

Media Coverage of Dilan's Domestic Violence Case Involving Her Husband in Online Media: A Critical Discourse Analysis by Sara Mills

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Abstract

Domestic violence has become a significant social issue in Indonesia, and its representation in online media influences public perceptions of victims, perpetrators, and gender relations. This study aims to analyze the news coverage of Dilan's domestic violence case published by Okezone.com by examining the representation of subject and object positions, as well as writer and reader positions, using Sara Mills' Critical Discourse Analysis framework. A descriptive qualitative method was employed, with news texts published between 2024 and 2025 serving as the primary data. Data were collected through documentation and analyzed based on Sara Mills' concepts of subject-object and writer-reader positions. The findings indicate that Dilan is predominantly positioned as the narrative subject because she is given extensive opportunities to express her experiences and emotions, while Safno is positioned as the object whose identity is constructed through the victim's perspective. The writer reinforces the victim's narrative through emotionally charged language, detailed descriptions, and visual evidence, thereby directing readers to sympathize with the victim and perceive the alleged perpetrator negatively. These findings demonstrate that Okezone's news coverage is not neutral but constructs social reality by reproducing gendered representations and power relations through its discursive strategies.

Keywords: Critical Discourse Analysis, Domestic Violence, Online Media, Sara Mills, Gender Representation

INTRODUCTION

Domestic violence remains one of the most serious social issues in Indonesia and is showing a trend that requires attention from various stakeholders. The Annual Report (CATAHU) of the National Commission on Violence Against Women (Komnas Perempuan) indicates that throughout 2025, there were 376,529 reported cases of gender-based violence against women, a 14.07% increase compared to the previous year (Komnas Perempuan, 2026). Most of these cases occurred in the personal or domestic sphere, underscoring that the home remains the most vulnerable space for women to experience various forms of violence—whether physical, psychological, sexual, or economic. This situation not only has psychological, social, and economic impacts on victims but also has implications for legal protection, victim recovery, and the sustainability of family life (Purba & Togatorop, 2026). The high number of domestic violence cases indicates that domestic violence is no longer a private matter but a social issue that requires serious attention from the government, society, and the media in efforts to prevent and address it.

News coverage of domestic violence cases has become one of the issues receiving significant attention in online media. As an institution that constructs social reality, the media not only reports the facts of an event but also selects information, determines perspectives, chooses sources, and uses specific language in crafting news stories (Karman, 2012). This process results in news coverage that shapes specific representations of both victims and perpetrators of DV. Several studies indicate that women, as victims, are still frequently portrayed as weak, passive, and with limited opportunities to express their perspectives, while perpetrators are more often positioned as the dominant figures driving the narrative—reflecting gender bias in media coverage (Makiyah dkk., 2024). Consequently, the choice of language and the patterns of news presentation not only

influence how the public understands cases of domestic violence but also shape perceptions of women's identities and positions in the public sphere (Yusuf, 2023). Thus, media coverage of domestic violence should be understood as a process of meaning-making that influences how society views victims, perpetrators, and gender relations within a given event.

One case of domestic violence that has drawn public attention is that of Dilan, who is alleged to have been a victim of abuse at the hands of her husband (Wardani, 2025). The case came to light after the victim's account spread on social media and was subsequently reported to the police, sparking a widespread public response. Subsequent developments in the case were highlighted by various online media outlets, which intensively reported on the chronology of events, the legal process, and reactions from various parties (Irawan, 2025). Differences in news presentation, headline selection, word choice, and the emphasis placed on specific information across different media outlets demonstrate variations in how the same case is framed in news coverage. The intensity of this coverage indicates that Dilan's domestic violence case warrants further examination, particularly in terms of how online media represent victims, perpetrators, and gender relations through their news texts.

Various studies have examined media coverage of women and domestic violence using Sara Mills' Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) approach. In general, these studies focus on the representation of women in news texts, the positions of subjects and objects, and the discursive constructions created by the media regarding both victims and perpetrators of violence. Abdullah's study, which analyzed domestic violence coverage on Kumparan using qualitative methods and Sara Mills' Critical Discourse Analysis approach, showed that female victims of domestic violence are more often represented as objects suffering from the violence, although in some instances they are also portrayed as subjects who have the courage to resist it (Abdullah, 2019). A study by Syaian and Yusak on news coverage on Akurasi.id, using the same approach, found that the media tends to portray men as the party that rationalizes acts of violence, while women are more often placed in a position where they are blamed (Syaian dkk., 2023).

