

Research Article

Gender Position in 'Line Today' Digital Newspaper Based on Sara Mills Perspective

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Abstract: Gender equality in the news published in digital and print news is still a hot topic of discussion. Gender equality still cannot be said to be fair between women and men. Women are still considered unimportant and weak creatures. Not a few who use women as objects in the news. The aims of this study are: 1) to describe the position of the subject-object in the digital news 'Line Today', 2) to describe the position of the reader in the digital news 'Line Today'. This type of research is descriptive qualitative research. The final results of this research are: 1) women are always the object of the story, but there is also the position of women who are subjects in the news, 2) readers will position themselves as two sides, both as men and women who take part in addressing gender issues.

Keywords: Gender position, gender equality, women.

Introduction

Discourses related to women are often alluded to in social media, especially in online daily news. The position of women often triggers debate in their position. This is often questioned because of gender inequality. Gender inequality, especially experienced by women, is one of the most discussed topics among other topics. Lull in Eriyanto reveals that discourse is a way for ideas or objects to be debated openly to the public so that it results in a certain understanding that is widespread (Sobur, 2018: 11). Reporting on gender position is also one of the news topics that is often found in the mass media, both print and digital.

The existence of social media has had a significant impact on all aspects of people's lives and has played a role in the field of communication. One of the social media is divided into digital applications, namely 'Line Today'. The platform displays a lot of the latest news. And many also display news about the feminist gender position. Gender issues are no longer foreign, from year to year there are always gender issues. Gender issues cannot be separated from ideological, cultural and structural issues. Currently, gender equality is often discussed on social media accounts in the public domain or in book discussions. Easy access to understand how women understand men, roles, and social status, as well as equal status/position. The mass media participates in maintaining, strengthening, and even exacerbating women's gender inequality in society. Media reports suggest one or more ideas about patriarchal values and understandings of gender perspectives that are persistently wrong. Ultimately the function of the media as an agent of gender socialization allows these practices to continue with gender inequality.

Contained in digital news stories on the 'Line Today' platform. As a social delineation, gender determines social roles for men and women based on traditional ideas related to masculinity and femininity (Chaudhry *et al.*, 2014). Issues to be discussed in this article is about: 1) Women Who Are

Not Afraid to Lead, 2) Characteristics of Women's Leadership in Politics, 3) India Deploys Female Soldiers to Kashmir. The basic understanding of critical discourse analysis is that discourse is not only understood as an object of language research. Language is used to analyze the text. There is no language in the sense of traditional language (Fauzan, 2014). Language in critical discourse analysis does not only exist in the text, but also exists in the context as a tool for certain goals and practices (including ideology and cultural practices). The main goal of critical discourse analysis is to reveal ambiguities in discourse that lead to unequal relationships between writers and readers.

Research Methods

This type of research entitled "Gender Position in Digital News 'Line Today' Based on Sara Mills "Perspective" is a descriptive research that aims to describe the subject matter which is then carried out to interpret an object or situation which is the subject of this research, namely the position of gender as a subject, objects, and by readers on the online news feed today. Qualitative research is research that explores and understands the meaning of a number of individuals or groups of people originating from social problems (Cresswell, 2016).

This study uses the Sara Mills Critical Discourse Analysis approach. This model sees the subject-object positions displayed in the text, which is the subject of the narrative and which becomes the object of the narrative will determine how the structure of the text and how the meaning is treated in the text as a whole. Sara Mills also focuses on the readers and writers featured in the text. According to Mills, the reader is an important part that influences the text. The reader is not only considered as the recipient of the text, but the reader also contributes to the text. The sample used in this research is uploads to the news 'Line Today' written by several media journalists such as Kumparan, Tagar.id, and DW Indonesia, which contain gender issues from various spaces.

Research Results and Discussion

In this article, we will discuss in detail: 1) Subject Position, 2) Object Position, 3) Reader Position. This analysis was carried out based on news reports contained in the daily 'Line Today' news.

A. Subject-Object Position

Reports on gender equality may already be familiar, and are widely published in news papers, whether it be print or digital news. This article will discuss the subject positions contained in the 'Line Today' news regarding gender equality from the perspective of Sara Mills.



Figure 1. George W. Bush on Angela Merkel: 'The Woman Who Doesn't Fear of Leading'"

The image above contains news with the title "George W. Bush about Angela Merkel: 'Women Who Are Not Afraid to Lead'". The news was uploaded on Thursday, July 15 2021. The news included former US president, namely George W. Bush, who commented on the figure of the Chancellor in Germany named Angela Merkel. George also talked about his artwork and while showing his

artwork in the form of paintings to the media team. He also told how a female figure like Merkel was not afraid to lead. Merkel is considered in American liberal circles as leaders of the free world, especially during the four years the US was led by former President Donald Trump. Apart from that, it is also told about the figure of Merkel who is referred to as a role model for girls. In the news, the storyline told by George is very clear that Merkel is only the object that is told in the news. Meanwhile, George, is the subject who describes the figure of Merkel in the news. This also proves that the object being told is capable of positioning itself in the realm of gender equality, that women can also have the courage to lead.



