

POSITIONING OF WOMEN IN THE DISCOURSE OF DOMESTIC MURDER CASE NEWS ON INDONESIAN ONLINE MEDIA

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Abstract. This research aimed to describe how the media position women as minorities in the news discourse of domestic murder cases in the Indonesian online media *Kompas.com*. The data used in this study were sourced from primary news headlines reporting domestic murder cases that contained the keyword *istri* (wife). This research used a descriptive qualitative method with documentation techniques. The critical discourse analysis (CDA) framework formulated by Mills (1992) and van Leeuwen (1986, 1987) were used to examine the position of women as subject and object in the media and the reader's position. The findings of this study showed that there are significant differences in how women are constructed as victims of murder and as the perpetrator in the news. This research is expected to contribute and innovate to the media when compiling news discourse on domestic murder cases so as not to corner the minority in the gender context, namely women.

Keywords: Critical discourse analysis, language and gender, feminism, women's position, domestic murder case

INTRODUCTION

Domestic violence is a global issue that continues to be of concern among the society and media. It is considered a form of gender based violence involving an imbalance of power in domestic relationships, which can impact physical, psychological, and social for victims. In Indonesian news coverage, domestic violence cases frequently portray women as central figures, either as victims or perpetrators. The cases may involve conflicts between husband and wife that result in homicide, reflecting aspects such as culture, law, and gender norms.

The media have a significant role in conveying information that influences public opinion on various social issues and phenomena. News media also have the power to subtly influence how the readers perceive perpetrator and victims related to the news. Newspaper articles frequently describe women differently than they do men. It can be discussed in terms of women's sexuality and their interpersonal relationships (Mills, 1995). However, the way Indonesian media represent women in reports remains a critical question. Such as, some media frequently frame women through gender stereotypes, which can shape specific biases. As perpetrators, women may be portrayed in an exaggerated manner and frame their act as something out of the ordinary, given the society expectation that women must fulfill roles as caregivers or maintain family harmony. Meanwhile as victims, they are commonly shown as vulnerable or suffering. According to Sutarso (2012), this concept arises from patriarchal cultural ideas of equality that are still embedded in the mindset of media professionals. This narrative could reinforce gender stereotypes and ignore more complex contexts such as dynamics of domestic violence and the factors influencing women's actions.

News discourse has become an interesting field to study, one of the reasons being the power news media outlets hold in shaping the public's knowledge, perspectives, and opinions regarding the news. Accuracy in reporting the news has high importance not only in the content of the news article itself but also in the headlines, as it is typically the part of the news article the readers come across first, thus forming the readers' first impression towards the news. According to Irtantia et al. (2023) the media have capacity to produce discourse that represents various perspectives. However, these

perspectives can lead to injustice for women. Paltridge (2012) stated discourse analysis is an approach to studying language that concentrates on linguistic patterns within written or spoken texts, taking into account the social and cultural contexts in which these texts exist. In contrast to Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), it is described as a process of analyzing language and its use in order to get a more explicit and systematic analysis of the news delivered by media (van Dijk, 2013). CDA is a technique for researching how language helps certain people be dominated by others, especially by looking into how texts represent, create, and justify particular social behaviors and relationships (Fairclough, 2013). Van Leeuwen's (2008) concept views discourse as a form of representation of certain realities and interactions that influence the public. One of the figures contributing to the development of CDA is Sara Mills. Her model is focusing on feminist discourse. The central concern of this discourse theory emphasizes how women are represented and marginalized in media texts through specific linguistic patterns and structures. Thus, Mills discourse analysis is relevant to the focus of this research. Mills (1992) divided into two analyses. 1) Subject-objective position. These positions in the representation of news texts inherently reflect specific ideological perspectives. In the context of media, the subject position refers to the narrator of an event portrayed by the media, while the object position is the individual being described in the event. Van Leeuwen (1987) stated marginalization of an individual or group can be identified by the presence in a text. 2) Readers position. Unlike other theories of critical discourse analysis, Mills (1992) argues that a text of news is the result of negotiation between journalists and readers. Journalists predict the preferences of their audience. For instance, news articles targeted at readers from specific social classes are written using particular language and topics. In this analysis, the researchers examine which group the readers of the news position themselves within.

