

---

**RESEARCH ARTICLE**

## News Discourse Analysis of Sexual Violence Causing Women to Commit Suicide in Online Media

Agustina Haryani Putri<sup>1</sup> ✉ and Tadkiroatun Musfiroh<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Master Study Program Faculty of Languages and Arts, Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta, Indonesia

<sup>2</sup>Lecturer of the Master's Program Faculty of Languages and Arts, Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta, Indonesia

**Corresponding Author:** Agustina Haryani Putri, **E-mail:** [agustinaharyani.2021@student.uny.ac.id](mailto:agustinaharyani.2021@student.uny.ac.id)

---

**ABSTRACT**

The study discusses cases of sexual violence causing women to commit suicide in online media news discourse based on Sara Mills's perspective. This research uses a descriptive qualitative approach. The research data is in the form of linguistic units in news discourse on sexual violence in online media. The source of the research data is several online media that discuss the discourse of news of sexual violence to the point of causing victims to commit suicide. The collection of research data is started by reading news discourses related to research topics. Recorded data was found from reading the discourse on sexual violence news in online media. Next was constructing data, reducing data, and validating data. The results of the analysis of the four discourses on news of sexual violence that cause victims of suicide in online media show that the author and the authorities as subjects who tell, the perpetrator and the victim are shown as objects told in each of the news discourses. The reader's position on news discourse 1 and news discourse 2 is shown partiality to the victim. The reader's position on news discourse 3 and news discourse 4 is not clearly displayed, so the author can identify for himself the position in the news discourse. In addition, it was found that some linguistic units contain certain meanings that are needed in research.

**KEYWORDS**

Sexual Violence, Women, Suicide, Sara Mills

**ARTICLE INFORMATION**

**ACCEPTED:** 27 October 2022

**PUBLISHED:** 07 November 2022

**DOI:** 10.32996/ijllt.2022.5.11.12

---

**1. Introduction**

The phenomenon of violence against women has become a national problem as a form of violation of human rights (HAM). Komnas Perempuan divides forms of violence against women into several domains, including the private, community, and state domains. Komnas Perempuan data in 2021 recorded a high number of violence against women in the personal sphere, namely physical violence 2,025 cases, sexual violence 1,938 cases, violence psychic 1,792 cases, and economic violence 680 cases. (<https://komnasperempuan.go.id/catatan-tahunan-detail/catahu-2021-perempuan-dalam-himpitan-pandemi-lonjakan-kekerasan-seksual-kekerasan-siber-perkawinan-anak-dan-keterbatasan-penanganan-di-tengah-covid-19>).

Muhajarah (2016: 132) suggests that a form of physical violence is the act of hitting, pushing, grabbing, and slapping a person's body. Psychic violence is an act outside the physical, such as threats, berating, and intimidation. Economic violence is one of the actions to control a person's income and expenses excessively. Cases of sexual violence or *sexual abuse* are forms of violence on the basis of coercion committed by a person or certain group to women. Coercion to women to have intercourse, coercion into prostitutes, and inserting rough objects on the female genitals.

One of the cases of sexual violence against women was experienced by Brawijaya students in 2021 in Mojokerto, causing suicide. The case of a female student's death due to sexual violence was identified from a letter written by the victim before she died.

**Copyright:** © 2022 the Author(s). This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC-BY) 4.0 license (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>). Published by Al-Kindi Centre for Research and Development, London, United Kingdom.

Based on the letter explains the background of the victim choosing to end her life because of depression due to the sexual violence experienced by the victim.

It's For Mama.

I intend to leave the house with two cyanides that I plan to drink with a *red velvet* variant drink. I will drink in the Paragliding area. If I die, I will be mistaken for an accident. Before I drink it, I want to send this to mama. But today I saw my mama cooking rawon alone because my maid was sick. Mama cooking while crying maybe missed papa, jg mesee my condition which is like a bunch of flesh without a soul. After that, mama came to the room to feed me a meal. And offer me if I want to walk and buy something? I just kept quiet. But my heart hurts so much. It hurts with my condition, and it hurts to see my mama. Mama Ikhlasin me ya Ma. I'm already tired and not strong. I freak out to myself every day. Thank you for everything Mama did for me. I'm sorry too. Thank you, mama.