Furthermore, Jose's study on news coverage of violence against women on BeritaSatu.com shows that news framing continues to reinforce gender inequality through a tendency to blame the victim and give greater prominence to the perpetrator's perspective (Hein dkk., 2022). Similar findings were also revealed by Ramadhania's study on domestic violence coverage in Kompas.com Regional, which found that women are more often portrayed as weak and passive, while men are positioned as dominant subjects—thereby reflecting patriarchal values (Ramadhania, 2024). Based on these various studies, it is clear that research on domestic violence coverage in the mass media largely focuses on the representation of women, gender relations, and the positions of subjects and objects in news texts through the lens of Sara Mills' Critical Discourse Analysis.

In general, these studies indicate that the media continues to reproduce gender inequality through linguistic constructions and news narratives. However, these studies have not extensively examined how discursive constructions are formed in news coverage of domestic violence cases—which have garnered public attention—in online mass media with distinct reporting characteristics. In fact, each media outlet has editorial policies, news presentation strategies, and language choices that can result in different representations of both victims and perpetrators. Therefore, there remains room for research to examine how discourse constructions regarding domestic violence cases are built in online mass media coverage through an analysis of the positions of the subject, object, writer, and reader within news texts.

Based on this research framework, an approach is needed that can explain how representations of victims and perpetrators are constructed through language and narrative structure in media reporting. In this context, Sara Mills' model of Critical Discourse Analysis is considered relevant because it focuses on the positions of the subject, the object, the author, and the reader within the text, thereby revealing how gender relations are represented in news coverage. Through Sara Mills' perspective, news texts are not understood as neutral presentations of facts,

but rather as the result of media constructions that can influence how readers interpret the victims, perpetrators, and power relations depicted in the news (Mills, 2003). Therefore, the application of Sara Mills' theory is expected to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the representation of women in media coverage of the domestic violence case experienced by Dilan in online mass media.

Based on this background, this study aims to examine the coverage of the domestic violence case experienced by Dilan on the online news site Okezone.com using Sara Mills' Critical Discourse Analysis model. This study focuses on describing the representations of the subject and object positions constructed in the news texts to understand how victims and perpetrators are represented by the media. In addition, this study also aims to analyze the writer's and reader's positions to reveal how the media guides readers in interpreting events, victims, and perpetrators through the linguistic constructions and narratives employed. Through this analysis, this study is expected to contribute to the development of media studies, gender studies, and critical discourse analysis, particularly in understanding the representation of women in news coverage of domestic violence cases in online mass media.

THEORY

A. Sara Mills' Model of Critical Discourse Analysis

Sara Mills' concept of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) offers a perspective that focuses on the representation of women and power relations in media texts. Unlike models of Critical Discourse Analysis that place greater emphasis on linguistic structure or social practices in general, Sara Mills positions social actors at the center of her analysis, particularly through the concepts of subject-object and author-reader positions. According to Sara Mills, language is never neutral; rather, it always contains ideological interests that shape how individuals and groups are represented. Thus, a text not only serves to convey information but also constructs social reality through the way events are narrated, who is given a voice, and who is merely the object of the narrative (Mills, 1997). This perspective enables researchers to identify how power relations and gender bias operate implicitly in media coverage.

In Sara Mills' model, the subject position refers to the party that holds the authority to define an event, while the object position refers to the party that is represented through the subject's perspective (Eriyanto, 2001). In much of the media coverage regarding women—particularly cases of gender-based violence—women are still often positioned as objects, so that their experiences and identities are constructed through the perspective of others (Mills, 2003). Furthermore, Sara Mills views writers and readers as inseparable components in the construction of meaning. Writers use specific language choices, narrative structures, and points of view to guide readers' interpretations, while readers are implicitly positioned to understand events in accordance with the constructions established by the media (Ahsin dkk., 2022). Therefore, the application of Sara Mills' model in this study enables a more comprehensive analysis of the coverage of the Dilan domestic violence case on the online media outlet Okezone, particularly in uncovering the representation of women, the distribution of power relations between the victim and the perpetrator, and the ideological tendencies constructed through the news texts.

