MICROSTRUCTURES ANALYSIS ON “#METOO MOVEMENT” IN ONLINE NEWS

THESIS

Ayu Harly Utami
14320036

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MICROSTRUCTURES ANALYSIS ON “#METOO MOVEMENT” IN ONLINE NEWS

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By:

Ayu Harly Utami
NIM 14320036

Advisor:
Abdul Aziz, M.Ed, Ph. D
NIP 196906282006041004

ENGLISH LETTERS DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI MAULANA MALIK IBRAHIM MALANG
2018
STATEMENT OF THESIS AUTHORSHIP

The undersigned,

Name : Ayu Harly Utami

ID : 14320036

Department : English Letters

Faculty : Humanities

I admit that this thesis I wrote to accomplish the requirement of Sarjana Sastra (S.S) in English Letters Department, Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang entitled Microstructures Analysis on ‘#MeToo Movement’ in Online News is truly my work. It does not involve of other previous work both written or published by another person, excluding finding on this research as quotation or bibliography. Based on that fact, I am as the researcher who takes responsible for the thesis if there any objection or claim from others.

Malang, August 29th, 2018

Ayu Harly Utami
APPROVAL SHEET

This is to certify that Ayu Harly Utami's thesis entitled "Microstructures Analysis on #MeToo Movement' in Online News" has been approved by thesis advisor for further approval by the Board of Examiners.

For further approval by the Board of Examiners

Approved by
Advisor,

[Signature]
Abdul Aziz, M.Ed., Ph.D
NIP. 196906231979041004

Acknowledged by
The Head of English Letters Department,

[Signature]
Rina Sari, M.Pd
NIP. 197506102006042002

The Dean of
The Faculty of Humanities,

[Signature]
Dr. H. Idrisah, M.A
NIP. 196901011991032002
LEGITIMATION SHEET

This is to certify that Ayu Harly Utami’s thesis entitled “Microstructures Analysis on ‘#MeToo Movement’ in Online News” has been approved by the Board of Examiners as the requirement for the degree of Sarjana Sastra.

The Board of examiners

1. Agus Eko Cahyono, M.Pd
   NIP. 198208112011011008
   (Main Examiner)

2. Nur Latifah, M.A
   NIP. 19770625201802012178
   (Chairperson)

3. Abdul Aziz, M.Ed, P.hD
   NIP. 196906282006041004
   (Advisor)

Approved by

The Dean of the Faculty of Humanities
Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang
MOTTO

IF YOU HAVE A DREAM
WAKE UP
AND
GET YOUR DREAM
WORK HARD, PRAY HARD
DEDICATION

This thesis is proudly dedicated to
My dearest parents, Sugeng Hariyadi and Lilik Sutiani Ningsih
My beloved brother, M. Adi Nugroho
Whole of my big family
All my teachers
All my best friends
Thank you very much for supporting me, cheering me up, teaching me patiently
I couldn’t be this strong without all of you
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ABSTRACT

Keywords: Microstructures, Online News, #MeToo Movement

Microstructure is smallest element for analyzing discourse. In this research, the researcher wants to use the smallest element of dimension of discourse proposed by van Dijk. Me Too Movement is the movement which virally appear in social media to help demonstrate the widespread prevalence sexual assault and harassment, especially in the workplace. The article which published on several online news with different websites used to know how the writer represents his ideas and interviewer’s idea. The aim of this research is to know the strategies which used by the writer revealing the idea of #MeToo movement. The data which are used in the research have opposition ideas according the #MeToo Movement. The using of descriptive qualitative method is due to the form of data analyzed is the words that was transcribed from the text The main data which used in this research were obtained from 9 various articles on online news that have opposing article of #MeToo Movement. The various articles are The Guardian, The Spectator, The Journal.ie, Variety, The New York Times, Vice News, The New York Post, Sky News, and World Socialist Web Sites. The researcher becomes main instrument of this research for analyzing the data. After classifying the data, the researcher analyzing on microstructure analysis.

The choice of words, sentence forms, coherence, pronoun, semantics style on the text give the explanation how the journalist’s representation on each news on several online news. The journalist can describe the #MeToo movement itself with their own perceptions such kind good or bad perception. They also have a power to support or decline the movement which concern about women who get sexual abuse, sexual harassment and many others in workplace. The way of journalists represents the women itself can be seen in the using of lexical choice, syntactic style, and semantic style within text.

In this nine articles conclude that the different idea of #MeToo Movement comes from the perspective people with think the movement itself not too important or do not have any attention on the movement. Since the researcher found the using of elements of microstructure, it exactly answers the research question about the strategies of microstructure which are used by each journalist in online news.
ABSTRAK

Kata Kunci: Struktur Mikro, Berita Daring, #MeToo Movement


Pilihan kata, bentuk kalimat, koherensi, kata ganti, gaya semantik pada teks memberikan penjelasan bagaimana representasi wartawan pada setiap berita pada beberapa berita online. Wartawan dapat menggambarkan gerakan #MeToo itu sendiri dengan persepsi mereka sendiri, baik atau buruk. Mereka juga memiliki kekuatan untuk mendukung atau menolak gerakan yang mengkhawatirkan perempuan yang mengalami pelecehan seksual, pelecehan seksual dan banyak lainnya di tempat kerja.

Dalam bentuk kalimat, dengan kombinasi analisis representasi aktor, peneliti menemukan bahwa beberapa artikel menggunakan strategi yang sama misalnya, beberapa elemen representasi aktor, seperti aktif-pasif, nominalisasi, identifikasi, kategorisasi. Juga penggunaan kata ganti untuk membedakan posisi sisi jurnalis dan koherensi untuk memperhalus gerakan bagaimana wartawan ingin mengarahkan pembaca ke dalam ide-nya. Kemudian, dalam gaya semantik juga ditemukan teknik polarisasi, kategorisasi kita-orang, jumlah permainan, dan empati untuk menekankan pembaca terhadap gagasan jurnalis yang ingin disampaikan dalam teks. Dalam sembilan artikel ini disimpulkan bahwa ide yang berbeda dari Gerakan #Metoo berasal dari perspektif orang dengan mengganggap gerakan itu sendiri tidak terlalu penting atau tidak memiliki perhatian pada gerakan. Karena peneliti menemukan penggunaan unsur-unsur mikro, itu persis menjawab pertanyaan penelitian tentang strategi mikro yang digunakan oleh setiap wartawan dalam berita daring.
Me too Movement

MeToo


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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains the background of the study, including the research problems, objective of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, and also definition of key terms, research method, data sources, research instrument, data collection, and data analysis.

1.1 Background of the Study

In everyday life, language becomes one of important tools to convey the meaning in communication. The communication itself can be spoken and written in order to deliver the messages to the others is called a text. The one of text which is produced by people known with written text. Within the text, people want to reveal their ideas and perspectives which can be found in texts. It also appears when the journalist wants to transfer their ideologies, perspectives, ideas and many others within their works.

According to Yule (2010), the word of discourse itself can be meant as “language beyond the sentence” and the analysis of discourse which focused on language study within text and conversation. Hikam in Eriyanto (2012) devided discourse analysis into three paradigms of inquiry in human sciences; positivist discourse analysis, interpretative discourse analysis, and critical discourse analysis.

Critical Discourse Analysis is a discipline that uncovers both the hidden and transparent social as well as political norms and values. CDA, as an
interdisciplinary method, explores social and political context in order to emancipate ideologies, hegemony, dominance and social powers (Fairclough, 2001) CDA brings the critical tradition of social analysis into language studies and contributes to critical social analysis a particular focus on discourse and on relations between discourse and other social elements (power relations, ideologies, institution, social identities, and so forth).

In van Dijk approach, he combines three dimensions of discourse; text, social cognition, and social context. The structure of the text is used to explain tendency to the particular themes used to analyzed in the dimension of the text. Within dimension of social cognition related with how the text of news is produced which involves the individual cognition of the reporter. Then, social context focuses on how the building of discourse about a problem which is developed in the society. Van Dijk divided three level of discourse structure; macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure.

In order to know further about macrostructure itself since macrostructure deals with the meaning or the topic of the discourse. Then, as the reader we will know the general meaning from the text which can be known the theme and the topic which existed in the text. For the superstructure. It deals with other structure of text and discuss beyond the grammatical characterization of discourse and may be called ‘superstructures’ since they are abstract form-schemas that globally manage discourse beyond sentence boundaries. And the microstructure as the main discussed in this research focused on several aspects on the local of the discourse with observing the semantic, syntactic, and lexical choice.
Kind of works of text can be seen in the newspaper, magazine, online news and many others. Van Dijk (2004) in Ridha (2013) stated that newspaper always brings the knowledge. So that, when the news which are reported by the journalists published, there are several things part of the believes which contain in their works. The purpose of the journalists is varied such they really want to reveal the facts or to satisfy their workplaces. Then, several studies appear to investigate deeper the opinion of the journalist when they write the news or articles. Many researchers begin to find the differences within media.

The various news appears adjusting the need in everyday life. The existence of news exactly useful for broaden the knowledge. In other hand, not only the good news which published on mass media, but also the bad things. Many news also reveals us about racism, sexual harassment. For instance, the representation of women before this era, there was a moment that women took disadvantages on several aspects such as ordinary ideas for women that they cannot stand alone without men.

Nowadays, many ideas that stand for women and their rights. Many supports which shows on many media such as television, magazine, then social media such as, Instagram, Facebook, Twitter and others. For instance, the statement which exist on newspaper of online news. Although, the existence of Me Too Movement which represent women’s voice have not changed yet in some aspects such as how to treat women appropriately.
The founder of Me too Movement is Tanaka Burke, she is social activist and community organizer began using phrase Me too in 2006, on her website of Me too movement there are 17,700,000 women who gathered their stories about experiencing sexual abuse since 1998. The phrase came out because unable to respond to 13-year-old girl who became victims of sexual assault and Burke later wished she had simply told the girl, “me too.”

According to MeToo movement’s website (https://metoomvmt.org/), Taraka Burke who found the movement help the survivors of sexual violence especially young women of color from low wealth communities to find pathways to healing. The idea of the movement reveals that they are not alone in their journeys so that creating “empowerment though empathy” becoming part of the movement.

On 15 October 2017, actress Alyssa Milano encouraged spreading the hashtag #MeToo since the awareness of the campaign in her social media to reveal sexual abuse and harassment. The main aim of this movement is to empower the women through empathy on young and vulnerable women.

The websites which include 9 articles using for analysis are The Guardian, The Spectator, The Journal.ie, Variety, The New York Times, Vice News, The New York Post, Sky News, and World Socialist Web Sites articles. The aim why the researcher chose nine articles with different websites is each article has their own issues according the #MeToo movement news which tried to against the movement or have other perspective on the movement. Every website which has the article has the background or their own uniqueness.
In this research, the researcher focuses on Microstructures which exist in each text. Micro level analysis becomes the smallest element for analyzing articles. The elements of microstructures are lexical choices, syntaxes style, and semantics styles. The researcher used the smallest element of van Dijk’s dimension of discourse in order to know deeper the strategies which is used by the journalist of articles with opposite ideas through the movement.

The pro and cons of this Me Too Movement reveal the uniqueness which want to see by the researcher. The opposition news appears between many supports around the movements especially women or victims. The article within several online news websites will analyze deeper using van Dijk’ theory of microstructures which exist within texts.

There actually many researches that have done by several previous researchers using the same theory proposed by Teun van Dijk who concerned with marginalization phenomena such as racism, minority group, or women. For instance, Nurfadhilah (2017) wrote “A Critical Discourse Analysis of Teun van Dijk on the Jakarta Post’s Editorials “New Year in Singkil” and Banning Hate Speech” concerning on the discourse elements of van Dijk discourse analysis concepts. The researcher used the macrostructures, superstructures, and microstructures on the Jakarta Post. Those elements used to reveal the explicit and implicit factor within journalist’s ideas.

Since this research focuses on microstructures analysis on online analysis, the previous study of microstructures proposed by Utari (2017) in her research the
title ‘A political Discourse Analysis on Rodrio Roa Duterte’s Drug War Policy’. This research employs microstructures analysis in covering the using of the journalist’s writing strategy such as choice of words which is forming either bad or good representation of Rodrigo. The data which used in this research is BCC News articles or Rodrigo’s drug war and Rodrigo’s interviews with Aljazeera. The finding reveal that Rodrigo inclines to be drawn in bad representation because the journalist continually represents most of Rodrigo’s bad sides which may automatically emerge a kind of imputing thinking of the human rights disorder to Rodrigo and his policy of war on drug.

Qanitat (2015) in her research, “Social Actor Representation on Islamic issues in The New York Times and The Guardian Newspapers. Her focus was the representation of the doer actions, the Muslim society, western countries society, Islamic countries government, as well as western countries government in the articles about Islamic issues posted by those two western. She wanted to investigate many people speculated that western media launched large-scale propaganda campaign through newspaper.

The result of the research revealed that the journalist of the newspaper adopted exclusion and inclusion of SAR in reporting their news. The exclusion strategies consisted of suppression and backgrounding, while the inclusion strategies consisted of activation, genericization, specification, assimilation, differentiation, categorization, nominalization, as well as overdetermination. So, the articles adopting some strategies which made there were not completely neutral.
As stated from Safitri (2015), the right tools which used to analyze discourse in the online mass media is Critical Discourse Analysis. The variation exist in the text implies the different opinions and ideologies of the reader. The way of choosing specifics pronoun as forms of more or less polite show the language users recognize the social relations. In order to serve the reader with the data of several materials, this thesis also introduce the detailed of microstructure analysis on chosen online news which the websites itself often read by people.

Then, the previous studies focus on several kind of critical discourse analysis, microstructures and articles on news, the previous studies have the correlation with this research. This research revealed the detail analysis of lexical style, syntactic style, and semantics style which are used in the text to understand the implicit meaning of discourse.

These several previous studies focus on analyze whole matter in discourse for instance Qanitat (2015) on actor representation in the news, Nurfadhilah (2017) on using several elements to reveal explicit and implicit factor within journalist’s ideas. Further, there are many analysis of the research which focus analyzing all aspect of discourse to reveal the ideas of the journalist. In other side, there is a research which focus on part of discourse for example Utari (2017) which using microstructures analysis to prove the journalist’s writing strategy like choice of words. This research makes the gaps of this study which only focus on microstructures that the strategies used by the journalist of the articles in the online news. The object of the study taken from the articles of online news in Me Too Movement news.
1.2 Research Problem

Even there are many supports on Me Too Movement, according to several articles which against the movement reveal in the text. Then, the question of this research is:

1. How do the journalists reveal the strategies of opposition ideas while reporting the #Me Too Movement using microstructures analysis on several online news?

1.3 Objective of the Study

This research used Critical Discourse Analysis as a tool for analyzing the data. In order to conduct this research, the researcher expects for finding some objectives. The researcher can find the microstructures which exist on each article. Those articles have other perspective on the movement which stand for women who get sexually assaulted especially in workplace. Furthermore, the researcher can describe the strategies which are used by the journalists implicitly reveal the opposition ideas while reporting the Me Too Movement within several online news.

The using microstructures such as lexical choice, syntaxes style, semantics style which are used by the journalist in order to make the reader understanding the purpose and the idea within articles. And, to analyze the articles which convey the journalists’ ideas about women harassment and discrimination while having campaign and the movement.

1.4 Significance of the Study
As researcher said that this study wants to contribute the knowledge about Critical Discourse Analysis. According to background and the objectives, this research is expected the significance:

1) Theoretical significance

The result of research is expected to enrich the knowledge about linguistics aspect especially on Discourse Analysis. The researcher assumes that the deep investigation on smallest part analysis on microstructures. The analysis one of of element dimension purposed by van Dijk on several articles online news related with discourse can be enhance the knowledge on linguistics field.

2) Practical significance

The practical significance of the research is to apply the theory of microstructures analysis by van Dijk. The researcher expects this research can be used for English students for expand the knowledge and can be implemented in daily life. The researcher believes that English Letters Department student may have understanding on analyzing and describing a text like the analysis which exist. For further research, this research may provide picture for focusing analysis on specific element of van Dijk’s dimension of discourse. On the same time, this research can be the reference on one of van Dijk’s model of Critical Discourse Analysis, microstructures.