I love Mama.

An above case is a form of sexual violence in the personal sphere experienced by women. Cases of sexual violence need to get the attention of all relevant communities and institutions. The impact caused by sexual violence is not only physical, mental, and psychological. Cases of sexual violence are one of the factors driving women to commit suicide (Wahid, 2021: 17).

Cases of sexual violence have become a popular news discourse in various online media and have their own charm for readers. Therefore, the news discourse of sexual violence cases in online media is exaggeratedly reported. News discourse in online media that informs related to cases of sexual violence against women actually produces violence itself through the choice of language, diction, and sentences used. Discussing cases of sexual violence in online media, we need to dig deeper into the construction caused by the discourse of sexual violence news. Critical discourse analysis of Sara Mills' perspective is considered effective for analyzing the discourse of women's violence news in online media.

A critical discourse analysis of Sara Mills' perspective aims to see how women's positions are placed in news discourse. The position is divided into the subject of the narrator, the object of the narrator, and the position of the reader. If the female puts the position of the subject, then it can convey the circumstances directly. However, if the woman is in the position of the object is not given the quarter to speak in person. This situation causes errors and prejudices regarding the ongoing sexual violence case (Masito, 2020: 74).

Sara Mills (2005: 63) states that the above circumstances include linguistic determination. The role of language determines how society perceives the world since language is capable of producing new perceptions in society. Linguistic determination, in the context of feminism, can occur through societal prejudices and assumptions toward women. For example, women are victims of rape, and women are considered wrong in the case of inflaming the opposite sex.

Sara Mills' perspective is not only limited to the structure of language; it is also contexts outside of language that influences description and interpretation. Sara Mills' perspective is not only concerned with describing sexism in discourse but also analyzing how viewpoints, agencies, metaphors, or transitivity unexpectedly relate to women's issues, to find out whether the practice of women can be explained, and so on (Sara Mills, 2005: 124). Research into the discourse of sexual violence to the point of causing suicide in online media uses the perspective of Sara Mills.

News discourse research using Sara Mills' perspective has been carried out several times before, such as *Sara Mills' discourse analysis of women's violence in the household study of Kumparan media reporting* (Abdullah, 2019), *Sara Mills' model in the discourse analysis of gender roles and relations, a discourse analysis of cases of sexual harassment against women on online news in the perspective of Sara Mills analysis* (Zamzuardi, 2019). The difference between the discourse research on sexual violence that causes women to commit suicide with previous studies lies in the object and source of research data. This research also not only focuses on how the position of the subject, object, and the role of the reader but also the use of linguistic units present in news discourse. Therefore, this study aims to describe the content of news discourse on sexual violence cases to cause victims to commit suicide.

## **2. Method**

Research on news discourse on sexual violence causes suicide using a descriptive qualitative approach. The research data is in the form of linguistic units in news discourse on sexual violence in online media. The source of the research data is several online media that discuss the news discourse chronology of rape that made the victim commit suicide due to depression, gadis sixteen years of hanging himself allegedly depressed raped satpam, Novia committed suicide in the tomb ayahnya allegedly experienced sexual violence by members of the police, and Syok, an accomplished female student in the UK committed suicide after sexual harassment.

The collection of research data is started by reading news discourses related to research topics. Record data found from reading the discourse on sexual violence news in online media. Next, constructing data, reducing data, and validating data.

