SARA MILLS’ CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS ON ONLINE NEWS ARTICLES ABOUT VIOLENCE CASES AGAINST WOMEN

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ABSTRACT

This study focused on discussing violence among women in online media news. Good media can convey balanced information. Some news related to violence against women can be represented in a different discourse. Currently, the exploitation of women is carried out through more intellectual and well-packaged ways, one of which is through discourses published in the mass media, especially online media. Women in the mass media are positioned to stand out visually but are very marginalized in meaning. Suppose things like this continue to be left unchecked. In that case, it will emphasize the existence of gender inequality between women and men which has implications for increased violence and gender oppression with women who are always the victims. The problem discussed in this study is critical discourse analysis using the Sara Mills model. Sara Mills’ discussion of feminist discourse theory is the center of her study. In addition, it also discusses women's issues, such as how women are represented in texts, pictures, photos, and in the news. This research examines how the text becomes biased in presenting women and how the marginalization of women is formed in weakening the position of women.

Keywords: discourse analysis, violence against women, Sara Mills

INTRODUCTION

Discourse is defined as a collection of related sentences that link one proposition to another, providing a unity with a harmonious meaning between the words (Badudu, 2000). Furthermore, discourse is defined as the most complete and largest linguistic unit above sentences or phrases, with high and continuous coherence and cohesion, a real beginning and end, and is communicated verbally and orally. Lull (1998) provides a simpler definition of discourse: the way objects or ideas are discussed publicly to generate a wider understanding.
Besides gender equality, the subject of violence against women is a topic that is frequently discussed or mentioned in the media. Reports that are frequently released in the media mostly portray women as weak beings who are always the victims of violence and are always the ones who are disadvantaged.

The media heavily influence the development of people's lives. The media serves as a medium of communication, information, social control, and, at the same time, a tool for creating community opinions. Online media is one of the most extensively used forms of mass media nowadays since it is conveniently available from anywhere and is affordable to anyone. Domestic abuse, violence against female employees, rape, and other forms of violence against women continue to dominate news about women in several online media sources. This situation depicts the distinctions of gender differences between men and women. Men are considered strong and brave, while women are always considered weak and only become victims of men.

It can be seen from the news about women in a variety of online media that the issues that affect the Indonesian feminism movement have not been fully realized. If women had been protected, such violence would not have occurred. However, because men and women still have gender disparities, there is still much news concerning violence against women. In online media, gender disparity is frequently apparent in the positioning of actors. Women constantly become objects in the news, and their presence is constantly exhibited by others. Therefore, women should be given the opportunity to be the topic of the news in order to demonstrate gender equality between men and women.

According to Suara.com, violence against women is still a big homework for the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection, according to Suara.com. Bintang Puspayoga, the Minister of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection, expressed regret that incidences of violence against women have increased eightfold in the last 12 years. According to a national survey of women's life experiences conducted in 2016, one out of every three women aged 15 to 64 had suffered physical and sexual assault by a partner or non-partner at some point in their lives. Meanwhile, according to a national survey of children and adolescents' life experiences conducted in 2018, two out of every three boys and girls aged 13 to 17 have encountered some violence in their lives, whether physical, sexual, or emotional.

According to a 2020 survey conducted by Plan International Indonesia, 32% of 500 Indonesian female respondents aged 16 to 25 reported having encountered online gender-based violence on social media. At the same time, 56% of them have witnessed online gender-based abuse against girls or other young women. According to data from the Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS), in 2020, 10.35% of women aged 20 to 24 had already married before they were 18 years old or were still considered children.

Previous research on violence against women is the outcome of Dwi Viora's research, published in the Pekanbaru Metro Expres (MX) Daily Newspaper on January 17, 2018, under the headline Gender and Feminism: A Study of Critical Discourse Analysis from Sara Mills' Perspectives. This study suggests that gender and feminism have received no attention. The reader takes on a male role since the story primarily focuses on the criminal. In addition, Yosi Zamzuardi and Syahrul conducted research titled Discourse Analysis of Sexual Harassment Cases against Women in the Perspective of Sara Mills Analysis. Various reports concerning
sexual harassment, which women commonly experience, can be presented in various ways. Women's exploitation is being carried out in more sophisticated and well-packaged methods. One way is through the discourse that is expressed in the media. Women in the media tend to stand out visually, yet they are also neglected in terms of meaning. If this trend continues, it will emphasize the existence of gender differences between men and women as victims.