1.5 Scope and Limitation
The researcher focuses on analyzing the strategy of the opposite ideas through #MeToo Movement in each article online news which report #MeToo Movement. The researcher will find and identify every aspect of microstructure like lexical choice, syntaxes style, semantics style within articles. In order to make this research manageable and avoiding the boarding discussion, the researcher provides the limitation. The limitation of this research is article online news which have been analyzed by van Dijk’s dimension of discourse, instead the printed version which are both not available in researcher’s county and focusing on online mass media.

To get the reliable and actual data, the researcher chooses some articles of the #MeToo movement on different perspectives or ideas. This research contains 9 articles as the main data that are used as the analysis within discourse analysis. Then, the researcher investigates the strategies which implicitly contain opposition ideas even the euphoria upon supporting #MeToo Movements in the social media reporting about the movement against the discrimination of sexual assault and harassment on women. The center of this research is discourse analysis field.

1.6 Research Design

1.6.1 Research Method

While conducting this research, the researcher uses descriptive qualitative approach. The using qualitative approach is caused by the research data concerning on words rather than number. The using of descriptive qualitative
method is due to the form of data analyzed is the words that was transcribed from the text. Creswell (1992) stated that qualitative research is conducted due to the researcher want to understand the contexts or setting in which participants in a study address a problem or issue. Descriptive method can be implemented to investigate, illustrate, classify and explain the phenomena within object of research. On the study, this method explained the data or object naturally, objective, and factual. (Arikunto, 1993:310) ¹

Furthermore, the research adopted the CDA approach because the purpose of this research is to inform the reader hidden things while analyzing of the various articles on online news. This research used the data analyzed which get from several selected articles which concern on Me Too Movement.

1.6.2 Data and Data Source

The main data which used in this research were obtained from various articles on online news that have opposing article of #MeToo Movement. In this case, this research focused on how the microstructures which exist in each article on online news. The data were taken from 9 different websites which report the opposition ideas such as comments of several artists or how the journalist reveal their idea in order to against #Me Too Movement. The various articles are The Guardian, The Spectator, The Journal.ie, Variety, The New York Times, Vice News, The New York Post, Sky News, and World Socialist Web Sites. The various articles published where the #Me Too Movement virally discussed in

social media. The researcher only focuses on 9 selected news which published articles with opposition ideas which different with other people and can lead readers’ perspective.

1.6.3 Research Instrument

The data was collected reading process taken from internet and several websites. In the same time, the aspects of discourse were collected by applying a relevant technique of skimming reading process. This technique helped the researcher to gather the data. The researcher becomes main instrument of this research for analyzing the data. Since the qualitative research used the researcher and help people or instrument of the research. The researcher does the observation of several articles which against #Me Too Movement. The tools which the researcher used are the internet for searching the main data of news and articles of against #Me Too Movement and browsing many sources which can support the data. The researcher also need laptop for searching many articles and news.

1.6.4 Data Collection

First phase is the researcher is collecting many articles from different sources. Since the data from internet and website, the researcher saves the articles within PDF. Then, the researcher selects the articles which used for the data which are obtained from several news websites. Various topics in the websites which has many related the news of #MeToo Movement around the world and conveys various aims and supports. The researcher only focuses on the articles which has different opinion or idea of the #MeToo Movement. After saving the
articles, the researcher re-reading the articles to understand the context of the articles. After reading the articles, the researchers begin to write the points of each paragraph in the articles and to make sure the data accurately. The last step is classifying the strategies of journalist to conveys their ideas and differing the appropriate data.

1.6.5 Data Analysis

The data were analyzed by several steps. First, after the researcher searches all the opposition articles which are used for data. Then, the researcher collects the data from various articles such as The Guardian, The Spectator, The Journal.ie, Variety, The New York Times, Vice News, The New York Post, Sky News, and World Socialist Web Sites. Third, the researcher has to read the articles that contain implicit and explicit messages within news. Then, she has to classify the articles against the Me Too Movement to make sure the content of the articles. In addition, the researcher has to categorize in each strategy like lexical choices, syntaxes style, and semantics style.

Then, the researcher has to find each strategies of micro structure analysis proposed by Teun A. van Dijk’s theory. After the data in each place, the researcher does analysis the data in appropriate strategies on the text based on the theory. She also has to make sure that the ideas and knowledge of the journalist appearing on those articles which opposed the movement or make excuses on his/her ideas. Next, the researcher discussed the analysis based on the research
findings. The last, she made the conclusion based on the result of the data analysis to figure out the answer of the research focus.

1.7 Definition of Key Term

a. Discourse Analysis: the analysis of language ‘beyond the sentence’

b. Critical discourse analysis: the study on discourse which want to go deeper on the power relations, ideological manipulations and hegemony implicitly exist within text.

c. Microstructures: the smallest element of structure in the text which can observe the choice of word, sentence and the language style of the text.

d. Me Too Movement: the movement which used to against the discrimination, harassment, sexual assault which are appearing around women

e. Online news: the online version of a newspaper which competing with journalism in presenting breaking news in more timely manner
CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1 Theoretical Framework

According to the background of the research, the literature review is explained in this chapter.

2.1.1 Discourse

In term understanding discourse, there are many definitions which stated by many linguists. Actual meaning is still vague, exact meaning in different contexts. In several cases, the word of discourse, defined by Jorgensen and Philips (2002), is the common idea that language is structured according to different domains of social life, familiar examples being ‘medical discourse’ and ‘political discourse’. A particular way of talking about and understanding the world (or an aspect of the world). According to Yule (2010), the word of discourse itself can be meant as “language beyond the sentence” and the analysis of discourse which focused on language study within text and conversation.

The Concept of Paradigm

The paradigm in meaning is something which can be chosen. Then, based on Rosidi cited from Trvneblom (1982), the factors which influence a paradigm are (1) the ideal perception of science for instance the norms of a good scientific practice, (2) a word view for example the basic assumptions about the reality and the part which studied by the particular discipline, and (3) a research ethical
foundation for instance the rules and regulations which treat a research as a human and social activity.

The brief description of three paradigms are the positivist, interpretivist, and critical paradigm. A positivist approach implies that a researcher starts with a general cause-effect relationship that he or she logically derives from a possible causal law in general theory. A researcher who uses a positivist paradigm first deduces hypothesis from a general theory. The theory is probably in the form of causal statements or prediction.

The researcher which used interpretivist paradigm will relate with a theory of meaning seldom found in humanities. They focus on examining detail reading or text which refer to the conversation, written words or pictures. The interpretive researcher focus on using the participant observation and field research. Based on Rosidi in blog namistitute.blog.ac.id, the critical perspective in German ‘Christische Theorie’ was actually a project of group of German scientist and called the School of Frankfurt which began in republic of Weimar in 1923. This was meant for interpreting the Marxist social theories.

2.1.2 Discourse Analysis

Discourse analysis is sometimes defined as the analysis of language 'beyond the sentence'. This contrasts with types of analysis more typical of modern linguistics, which are chiefly concerned with the study of grammar: the study of smaller bits of language, such as sounds (phonetics and phonology), parts of words (morphology), meaning (semantics), and the order of words in sentences.
Discourse analysts study larger chunks of language as they flow together.

Some discourse analysts consider the larger discourse context in order to understand how it affects the meaning of the sentence. For example, Charles Fillmore points out that two sentences taken together as a single discourse can have meanings different from each one taken separately. To illustrate, he asks you to imagine two independent signs at a swimming pool: "Please use the toilet, not the pool," says one. The other announces, "Pool for members only." If you regard each sign independently, they seem quite reasonable. But taking them together as a single discourse makes you go back and revise your interpretation of the first sentence after you've read the second.

2.1.3 Critical Discourse analysis

Critical discourse analysis (CDA) is a discipline which goes deeper on the power relations, ideological manipulations and hegemony. (Rahimi & Sahragard, 2007, p.1). Based on van Dijk, CDA is a type of discourse analytical research that primarily studies how social power abuse, dominance, and inequality are enacted, reproduced, and resisted by text and talk in the social and political context. CDA indicates what has formerly been known as critical linguistics (CL). As suggested, kinds of CDA will ask questions about the way specific discourse structures are deployed in the reproduction of social dominance, whether they are part of a conversation or a news report or other genres and contexts.
CDA, according to van Dijk, has become the general label for a special approach the study of the text and talk, emerging from critical linguistics, critical semiotics, and in general from a socio-politically conscious and oppositional way of investigating language, discourse and communication.

**Van Dijk’s Discourse Analysis Concept**

Van Dijk’s discourse analysis concept is always said as a social cognition. Discourse analysis is not enough analyzing about text since we have to observing the text deeper to reveal the reader how text is produced. Van Dijk creates the relation among big element such as social structure with the micro element called social cognition. He knew how the social structure, dominant, and power community in society which made him analyzing journalist cognition and awareness while producing the text. Van Dijk differs discourse by three dimension; they are text, social cognition and social analysis.

**Text Analysis**

The term “text” is used to refer to written language. The texture of text can be known with seeing the cohesive ties which reflected the relation. Van Dijk sees the text from several structures which develop each other. The branches of discourse elements in three points; they are macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure.

The van Dijk’s Discourse Analysis Concept of Text Structure:

<table>
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<th>Macrostructure</th>
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Global meaning from the text which can be analyzed by recognizing the topic and theme that existed in the text.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Superstructure</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Schema of the text, such as introduction, content, and conclusion.</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Microstructure</th>
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<tr>
<td>Local meaning from the text which can be analyzed by seeing the word choices (diction), sentence structure, and rhetorical which appeared in the text.</td>
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The elements of the text can be more understood from the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text Structure</th>
<th>Things which are observed</th>
<th>Elements</th>
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<tr>
<td>Macrostructure</td>
<td>Thematic</td>
<td>Topic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Superstructure</td>
<td>Schematic</td>
<td>Scheme</td>
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<tr>
<td>Microstructure</td>
<td>Semantic Style</td>
<td>Background, details, meaning, presupposition, nominalization</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Sentence form, coherence, pronoun</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Syntaxes Style</td>
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<td>Stylistic Style</td>
<td>Lexicon</td>
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2.1.4 Discourse Structure

1. Macrostructure

According to van Dijk (1979) in Esfehani (2013), the interpretation is composed in part of an explicit semantics or “more subjective in the sense of a hearer/reader assigning some meaning to a discourse”. Within theory of discourse the notion of macrostructure is used to account for the various notions of global meaning, such as topic, theme, or gist (van Dijk, 1980: 10). It means that macrostructure focused on the global meaning which emphasizes more on the meaning or the topic of the discourse. It is described by van Dijk (2004: 100). Topics within macrostructure lead us into the meaning within text. Ideological content is most directly expressed in discourse meaning. Then, someone shall pay special attention to the semantics of ideological discourse. Since the meaning of words, sentences and whole discourses are extraordinarily complex, the researcher have to make a selection of its most relevant aspects.

2. Superstructure

There are other structures of text and talk which go far beyond the grammatical characterization of discourse, and which may be called
‘superstructures’ because they are abstract form-schemas that globally organize discourse across sentence boundaries. The major form of text schema is argumentation. The ideological functions of topics directly follow the general principles mentioned above: if someone wants to emphasize self-good things or others bad things, the first thing they do is topicalizing such information.

3. Microstructure

Microstructure points on the local meaning of the discourse, by observing the semantic, syntactic, stylistic and rhetorical aspects (van Dijk, 1993: 23). The application of words, proposition, and certain rhetoric in the media is understood by van Dijk as the part of the speaker’s or journalist’s strategy. The use of certain words, sentences, and diction is not only viewed as the way of communication, but also viewed as a method of political communication.

In this research, the researcher focus on 3 elements of analysis which are used to conducting the research within articles opposite the #MeToo movement.

The researcher begins with the small phase of microstructure that is lexical choice, then the next part is syntaxes style, and the last is semantics style.

1. Lexical choice

Lexical choice is also known as lexicalization represent the style within text. With different words may have similar meaning which depend on the position, role, goals, and point of view. In the language field, we have been familiar the dimension of language and discourse ‘style’, for instance in what has come to be known as the subdiscipline ‘stylistics’. (Eckert & Rickford, Scherer &
Giles, 1979). Stylistic is proposed to analyze the diction used on text. Van Dijk (2006: 128).

Vehaar (1983:9) said, “… lexical semantics does not need to be classified here; a dictionary is exact example for lexical semantics; meaning in each word defined there”. \(^2\) Lexical meaning of word can be found on independent word. The meaning of its word could be changed whether the word exist on sentences. Those words can be understood with supporting from other words to connect the word becoming sentences.

Kind of lexical choices which used for analysis in this research beginning with euphemism and dysphemism. Euphemism is a polite expression used in place of words or phrases that otherwise might be considered harsh or unpleasant to hear. In order to create soften meaning, euphemism hides unpleasantness which is part of idiomatic expression. The using od euphemism itself depends on the social context of the journalist or the speaker in order to particular condition and situation. For instance, the journalist using longer words or phrases which can also cover unpleasant words, such as flatulence (farting), perspiration (sweat), or mentally challenged (stupid). The function of euphemism is to help the journalist deliver the ideas which might be a social taboo and embarrassing to state directly.

Dysphemism is originated from Greek word *dys* which means “miss” or “none” and pheme which means “reputation” or “speech”. It means a figure of speech that is defined as the use of offensive expressions instead inoffensive. Actually the speaker used that for humiliate or degrade the disapproved person or

character. For instance, the using animal names such as “pig”, “rat” “dog” and others.

2. Syntaxes style

Within syntaxes analysis, there is sentence form which decide the part of text. This phase is following the next analysis focusing on how journalist reveal actor representation. The ideological implications of syntactic sentence structure referred to in the literature are familiar. For instance, it has often been shown that word order as well as transactional structures of sentences may code for underlying semantic (or indeed, cognitive) agency (Fowler et al., 1979; Kress and Hodge, 1993, cited in van Dijk).

Negative properties attributed to out-groups may be enhanced by focusing on their active sentences (van Dijk in Schiffrin, Tannen, and Hamilton, 2001: 24). Also, the theoretical explanation of such ideologically based syntactic variation should be given in term of model structures. Syntactic prominence expresses or suggested semantic prominence, which, in turn, may be related to prominence of actors and their properties in mental models.

3. Semantics style

This aspect presents the meaning which tends to emphasize on the text, for example by giving detail on one side or making the explicit on another side. Presupposition is discursive element of presupposition is a statement which is used to confirm the meaning of a text and it has an effort to confirm the ideas by giving premise which is believed to be true (van Dijk in Eriyanto: 2012: 249)
Disclaimers “we have nothing against blacks, but...” is an example of local semantic moves which combines such ideological strategies.

Coherence is an element of discourse to see how someone strategically produces discourse to convey an event or a fact from two different events (van Dijk in Eriyanto, 2012: 242-243). Sequences of clauses, but also sentence sequences, intuitively “hang together” within text one of the notion of semantic coherence. Van Dijk also stated coherence seems to be the very core criterion of the “textuality”. Without a text would be nothing but an arbitrary sequence and unrelated sentences or sequence of words without grammar.

Within discourse studies is often classified as the contemporary discipline of what used to be called rhetoric since antiquity, which is the practice and study of “good” public speaking and writing. The rhetoric is defined as social (Sub)discipline in the humanities that overlaps with discourse studies. In the case of stylistics, rhetoric is often associated with the study of literature, rather than the study of discourse more generally. The rhetoric focusing on the use of the special ‘rhetorical’ structures of the text and talk, such as metaphors, comparisons, irony, hyperboles, euphemisms, etc., which is the kind of structures that were traditionally called ‘figures of style’ in classical rhetoric.

Extended metaphors and similes are terms that describe the varying ways in which language enables the comparison of two different objects, where in the similes, the speaker compares two things by using comparison words such as “like or as.” e.g. “She is as sweet as pie.” Rhetorical questions are used to give certain
effect, stressing or provocation, or for drawing a conclusion of the statement from the facts.

**Socio Cognition**

Social cognition refers to the mental processing of information about the social world. Mentalist position would say that since human discourse – the production and understanding of language above the level of the sentence- is a matter of making, then it is mediated by mental processes.