### 3. Results and Discussion

Level	What you want to see
Subject Position – Object	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The results of the news discourse analysis "16-Year-Old Girl Hanged Herself, Suspected of Depression Raped by Security Guards," published on Wednesday, March 29, 2020 (Tempo.com, 2020), based on the perspective of Sara Mills explaining the author as a subject and a woman (victim) as an object told in news discourse.</li> <li>2. The results of the news discourse analysis "Chronology of Rape that Makes Victims Commit Suicide due to Depression" were published on Wednesday, July 8, 2020 (Meilisa, 2020) based on Sara Mills' perspective explaining that the subject's position is the police and the position of the object is the perpetrator of sexual violence.</li> <li>3. The results of the analysis of the news "Novia Committed Suicide at Her Father's Grave, Allegedly Sexually Assaulted by Police Members," published on Saturday, December 4, 2021 (Wahyu, 2021), based on the perspective of Sara Mills explaining the author as a subject and the perpetrator as an object told in the discourse.</li> <li>4. The results of the analysis of the news "Shock, Outstanding Students in the UK Commit Suicide After Sexual Harassment," published on June 26, 2021 (Putri, 2021), based on the perspective of Sara Mills explaining the author as a subject and the position of women (victims) as objects told in discourse.</li> </ol>
Researcher Position – Reader	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The results of the analysis of the news "16-Year-Old Girl Hanged Herself, Allegedly Depressed Raped by Security Guards," published on Wednesday, March 29, 2020 (Tempo.com, 2020), based on Sara Mills' perspective, readers position themselves as subjects who side with victims of sexual violence.</li> <li>2. The results of the analysis of the news "Chronology of Rapes That Make Victims Commit Suicide due to Depression," published on Wednesday, July 8, 2020 (Meilisa, 2020), based on Sara Mills' perspective, readers position themselves as subjects who side with victims of sexual violence.</li> <li>3. The results of the analysis of the news "Novia Committed Suicide at Her Father's Grave, Allegedly Sexually Assaulted by Police Members," published on Saturday, December 4, 2021 (Wahyu, 2021), based on Sara Mills' perspective, the reader's position is not clearly described in the discourse so that the reader puts himself on one side.</li> <li>4. The results of the analysis of the news "Shock, Outstanding Students in the UK Commit Suicide After Sexual Harassment," published on June 26, 2021 (Putri, 2021), based on Sara Mills' perspective, the reader's position is not explained directly in the wcan so that the reader puts himself on one particular party.</li> </ol>

Sara Mills (2001: 86) suggests that discourse theory has proven useful for describing the structure of language and the context of language related to sexual violence against women in news discourse. Of the many discourse analysis models that have developed to date, the Sara Mills model is a discourse analysis model that focuses on news discourse on gender injustice, including violence in it. Sara Mills considers that representation is the most important part of her analysis. How each person, class, or idea and gagasan is raised in a certain way in a discourse that affects the meaning of ethics is accepted by the audience.

Eriyanto (2001: 200) posits that in the realm of her model of analysis, Sara Mills looks more at how the positions of actors are displayed in news discourse. The positions in question are who puts the position as the subject of the narrator and the object being told. This position will affect the structure and meaning of the news discourse as a whole. In addition, Sara Mills also pays attention to how readers and writers are displayed in news discourse.

Discussion of news discourse in online media related to suicides that occur in women due to sexual violence entitled chronology of rape that made korban commit suicide due to depression, gadis sixteen years of hanging himself, d iduga depression was raped

by a security guard, Novia committed suicide at her father's meal allegedly experienced sexual violence by police officers and Syok, an outstanding female student in England committed suicide after sexual abuse. Based on the approach to critical discourse analysis, the Sara Mills model explained the position of the subject, the object, and how the position of the reader is displayed in the discourse, as well as the use of linguistic units that appear in news discourse.

The first discourse, entitled "16-Year-Old Girl Hanged Herself, Allegedly Depressed Raped by Security Guard," was published on Wednesday, March 29, 2020 (Tempo.com, 2020). The title describes the content as a whole. Kata, "16-year-old girl" in the Big Dictionary of Indonesian, is a girl who is already in her teens, unmarried, and still a virgin. When associated with the gender context, the word girl is described as a young woman who has an attraction or object of sexuality.