With the power it has to shape the reader's perspective and opinion of the reported news, news discourse has become an interesting topic of study. CDA frameworks, such as the ones proposed by Van Dijk, Fairclough, and Mills have been used by scholars as the framework to analyze news article headlines and its content (Irtantia et al., 2023; Isti'anah, 2019; Ninpanit, 2020). CDA has become an useful approach in analyzing how news media outlet represent marginalized groups (Åkerlund, 2019; Yating, 2019) There are also studies which utilize CDA to specifically focus on news that reports murder (Hura et al., 2020), gender-based violence (Biadi & Fallaki, 2023; Marín-Montín & Bianchi, 2024; Oparinde & Matsha, 2021) and news of domestic violence (Meluzzi et al., 2021), which dismantled how news media outlets treat the perpetrators and victims in the news reporting. Moreover, analyses of women's position in the news have been conducted as well (Evianda et al., 2019; Pangestu & Buansari, 2023).

Many of the previous studies on news articles through the lens of CDA investigated how the news are constructed. Moreover, while there are studies that focus on the headlines of the news, these studies do not focus on news that report domestic violence and domestic murder cases. On the other hand, many of the existing studies that analyzed women's position in the news focus on the content of the news article rather than the news headlines, which introduces readers to the news. Therefore, this study intends to fill the gap by analyzing news headlines that report domestic murder cases and how women are positioned by the news media outlet in the headlines.

The study aims to analyze the positions of women and readers in the coverage of domestic violence in Indonesian online media. Through the application of the CDA approach, this research expects to provide insight into how media represents women in their headlines. The research has two main questions of research as follows:

1. How are women positioned in news headlines of domestic murder cases in Online News Media *kompas.com*?
2. How are readers positioned in news headlines of domestic murder cases in Online News Media *kompas.com*?

RESEARCH METHOD

This research employed a critical descriptive qualitative approach in analyzing the content of news headlines. The data of this research were taken from a total of 36 news headlines published within January - November 2024 written on one of online media in Indonesia named *Kompas.com*. The main reason for selecting news headlines during this particular period is for the sake of getting the most recent data for the research. The media was chosen because it is the highest-ranked online news media in Indonesia according to *SCImago Media Rankings* (SCImago, 2024). The news headlines used as the data contain the material of reporting primary domestic murder cases in Indonesia. The data were collected by searching the keywords focusing on the word *istri* (wife), specifically on the phrases 'istri bunuh suami' (wife murdered husband) and 'suami bunuh istri' (husband murdered wife). The consideration of choosing the primary news was based on the earliest published news headline throughout the timeline of the same murder case. If the primary news headline did not contain the keywords mentioned, it would be opted out from data collection. The data were then listed down on Google Spreadsheets to ease the analysis. The data later were analyzed by adapting the actor position theory proposed by Mills (1992) and van Leeuwen (1986, 1987) to identify and examine the positioning of women as actors in *Kompas.com* and how the women were marginalized in the online news media in Indonesia. In addition, we chose three full-length news articles out of 36 mentioned news headlines as the data for analyzing the readers position by following the CDA theory proposed by Mills (1992).

RESULT AND ANALYSIS

According to Mills (1992), the results show that women were positioned as subject and object positions in the news headlines written on *kompas.com*. Furthermore, women were also positioned as marginalized and non-marginalized ones throughout the news headlines. There is a significant difference in the number of news headlines that position women as a subject and as an object, but in both categories, women are positioned as non-marginalized more frequently. Out of 36 news headlines obtained as the data, the analysis found that women are positioned as subject in 6 headlines and as object in 30 news headlines. This is in line with Mills' (1992) statement that women are more often positioned as an object rather than as a subject. We will explain each position as follows.

1.1 Subject-Object Position

1.1.1 Women as Subject

Based on the results, there are several news headlines which have been collected that positioned women as the subject of the domestic murder cases. In this case, the headlines that fall into this category are the news headlines that report domestic murder cases with the women or the wives as the perpetrators. This actor position is categorized into two based on its marginalization in the society, marginalized and non-marginalized.

1.1.2 Marginalized Subject

From the data pool, it is found that two news headlines positioned women as marginalized objects in the instances where women are reported as the culprit of the murder cases.