**Social Context/ Social Analysis**

This is the last dimension of van Dijk’s discourse analysis concept. This dimension deals will how the text will be produced by readers. Social analysis also discusses diction of text, power, access that forming a discourse, such as a background, situation, event, and social condition which happening.

**2.1.5 Online News**

In this modern life, we never cannot leave gadget which provides us many things such as entertainment, music, news, and many others. On Internet era, we can access our need such kind of looking for the information. According to Cambridge Dictionary, e-news related with internet and communications which means news that is published over the internet. Furthermore, online news is the online version of newspaper which publish on website. On each online news there are various kind of articles it can be music, news, politic, gossip, and many others.
This technology absolutely eases people to access the news when do not have time to get newspaper.

In order to analyze several articles that exist on online news, random articles particularly the opposition articles on #MeToo movement. On this research, the researcher used several articles which are highlighting the viral movement. There are nine articles used for analysis are The Guardian, The Spectator, The Journal.ie, Variety, The New York Times, Vice News, The New York Post, Sky News, and World Socialist Web Sites articles with different titles and ideas.

First, The Guardian is a British daily newspaper was known from 1821 until 1959 as Manchester Guardian. The newspaper’s online edition was the fifth most widely read in the world in October 2014. The guardian and its Sunday sibling The Observer publish all their news online, with free access both to current news and an archive of three million stories.

Then, The Spectator is a weekly British magazine on politics, culture, and current affairs. It was firstly published on 6 July 1828. It is owned by David and Frederick Barclay who also own The Daily Telegraph newspaper. The magazine also contains arts pages on books, music, opera, and film and TV reviews.

The Journal.ie is an internet publication in Ireland. It was a mixture of original and aggregated content, before moving to entirely original content. The website was founded in early 2010 and is owned by Distilled Media.
Variety is a weekly American entertainment trade magazine and website owned by Penske Media Corporation. It was founded by Sime Silverman in New York in 1905 as a weekly newspaper reporting on theater and vaudeville. Variety.com features breaking entertainment news, reviews, box office results, cover stories, videos, photo galleries and more.

The New York Times (sometimes abbreviated as The NYT or The Times) is an American newspaper based in New York City with worldwide influence and readership. It was founded in 1851, the paper has won 125 Pulitzer Prizes, more than any other newspaper. The New York Times is ranked 17th in the world by circulation.

Vice News is producing daily documentary essays and video through its website and YouTube channel. It was created in December 2013 and is based on New York City, though it has bureaus worldwide. The New York Post is the fourth-largest newspaper in the United States and a leading digital media publisher that reached more than 57 million unique visitors in the U.S in January 2017. Established in 1801 by federalist and Founding Father Alexander Hamilton, it became a respected broadsheet in the 19th century, under the name New York Evening Post.

Sky News is a 24-hour international multimedia news organization based in the UK that started as a 24-hour television news channel. John Ryley is the Head of SkyNews, a role he had held since June 2006. It is currently Royal Television Society News Channel of the Year, the eleventh time it has held the award.
The World Socialist Web Site (WSWS) is an international socialist news site that it the online news and information center of the International Committee of the Fourth International (ICFI). It publishes articles and analysis of news and events from around the world, updated daily.

Each article on nine articles which are chosen by the researcher have their own characteristics of the journalists. In that case, the characteristics which build the perception of reader on particular articles. The same characteristics of all articles is all articles enjoyed by all readers who using internet especially assessing on their gadgets.

2.1.6 Me Too Movement

There are many movements around us which want to help marginalized group or minority group. People create the group and do the campaign in order to speak up their voices on inequality.

The phrase came out because unable to respond to 13-year-old girl who became victims of sexual assault and Burke later wished she had simply told the girl, “me too.” Then, on October 15, 2017, actress Alyssa Milano encouraged spreading the hashtag #MeToo since the awareness of the campaign in her social media to reveal sexual abuse and harassment.

Tarana Burke as social activist and community organizer in 2006 using the phrase “Me Too” used to promote part of grassroots on the Myspace social network “empowerment through empathy”. This movement aims to empower the women through empathy on young and vulnerable women who have experienced
sexual abuse. The inspiration of “Me Too” came from the respond to a 13-year-old girl who confided that she had been sexually assaulted.

Burke wished that she could simply say “me too” to that girl. Then, the actress Alyssa Milano created the hashtag #MeToo as part of awareness campaign in order to reveal the empathy of sexual abuse and harassment. As stated from Wikipedia, Milano tweeted on her Twitter account: "If all the women who have been sexually harassed or assaulted wrote 'Me too.' as a status, we might give people a sense of the magnitude of the problem.”

In other hand, many opinions and ideas which against the movement with many personal or collective reasons. For instance, the opinion taken from one of the article BBC.com, France’s celebrity pushback against ‘MeToo, written by Henri Astier on January 14, 2018. "It's as if someone finding you attractive is an insult. I beg to differ: I'm complimented if someone is attracted to me. The only question is: am I allowed to say no?"

2.2 Previous studies

Since a lot of research on critical discourse analysis, there were several studies which have been conducted in relation to the topic of this research, some of them will be explained as follows:

Qanitat (2015) in her research, “Social Actor Representation on Islamic issues in The New York Times and The Guardian Newspapers. Her focus was the representation of the doer actions, the Muslim society, western countries society, Islamic countries government, as well as western countries government in the
articles about Islamic issues posted by those two western. She wanted to investigate many people speculated that western media launched large-scale propaganda campaign through newspaper. The result of the research revealed that the journalist of the newspaper adopted exclusion and inclusion of SAR in reporting their news. The exclusion strategies consisted of suppression and backgrounding, while the inclusion strategies consisted of activation, genericization, specification, assimilation, differentiation, categorization, nominalization, as well as overdetermination. So, the articles adopting some strategies which made there were not completely neutral.

Novianto (2015) on his research “Contrastive Rhetoric Analysis on The Syrian Conflict in CNN and Al-Jazeera Selected News” revealed the research on comprehensive rhetorical pattern and journalist’s strategies in convincing the readers. The finding of the research found the strategies of applying appeals.

Then, the research of “A critical Discourse Analysis on meaning levels in Hillary Diane Rodham Clinton’s speech about women” written by Komaruddin (2014) stated that his finding show that the hidden ideology of Hillary in order to influencing the audiences was expressed and delivered by emphasizing the importance of liberator even radical feminism for increasing a better life of human beings.

Amerian & Esmaili (2014) in their research in title “Language and gender: A critical discourse analysis on gender representation in a series of international ELT textbooks”. Their study attempted to explore the representation of gender in
an international ELT series, i.e., *American Headway Student Textbooks*. Fairclough’s (2001) three-dimensional model was selected and adopted as the model of study. They investigated different parts of *American Headway Student Textbooks* systematically vis-à-vis eight factors, i.e. female and male's characters, female and male’s social roles, female and male’s domestic roles, female and male’s semantic roles, female and male’s titles, order of appearance, masculine generic construction, activities females and males engaged in, and finally the pictorial representation of both genders. Then, the findings of the study revealed that the series are suffering from two types of sexism—overt and covert ones—the overt one discriminates against females in a vivid way and the covert one exploits the women as an instrument for advertising in order to promote selling. This study suggests that the series are instilling capitalism economy as ideology.

Basir (2014) in his research, the title “A Critical Discourse Analysis of Criminal Defense Lawyer’s Utterances Portrayed in *The Lincoln Lawyer* Novel aim to analyze the language of Michael Haller as the criminal defense character in *The Lincoln Lawyer* novel. The finding of the research reveals that the defense lawyer attempts to influence the judge and jurors that his client is an innocent person. The researcher finds some strategies which used in the novel that is linguistics elements such as semantics, syntax, stylistics, and rhetoric. Then the analysis of various topics and discursive strategies reveals that words, sentences, and discourse are chosen to represent the adversaries ideologically as the negative other which is consistently used to serve the ideology of exclusion.
Rashidi and Souzandehfar (2010) in their research *A Critical Discourse Analysis of the Debates Between Republicans and Democrats over the Continuation of War in Iraq*, using van Dijk’s (2004) framework used Politics, Ideology, and discourse to detect discursive structures within the transcripts of the candidates’ self-representation’ and ‘negative other-representation’.

From previous study above, the researcher concluded that each researcher has different object for their studies even they are in the same area. Although, each previous study focused on critical discourse analysis which analyzing how the journalist represent the actor of the text, the researcher focus on analyzing the whole aspect. The present research only focuses specifically on microstructure the smallest element analysis.
CHAPTER III

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In this chapter, the researcher will serve the finding and the discussion of the research. This chapter contains the finding of the analyzing data based on one of element on van Dijk’s theoretical framework of socio-cognition approach. In this chapter, the researcher is not revealing the whole data of this research in this chapter, but providing the appendix. Then, the analysis on this chapter enlightens the several main focuses of the research.

3.1 Research Findings

There were more than 100 news articles which various topics related with Me Too Movement issues published around January up to March 2018. However, the researcher only focuses on several articles which has opposite opinions, comments, or ideas through #MeToo Movement. In the various online news such as The Guardian.

In this chapter, the dimension of discourse in the text of van Dijk’s theoretical framework (2009) used for analyzed nine articles using microstructures analysis. This research deals with several microstructures analysis which exist in selected online news concerning on popular hashtag, #MeToo Movement. And then, the finding will be classified on the van Dijk’s theory of dimension of discourse.
3.1.1 Microstructure Analysis on #MeToo Movement opposition articles

Microstructure level on analysis becomes the basic part of discourse structure instead macrostructure and superstructure. In microstructures, there are four elements which are used to comprehend the text such as semantic, syntaxes, stylistic, and rhetoric devices. In this finding, the researcher provides several data which has aspects on opposition ideas with the movement. The analysis of the microstructures becomes from the smallest part into the widest part analysis.

In this finding, the researcher is going to explain each article in each data. The first data until the last on this research to denote how the microstructure element in each article revealing different result. In every article will show different finding which will give the various result on discussion.

Data 1

This article presented as the data which were taken from The Guardian column online version entitled ‘Michael Haneke: #MeToo had led to a witch hunt ‘coloured by a hatred of men’’ published on Monday, February 12th, 2018. The news reported Austrian film-maker who said that #MeToo movement driving people into witch hunt. In this article, the researcher will reveal the element of the text from the smallest part. First, the lexical choice which is used in this article reveals the journalist’s ideas through the text. The using of lexical choice could show the kind of expression such as euphemism and dysphemism or connotative and denotative meaning which appear in the text. This matter that is used of the
journalist in order to soften expression or offensive expression within text. For instance, the journalist used several words such as witch hunt, puritanism, hatred, eroticism in the text.

The meaning of *witch hunt* itself can define as a bad thing since it could be interpreting in many ways. According to Oxford dictionary, we can state that it is usually disapproving and also an attempt to find and punish people who hold opinion are thought to be unacceptable or dangerous to society. Witch hunt refers to connotative meaning since the context which is used in this text is not literally hunting for catching witch. The “witch hunt” could be refer to the activity which had ever happened about people who do not want to joining the movement and blame because of it.

Then, the syntaxes style of this article can be found in pronoun, coherence, and sentence form which is used by the journalist. According to van Leeuwen, the using of actor representation also exists in the text. The analysis of sentence form on the article reveals on the using of exclusion and inclusion. The using of passive sentences exists in the text, for instance,

“This new puritanism coloured by hatred of men, arriving on the heels of the #MeToo movement, worries me,” he said. “As artists, we’re starting to be fearful since we’re faced with this crusade against any form of eroticism.” (line 2 paragraph 2)

In order to hide the existence of the social actor in the text, the using of deletion which could be observed in the sentence. The journalist can easily put or hide the actor of the text. The passivated social actor can be subjected or benefited to the actor or the victim depend on the journalist of the text.
The journalist also used coherence to manage the sentence of the text. For example,

Michael Haneke has become the latest figure to criticize the #MeToo movement against sexual assault and harassment in the film industry, arguing that it has instigated a “witch hunt” that “should be left in the Middle Ages” (line 1 paragraph 1)

In the first line presented above, the journalist tried to reveal the existence of the social actor which hiding the other social actor of the text. In order to understand the sequence of text, each text consists of sentence sequences reveal the proposition of the text. The propositions of such sequences are related each other which correlate between previous and next sentences.

While Haneke noted that any act of “rape or coercion should be punishable, he said that “this hysterical pre-judgement which is spreading now, I find absolutely disgusting. And I don’t want to know how many of these accusations related to incidents 20 or 30 years ago are primarily statement that have little to do with sexual assault. (line 1 paragraph 3)

The pronoun used to hide the actor which wants to be omitted in the sentence or to make unmarked. For instance, in the line 1 paragraph 3, the using pronoun “he” and “I” in order to express the statement of the speaker to ease the speaker inform the statement.

“As artists, we’re starting to be fearful since we’re faced with this crusade against any form of eroticism.” (line 4 paragraph 2)

The last, the semantic style used by the journalist such as Polarization, Us-Them Categorization which attributing properties of Us and Them that are semantically each other’s opposite. (van Dijk) for instance,
“Suspected actors are cut out of movies and TV series in order not to lose [audiences]. Where are we living? In the new Middle Age?” (line 1 paragraph 6)

The journalist used the categorical division of people in ingroup (Us) and outgroup (Them). In the article suggesting that this suggests that especially also talk and text about minor group is strongly monitored by underlying social representations (attitudes, ideologies) of groups, rather than by models of unique events and individual people (unless these are used as illustrations to argue a general point).

Polarization which exist in the text could also apply to good and bad, sub-categories of outgroups (as is the case for friends and allies on the one hand, and enemies on the other). It also enhanced when expressed as a clear contrast, which is, by attributing properties of Us and Them that are semantically each other’s opposites.

The journalist also used some aspect of rhetoric style such as hyperbole, “Arguing that it has instigated a “witch hunt” that “should be left in the Middle Ages””. The using hyperbole here to exaggerate the phenomena which virally exist in the social media to reveal the insecurity of some people.

There are many examples of the using of quotation mark which exist in the text. For instance, “witch hunt”, “should be left in the Middle Ages”. The journalist used the quotation mark could be interpreted in several ways, for example, the stressing each word or phrase which wants to highlight the journalist’s purposes. It also can deliver the representation of the news.
Data 2

‘The #MeToo movement reveals feminism’s obsession’ as the second article published on 2017. This article reported about the #MeToo movement which reveal feminism’s obsession with victimhood. The text also was taken from online news which related with the viral hashtag, #MeToo Movement.

In this article, the element of the text from the smallest part which used on analysis is lexical choice of the text. The word that used as lexical choice by the journalist is desire, rape, deserve, narcissistic. The words in the text reveal some euphemism and dysphemism expressions which used to several purposes such as to soften or to be polite. For instance, the words choice which journalist chose is victimhood and accusations, the using of these words mean that the journalist wanted to make the opinion around reader.

The word choices can be reveal the attitude’s view on the actors and the events. The using word “rape” rather than other words which have same meaning also influenced by the ideology of the journalist. Based on Oxford dictionary, the meaning of rape is to force somebody to have sex with you when they do not want to by threatening them or using violence. The journalist also used another word such kind of desire which means a strong wish to have or do something. Then, rape is to force somebody to have sex with you when they don’t want to by threatening them or using violence. Deserve is if somebody or something that right that they should have it. Also, narcissism is the habit of admiring yourself to much, except your appearance.
For instance, sexual abuse, obscene, violate, dishonor, and others the journalist could choose one of them. For some aspects the diction which is used in the text is not only incidentally, but also ideologically that indicates how people articulates the facts or realities.

The syntaxes style of the article contains the sentence form in order to reveal the exclusion and inclusion within text. The example which can picked from the text is,

Following a weekend crammed with ever more salacious revelations about Harvey Weinstein, hundreds of thousands of women have now taken to social media to share their own experiences of sexual harassment (line 1 paragraph 1).

One of the elements proposed by van Leeuwen on objective abstraction related with the condition of social actor who reveal the exact hint. The number which is used on this article showing the abstraction on hundreds or thousands. The sense which is received by reader would be different caused of the countable and uncountable.

