

**SOCIAL REPRESENTATION REGARDING SEXUAL
ASSAULT CASES IN THE JAKARTA POST**

THESIS

By:

Adila Noor Saida

NIM 18320071



**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LITERATURE
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI MAULANA MALIK
IBRAHIM MALANG**

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**SOCIAL REPRESENTATION REGARDING SEXUAL
ASSAULT CASES IN THE JAKARTA POST**

THESIS

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in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of *Sarjana Sastra* (S.S.)

By:

Adila Noor Saida

NIM 18320071

Advisor:

Habiba Al Umami, M.Hum.

NIP 199008122019032018



DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LITERATURE

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

**UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI MAULANA MALIK
IBRAHIM MALANG**

2024

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I state that the thesis entitled “**Social Representation regarding Sexual Assault Cases in the Jakarta Post**” is my original work. I do not include any materials previously written or published by another person, except those cited as references and written in the bibliography. Hereby, if there is any objection or claim, I am the only person who is responsible for that.

Malang, 28 May 2024

The researcher



Adila Noor Saida

NIM 18320071

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This to certify that Adila Noor Saida's thesis entitled **Social Representation regarding Sexual Assault Cases in the Jakarta Post** has been approved for thesis examination at Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang, as one of the requirements for the degree of *Sarjana Sastra* (S.S.).

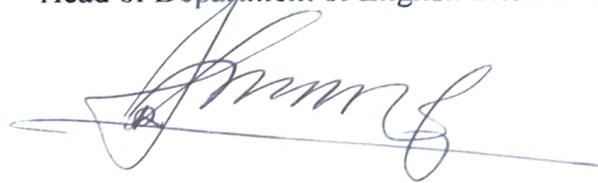
Malang, 28 May 2024

Approved by
Advisor,



Habiba Al Umami, M.Hum.
NIP 199008122019032018

Head of Department of English Literature,



Ribut Wahyudi, M.Ed., Ph.D.
NIP 198112052011011007

Acknowledged by

Dean,



Dr. M. Faisol, M.Ag.
NIP 197411012003121003

LEGITIMATION SHEET

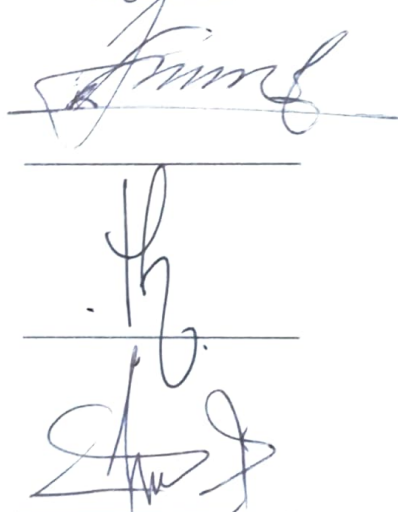
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Malang, 28 May 2024

Board of Examiners

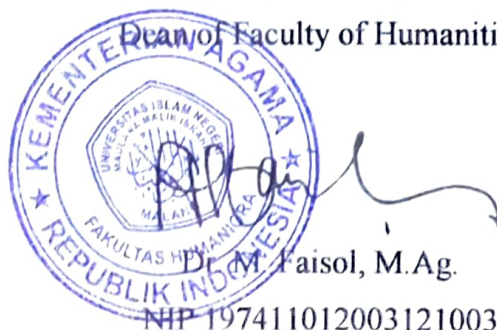
1. Ribut Wahyudi, M.Ed., Ph.D. (Chair)
NIP 198112052011011007
2. Habiba Al Umami, M.Hum. (First Examiner)
NIP 199008122019032018
3. Zainur Rofiq, M.A. (Second Examiner)
NIP 19861018201802011180

Signatures



Approved by

Dean of Faculty of Humanities



Dr. M. Faisol, M.Ag.
NIP 197411012003121003

MOTTO

Slowly at my own pace
-Wonwoo of Seventeen-

DEDICATION

I dedicate this thesis to my beloved parents, my father and my mother

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim, all praise is due to Allah SWT, who has always bestowed His blessings and guidance upon us, so that we can still live our lives. Peace and blessings be upon the Prophet Muhammad SAW, who has brought us a guide to life full of peace.

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I recognize that my thesis may have limitations and areas for improvement. I welcome any constructive criticism and suggestions to help me improve my work in the future. I hope that this thesis will be a valuable resource for readers.

Malang, 28 May 2024

The researcher



Adila Noor Saida

NIM 18320071

ABSTRACT

Saida, Adila Noor (2024) *Social Representation regarding Sexual Assault Cases in the Jakarta Post*. Undergraduate Thesis. Department of English Literature, Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang. Advisor Habiba Al Umami, M.Hum.

Key word: Sexual assault, social representation, transitivity

Recently, cases of rape and harassment against women in Indonesia have increased and become public. Based on CNN Indonesia on August 19, 2021, reported cases have increased significantly since the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, this research examines how the news media depicts the social actors involved in the cases of sexual assault against women in Indonesia. Through the analytical framework of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), specifically focusing on transitivity processes, the research examines the linguistic choices journalists make when constructing narratives surrounding these cases. The findings demonstrate a prominent use of verbal processes, with the police emerging as the main participant. This suggests that Indonesian journalists tend to heavily rely on police sources for reporting sexual assault cases. In addition, there is an imbalance in the representation of other actors in material, behavioral, and relational processes. This imbalance potentially reflects the influence of the hint of patriarchal structures in Indonesia, suggesting that societal norms may be subtly shaping news coverage of sexual assault cases. This research contributes to the field of linguistics, particularly in media discourse analysis. It explores beyond the surface level of actor representation, uncovering the societal factors that influence their portrayals. By highlighting the potential biases in how journalists frame social actors, the study enables the readers to critically analyze news narratives.

مستخلص البحث

سعيدة، عديلة نور (2024) التمثيل الاجتماعي فيما يتعلق بقضايا الاعتداء الجنسي في بريد جاكرتا. أطروحة جامعية. قسم الأدب الإنجليزي، كلية العلوم الإنسانية، جامعة إسلام نيجيري مولانا مالك إبراهيم مالانج. المستشار حبيبة العمامي، ماجستير.

الكلمات الأساسية: الاعتداء الجنسي، التمثيل الاجتماعي، التحويلية

في الآونة الأخيرة، زادت حالات الاغتصاب والتحرش ضد النساء في إندونيسيا وأصبحت علنية. واستنادًا إلى قناة سي إن إن إندونيسيا في 19 أغسطس 2021، ازدادت الحالات المبلغ عنها بشكل ملحوظ منذ جائحة كوفيد-19. لذلك، يدرس هذا البحث كيفية تصوير وسائل الإعلام الإخبارية للفاعلين الاجتماعيين المتورطين في حالات الاعتداء الجنسي ضد المرأة في إندونيسيا. من خلال الإطار التحليلي للسانيات الوظيفية المنهجية (SFL)، مع التركيز بشكل خاص على عمليات الانتقال، يدرس البحث الخيارات اللغوية التي يتخذها الصحفيون عند بناء السرديات المحيطة بهذه الحالات. وتظهر النتائج استخدامًا بارزًا للعمليات اللفظية، مع بروز الشرطة كمشارك رئيسي. وهذا يشير إلى أن الصحفيين الإندونيسيين يميلون إلى الاعتماد بشكل كبير على مصادر الشرطة في الإبلاغ عن حالات الاعتداء الجنسي. بالإضافة إلى ذلك، هناك اختلال في تمثيل الجهات الفاعلة الأخرى في العمليات المادية والسلوكية والعلائقية. وقد يعكس هذا الخلل في التوازن تأثير الهياكل الأبوية المتجذرة في إندونيسيا، مما يشير إلى أن المعايير المجتمعية قد تكون تشكل بمهارة التغطية الإخبارية لقضايا الاعتداء الجنسي. يساهم هذا البحث في مجال اللغويات، ولا سيما في تحليل الخطاب الإعلامي. فهو يستكشف ما وراء المستوى السطحي لتمثيل الفاعلين، ويكشف عن العوامل المجتمعية التي تؤثر في تصويرهم. ومن خلال تسليط الضوء على التحيزات المحتملة في كيفية تأطير الصحفيين للفاعلين الاجتماعيين، تمكن الدراسة القراء من تحليل السرديات الإخبارية تحليلًا نقديًا.

ABSTRAK

Saida, Adila Noor (2024) *Representasi Sosial Terkait Kasus Pelecehan Seksual di Jakarta Post*. Skripsi. Jurusan Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Humaniora, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang. Pembimbing Habiba Al Umami, M.Hum.