Figure 2. Characteristics of Women's Leadership in the Political Sphere

Then, in the news entitled "The Character of Women's Leadership in the Political Sphere" which was published on Thursday, July 15 2021, the news explained the position of women in the political sphere. Women are still considered weak, naive and not assertive. Women who have experience in the fields of politics and international relations abroad are even considered emotional and too weak to deal with issues related to life and death, or issues that are demanded in terms of the interests of the country. In fact, women are considered not important in the news. Women should be given space to become leaders or make more strategic decisions outside of issues that are specific to women, This is one of the solutions to achieve gender equality. In the published news, women are positioned as the object being told. The position of the subject in the news is occupied by the journalist who publishes the news. Because, the female figure in the news is only described and told by journalists, not telling the woman directly.



Figure 3. India Deploys Female Soldiers to Kashmir

Furthermore, in the news entitled "India Deploys Female Soldiers to Kashmir" which was published on Friday, July 16 2021, the news contained women Soldiers sent by India to Kashmir. This is to

realize gender equality which is still a challenge. This was also conveyed by India as an effort to improve local relations and promote gender equality within the ranks of the military. The female soldiers stated that they had an advantage over their male counterparts in terms of interacting with the female residents of the area. However, other things were also disclosed by military officials regarding the deployment of female soldiers which would make the Indian government's anti-militia operation in Kashmir engulfed in strife, become more effective. Indian army men have also received complaints about sexual harassment of local women in Kashmir. In the news, the subjects that were told were female soldiers and military officials. This is evidenced by the recognition by female soldiers who revealed that they had an advantage over their male counterparts. Meanwhile, the object in the news is the male soldier. Because, male soldiers are not shown in the news clearly.

B. Reader's Position

Text is a negotiation between reader and writer. The reader will provide an interpretation of the news text based on the news conveyed by the author. The reader's position in the news line today concerns the greeting or indirect mention made by the author to the reader. Readers will place themselves in the news based on the events conveyed by the news. The news line today entitled "Goerge W. Bush about Angela Merkel: 'Women who are not afraid to lead'", which was published on Thursday, 15 July 2021, was reported by DW Indonesia media based on information obtained from key informants. The news revealed that a female figure, namely Angela Merkel, was the object that women have a special position, women are able to have an important role in a country.

The news shows the impression that there is no longer any difference, both between women and men, both have the same position. Based on interviews with sources on the news, it allows readers to position themselves as women and as men. Merkel as the object of discussion is able to ensure that gender is not an obstacle to appearing and playing a role in the public. As well as showing that to be a leader can be done by anyone. This news will indirectly make people aware that gender is not a problem, everyone has the same rights and position. Furthermore, the news entitled "The Character of Women's Leadership in Politics" was published on Thursday 15 July 2021 by the Kumparan media. News is written based on the reality that often happens to women in leadership.

The news makes the position of women the subject of information on gender issues. She said that women are often left out in the political space, women are not given trust and are often seen as weak, so that the political world is only led and filled by men. Therefore, the news indirectly gives advocating for women, and placing the reader in the position of a man to sympathize and be fair to the role and position of women to achieve gender equality. Then the news entitled "India Deploys Female Soldiers to Kashmir" was published on Thursday 16 July 2021 by the Tagar.id media. News is written based on information obtained from one of the female soldiers. In this news, female soldiers become the subject of the news so that the events that are obtained from them. In the news, the readers will be greeted by the news text to be more fair and not discriminate against gender. The purpose of deploying female soldiers is as an effort to improve local relations and promote gender equality within the ranks of the military, and provide protection for women in the Kashmir area who often experience harassment by male soldiers. The news indirectly positions readers as men and makes them aware that women have the right to obtain positions even in the armed forces. Women are able to provide protection for other people and there should be no discrimination against gender anymore.

Conclusion

Based on the discussion that has been described above, several conclusions can be drawn as follows.

- 1) In the three reports above, there has been no specific attention to gender equality, especially women. Women are always used as the object of storytelling in the news. Women are still considered insignificant in the realm of gender equality. This of course can harm women and demean women. Women are only shown through the stories of journalists or subjects who tell

about women. The gender position of women is still not equal when compared with the gender position of men.

- 2) In these three stories, the reader has been indirectly greeted by the author through the news presented, so that the reader can position himself as two sides, both as men and women who take part in addressing gender issues. In the news, women are the topic that is told. So that it is clearly described how women get positions in various public spaces, so that discrimination against women occurs. Through news written by gender and feminism can gain attention and open views towards women, that women have the right to obtain equality. Women are presented as subjects and objects, so the news displayed can create attention and sympathy for women to obtain gender equality rights.

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