



## Sexual Harassment of Women in the News CNN Indonesia Model Sara Mills

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### **Abstract**

This research aims to provide an overview of CNN Indonesia's online news in writing news texts about cases of violence and sexual harassment against women. This research is a qualitative study. The method of data collection in this study involves reading, analysing, and recording data reflectively and descriptively. The analysis in this study employs the Critical Discourse Analysis model developed by Sara Mills. Based on the results of research through CNN Indonesia's online media news text, on violence and sexual harassment against women, which places women as objects. Women are portrayed as weak and powerless beings. Readers are invited to put themselves in the position of a storyteller, so that they accept it as a reality that must be followed up on.

**Keywords:** *News; Violence and Sexual Harassment; Sara Mills*

### **Introduction**

The association that is widely discussed by people around is about the promiscuity that some people often engage in to find momentary pleasure. Promiscuity is a form of deviant behaviour that crosses the boundaries set by law and the invisible norms created by society. Many problems occur regarding violence against women related to "gender" issues that are often found in everyday life. Many news reports inform about sexual harassment that victimises women committed by individuals or criminal groups.

Sexual harassment against women often occurs everywhere. Based on the data in the annual record of the National Commission on Violence Against Women (Komnas Perempuan), there is a total of 289,111 cases of violence against women. The data does show a decrease, but it is based on data submitted by victims, companions, and families. However, unreported cases of violence against women are even greater. Behind these figures, there is much to recognise that the experience of victims seeking protection is still far from expectations, even though various policies on protection from various criminal acts are available.

Many news reports on the abuse of women are discussed in the discourse on women. News regarding violence against women is one of the conversations in both print and digital mass media. Sexual violence against women is a case of concern because it can attack not only the physical but also the

psychological state of a woman. Cases of abuse must be treated medically, but many leave a traumatic mark on the victim. Many media outlets highlight cases of abuse against women, including the mass media.

Mass media in practice participate in preserving or making, strengthening and even worsening gender inequality against women in society. Media coverage exposes an idea regarding patriarchal values and a recurring misconception of gender. Thus, the media functions as one of the intermediaries of the gender inculcation process that seeks the implementation of gender injustice. Marshall McLuhan (via Widiyaningrum, 2021) suggests that the media are extensions of man, which means an extension of human hands. The definition of 'man' does not refer to humanity (human), but rather to the male sex (male). In this case, the media becomes a tool used by male domination over women, as noted by Ratna Noviani (via Widiyaningrum, 2021). Injustice regarding gender in the mass media is not only depicted in advertisements or movies, but also in the news that the media continues to organise very well.

Injustice related to gender is one of the key conversations that focuses on the movement towards gender equality and feminism. Feminism essentially means an effort that supports equal rights between men and women. Feminists openly differentiate between sex and gender, where sex is a science that explains genetics and biological identity, while gender is an identity that determines the rules. Kate Millet (via Widiyaningrum, 2021) believes that patriarchal ideology enunciates biological differences between women and men, and ensures that men always have masculine and dominant roles, while women have subordinate or feminine roles.

Many studies use the Sara Mills model, namely as follows: research conducted by Widiyaningrum, (2021) with the title "Sara Mills Discourse Analysis on Cases of Sexual Violence Against Women" in the journal "International Journal of Child and Gender Studies". Research conducted by Meilani et al., (2022) with the title "Sara Mills Critical Discourse Analysis of the News of 3 Men Stifling and Raping Magelang Santriwati Starting from Social Media" in the journal "Journal of Education, History, and Social Sciences". Research conducted by Puteri et al., (2020) with the title "Discourse on Violence Against Women News in Jambimetro.com Online Media (Critical Discourse Analysis of Sara Mills' Perspective)" in the journal "Linguistics and Literature Studies". Research conducted by Zamzuardi, (2019) with the title "Discourse Analysis of Sexual Harassment Cases Against Women on Online News in the Perspective of Sara Mills Analysis" in the journal "Journal of Indonesian Language, Literature, and Language and Literature Education". Research conducted by Ayustin and Christin, (2022) with the title "Sara Mills Model Critical Discourse Analysis on the Peaky Blinders Series" in the journal "Budapest International Research and Critics Institute-Journal (BIRCI-Journal)". The study examined using the Sara Mills model to analyse cases of violence and sexual harassment against women.

This research uses Sara Mills' Discourse Analysis Model. Methodologically, Sara Mills' discourse theory adopts many of Fairclough's views. Mills adopts Fairclough's discourse theory as a grounding theory in critical discourse analysis. Sara Mills is recognised as a feminist, known for her analysis that explores the relationship between power and ideology. When viewed from Fairclough's approach, it holds the opinion that aspects of power are channelled through social relations, producing forms of good or bad behaviour categories as a form of behavioural control. In this case, behaviour becomes a view that becomes a benchmark of one's attitude.