In order to understand the sequence of text, each text consists of sentence sequences reveal the proposition of the text. The propositions of such sequences are related each other which correlate between previous and next sentences. The using of proposition “at this moment” refers to the current time the situation has changed. Then, the using of “but” also reveal the opposite idea which add in the next sentence.
At this moment Hollywood’s leading ladies don’t just have the public’s attention but widespread sympathy too. But it doesn’t stop there. (line 2 paragraph 3)

The pronoun “it”, “we” and “they” used to hide the actor which wants to be omitted in the sentence or to make unmarked. The using pronoun to represent the actor in implicit meaning. “we” to express his opinion as member of community.

But it doesn’t stop here there. We live in a fame-obsessed culture, and just as many women might emulated a star’s diet or diet sense, they also want in on the sympathy too. (line 4 paragraph 3)

The semantic style used by the journalist such as polarization Us-Them, categorization and number game. In line 4 paragraph 3, the using “we” and “they” differ people into two groups. The journalist used the word “we” and “they” in order to reveal some people which agree and disagree among the movement.

As stated from Reality of Racism, van Dijk said that number and statistics are the primary means in the culture to persuasively display objectivity. In this article, the researcher found the using of the number which is emphasized by the journalist.

A 2016 survey suggested that 41 per cent of young women expect to face discrimination at work. (line 4 paragraph 6)

In example above, the journalist used the exact number to prove the portion of young women that experience the discrimination at work. The journalist put “the fact” according the number to represent the impression upon the data.
The third article published by thejournal.ie on Sunday January 21st, 2018 entitled ‘Debate Room: Has #MeToo turned into a witch hunt?’. This article was about the problem which exist after the hashtag #MeToo movement which expected becoming witch hunt.

The journalist used lexical choice to soften the words which are found to modify the sentence for instance the words incapable and unsuitable. The journalist used words or phrases within sentences to reveal the attractive connection between the issues and the idea of #MeToo Movement. In this article, the researcher also found the using term of witch hunt which has connotative meaning. In order to show the intention about witch hunt, the journalist is not using the denotative meaning to give the exact significance.

The other word which considered as kind of lexical choice is how the journalist used the same rhyme to modifying the sentence. For instance, incapable which means not able to do something. Then, unsuitable that means not right or appropriate for a particular person, purpose, or occasion.

In order to reveal the actor of the text, the syntaxes style reveal how the actor of the article is represented by the journalist using the exclusion and inclusion of the text. The actor of the text can be revealed or disappeared depend on journalist’s power. For instance,

YES. THE BEHAVIOUR of men like Harvey Weinstein who abused their power in the movie industry needed to be exposed. But the means to do this, by a social media campaign was wrong from the outset. (line 1 paragraph 4)
The actor could be revealed independently on the text in order to show the uniqueness or contrary things. According van Leeuwen, this matter of inclusion within text came for actor representation that can be signed on the article. the presence one of group or circumstance indirectly want to reveal other group not good enough rather than other groups.

This is as the strategies showing the dominance of the group. On the first sentence, the journalist served the same idea of using the power for wrong thing. Using the proposition “but the means to do this”, the journalist showed the wrongness of the campaign. The second sentence indirectly differed the men behavior and the social media campaign.

The propositions of such sequences are related each other which correlate between previous and next sentences. The pronoun used to hide the actor which wants to be omitted in the sentence or to make unmarked. For instance,

*Even for those* who wouldn’t go as far as the 100 French women who are concerned that men’s right to pester should continue, there is a worry about whether the old order of sexual encounters is coming to an end. (line 1 paragraph 13)

The proposition which put in the text connected between sentences.

In this article, the journalist used dash mark, for example,

Or they might have that their experience –though hurtful and harmful to them– would be labelled trivial. People’s sense of isolation and powerlessness has been reduced and their strength and confidence has returned because they could say #MeToo. (line 1 paragraph 11)
The dash mark in this article to add terms which are need by the journalist. For instance, the journalist could add more information or other purpose to develop and explain more about journalist’s idea.

Data 4

This article presented the news entitled ‘Terry Gilliam Says #MeToo Movement has transformed into ‘Mob Rule’’. The article informed us about the statement of Terry Gilliam as actor that the #MeToo Movement has transformed into ‘mob rule’.

Actually how the diction and figure of speech which used in the text showed by stylistic. The lexical choice in the article chose by the journalist such as ambition, backlash, beaten, accused exist in the text. For instance, the meaning of ambition is something that you want to do or achieve very much. Then, backlash is a strong reaction by a large number of people that recently changed in society. Also, beaten is defeat somebody in the game or competition. And, accused is a person who is on trial for committing a crime.

The syntaxes style of the text attached the actor in the text including exclusion and inclusion within the text. The actor which want to be represented by journalist can be reveal the advantage or lack helping the actor of the text. In order to support or hide the existence of actor in the text, the journalist using the strategy of differentiation. This element can represent how the other actor is
marginalized and does not have enough space to be explained. For instance, of the text,

Director Terry Gilliam is speaking out against the #MeToo movement, saying that in Hollywood, “mob rule takes over; the mob is out there, they are carrying their torches and they are going to burn down Frankenstein’s castle.” (line 1 paragraph 1)

The journalist reveals the statement of the director who literally against the movement.

A British citizen, the director also took jabs at Trump in the interview, pointing out the irony of the women’s movement AS Trump, who has been accused by numerous women of sexual harassment, sits in the White House. (line 1 paragraph 6)

The using of passive sentences exists in the text. The reader could recognize how the journalist want to hide or show the actor in the text.

The propositions of such sequences are related each other which correlate between previous and next sentences. Instead of the text, the journalist did not used any proposition to connect the sentences. Then, the pronoun used to hide the actor which wants to be omitted in the sentence or to make unmarked.

“the one who did, knew what they were doing. These adults; we are talking about adults with a lot of ambition,” (line 2 paragraph 2)

Polarization, Us-Them Categorization is one of semantic strategies proposed by van Dijk on discursive strategies. For instance, the line 1 paragraph 1 shows the using on they and we that exist within text. The statement which is
revealed by journalist using the categorization. The categorization which is used by the journalist to differ two groups suitable with journalist’s side.

**Data 5**

The fifth article entitled ‘The #MeToo Movement: I’m straight man, now what?’. This article published by New York Times on January 31st, 2018. This article told us about the discussion about people who some people especially men thought that #MeToo Movement went too far.

The journalist selected several lexical choices within the text. Sexual misconduct, midst, politicized, encouraged, uncomfortable. The creation particular image or meaning in the stylistic can influence the text. For instance, the meaning of *witch hunt* which exist within text can define as bad thing since it could be interpreting in many ways. According to Oxford dictionary, we can state that it is usually disapproving and also an attempt to find and punish people who hold opinion are thought to be unacceptable or dangerous to society. Witch hunt refers to connotative meaning since the context which is used in this text is not literally hunting for catching witch. The “witch hunt” could be refer to the activity which had ever happened about people who do not want to joining the movement and blame because of it.

For example, the using of midst which means of middle part of something. Then the meaning of encouraged is to give somebody support. Next, uncomfortable is not netting feel physically comfortable; unpleasant to wear. For the sentence, “Apologizes are for *losers.*” means that the speaker believes the fact
of apologizing is shameful. The speaker used the denotative meaning on the sentence.

The actor of the text is showed by the syntaxes styles within exclusion and inclusion. The using of passive sentence could hide the important things inside. It can also take the actor of the text. The journalist may add more or increasing information as needed. Identification or determination is also important to give reader to explain things that want to reveal.

The event – called “I’m a Straight Male. Now What?” – was branded as a place for men to “unpack aggression” and share “not-so-politically correct thought” in the midst of the culture moment that has become highly politicized. (line 1 paragraph 1)

The propositions of such sequences are related each other which correlate between previous and next sentences. The journalist applied the connector for the text in order to lead the reader’s mind and to convey the meaning. For example,

First, there was an acknowledgement that men are important allies in the #MeToo movement – they have an ability to call out bad behavior when they (we) see it. (line 1 paragraph 5)
Second, the men wondered how they could participate without being viewed as disingenuous – or elbowing out female voices. They sensed they could do more to help, but didn’t know how. (line 1 paragraph 6)
Lastly, they wondered: How should they be assessing their own past behavior in this brave new world? (line 1 paragraph 7)

The journalist conveyed the idea with making the point of view in text.

Then, pronoun “they” that is used to hide the real actor which wants to be omitted in the sentence or to make unmarked.

At times, it seemed the men were seeking validation as much as solutions. As they revisited their own possible missteps and
complicity, they said were wrestling with the distinction between “I am a bad person” and “I made a mistake.”

The semantic style used by the journalist could be an additional information which help the background of the text which is conveyed by the journalist which refer to polarization Us-Them, Categorization. The using of “they” could be becoming the classifying groups. Then, number games which also exist in this sentence “ten men, ranging in age from their 29s to 50s” focusing on give the reader picture of how many people with how old they are.

“There is sense that women want us to be talking about it. ‘Guys, go figure it out,’” (line 1 paragraph 3)

Polarization which exist in the text could also apply to good and bad, sub-categories of outgroups (as is the case for friends and allies on the one hand, and enemies on the other). It also enhanced when expressed as a clear contrast, which is, by attributing properties of Us and Them that are semantically each other’s opposites.

Data 6

The following article which used for the data entitled ‘The Problem with the #MeToo Movement’. This article published by VICE on online news. On this article, the researcher found that the journalist wrote the problem with the #MeToo campaign.
The word which used in this article contain several lexical choices. The words exist in the article. Word choice in presenting the implicit or explicit news especially which is used though opposite the text.

The journalist reveals the exclusion and inclusion in the text. The journalist had choice to categorize the actor or issues. The various categorize such as the race, religion, ethnic, and others appoint the important aspect of actor representation. The passive sentences are existing on (line 1 paragraph 3) in order to cover the actor within the text.

The categorization with show the characteristics of some people or group actually do not that important because generally it does not influence the meaning of the text. Giving categorization can be appeared because the willing to reveal the skin type of the people.

It was since revealed by Ebony that a campaign with the same name and aims, though without the social media virality, was initiated by a black woman named Tarana Burke ten years ago. (line 3, paragraph 1)

The same thing also appears in the next paragraph.

The fact that Tarana Burke’s creation pf the movement was ignored, that it is credited to a famous white actress, is not irrelevant here. (line 1 paragraph 3)

The journalist reveals the skin type of women in order to classify women into two groups as their type of skin. It reveals that if the black woman does not really get big impact rather than famous white woman.
The propositions of such sequences are related each other which correlate between previous and next sentences.

Indeed, it is difficult for all of us to accept how many of the men we know that may have committed acts of sexual aggression.

The pronoun used to hide the actor which wants to be omitted in the sentence or to make unmarked. The journalist had aims to reveal or hide the actor using pronoun.

I’d like to be clear that I understand there is solace for some people in the solidarity of this campaign, in making their experiences public. I, of course, don’t begrudge them it, but it seems grotesque to me to lay the burden of the representation on women, that we are tasked with performing our pain do often.

The journalist using empathy on the text for instance,

I’d like to be clear that I understand there is solace for some people in the solidarity of this campaign. I, of course, don’t begrudge them it, but it seems grotesque to me to lay the burden of representation on women, that we are tasked with performing in our pain so often. (line 1 paragraph 5)

In the text, the strategy of empathy manages the journalist’s impression on reader. The first sentence, the journalist reveals the supporting or agreeing idea on there. But the next sentence, the journalist tries to give another idea which opposed the first sentence.

The researcher also finds the instance of evidentiality which related with meaning.
The fact that Tarana Burke’s creation of the movement was ignored, that it is credited to a famous white actress, is not irrelevant here. (line 1 paragraph 3)

The researcher found the using of evidentiality since the journalist served the sentences with using word “the fact” to state claims or point of view in argument based on journalist’s knowledge or opinions.

**Data 7**

In this seventh article, the text which published by New York Post entitled ‘Sorry’ does not exist in the #MeToo era’. The text which used to serve the data was published on February 28th, 2018. This article revealed the opinion that sorry does not exist in the #MeToo era. The journalist serves several data why ‘sorry’ does not really influence people now.

The first phase of analysis is lexical choice which used by the journalist. For instance, the words in the article are scandal, multipronged, stake, awful. The choice of word is used to denote the participant or actor which exist in positive neutral or negative side drawing by the write. The choice itself depends on how the journalist represent one side in the text. According Oxford dictionary, scandal is behavior or an event that people think is morally or legally wrong and causes public feeling of shock or anger. Multipronged is each of the separate parts of an attack, argument or others that move toward a place subject, from different position. Stake is wooden or metal post that is pointed at one end and pushed into the ground in order to support something, mark a particular. Then, awful is very bad or unpleasant.
The next step of analysis is syntaxes style within text. The element to reveal the actor using nominalization identification which is used to reveal how some people or group are defined. In order to know the identification of the social actor the journalist used the dependent clause. The aim of the journalist is to give the addition information or identification. For example, on this sentence,

In the midst of yet celebrity scandal—this time Bryan Seacrest, not just a red carpet but a multipronged empire at stake—one thing has become clear: The apology is dead. (line 1 paragraph 1)

The dependent clause on the sentence above could be one of identification which is showed by the journalist. ‘This time Bryan Seacrest, not just a red carpet but a multipronged empire at stake’ means the journalist need additional information to reader. In order to reveal to the reader, the journalist gives the identification.

Now, in Trump’s parlance, apologies are for loses. (line 1 paragraph 5)

The propositions of such sequences are related each other which correlate between previous and next sentences. The using connector “now” to explain the current time. The pronoun used to hide the actor which wants to be omitted in the sentence or to make unmarked.

This is the first line of an ostensible apology. To blame an era made awful for women by men like him. (line 1 paragraph 11)

The semantic style used by the journalist is dash to give explain more explanation exist in line 1 paragraph 1. The information will inform beyond the
exact fact since the journalist only wants to enlighten the benefit among news. For instance,

In the midst of yet celebrity scandal—this time Bryan Seacrest, not just a red carpet but a multipronged empire at stake—one thing has become clear: The apology is dead. (line 1 paragraph 1)

No shortage of male celebrities have followed suit, perfunctory regret slathered beneath lots of “I” statements, the first line almost always opening with a denial. (line 1 paragraph 12)

The stressing ‘I’ on the instance of sentence reveal the emphasize which want to be showed by the journalist.

It’s not that we don’t hold such figures to account. It’s just that they don’t care. (line 1 paragraph 8)

The semantic style that is used on this article is polarization Us-Them, categorization. The using ‘they’ and ‘we’ as the previous article analysis stated that the journalist wanted to differ group of people into we-us and they-them.

Data 8

Monty Python star Terry Gilliam says #MeToo movement has ‘got silly’ as the eighth article. This article was published on March 17th, 2018 by Sky news. The text stated that Terry Gilliam said the #MeToo moment has ‘got silly’.

The lexical choice which is used in this article exist in the word which means to soften the diction of the word. For instance, monster, mob rule, frightened,
rapist. The word choices can be reveal the attitude’s view on the actors and the events.

The 77-year-old branded film producer Harvey Weinstein “a monster” following allegations of misconduct against him but said the movement in Hollywood had morphed into “mob rule”. (line 1 paragraph 1)

“A monster” as connotative meaning that is used to represent person who did something wrong and danger. The way journalist used the term and stated in quotation mark.

The American-born British director behind the film Brazil and Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas said things had “got silly”. (line 1 paragraph 7)

The word choice of “got silly” refers to the expression of the journalist in order to emphasize the journalist’s idea. The word which want to reveal in the sentence with quotation mark having its purpose. The journalist also used quotation mark within sentence.

The syntaxes style of this article appear in pronoun, coherence, and sentence form which is existing in text, for instance,

“The ones who did knew what they were doing. These adults, we are talking about adults with a lot of ambition. (line 1 paragraph 5)

He said people had now become “frightened to say what they really think.” (line 1 paragraph 10)

There is no intelligence anymore and people seem to be frightened to say what they really think. (line 2 paragraph 11)
The journalist did not use propositions of such sequences to relate each other which correlate between previous and next sentences. The pronoun used to hide the actor which wants to be omitted in the sentence or to make unmarked. The using of pronoun can manipulate the language with composing imaginative community.