RESEARCH METHODS

This study employs a descriptive qualitative research method using Sara Mills' Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) model. The qualitative approach was chosen because this study aims to deeply understand and describe how online mass media constructs meaning, shapes power relations, and represents gender through the use of language in news coverage of cases of domestic violence. Qualitative research focuses on the interpretation of social phenomena found within a text or discourse, making it suitable for examining the construction of reality by the media

(Creswell, 2014). Sara Mills' Critical Discourse Analysis model was used because it emphasizes the analysis of the positions of subjects and objects, as well as the positions of the author and the reader within the text (Udu & Hidrawati, 2025). Through this framework, the study examines how Okezone represents Dilan as the victim and Safno as the perpetrator, how each actor is given space to express their perspective, and how word choice, narrative structure, and linguistic strategies shape gender representations and power relations in DV news coverage.

The primary data in this study consists of news texts published by Okezone.com regarding the domestic violence case experienced by Dilan and perpetrated by her husband, Safno, including news headlines, news content, quotations, narrative structure, and language use relevant to the research focus (Mills, 2008). Secondary data was obtained from books, academic articles, journals, theses, and various literature discussing Critical Discourse Analysis, Sara Mills' theory, gender representation, mass media, and domestic violence. Data collection was conducted using the documentation technique by searching for, selecting, downloading, and thoroughly reading news articles published between 2024 and 2025 in accordance with the study's criteria. Subsequently, the data were analyzed using Sara Mills' framework through two main aspects: an analysis of subject-object positions to identify the parties positioned as actors or objects in the news coverage, and an analysis of author-reader positions to reveal how the text directs readers toward a specific perspective through word choice, narrative structure, and discourse strategies (Eriyanto, 2001). Based on the results of this analysis, conclusions were drawn by linking findings regarding gender representation and power relations to explain the ideological tendencies of Okezone in constructing its coverage of domestic violence cases.

DISCUSSION

From Sara Mills' perspective, texts are not neutral but contain specific ideologies that can influence how readers understand an event. Therefore, the analysis in this chapter focuses on three main aspects: (1) the representation of subjects and objects in news texts, (2) the author's position in framing events, and (3) the reader's position as shaped by media discourse strategies. Through this analysis, it is hoped that we can understand how Okezone constructs social reality regarding cases of domestic violence, as well as how power relations and gender bias are reflected in its news coverage. Thus, this discussion not only reveals the explicit content of the text but also the implicit meanings contained within it.

Representations of the Subject and Object (Dilan and Her Husband) in News Coverage

Based on Sara Mills' model of Critical Discourse Analysis, the coverage of the domestic violence case involving Dilan Janiyar and Safnoviar Tiasdi on the online media outlet Okezone reveals the construction of subject and object representations from the victim's perspective. Dilan is positioned as the subject because she is given space to share her experiences, feelings, and views, while Safno is positioned as the object, represented through Dilan's narrative without being given space to express her own perspective. This pattern indicates that Okezone prioritizes the victim's voice in constructing its coverage. Nevertheless, Dilan is still represented as a woman suffering from violence, while Safno is constructed as the perpetrator; thus, the coverage reflects power relations and gender representations within the media text.

Data for 1 subject/object:

Ini aku dicengkram sampai lebam... Dia sudah berani pukul aku. Dia pukul setiap kali aku marah (Wardani, 2025).

He grabbed me so hard I got bruises... He's already gone so far as to hit me. He hits me every time I get angry (Wardani, 2025).

The data illustrates the representation of subjects and objects in news coverage of domestic violence cases based on Sara Mills' Critical Discourse Analysis. Dilan is positioned as the subject because he is the one directly recounting his experience of violence from the victim's perspective. Conversely, Safno is positioned as an object because his identity and actions are constructed through Dilan's narrative without being given space to convey his own perspective (Mills, 1997). Thus, readers are guided to understand the events based on the victim's experience, while the image of the perpetrator is constructed through the victim's testimony. From Sara Mills' perspective, although Dilan occupies the position of the narrative subject, she is still represented as a woman suffering as a result of violence (Muawanah, 2021). The news coverage prioritizes the victim's perspective, whereas Safno is not given the opportunity to express his views, so his identity is entirely shaped through Dilan's narrative. Therefore, the news text not only conveys information about the domestic violence case but also constructs gender representations by positioning Dilan as the subject of the narrative and Safno as an object constructed through the victim's perspective.