Sara Mills emphasises that a discourse on how actors are displayed in a text. In a text, the subject of the storytelling and the object of the storytelling will determine how the text's structure and meaning are treated as a whole, according to Darma (via Zamzuardi, 2019). How the text structure and meaning are treated from the text as a whole, Darma (via Zamzuardi, 2019). Sara Mills's discussion, grounded in feminist discourse theory, serves as the central focus of her study, examining the portrayal of women in

various media, including texts, images, photographs, and news. This is also why Sara Mills' theory or model is known as a feminist perspective discourse.

Sara Mills' model examines the aspects of the reader and writer described. The relationship between the reader and the writer in the discourse determines their respective positions within the text. Sara Mills (via Zamzuardi, 2019) aims to demonstrate how women are portrayed or marginalised in news texts and how the forms and patterns of marginalisation are enacted. Mills also emphasised that the text is part of the negotiation between the author and the reader, so the reader also participates in the transaction as seen in the text.

Sara Mills' model is more predictive of how the position of actors is displayed in the text. This position, in the sense of who is the subject and object in the process, will determine the text structure and how meaning is treated in the text as a whole. In general, two key factors are considered in the analysis using the Sara Mills model: first, how social actors in the news are positioned in reporting. Second, the reader's position in the text is crucial, as it can indicate the kind of audience the author envisions when writing about Eriyanto (via Puteri et al., 2020).

Level	What do you want to see?
Subject-Object Position	How events are seen, from whose perspective they are seen. Who is positioned as the conceptualiser (subject), and who is the object being told? Does each actor and social group have the opportunity to present themselves, their ideas or their presence? Displayed by other groups/people.
Author-Reader Position	How the reader is positioned in the text. How the reader positions himself in the text. To which group does the reader describe himself?

In connection with the problems that often occur regarding sexual violence against women, researchers are interested in studying using Sara Mills' model with news sources from the online media portal, CNN Indonesia. This medium is one of the most in-demand sources for the public to obtain news information. Then the formulation of the research problem is: analyse and describe how mass media coverage portrays women in news texts and how strategies to deal with sexual violence are portrayed in mass media coverage.

## Methods

The type of research used in this study is qualitative. Researchers use qualitative descriptive research to review and analyse news. Creswell (via Widiyaningrum, 2021) revealed that qualitative research is a type of research that explores and understands the meaning in the experiences of individuals or groups of people who are affected by social problems—Jasusman and Shavab (via Meilani et al., 2022). Descriptive research is research that seeks to explain a symptom, event, or incident that occurs at present. This research is used to examine or study natural objects, with the researcher serving as the primary instrument of investigation. This method explains the data in a natural, objective, and unbiased manner. The research subject in this study is the news text contained in CNN Indonesia. The object of research in this study is Sara Mills' Critical Discourse Analysis Model. The method of data collection in this study involves reading, analysing, and recording data reflectively and descriptively. The technique is used to make it easier to analyse and describe the data. A description is a natural record of data that the researcher interprets and analyses. Reflective notes are notes that contain the researcher's impressions, comments, opinions, and interpretations of the findings encountered. Miles and Huberman (via Saleh, 2017) stated that activities in the collection of qualitative data are collected interactively and continuously until completed.

Sugiyono, (2009) argues that an instrument is a tool used to measure natural and social phenomena that are to be observed. The instrument used in this research is human as a documentation study conducted on news texts published on CNN Indonesia on the topic of cases of violence and sexual harassment against women using the Sara Mills model. Descriptive analysis, namely the data you have obtained, is described in sentences by defining the actual situation. Data analysis in qualitative research is inductive, meaning it is based on the data received and then developed into a hypothesis. The data analysis technique employed in this research is the Miles and Huberman interactive analysis model (via Abdul, 2020), which is conducted in four stages: data collection, data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing.

## **Results and Discussion**

Rape in this case is a solemn criminal act because it harasses a woman cruelly. Ayun (via Meilani et al., 2022) stated that rape is a severe form, so rape has been designated as a form of sexual crime. In this event, the victim certainly experiences deep mental suffering due to threats that attack her physical and psychological well-being. Sara Mills' analysis model focuses more on discourse that discusses women or feminist discourse. Because women are considered inferior to men. In the Sara Mills model, there are two discussions, namely, first, how social actors in the news are positioned in reporting. Second, how the reader is positioned in the text, as follows:

### **1. Discussion of News Item 1: “Lawyer of Posbakum PN Tanjungpinang Allegedly Harassed Internship Student”**

<b>Level</b>	<b>What do you want to see</b>
Subject-Object Position and Author-Reader Position	<p>The news discourse on sexual violence against women is a news text entitled “Tanjungpinang PN Posbakum Lawyer Allegedly Harassed an Internship Student”, which was published in CNN Indonesia mass media news. The news was published on April 22, 2025. Women as victims of rape who are positioned as objects with a sequence of events of sexual harassment, about how harassment of women occurs, which is stated by the lawyer who provides legal assistance as well as the point of view of others. There is no description of women in the news text; thus, in the news, the position of the victim is sidelined or marginalised. The victim in this case is not allowed to speak or express her feelings. However, it is mentioned in the news text about recognising others.</p> <p>Excerpts of news texts about sexual harassment cases are: “Posbankum PN lawyers took advantage of the situation by committing sexual harassment against women who were interns. The harassment occurred during the fasting month of March 2025 by pulling the headscarf and choking the victim's neck, which became harassment against women,” said the court, as reported by CNN Indonesia. That is also the same as sexual harassment against women, which also includes the element of violence that occurred to the female student intern victim. The Posbankum PN lawyer was the main perpetrator in the case because he committed the offence against an individual. The facts recognised in the initial decision are clear, and the evidence is clear and sufficient,” the court emphasised that the allegations against the Posbakum lawyer were</p>