The word "Security Guard" is related to a person's profession or job. The security unit or satpam is a form of self-defense security that is in charge of helping to maintain the security and order of the community, limited to the work environment. However, when viewed from the above deeds, it is the opposite between the profession and the deeds.

The word "rape" or rape emphasizes the meaning of forced sexual intercourse. The word "depression" has the meaning of a mental health disorder characterized by a constantly depressed mood or loss of interest in activities that cause a significant decrease in the quality of daily life. People who are depressed will find it difficult to think well, which is what sometimes causes suicide.

The word "suicide" has the meaning of death committed by oneself intentionally and usually because there is a crisis that makes suffering and a sense of hopelessness and helplessness, and there is a conflict of life and stress so that the choice of a way out that the sufferer sees and to escape from it. The impetus for suicide can come from the internal and external aspects of the suicide perpetrator.

In the title above, the author wants to convey that women can commit suicide because of pressure, a sense of hopelessness, and stress, which encourages suicide. The pressure is obtained from outside the suicide perpetrator, namely rape, and questions from the journalists.

The position of women in the news is described as objects of violence. Sentences describing the position of women as objects in the news are seen in data 1.

Head of the Public Relations Division of the West Java Regional Police, Commissioner Besar Yusri Yunus, said L was a victim of a criminal act of sexual violence. He is alleged to have been raped by a security guard after being lured by money.

The above fragment of the discourse explains the object interpreted in the discourse, namely that the woman with the initials L becomes a korban raped by a security guard. At the beginning of the rape, the perpetrator of the rape promised to give money to the victim as long as he wanted to obey the perpetrator's will. Here, there is a meaning that the nature of the woman is easily influenced and promised something without thinking about the future impact.

The sentence describing that the victim committed suicide due to depression due to experiencing an act of sexual violence in the discourse can be seen in data 2.

L's body was found Tuesday, March 28, at approximately 12:00 p.m. The family found the victim had died in a dependent body state. Police, Yusri said, found no signs of violence in the victim's body. "It is suspected to be due to depression. We'll get into it," he said.

The sexual assault L experienced was sniffed by a journalist. The journalist was looking for victims to interview. Twice the journalist tried to approach the victim, including searching his school.

A fragment of the sentence above shows that the rape victim committed suicide because of depression after experiencing an act of sexual violence, and the incident that happened to him is known to the public. This incident illustrates that the impact of sexual violence is very large, and to avoid this problem, the short path taken is suicide.

The author's position in this news story is described as the subject of the narrator. The depiction of the author as a subject can be seen in data 3.

The perpetrator with the initials J, 64, has been arrested and detained at the Bandung Police Station. "The victim of depression then committed suicide," Yusri told *Tempo* Wednesday, March 29, 2020.

The words "perpetrator" and "victim" indicate the position of the author as a subject. The author explains that based on the word perpetrator as a person who commits an act of violence. A word victim is a person who has experienced a crime. In the sentence above, the words pelau and the victim indicate that it is true that there has been an act of rape.

In addition, the placement of the reader as a subject makes sexual crimes like this need to be acted upon. If the same incident occurs, the public is expected not to hesitate to report it to the authorities. In accordance with the Law on sexual violence against children is a form of human rights violation and is regulated in Law No. 35 of 2014 Article 76C states that everyone is prohibited from placing, letting, doing, ordering to do, or participating in committing acts of violence against children. The sanctions imposed on perpetrators of sexual violence are imprisonment for 5 to 15 years and a fine of Rp. 5,000,000,000 (five billion rupiah).

Facts on the ground show that the number of sexual violence against children is still very large, even though the sexual violence law has been formed. In fact, the perpetrator of sexual violence is a person recognized by the victim. This makes the cause that must be resolved not only from a legal point of view but from the closest scope, such as supervision and vigilance.