Data for 2 subject/object:

Dilan Janiyar mengungkapkan, Safno merupakan pria yang cukup pemarah. Alih-alih menenangkan istri saat marah, pria yang mengaku bekerja sebagai trader itu, justru marah balik dan melakukan kekerasan fisik dan verbal kepada Dilan (Wardani, 2025).

Dilan Janiyar revealed that Safno is quite a hot-tempered man. Instead of calming his wife down when she was angry, the man—who claims to work as a trader—actually lashed out at her and subjected Dilan to physical and verbal abuse (Wardani, 2025).

The data illustrates the representation of subjects and objects in news coverage of domestic violence cases based on Sara Mills' Critical Discourse Analysis. Dilan is positioned as the subject because he is given space to share his experiences, views, and assessments of the events he has experienced. Conversely, Safno is positioned as the object because her identity, character, and actions are constructed through Dilan's narrative without her being given the opportunity to express her own perspective. As a result, readers are guided to understand Safno's character and actions from the victim's perspective. From Sara Mills' perspective, Dilan's position as a subject indicates that he has the space to construct a narrative, but this does not negate his representation as a victim of physical and verbal abuse. The subject's position in the text signifies ownership of the narrative perspective rather than ownership of power within social relations. Meanwhile, Safno continues to be represented as an object because his entire identity and actions are constructed through Dilan's narrative. Thus, the news report not only conveys information about the domestic violence case but also constructs representations of the subject and object that align with the victim's perspective, in accordance with Sara Mills' framework of Critical Discourse Analysis.

Data for 3 subject/object:

Tak hanya di tangan dan kaki, Dilan mengaku, memiliki sejumlah luka lain di beberapa bagian vital pada tubuhnya, seperti pinggang dan bokong. Luka lebam itu... sampai membuatnya susah duduk dan bersandar (Wardani, 2025).

Dilan admitted that he had not only injuries on his hands and feet, but also a number of other injuries on several vital parts of his body, such as his waist and buttocks. The bruises... made it difficult for him to sit or lean back (Wardani, 2025).

In the news coverage of the domestic violence case, based on Sara Mills' Critical Discourse Analysis perspective, Dilan is positioned as the subject because he is given space to share his experience of violence, as evidenced by his account, which forms the basis of the news narrative. Conversely, Safno is positioned as the object because his identity and actions are constructed through Dilan's account without him being given the opportunity to express his own perspective. Furthermore, the media reinforces the victim's narrative by describing in detail the physical condition of Dilan resulting from the violence he endured, thereby providing readers with a clearer picture of the impact of the incident. From Sara Mills' perspective, Dilan's position as a subject indicates that he is the focal point of the narrative, yet he is still represented as a victim suffering physical and psychological distress due to domestic violence. Meanwhile, Safno continues to be represented as an object because his entire identity and actions are constructed through the victim's narrative, with no space for him to offer a response or clarification (Lubis, 2023). Thus, the news coverage not only conveys information about the domestic violence case but also constructs representations of the subject and the object, positioning Dilan as the subject of the narrative and Safno as an object constructed through the victim's perspective.

Data for 4 subject/object:

Karena dia dorong aku ke dinding dan kena sepak juga. Hanya saja untuk dua lebam di pinggang dan bokong aku enggak foto. Karena kalau minta tolong keluarga fotoin, aku malu. Saat itu, aku masih umpetin semua (Wardani, 2025).

Because he shoved me against the wall and kicked me, too. I just didn't take any photos of the two bruises on my waist and buttocks. I was too embarrassed to ask my family to take pictures of them. At the time, I was still hiding everything (Wardani, 2025).

The data shows that Dilan is positioned as the subject in the news coverage because he is given the space to directly recount his experience of violence from his own perspective. Meanwhile, Safno is positioned as the object because his entire identity and actions are constructed based on the narrative presented by Dilan. Thus, readers are guided to understand the events through the victim's perspective. In addition to describing the physical violence, the news coverage also highlighted the psychological impact Dilan experienced, such as feelings of shame and a desire to hide the incident. This indicates that the media not only emphasized the facts of the violence but also provided space for the victim to express his emotional experience (Ahsin dkk., 2022). Thus, the coverage prioritized the victim's perspective, while the perpetrator was represented solely through the victim's narrative.