The depiction of marginalized women in the text and the depiction of forms and patterns of marginalization are of interest to this discourse analysis. This effort involves employing certain discourse strategies to portray women negatively when they appear in the text. For example, a news story entitled "Widy Vieratalle Confessed to Being Harassed by a Married Man: a High-Ranking Man" appeared in the online media, Tempo.co Jakarta on Monday, May 24, 2021, at 6 p.m. This story is about Widy Vieratalle, a singer and vocalist for a well-known band, who confessed to being harassed by a married man. She was exposed to both physical and verbal abuse from the man. Another news item entitled "Dating Violence: Dating Violence that Haunts Women" appeared in the Friday, August 13, 2021, edition at 4.47 p.m. This article concerns violence towards partners, affecting married people and those who are not married or in a dating relationship. Meanwhile, a news item titled "Female Victims of Alleged Immoral Acts by the Head of District Police Experiencing Psychic Shock" appeared on Tuesday, October 19, 2021, edition at 1 p.m. This story is about a woman named 'S' who was accused of being sexually abused by the Head of District Police in exchange for her father's release, who was imprisoned at the time.

Furthermore, in the next day's edition, Wednesday, October 20, 2021, at 1.56 p.m., it was reported that the National Commission on Violence against Women asked for the Case of Rape by the Parigi's Head of District Police to be included as a category of crime. This news discusses the National Commission on Violence against Women, which will monitor cases of alleged rape committed by the Parigi Moutong's Head of District Police 'IGDN'. Meanwhile, on another online media, namely Detiknews, on Monday, October 21, 2021, at 10.03 p.m., there is a piece of news entitled "A New Chapter in the Case of a Father Who Raped His Three Children." The police revived this case since the reported party had reported his ex-wife with a defamation charge. Based on these reports, it can be concluded that men are generally the perpetrators of violence against women. However, what becomes the concern in this study is the actor's position and the reader's position in the news. These positions will affect the reader's interpretation of the news.

Sara Mills (in Eriyanto, 2009:198) proposed a discourse theory that focuses on feminism discourses: how women are represented in texts, whether novels, pictures, photographs, or the news. As a result, Sara Mills' work is frequently referred to as a feminist perspective. The goal of this feminist discourse is to demonstrate how the text is biased in its portrayal of women. Compared to men, women are frequently shown in the text as the wrong and marginalized party. Thus, Sara Mills' will focus on the portrayal of women in news texts. Sara Mills (in Eriyanto, 2009:200) considers representation the most crucial aspect of her research. She focused on how a particular party, group, person, idea, or event is presented in news discourse and how this impacts the audience's interpretation. Mills focused more on how diverse social actors, ideas, or events are positioned in the narrative. These perspectives ultimately determine
the form of the text presented to the viewer. Therefore, the locations of the actors in the text have a significant impact on the text reported to the public.

According to Sara Mills (in Eriyanto, 2009:201), what has to be questioned in the case is how this occurrence is depicted and how the parties involved are positioned in the text. The position in question refers to who is shown as the subject, the party whose existence is defined and described by others. Also, who is shown as the object and the party whose presence is defined and described by others. As a result, there will be actors as subjects and actors as objects in a news article.

In this representation, one's status as a subject or object carries with it an ideological charge. This representation raises questions about how this position further marginalizes the status of women in the news. First, this position demonstrates the point of view of narrative to some extent. Second, as the topic of representation, the man here has complete authority over the reader's delivery of the event. Third, due to the subjective nature of the definition process, it is not easy to eliminate the possibility of unilaterally designating another event or group (Sara Mills in Eriyanto, 2009: 202-203). As a result, Sara Mills' theory examines the characters' positions in the text. These positions include an understanding of the narrator's subject and the narrator's object. This position will have a say in how the text is created and interpreted.