Kata Kunci: Kekerasan seksual, representasi sosial, transitivity

Belakangan ini, kasus pemerkosaan dan pelecehan terhadap perempuan di Indonesia semakin meningkat dan menjadi perhatian publik. Berdasarkan CNN Indonesia pada 19 Agustus 2021, kasus yang dilaporkan meningkat secara signifikan sejak pandemi COVID-19. Oleh karena itu, penelitian ini mengkaji bagaimana media berita menggambarkan aktor-aktor sosial yang terlibat dalam kasus kekerasan seksual terhadap perempuan di Indonesia. Melalui kerangka analisis Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), yang secara khusus berfokus pada proses transitivity, penelitian ini mengkaji pilihan linguistik yang dibuat oleh jurnalis ketika membangun narasi seputar kasus-kasus tersebut. Temuan dari penelitian ini menunjukkan penggunaan proses verbal yang menonjol, dengan polisi muncul sebagai partisipan utama. Hal ini menunjukkan bahwa jurnalis Indonesia cenderung sangat bergantung pada sumber-sumber dari kepolisian dalam melaporkan kasus-kasus kekerasan seksual. Selain itu, ada ketidakseimbangan dalam representasi aktor-aktor lain dalam proses material, perilaku, dan relasional. Ketidakseimbangan ini berpotensi mencerminkan pengaruh struktur patriarki di Indonesia, yang menunjukkan bahwa norma-norma masyarakat mungkin secara halus membentuk liputan berita tentang kasus-kasus kekerasan seksual. Penelitian memberikan kontribusi pada bidang linguistik, khususnya dalam analisis wacana media. Penelitian ini mengeksplorasi lebih jauh dari sekadar representasi aktor sosial di permukaan, melainkan mengungkap faktor-faktor sosial yang mempengaruhi penggambaran mereka. Dengan menyoroti potensi *bias* dalam cara jurnalis membingkai aktor sosial, penelitian ini memungkinkan pembaca untuk menganalisis narasi berita secara kritis.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Recently, cases of rape and harassment against women in Indonesia are increasing and sticking out to the public. Based on a report from CNN Indonesia on August 19, 2021, Komnas Perempuan noted that there had been 2,500 cases of violence against women in the period from January to July 2021. This kind of case exceeds the 2020 record of only 2,400 cases. As reported by CNN Indonesia (2021), Andi Yetriyani, head of Komnas Perempuan, said that during the COVID-19 pandemic, cases of violence against women increased in just six months in 2021. The number of cases exceeded the total of the previous year. The total cases in 2020 increased to 68 percent compared to 2019 (CNN Indonesia, 2021). Cases like this do not escape media coverage. Through news reports, the news media played a critical role in informing the public about this case. (Diana et al., 2019). One form of news media is online news media which is very easily accessible to the general public.

Today, people worldwide, including in Indonesia, are spoiled with technological advances that can make their lives easier. One of them is the ease of accessing all information via the internet. Readers can access various online news media sites anywhere and anytime to read the latest news. Due to

the emergence of online news media, the consumption of print news media began to decline, thus affecting production patterns of news consumption around the world. In addition, when online media meets social media platforms, the news is easy to spread and more interactive than ever (Jenkins et al., 2013). The media is a powerful institution that, through its discourse, can represent, strengthen, or change public opinion, ideological groups, and power dynamics. (Badara & Jamiludin, 2020). Therefore, there are times when media is made for certain purposes, for example to maintain power. The existence of a power that interferes with mass media reporting can deny the function of the news media as a pillar of democracy (Mandarani, 2018). Consequently, it is crucial to investigate what is shown behind the news text. Media discourse analysis becomes essential to be examined to find out what interests are behind a story (Mandarani, 2018). One aspect that needs consideration is the examination of the representation of actors within online news platforms in relation to cases of sexual assault.

Media discourse can be the subject of linguistic research (Talbot, 2007), since mass media have substantively linguistic and discourse nature of power (Fairclough, 1995). Therefore, to examine media discourse, notably on the representation of social actors in the media coverage of women as victims of sexual violence, the Discourse Analysis approach is suitable for this study. Particularly, this study will use a theory proposed by Halliday, namely Systemic Functional Linguistics focusing on ideational metafunction. This function of language explains how the speakers or writers, in this case, the

journalists, view the world around them. It is realized by transitivity system. Moreover, the transitivity model provides a method for determining how specific linguistic patterns of the text encode the ideological stand of the reader or speaker (Sakrikar, 2019). It helps to illustrate how they account for their experiences of the world around them and encode their mental images of reality into a language.

Several linguistic studies investigating the actors' representation in online news media have been carried out by many researchers, such as Susilo et al. (2019), Mandarani (2020), and Ahlstrand (2020). The three studies examined the portrayal of women politicians in the news. Even so, there are differences in research subjects, theories, and methods used. Susilo et al. (2019) use Van Dijk's CDA theory and feminist critical analysis. This research is sufficient to provide knowledge to readers about how female politicians are portrayed in the media. Meanwhile, Mandarani (2020) uses a different theory, namely CDA, from Sara Mills. Ahlstrand's (2020) research uses Van Dijk's ideological square model and Van Leeuwen's social actor analysis to examine Megawati Soekarnoputri's representation as an icon of ideological contestation in the 2014 Presidential Election. This research is the most in-depth in analyzing the news compared to the two previous studies. The result of his research is the discourse strategies found in presenting Megawati and the reasons why those strategies are used.

In contrast to prior studies that analyzed the representation of women politicians, Fahmi et al. (2020) research examine the representation of

Indonesian women scholars. This study uses Leeuwian's approach to examine the exclusion and inclusion of Indonesian female scholars in the news media. Although this research is a qualitative study, the results of the research only show a list of inclusions and exclusions. It does not explain further why social actors are included or excluded in the news. Research with distinct topics was also carried out by Waluati et al. (2021). The research topic is quite updated with the current situation, namely the representation of female figures in the Covid-19 discourse. However, there is only one subject in this study. Therefore, further exploration of this topic is still needed.

On the other hand, research examining women's representation as victims of sexual violence in online news media has also been done by many scholars, including research by Risdaneva (2018). She investigates the news about sexual violence in the Jakarta Post and The Guardian. In her research, she compares the two news portals' tendency in choosing lexical items that represent the main actors in the news by using the method of naming analysis of social actors. The results of this research indicate that the two news portals use different naming categories. A study on a similar topic has also been conducted by Aprilia (2020). She researched the representation of women in the Indonesian media, focusing on the case of criminalized victim Baiq Nuril. In contrast to other studies that reveal more about the general representation of women in the media, this study discusses a very specific case. This article is written in the form of a narrative analysis, which follows the topic and research objectives that require in-depth explanation. The study's findings

suggest that the involvement of multiple parties influences the diversity of women's representation in the news.

Badara and Jamiludin (2020) investigated the representation of Indonesian female workers, who were sexually harassed, in the newspapers of nationalist-secular and Islamic ideological perspectives. Using Van Dijk's approach and Van Leeuwen's discourse analysis model, this study attempts to reveal the writing tendencies of the two news media. Additionally, the researcher discovered studies on related topic involving sexual assault cases from other countries. Breen et al. (2017), for example, investigate discursive practices in Australian journalism reporting rape cases. This study, however, does not address the reasons why female rape victims are frequently cornered in journalist reporting. Another research is the research conducted by Karlsson et al. (2020). They looked into how intimate partner violence against women was portrayed in Swedish news media.

Unlike the studies above (Arimbi, 2019; Mandarani, 2020; Ahlstrand, 2020; Fahmi et al., 2020; Waluati et al., 2021; Risdaneva, 2018; Aprilia, 2020; etc.), which mainly focus on analyzing general representations based on news texts, the present study seeks to uncover the social representation of the actors in online news outlets that cover sexual assault cases involving women as the victims. This topic has the urgency to be studied, considering the amount of news about sexual harassment against women that has been revealed recently. Therefore, the research object chosen to be explored is the actors that associated in the sexual violence report in Indonesian online news.

The news media selected for the analysis is Jakarta Post. The media was chosen considering that it is one of prestigious media in Indonesia. It means that it can reach a wider audience and the spread of news can be faster. News media consists of news texts that contain discourse. The larger the audience and the faster the spread of news, the greater potential to influence the readers in forming their ideas, beliefs, and behavior through the discourse.

This study departs from the assumption that in news coverage of sexual violence against women, there are social representations of the actors that influence news-makers in writing news. Thus, this study aims to find out how the actors, mainly focusing on women who are the victims of sexual violence, are depicted in the news and what social representation influences the tendency of journalists to write the news. Therefore, this research can contribute to the study of linguistics, especially in the field of discourse analysis.

B. Problem of the Study

1. How is the ideational process representing the police, suspect, and victims in the case of sexual assault in Indonesian news media?
2. How are the social representations reflected in journalists' tendency to report women as sexual violence victims in Indonesian online news?

C. Significance of the Study

Practical Significance

This research aims at news-makers, including writers, editors, and publishers, as a reflection to write news as objectively as possible. In addition, this study raises awareness that the choice of certain words in the news media can lead to misunderstandings and negative stereotypes of marginalized individuals or groups.

D. Scope and Limitation

The scope of this study is limited to Discourse Analysis, more precisely Media Discourse Analysis, which examines representation using linguistic features reflected on SFL transitivity. This research focuses on news about sexual assault with women as the victims. For data collection, the researcher took news related to sexual assault issues from the Jakarta Post. News articles taken as data are prioritized to be published around January to October 2023, to make up-to-date research. This research will not cover the issue of sexual assault, which does not occur in Indonesia, since one of the aims of this research is to raise awareness among Indonesian journalists on the importance of writing news as objectively as possible.

E. Definition of Key Terms

1. Social Representation

Halliday (1994) defines social representation as the strategic use of language in social contexts to achieve specific goals. In this study, it refers to how journalists depict the actors in sexual assault reports, primarily focusing on women as victims.

2. Media Discourse

Generally, media discourse refers to any way in which the media - including news outlets, publishers, and others - frames certain issues and generates public debate.

3. News Media

"News media" typically refers to texts or reports on radio, TV, or in newspapers providing fresh information about current events.

4. Sexual Violence

Sexual violence, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), encompasses any non-consensual sexual act or attempt, regardless of the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim, occurring anywhere, not just at home or in the workplace.