Data for 5 subject/object:

Namun begitu, Dilan Janiyar sempat melakukan visum atas semua luka lebam yang dialaminya di sebuah rumah sakit. Namun, dia tidak mengumpulkan bukti lengkap karena yakin hubungannya dengan Safno akan membaik (Wardani, 2025).

However, Dilan Janiyar did have all of her bruises examined at a hospital. She did not, however, gather complete evidence because she was confident that her relationship with Safno would improve (Wardani, 2025).

The data shows that Dilan is positioned as the subject because he is given space to recount his experiences and the actions he took after experiencing violence, including undergoing a medical examination to obtain evidence of his injuries. Meanwhile, Safno is positioned as the object because his identity and role are constructed through the narrative presented by Dilan. Thus, readers are guided to understand the events from the victim's perspective. The reporting also reveals that Dilan did not gather all the evidence because he still hoped his relationship with Safno could improve. This explanation highlights the emotional considerations influencing the victim's decisions while also providing insight into the internal conflict he experienced (Mills, 1997). Consequently, the media prioritizes the victim's experiences, actions, and considerations in constructing the narrative, whereas Safno is represented solely through Dilan's perspective.

Data for 6 subject/object:

Kini, Dilan mengaku menyesal tidak memiliki bukti-bukti detail tentang aksi KDRT Safno, apalagi setelah tahu suaminya itu berselingkuh (Wardani, 2025).

Now, Dilan says she regrets not having detailed evidence of Safno's domestic violence, especially after learning that her husband was having an affair (Wardani, 2025).

The data shows that Dilan is positioned as the subject because he is given space to share his experiences, feelings, and reflections after experiencing domestic violence. His admission of regret for not having complete evidence reveals the victim's emotional state while simultaneously placing Dilan at the center of the narrative. Conversely, Safno is positioned as the object because his identity and actions are constructed through Dilan's narrative without being given space to express his own perspective. The reporting also indicates that Dilan's regret stems from his hope that his marital relationship might improve, which is why he did not immediately gather the necessary evidence. This illustrates the internal conflict often experienced by victims of domestic violence while also showing that the media prioritizes the victim's experiences and reflections in constructing the narrative. Consequently, readers are guided to understand the events from Dilan's perspective, whereas Safno is represented solely through the story as told by the victim.

Writer and Reader Position

In Sara Mills' framework of critical discourse analysis, in addition to examining the positions of the subject and object, it is also important to understand how the media shapes the writer's position and the reader's position within the text. The writer's position refers to the way the media conveys events, including the point of view, word choice, and narrative strategies used to frame reality. Meanwhile, the reader's position relates to how readers are guided to understand, feel, and evaluate an event through the presented text. In Okezone's coverage of the Dilan domestic

violence case, neither of these positions is neutral; rather, they are shaped in such a way as to steer readers toward a specific interpretation. Therefore, this analysis aims to examine how Okezone, as the writer, constructs the narrative and how readers are positioned in their understanding of the case, thereby revealing the ideological tendencies embedded within it.

Okezone's Role in Shaping Readers' Views on the Dilan Domestic Violence Case

In the news coverage of Dilan's domestic violence case, Okezone constructs the reader's position through its use of language, selection of information, and narrative presentation. From Sara Mills' perspective, readers are not positioned as neutral observers but are guided to interpret the event according to the perspective embedded in the text. In this report, readers are encouraged to sympathize with Dilan as the victim of domestic violence. This is clearly evident in the use of phrases that emphasize the victim's suffering, such as "revealing," "bruises," "physical and verbal abuse," and detailed descriptions of his physical condition. These linguistic choices allow readers to empathize more deeply with Dilan's experience and view him as someone deserving of compassion and support. Furthermore, the report reinforces readers' trust in Dilan's testimony by presenting supporting evidence, including photos of his bruises and detailed descriptions of his injuries. By emphasizing her physical wounds, emotional distress, and feelings of shame, the news positions Dilan as a vulnerable individual with limited power within the marital relationship. As Mills argues, media texts can create emotional proximity between readers and particular characters through the way information is presented. In this case, readers are positioned alongside the victim by being invited to experience her pain, suffering, and emotional distress, which ultimately encourages them to validate and support her account of the abuse (Mills, 1997).