Furthermore, in the discourse of writing the name of the victim of sexual violence using the initials "L," it can be seen in the following data 4.

Bandung - L, a resident of Cimenyan, Bandung City, is desperate to commit suicide inside his house. The 16-year-old ended her life due to alleged depression after reportedly being raped by a security guard in her residential area.

The data above shows the identity of the victim with the initials "L." Basically, for instances of sexual violence, it is not appropriate to use the initials of the full name or the original initials. Victims who experience sexual violence should not be a common consumption because it will have a very bad impact. One of the factors that cause victims of depression and suicide is that journalists know that "L" is a victim of sexual abuse and want to be questioned. In addition, victims of "L," who are victims of sexual violence, depression, and suicide, are still minors.

Indonesian journalists establish and abide by article 5 of the journalistic code of ethics that journalists do not mention the identity of victims of moral crimes and do not mention the identity of children who are perpetrators of crimes.

The second news titled, "Chronology of Rape that Made Victims Commit Suicide due to Depression," was published on Wednesday, July 8, 2020 (Meilisa, 2020), showing that the perpetrator was the object being told. The paragraph in the news described that the perpetrator as an object could be seen in the following 5 data.

Truno explained that seven suspects were perpetrators of rape and another perpetrator helped with the course of the action. The suspects are MF or F (21), AR (22), J alias C (14), MZ (20), and AR (17), who are residents of Tanjung Bumi District, Bangkalan Regency. Then FR alias S (19), MR alias A (21), SA or MS (25) who are residents of Kokop District, Bangkalan Regency. The fragment of the discourse above describes the number of objects or perpetrators of rape that occurred in Kokop District, Bangkalan Regency. The perpetrators of sexual violence are eight people; in carrying out their actions, the perpetrators take turns raping the victim. One of the eight suspects is a minor. As the object told, the depiction of the perpetrator is quite clear, so the follow-up related to rape violence must be handled swiftly.

Kata "chronology" contained in the title means the science that studies an event at a certain time. Chronology is used in both criminal and noncriminal events. In the legal process, chonology is often used to find out when and exactly an event or criminal act occurred. So, it can be concluded that the content of the above discourse explains the storyline of the rape case until the victim is depressed and commits an act of suicide. The chronology of rape cases is described in the following 6 data.

Truno said this rape incident occurred on Thursday (25/6). The rape was carried out by the perpetrator in the forest in Bandang Laok Village, Kokop District, Bangkalan.

Truno explained that this incident started when the victim sedang with two male friends, namely RDS and RZ, went to a convenience store, then bought meatballs and chatted with three of them.

"After eating the meatballs, the victim, along with witnesses RZ and RDS, were about to go home, but in the middle of the journey precisely in Bungkeng Village, Tanjung Bumi District, they were blocked by seven unknown people," said Truno.

Based on the fragment of the discourse above, the chronology of the rape incident is one the linguistic evidence in the legal process. The resulting information stated that at the time of the incident, the victim was not alone. The victim was together with witnesses, namely friends of the victim whose initials were RZ and RDS. But because of threats from the perpetrator, the two witnesses left the victim without making any resistance and protecting the victim. This illustrates that no one is able to protect women on any side.

The word "rape" has the meaning of an attack in the form of forcing sexual intercourse by inserting a penis, fingers, or other objects into the victim's vagina, rectum, or mouth. Attacks are carried out not only by coercion, violence, or threats of violence. Rape also includes being preceded by subtle manipulation, containment, verbal or psychological distress, abuse of power, or taking a chance in the midst of undue situations and conditions. The above explanation is illustrated in the following fragment of discourse.

Truno added that of the seven people who tried, there was one who pulled out a sharp weapon and threatened RZ to hand over the victim.

"Of the seven people, some took out a sharp weapon that was used to threaten witness RZ to hand over the complainant because witness RZ was afraid, so they left and left the victim," Truno said.