In addition to the actors' positions in the text, Sara Mills focuses on how the reader and writer are depicted in the text. The texts resulted from a negotiation between the author and the reader. Therefore, the reader is regarded as a recipient of the text and a participant in the transaction, as evidenced by the text. Mills sees various benefits in creating a model that connects the text and the author on the one hand and the text and the reader on the other. First, this type of model will examine the text in-depth, not only in terms of production factors but also in reception. Second, the reader's perspective is significant since the text is supposed to "communicate" with the audience directly or indirectly (Sara Mills in Eriyanto, 2009: 203-204). As a result, the reader's position in the text is also deemed essential because the reader is the one who will interpret the news text.

The reader's position in the text is generally associated with how the greeting or mention is done. For Mills, greeting or mention is generally not done through direct address, but through greeting or indirect address (indirect address). Here the reader is placed or addressed indirectly. According to Sara Mills (in Eriyanto, 2009:208), this indirect welcome functions in two ways: through mediation and cultural conventions. In mediation, a text usually has a level of discourse, where the position of truth is placed hierarchically so that the reader can align or connect with the characters or what is presented in the text. Roland Barthes coined the phrase "cultural code," referring to the reader's cultural code or value when interpreting a text. As a result, the reader is indirectly greeted by the text, which will affect the reader's position. The study's aims are as follows, based on the description mentioned above: (1) Describe actors' positions in two online media outlets: Tempo.co Jakarta and Detiknews Jakarta; (2) Describe readers' positions in Tempo.co Jakarta and Detiknews Jakarta.

METHODS
The type of research used in this study is qualitative research with a descriptive method. According to Bagdan and Taylor (in Moleong, 2005:4), qualitative research is "a research process that produces descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words from people and observable behavior." The descriptive method aims to systematically and precisely explain the thing under study as clearly as possible and the data as a whole. In this study, the type of news required was news regarding violence against women, which is frequently overlooked in the news. Based on the concept of this analysis, the woman is presented as an object. Other parties often present the picture of women complete with all its biases and prejudices.

The data in this study are news in two online media, Tempo.co Jakarta and Detiknews Jakarta. Five news stories became the data in this study. The headlines of the news are: (1) Widy Vieratalle Confessed to Being Harassed by a Married Man: a High-Ranking Man, which was published on Monday, May 24, 2021, at 6 p.m., (2) Dating Violence: Dating Violence that Haunts Women, published on Friday, August 13, 2021, at 4.47 p.m., (3) Female Victims of Alleged Immoral Acts by the Head of District Police Experiencing Psychic Shock, published on Tuesday, October 19, 2021, at 6.00 p.m., (4) the National Commission on Violence against Women asked for the Case of Rape by the Parigi's Head of District Police to be included as a category of crime, published on Wednesday, October 21, at 1.56 p.m., and (5) A New Chapter in the Case of a Father Who Raped His Three Children, published on Wednesday, October 21 at 10.03 p.m.

The following are the data analysis techniques employed in this study. First, read the news, which later became research data. Second, based on the research objectives, marked the news's content in the debate. Third, using Sara Mills’ approach, analyzed the content of the news depending on the aspects studied. The fourth step was to conclude the research results.

### Framework Analysis

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<th>Level</th>
<th>Things that You Want to See</th>
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<td>Subject-object position</td>
<td>- How is the event seen from whose perspective it is seen?</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Who is the story's subject, who is the narrator (subject), and who is the story's object?</td>
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<td>- Is there an opportunity for each actor and social group to exhibit themselves, their views, or their presence?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writer-reader position</td>
<td>- How is the position of the reader displayed in the text?</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- How does the reader position him/herself in the text, and in which group does he/she position himself?</td>
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This study's analysis is based on the analytical framework described in the table above (Eriyanto, 2009: 211). This analysis was carried out to obtain answers to the formulation of problems mentioned in the introduction. The key problem from a feminist perspective is demonstrating how the text is biased in its portrayal of women. The text frequently portrays women as the wrong party, inferior to men. Sara Mills' main concern is the portrayal of injustice in a negative way.
Theoretical Framework

Sara Mills was a big fan of Foucault's critical discourse theory and its analytical methods. Mills analyzed critical discourse using Foucault's discourse theory as a theoretical basis. 