At the same time, the report directs readers to develop a negative perception of Safno. This is reflected in descriptions portraying him as "hot-tempered," someone who committed "physical and verbal abuse," and an individual involved in an extramarital affair. Such representations construct Safno as the primary cause of the victim's suffering and encourage readers to regard him as the perpetrator who deserves blame and social condemnation. From Sara Mills' perspective, this positioning demonstrates the media's power to shape readers' perceptions of the individuals represented in the news (Eriyanto, 2001). Beyond fostering sympathy for the victim and negative judgments toward the perpetrator, the report frames domestic violence primarily as an experience of intense physical and emotional suffering. The emphasis on bruises, shame, regret, and psychological distress encourages readers to focus on the emotional dimensions of the case rather than adopting a detached or neutral perspective. Consequently, readers are positioned to identify more closely with Dilan's experiences as a victim while interpreting the domestic violence case through the perspective constructed by the media.

Okezone's Role in Shaping the Author's Position on the Coverage of Dilan's Domestic Violence Case

In the news coverage of Dilan's domestic violence case, Okezone demonstrates that the writer's position is not entirely neutral in presenting information to readers. In Sara Mills' Critical Discourse Analysis, the writer occupies a central role because the writer does not merely report facts but also determines the perspective, selects the information to be presented, and influences how readers interpret an event. In this report, the writer's position is more closely aligned with Dilan's perspective as the victim. This is reflected in the dominance of narratives derived from Dilan's

personal experiences, including her account of the abuse, descriptions of the bruises on her body, her feelings of shame, and her regret over not having complete evidence to support her allegations of domestic violence against her husband. By prioritizing the victim's experience, the author implicitly constructs a social reality in which Dilan is portrayed as someone who has suffered and is therefore deserving of public sympathy. This perspective is further reinforced by the media's choice of words. The use of phrases such as "revealing," "bruises," "physical and verbal abuse," and "regret" creates an emotional tone rather than presenting information objectively. For example, the word "reveal" implies that Dilan is disclosing facts that were previously hidden, while the repeated mention of "bruises" directs the reader's attention to his physical suffering. From Sara Mills' perspective, such linguistic choices illustrate the writer's authority in constructing meaning through discourse by fostering emotional proximity between readers and the victim, thereby encouraging empathy, trust, and sympathy toward Dilan's testimony.

The writer's position is also evident in the selection of details included in the news report. Okezone provides extensive descriptions of the victim's physical condition, including bruises on her waist and buttocks, the pain that prevented her from sitting or leaning comfortably, and her embarrassment when asking family members to photograph her injuries. Within Sara Mills' framework, these details function not merely as factual information but also as discursive strategies that construct the victim as a woman experiencing profound suffering and vulnerability. By emphasizing the victim's pain, the writer directs readers' attention toward Dilan's physical and emotional experiences rather than other aspects of the case (Novalia & Muammar, 2026). This strategy is further strengthened through the inclusion of visual evidence, such as photographs of the bruises, which enables readers not only to read about the violence but also to witness its visible consequences. From Sara Mills' perspective, visual evidence constitutes part of the writer's strategy to guide readers toward a particular interpretation. The photographs enhance the credibility of the victim's account and reinforce the perception that the violence genuinely occurred. Consequently, the writer is positioned not only as a narrator of events but also as an active constructor of readers' understanding of social reality through textual and visual representation.

Conversely, Safno is primarily represented through descriptions of his actions and negative characteristics. The report describes him as "a rather hot-tempered man," someone who commits "physical and verbal abuse," and a figure linked to infidelity. Throughout the news article, Safno is largely portrayed as the perpetrator responsible for the victim's suffering, while he is given far fewer opportunities to present his own perspective. Although the report mentions that Safno has not yet provided a clarification, this information serves only as supplementary material and does not balance the dominance of the victim's narrative. According to Sara Mills' theory, this illustrates the author's authority in determining whose voice is given greater prominence in the text. Furthermore, the report extends beyond describing the acts of violence by emphasizing Dilan's psychological distress, including her shame, regret, and hope for reconciliation. Such representations construct women as physically and emotionally vulnerable within marital relationships (Sobari & Faridah, 2016). Overall, the Okezone coverage demonstrates that the writer occupies a dominant role in constructing the social reality of Dilan's domestic violence case. Through selective information, emotionally charged language, detailed portrayals of the victim's suffering, and the use of visual evidence, the writer actively shapes how readers interpret the event. Within Sara Mills' framework, the writer is not merely a transmitter of facts but an influential actor who determines how individuals are represented and how audiences are guided to understand a particular social issue.