Based on the above fragments of discourse, sexual violence experienced by victims is based on paksaan and threats from the perpetrator. The threat is contained in sentence p., issuing a sharp weapon to the witness to hand over the victim. Without fighting, the witnesses leave the victim and hand over the victim to the perpetrators.

The subject of storytelling in the discourse is the police who handle rape cases experienced by the victim. The police have secured eight perpetrators. The position of the reader as a subject who judges that this incident of sexual violence must be followed up. This opened the eyes of the public to know that perpetrators of rape are subject to multiple articles, starting from article 285 of the Criminal Code Jo article 55, paragraphs 1 to 1 of the Criminal Code, and Article 365 of the KHUP with the threat of a maximum sentence of 12 years in prison. If there are women who experience similar things, do not hesitate to report them to the authorities.

Hasil's analysis shows that there is no protection for women. Basically, women are the individuals who carry out a dual mission in community life. First, females are offspring that cannot be replaced by males. Second, women are mothers, which is one of the fundamental reasons why women should get special attention to be protected and respected for their rights. All acts of violence against women are included in criminal law.

The third news titled, "Novia Committed Suicide at Her Father's Grave, Allegedly Experienced Sexual Violence by Police Members," was published on Saturday, December 4, 2021 (Wahyu, 2021). The title of the above discourse describes a meaning that is quite deep, even unexpected.

The word "police" contained in the discourse relates to one's profession. Police mean a person in charge of maintaining security and public order (arresting people who violate the law). Based on this incident, it is the opposite between profession and deed.

The word "sexual violence" emphasizes the meaning of demeaning, insulting, harassing, and attacking a person's body and reproductive function due to the inequality of power and gender relations that result in psychic and physical suffering, including interfering with reproductive health.

This discourse depicts a female figure named Novia, a student of Universitas Brawijaya Malang who committed suicide in addition to her father's meal. The factor that caused Novia to choose to commit suicide was because he experienced sexual assault by his own girlfriend, who was a police officer by profession.

The position of the author in the discourse as the subject of the narrator is illustrated in the fragment below.

The Mojokerto Resort Police (Polres), together with the East Java Regional Police (Polda Jatim), investigated R, a policeman who was suspected of being the perpetrator of sexual violence.

The author, as a subject, tells related to the object in the news, namely the perpetrator of the sexual violence act. In the above fragment of the news discourse, there is the word perpetrator as an object, indicating that the NWS sexual violence was really committed by Randi Bagus or R.

The reader's position on the spot as an NWS victim of sexual assault by a member of the police can be seen in the data below.

The Mojokerto Police and the East Java Regional Police moved to investigate R after the suicide student case was trending on Twitter with the hashtag #SAVENOVIAWIDYASARI. Novia Widiasari is a student of Universitas Brawijaya Malang who committed suicide by drinking poison next to her father's grave in Mojokerto.

The hashtag #SaveNoviaWidyaSari was trending on the Twitter page as a form of providing support for readers of the judicial process that victims must get. In addition, it is hoped that Novi's suicide case can be thoroughly investigated regardless of the perpetrator's professional status as a member of the Indonesian National Police.

The position of the perpetrator is shown as an object told in the discourse; this is illustrated in the data below.

The Mojokerto Police, in a press statement Saturday, December 2, 2021, said that initially, Novi's suicide case was suspected to be due to depression remembering his late father. But, there is another piece of information circulating that Novi committed suicide due to forced abortion by a police officer, Randy Bagus.

The data above is a fragment of the story that explains the object being told. The objects in this news are Novia, the victim of rape, and the victim of forced abortion performed by a close friend of the victim Randi Bagus.

In addition, as a form of justice for the victim, it is hoped that the police can impose the appropriate punishment on the perpetrator regardless of the perpetrator's profession. The National Commission on Violence Against Women states that police officers who commit acts of sexual violence must be subject to strict and severe sanctions. Police officers are not only sentenced to administrative sentences but also to criminal penalties. The problem of sexual violence in the police must be viewed systematically. The police must act decisively not only in law enforcement outside the police but also inside. The power that exists inside will have implications for arbitrariness to the applicable law because the power of power will greatly affect the legal process in Indonesia.

