

## THE PORTRAYAL OF INDONESIAN WOMEN IN ONLINE NEWS

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### ABSTRACT

*Domestic violence is still on going in the daily life. It is such a part of life which should be face all the time, especially for every women. It is usually happened through the spouse in the private sphere, home. However, every women has to suffer the domestic violence such as persecution and molestation that generate a devastating impact on herself. Women attempt to reveal the hurt to public: the others or media. Therefore, the study focused on how women as domestic violence victim presented by online media, online news: Detik.com, Liputan6.com, and Tribunnews.com. The data analysed by using framing analysis by Robert Entmant: problem identification, diagnoses causes, make moral judgement, and solution. The result shows that online news tends to show off the women empower under its own ideology by arising the issue to the public in contrast keeping the women's inferior status: powerless, marginal, and subordinated.*

**Field of Research:** *domestic violence, patriarchy, online news.*

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### 1. Introduction

In Indonesia, domestic violence seems a “soft” crime. It is not reported by the authorized party and occurred in the private sphere, like home. According to the Annual Report of National Commission on Violence against Women in 2018, the number of cases and victims of domestic violence increases every year. There were 348,446 cases of violence against women reported and handled during 2017: consisting of 335,062 cases based on case / case data handled by the Religious Courts, as well as 13,384 cases handled by 237 service provider partners, spread in 34 provinces. Religion Court (PA) also noted that there were 335,062 case of violence against wives which lead to divorce, while of the 13,384 cases that came from service provider partners, occurred in the private / personal domain about 71% or 9,609 cases. Unfortunately, in the private / personal sphere, the highest percentage was physical violence 41% (3,982 cases), followed by sexual violence 31% (2,979 cases), psychological violence 15% (1,404 cases), and economic violence 13% (1,244 cases). On other words, the increasing of domestic violence victims indicates that the household is not convinced to be a great place providing a sense of comfort and love. It is the most dangerous place for women regarding the vulnerability of domestic violence: a place for persecution and torture (Matsui, 2002).

Domestic violence appears a big dilemma for women to avoid or escape from her husband in the event she gets hurt. The previous studies noted some reasons why women prefers boldly holding on the domestic violence to leaving her husband: women has a lack of support

which never truly understands herself (Subono, 2000). For women, the domestic violence is her own business: personal affairs. However, the understanding of domestic violence as a personal or private sphere should be transformed: private to public since it looks like an iceberg phenomenon: only a few of case appears on the surface. Women tends to keep silent and shut herself up. Women is unwilling to tell the others in the event women will be mocked by the surroundings or worry about her husband's threat. On the other hand, women asked to speak her experience up regarding what she experienced and felt, the worries, the anxiety, and so forth. Women can also report to the authorized party to gain some protection. Or, women has an intention to go public through the media.

Media tends to come the domestic violence up in Indonesia. It presents the domestic violence through the criminal programme playing particular scene related to criminal acts. For instance, *Sergap*, the criminal news programme of television plays in every Monday to Saturday reporting the latest criminal news including the domestic violence. Meanwhile, the online news incessantly broadcasts the news of the domestic violence happened in remote areas. It completely elaborates the chronological of violence, draws the feelings of the perpetrator and victim, and performs the authority's action. Based on the background above, the study proposes the following research problem: how online media presenting the domestic violence victim, mainly the woman in online news.

## 2. Domestic Violence

Domestic violence is stipulated by the Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 23 of 2004, as every act against a person, especially women, resulting in the emergence of misery or suffering physically, sexually, psychologically, and/or neglecting the household including threats to commit acts, coercion, or deprivation of liberty unlawfully within the household. It depicts a pattern of abusive behaviour in any relationship used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner: one partner is dominated and controlled through physical or psychological means (Oluremi, 2015; Awang & Hariharan, 2011). So, it could be happened through all types of partners, whether they are heterosexual, gay, lesbian; living together, separated or dating and encompasses all genders, races, ages, and sexual orientations.

Domestic violence can be distinguished into physical and non-physical abuse. The physical abuse shows any behaviour in which the body of the perpetrator intentionally affects the body of another person causing the risk for the latter to be physically harmed, such as kicking, biting, threatening with knives or other weapons, and sexual abuse. Meanwhile, psychological abuse is not only negative verbal communication as found in many couples but it also controls the victim and limits her free will. It includes isolation of the victim, induced disability due to exhaustion, weakening or incapacitation, humiliation, outrage and offenses, confiscation of money, forbidding or forcing another to work (Jura & Bukaliya, 2015; Flury, et al, 2010).