Table 1. News headlines of women as marginalized subject

No.	Headlines
1	<i>Istri Bunuh Suami di Cibinong, Berawal dari Mi Instan Tak Matang, Ini Kronologinya</i> (Wife Kills Husband in Cibinong, Triggered by Uncooked Instant Noodles, This is the Chronology)
2	<i>Istri di Kuningan Ajak Selingkuhan Bunuh Suami, Sempat Menyebut Korban Tewas karena</i>

	<i>Kecelakaan</i> (Wife in Kuningan Brings Affair Partner to Murder Husband, Says Victim was Killed in an Accident)
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The headlines above show that the women, who were the perpetrator of the murder cases, are attributed to traits unrelated to the murder case itself. The first news headline reported that the wife murders her husband due to uncooked instant noodles as the trigger. This holds the implication that the wife, as a woman, is a sensitive and overly emotional being, resorting to murder due to what seems to be a small problem. It also strengthened the longstanding stigma and bias that women tend to be overly emotional. The full news, as elaborated in the news article, shows that the uncooked instant noodles was a tipping point of a bigger dispute between the husband and the wife. It can be said that the phrase ‘triggered by uncooked instant noodles’ was added to the headline as a way to sensationalize and downplay the news at the same time.

The second news headline reported a domestic murder case where the wife is mentioned as a cheater, shown in the mention of the wife, as a perpetrator, bringing her ‘affair partner’ to murder her husband. The news headline also reported that the wife then mentioned that the victim died due to an accident, thus depicting her not only as a cheater, but also a liar. Both the first and second headlines supported Easteal et al.’s (2015) statement that news media outlets have the tendency to illustrate women who acted as the perpetrator of the murders as either ‘mad’ or ‘bad’ women in their narratives and may not explain the context behind the women’s actions leading to the events.

1.1.3 Non-Marginalized Subject

Out of the six news headlines that depict women as subjects, four are found to depict women in a non-marginalized way. The headlines are presented in the table below.

Table 2. News headlines of women as non-marginalized subject

No.	Headlines
1.	<i>Istri di Belitung Bunuh Suami yang Mabuk Usai Berhubungan Badan</i> (Wife in Belitung Killed Drunk Husband After an Intercourse)
2.	<i>Suami di Probolinggo Tewas di Tangan Istri, Dibunuh Saat Sedang Tidur</i> (Husband in Probolinggo Killed by His Wife, Murdered While Sleeping)
3.	<i>Jasad di Karawang Bukan Korban Begal, Istri Otaki Pembunuhan Suami</i> (Body in Karawang not a Victim of Robbery, Wife Masterminded Husband’s Murder)
4.	<i>Pria di Pasaman Ditemukan di Tewas di Dekat Kandang Kambing, Ternyata Dibunuh Istri Sendiri</i> (Man in Pasaman Found Dead Near Goat Pen, Apparently Killed by His Own Wife)

Out of the headlines that positioned women as the subject of the news, it is found that there are more news headlines that positioned women as non-marginalized, as shown in Table 2. Rather than reporting the news in a sensationalized way, the headlines presented in Table 2 tend to report the news in a more straightforward manner by reporting the wives merely as the perpetrator and without adding information outside the context of the news with the intention of sensationalizing the news or portray the women as perpetrators as

1.2 Women as Object

The results show that there are news headlines that have been gathered positioning women as the object, specifically as the victim of domestic murder cases. Similar to women as subject, women as object is also divided into two, namely marginalized and non-marginalized. According to Mills and Mullany (2011), the majority of feminist discourse tends to portray women as object rather than subject.

1.2.1 Marginalized Object

In this research, there are a total of 10 out of 30 news headlines indicating the women's position as the marginalized object. Women are usually given a negative stigma that is considered not to comply with the norms in society. Thus, the positioning of women as the marginalized object is still found within the news headlines even though the numbers are still fewer than the non-marginalized ones. The data of news headlines containing the women's position as marginalized object is presented in the following.

Table 3. News headlines of women as marginalized object.