Sara Mills's Analytical Framework According to the Author and the Reader

Within Sara Mills' Critical Discourse Analysis, media texts are not regarded as neutral representations of reality but as social constructions produced through language. News reports do not merely present facts; they also convey particular perspectives that shape how audiences understand social reality. Accordingly, Sara Mills emphasizes the importance of examining both the writer's position and the reader's position within a text. The writer exercises their power by choosing which information to include or omit, determining whose voice is given greater prominence, and employing linguistic strategies that influence interpretation. Through word choice, quotations, narrative structure, and descriptive details, the writer actively constructs meaning and can evoke sympathy for one party while simultaneously creating a negative perception of the other. In Okezone's coverage of the domestic violence case experienced by Dilan, the writer's stance is reflected in the dominance of the victim's narrative, the emphasis on bruises, physical pain, shame, and regret, as well as the use of phrases such as "revealing," "physical and verbal abuse," and "bruises." The inclusion of photos documenting the victim's injuries further reinforces the credibility of her story, while Safno is primarily portrayed through descriptions of his violent behavior and alleged infidelity, with relatively limited opportunities to present his own perspective. As a result, the writer plays a dominant role in shaping readers' understanding of this case and the parties involved.

The reader's position, on the other hand, relates to the ways in which the audience is guided to interpret and evaluate news texts. Within Sara Mills' framework, readers are not entirely free to construct meaning independently because the author's narrative strategies steer them toward specific interpretations. Through language choices, detailed descriptions, quotes, and visual evidence, readers are encouraged to sympathize with the victim and view the suspected perpetrator negatively. In the coverage of the Dilan case, readers are positioned to strongly identify with the victim's experiences—including physical injuries, emotional distress, shame, and regret—while Safno is associated with characteristics such as being "short-tempered," violent behavior, and alleged infidelity. This discursive construction fosters emotional alignment with the victim rather than a neutral assessment of the case. Overall, Sara Mills' framework demonstrates that media discourse reflects power relations in which writers shape social reality and readers are steered toward specific interpretations. Therefore, Critical Discourse Analysis provides an important approach for examining how ideology, gender representation, and the positions of victims and perpetrators are constructed in media coverage of domestic violence (Mills, 1997).

CONCLUSION

The news coverage of Dilan's domestic violence case on Okezone.com demonstrates that the representation of the subject and object is constructed through the victim's perspective. Dilan is positioned as the subject because she is given extensive opportunities to narrate her experiences, emotions, and reflections regarding the violence she endured, whereas Safno is positioned as the object because his identity and actions are primarily represented through the victim's account without receiving equal space to express his own perspective. Although Dilan occupies the narrative position of the subject, she is consistently represented as a woman experiencing physical and emotional suffering, while Safno is constructed as the perpetrator responsible for the violence.

These findings indicate that Okezone prioritizes the victim's perspective in constructing the discourse and reinforces gendered representations of victims and perpetrators.

The writer and reader positions are likewise constructed through linguistic choices, narrative organization, and the selection of supporting evidence. The writer adopts a perspective that aligns more closely with the victim by emphasizing descriptions of physical injuries, emotional distress, and visual evidence, thereby directing readers to perceive Dilan as a credible victim who deserves sympathy. At the same time, readers are positioned to identify emotionally with the victim while developing negative evaluations of Safno through the discursive strategies employed in the news text. Overall, the findings support Sara Mills' argument that media discourse is not neutral but serves as a site where power relations, ideology, and gender representations are constructed through language. Consequently, Okezone's coverage not only reports the domestic violence case but also actively shapes public perceptions of victims, perpetrators, and gender relations through its discursive construction.

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