5. Textually Oriented Discourse Analysis

It is an approach to discourse analysis that focuses on detailed analysis of written texts to understand how language choices construct meaning and reflect broader social and power structures (Fairclough, 1992, 2003; Paltridge, 2012).

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

A. Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics

Discourse analysis is a research approach that aims to identify and analyze patterns within linguistic data. Systemic functional linguistics (SFL) provides a framework for examining the meaning conveyed through language and its connection to social situations to improve the understanding of language within societal interactions. Hence, the use of Discourse Analysis as the framework and Systemic Functional Linguistics as the analytical tool is appropriate for the present research.

Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) is a theory developed by Michael Halliday (Halliday, 1978, 1994; Halliday and Matthiessen, 2004). SFL acknowledges the significant impact that language has on people's existence and views the construction of meaning as an interactive process in which language influences and is influenced by the surrounding contexts. Each language provides its users with a wide range of choices for interpreting and expressing meaning. The Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) framework allows for the examination of meaning within a given context through the use of an in-depth text-based grammar (Schleppegrell, 2012). This grammar helps analysts to identify the linguistic choices made by speakers and writers. It aims to investigate various systems and their functional role in constructing diverse meanings (Schleppegrell, 2012).

In Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), the analysis of a text includes a total of four approaches, namely Context, Semantics, Lexicogrammar, and Phonology (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). To begin with, the importance of context emerges as a critical aspect, since it plays a crucial role in the overarching process of constructing meaning (Almurashi, 2016). Indeed, the occurrence of language within a given context unavoidably implies its reference to or association with several contexts. The types of the contexts are presented in the list below.

1. *The Context of Culture* [genres].
2. *The Context of Situation* [the technical term for this is Register].

Halliday conceptualize the context of a situation in terms of three major layers (Matthiessen & Halliday, 2014):

- a. *Field*: indicates the topic or what is being discussed.
- b. *Tenor*: indicates who is/are involved in the communication and their relationships with one another.
- c. *Mode*: indicates what role the language plays in the interaction and what form it takes (written or spoken).

These three Register variables are applied to explain that individuals use different resources, different kinds, and different parts of the language system (Matthiessen & Halliday, 2014).

SFL proposes a model with three levels that characterizes language structure and function inside the language system itself (Almurashi, 2016).

The area as follows.

1. *Discourse-Semantics* consists of three metafunctions. They are as follows: interpersonal metafunctions, ideational metafunctions, and textual metafunctions.
2. *Lexico-grammar* is a layer that includes both grammar and vocabulary and represents the view of language in both lexis and grammar.
3. *Phonology, orthography (or graphology)* which refers to the sound system, the writing system, and the wording system (Eggins, 2004).

Therefore, according to the SFL model, human language has developed to produce three types of generalized meanings: experiential meanings (clause as representation), interpersonal meanings (clause as exchange), and textual meanings (clause as message) (Eggins, 2004).

1. *The Experiential meanings* are concerned with how reality is represented and the grammatical resources for constructing our experience of the world around us, in terms of what is going on, who is involved in the goings-on, and when, where, and how the goings-on are going on. Transitivity is one of its primary grammatical systems (Matthiessen & Halliday, 1997).
2. *The interpersonal meanings* deal with the interaction between the speaker(s) and the addressee(s). It is used to create the speaker's role and

relationship with others in the speech situation. Mood and Modality is one of its primary grammatical systems (Matthiessen & Halliday, 1997).

3. *The textual meanings* are concerned with the creation of text and how we organize our meanings into meaningful text. Theme and Rhyme is a major textual system (Matthiessen & Halliday, 1997).

B. Ideational Metafunction

As mentioned in the preceding section above, SFL distinguished the functions of language into three abstract functions, known as metafunctions, which are present in every clause used in speech or writing. These metafunctions create a connection between human linguistic choices and the various contexts in which language is employed (Schleppegrell, 2012). The three metafunctions consist of the ideational, interpersonal, and textual aspects (Matthiessen & Halliday, 2014). In each clause, the language serves the purpose of simultaneously construing an experience (ideational metafunction), establishing a role relationship with the recipient (interpersonal metafunction), and connecting the messages to the preceding and subsequent text and context (textual metafunction) (Schleppegrell, 2012). SFL offers structures and tools that facilitate the examination of three distinct types of meanings and their connection within discourse. In this study, researcher employed the ideational metafunction, more especially focusing on the analysis of transitivity, as one of the three language functions.

Transitivity

Transitivity serves as a subcomponent of the Ideational metafunction. Transitivity is a fundamental term within the framework of Systemic Functional Grammar, offering as a valuable tool for the analysis of discourse. In general, transitivity is a concept that refers to the representation of meaning within a clause. The transitivity model provides a method for uncovering how certain language structures within a text reflect the specific worldview of the ideological position held by the reader or speaker (Sakrikar, 2019). Language usage serves as a means via which individuals express their cognitive representation of the world and their perception of the surroundings. According to Halliday and Mathiessen (2014), transitivity refers to a structural feature of the clause, which impacts not only the verb functioning as the process, but also the participants and circumstances involved.

Hence, the several components of transitivity are as follows.

1. *The processes* [in the verbal group]
2. *The participants* (human/non-human) who are participating in these processes [in the noun group].
3. *The circumstances* in which the processes occur and the when, where, and how they take place [in the prepositional phrase and adverbial group] (Matthiessen & Halliday, 2014).

Transitivity processes are classified into three primary categories, namely Material, Mental, and Relational processes. Halliday (2014) further

categorizes processes into three secondary categories, namely Behavioral, Verbal, and Existential processes.

1. Material Process

The material process refers to a process characterized by the occurrence, creation, or execution of acts, which can be either tangible or intangible in nature (Eklesia & Rido, 2020). The material process has two distinct roles for participants, specifically the actor and the goal (Matthiessen & Halliday, 2014). The person who performs the action is known as an actor, whereas the entity that the process affects is known as the goal.

2. Mental Process

Mental process involves the encoding of mental reactions, including perception, thoughts, and emotions (Sakrikar, 2019). Mental process is distinct from the material process. It consists of two participants, namely sensor and phenomenon (Matthiessen & Halliday, 2014). Sensor is the conscious entity engaged in a mental process such as feeling, thinking, or perceiving. While phenomenon is the thing perceived, thought of, or sensed by the conscious Sensor.

3. Relational Process

The relational process involves both being and having (Eklesia & Rido, 2020). The main characteristic of relational processes is that they connect a participant to its identity or description (Eklesia & Rido, 2020). Halliday (1994) divided this process into two types: attributive

relation and identifying relation. The attributive relation refers to the properties or categories that are attributed to the participant. Identifying relation is related to establishing identity. The attributive relation involves two participants: the carrier and the attribute. Meanwhile, the process of identifying a relation involves two participants: the identified and the identifier.

4. Behavioral Process

Halliday and Matthiessen (2014) defines behavioral process as the process that represents the external manifestation of inner workings and reflects physiological and psychological behavior. There is just one participant in the behavioral process, referred to as bahaver (Matthiessen & Halliday, 2014). The behavior is typically a conscious creature, yet the process is more akin to one of doing, as in the Material process (Sakrikar, 2019).

5. Verbal Process

The verbal process refers to the act of speaking or expressing oneself through words (Eklesia & Rido, 2020). This process involves one inherent participant namely the sayer, who is responsible for speaking (Matthiessen & Halliday, 2014). In addition to sayer, verbal clause consists of further participants: the receiver, who receives the spoken communication; the verbiage, which refers to the actual verbalization; and the target, who is the intended recipient of the verbal process (Matthiessen & Halliday, 2014).

6. Existential Process

Existential process described as a process that convey the existence and occurrence of something (Matthiessen & Halliday, 2014). Existential refers to a thing or event that is being created. The verb 'be' is commonly used in existential process (Sakrikar, 2019). It usually preceded by there and appear at the start of a paragraph. Existential clause only has one participant called existent, that comes after the process (Matthiessen & Halliday, 2014). The existent can be found in any form of phenomenon, such as a thing, a person, an object, an institution or an abstraction, an action or an event (Sakrikar, 2019).

The following is an example of Halliday Transitivity analysis:

Actor	Pr-Material	Goal
The female worker	has reported	her boss, who is also a mayor, for corruption to the police

The data above indicates the occurrence of material process in the text. The material process is described by the verb “has reported”. In this case, the verb “has reported” indicates the process of doing which is done by the actor “The female worker” and directed at “her boss, who is also a mayor, for corruption to the police” as the goal. This process describes that there is a report of corruption by a mayor. In her report, she accused her boss who was also a mayor.

C. Discourse Analysis

1. Definition

According to Dunn and Neumann (2016), discourse, in its most fundamental form, comprises the representational processes by which meanings are constructed. Scholars that adopt a discourse-centered approach frequently do so due to their rejection of the idea that knowledge exists independently of the social contexts. Instead, they perceive knowledge as a crucial factor in constructing and shaping reality. Societies construct and attach meanings and values to the material world through the construction of discourses (Dunn & Neumann, 2016).

In other words, discourse analysis is a scholarly approach that investigates the patterns of language found inside various texts, while also exploring the intricate connection between language and the social and cultural environments in which it is employed (Paltridge, 2012). Discourse analysis also encompasses the examination of how language usage can provide varying perspectives and interpretations of the reality (Paltridge, 2012). This approach investigates the impact of interpersonal interactions on language usage, as well as the consequences of language use on social identities and relationships (Paltridge, 2012). Furthermore, this perspective takes into account the manner in which perceptions of the world and individual identities are shaped through the use of discourse (Paltridge, 2012).