He said people had now become “frightened to say what they really think.” (line 1 paragraph 10)

The semantic style that is used on this article is polarization Us-They, categorization. As we know that the journalist used the statement of interviewee to stressing the intention of the text.

On this article, the using quotation mark also exists to help the journalist giving emphasize to every word that need to highlight on the text. For instance, “a monster” and “got silly” are the phrase which want to stress by the journalists. Each journalist has his/her own purpose to use quotation mark. The same thing related the using of quotation mark is to stressing the meaning and the intention of the words.

He said the response in the aftermath of the Weinstein allegations has been "simplistic". (line 1 paragraph 3)

The 77-year-old branded film producer Harvey Weinstein “a monster” following allegations of misconduct against him but said the movement in Hollywood had morphed into “mob rule”. (line 1 paragraph 1)

Gilliam added that the abuse of power had "always happened" and said he thought Hollywood would not change. (line 1 paragraph 13)

He said human beings were "physical creatures" and added: "There is touching and there is grabbing, that is the problem. (line 1 paragraph 15)
Several example of the quotation which used in those sentences reveal the purpose or aim of the journalist to make the words inside more powerful and can be noticed by the reader.

Data 9

The last article was published by the WSWS news website on January 6th, 2018. The title of this article is ‘The New York Times’ reactionary sexual harassment campaign runs into opposition’. This article stated that the reactionary through #MeToo Movement campaign runs into the opposition from what actually should have been done.

The first element of analysis is the smallest part from test is lexical choice. In this article, the journalist used several words which classified into the exact meaning and other meaning. The using of connotative meaning exists in the text. The researcher also found the word ‘witch hunt’ like several previous articles. Since the meaning itself does not reveal the real meaning hunting for hunt. On the other hand, according to Oxford dictionary is usually revealing disproving. It shows an attempt to find and punish people who hold opinions that are thought to be unacceptable or dangerous to society. Based on Cambridge dictionary, witch hunt is a trial to find and punish people whose opinions are unpopular and who are said to be a danger to society. Both meaning leads us to people who get dangerous situation to convey their opinions.
The other words are considerable, sexual misconduct, replete, pious opprobrium, flirting, predator, backpedaling, digging up. The journalist of the articles using denotative words referring to reader that expected to understand and catch the meaning which represented by words easily.

For instance, the sentence which exist in the text. “What about the women who are the predators?” connotative meaning. By stating the implicit meaning of the word in the article could be one of style of the journalists on describing the idea. Further, using the word “predator” to picturing women can also be the one who did sexual assaulted on men. As stated from Oxford Living Dictionary, the meaning of predator itself can be interpreted as a person who ruthlessly exploits others.

The next analysis belongs to syntaxes style. In this sentence form analysis, the journalist used the strategies within text revealing the actor of the text. The propositions of such sequences are related each other which correlate between previous and next sentences. In order to connecting several facts, exist in the text, the researcher found several conjunctions helping sentences on the text.

**Furthermore**, the columnist rightly characterizes the campaign to remove a painting by Polish-French artist Balthus from the Metropolitan Museum…

**However**, where Merkin’s column falls down terribly is in its acceptance of too many of the assumptions of the sexual misconduct campaign…

The pronoun used to hide the actor which wants to be omitted in the sentence or to make unmarked. It can be used by the journalist to manipulate the
language with composing imaginative community. In the text, various pronoun which used related to communicating position the journalist and reader

She writes at one point, “it goes without saying that no one is coming to the defense of heinous sorts, like Kevin Spacey and Matt Lauer.”

The article pointedly refers to a number of phenomena we have discussed on the WSWS, including the return “to a victimology paradigm for young women, in particular, in which they are perceived to be—and perceive themselves to be—as frail as Victorian housewives.” (line 1 paragraph 8)

On this article, the researcher also found a lot of using of quotation mark such as, “hot news”, “disturbing lack of clarity”, “inappropriate conduct”, “heinous sort”, “non-person”, and many others. The reason why the journalist used the quotation mark is going to emphasize several things that became the important matter in the text. For instance, in the sentence,

Merkin notes a “disturbing lack of clarity” about terms such as harassment, assault and “inappropriate conduct.” (line 1 paragraph 8)

In other examples on the sentence, the researcher also found the stressing within sentence.

Truly “heinous sorts” run the US government and military-intelligence apparatus, the corporations and bank. (line 1 paragraph 14)

This campaign falls into the same fraudulent category as the “fake news” censorship drive and the hysterical Russophobia that has gripped considerable layers of the upper-middle class. (line 1 paragraph 18)
The journalist used the quotation mark on the phrase “disturbing lack of clarity”, and “inappropriate conduct” that is located in one sentence. The aim of using the stressing the words is to make the reader concerning on the emphasize part. Moreover, the journalist wanted to show the phenomena which have discussed on the WSWS. Equally, on line 1 paragraph 18, the stressing words to make the reader pay attention on the emphasizing word. So, each quotation mark that is used by the journalist has their own various contexts to determine the purpose of the text.

The using of dash mark, for instance, –and many of them quite willingly– this is the kind of adding the information which journalist’s assumed as the important things.

**Lexical Choice, Syntaxes Style, and Semantics Style**

**Lexical Choice**

In this phase, the researcher reveals several findings in smallest part is lexical choice. The choice of word is used to denote the participant or actor which exist in positive neutral or negative side drawing by the journalist. The word choices can be reveal the attitude’s view on the actors and the events. The journalist of the articles using denotative words referring to reader that expected to understand and catch the meaning which represented by words easily. The choice of word is used to denote the participant or actor which exist in positive neutral or negative side drawing by the journalist. The word choices can be reveal the attitude’s view on the actors and the events. The journalist of the articles using
denotative words referring to reader that expected to understand and catch the meaning which represented by words easily.

On data 1, data 5 and data 9, the meaning of *witch hunt* itself can define as bad thing since it could be interpreting in many ways. Based on Oxford dictionary, we can state that it is usually disapproving and also an attempt to find and punish people who hold opinion are thought to be unacceptable or dangerous to society. Another reference based on Cambridge dictionary, witch hunt is a trial to find and punish people whose opinions are unpopular and who are said to be a danger to society. Witch hunt refers to connotative meaning since the context which is used in this text is not literally hunting for catching witch. Witch hunt refers to connotative meaning since the context which is used in this text is not literally hunting for catching witch. The “witch hunt” could be refer to the activity which had ever happened about people who do not want to joining the movement and blame because of it.

The next example on data 2, according on Oxford dictionary, the meaning of rape is to force somebody to have sex with you when they do not want to by threatening them or using violence. The journalist also used another word such kind of desire which means a strong wish to have or do something. Then, rape is to force somebody to have sex with you when they don’t want to by threatening them or using violence. Deserve is if somebody or something that right that they should have it. Also, narcissism is the habit of admiring yourself to much, except your appearance. The other word which considered as kind of lexical choice exists on data 3 is how the journalist used the same rhyme to modifying the sentence.
For instance, incapable which means not able to do something. Then, unsuitable that means not right or appropriate for a particular person, purpose, or occasion.

In data 4, for instance, the meaning of ambition is something that you want to do or achieve very much. Then, backlash is a strong reaction by a large number of people that recently changed in society. Also, beaten is defeat somebody in the game or competition. And, accused is a person who is on trial for committing a crime. Data 7 reveal the choice of word is used to denote the participant or actor which exist in positive neutral or negative side drawing by the journalists. The choice itself depends on how the journalist represent one side in the text. According Oxford dictionary, scandal is behavior or an event that people think is morally or legally wrong and causes public feeling of shock or anger. Multipronged is each of the separate parts of an attack, argument or others that move toward a place subject, from different position. Stake is wooden or metal post that is pointed at one end and pushed into the ground in order to support something, mark a particular. Then, awful is very bad or unpleasant. The lexical choice which is used in this article exist in the word which means to soften the diction of the word. For instance, monster, mob rule, frightened, rapist. The word choices can be reveal the attitude’s view on the actors and the events. “A monster” as connotative meaning that is used to represent person who did something wrong and danger. The journalist used the term and stated in quotation mark. The word choice of “got silly” refers to the expression of the journalist in order to emphasize the journalist’s idea. The journalist also used quotation mark within sentence.
Syntaxes Style

The other side, syntax is combining words containing of clause or sentences. The journalist can manipulate the meaning through syntaxes; sentence form, coherence and pronoun. In order to know how the journalist conveys the representation of #MeToo Movement, analyzing this element is very important to understand the case of the text. The researcher serves the classification of the verb which found in the articles.

As Theo van Leeuwen stated in his theory of actor representation. In order to reveal the real actor in the text, the researcher has to follow some elements of actor representation, such as active-passive, nominalization, identification, categorization. In the sentence form, the journalist will reveal how their ideas on the article showing the actor who did the issues appearing on article. The sentence form which exist on the article is not only technique of grammar matter, but also the meaning which creating when managing the sentence structures.

In order to understand the sequence of text, each text consists of sentence sequences reveal the proposition of the text. The propositions of such sequences are related each other which correlate between previous and next sentences. The function of explanation, generalization, specification, example, and contrast of ‘but’ show the contrary of previous proposition. Generalization which exist in the text is meant as a wide statement or an idea which appear to a group people of people or things. Actually, generalization is not absolutely true since there may be instances of individual or circumstances where the generalization does not apply.
For instance, from the first article. Pronoun element is used by the journalist to manipulate the language with composing imaginative community. In the text, various pronoun which used related to communicating position the journalist and reader. The choice of pronoun of the data could use words which describe the idea of the journalist. The journalist of the article using the various pronoun for reveal ideological implication in it.

According to van Leeuwen, the using of actor representation also exists in the text. The data 1 of analysis of sentence form on the article reveals on the using of exclusion and inclusion. The using of passive sentences exists in the text, for instance, “This new puritanism coloured by hatred of men, arriving on the heels of the #MeToo movement, worries me,” he said. “As artists, we’re starting to be fearful since we’re faced with this crusade against any form of eroticism.” (line 2 paragraph 2). In order to hide the existence of the social actor in the text, the using of deletion which could be observed in the sentence. The journalist can easily put or hide the actor of the text. The passivated social actor can be subjected or benefited to the actor or the victim depend on the journalist of the text.

The data 2 of the example which can picked from the text is, “Following a weekend crammed with ever more salacious revelations about Harvey Weinstein, hundreds of thousands of women have now taken to social media to share their own experiences of sexual harassment (line 1 paragraph 1)”. One of the elements proposed by van Leeuwen on objective abstraction related with the condition of social actor who reveal the exact hint. The number which is used on this article showing the
abstraction on hundreds or thousands. The sense which is received by reader would be different caused of the countable and uncountable.

The data 3 reveals actor of the text can be revealed or disappeared depend on journalist’s power. For instance, “yes. the behavior of men like Harvey Weinstein who abused their power in the movie industry needed to be exposed. But the means to do this, by a social media campaign was wrong from the outset. (line 1 paragraph 4).” The actor could be revealed independently on the text in order to show the uniqueness or contrary things. According van Leeuwen, this matter of inclusion within text came for actor representation that can be signed on the article. the presence one of group or circumstance indirectly want to reveal other group not good enough rather than other groups.

Then, the actor in data 4 which want to be represented by journalist can be reveal the advantage or lack helping the actor of the text. In order to support or hide the existence of actor in the text, the journalist using the strategy of differentiation. This element can represent how the other actor is marginalized and does not have enough space to be explained. For instance, of the text, “Director Terry Gilliam is speaking out against the #MeToo movement, saying that in Hollywood, “mob rule takes over; the mob is out there, they are carrying their torches and they are going to burn down Frankenstein’s castle.”(line 1 paragraph 1). The journalist reveals the statement of the director who literally against the movement. “A British citizen, the director also took jabs at Trump in the interview, pointing out the irony of the women’s movement AS Trump, who has been accused by numerous women of sexual harassment, sits in the White House. (line 1 paragraph 6)”. The using of passive
sentences exists in the text. The reader could recognize how the journalist want to hide or show the actor in the text.

Further, on the data 5, the using of passive sentence could hide the important things inside. It can also take the actor of the text. The journalist may add more or increasing information as needed. Identification or determination is also important to give reader to explain things that want to reveal. “The event – called “I’m a Straight Male. Now What?” – was branded as a place for men to “unpack aggression” and share “not-so-politically correct thought” in the midst of the culture moment that has become highly politicized. (line 1 paragraph 1) “

On data 6, the passive sentences are existing on (line 1 paragraph 3) in order to cover the actor within the text. The categorization with show the characteristics of some people or group actually do not that important because generally it does not influence the meaning of the text. Giving categorization can be appeared because the willing to reveal the skin type of the people. “It was since revealed by Ebony that a campaign with the same name and aims, though without the social media virality, was initiated by a black woman named Tarana Burke ten years ago. (line 3, paragraph 1)”

The same thing also appears in the next paragraph. “The fact that Tarana Burke’s creation pf the movement was ignored, that it is credited to a famous white actress, is not irrelevant here. (line 1 paragraph 3)” The journalist reveals the skin type of women in order to classify women into two groups as their type of skin. It reveals that if the black woman does not really get big impact rather than famous white woman.

The data 7 shows the element to reveal the actor using nominalization identification which is used to reveal how some people or group are defined. In
order to know the identification of the social actor the journalist used the dependent clause. The aim of the journalist is to give the addition information or identification. For example, on this sentence, “In the midst of yet celebrity scandal – this time Bryan Seacrest, not just a red carpet but a multipronged empire at stake – one thing has become clear: The apology is dead. (line 1 paragraph 1)”. The dependent clause on the sentence above could be one of identification which is showed by the journalist. ‘This time Bryan Seacrest, not just a red carpet but a multipronged empire at stake’ means the journalist need additional information to reader. In order to reveal to the reader, the journalist gives the identification.

Further, the data 1 on this article reveals journalist also used coherence to manage the sentence of the text. For example, “Michael Haneke has become the latest figure to criticize the #MeToo movement against sexual assault and harassment in the film industry, arguing that it has instigated a “witch hunt” that “should be left in the Middle Ages” (line 1 paragraph 1)” In this quotation presented there, the journalist tried to reveal the existence of the social actor which hiding the other social actor of the text. In order to understand the sequence of text, each text consists of sentence sequences reveal the proposition of the text. The propositions of such sequences are related each other which correlate between previous and next sentences.

In order to understand the sequence of text in data 2, each text consists of sentence sequences reveal the proposition of the text. The propositions of such sequences are related each other which correlate between previous and next sentences. The using of proposition “at this moment” refers to the current time the
situation has changed. Then, the using of “but” also reveal the opposite idea which add in the next sentence. “At this moment Hollywood’s leading ladies don’t just have the public’s attention but widespread sympathy too. But it doesn’t stop there. (line 2 paragraph 3)”

On the first sentence in data 3, the journalist served the same idea of using the power for wrong thing. Using the proposition “but the means to do this”, the journalist showed the wrongness of the campaign. The second sentence indirectly differed the men behavior and the social media campaign. The propositions of such sequences are related each other which correlate between previous and next sentences. The pronoun used to hide the actor which wants to be omitted in the sentence or to make unmarked. For instance, “Even for those who wouldn’t go as far as the 100 French women who ae concerned that men’s right to pester should continue, there is a worry about whether the old order of sexual encounters is coming to an end. (line 1 paragraph 13)” The proposition which put in the text connected between sentences.

Data 4 shows the propositions of such sequences are related each other which correlate between previous and next sentences. Instead of the text, the journalist did not used any proposition to connect the sentences. Then, the pronoun used to hide the actor which wants to be omitted in the sentence or to make unmarked. “the one who did, knew what they were doing. These adults, we are talking about adults with a lot of ambition,” (line 2 paragraph 2). The propositions of such sequences on data 5 are related each other which correlate between previous and next sentences.
The journalist applied the connector for the text in order to lead the reader’s mind and to convey the meaning. For example, First, there was an acknowledgement that men are important allies in the #MeToo movement – they have an ability to call out bad behavior when they (we) see it. (line 1 paragraph 5). Second, the men wondered how they could participate without being viewed as disingenuous – or elbowing out female voices. They sensed they could do more to help, but didn’t know how. (line 1 paragraph 6), Lastly, they wondered: How should they be assessing their own past behavior in this brave new world? (line 1 paragraph 7). The journalist conveyed the idea with making the point of view in text.