French Discourse Analysis is a discourse approach based on Foucault's ideas. One of the proponents of this notion is Sara Mills. Despite her reputation as a feminist, her analytical style is well suited to describing the power relations and ideologies examined in this study.

Sara Mills' underlying premise is more about how the actors are presented in the text. These positions contain an understanding of who is the story's subject and who is the story's object, which will impact how the text's structure and meaning are handled as a whole. It is also vital to consider how the reader and writer are depicted in the text, and how the reader recognizes himself in the text's narration.

There are two basic concepts that are considered in the text: the position of the Subject-Object as the most important part, and how one party, group, person, idea, or event is presented in a certain way in discourse and impacts the meaning of the audience. The emphasis is on how social actors' positions and ideas and events' positions are put in the text. According to Sara Mills, the reader's position in the text is highly significant and should be considered because the reader is not only the party who gets the text but also participates in the transactions that will be included in the text.

Sara Mills focuses on feminist discourse and only writes about discourse theory. Sara Mills explores how women are represented in texts, whether in novels, pictures, photos, or the news. As a result, Sara Mills' work is frequently referred to as feminist discourse. The objective of the feminist discourse is to demonstrate how the text is biased in its portrayal of women. Compared to men, women are frequently shown in the text as wrong and marginal parties. Sara Mills' writing is mainly concerned with women's oppression and misrepresentation. A similar thing happens in the news, where women are often the center of attention. Sara Mills focuses on how women are depicted and marginalized in news texts and how marginalization takes various shapes and patterns. This situation, of course, entails particular discourse methods, such that when women are depicted in the text, they are portrayed negatively.

Sara Mills focuses on how the actor's position is depicted in the text. These perspectives contain an understanding of who is the story's subject and who is the story's object, which will impact how the text's structure and meaning are handled as a whole. Sara Mills also looks at how readers and writers are depicted and how readers identify with and situate themselves inside the text's storyline. A position like this will put the reader in a certain frame of mind, influencing how the material is read, and the social actor is positioned. Finally, the way the story is told and the position placed and displayed in this text makes one party legitimate and the other party illegitimate (Darma, 2009:87).

Critical Discourse Analysis

Discourse analysis is one method for locating news in the media that is relevant to violence against women, such as rape. Critical discourse analysis will be described in this research, focusing on how critical discourse analysis is used to examine media content. From
a critical perspective, discourse analysis is not concerned with the truth or falsity of grammatical structures or interpretive processes. Moreover, from a critical perspective, discourse analysis highlights the constellation of forces that occur during the production and reproduction of meaning (Eriyanto, 2009, 8).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results

In this study, four news stories from two online media were analyzed. They were from Tempo.co Jakarta and Detiknews with different dates. The news headlines are: (1) Widy Vieratalle Confessed to Being Harassed by a Married Man: a High-Ranking Man, published on Monday, May 24, 2021, at 6 p.m., (2) Dating Violence: Violence in Dating That Haunts Women, published on Friday, August 13, 2021, at 4.47 p.m., (3) Female Victims of Alleged Immoral Acts by the Head of District Police Experiencing Psychic Shock, published on Tuesday, October 19, 2021, at 1.00 p.m., (4) A New Chapter in the Case of a Father Who Raped His Three Children, published on Monday, October 18, 2021, at 10.03 p.m. All of this news was published in Western Indonesian Time. The analysis was conducted to determine the actor’s position and the reader’s position in two online media, Tempo.co Jakarta and Detiknews.

The following information reveals the author’s position as a subject: Widy Vieratalle, a singer, claimed to be harassed by a married man. She was subjected to a variety of forms of abuse from the man, ranging from physical to verbal. On Sunday, May 23, 2021, Widy said on her Instagram Stories, "What I endured was physical and verbal violence for his intervention." The man’s behavior bothered Widy greatly. "It is strange, and it is odd. He was supposed to be a gentleman, yet he bothered me. He had every right to feel humiliated. He is not that important. He is so funny," she wrote.

What the man did to her, according to Widy Vieratalle, was wrong and embarrassed his family. "You are cheeky, tacky, and corny. You should be embarrassed with your subordinates and remember your age. You should be embarrassed with your wife, your family, and especially your children," said Widy. "He will be ashamed of one Indonesia if I proceed according to the law." The data shows that it is true that Widi Vierra had experienced incidents of harassment, and she became the object of the news.