2. Area

According to Hyland et al. (2021), discourse analysis includes various area, specifically:

a. Academic Discourse

Academic discourse refers to the ways in which people think and use language in the academic (Hyland et al., 2021). Its importance comes in large part from the fact that complex social activities such as educating students, illustrating learning, distributing ideas, and producing knowledge rely heavily on language (Hyland et al., 2021). Textbooks, essays, conference presentations, dissertations, lectures, and research papers are at the heart of the academic activity and serve as the foundation for education and knowledge creation (Hyland et al., 2021).

b. Workplace Discourse

The study of workplace discourse has experienced a significant surge in research activity during the past twenty years (Holmes, 2021). The initial researches were mostly centered around the interaction between doctors and patients, as well as the examination of legal language, particularly in the context of courtroom discourse (Holmes, 2021). These topics continue to attract the attention of numerous scholars. The field of workplace discourse research has expanded significantly, now encompassing various institutional and non-institutional contexts (Holmes, 2021). It also examines multiple aspects of interaction, such as the development of professional identities, including leadership identities,

the dynamics of communication in meetings, the role of humor, small talk, and storytelling in the workplace, and the impact of digital communication on workplace interaction (Holmes, 2021).

c. News Discourse

According to Facchinetti (2021), the term 'news discourse' refers to a specific form of discourse that involves the creation, distribution, and examination of news. This type of discourse can be accessed through traditional media channels such as newspapers, radio, and television, as well as through digital media platforms like online news websites, podcasts, bulletins, blogs, and feeds.

D. Media Discourse

1. Definition

Previously, "media" referred to newscasts, print institutions, and platforms that reported, interpreted, and conveyed news about the world, whether local or global, genuine or lighthearted, event or entertainment (Cotter, 2015). Marshall McLuhan's 1960s observation that the "medium is the message" was at the root of media production and consumption. In other words, words and images are not enough to tell the story; of how the news is received and through which channels are important. This idea has influenced many studies on media discourse (Cotter, 2015). Media discourse belongs to interactions that occur through a broadcast outlet, whether spoken or written, and are aimed at a non-present reader, listener, or viewer (Gee & Handford,

2012). The news media discourse contains two main elements: the news story, or spoken or written text, and the process of producing the texts (Cotter, 2015). Most media researchers have focused on the first dimension, because text encodes values and ideologies that influence and represent the larger world. The second dimension, process - such as the norms and routines of the community of news practitioners - has been on the research agenda for several years. However, no significant work has been completed to date.

2. Newspaper as discourse

Newspaper is one of the media that can be analyzed using discourse analysis. The term "news discourse" refers to the discourse that audiences find in newscasts, news shows, news outlets, or newspapers. This discourse reports on current events, occurrences, and concerns. (Bednarek & Caple, 2012).

'News discourse' or journalism discourse, according to Richardson (2007) has three characteristics, namely the language of the journalism itself, the production and consumption of journalism, and the relationship between journalism to social ideas and institutions. These three characteristics are interrelated and sometimes difficult to separate (Richardson, 2007). To be more precise, the actions and views of social groups—usually powerful ones—have a significant influence on the sourcing and construction of news, which makes it hard to choose and produce news without first having an idea of the intended audience (Richardson, 2007).

The selection for inclusion for news reports is followed by transformation, as well as differences in presentation based on a variety of political, economic, and societal factors (Fowler, 2013). Therefore, newspaper writing is inherently biased. News is always reported from a specific standpoint, and the organizations that present and report it are socially, economically, and politically positioned (Fowler, 2013). The media's structure carries meanings that are derived from the in regard social positions of the publishing and broadcasting institution. In fact, everything written or said about the world, according to Fowler (2013), is expressed from a certain ideological belief. As a result, the readers, who considerably consume the news, potentially are influenced by it. In the other words, the news media have an ability to shape the audiences' belief and behavior (Bednarek & Caple, 2012).

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHOD

A. Research Design

This study is a qualitative research under Discourse Analysis as method. According to Flick et al. (2004), qualitative research aims to improve understanding of social reality by focusing on processes, meaning patterns, and structural elements. This is in line with the purpose of the study, which is to investigate representations of actors involved in news reports regarding sexual assault as well as social factors that shape the writing of the news. In addition, as defined by Brown & Yule (1983), that discourse analysis is study of ‘language in use’, which means that it is concerned with language usage that extends beyond words or sentences, considering elements such as participant, topic, and discourse structure (Cotter, 2015). It also examines discourse phenomena in media, such as reported speech, conversation, register, positioning and framing, stance, graphic display, visual communication, and so on (Cotter & ben-Aaron, 2017). Therefore, discourse analysis is applicable for this study.

B. Data Source

The data for this study is all sentences that mention the victims. As the data source, the three selected articles to be analyzed are collected from Indonesian online news media, namely Jakarta Post. The media was chosen considering that it is considered a prestigious media in Indonesia. Jakarta Post,

with its English-language articles, attracts readers from educated Indonesians, foreigners, and even middle-class Indonesians. The articles are chosen and included based on the following criteria: 1.) articles published around January to October 2023; 2.) only articles based on or describing cases of sexual violence or harassment without reference to specific cases or events; 3.) articles about sexual assault cases involving women; 4.) articles reporting on sexual assault or violence cases in Indonesia.

C. Data Collection

The primary data collection method employed in this study is document data collection, where the term "document" is defined as "written texts," as elucidated by Rose et al. (2020). Specifically, the study focuses on online newspaper articles, considering them as documents. Rose et al. (2020) assert that documents, as written texts, convey specific meanings and are socially produced, aligning with the study's objectives.

Therefore, to collect the data, the researcher uses several steps: First, the researcher gathers data by searching Jakarta Post for all news stories about sexual assault against women in Indonesia. Data is collected by searching for keywords through the search menu of the website (sexual violence OR sexual assault). In addition, the researcher also explores the topic tags under the articles to reach more coverage (sexual-abuse, sexual-violence, sexual-harassment, and sexual-abuse-victims). Second, the news reports are sorted based on the

preceding criteria. Third, news reports from the media outlets on the selected issues are compiled.

D. Data Analysis

This study will analyze the data using Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics in formed Discourse Analysis. This framework recognizes that language is essential to people's lives and that language and context shape meaning-making (Sakrikar, 2019). The comprehensive text-based grammar of SFL helps analysts understand how speakers and writers construct meanings from language systems (Schleppegrell, 2012). Specifically, this study will focus on one of the functions of language proposed by SFL, namely ideational metafunction.

Ideational metafunction refers to experience as a process. It examines how actions are communicated through 'meaning' and uses verb transitivity to show actor-action relationships. Halliday defines ideational metafunction as language's role in creating psychological and physical experiences. Reflections on phenomena or consciousness become 'content' (Halliday, 1978). This content is experienced meaning. The transitivity system of language realizes its experiential role (Sakrikar, 2019). Hence, Halliday's transitivity analysis is suitable for use in this study.

Following Krippendorff (2004), the first two stages involve data identification and categorization. In the first stage, different types of transitivity processes within the articles are identified. Each set of clause sequences is then

encoded with a numbering system for easy reference during subsequent stages of analysis focused on identifying participants and coding for themes.

The third step involves data analysis. Then, the researcher calculated the total amount of each category of transitivity and provided a percentage breakdown of the findings. The percentage findings were presented in the form of a table so that the total of distinct transitivity process types could be understood clearly. The final step is to present the findings and make conclusion.

CHAPTER IV

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

A. Findings

This study investigated how actors in cases of sexual violence are portrayed in online news in Indonesia, and offering in-depth examination into how social representations can shape journalistic narratives. Through transitivity analysis, this research aims to reveal the ideational processes that represent the actors and social factors that lead to journalistic tendencies in news writing. Therefore, this section is divided into two parts: 1.) The ideational process represents the police, suspect, and victims in the case of sexual assault in Indonesian news media, and 2.) The social representations reflected in journalists' tendency to report women as sexual violence victims in Indonesian online news.

1. The Ideational Process Represents the Police, Suspect, and Victims in the Case of Sexual Assault in Indonesian News Media

Halliday (1985) proposed six different types of transitivity processes that could be used to analyze language usage: material, mental, relational, behavioral, verbal, and existential. However, after analyzing articles that focused on women as victims of sexual violence in Indonesian online news sources, the researcher discovered that only material, relational, behavioral, and verbal processes were present. The material process, which is inherently central to actions and events,

was particularly prominent within the analyzed articles. The relational process focused on describing the characteristics of the participants, while behavioral processes highlighted the actions of the actors involved. The verbal process, on the other hand, documented conversations between sources and reporters. The mental process is the cognitive thinking made by participants. Meanwhile, in the articles, this process was not identified. This is likely because, in the context of sexual assault cases, the focus typically falls on the participants' tangible actions and their direct effects. For example, the police caught the suspects, which led them to prison, or the suspect's assault resulted in pregnancy for the victim. Hence, there is no gap for discussion of this process. Moreover, the existential process was also not found from the articles, as per Halliday's (2014) statement that existential clauses are not generally prevalent in discourse.