	<p>factual, namely harassment and violence against women. With this, the Tanjungpinang District Court felt aggrieved and tarnished the good name of the Tanjungpinang District Court. The person concerned with this case or the perpetrator has been deactivated from the Tanjungpinang District Court.</p> <p>The news text then positions the writer as the subject of the event, which is described or explained through the point of view of another person, namely the lawyer who helped with the case. The reader is positioned as the male party (as the perpetrator). Reading stories about sexual harassment and acts of violence can be attributed to the reader being in the position of the reader who is the perpetrator.</p>
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## 2. Discussion of News Item 2 “Pacitan Police Officer Suspected in Rape of Female Prisoner”

Level	What do you want to see
Subject-Object Position and Author-Reader Position	<p>News about sexual violence against women is contained in the news entitled “Pacitan Police Station Member So Suspect in Rape of Female Prisoner” through news published by CNN Indonesia on April 24, 2025. Through this title, it can be attributed or interpreted that the harassment was committed against a woman. In this case, women as victims of sexual harassment and sexual abuse are subjects who have a voice about what happened to them to represent themselves in the story contained in the news, with several witnesses who reinforce the victim's report. The news that occurred was that the victim reported the incident to the police to follow up on the events that had happened to her (the woman). This incident, described from the perpetrator's point of view, involved the perpetrator speaking out about the events that occurred and were carried out by police members on four separate occasions. In this incident, the victim to corroborate her confession was assisted by several witnesses to the rape and molestation that occurred by members of the police against detainees. With the exposure of the victim's story in the text, the media attempts to produce balanced information, avoiding a biased portrayal of gender.</p> <p>The author compares the perspectives of the perpetrator and the witnesses in the CNN Indonesia news text. The perpetrator always uses the guise of a tour to “attract other women”. The author describes the voice of the victim, as presented in the report by the victim and several witnesses, which serves as reinforcement for the lawsuit reported to the authorities. The author describes the perpetrator as the object and the woman as the victim through a lawsuit filed by the victim regarding rape and sexual abuse. Meanwhile, the position of the reader who wants to be elevated is that of the female reader.</p>

Through the explanation of the research results above, it is stated that CNN Indonesia news writers portray women in the text as both objects and subjects. Women can present themselves or describe events that happen to them, allowing the truth presented by the media to be told from the woman's perspective. Furthermore, based on the analysis conducted on CNN Indonesia's online news portal, it shows that CNN Indonesia media has made women a priority in the news text. CNN Indonesia, through its news, some still place women as objects and the author's desire to position himself from a male perspective. Women have the opportunity to explain or describe the events that occur from their point of view, including the details, processes, and consequences of the violence and sexual harassment they experience. CNN Indonesia's discourse on violence and sexual harassment against women contains resistance by women.

Mills (via Widiyaningrum, 2021) suggests that three strategies are used to portray victims of violence in CNN Indonesia news texts, namely character, focalisation, and schemata. In this case, the character's nature is something that is formed. The character that appears in the CNN Indonesia online news text is described as a weak character. Meanwhile, the character portrayed by men becomes a strong, dominating figure and sees women more as objects of sexuality. In general, CNN Indonesia's online media coverage suggests that the priority of news texts is the same between men and women in speaking for themselves. In terms of focalisation, the news text raises the view that violence and sexual harassment are actions that have reasons and are carried out because of the natural basis of men's sexual needs that are vented on women (victims).

The last strategy is Schemata, which is a cultural image. In the news text, CNN Indonesia describes the artistic image of a patriarchal woman in general. Kate Millet (via Widiyaningrum, 2021) in her book entitled *Sexual Politics* (1970) states that patriarchy is a source of oppression against women. Patriarchy positions women lower than men. The news contained in the CNN Indonesia news text contains violence and harassment against women. In the preparation of sentences, the selection of diction or good language is used in the title and content of the news text.

## Conclusion

By the results of the discussion, the news text contained on CNN Indonesia places a woman as an object, because, according to the events experienced by the victim, it is not told directly, but told by other people. In the news conveyed, it can be concluded that women are seen as weak and powerless beings. The Sara Mills model emphasises the equality of genders, which should not distinguish between women and men. Until now, there are still many men who use violence to harass women. With this, it is appropriate if the media is more in favour of women as victims of violence and sexual harassment, because as a result of this, the victim will feel shame and deep psychological trauma. The delivery of the news must have a balance towards the events of violence and harassment committed by men against women.

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