Dating Violence: Dating Violence That Haunted Women, published on Friday, August 13, 2021, at 4.47 p.m., was the second news item to be discussed. Based on the headline, the news implies that violence against women can occur at any time and under any circumstances. Dating has been defined as an introduction between two human beings who are usually in the process of determining compatibility in preparation for family life or marriage. Even among youngsters, the word "dating" conjures up images of something beautiful and pleasant. According to the Great Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), the term "haunt" means "to cause fear" (worried, restless, and so on). There is an implied meaning in the word "haunt," which is that it is something scary or an event that should not happen, especially when they are still in a relationship.
The third piece of news examined was released by Tempo.co on Tuesday, October 19, 2021, at 1:00 p.m., CO was headed "Female Victims of Alleged Immoral Acts by the Head of District Police Experiencing Psychic Shock." From the news title, it can be seen that women are the party that is always deemed weak and the victim of abuse. Even immoral acts perpetrated against them are described as allegations. This situation arises due to the perpetrators' high-ranking positions, in this case, the Head of District Police. Suppose it is associated with an alleged immoral person who works as a police officer and holds the position as the head of district police. In that case, he should be aware that police is a noble profession that serves as a community protector. He should also serve as a law enforcer, rather than being the one who breaks the law by engaging in immoral or illegal behavior. It is important to highlight that not everyone who works as a police officer or as the head of district police does immoral acts.

The following data shows that the subject is in the reader's position and a perpetrator is a vile person because the effects of the perpetrator's acts psychologically disturb the victim and the victim's mother and family. The fourth news, which was analyzed, entitled "A New Chapter in the Case of a Father Who Raped His Three Children", was published in Detiknews on Monday, October 18, 2021, at 10.03 p.m. The news represents the actor as the subject. The title, which weakens and excludes the victim, reflects this predicament. The following information demonstrates the same point.

Discussion

Subject-Object Position Analysis

The direct mention of 'Widy Vierratale' and the use of the word “she” indicate the author's position as the subject of the news. Meanwhile 'Widy Vierra' or 'she' in the news holds the position as the object of the news.

Widy has not yet mentioned the name of the man she was referring to until now. This issue makes the public wonder as to who committed the harassment. The data above demonstrates that women are weak and always become the victims. They are always at risk because of the abusers' acts, and they are also the subject of public discussion. Meanwhile, the man who commits the acts, particularly the official or high-ranking person, is shielded or hidden from public view, and is not allowed to be known by the community.

The second piece of news about dating violence, the writer is the focus of the story. "Spouse violence does not only happen to married couples. It can affect those who are not married or in a relationship. Violence committed while dating, often known as dating violence, is an act of violence that targets unmarried couples. Usually, women are the victims of this violence, but it can also be the other way around." Based on these data, it can be implied that the subject is the author. On the other hand, women are always the weaker party in the news, and they are easy to become the victims of violence in any circumstance. The following data support this statement:

Citing the National Women's Life Experience Survey conducted by the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection in 2016, 42.7% of unmarried women had suffered physical or sexual violence. Violence in dating relationships is a case that often occurs
after cases of domestic violence. Furthermore, 2,090 of the 10,847 violent perpetrators were boyfriends or friends. Unfortunately, the majority of these cases are not publicized and are still neglected by the public.

Andi Akbar Panguriseng, the legal counsel for a teenage girl who was the victim of an alleged immoral act by the head of district police in Parigi Moutong on the third piece of news, claimed that the victim's psychological condition is currently shaken as a result of the traumatic incident she experienced. Not only 'S,' but also her mother was in great shock because she had not expected her daughter to be the victim of such an immoral act. "The victim's family was traumatized mentally. Her mother sobbed uncontrollably because of what had happened to her daughter. The victim also got more deafeningly quiet. "On Monday night, October 18, 2021, Andi accompanied the victim to undergo an examination at the Central Sulawesi Regional Police Headquarters in Palu City.