The following is a list of the transitivity processes that were identified in the articles.

a. Material process

Datum 1 (1/b/MA)

Actor	Pr-Material	Goal
he	had sexually abused	at least 15 female students

The data presented above indicates the presence of a material process in the text. There were two participants, namely actor and goal. The actor "he", which refers to the culprit, performed an action "had sexually abused" and directed at "at least 15 female students" as the goal. The action carried out by the perpetrator, which is referenced by "he", has a direct impact on the goal, which is

none other than "at least 15 students". The article explains that the perpetrator was the principal of an Islamic boarding school, who had a higher position and power than the students. The victims, who only had student status, were powerless compared to the perpetrator. Those students who are still minors have to bear the risk of sexuality because of the perpetrator's "had sexually abused" actions.

Datum 5 (2/d/MA)

Actor	Pr-Material	Goal	Circumstance
he	had been sexually abusing	students	since 2019

Datum 5 is the breakdown of datum 4. The predicate "had been sexually abusing" showed that the transitivity process type of the clause is material process. The actor "he", which refers to the perpetrator of the sexual abuse case, performed an action "had been sexually abusing" directed to the "students" which is the goal of the process. In addition to participants and process, the text above also includes a circumstantial element denoted by the adverb "since 2019." Similar to datum 1, which is also classified as material process, the action "had been sexually abusing" undertaken by "he", indicate a direct influence on the goal, "students."

Datum 10 (4/a/MA)

Actor		Pr-Material	Goal	
Wildan	apparently also	conducted	marriage rites	and declared that he and his victim were now husband and wife

The datum presented above provides a description of the material process through the use of the verb "conducted". The sentence depicts the doing of an act by the actor referred as "Wildan". Wildan refers to the perpetrator of the sexual abuse case in this context. Therefore, the act of "conducted" by the actor

“Wildan” directly affected “marriage rites” which is the goal of this process. The action “conducted” caused “marriage rites” to be held.

Datum 12 (4/c/MA)

Circumstance	Actor		Pr-Material	Goal	
After the abuse	he	then	gave	his victims	money and told them to keep quiet about the incident

The material process was shown in the datum 12 above. The phrase “After the abuse” denotes the circumstance, while the actor presented with a pronoun “he”. “He” is referred to the culprit of the case. Then the process illustrated with the verb “gave” while “his victims” is the goal. The action “gave” performed by the actor referred as “he” is directly affected the goal, which is in the clause above is indicated by noun phrase “his victims”. The goal “his victims” received money by the culprit to keep them shut. The victims, who are the students of the culprit, which is their power and their age are so far below the culprit did not have choice.

Datum 16 (1/a/MA)

Goal	Pr-material	Circumstance
A 22-year-old man	was caught	allegedly sneaking into the women’s locker room and recording videos of visitors showering at Atlantis Water Adventures

In the datum 16, the type of process of the text identified as material process. There was no actor depicted in the clause. Since in the provided context “A 22-year-old man” is the culprit of the case, it can be assumed that the actor is a police. Hence, the goal is encoded by the phrase “A 22-year-old man”. Meanwhile the process is expressed in the passive voice as “was caught.” Therefore, the

circumstance demonstrated in the phrase “allegedly sneaking into the women’s locker room and recording videos of visitors showering at Atlantis Water Adventures”. The action “was caught” who directed to “A 22-year-old man” is a concrete action, because the goal, which referred to the perpetrator is directly affected. The suspect, “A 22-year-old man” was brought into the police office and investigated for alleged sexual assault.

Datum 19 (1/a/MA)

Actor	Pr-Material	Goal	Circumstance
The Central Java Police	have arrested	a 57-year-old man	in Banyumas for allegedly sexually abusing one of his daughters for years, leading to multiple pregnancies, and murdering the babies conceived as a result of the incest

Next, the material process also found in datum 19. The text encompasses both an actor and a goal. “The Central Java Police” is indicated as the actor. The actor did the process as represented with the verb “have arrested”. The doing was directed to “a 57-year-old man...” which is the goal of the process. The act “have arrested” performed by “The Central Java Police” is directly affected the culprit which is referred to “a 57-year-old man”. The sentence above describes that the culprit was taken to the police station for his crime “sexually abusing one of his daughters for years...”.

Datum 21 (3/a/MA)

Circumstance	Actor	Pr-Material	Goal	
when the victim gave birth to another baby in 2015	the suspect	murdered	the infant	by burying it alive shortly after its birth

The last material process found in the articles is on the datum 21. There is circumstance that describe the location expressing the time of the clause, and participants: actor and the goal. The circumstance is on the clause “when the victim gave birth to another baby in 2015” while the actor indicated by phrase “the suspect”. The suspect here is the perpetrator of the sexual abuse case. Meanwhile the process is described with the verb “murdered” directed at “the infant by burying it alive shortly after its birth” which is the goal of the process. Similar with preceding datum, that consist of material process, the act did by the actor is directly affect the goal. In this instance, the actor “the suspect” performed an act “murdered” to the goal “the infant”. The act caused to the death of “the infant”.

Across data 1, 5, and 12, the material process was used to describe what the suspect did to the victims. This process was also employed in datum 10 to explain the suspect another deed, “conducted marriage rites” with the victims. Similarly, in datum 21, it was used to explain that the suspect “murdered the infant” of the victims. Furthermore, in data 16, and 19, the material process went beyond the suspect’s actions, highlighting the police’s action in capturing the suspect.

b. Behavioral process

Datum 8 (3/c/BE)

Behaver		Pr-Behavioral	Behavior	Circumstance
Wildan Mashuri,	allegedly	woke	his victims	in the morning

In datum 8, the transitivity process of the clause is categorized as a behavioral process. It is represented by the verb “woke”. The one who performed the act “woke” is “Wildan Mashuri”, which is the behavior of this process. Usually, a behavioral process only consists of one participant. Nevertheless, there was an additional participant called behavior, represented in the phrase “his victims”. The act done by the behavior, “Wildan Mashuri” is categorized as a behavioral process, since it did not physically affect the victims.

Datum 9 (3/d/BE)

Behaver	Pr-Behavioral	Behavior	Circumstance
Wildan Mashuri,	persuaded	them	to have sex, promising that in doing so they would gain <i>karomah</i> , or the power to perform supernatural deeds

A behavioral process found in datum 9. The behavioral process is encoded with the verb “persuaded”. Moreover, the behavior is represented with “Wildan Mashuri”. Another participant found in the clause is “them” as phenomenon. In addition to participants and process, there was also an additional element namely circumstance identified with the phrase “to have sex, promising that in doing so they would gain *karomah*, or the power to perform supernatural deeds.” The verb “persuaded” is categorized as behavioral process because it is the manifestation of the inner thoughts by the behavior “Wildan”. Wildan had been thinking about wanting “them” the victims to have sex; he made out reasoning, “in doing so they would gain *karomah*, or the power to perform supernatural deeds” so that the victims agreed to do what he “persuaded”.

In the news articles, behavioral processes are found in data 8 and 9. This type of process was used to explain the suspect's behavior towards victims. As stated in datum 8, the suspect "woke up" the victim in the morning.

c. Verbal process

Datum 2 (2/a/VE)

Sayer	Pr-Verbal	Verbiage
Central Java Police chief Insp. Gen. Ahmad Lutfi	said	14 of the victims were underage

In datum 2, the process is identified through the use of the verb "said". The verb "said" indicates that the sentence above is a quote from "Java Police Chief Insp. Gen. Ahmad Lutfi" which is the sayer of the process. Moreover, the verbiage in data 2 is represented through the clause "14 of the victims were underage". The sentence describes about how the sayer which described by the noun phrase "Central Java Police chief Insp. Gen. Ahmad Lutfi" said that the 14 victims, which the students of the *pesantren*, "were underage." The clause does not explicitly identify the recipient, yet, based on the news article context, it can be inferred that the utterance is directed towards the reporter.

Datum 4 (2/c/VE)

Sayer	Pr-Verbal	Receiver	Verbiage
The suspect	told	the police	he had been sexually abusing students since 2019

In datum 4, the predicate of the clause is "told," indicating that the transitivity process in the text is a verbal process. There were three distinct

participants, specifically referred to as the sayer, the receiver, and the verbiage. The sayer is encoded by the phrase “the suspect” whereas “the police” is the receiver of the process. For the verbiage, in this datum is identified by the sub clause “he had been sexually abusing students since 2019”. Thus, the verb “told” and the presence of sayer and receiver indicates that the sentence above is a verbal clause. The clause is a quote token from “the police” from “the suspect” said that “he had been sexually abusing students since 2019.”

Datum 6 (3/a/VE)

Sayer	Pr-Verbal	Verbiage
Lutfi	said	the principal, identified as Wildan Mashuri, allegedly woke his victims in the morning and persuaded them to have sex, promising that in doing so they would gain <i>karomah</i> , or the power to perform supernatural deeds

The verbal process is illustrated in datum 6. The sayer is identified with “Lutfi”. Lutfi in the article refers to Central Java Police chief who was in charge of the case. The data is presented in the form of a sentence comprising four clauses, with the primary clause denoting a verbal process. Hence, the verbal process is encoded by the verb “said” with the phrase “the principal, identified as Wildan Mashuri, allegedly woke his victims in the morning and persuaded them to have sex, promising that in doing so they would gain *karomah*, or the power to perform supernatural deeds” as the verbiage. Similar to the preceding data, which also belongs to a verbal process, the above sentence includes the verb "said" as a predicator. Besides, the verbiage is the information from the quote.