The data 6 has the propositions of such sequences are related each other which correlate between previous and next sentences. “Indeed, it is difficult for all of us to accept how many of the men we know that may have committed acts of sexual aggression.” Then, the data 7 using connector “now” to explain the current time. The pronoun used to hide the actor which wants to be omitted in the sentence or to make unmarked. “This is the first line of an ostensible apology. To blame an era made awful for women by men like him. (line 1 paragraph 11)”

The journalist in data 8 did not use propositions of such sequences to relate each other which correlate between previous and next sentences. The pronoun used to hide the actor which wants to be omitted in the sentence or to make unmarked. The using of pronoun can manipulate the language with composing imaginative community. “He said people had now become “frightened to say what they really think.” (line 1 paragraph 10)
The next analysis on data 9 belongs to syntaxes style. In this sentence form analysis, the journalist used the strategies within text revealing the actor of the text. The propositions of such sequences are related each other which correlate between previous and next sentences. In order to connecting several facts, exist in the text, the researcher found several conjunctions helping sentences on the text. “Furthermore, the columnist rightly characterizes the campaign to remove a painting by Polish-French artist Balthus from the Metropolitan Museum…” The pronoun used to hide the actor which wants to be omitted in the sentence or to make unmarked. It can be used by the journalist to manipulate the language with composing imaginative community. In the text, various pronoun which used related to communicating position the journalist and reader “She writes at one point, “it goes without saying that no one is coming to the defense of heinous sorts, like Kevin Spacey and Matt Lauer.”

The next is pronoun that used to hide the actor which wants to be omitted in the sentence or to make unmarked. For instance, in the line 1 paragraph 3, the using pronoun “he” and “I” in order to express the statement of the speaker to ease the speaker inform the statement. “As artists, we’re starting to be fearful since we’re faced with this crusade against any form of eroticism.” (line 4 paragraph 2). Then, data 2 reveals the pronoun “it”, “we” and “they” used to hide the actor which wants to be omitted in the sentence or to make unmarked. The using pronoun to represent the actor in implicit meaning. “we” to express his opinion as member of community.” But it doesn’t stop here there. We live in a fame-obsessed culture, and just
as many women might emulated a star’s diet or diet sense, they also want in on the sympathy too. (line 4 paragraph 3).

The pronoun used to hide the actor on data 3 which wants to be omitted in the sentence or to make unmarked. For instance, “Even for those who wouldn’t go as far as the 100 French women who are concerned that men’s right to pester should continue, there is a worry about whether the old order of sexual encounters is coming to an end. (line 1 paragraph 13)’. Then, the data 5 shows pronoun “they” that is used to hide the real actor which wants to be omitted in the sentence or to make unmarked. “At times, it seemed the men were seeking validation as much as solutions. As they revisited their own possible missteps and complicity, they said were wrestling with the distinction between “I am a bad person” and “I made a mistake.”

The pronoun on data 6 used to hide the actor which wants to be omitted in the sentence or to make unmarked. The journalist had aims to reveal or hide the actor using pronoun. “I’d like to be clear that I understand there is solace for some people in the solidarity of this campaign, in making their experiences public. I, of course, don’t begrudge them it, but it seems grotesque to me to lay the burden of the representation on women, that we are tasked with performing our pain do often.

The pronoun on data 8 used to hide the actor which wants to be omitted in the sentence or to make unmarked. The using of pronoun can manipulate the language with composing imaginative community. “He said people had now become “frightened to say what they really think.” (line 1 paragraph 10)”

The data 9 shows pronoun used to hide the actor which wants to be omitted in the sentence or to make unmarked. It can be used by the journalist to
manipulate the language with composing imaginative community. In the text, various pronoun which used related to communicating position the journalist and reader. “The article pointedly refers to a number of phenomena we have discussed on the WSWS, including the return “to a victimology paradigm for young women, in particular, in which they are perceived to be—and perceive themselves to be—as frail as Victorian housewives.” (line 1 paragraph 8)”

Semantic Style

The data 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, and 8 reveal the same semantic style used by the journalist such as Polarization, Us-Them Categorization which attributing properties of Us and Them that are semantically each other’s opposite. (van Dijk) for instance the data which exist on data 1, “Suspected actors are cut out of movies and TV series in order not to lose [audiences]. Where are we living? In the new Middle Age?” (line 1 paragraph 6).

The journalist used the categorical division of people in ingroup (Us) and outgroup (Them). In the article suggesting that this suggests that especially also talk and text about minor group is strongly monitored by underlying social representations (attitudes, ideologies) of groups, rather than by models of unique events and individual people (unless these are used as illustrations to argue a general point). Polarization which exist in the text could also apply to good and bad, sub-categories of outgroups (as is the case for friends and allies on the one hand, and enemies on the other). It also enhanced when expressed as a clear contrast, which is, by attributing properties of Us and Them that are semantically each other’s opposites.
On data 2, the semantic style used by the journalist such as polarization Us-Them, categorization and number game. In line 4 paragraph 3, the using “we” and “they” differ people into two groups. The journalist used the word “we” and “they” in order to reveal some people which agree and disagree among the movement.

Data 4 reveals the example of the article, “the one who did, knew what they were doing. These adults; we are talking about adults with a lot of ambition,” (line 2 paragraph 2). The line 1 paragraph 1 shows the using on they and we that exist within text. The statement which is revealed by journalist using the categorization. The categorization which is used by the journalist to differ two groups suitable with journalist’s side.

The semantic style used in data 5 by the journalist could be an additional information which help the background of the text which is conveyed by the journalist which refer to polarization Us-Them, Categorization. The using of “they” could be becoming the classifying groups. Then, number games which also exist in this sentence “ten men, ranging in age from their 29s to 50s” focusing on give the reader picture of how many people with how old they are. “There is sense that women want us to be talking about it. ‘Guys, go figure it out,’” (line 1 paragraph 3). Polarization which exist in the text could also apply to good and bad, sub-categories of outgroups (as is the case for friends and allies on the one hand, and enemies on the other). It also enhanced when expressed as a clear contrast, which is, by attributing properties of Us and Them that are semantically each other’s opposites.
The instance of data 7, “It’s not that we don’t hold such figures to account. It’s just that they don’t care. (line 1 paragraph 8)”. The semantic style that is used on this article is polarization Us-Them, categorization. The using ‘they’ and ‘we’ as the previous article analysis stated that the journalist wanted to differ group of people into we-us and they-them.

And the last example of Polarization Us-them on data 8 for example, “He said people had now become “frightened to say what they really think.” (line 1 paragraph 10)”. The semantic style that is used on this article is polarization Us-Them, categorization. As we know that the journalist used the statement of interviewee to stressing the intention of the text.

Then, the other aspect of semantic analysis on data, as stated from Reality of Racism, van Dijk said that number and statistics are the primary means in the culture to persuasively display objectivity. In this article, the researcher found the using of the number which is emphasized by the journalist. “A 2016 survey suggested that 41 per cent of young women expect to face discrimination at work. (line 4 paragraph 6)”. In example, the journalist used the exact number to prove the portion of young women that experience the discrimination at work. The journalist put “the fact” according the number to represent the impression upon the data.

The journalist using empathy on the text exist on data 6, for instance, “I’d like to be clear that I understand there is solace for some people in the solidarity of this campaign. I, of course, don’t begrudge them it, but it seems grotesque to me to lay the burden of representation on women, that we are tasked with performing in our pain so
often. (line 1 paragraph 5)”. In the text, the strategy of empathy manages the journalist’s impression on reader. The first sentence, the journalist reveals the supporting or agreeing idea on there. But the next sentence, the journalist tries to give another idea which opposed the first sentence.

The researcher also finds the instance of evidentiality which related with meaning. For example, “The fact that Tarana Burke’s creation of the movement was ignored, that it is credited to to a famous white actress, is not irrelevant here. (line 1 paragraph 3)” The researcher found the using of evidentiality since the journalist served the sentences with using word “the fact” to state claims or point of view in argument based on journalist’s knowledge or opinions.

The data 7 used semantic style used by the journalist is dash to give explain more explanation exist in line 1 paragraph 1. The information will inform beyond the exact fact since the journalist only wants to enlighten the benefit among news. For instance, “In the midst of yet celebrity scandal –this time Bryan Seacrest, not just a red carpet but a multipronged empire at stake – one thing has become clear: The apology is dead. (line 1 paragraph 1)”

### 3.2 Discussion

According to the microstructures finding above, the researcher finds that every journalist has their own strategies to represent the movement. How the journalist using the strategies to reveal the facts of #MeToo Movement which want to show on reader. There were many statements of informants on the article which claim that #MeToo Movement exactly have lack steps to helping women. It
exactly does not help women. Then, they think that women are not suffering as what it seemed and men get unfair treatment in workplace. The idea of against the #MeToo movement tried to emphasize on each article with different style of journalists.

Since these articles in each website in online news have their own contrast contents and their own characteristics. All aspects of microstructures applied in the data such as the lexical choice related with the choice of words. Then, the syntactic deals with the sentence form of the text, the coherence and the pronoun of each text. Also, the semantics which reveal the meaning according the data on the text.

In each article, the intention to compare the #MeToo movement should be exist or not. Furthermore, the journalists will spread out the issues within the movement. With using the facts in case the weakness of the #MeToo movement, the journalist to persuade the readers about the lacks of the movement itself. The journalists which do not agree with the movement or have another aims present the bad effects of the #MeToo movement. For instance, serving the fact that the movement caused big problems especially for men.

The first analysis on microstructures exists on lexical choice. We can classify stylistic analysis on lexical choice focused on the style which used by the journalist related with the diction and the speech exist in the text. For instance, the lexical choice which used by the journalist in the text (1), the journalist using ‘witch hunt’ and ‘should be left in Middle Ages’ several times used in the
sentence stressing the choice of word. Kind of lexical choices which used for analysis in this research beginning with euphemism and dysphemism. In order to develop the choice of word the journalist used several word in general way.

The combination of the words into the clauses and the sentences can be manipulated by the journalist to get the meaning through the syntaxes. The element which exist such as the sentence form, coherence and the pronoun. For example, in the text (1), the using choices of word such as witch hunt, puritanism, hatred, and eroticism leading into several perceptions. For instance, the meaning word of witch hunt, according to Merriam-Webster dictionary, the definition of witch hunt is a searching out for persecution of persons accused of witchcraft. Then based on Oxford dictionary, witch hunt means a campaign directed against a person or group holding views considered unorthodox or a threat to society.

In the semantics elements, as we know that semantic is related with the meaning and significance of language. The meaning which will be appeared while analyzing the data come from the relationship between sentences and propositions which manage a particular meaning in the text. We can reveal the strategies to get the intention of marginalization group showing on the text. The implicit and explicit matters will be directly shown or hidden by the journalist.

In semantics styles, the journalist will reveal on of their ideas among text on background, detail, and intention of the text which contains the opposite meaning. All articles gave each issues brought by the journalist. The background in each article is drawn by the journalist as how the behind the event. For
instance, in the text (1), the journalist wanted to make women doing extra to get the attention through the movement. Michael Haneke stated that the movement of against sexual assault and harassment in film industry becoming ‘witch hunt’ that ‘should be left in the Middle Ages’. The detail which reveal in Michael Haneke statement about how the sexual assault should be condemned and punished but he did not agree with the movement which similar with witch hunt. In semantics aspect the using discursive strategies within text also many found in the articles. For instance, number game which can convince reader. Then the using of polarization Us-Them on categorization also helps the journalist to manage the sentences.

Also, the researcher found that the article used many quotation marks as found in text. The meaning of the using quotation marks itself to emphasize the significance paradigm among readers. For instance, the usage of quotation marks in the text (1) highlighting the word “witch hunt” and phrase “should be left in the Middle Ages” with quotation mark.

The choice of words, sentence forms, coherence, pronoun, semantics style on the text give the explanation how the journalist’s representation on each news on several online news. The journalist can describe the #Metoo movement itself with their own perceptions such kind good or bad perception. They also have a power to support or decline the movement which concern about women who get sexual abuse, sexual harassment and many others in workplace. The way of journalists represents the women itself can be seen in the using of lexical choice, syntactic style, and semantic style within text. Since the microstructure focus on
small component which build the perception of reader, each article reveals the using of several aspects to know further on the text. For instance, in the lexical choice the journalist used the word which used to strengthen the choice of words itself.

In the sentence form, with the combination of actor representation analysis, the researcher found that several articles used the same strategies for instance, some elements of actor representation, such as active-passive, nominalization, identification, categorization. Also the using of pronoun for differ the position of the journalist’s side and coherence to smooth the motion of how the journalist want to lead the reader into his idea. Then, in the semantics style also found the technique of polarization, us-them categorization, number games, and empathy to emphasize the reader mind of the journalist’s idea which want to convey in the text.
CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

In this chapter, the researcher wants to conclude the whole result of analysis. Then, the researcher also states several suggestions though the next research will be.

4.1 Conclusion

In order to get the result of the data analysis, the researcher observes each element which exist in microstructures. Since the research finding and discussion are already found, the researcher serves some conclusions according the data. The research finding on 9 articles with different websites has different characteristics in each text. Besides, the researcher has classified the data on microstructures analysis. The researcher begins with the smallest element to analyzing the data. In each datum, the researcher found that lexical choice which exist in the several texts are most of them are general and many of the words used in each article.

Then, the next phase of analysis is finding the syntaxes style including the sentence form in the text. The researcher showed that the using categorization, passive active, pronoun and identification supporting the sentence forms more developing on creating sentences. In semantics aspect the using discursive strategies within text also many found in the articles. For instance, number game which can convince reader. Then the using of polarization Us-Them on categorization also helps the journalist to manage the sentences. Also, the researcher found that the article used many quotation marks as found in text. The
meaning of the using quotation marks itself to emphasize the significance paradigm among readers.

The researcher concludes that this research reveal that the articles in online news have some similarities in order to publish their article. Each of the journalist has their own opinion especially to against the idea that bring of #Metoo Movement. In every article, the researcher found the using of the microstructures by the journalist. It shows in the nine articles which have different websites. Then, the different idea of #Metoo Movement comes from the perspective people with think the movement itself not too important or do not have any attention on the movement. Since the researcher found the using of elements of microstructure, it exactly answers the research question about the strategies of microstructure which used by each journalist in online news.

4.2 Suggestion

This research has investigated how the journalists of the articles represented the #MeToo movement’s lack sides. For people who want to go deeper on analyzing the small part of discourse to know the exactly the meaning of the journalists or writers is better to study more about discourse which provide the analysis of micro and macro level. Further, people will get the knowledge how the journalists present an actor in a discourse with various purposes implicitly or explicitly.

The researcher thinks that this research is not perfect yet as how readers’ expectation. Some mistakes which exist in this research could be corrected in
further research by other researchers who interest on this field of study. According the finding of the data in this research, the following phase is the suggestion proposed by the researchers for the next researchers, students, the other online news author, and the readers.

(1) For the next researcher or students who want to conduct the research on Microstructure on specific or using another element such as Superstructure, or Macrostructure proposed by van Dijk using other object within going deeper on analyzing discourse analysis. In this case, the researcher suggests to elaborate with another field for instance feminism, racism, or other theories which proposed by Sara Mill, Fairclough, or van Dijk. This developing idea using another field will get detail and comprehensive discussion.

(2) For readers who want to write an article expected to be more careful in order to reveal the facts.
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APPENDIX

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2. Data 2 : The #MeToo movement reveals feminism’s obsession with victimhood (Coffee House)

3. Data 3 : Debate Room_ Has #MeToo turned into a witch hunt (TheJournal.ie)

4. Data 4 : Terry Gilliam_ #MeToo Movement Has Transformed Into ‘Mob Rule’ (Variety)


6. Data 6 : The Problem with the #MeToo Campaign (VICE)

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8. Data 8 : Monty Python star Terry Gilliam says #MeToo movement has ‘got silly’ (Sky News)

Michael Haneke: ‘Every sexual assault and all violence – whether against women or men – should be condemned and punished.’ Photograph: Antony Jones/Getty Images

Michael Haneke has become the latest figure to criticise the #MeToo movement against sexual assault and harassment in the film industry, arguing that it has instigated a “witch hunt” that “should be left in the Middle Ages”.