The root of domestic violence is the low self-esteem of the perpetrator who is dominated by the men against women. Poerwandari in Subono (2000) believed that the perpetrator feels unable to achieve or have masculine stereotypes, the nature of men in general, such as men must be rulers, decision makers, number one, and so forth. The perpetrator tends to construct his defence mechanism through domestic violence, to overcome his feelings of powerlessness. In brief, domestic violence is more common when husband is in a lower position than women: the education, working positions, and income or even unemployed.

### 3. Patriarchy

Patriarchy closely deals with domestic violence. Ayu in Subono (2000) explained that domestic violence relates to patriarchal countries where the politic is dominated and controlled by men: Indonesia. It built up a set of structured and institutionalized social relation in which men is powerful: dominate, oppress and exploit women (Walby in Stark, 2016). It establishes the privilege and higher position for men: as superior, transcendent, and ordinary men. It attempts to distinguish a women as an object and the second class. Women seems unable to do anything. Women has limitless in motion and space. Women is also marginalized based on her role in society: women as a powerless, marginal, and subordinated: to be protected.

It brings such stereotype out and bears women an inferior status: women is powerless (Bui & Morash, 1999). In Indonesia, women entirely respect to the husband, obey his orders, and satisfy his desires. Women has to be a good mother being capable in taking care of children. Women prefer staying at home to working in the office. Women controlled and monitored in a holistic manner with regard to the socialization, work, morality, well-being, and obedience to the law (Stark, 2016). Unfortunately, when women has to be the victim, women still blamed as the cause of domestic violence: victim-blaming. Women seems to disobey to husband and deserves the violence. It provides the unfavourable situation for women. Women gets injured, heart-feeling, need some helps, however, women attempts to keep her strength. Women is unwilling to disclose the experience for fear of bringing shame to their families and communities or of reinforcing stereotypes. Women prefers to suffering in silent regarding the women inferior status.

### 4. Online News

Online news encompasses reliable and actual information. Online news presents the news through the teasers, video, and table of contents which encourages the readers to be more active and selective. In this case, online news is used as a research medium for more information on issues that one was interested in beforehand: the readers are particularly likely to pursue their own interests, and they are less likely to follow the cues of news editors and producers (Waal, et al, 2005). It provides audiences with increased choice options and even allowing them to participate in the production of information. Then, it encouraged to share their control of news presentation with the audience by allowing increased communication among readers, promoting back-and-forth conversations between newsroom personnel and the audience, and providing opportunities for personalized journalism. It means that online newspapers seek to educate the online audiences about how to use various interactive features on their sites and also make efforts to build their reputation for credible news (Chung, 2008). In short, online news accepted and assumed as more credible than the traditional counterparts regarding the credibility of online information proven through the public rating on online news is similarly to other media (Cassidy, 2007).

Online news is widely proposed for the middle class. It can be seen through the content which generally commercial. Benson and friends (2012) found that online news seems to be heavy in commercial content and news, and so light in opinion and deliberation and “lighter” (more sports, weather, leisure, etc.) and slightly more “sensationalistic”. In addition, Dragomir and Thompson (2014) believed that online news is already issued under a set of growing of laws and regulatory rules through appealing the agenda for particular countries. Unfortunately, it is mostly related to defamation, discrimination, or incitement to violence or hatred in a line with the emergence of online news services fosters plurality in the overall news landscape but has not usually led to a

more diverse or higher-quality news offer. It profoundly instigates the readers thought and reinforces their political preferences (Ardevol, et. al, 2017).

## **5. Theoretical Framework**

This study attempted to portray the domestic violence victim through online news. Women, as the victim, keeps silent and endures the suffering for long. Women also confronts the anxiety, worry, or others mental disorders by herself. Women tends to be introvert and stays away from the social environment. However, women persists and defends the household either because of love, shame, or for the sake of children. Thus, this study aimed to analyse the portrayal of women as the violence victim presented by media, mainly online news. It consists of many texts and has particular meaning to produce the reliable information for audience. It attempts to present the sensational information to be noticed and spotlight by the audience. In short, what media do to domestic violence is to interpret, understand and frame the violence.

This study focused on how media frame the violence victim: narrative the chronological of violence, capture women's struggle and defence, and represent women's grief and sorrow. All of these can be analysed through utilizing analysis framing. Analysing framing deals with determining specific parts, pointing pertinent issue, and exaggerating the narrative. Entman pointed two main ideas on framing: selective issue and execution of issue. The selective issue relates to the election of reality or fact: only the "appropriate" fact that will be picked up by the journalists. Then, the "appropriate" fact should flawlessly be covered in execution process. It depends on employing of certain words, sentences, images, and videos distributed to public. Therefore, the researcher would see in depth how the online media produce news text on the media.