Datum 11 (4/b/VE)

Sayer		Pr-Verbal	Verbiage
Wildan	apparently also	declared	that he and his victim were now husband and wife

Datum 11 consists of verbal process expressed by the verb “declared”. Similar with preceding datum with verbal process, it also consists of two participants: sayer and verbiage. The pronoun “Wildan” indicates the sayer, whom the source of the quote, while the verbiage denoted with “that he and his victim were now husband and wife.” Although the intended receiver of this verbal process is not explicitly mentioned, it may be inferred from the context that is provided in the article that the declaration is aimed towards the reporter.

Datum 13 (4/d/VE)

Sayer	Pr-Verbal	Receiver	Verbiage
he	told	them	to keep quiet about the incident

The datum above is the sub clause of datum 12. Since the predicate is indicated by the verb “told” thus the type of transitivity process of the clause is verbal. Furthermore, the one who speaking, the sayer is encoded with a pronoun “he”. Within the article context, "he" refers to the perpetrator. Meanwhile the receiver represented by pronoun “them” is referred to the victims. For the verbiage of the process, is identified by the phrase “to keep quiet about the incident.”

Datum 17 (2/a/VE)

Circumstance	Sayer	Pr-Verbal	Verbiage
In a viral video	a 31-year-old victim	recounted	how she had caught the man trying to record her through a crack in the top of a shower stall while she was fully undressed

In the datum 17, an additional element namely circumstance is represented by the phrase “in a viral video”. The sayer is identified with the phrase “a 31-year-old victim” and verb “recounted” as the verbal process. The presence of a verb “recounted” indicates that the journalists took a quote by the one who “recounted”, the victim referred to “a 31-year-old victim”, said “how she had caught the man trying to record her through a crack in the top of a shower stall while she was fully undressed”. The content of what it said by the sayer is the verbiage.

Datum 18 (5/b/VE)

Sayer	Pr-Verbal	Verbiage
they	claimed	that since the 22-year-old did not capture the latest victim in full nudity, only recording the walls before being caught, the case could not be brought further

The datum 18 above consists of verbal process. The pronoun “they” indicated as a sayer. “They” in the article refers to the officers that investigated the case. Then, the verbal process of the clause is presented in the verb “claimed” with “that since the 22-year-old did not capture the latest victim in full nudity...” as the verbiage. Even though there is no receiver and target in the sentence above, the act of saying is denoted by the verb “claimed”. Based on the context of the article, the polices which referred to pronoun “they” said to the reporter that the

reason the case could not be brought further is because the suspect “the 22-year-old“, did not capture the victim full nudity.

Datum 20 (2/a/VE)

Sayer	Pr-Verbal	Verbiage
Banyumas Police chief Sr. Comr. Edy Suranta Sitepu	said	the first pregnancy happened in 2008, when the victim was 13 years old

In datum 20, the verbal process of the text was identified. The clause consists of two participants namely sayer and verbiage, and the verbal process. The sayer is encoded with the phrase “Banyumas Police chief Sr. Comr. Edy Suranta Sitepu” while the verb “said” is the verbal process. Moreover, the verbiage of the saying is described in the sub clause “the first pregnancy happened in 2008, when the victim was 13 years old”. Again, the presence of the verb “said” indicates that the sentence is taken from the sayer, the source of the information, which is in this instance referred to the police. It concludes that the journalists took a quote from high position police officer “Banyumas Police chief Sr. Comr. Edy Suranta Sitepu” to strengthen the news they write.

The verbal process in the articles was used to attribute information from various sources. In data 2 and 20, this process was used to reference the police statements to provide details about the victims, that they "were underage." On the contrary, in data 6 and 18, the information from the police was about the suspect. Other than the police, this process was also used to quote the suspect's account to the police that “he had been sexually abusing...” the victims, as shown in datum 4. Besides it was also used to refer to the suspect's declaration to the victims that

they “were now husband and wife,” and quote the suspect’s words addressed to the victims, as shown in data 11 and 13. In addition, this process is used to cite the testimony of the victim, who is also an eyewitness, about how she was sexually harassed by the suspect, as shown in datum 17.

d. Relational process

Datum 3 (2/b/RE)

Identifier	Pr-Relational	Identified
14 of the victims	were	underage

Given that the preceding datum (2) comprises two clauses, the researcher proceeded to analyze and categorize each clause accordingly. The first one is a verbal process while the second one is relational process. In this sample, the clause consisted of two participants, specifically the identifier and the identified. The identifier is encoded with the phrase “14 of the victims” while adjective “underage” is the identified. Thus, the relational process is indicated by the verb “were”. The sentence above describes that the identifier “14 of the victims” identified as “underage”.

Datum 7 (3/b/RE)

Identifier	Pr-Relational		Identified
the principal	identified	as	Wildan Mashuri

According to the datum presented in the table, the above clause contained a relational process. The verb “identified” indicated that the clause is identifying relational process. There were two participants’ role in this process, namely identifier and identified. “The principal” is the identifier while “Wildan Mashuri”

is the identified. The usage of relational process in the clause above describes that the reporter intended to add details about the culprit, in this case, the name of the suspect: “Wildan Mashuri.”

Datum 14 (11/a/RE)

Carrier	Pr-Relational	Attribute	Circumstance
Herry Wirawan	was found	guilty	of raping female students at his school and impregnating at least eight students between 2016 and 2021

In the datum 14, the text is identified as relational process. The verb “was found” indicated the process. Moreover, there was two participants in the clause. Unlike the preceding relational clauses which categorized as identifying relational, the clause above consists of attributive relational process. Therefore, the participants of the process are carrier ad attributive. The carrier is encoded by “Herry Wirawan” while the attributive is presented by the adjective “guilty”. In addition to the process and participants, there was also an additional element namely circumstance denoted by the phrase “of raping female students at his school and impregnating at least eight students between 2016 and 2021.” The utilization of attributive relational process in the text above explains that the journalist aimed to add an information about “Herry Wirawan”, which in the article context is the culprit of the sexual abuse case; that he turned out proven “guilty”.

Datum 15 (11/b/RE)

Identifier	Pr-Relational	Identified
All	were	minors at the time

The data above illustrates the occurrence of relational processes in text. The type of relational process which is shown above is identifying relational. The relational process is shown through the verb “were”. Here, the identifier is “All”, while the identified is “minors at the time”. In the article context, “all” refer to female students which were the victims of the sexual abuse. The verb “were” indicates that the journalists intended to add some information to “all” who referred to the victims that they were “minors at the time”.

Datum 22 (4/a/RE)

Carrier		Pr-Relational	Attribute
The victim	then	became	pregnant again and gave birth in 2016, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021

Finally, datum 22 is the last found transitivity process, classified as relational process. Comparing with the preceding data categorized as relational process, the participants of the clause are carrier and attribute. The carrier is presented in the phrase “the victim” with the relational process “became”. Therefore, the attribute of the clause is identified in the phrase “pregnant again and gave birth in 2016, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021”. The presence of the verb ‘be’ in the form of “became” indicates that the sentence above contains relational process. The journalists added the detail information of the carrier “The victim” by attribute “pregnant again and gave birth in 2016, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021.”

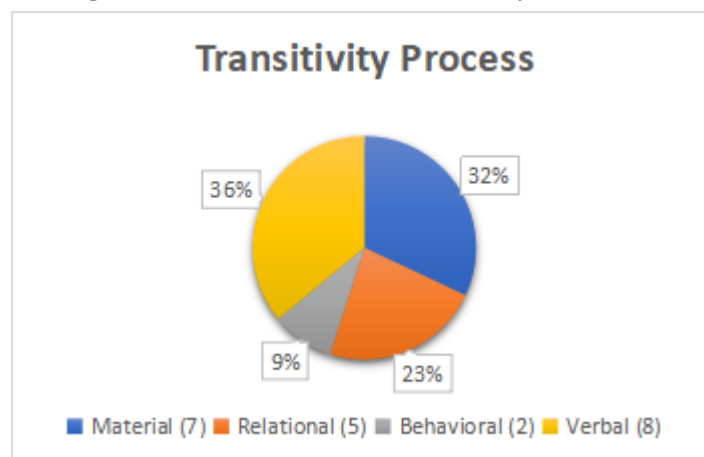
The function of this process in the articles is to provide information about the victims. As seen by data 3 and 15, it was used to disclose the victims' age, stating that they were “underage” and "minors." While in datum 22, the process

was utilized to inform the frequency of the victim's pregnancy. In addition, as evidenced by data 7 and 14, it was also used to reveal the details of the suspect. In datum 7, it was applied to describe the name of the suspect. On the other hand, in datum 14, it was used to explain the sentence made by the court to the suspect.

The results of the transitivity analysis above show that journalists reporting sexual assault cases use a range of transitivity processes to construct the narrative. This includes material processes that describe the physical act of the participants, behavioral processes that focus on the suspect action, verbal processes that highlight any communication or statements made, and relational processes that describe the identification of the actors involved in news.

The following figure presents the total number of each transitivity processes, categorized by the type, along with their corresponding percentages.

Figure 1. The Number of the Transitivity Processes



2. The Social Representations Reflected in Journalists' Tendency to Report Women as Sexual Violence Victims in Indonesian Online News

After conducting a transitivity analysis of the articles, a different picture emerged regarding three major participants: the police, the suspect, and the victim. The researcher found different and varied functions allocated to each actor in the news narrative. These roles, if examined closely, reveal an interaction in power dynamics, where certain roles appear to have greater influence, in contrast to other roles that occupy more marginalized positions. Realizing this imbalance, the researcher divided the two actors or participants into two different classifications: main participants and subsidiary participants. This distinction aims to summarize the picture of differences in power and superiority between key actors in the news.