The Austrian film-maker, two-time winner of the Palme d’Or at Cannes, made his concerns known during an interview with Austrian newspaper Kurier, later reported by Deadline. “This new puritanism coloured by a hatred of men, arriving on the heels of the #MeToo movement, worries me,” he said. “As artists, we’re starting to be fearful since we’re faced with this crusade against any form of eroticism.”

While Haneke noted that any act of “rape or coercion” should be punishable, he said that “this hysterical pre-judgment which is spreading now, I find absolutely disgusting. And I don’t want to know how many of
these accusations related to incidents 20 or 30 years ago are primarily statements that have little to do with sexual assault.

“This has nothing to do with the fact that every sexual assault and all violence – whether against women or men – should be condemned and punished. But the witch hunt should be left in the Middle Ages,” he added.

Haneke argued that a film such as Nagisa Ôshima’s 1976 erotic drama In the Realm of the Senses, which attracted controversy for including scenes of unsimulated sex, would not be made today “because the funding institutions would not allow this, anticipating obedience to this terror”.

“Suspected actors are cut out of movies and TV series in order not to lose [audiences]. Where are we living? In the new Middle Ages?” Haneke said, touching on the recent decisions to edit actors accused of sexual misconduct, such as Kevin Spacey and Ed Westwick, out of finished works. Westwick has denied the claims made against him, while Spacey has denied some of the allegations and not responded to others.

Haneke’s comments echo those made in an open letter to Le Monde in January that described the #MeToo movement as a “wave of purification” that had “forced [men] out of their jobs when all they did was touch someone’s knee or try to steal a kiss”. The letter, signed by 100 women, including actor Catherine Deneuve, was criticised by French feminists for conflating “seduction, based on respect and pleasure, with violence”.

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The #MeToo movement reveals feminism’s obsession with victimhood

Joanna Williams

17 October 2017
11:55 AM

Following a weekend crammed with ever more salacious revelations about Harvey Weinstein, hundreds of thousands of women have now taken to social media to share their own experiences of sexual harassment. This is called the ‘#MeToo’ movement, and it’s gone viral, in the way that these things do.

According to Twitter, this reveals ‘the magnitude of sexual assault’. In reality, it does nothing of the sort. #MeToo tells us far more about the desire of some women to reach for victimhood status.

The accusations against Weinstein include charges of rape; as such, they deserve to be taken seriously and tried in courts of law rather than by public opinion. At this moment Hollywood’s leading ladies don’t just have the public’s attention but widespread sympathy too. But it doesn’t stop there. We live in a fame-obsessed culture, and just as many women might emulate a star’s diet or dress sense, they also want in on the sympathy too. #MeToo is an unedifying clamour to be included in celebrity suffering.

The #MeToo social media revelations blur the boundary between sexual assault and sexual harassment. 140 character reports of having been raped are placed on a par with tweets about name calling, whistling and groping. The #MeToo process
helps create a false impression that all men are sexually abusive and simply waiting for an opportunity to assault innocent and defenceless women.

Worse, serious crimes are trivialised as the #MeToo tweeters who recount some relatively minor (albeit discomforting) experience are equally blessed with retweets, likes and public endorsements praising their bravery. Blurring the boundaries between rape and ever-broader definitions of sexual harassment doesn’t just trivialise serious offences, it further inflames a climate of hysteria in which the sexual harassment of women comes to be presented as a routine part of life. Life for women is presented as a battleground where we are all only one bad joke, one wolf whistle or one stare away from being assaulted.

It also creates an impression that being a woman in the 21st century is a living hell. Not only is this false, it is destructive. In 2015, Girl Guiding UK found that seventy-five per cent of girls and young women said anxiety about potentially experiencing sexual harassment affects their lives in some way. A 2016 survey suggested that 41 per cent of young women expect to face discrimination at work. These young women had not faced harassment or discrimination: their anxiety was around what might, potentially, happen to them in the future. It may be the fear of sexual harassment, more than the reality, that is holding women back today.

Twitter is by default a narcissistic platform: users must assume the world wants public updates on their thoughts and feelings. But yesterday’s #MeToo Twitter-trend only shows us the sorry state of feminism today.

Joanna Williams is the author of the newly released Women vs Feminism: Why we all need liberating from the gender wars.

Debate Room: Has #MeToo turned into a witch hunt?

Has the campaign gone too far? We asked two commentators to tell us what they think.

Jan 21st 2018, 8:45 AM 42,614 Views  100 Comments  Share234  Tweet  Email6

Various

On last week’s Late Late Liam Neeson claimed that the Hollywood sexual harassment scandal and #MeToo movement have sparked “a bit of a witch hunt”. His comments came days after Catherine Deneuve said that men are being unfairly targeted by sexual misconduct allegations.

This week Brigitte Bardot said women in the film industry who are complaining of sexual harassment are ‘hypocritical, ridiculous and uninteresting in the vast majority of cases’.

Do they have a point? Has the campaign gone too far? We asked two commentators to tell us what they think.

YES. THE BEHAVIOUR of men like Harvey Weinstein who abused their power in the movie industry needed to be exposed. But the means to do this, by a social media campaign, was wrong from the outset.

Social media campaigns by their nature are incapable of moderation and completely unsuitable to any kind of serious examination of particular relationships. The result was predictable.

It has turned into an all-out, uncontrolled, inchoate campaign where the minor is conflated with the serious, where what occurred in one very special business is said to be the norm in every business, where there is no attempt to give the accused the opportunity to reply to defend themselves. All accused are automatically pronounced guilty and equally so. This has all the character of a witch hunt, of mob rule.

It’s classic totalitarianism

The list of people who called the campaign into question includes writers Lionel Shriver, Margaret Atwood, actors Matt Damon, Liam Neeson and the 100 French female writers and actors led by Catherine Deneuve who wrote an open letter to Le Monde.

They have been excoriated for daring to do so. The French women were accused of having “internalised misogyny which has lobotomised them to the point of no
return”. Who lays down the party line here? Who are the commissars who pronounce stern judgment on all who deviate even slightly from the party line?

It is a basic axiom of this ideology that women must always be believed, that they never make false accusations. This is classic totalitarianism of the Maoist kind, which recalls the public executions and humiliations of the cultural revolution of the 1960s. Radical feminism embraces totalitarian methods and engages in what is classic identity politics.

We leave the last word to Deneuve: “

As women we do not recognise ourselves in this feminism, which beyond denouncing the abuse of power, takes on the character of a hatred of men and of sexuality.

David Walsh is the chairman of Men’s Voices Ireland.

NO. THE #METOO hashtag has allowed many women and some men to disclose harm and damage that they suffered through sexual harassment and abuse. Until now, they believed that they could not talk about it because they might annoy influential people and/or they were afraid that they wouldn’t be believed.

Or they might have calculated that their experience – though hurtful and harmful to them – would be labelled trivial. People’s sense of isolation and powerlessness has been reduced and their strength and confidence has returned because they could say #MeToo.

That sense of empowerment of some brings questions and unease, inevitably.

Even for those who wouldn’t go as far as the 100 French women who are concerned that men’s right to pester should continue, there is a worry about whether the old order of sexual encounters is coming to an end. The French women worry about clumsy or intense flirtation. They talk about non-events – something that also comes up in our media. We are told not to conflate the minor with the serious.

Who gets to decide what’s trivial?

Of course a sense of perspective is always important – but whose perspective? Who gets to decide what is trivial? Surely it should be the person affected? That’s not the case at the moment. Much sexual harassment can be casual, unthinking, uncaring of the person the butt of it – trivial in the eyes of the person who carries it out and in much of the current media debate but not trivial, not a non-event, if you listen to those who have recently spoken out. They were hurt.
If those who called out #MeToo are successful, perspectives will change and sexual encounters will happen only consensually, where both sides are comfortable. Those put under pressure will get to say so – safely and in a way that bad behaviour can be dealt with. Put another way, there will be more respect for those who, until now, have had to put up with it.

What could be more positive than a new social compact which increases respect, reduces fear and discomfort and therefore reduces casual sexual harassment and abuse? Aren’t we all for that? #MeToo.

Noeline Blackwell is the CEO of the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre.

Terry Gilliam Says #MeToo Movement Has Transformed Into ‘Mob Rule’

By KIRSTEN CHUBA

Director Terry Gilliam is speaking out against the #MeToo movement, saying that in Hollywood, “mob rule takes over; the mob is out there, they are carrying their torches and they are going to burn down Frankenstein’s castle.”

In a an interview with AFP on Friday, the filmmaker, a member of the comedy group Monty Python, specifically went after Harvey Weinstein’s alleged victims, and said, “Harvey opened the door for a few people, a night with Harvey — that’s the price you pay.”

“It is a world of victims. I think some people did very well out of meeting with Harvey and others didn’t,” he added. “The ones who did, knew what they were doing. These are adults; we are talking about adults with a lot of ambition.”

Gilliam also claimed that some of the women didn’t actually suffer, but used Weinstein to further their careers, and that he knew women who walked out of meetings with the mogul before getting sexually abused.
The “Brazil” and “12 Monkeys” director also defended Matt Damon, who received **public backlash in January** for suggesting there were levels of sexual harassment, saying that touching someone’s butt is different than rape.

“I feel sorry for someone like Matt Damon, who is a decent human being,” Gilliam said of those original statements. “He came out and said all men are not rapists, and he got beaten to death. Come on, this is crazy!”

Despite describing the #MeToo movement as “simplistic” and “silly,” he still said Weinstein was “a monster” and warned there were still other people in the industry behaving like him. “I don’t think Hollywood will change, power always takes advantage — it always does and always has,” Gilliam said.

A British citizen, the director also took jabs at Trump in the interview, pointing out the irony of the women’s movement as Trump, who has been accused by numerous women of sexual harassment, sits in the White House. “It makes me feel like I’ve gotten very old and I am living through a nightmare world at the moment,” Gilliam said in light of Brexit and Trump’s election.

The #MeToo Moment: I’m a Straight Man. Now What?

Credit
Franziska Barczyk

By Daniel Victor
Jan. 31, 2018

As sexual misconduct continues to dominate the news, we’re providing updates and analysis in a weekly newsletter. Today, Daniel Victor, a reporter who covers breaking news and culture, writes on the conversations he’s heard recently among men. Tell us what you think at nytgender@nytimes.com, and sign up here to receive future installments of this newsletter.

Ten men, ranging in age from their 20s to 50s, arranged their chairs in a circle. The only woman in the group, a sex educator who had organized the gathering, promised not to speak.

The event — called “I’m a Straight Male. Now What?” — was branded as a place for men to “unpack aggression” and share “not-so-politically correct thoughts” in the midst of the cultural moment that has become highly politicized. The men who’d shown up — among them a marketer, a journalist, a podcaster and an organizer of sex-play events — were encouraged to say to each other what they were uncomfortable saying publicly about #MeToo. It took place in a small event studio in downtown Manhattan.

“There is a sense that women want us to be talking about it: ‘Guys, go figure it out,’” said Bryan Stacy, the co-founder of a sexual health app and one of the event’s hosts. He encouraged the participants to tap into their feelings as a way to release any simmering frustration, anger, fear or confusion.

Credit
Stephanie Keith for The New York Times

The resulting discussion mirrored the private discussions that I’ve observed many men, including my friends, having over the past few months.

First, there was an acknowledgment that men are important allies in the #MeToo movement — they have an ability to call out bad behavior when they (we) see it.
(Bystander intervention, as my colleague Claire Cain-Miller has written, is one of the few prevention mechanisms that actually works.)

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Second, the men wondered how they could participate without being viewed as disingenuous — or elbowing out female voices. They sensed they could do more to help, but didn’t know how.

Lastly, they wondered: How should they be assessing their own past behavior in this brave new world?

One man, a former human-resources director, said he was reported for harassment in the ’90s — unfairly, he believed — when he told a female colleague that “You were in my dream last night.” He didn’t mean it sexually, he said.

Editors’ Picks

Ellen DeGeneres Is Not as Nice as You Think

The Adopted Black Baby, and the White One Who Replaced Her

This Town Once Feared the 10-Story Waves. Then the Extreme Surfers Showed Up.

Credit

Stephanie Keith for The New York Times

Another said that while he logically knew that false accusations are rare, he couldn’t help but worry that it could happen to him.

Some men said they saw a lot of themselves in Aziz Ansari, the actor who recently was accused in an online article of ignoring the verbal and nonverbal cues of a former date. In the article, she described his behavior as sexual assault. They wondered if and how often they missed those cues themselves.

At times, it seemed the men were seeking validation as much as solutions. As they revisited their own possible missteps and complicity, they said they were wrestling with the distinction between “I am a bad person” and “I made a mistake.”

“We’re all kind of guilty to an extent,” one of the men said.

As the men unloaded, the event’s female organizer, who goes by a pseudonym, “Lola Jean,” sat silently as promised. She said that while she disagreed with some of what she heard, she felt it was important for men to air their apprehensions — with the goal of better understanding how to address them.

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Stephanie Keith for The New York Times

“Ultimately, I believe it’s going to be men helping men in order to be better humans, better allies and better advocates,” she said.

What Readers Are Saying … About Men

“I’d like to see more discussion about how men are supposed to behave in various situations, and especially how they (and women) can flirt and pursue without frightening or pissing off the object of their desire. People are saying a lot about what they don’t want while assuming men always know what they do want. Let’s help them out. Positive, clear direction is just what Ansari’s partner did not provide. Let’s not continue to make that mistake.” — Janet C., Virginia

“Of course young women like ‘Grace’ can and should learn to speak up more clearly, protect themselves more carefully, and leave more quickly. But why is that the main takeaway? Why is it always a woman’s obligation to avoid getting raped? Why isn’t it at least as important to teach boys and men not to be rapists/harassers/boorish bad dates?.” — Denell Downum, New York

“I agree that imitating Mike Pence is not the best of outcomes. If I were back supervising women in an office setting, though, I am almost certain that I would be much more guarded now. I probably would think twice about suggesting lunch or any other get together with women colleagues and particularly women on my staff. This is not a desirable situation, although I would prefer it for my granddaughters and great-granddaughters to the worst of past practice.” — John Fremer, New Jersey

We Want to Hear From You

Men, to what extent are you struggling with the current cultural reckoning? Do you feel comfortable talking about your concerns — and if not, why? How should men be thinking about their role in perpetuating abuse — or working to end it? Email us on this or other thoughts at nytgender@nytimes.com.

Sign up here to receive future installments of the MeToo Moment. You can see past issues on the web or listen to us on WNYC’s The Takeaway. Share your feedback at nytgender@nytimes.com.

The Problem with the #MeToo Campaign

There is of course strength in solidarity, but I couldn't help feeling some despair as the hashtag took off.

On Saturday, in the wake of a still-growing number of women going public with their accusations of assault and rape at the hands of Harvey Weinstein, the hashtag #MeToo started trending.

Actress Alyssa Milano had tweeted, "Suggested by a friend: If all the women who have been sexually harassed or assaulted wrote 'Me too' as a status, we might give people a sense of the magnitude of the problem." It was since revealed by Ebony that a campaign with the same name and aims, though without the social media virality, was initiated by a black woman named Tarana Burke ten years ago.

Its success as a campaign was the totality of its saturation, every platform taken over, illuminating the exhausting ubiquity of sexual violence. Many people chose to simply reproduce the phrasing of the original tweet; others went into harrowing detail about the extent of their own experiences; still others, like me, voiced a muddled and ambivalent relationship to awareness campaigns like these.

The fact that Tarana Black's creation of the movement was ignored, that it is credited to a famous white actress, is not irrelevant here. It's a good place to begin, when interrogating its use, to acknowledge the many kinds of people who will be unable to speak out, or who will not be respected if they do. "Who gets to speak, and why, is the only question," as Chris Kraus wrote in I Love Dick – but the other question is: who is listening when they do?