## **6. Methodology**

The researcher employed a qualitative approach. It utilizes text and images emphasizing the behaviour and specific attitudes of research object (Creswell, 2015). The researcher used the qualitative approach since the data collected and generated later in the form of written, later would be viewed as a whole and thorough Detik.com, Kompas.com and Tribunnews.com when making news about the domestic violence. Then, the researcher applied the analysis of Entman Framing to see and analyse how these three online media presents news about the domestic violence and then make it into a news.

Entman framing analysis is also used to see the suppression of delivery criteria and presentation of what editor or journalist uses in constructing the events, framing the news and then present it, so that the news presented becomes more noticeable, meaningful and impressed the reader. This model divides into four ways, namely; 1. Define problem (defining problem), which is an event seen as what and with what positive or negative value. 2. Diagnose Causes (estimating problems or sources of problems), namely who is considered the cause of the problem. 3. Make Moral Judgment (making moral decisions), which is an assessment of the cause of the problem. 4. Treatment Recommendation (emphasizing completion), namely offering a way of handling problems and sometimes predicting the results (Eriyanto, 2012).

The data used by the researcher were the online news about domestic violence. In this case, the researcher determined the same issue of domestic violence, such as astonishing news. The issue is about the man who committed domestic violence to his wife and he uploaded the video presenting how he mistreats his wife. The issue was a viral news which written by media. The

researcher took the issue written by online media: Detik.com, Tribunnews.com, and Kompas.com published on July, 2018. After the data has been collected, the researcher conduct to define the problem use as a frame to see an event on the first sight. Then, look for the cause of the problem by determining what and who the actor behind the news. Furthermore, moral decisions will be made to explain the values on the news, then come into the final stage of what should be taken and put forward to solve problem thoroughly. Finally, the result presented through into certain table accordance with Entman framing analysis.

**7. Finding & Discussion**

Media is a disseminator in the form of a news event or reality that occurred to the audience, including the mass media and online media (Anggraeni, 2018). It attempts to construct the audience attitudes and behaviour through the delivered information. The information definitely has an influence in making the opinion: accept or deny the issue. It becomes the sole purpose why a media construct a reality. Detik.com, Kompas.com, and Tribunnews.com published the news relating to the viral domestic violence issues because of the uploaded video violence by the perpetrator. In this case, both of them published the current issue under its own ideology. They tend to raise the issue from some perspective. For example, Detik.com performed the issued by interviewing the husband, so the news would focus to the perpetrator. The others asked and focused on the wife as the victim and the authorized party, the police. Both of them attempted to provide the distinct information and construct diverse public opinion through the audience. However, both of them have their own way and purpose through the domestic violence issue.

**a. Domestic Violence Women in Detik.com**

Title: Usai Lakukan KDRT, Pria di Depok Sebar Video saat Istri Digunduli  
 Website: <https://news.detik.com/berita/4133449/usai-lakukan-kdrt-pria-di-depok-sebar-video-saat-istri-digunduli>  
 Accessed date: 22 October 2018

Element Framing	Finding(s)
<b>Problem Identification</b>	The husband recorded and distributed the video while he committed violence to his wife.
<b>Diagnoses Causes</b>	The husband got heart feeling and jealous in the event the wife has an affair to the other guy.
<b>Make moral judgement</b>	The activities violence: shaving and defoliating the wife, and uploading the video should be punished under the applicable law.
<b>Solution</b>	The husband arrested and sentenced to years in prison.

*Table 1.1 Analysis Framing Detik.com*

Detik.com written the news regarding the spread of videos recorded by violence. Detik.com provided detail information about what the perpetrator has done to his wife, the reason why the perpetrator committed the violence, how the perpetrator responded to the incident, and what the solution or way out of the domestic violence. Detik.com focused on the perpetrator and the authority party as news sources. The perpetrator considered as the main actor in domestic violence, so it was important for Detik.com to highlight him as sources of information. Moreover, the authority party performing an active role in handling cases of domestic violence. Based on the news written by Detik.com, the presence or portrayal of women as victims was hidden. There is no

significant information about the victims, such as the physical and mental condition of the victim, the feelings of the victims after the violence, whether the victims defence against the perpetrators, and so on. In this case, the victim was not the main focus and important to be told. Victim portrayed as passive women. Detik.com focused on the perpetrators. It could be seen through always positioning the perpetrator as the subject at the beginning of each sentence, carrying out an action to the victim, and utilizing active verbs: “PH **membawa** istrinya dan anaknya ke dekat rumah pria yang dituduh berselingkuh dengan istrinya. Di situ, PH **menempeleng** istrinya.” In addition, the police demonstrated a positive respond to the issue. To solve the issue, the police arrested the perpetrator and sentenced him to ten years in prison under Article 43 of Law No. 23 of 2004 concerning Domestic Violence.