No	Headlines
1	<i>Cemburu, Suami Bunuh Istri Saat Karaoke di Sergai</i> (Jealous, Husband Kills Wife while Karaoke in Sergai)
2	<i>Menduga Selingkuh, Suami di Sidoarjo Bunuh Istri Pakai Bambu</i> (Suspecting Cheating, Husband in Sidoarjo Kills Wife Using Bamboo)
3	<i>Motif Suami Bunuh Istri di Makassar, Korban Tak Terima Diberi Rp 70.000</i> (Motive for Husband Killing Wife in Makassar, The Victim Refused to be Given Rp 70,000)
4	<i>Suami di Aceh Bunuh Istri karena Sering "Live" TikTok</i> (Husband in Aceh Kills Wife for Frequently Doing TikTok "Live")
5	<i>Petaka Judi Slot, Suami Bunuh Istri karena Tak Mau Bayari Utang</i> (Slot Gambling Catastrophe, Husband Kills Wife for Not Paying Debts)
6	<i>Motif Suami Bunuh Istri di Lombok Timur, Sakit Hati Ibunya Dikatai Kasar</i> (Husband's Motive for Killing His Wife in East Lombok, Hurt That His Mother was Called Cruel)
7	<i>Terbakar Cemburu karena Pesan dari Pria Lain, Warga Bandung Bunuh Istri</i> (Burning with Jealousy Over Message from Another Man, Bandung Resident Kills Wife)
8	<i>Tak Terima Ibunya Dihina, Pria di Riau Bunuh Istrinya</i> (Man in Riau Kills His Wife After Insulting His Mother)
9	<i>Gara-gara Terima Telepon dari Pria Lain, Istri di Jambi Tewas di Tangan Suami</i> (Wife in Jambi Killed by Husband for Receiving Phone Call from Another Man)
10	<i>Pilu, Istri di Jember Tewas Dianiaya Suami, Pelaku Cemburu dan Tuduh Korban Selingkuh</i> (Heartbreaking, Wife in Jember Killed by Husband, Perpetrator Jealous and Accused The Victim of Cheating on Him)

Based on the data presented in Table 1, we can see that women are being portrayed in a stigmatized way. The first news headline, as seen from the phrase 'while karaoke', positions the wife as someone who likes to do karaoke. Karaoke is an activity that can be seen as a less acceptable thing in some Indonesian societies, since many people associate karaoke places as dimly lit entertainment places that are familiar with various negative things such as prostitution and drugs. Therefore, it can be seen that in this headline the wife is associated with a negative stigma that makes her marginalized. Moving on to the second news headline, the wife is characterized as someone who likes to flirt with other men by the use of the word 'cheating' as diction in the headline, which also has a negative connotation. The third news headline creates the wife's position as if the wife was a materialistic woman by the use of the statement 'the victim refused to be given Rp 70,000'. Majority of

Indonesian men still hold the patriarchal belief where the wife should accept whatever her husband gives her. Thus, in this case, the wife is portrayed as a stigmatized individual.

In the fourth headline, the statement ‘frequently doing TikTok “live”’ highlights the wife as a marginalized object. Live streaming on applications such as TikTok sometimes gets a negative stigma from society because the host can be rewarded by the audience. In this case, it is not uncommon for hosts to be willing to do anything to get as many gifts as possible. It can be seen that here the wife is positioned as unable to maintain the dignity of her husband by often doing TikTok ‘live’ which makes her husband angry. The fifth news headline uses the statement ‘not paying debts’ to describe the wife who did not obey her husband by not wanting to help him pay gambling debts so that the husband had the heart to kill his wife. In this news headline, the victim is positioned as a wife who disobeys her husband by not helping him in times of distress. Meanwhile, in the sixth headline, the wife is positioned as someone who does not respect her mother-in-law by addressing her using words that should not be uttered with the use of the statement ‘his mother was called cruel’. Here, it can be seen that the wife is judged as disrespectful to her mother-in-law who should be treated well like her own parents without including what is the actual motive behind this act.

The seventh headline implicitly depicts the wife as someone who likes to engage in affairs by writing it using the phrase ‘message from another man’ in the headline. In fact, this message from another man is not necessarily a form of infidelity committed by his wife. In line with the sixth news headline, the eighth headline presents the wife as a daughter-in-law who cannot honor her mother-in-law by insulting her as seen from the statement ‘insulting his mother’, which makes her husband hurt. However, the ninth headline is the same as the other previous headlines, the statement ‘receiving phone call from another man’ describes the wife as having an affair because she received a call from another man when in fact it is not always about the love affair. Lastly, the tenth headline was still related to the wife who was suspected of having an affair and not enough to have a relationship with her husband with the use of the statement ‘accused the victim of cheating on him’. In this news headline, the wife is negatively stigmatized as a cheater, which is still unproven. This is reinforced by the word ‘accuse’, which according to the *Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia* (Indonesian Dictionary) means pointing and saying that someone is doing something bad.

1.2.2 Non-Marginalized Object

As explained in the previous sub-section, it is found that there are a total of 20 out of 30 news headlines identified women as object according to critical discourse analysis theory proposed by Mills (1992). The number is higher than the data found belonging to women as marginalized object with a total of 10 news headlines. The overall data of women as non-marginalized object will be displayed in Table 2 below.