Is awareness-raising such as this useful in and of itself? I felt, yesterday, the same vague despair I feel at the proliferation of "Let's Talk" campaigns and journalism around mental illness. What began, in that case, as a well-intentioned encouragement to do away with personal shame around your diagnosis, transformed eventually into a slick and meaningless catchphrase which puts the burden on the sufferer to heal themselves without any resources.

I'd like to be clear that I understand there is solace for some people in the solidarity of this campaign, in making their experiences public, and I of course don't begrudge them it, but it seems grotesque to me to lay the burden of representation on women, that we are tasked with performing our pain so often. One of the things I find frustrating about speaking about sexual abuse is that you are expected to play your own history as a trump card. If I object to a rape joke, I'm a sour feminazi, until I explain that I've been raped, when I turn into a delicate flower who needs protecting and patronising. There is no room in the discourse for an impersonal non-narrative criticism of the culture.
This is not to suggest there is any power in being silent about our own individual experiences. Anyone who knows me will know I've written publicly about some of the most painful parts of my life, including the fact I've been raped. Do I regret it? No. But do I think there was any wider benefit to what I did? I'm really not sure there was. What I took away from the experience of speaking out was that people, even kind people, are horrified and fearful when it comes to speaking about the realities of abuse. They are often unable to bear a straight conversation about it. People compel you to talk and then find themselves incapable of looking you in the eye when you do.

My other experience was the strange feeling of my abuse being consumed eagerly. Phone calls from radio stations and newspapers flooded in after I wrote an article about it. The Irish Daily Mail printed my picture on their front page with the headline "Girl, 18, raped at Trinity College". Never mind that I was 24 when I wrote the story, never mind what had happened in my life since then. I was still – would always be – girl, 18, raped.

I relived this salaciousness a little these last few weeks, consuming the Weinstein revelations myself with something not unlike excitement, reading the details, listening with horrified fascination to the recorded audio of him coercing a woman he had assaulted. It's natural, this inclination to want to know. Particularly as a victim of abuse, it comes as second-nature to greedily gather the details to myself, comparing them to my own. But it still makes me feel a little nauseous, the zeal with which we absorb the horror.

The problem, really, with all of it is how violently present the victim is forced to be in the narrative, and how utterly passive the perpetrator. The problem is not that women have trouble considering themselves victims of sexual violence, but that men have trouble considering themselves the aggressor. Indeed, it is difficult for all of us to accept how many of the men we know will have committed acts of sexual aggression. This is why the words "witch hunt" get bandied around at times like this, because it does seem crazy when you start pointing it all out, seems beyond belief really, that so many men are implicated. Because people conflate sexual violence with evil, they don't identify themselves, or their friends, as part of the problem. Because these acts are specific and contextual, and not always as cinematic as we expect them to be. And there are reasons why they happen, little justifications and excuses to be fed to ourselves. There are always reasons.

Awareness of the scale of abuse does not address these problems. The simple fact is, I have no idea how to address them. They are unimaginably ingrained in the foundations of our society. The condition of being sexually oppressed is the condition of womanhood itself. I don't spend my day-to-day existence considering my sexual trauma, or being afraid. But nonetheless, the climate of sexual
oppression shaped the basic building blocks of who I came to be, and what happened to me. There is no person unaffected by patriarchal sexual oppression, because the culture itself is built upon it.

In the real world, where we live, it is of course necessary to take practical steps to prevent attacks, to enable reporting, to ensure abusers face appropriate punitive measures both legal and social. These things make a tangible difference to the lives of women.

But the larger problem persists. It makes up the fabric of our world, this violence. Nothing less than the dismantling of our current systems, a complete discrediting of what we now consider power, will compel the sweeping change we so badly need to see, that we have waited on for so long.

@mmeannolan

‘Sorry’ does not exist in the #MeToo era

By Maureen Callahan

February 28, 2018 | 9:43pm

Oscars' host disaster makes the Academy seem desperate as hell

If the Dems want to lose in 2020, Beto O'Rourke is the perfect candidate

Will ‘The Clinton Affair’ finally end the family's stranglehold on the Democratic Party?

Michelle Obama's money-making hypocrisy is laughable

What if Harvey Weinstein walks free?

In the midst of yet another celebrity scandal — this time Ryan Seacrest, not just a red carpet but a multipronged empire at stake — one thing has become clear: The apology is dead.

Like so much today, this trend has been accelerated by President Trump, who issues all manner of insults and false claims yet almost never apologizes. In his mind, he never does anything wrong — or, at least, doesn’t care to admit it.
“I like to be good,” he told CNN in 2016. “I don’t like to have to ask for forgiveness. And I am good. I don’t do a lot of things that are bad. I try to do nothing that is bad.”

Love him or hate him, it’s working. Once upon a time, when Oprah dominated the culture, publicly flogging oneself was almost chic.

Now, in Trump’s parlance, apologies are for losers.

The current tactic is to double down and fight. Once you apologize, it seems, you’ll never come back, and such defiance crosses party lines. Look at Elizabeth Warren, ridiculously clinging to her claim of Native American heritage.

“I know who I am,” she told the Boston Globe in January. This despite the New England Genealogical Society researching Warren’s family tree and finding no proof of such lineage. Back in 2012!

It’s not that we don’t hold such figures to account. It’s just that they don’t care.

Note the statement Harvey Weinstein issued just hours after his scandal broke last October:

“I came of age in the ’60s and ’70s, when all the rules about behavior and workplaces were different.”

This is the first line of an ostensible apology: To blame an era made awful for women by men like him. Buried in a tuft of self-justifications, psychobabble and a bizarre endnote about channeling his rage toward the NRA is an apology — one rightly and largely deemed insincere.

No shortage of male celebrities have followed suit, perfunctory regret slathered beneath lots of “I” statements, the first line almost always opening with a denial.
Ben Affleck, on the videotape of him groping actress Hilarie Burton: “I don’t remember it . . .” Matt Lauer, on claims of sexual assault and harassment: “Some of what is being said about me is untrue or mischaracterized.” Russell Simmons, accused of rape by multiple women: “While I have never been violent, I have been thoughtless and insensitive in some of my relationships . . .” Charlie Rose, accused of harassing multiple young women: “I have learned a great deal as a result of these events, and I hope others will too.” Director James Toback, who says his 310 accusers are either “lying c--k suckers” or “t---s” or both.

Well then.

And let’s not forget Roy Moore, the Senate candidate credibly accused by multiple women of molesting them as teenagers. “These allegations are completely false and are a desperate political attack by the National Democrat Party and The Washington Post on this campaign,” Moore said.

And why should Moore feel ashamed, let alone have dropped out? In 2018, knowing all we know now, Roman Polanski still has his supporters. Some celebrities have finally abandoned Woody Allen, probably because he no longer creates Oscar bait.

To be called a child molester was once the worst accusation of all. To associate or work with a child abuser was social suicide.

Now it’s a mere blip on a career path.

As ugly as it is, perhaps we’re all better off this way. Back in the era of the Kennedys and Clintons, one could, say, leave a woman to drown, issue a forced apology and carry on. But that true lack of remorse, which one can intuit, has led us to the refusal to apologize — for a public person to tell us, in essence, “I don’t think I did anything wrong.”

It’s much better to know that Polanski, Weinstein et al. have no shame. It’s better to know they’re monsters and threats to public safety. It’s better
that, as much as we want to believe the good in people, we now identify and recognize the bad.

It’s better to know they’re not sorry.

Monty Python star Terry Gilliam says #MeToo movement has 'got silly'

The 77-year-old brands film producer Harvey Weinstein "a monster" but says the movement in Hollywood has morphed into "mob rule".

Hollywood director and Monty Python member Terry Gilliam has hit out at the #MeToo movement, arguing that while some women have suffered sexual harassment, others have used perpetrators to further their careers.

The 77-year-old branded film producer Harvey Weinstein "a monster" following allegations of misconduct against him but said the movement in Hollywood had morphed into "mob rule".

Speaking about the disgraced filmmaker, Gilliam said there were "plenty of monsters out there... there are other people (still) behaving like Harvey" but said he was exposed after he "made so many enemies".

He said the response in the aftermath of the Weinstein allegations has been "simplistic".
Weinstein has denied all the allegations against him.

"People are frightened to say things, to think things," he said. "It is a world of victims. I think some people did very well out of meeting with Harvey and others didn't.

"The ones who did knew what they were doing. These are adults, we are talking about adults with a lot of ambition.

"Harvey opened the door for a few people; a night with Harvey - that's the price you pay... some people paid the price, other people suffered from it."

The American-born British director behind the films Brazil and Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas said things had "got silly."

Gilliam said: "People are being described in ridiculous terms as if there is no real humanity left anymore.

"I feel sorry for someone like Matt Damon, who is a decent human being. He came out and said all men are not rapists, and he got beaten to death. Come on, this is crazy."

He said people had now become "frightened to say what they really think."

"I know enough girls who were in Harvey's suites who were not victims and walked out," he said. "It's crazy how simplified things are becoming. There is no intelligence anymore and people seem to be frightened to say what they really think."
"Now, I am told even by my wife to keep my head a bit low. It's like when mob rule takes over, the mob is out there they are carrying their torches and they are going to burn down Frankenstein's castle."

Image: Gilliam says it is 'incredible' that Donald Trump is US President

Gilliam added that the abuse of power had "always happened" and said he thought Hollywood would not change.

"Power always takes advantage, it always does and always has. It's how you deal with power - people have got to take responsibility for their own selves," the filmmaker said.

He said human beings were "physical creatures" and added: "There is touching and there is grabbing, that is the problem.

"I find it funny that (while this is going on) a self-confessed p****-grabber is the President of the US and is just walking around. I find it incredible."

Daphne Merkin’s “Publicly, We Say #MeToo. Privately, We Have Misgivings”

The New York Times’ reactionary sexual harassment campaign runs into opposition

By David Walsh

6 January 2018

In a column Friday in the New York Times, “Publicly, We Say #MeToo. Privately, We Have Misgivings,” critic and novelist Daphne Merkin acknowledges there is considerable opposition to the current sexual misconduct witch-hunt even within its target demographic. The columnist lands a number of telling blows.

The starting point for Merkin’s piece is the Golden Globes awards ceremony on Sunday, at which, she predicts, “Hollywood celebrities, not exactly known for their independent thinking, will turn the red carpet into a #MeToo moment replete with designer duds... The rest of us will diligently follow along on Twitter, sharing hashtags and suitably pious opprobrium.”

Merkin notes, however, that “many of us... will be rolling our eyes, having had it with the reflexive and unnuanced sense of outrage that has accompanied this cause from its inception, turning a bona fide moment of moral accountability into a series of ad hoc and sometimes unproven accusations.”

She suggests that the discussion of the issue “that has been going on in private about this reckoning is radically different from the public one.” Various women the columnist knows “say the right things, [while] expressing approval and joining in the chorus of voices that applaud” the current wave of allegations and takedowns.

“In private it’s a different story. ‘Grow up, this is real life,’ I hear these same feminist friends say. ‘What ever happened to flirting?’ and ‘What about the women who are the predators?’ Some women, including random people I talk to in supermarket lines, have gone so far as to call it an outright witch-hunt.”

Leaving aside Merkin’s individual history and motives, the appearance of the column with its acknowledgement of considerable hostility among middle-class women to the sexual misconduct campaign is a serious admission, if not a backpedaling, on the part of the Times itself. For months now, the newspaper’s editorial board, which has dedicated considerable resources to digging up dirt on various celebrities, and the rest of the American media have rolled out one
headline and article after another asserting that the population is universally infuriated by the allegations.

In reality, the campaign has left substantial sections of the population, female and male, beset by economic woes and struggling to keep their heads above water, largely unaffected. The most intense “indignation” has been felt by a layer of female professionals. Merkin reveals that even here there is substantial consternation.

The article pointedly refers to a number of phenomena we have discussed on the WSWS, including the return “to a victimology paradigm for young women, in particular, in which they are perceived to be—and perceive themselves to be—as frail as Victorian housewives.” Furthermore, the columnist rightly characterizes the campaign to remove a painting by Polish-French artist Balthus from the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York as “the kind of censorship practiced by religious zealots.”

Merkin notes a “disturbing lack of clarity” about terms such as harassment, assault and “inappropriate conduct.” She observes, moreover, that expressing “sexual interest is inherently messy and, frankly, nonconsensual—one person, typically the man, bites the bullet by expressing interest in the other, typically the woman—whether it happens at work or at a bar. Some are now suggesting that come-ons need to be constricted to a repressive degree... We are witnessing the re-moralization of sex, not via the Judeo-Christian ethos but via a legalistic, corporate consensus... There is an inquisitorial whiff in the air, and my particular fear is that in true American fashion, all subtlety and reflection is being lost. Next we’ll be torching people for the content of their fantasies.”

Merkin’s arguments have undoubtedly struck a chord. Close to 2,000 comments follow her column, many of them expressing agreement and even relief. On the other hand, numerous correspondents register anger at the lid being lifted on the repressive character of the current campaign.

The article reflects an objective reality, that increasing numbers of people are disgusted with the self-pitying, self-absorbed pronouncements of Ashley Judd, Rose McGowan, Salma Hayek and company, millionaires all, who would have us believe they have suffered the tortures of hell. In some cases, the sexual misconduct campaign has opened up new career and economic possibilities.

To be brutally frank, there is a great difference between the situation facing a working class woman, on the one hand, for whom acquiescing to sexual pressures in a factory or office may be virtually a life-and-death issue, and the choices open to an entertainer or performer, on the other, who plays along in the interests of advancing a career. Merkin herself asks rhetorically, “What happened to women’s agency? That’s what I find myself wondering as I hear story after story of adult women who helplessly acquiesce to sexual demands.”
However, where Merkin’s column falls down terribly is in its acceptance of too many of the assumptions of the sexual misconduct campaign (despite her recognition that in the current climate “to be accused is to be convicted” and that “due process is nowhere to be found”) and her failure to examine the broader, political implications.

She writes at one point, “It goes without saying that no one is coming to the defense of heinous sorts, like Kevin Spacey and Matt Lauer.” Heinous sorts? Are we talking about Adolf Hitler or Benito Mussolini? Neither Spacey nor Lauer has been charged or found guilty of a crime. Spacey, one of America’s most gifted actors and the two-time winner of an Academy Award, has been turned into a “non-person” primarily on the basis of an allegation about a sexual encounter that may have occurred more than 30 years ago. The statute of limitations, which exists for a reason, has been reached in many cases. Individuals can be guilty of loutish, boorish or inappropriate actions, and conduct that one generally disapproves of, but there are no grounds for this kind of personal demonization. It simply fuels the witch-hunt.

Truly “heinous sorts” run the US government and military-intelligence apparatus, the corporations and banks. The American ruling elite and its propagandists, including front and center the New York Times, are guilty of vast and horrible crimes against humanity in Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya, Syria, Yemen and elsewhere. The financial oligarchy does not lose any sleep over social atrocities at home either, the communities destroyed by factory closures, the poverty and homelessness, lowered life expectancy, tens of thousands of drug deaths and the social misery of a larger and larger portion of the population.

Merkin’s article largely sidesteps the enormous legal and democratic issues involved. There has been nothing like the current drive since the McCarthyite period. In some ways, there is even less of an attempt today to dress up the destruction of lives and careers—often on the basis of anonymous and flimsy accusations—in pseudo-legal guise than there was in the early 1950s. How has this large-scale effort, which the columnist herself argues may pose the danger of people being “torched” for their thoughts, gained such traction?

Sexual harassment and assault are emotive and very real issues. But portions of the American establishment have not taken up these questions because they suddenly feel deeply about abuse and injustice. They feel nothing about such matters. This is a coldly calculated political operation directed by the Democratic Party and its media orbit, including the Times.

It is one element of the reaction of the Democrats to their defeat in 2016. They hope to leverage this, the sexual misconduct/assault issue, into electoral and political success. At the same time, they want to muddy the waters and divert
attention from the conditions of life for millions and the malignant social polarization.

This campaign falls into the same fraudulent category as the “fake news” censorship drive and the hysterical Russophobia that has gripped considerable layers of the upper-middle class.

People are being led by the nose—and many of them quite willingly—into supporting a campaign that will facilitate outright political repression. The present crusade has as much to do with sex as the anti-Russian campaign has to do with protecting American democracy.