

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background

Globalization and digitalization have accelerated the spread of information. People can learn about what is going on in different parts of the world without having to physically attend the event. This is undoubtedly advantageous because information and expertise appear to be timeless. However, on the other hand, critical thinking is required every time news or information is received because there is an ideology in news or discourse that stems from the creator's understanding and beliefs (van Dijk, 2006). The authors's ideology is visible in the way they construct a text, such as the choice of vocabulary as well as the text's structure. It is possible that news that should be unbiased and impartial will become provocative and discriminatory, either tacitly or explicitly.

In recent years, the topic of women and feminism has become a delectable topic. Byerly and Ross (2006) stated that news and articles about women have increased over the past three decades. However, this cannot be considered a good thing when women are frequently featured in the press as victims of crimes, particularly sexual assaults. According to Allan (as referenced by Byerly and Ross, 2006), news regarding sexual crimes committed by men against women has been consistently reported in the popular media since the nineteenth century. Things like

this therefore indirectly mainstream the idea that women are weak, that they are subservient to males.

In the Indonesian context, the elimination of the Sexual Violence Bill (PKS Bill) is one of the reasons why women and feminism are such hot issues. It began with a sense of unease about the threat of sexual offenses that women face on a daily basis. How victims of crime accept unfairness in terms of legal and societal norms, given that the system is ineffective in dealing with cases and society is judgmental. Furthermore, the media present as if it is throwing gasoline on the flames because of the way it portrays women or victims who appear to be prejudiced, marginalized, and even underrepresented which may lead the readers to think the same way. Helen Benedict (as cited from Byerly, et.al 2006) found women, despite being a victim of an assault, are often blamed for their “provocative” behavior or appearance. Meanwhile, men are understood as not being able to help their biological urges.

According to the reasoning above, how women are represented in the media is essential because the media may shape public perception of women. According to Van Dijk (2006), the author of discourse has an ideology that reveals itself in the way the discourse is composed. How the producers depict women, the diction, and even the language employed all have an impact on how readers perceive women. As a result, a Critical Discourse Analysis is required to perform an in-depth research on this subject.

Several researchers, including Fairclough, van Dijk, van Leeuwen, and others, have advocated different techniques to conduct Critical Discourse Analysis. However, when it comes to women and their representation, Sara Mills' Feminist Stylistic approach is suitable to utilize. Feminist Stylistic analysis is one in which women are the main focus. When employing Feminist stylistics, three levels of analysis must be performed: analysis at the word level, phrase/sentence level analysis, and discourse-level analysis. Sara Mills' feminist stylistics merged literary and linguistic theories by drawing on feminist stylistics theory to interpret and analyze its textual language in order to answer questions about women's representations and feminism (Kristina & Ramadona, 2019).

Several researchers have conducted numerous studies on how women are represented in a discourse (Shinta, 2018; Hardiyanti, et.al, 2018; Susilo, 2018; Aswar, et.al, 2020, Puteri, et.al, 2020; Urbano, et.al, 2021, Widiyaningrum, et.al, 2021; Ahmed, et.al, 2022). The study's findings vary. Several of them discovered that women are still marginalized, being labeled as weak, impotent, and helpless (Aswar, et.al, 2021; Puteri, et.al, 2020; Widiyaningrum, et.al, 2021; Susilo, 2018). According to Susilo (2018), there is gender disparity and gender bias in news reports, which results in women being described as subordinate to men. However, the studies cited only focus on one sort of news media, which is general news sites. Meanwhile, if the representation is made by the same gender, it is possible that the representation will be different. Some studies, for example, discovered that women in women-produced media are portrayed as strong and autonomous (Shinta, 2018; Urbano, et.al, 2021). On the contrary, Hardiyanti et al. (2018) discovered that

women in a novel, even if authored by a female author, are still discriminated against and marginalized. As a result, more research is needed to determine whether or not the producers influence the representation of women in the media. Therefore, this study is conducted to focus more on how women are represented in rape news published on two distinct news sites, a general news site, and a women's news site.

Furthermore, Sara Mills' three levels of analysis were not used in the majority of the studies described above. Several studies have merely examined the level of words and phrases, whereas discourse analysis has gone unnoticed. Meanwhile, discourse analysis is crucial to connect the ideology in the discourse to the social context in the society.

Considering the above phenomena, the researcher has decided to do a study on women's representation in rape news published on two distinct news sites with the following objectives.

### **B. Research Objectives**

The objectives of the study are to uncover the representation of women in rape news published by “The Cut” and “BBC” formatted as follows.

1. To analyze how women are represented linguistically in rape news published on two distinct news sites.
2. To discover the influence of producers in the representation of women in the media.

### **C. Research Questions**

Based on the research gaps and objectives, this research will analyze two news reports taken from The Cut and BBC about rape cases using the Feminist Stylistic approach by Sara Mills. Therefore, the research questions are:

1. How are women linguistically represented in rape news published in women and general news sites?
2. How do producers influence the representation of women in the media?

### **D. Research Significances**

Bearing in mind the dynamics of the study on representation of women in rape news published in two distinct news sites, this research is expected to provide benefits for various sectors.

1. This study is hopefully beneficial to offer a new perspective on applied linguistic research by analyzing the representation of women in two distinct news sites, in this case, women and general news sites.
2. Next, this research will serve as an example of critical discourse analysis using a Feminist Stylistic approach.

### **E. Research Limitations**

This research focuses on Critical Discourse Analysis and Feminist stylistics to investigate the representation of women in two distinct news sites. Apart from

Sara Mills' CDA of Feminist Stylistic, no other approaches are used in this research. Furthermore, this research examines rape cases from two different news reports published on two different news websites, The Cut and BBC. Lastly, this research only discusses the portrayal of women in the text as linguistic evidence to reveal the authors' ideologies toward the issue of rape. Therefore, other aspects of CDA are open to exploration by other researchers.