The following table is visual evidence, capturing the frequency and manifestation of the transitivity process associated with each participant when mentioned in the clause. These tables provide strong evidence of journalists' tendencies and patterns in representing the dynamics and power structures inherent among the participants involved. The data carefully organized in these tables not only illuminates these trends but also reveals representations that subtly shape actors' perceptions and positions within the narrative framework. Therefore, these tables serve as an enlightening tool, highlighting the intentional or unintentional biases and focal points inherent in journalistic depictions of cases of sexual harassment.

Table 1. The Number of Participants as Main Participant

Participant	Participant's Role	Process Type				Total
		Material	Relational	Behavioral	Verbal	
Police	Actor	2				6
	Sayer				4	
Suspect	Actor	5				12
	Identifier		1			
	Carrier		1			
	Behaver			2		
	Sayer				3	
Victim	Identifier		2			4
	Carrier		1			
	Sayer				1	

After analyzing the media representation, an observation emerges from the data presented in the preceding table: journalists consistently position the suspect as the main participant, the central participant within the structure of each clause. This linguistic trend manifests prominently in news coverage concerning incidents of sexual assault, where an inherent bias is evident in the focus on perpetrators over victims. Such emphasis on the primary involvement of the suspect not only shapes the narrative but also underscores a systemic tendency to highlight their actions, often overshadowing the experiences and narratives of the victims. Remarkably, this pattern not only marginalizes victims but also extends to the portrayal of another significant participant, the law enforcement agencies. Despite their vital role in these cases, the police, while present in the reporting, often assume a secondary position, eclipsed by the extensive spotlight cast upon the alleged perpetrators.

Table 2. The Number of Participants as Subsidiary Participant

Participant	Participant's Role	Process Type				Total
		Material	Relational	Behavioral	Verbal	
Police	Receiver				1	1
Suspect	Goal	2	2			4
	Identified		1			
	Attribute					
	Verbiage				1	
Victim	Goal	1				17
	Identified		2			
	Attribute		1			
	Behavior			2		
	Receiver				1	
	Verbiage				4	
	Circumstance	3		1		

The comprehensive analysis provided by the table above offers a revelation that within media narratives, the victim of the sexual assault cases, assumes the role of a subsidiary participant. This depiction emphasizes a power dynamic, clearly showcasing the victim's portrayal as the participant emphasizing the least influence compared to both the suspect and the police. Such portrayal maintains a narrative trend, positioning the victim in a disadvantaged position within the discourse surrounding these issues. By putting the victim to a subsidiary role, the media reinforces an imbalanced power structure. Therefore, this difference in representation can shape public perception about each participant.

B. Discussion

Building upon the data analysis results presented in the preceding section, this discussion section will focus on the interpretations and the implications of the findings. As stated earlier, this study investigated how social actors – suspects, police, and victims – are depicted in Indonesian online news about

sexual violence. The analysis showed a link between the portrayals of the actors and societal influences that shape journalists' reporting choices. Therefore, this discussion will center on these themes.

The analysis of transitivity processes within the news articles revealed a fascinating trend. Verbal processes were the highest, accounting for a significant portion (36%) of the total instances, with a total of eight occurrences. This number suggests that journalists primarily rely on information provided by various sources, including the police, suspects, and victims, when constructing their narratives. Further explanation will be discussed below to delve deeper into the potential variations in the amount of information utilized by reporters from each of these distinct sources.

Material processes (32%, 7 occurrences) were the second most frequent. These processes describe on the actions and events within the reported incidents. Interestingly, when examining material clauses more closely, a pattern emerged regarding the roles assigned to the social actors involved. Suspects were most frequently positioned as actors, signifying they were the ones carrying out the actions with direct consequences. The police also played an active role, though to a lesser extent. Conversely, victims, while invariably present within every material clause, were only depicted as the goal (the entity impacted by the action) in three instances. In the remaining clauses, their presence was lowered to the circumstantial element, and in one instance, they were entirely omitted from the narrative. This contrasting portrayal across different participant roles emphasizes on how journalists implicitly shape the reader's perception of these

social actors within the reported events. In essence, the findings suggest that journalists tend to position suspects as active agents driving the narrative, whereas victims are often shifted to the circumstance elements, their experiences minimized or even erased from the reported events.

While material processes held a prominent position, the use of behavioral processes was minimal, with only two occurrences identified. Behavioral processes, as outlined by Halliday & Matthiessen (2014), bridge the gap between the internal mental states of individuals and their outward expressions or actions. In the context of these articles, behavioral processes described the suspects' behaviors directed towards the victims. This suggests that the focus of reporting lies primarily on the actions themselves, potentially neglecting the exploration of the underlying motivations or thought processes driving these actions.

When specifically examining verbal processes within the context of reporting sexual assault cases, a clear pattern emerges. Journalists heavily relied on verbal processes (36% of total instances). Similar to the observations made with material processes, victims were consistently portrayed as minor participants within the verbal clauses. They were primarily only represented as "verbiage", signifying the entities being discussed rather than active participants shaping the narrative (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). Conversely, the essential participant – the "sayer" – the one providing the information – was overwhelmingly positioned to the police (7 out of 8 instances). This finding highlights a potential shortcoming within the reporting practices, suggesting a marginalization of the victims' voices and experiences. The narrative appears to

be largely constructed from the perspective of authorities, potentially overlooking the crucial firsthand accounts from the victims themselves.

The analysis revealed a concerning trend in how journalists portray social actors in Indonesian online news articles. While suspects, predominantly male, were most frequently positioned as the main participants (actors), victims, who arguably should be the central focus, were only positioned to subsidiary roles. The police also played a more prominent role than the victims. This imbalance reflects deeper social representations of gender prevalent in Indonesian society, where men are positioned as dominant actors, while women are marginalized. This marginalization is evident in the transitivity processes used, where women are depicted as less agentive and their experiences are overshadowed by the actions and perspectives of the male suspects.

This portrayal is not simply a coincidence; it is fair to speculate that there is an indication of patriarchal culture in Indonesia. Patriarchal norms position men as the superior gender, while women are the inferior gender beneath men. For example, household patterns in Javanese culture. Phrases such as *suwarga nunut*, *neroko katut* (to ascend to heaven, follow hell) apply the unequal power relationship between men and women as husband and wife where the husband has full power over his wife (Putri & Lestari, 2016). Apart from that, the Toba Batak culture has the term *boru naung gabe* (blessed woman) which is attached and is intended for women who are married and have successfully given birth to a son. Journalists, influenced by these same norms, might unconsciously frame

the narrative around the male suspect, focusing on his actions rather than the experiences of the female victim.

The perpetuation of patriarchal norms is realized by the discovery of patriarchal practices in various aspects and scopes, such as economics, education, politics and law. Many researchers have examined how women tend to be marginalized in those area. Research conducted by Waluati et al. (2021) about Siti Fadilah Supari, a Covid-19 speaker, is described as an object in the news, indicating that she cannot represent herself. As in the present study, women who are the victims of sexual assault, are also mostly represented as object. Their experiences are often eclipsed by other (male) actors. Besides, research by Nurnaningsih (2023) shows that laws regarding sexual violence against women which tend not to benefit women, are a product of patriarchy. The findings of the current study support Nurnaningsih's research (2023), that the journalists, while reporting sexual assault case, tend to position male actors as main participant, resulting in marginalization of the victims. As explained by Fakhri (2008), these social practices show that gender inequality has been standardized through politics, religion, social, economic and even legal systems. This well maintained system causes discrimination against women.

The patriarchal norms are often internalized by Indonesian people. For example, as in research conducted by Avezahra and Chusniyah (2022), regarding the process of internalization and normalization behind acts of victim-blaming in Indonesia. Avezahra and Chusniyah (2022) stated that patriarchal values were identified as one of the predictors of support for rape myths.

Another example was also mentioned in Fauzy and Maharani's research (2021), regarding the influence of patriarchal thinking on the rejection of the ratification of the RUU-PKS, which should have been a tool to protect women as victims of marital rape. While their research clearly shows the impact of patriarchal culture in their analysis, this current study only assumes that there is an indication of patriarchal culture by the imbalance representation of male and female actors in the journalists' writing tendency. Even so, this study shows that internalized beliefs might shape how individuals, including journalists, perceive and respond to sexual assault cases. Women who have experienced sexual violence might be less likely to come forward due to societal expectations, while journalists might unconsciously frame the narrative around the male suspect.

This study's findings align with Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) theory, which posits that language is shaped by its social context (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). In this case, the linguistic choices made by Indonesian reporters when writing about sexual assault cases are possibly influenced by the manifestation of patriarchal culture in the country. As Schleppegrell (2012) explains, Halliday's metafunctions of language serve to connect human linguistic choices with the various contexts in which language is employed. This research applied the ideational metafunction framework, specifically focusing on transitivity analysis, to examine the representation of social actors within the news articles. By analyzing the transitivity processes, the study was able to reveal how each social actor is depicted in the news coverage. These portrayals likely reflect the underlying societal structures within which the

journalists themselves work. By exploring the representation, contextualization, and the social factors influencing the portrayal of actors, this analysis goes beyond the traditional binary of perpetrators and victims. This deeper investigation has facilitated a more insightful understanding of the complex interactions between journalistic perspectives and societal constructs that shape the media's coverage of sexual assault cases in Indonesia.

