. This act of sexual immorality was carried out in his own room. This incident started when suspect W saw the victim lying on the bed when he was sick.

Then the suspect fell asleep and whispered that he would treat the victim so he would recover quickly. However, the condition is that you have to be willing to have sex. The victim nodded in agreement. Then the suspect had intimate relations for approximately 5 minutes. "That the suspect committed sexual intercourse with a minor seven times until the victim became pregnant and was already 3 months pregnant," said Blora Police Chief, AKBP Jaka Wahyudi based on his written statement, Thursday (8/2/2024).

In the excerpt from the news text above, the chronology of the sexual abuse experienced by V is explained. It started with W who was sleeping and whispered that he would treat the victim but on the condition that he was willing to have sex. The victim nodded in agreement and the intimate relationship lasted approximately 5 minutes. According to the Blora Police Chief, AKBP Jaka Wahyudi, the sexual intercourse occurred seven times until the victim became pregnant and was already 3 months pregnant. The news text presented is intended to reveal incidents of sexual abuse that occurred to a stepdaughter by her stepfather. Based on the news text above, it can be seen that the position of women tends to be threatened in various situations. The underlying reason for this act of sexual immorality is men's lust for women's bodies.

To be held accountable for his actions, the suspect faces a sentence of 15 years in prison. "The perpetrator is threatened with Article 81 paragraph 2 of the Republic of Indonesia Law Number 17 of 2016 concerning the Determination of Perppu Number 1 of 2016 concerning the Second Amendment to the Republic of Indonesia Law Number 23 of 2002 concerning Child Protection into Law with a penalty of 15 years in prison," he said.

The perpetrator of the molestation, namely the victim's stepfather, faces up to 15 years in prison. The perpetrator is also threatened with articles of the Child Protection Law. Underage children experience many cases of sexual abuse. The impact of this abuse on the traumatized mental state of the victim. It is hoped that parents and those closest to them will pay more attention and distance their children from acts of sexual violence. This news text is intended to make the public aware that sexual violence can be committed by anyone, anytime and anywhere. This positions the reader as a party who must be more aware of acts of sexual violence that occur around them and can be carried out by those closest to them.

V. Conclusion

Based on the discourse analysis of 3 news texts quoted from the *Kompas.com report*, it can be concluded that the application of the Sara Mills model of critical discourse analysis places greater emphasis on the concept of feminism and is closely related to violence against women. Sara Mills' critical discourse analysis is used as a research method to see women positioned as objects in news texts. The three news texts analyzed show that women are placed as objects who receive acts of sexual violence from those closest to them. News text 1 explains the act of sexual violence in the form of rape committed by the stepfather. The victim is a 15 year old child. This act of sexual violence in the form of rape was carried out almost every day by his stepfather.

Furthermore, news text 2 explains an act of violence in the form of sexual abuse committed by a grandfather. The victim of this abuse was 11 years old. The victim also received threats of being killed if he complained to his parents. To cover up his actions he gave Rp. 5000; when committing sexual abuse.

Moreover, in news text 3, it is explained that the stepfather committed sexual abuse until he became pregnant. This sexual abuse was carried out in his room. The initial action was carried out when the perpetrator saw the victim lying in bed when he was sick.

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