The object of the discourse is depicted by women who are victims of alleged immoral acts. Victims who are helpless and in need of help are even used by officers who feel they hold important positions and have power, as shown in the following data. Furthermore, the head of district police 'IDGN' did not deny that he sent a message to the victim requesting sex in exchange for the victim's father's release from prison in Parigi Moutong (Parimo). 'IGN' was suspected of committing an immoral act to 'S' with a promise to release her father who was in prison if 'IGN's request was obeyed. Even though he already got what he wanted, 'IGN' did not keep his promise to 'S' to free her father. Women are usually victims and disadvantaged, not only in everyday life but also in the news, frequently depicted as sufferers.

According to the news excerpt above, the perpetrator, specifically the father 'S,' is the story's focus, and the news overshadows and weakens the victim. The author says that 'S,' who became the perpetrator of the rape, even reported his ex-wife for accusing him of defamation. A father who was supposed to be the family's protector and a source of support for his three children instead did lecherous conduct by rapping them. Rather than accepting responsibility and admitting guilt or repenting, he made counterclaims to defend himself or avoid being accused, which is unusual for a human being, especially a father.

In this story, the perpetrator's role as an actor is highlighted, emphasizing the perpetrator. Meanwhile, the position of the object, the rape victim, is not mentioned in this news. This situation weakens the victim and puts the woman in a vulnerable position. On the other hand, the object's position is with the victim, the three children whom their father raped. As the following data shows, this media coverage continues to harm objects. The National Commission on Violence Against Women re-examines why the Lutim Resort Police and the
South Sulawesi Regional Police closed the case before it went viral. According to the National Women's Commission, there was evidence given by the victim's mother at the beginning of the case that was not taken into account by the police. "Special protection must be included for child victims of sexual violence, including child victims or child witnesses who must be accompanied by parents and or people trusted by child victims and or child witnesses or social workers." This statement was said by Siti Aminah Tardi, the National Women's Commissioner, at a press conference on Monday, October 18, 2021.

Siti said that children suspected of being victims when being questioned by the police could be accompanied by their mother or someone trusted by the victim. The National Women's Commission also highlighted the medical record evidence from paediatricians who issued a diagnosis that there was damage to the anal and vaginal tissues due to sexual violence. However, this evidence was not considered to be used to continue this case.

The National Women's Commission requested that the National Police focus on the case of 'A Father Raped His Three Children' rather than the report of the perpetrator. "The National Women's Commission also looks at the possibility of evidence that was overlooked. The doctor who examined and treated the three children with alleged physical injuries connected to sexual abuse was not questioned as an expert during the first investigation process."

From these data, it is apparent that women who are victims of sexual violence are always disadvantaged, and the side is not with the victim but on the perpetrator. The case was reopened not because it favored the victim who needed justice but because of the perpetrator 'S' report, who felt that he was falsely accused of rape and defamation.

CONCLUSION

The whole news text illustrates that the position of the subject and the object of the story determines how a news text is presented to the reader's audience. This news text is very gender-biased because the event is described from a male perspective, complete with prejudices. Men do not only display women, but they also demonstrate their existence in the news. Women are not only not shown; even their presence in the news is also shown by men. Women are always the object and are always regarded and depicted adversely in stories like this, which is unsurprising. On the other hand, men are always shown in a positive image and have power.

There are types of perspectives that undermine the status of women in the sentences employed as data in this study. Even though there is evidence of violence or immoral acts and harassment by the perpetrators, which is strengthened by the victim's confession, the National Commission for Women's Protection must still go through a lengthy proving process. Cases of violence against women are deemed normal and common if there is no pressure from various parties. Furthermore, the important thing is the proof that the suspects are found guilty.

In conclusion, the writer's position is the story's subject, and women are the news's object after looking at the entire news discourse. Meanwhile, the reader's position is not included or exclusive since no things or data support the reader's involvement in the resulting text. Based on the description and results of the discussion above, some conclusions can be drawn as follows.
1. The news text shows a bias in presenting women based on four types of news about violence against women in online media.
2. The marginalization of women is manifested in the form of weakening the position of women, such as when they work as artists or entertainers and are in desperate need of help or assistance.
3. The news portrays women in a negative light, despite proving that perpetrators of violence such as harassment and immoral acts do so.

REFERENCE