Table 4. News headlines of women as non-marginalized object.

No	Headlines
1	<i>Kronologi Suami Bunuh Istri secara Sadis di Paser, Korban Sempat Menenangkan Pelaku</i> (Chronology of Husband Sadistically Killing Wife in Paser, Victim Calmed the Perpetrator)
2	<i>KDRT, Seorang Suami di Sumenep Celurit Istri hingga Tewas</i> (Domestic Violence, A Husband in Sumenep Slashed His Wife to Death)
3	<i>Kasus Pasutri Lansia Tewas di Cipondoh Terkuak: Suami Bunuh Istri, lalu Tusuk Diri Sendiri</i> (Case of Elderly Couple Killed in Cipondoh Revealed: Husband Killed Wife, then Stabbed Himself)
4	<i>Kesal Ditolak Berhubungan Badan, Suami di Sumenep Bunuh Istri</i> (Upset at Being Rejected, Husband in Sumenep Kills Wife)
5	<i>Seorang Istri Dibunuh Suaminya di Rumah Kontrakan Pasar Minggu</i>

	(Wife Killed by Husband in Rented House in Pasar Minggu)
6	<i>Kasus Suami Bunuh Istri di Cimahi, Jasad Disimpan Seminggu, Dibungkus 6 Lapis dan Ditaburi Bubuk Kopi</i> (Husband Kills Wife in Cimahi, Body Kept for a Week, Wrapped in 6 Layers and Sprinkled with Coffee Powder)
7	<i>Suami di Aceh Bunuh Istri gara-gara Uang Rp 50.000</i> (Husband in Aceh Kills Wife Over Rp 50,000)
8	<i>Dipicu Cemburu, Suami Aniaya Istri hingga Tewas di Purworejo</i> (Triggered by Jealousy, Husband Beats Wife to Death in Purworejo)
9	<i>Suami di Solok Bunuh Istrinya Hamil 8 Bulan, Dalih Meninggal karena Sakit</i> (Husband in Solok Kills His 8-Months Pregnant Wife on The Pretext That She Died of Illness)
10	<i>Pulang Merantau, Istri Dibunuh Suami, Mayatnya Dibuang ke Waduk Wadaslintang Wonosobo</i> (Wife Killed by Husband, Body Thrown into Wonosobo's Wadaslintang Reservoir)
11	<i>Suami yang Bunuh Istrinya di Pulogadung Bekerja Sebagai Pegawai KAI</i> (Husband Who Killed His Wife in Pulogadung Worked as A KAI Employee)
12	<i>Wanita di Bangka Barat Tewas Ditusuk Suami Usai Belanja Makanan</i> (Woman in West Bangka Killed by Husband after Shopping for Food)
13	<i>Suami di Karimun Bunuh Istri Pakai Batang Sikat Gigi</i> (Husband in Karimun Kills Wife Using a Toothbrush Rod)
14	<i>Suami Bunuh Istri di Ciamis, Korban Dimutilasi</i> (Husband Kills Wife in Ciamis, Victim Mutilated)
15	<i>Cekcok, Suami di Pangkalpinang Bunuh Istri lalu Minum Racun</i> (Arguing, Husband in Pangkalpinang Kills Wife and Drinks Poison)
16	<i>Ada Obeng di TKP, Diduga Jadi Alat Suami Bunuh Istri di Bogor</i> (There was A Screwdriver at The Crime Scene, Suspected to be A Tool for Husband to Kill His Wife in Bogor)
17	<i>Terbakar Api Cemburu, Suami Bunuh Istri di Rumah Kos Tambora</i> (Burning with Jealousy, Husband Kills Wife in Boarding House in Tambora)
18	<i>Suami di Kubu Raya Tewas Gantung Diri Diduga Usai Bakar Istri, Warga: Telah Lama Pisah</i> (Husband in Kubu Raya Killed by Hanging Himself Allegedly After Burning His Wife, Residents: Long Separation)
19	<i>Suami di Sergai Bunuh Istrinya, Rekayasa Pembunuhan Seolah-olah Korban Bunuh Diri</i> (Husband in Sergai Killed His Wife, Manipulating Murder as if Victim Committed Suicide)
20	<i>Suami di Pidie Aceh Bunuh Istrinya, Mayat Korban Dibungkus Karung, Terbongkar Saat Anak Cari Ibunya</i> (Husband in Pidie Aceh Killed His Wife, Victim's Body Wrapped in a Sack, Revealed When Children Search for Their Mother)

Based on Table 2 above, we can observe that all the headlines do not position the wife, who as a woman is sometimes negatively stigmatized in society as the marginals. All the headlines describe the situation as it is, by negatively positioning the perpetrator of the domestic murders. This can be seen from one example of a headline, namely in the fourth headline, which describes the husband as

the perpetrator who did not accept the wife's rejection by the use of the statement 'upset at being rejected'. In addition, there are also several news articles that give positive connotations in the use of words that favor the wife as the victim in the murder case. For example, the statement 'after shopping for food' in the twelfth headline describes the wife who has properly done her duty as a wife by shopping for food for her family.