**b. Domestic Violence Women in Kompas.com**

Tittle: Polisi Tangkap Suami yang Lakukan KDRT kepada Istrinya di Depok  
 Website:<https://megapolitan.kompas.com/read/2018/07/25/17032551/polisi-tangkap-suami-yang-lakukan-kdrt-kepada-istrinya-di-depok>  
 Accessed date: 22 October 2018

Element Framing	Finding(s)
<b>Problem Identification</b>	<b>The police arrested the perpetrator of domestic violence.</b>
<b>Diagnoses Causes</b>	<b>The viral domestic violence on social media.</b>
<b>Make moral judgement</b>	<b>The police is capable handling the domestic violence issue.</b>
<b>Solution</b>	<b>The police arrested the perpetrator, took him to the police station and conducted an examination.</b>

Table 1.2 Analysis Framing Kompas.com

Kompas.com explained clearly the steps taken by the police in handling the domestic violence issue. Nevertheless, these steps interpreted as a solution given by the police to solve the issue. In this case, the police has not shown specific treatment for the victim. In addition, these steps was such a police response related to the viral video of the violence, not a concrete action on the reporting submitted by the victim. The police have the rights and power to punish the perpetrator. Kompas.com did not mentioned what the final action taken by the police regarding this issue, how the police furnished the right and security to the victims. Therefore, the focus of Kompas.com was the police.

**c. Domestic Violence Women in Tribunnews.com**

Tittle: Di Kantor Polisi, PH Mengakui Perbuatannya Aniaya Istri Lantaran Curiga Selingkuh  
 Website:<http://www.tribunnews.com/metropolitan/2018/07/25/di-kantor-polisi-ph-mengakui-perbuatannya-aniaya-istri-lantaran-curiga-selingkuh>  
 Accessed date: 22 October 2018

Element Framing	Finding(s)
Problem Identification	The husband recognized the violence against his wife.
Diagnoses Causes	Because of the jealous.
Make moral judgement	The perpetrator has to admit his crime.
Solution	Carry out an investigation

*Table 1.3 Analysis Framing Tribunnews.com*

Tribunnews.com mentioned all the participants related to the violence: perpetrator, victim and authority party. Tribunnews.com noted the acknowledgment of the perpetrator, performed the victim's efforts or resistance through recorded report by the police, and determined the police's solution. In this case, the police succeeded in carrying out an examination of the perpetrators of violence. The acknowledgment of the perpetrator related to the violence as if as the final goal of the settlement of the issue considering that the victim had previously reported to the authorities first. Nevertheless, tribunnews.com has a particular object became its focus of the issue. Tribunnews.com attempted to accentuate the power or strength of the police and perpetrators. It could be seen from how the police resolved the case: simply investigating the perpetrators and tending to ignore reports from victims.

Unfortunately, the issue of domestic violence continues to occur and being increasingly alarming. The perpetrator's behaviour tends to be braver going to the public, such as uploading a video of the violence. It certainly makes women worse and marginalized by society. The arrests and inspections conducted by the police also do not make a significant contribution to women. It only presents the police's duties and responsibilities that the majority of police are men who have the power and the right to treat women in accordance with the inferior status. It also happened through the online media related to the issue of domestic violence. The media provides accurate information based on its interests. The same issues of violence can be different story, and also how to present it. Both of media attempted to highlight different objects: Detik.com focused on the actors, Kompas.com highlighted the police, and Tribunnews.com tried to bring women in, but the police and perpetrators were more dominant. In the end, both of them showed the similarity in describing or constructing women in society. The news consists of such matters relating to the power and strength of certain people: prioritizing those who have interests, and the opportunity to corner the weak and marginalized.

## 8. Conclusion and Future Recommendation

Based on the news, online media still applies patriarchal culture and the status of women in constructing the audience. Women are always passive, weak, and always subject to work. In addition, women are brought up in the news just to freeze the statement of the authorities and provide confirmation regarding the perpetrator's confession. The actions of women featured in the news are limited to acts of reporting victims recorded by the police. Unfortunately, the victim's reporting effort did not get a good response from the police. The police took action on the report after the violent video was viral on social media. Thus, online media tend to side with those who have power or power and prefer them as the main ingredient in the news: a man, a police officer. This also reinforces patriarchal culture and inferior status in women: weak, marginal, and subordinated.

The results of this study indicate that the description of Indonesian women as the weakest beings is still inherent and potentially constructed to the community. The culture of patriarchy and stereotypes against women is still strong. Even online media with its limitations in presenting information tend to regard and display women as weak and powerless. The results of this study are expected to open the view for other students to conduct in-depth research on the same topic, women as victims of domestic violence with data sources or other media. Moreover, the researcher realizes the weaknesses of this study in terms of the data variation analysed. This lack of additional input for the future researches to be better.

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