Several studies have explored how media representation can reinforce gender stereotypes. Susilo et al. (2020), Aprilia (2020), and Fahmi et al. (2020) highlight how women in media are often depicted as weak or sentimental. This present study supports these findings by focusing on a specific crime case (sexual assault) and analyzing the linguistic patterns used in reporting. This approach allows for a further insight of how journalists frame the event and position the actors involved. In this study, the findings show a clear imbalance between the portrayal of male and female actors.

Previous studies also have explored the concept of power dynamics and information sources in news media. Ahlstrand (2020) and Breen et al. (2017) discuss how media outlets can marginalize certain figures or voices. They show how journalists might rely heavily on official sources (e.g., police) or focus on negative aspects of a particular individual. This current study aligns with the Ahlstrand's (2020) and Breen et al. (2017) findings by demonstrating how Indonesian journalists heavily rely on police as sources in sexual assault cases. This emphasizes the dominance of the police in the narrative, potentially overshadowing the victim's perspective.

Moreover, studies by Aprilia (2020) and Waluati et al. (2021) explored the objectification of sexual assault victims, particularly women in news media. They emphasize how the portrayals can neglect the victim's agency and experiences. This present research builds on Aprilia's study (2020) by revealing how Indonesian media positions female sexual assault victims as "subsidiary participants" compared to the suspects and police. This linguistic framing likely contributes to marginalizing their voices and experiences within the reported cases.

On the other hand, numerous studies have employed Halliday's Transitivity (2014) to investigate social actors' representation in news media (Eklesia & Rido, 2020; Dewi et al., 2021; Asad et al., 2019, etc.). Nevertheless, few of these studies focus on sexual assault reporting. In addition, Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) by Halliday (2014) has also been used by Wahyudi (2017) to analyze the generic structure of calls for papers from predatory journals. He focused on the language used in publisher emails, examining clauses as exchange and representation. In contrast, this current study employs transitivity analysis within SFL to analyze clauses in news media texts as representation. The present study applies transitivity to examine the representation of the actors involved in sexual assault cases.

While prior studies (Risidaneva, 2018; Aprilia, 2020; Badara & Jamiludin, 2020) have explored the representation of social actors in Indonesian news media coverage of sexual assault cases, a gap exists in examining the social factors shaping these representations. These studies employed diverse

approaches, including naming analysis (Risidaneva, 2018), narrative analysis (Aprilia, 2020), and Van Dijk's Discourse Analysis (Badara & Jamiludin, 2020). Therefore, this current study has addressed the gap by using a detailed analysis of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), focusing on transitivity to analyze the social factors influencing media representations of sexual assault cases in Indonesian news media. By using this approach, this present study shows how language choices construct meaning and reflect societal perspectives. Thus, this exploration contributes to the field of linguistics, particularly in the area of media discourse analysis.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

A. Conclusion

This study examined the ideational process representing the social actors (suspects, police, and the victims) involved in sexual assault cases in Indonesian online news media. In addition, this study also explored how the social representation of these actors is reflected within the news narratives. In this study, the researcher employed qualitative content analysis using Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics, focusing on transitivity.

After conducting the analysis, the researcher found several important findings. First, Indonesian journalists mostly use verbal processes in reporting sexual assault cases against women. The police are the prominent actors in this process. This linguistic pattern indicates that the reporters heavily rely on police sources in reporting sexual assault cases. Second, in the other ideational processes – material, behavioral, and relational – there is an imbalance in the way the journalists represent the actors. The suspects and the police (male) are dominantly positioned as main participants, while the victims (women) are particularly positioned as subsidiary participants. The inequality clearly shows that the victims were marginalized in the articles. Consequently, the victims' perspectives and experiences are often eclipsed by the other actors. Lastly, the researcher discovered that an indication of patriarchal culture in the country might influence the journalists in writing news.

The results of this study contribute to the field of linguistics, particularly in the domain of media discourse analysis. This study goes beyond the general representation of social actors; it expands to the societal background behind the representations. This study shed light on the readers that in news reporting, some factors influence the reporters in writing news. Thus, this study enables the readers to critically analyze the news narratives and acknowledge potential bias in how the journalists frame the social actors in the news.

In conclusion, this study highlights the relationship between language, media representation, and social construction in the context of sexual assault reporting in Indonesia. This underscores the importance of recognizing these connected factors to promote a more balanced portrayal of sexual assault victims in the news media. Future research exploring the perspectives of the journalists themselves could provide a deeper insight into the factors that influence media representation.

B. Suggestion

The analysis of the representation of social actors in Indonesian online news articles about sexual violence has resulted in valuable findings. However, there are some limitations to these findings. Although the researcher could uncover the factors behind the news reporting, the results of this study only show the actors' representations through news texts. Therefore, it opens up possibilities for further research to explore this topic in more depth.

First, future studies could examine the purpose of news writing and the factors that might affect it from the perspective of the journalists themselves. Research methods like in-depth interviews with journalists could reveal factors influencing their language choices besides the social construction surrounding them, for example, the newsroom policies. Second, since this study only points out the marginalization of victims' voices in news reports; future studies could prioritize the perspectives of the victims themselves. Qualitative research methods, such as interviews or focus groups, could be employed to explore how victims experience sexual assault and how the underlying societal background influences them to respond to incidents that happen to them. Lastly, future studies could also add the perspectives of news readers, to strengthen the social representations of each actor in sexual assault cases.

Future research could also consider to conduct comparative research between print media and online media. By following these suggestions for future research, researchers can build upon the present study's findings and contribute to a broader understanding of how sexual assault is represented in Indonesian media. Ultimately, this ongoing research can be a reflection to journalists to avoid bias causing discrimination in writing the news, especially when reporting on sexual assault cases against women, who have been marginalized due to the patriarchal culture in this country.

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CURRICULUM VITAE



Adila Noor Saida was born in Kediri on March 03, 2000. She graduated from MAN 2 Kediri in 2018. She was a quite type of student who joined theater club to improve her confidence and social connection. Although she was just an average student, she diligently finished her study in 2018. Then, in the same year, she started her higher education at the Department of English Literature UIN Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang and finished in 2024. During her study at the University, she actively participated in the university's *Ma'had* as *musyrifah* for two years.

APPENDIX

The code	The data
1/b/MA	
1, 2,3, ... = number of paragraph sequence a, b, c, ... = clause sequence MA = Material; ME = Mental; RE = Relational; BE = Behavioral; EX = Existential; VE = Verbal	

Data Classification

1. Central Java Police Arrest “Pesantren” Principal on Sexual Abuse Charges

No	Code	Data	Type of Transitivity Process						
			MA	ME	RE	BE	EX	VE	
1.	1/b/MA	he had sexually abused at least 15 female students	✓						
2.	2/a/VE	Central Java Police chief Insp. Gen. Ahmad Lutfi said 14 of the victims were underage							✓
3.	2/b/RE	14 of the victims were underage			✓				
4.	2/c/VE	The suspect told the police he had been [sexually abusing students] since 2019							✓
5.	2/d/MA	he had been [sexually abusing students] since 2019	✓						
6.	3/a/VE	Lutfi said the principal, identified as Wildan Mashuri, allegedly woke his victims in the morning and persuaded them to have sex, promising that in doing so they would gain <i>karomah</i> , or the power to perform supernatural deeds							✓
7.	3/b/RE	the principal, identified as Wildan Mashuri			✓				
8.	3/c/BE	Wildan Mashuri, allegedly woke his victims in the morning				✓			
9.	3/d/BE	Wildan Mashuri, persuaded them to have sex, promising that in doing so they would gain <i>karomah</i> , or the power to perform supernatural deeds				✓			
10.	4/a/MA	Wildan apparently also conducted marriage rites and declared that he and his victim were now husband and wife	✓						
11.	4/b/VE	Wildan apparently also declared that he and his victim were now husband and wife							✓

12.	4/c/MA	After the abuse, he then gave his victims money and told them to keep quiet about the incident	✓					
13.	4/d/VE	he then told them to keep quiet about the incident						✓
14.	11/a/RE	Herry Wirawan was found guilty of raping female students at his school and impregnating at least eight students between 2016 and 2021			✓			
15.	11/b/RE	All were minors at the time			✓			

2. Man Caught Taking Videos of Women Showering in Ancol Locker Room

No	Code	Data	Type of Transitivity Process					
			MA	ME	RE	BE	EX	VE
1.	1/a/MA	A 22-year-old man was caught allegedly sneaking into the women's locker room and recording videos of visitors showering at Atlantis Water Adventures	✓					
2.	2/a/VE	In a viral video, a 31-year-old victim recounted how she had caught the man trying to record her through a crack in the top of a shower stall while she was fully undressed						✓
3.	5/b/VE	they claimed that since the 22-year-old did not capture the latest victim in full nudity, only recording the walls before being caught, the case could not be brought further.						✓

3. Man Arrested for Abusing Daughter, Murdering Babies in Central Java

No	Code	Data	Type of Transitivity Process					
			MA	ME	RE	BE	EX	VE
1.	1/a/MA	The Central Java Police have arrested a 57-year-old man in Banyumas for allegedly sexually abusing one of his daughters for years, leading to multiple pregnancies, and murdering the babies conceived as a result of the incest	✓					
2.	2/a/VE	Banyumas Police chief Sr. Comr. Edy Suranta Sitepu said the first pregnancy happened in 2008, when the victim was 13 years old						✓
3.	3/a/MA	However, when the victim gave birth to another baby in 2015, the	✓					

		suspect murdered the infant by burying it alive shortly after its birth						
4.	4/a/RE	The victim then became pregnant again and gave birth in 2016, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021			✓			