1.3 Readers Position

According to the theory of critical discourse analysis proposed by Sara Mills (1992), the existence of readers within the text is also being analyzed aside from the subject-object position. The relation between writers and readers is common when we are talking about a text. Therefore, here, the CDA model focuses merely on the position of the readers as the audience of the text.

In the first news headline entitled *Istri Bunuh Suami di Cibinong, Berawal dari Mi Instan Tak Matang, Ini Kronologinya* (Wife Kills Husband in Cibinong, Triggered by Uncooked Instant Noodles, This is the Chronology), the readers are encouraged to see the perspective of the wife. How the chronology of the incident is explained by the media from the point of view of the subjects, here as the perpetrators. The readers are not persuaded to sympathize with the victim because the chronology is from the perspective of the perpetrator or the subject. Instead, the media text leads the readers to side with the perpetrator by describing that it is the victim who is actually guilty, and the perpetrator kills the victim in self-defense. Usually in murder cases, the perpetrator is someone who is responsible for killing the victim. However, here the status of the perpetrator is still written as 'witness' not 'suspect'. This means that this media is impartial according to gender bias, even though the headline shows marginalizing the wife as the perpetrator.

Furthermore, in the second news entitled '*Motif Suami Bunuh Istri di Makassar, Korban Tak Terima Diberi Rp 70.000*' (Motive for Husband Killing Wife in Makassar, The Victim Refused to be Given Rp 70,000), the readers are not encouraged to sympathize with the victim. Here the wife is the victim, but the text presented the victim as the guilty one for committing violence against her husband and 20-month-old child. Moreover, the news does not provide an explanation that defends the victim's behavior and actions. In fact, the behavior and actions of the victim must have originated from certain motives or triggers, for example, one of which is common is the mental condition of the wife. Therefore, the readers are indirectly persuaded to side only with the husband as the perpetrator in this murder case.

Meanwhile, in the third news entitled '*Suami yang Bunuh Istrinya di Pulogadung Bekerja Sebagai Pegawai KAI*' (Husband Who Killed His Wife in Pulogadung Worked as A KAI Employee), the readers are not encouraged to be part of the news article. Here, the writer only tells the background of the husband and wife, the testimonies of the people around, and the incident of the murder. The writer does not use statements that favor one of the perpetrators or victims, and also does not marginalize the wife who is the victim by not using terms that contain negative stigmas. In this article, the news is also explained from the point of view of the Indonesian National Police.

CONCLUSION

This study analyzed the position of women in news headlines on Kompas.com with the context of domestic murder cases. Women were predominantly positioned as objects compared to as subjects. This is consistent with Mills' (1992) theory that women were more commonly portrayed as objects reflecting societal patterns in their representation. Moreover, non-marginalized women were portrayed more frequently than marginalized women. However, both categories revealed the presence of gender bias, as evidenced by the way the media represented women as subjects and objects in domestic murder cases.

Using Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), the researchers highlighted that women as subjects were portrayed through stereotypes, such as being emotional, materialistic and overly submissive. In contrast, portrayals of women as objects tended to be more neutral and sometimes lacked a deeper

context regarding this case. This created an implicit positioning of readers to view women as subjects who were weak or problematic figures, while women as objects were ignored and not provided narrative attention.

This study was conducted with the intention to enrich the existing pool of literature within the studies of critical discourse analysis with the focus of news discourse, but it is not without limitation. This study only focused on the headlines of news reporting domestic murder news happening from January to November 2024. Moreover, we only focused on how the news media outlet portray and position women within those headlines. Further studies can be conducted to investigate the impact of portrayals of women, especially marginalized ones, in the news headlines. Moreover, we also recommend a more thorough analysis by utilizing van Leeuwen's inclusion theory as this study only analyzed the headlines using marginalization theory.

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