A fragment of the discourse that shows the perpetrator's profession as a member of the police is contained in the data below.

The Mojokerto Police also confirmed that Randy Bagus is a policeman with the rank of Brigadier of Police Two Police (Bripda) and serves in the Pasuruan Police Station.

"RB [Randy Bagus] is a police officer with the rank of Bripda [Brigadier of Police Two Police] and serves in the Pasuruan Police," explained the Mojokerto Police.

The above fragment of discourse shows that the profession of the perpetrator and girlfriend of Novia Widya Sari is a member of the police with the rank of brigadier and serves in the Pasuruan Police Station. However, his profession is incompatible with the actions of the perpetrator toward the victim. RB as a perpetrator of sexual violence, asks the victim to have an abortion, and the perpetrator's family supports and does not want to be responsible for the victim. The case experienced by Novia is included in the personal realm (personal violence/courtship). Sexual violence against women in the personal sphere has been very high in a period of 10 years; there have been 6480 cases recorded. The conclusion is that there is no safest home for a woman since sexual violence can be carried out by the closest person who causes the victim trauma and has a psychic disorder.

The discourse above uses the real names of the victims and perpetrators, namely "Novia Widya Sari and Randy Bagus," as shown in the fragment of the discourse below.

The Mojokerto Police and east Java Regional Police moved to conduct an investigation into R after the suicide student case was trending on Twitter with the hashtag #SAVENOVIAWIDYASARI. Novia Widiasari is a student of Universitas Brawijaya Malang who committed suicide by drinking poison next to her father's grave in Mojokerto.

"**RB [Randy Bagus]** is a police officer with the rank of Bripda [Brigadier of Police Two Police] and serves in the Pasuruan Police," explained the Mojokerto Police.

The fourth news titled, "Shock, Outstanding Student in the UK Commits Suicide After Sexual Harassment," was published on June 26, 2021 (Putri, 2021). This news exposed the case of the death of a very outstanding student at the University of Sussex. The University of Sussex is one of the top universities strong in the field of research and is located near Brighton, and today the University of Sussex is ranked in the top 20 in the UK in almost all survey institutions in the UK. The University of Sussex uses research-based teaching methods, supported by a unique location, to broaden the perspectives of its students. Students can choose from over 500 majors in undergraduate and postgraduate courses taught by the world's leading academics, and students are invited to join a highly developed student community.

The word "female student" listed in the title has the meaning of a person who is studying in a college consisting of a high school, an academy, and the most common is a university. Female students in discourse are victims of sexual violence and as objects told in discourse.

The depiction of the victim as an object can be seen in the following data.

A doctoral student in the geography department of the University of Sussex, Josie Jolley, ended her life in September 2020.

It was done, four days after his 25th birthday, as a result of suffering from anxiety and depression.

An inquiry in Brighton and Hove City Court Coroner received testimony that Josie Jolley had experienced 'many very traumatic and difficult events to overcome.'

The data above illustrates that students who are victims of sexual violence to suicide are the objects told by the author in the news. Based on the results of the investigation, the victim committed suicide due to the anxiety and depression he suffered. The victim committed suicide four days after her 25th birthday, just on September 2020. The description of the victim's name uses the real identity of "Josie Jolley," a doctoral student in the department of geography of the University of Sussex. Josie Jolley was sexually assaulted for the first time by a supervisor in her Ph.D. education.

The explanation of the perpetrator of sexual violence against Josie Jolley above is contained in the following data.

Josie Jolley is said to have been in an 'intimate relationship' with her first supervisor in Ph.D. education that she was undergoing. The relationship became known to many at the University of Sussex and ended more than a year before he died.

The word "supervisor" is related to a person's position in the world of work. A supervisor is a position in the company that has the authority to give direction to employees or workers and control the course of a work activity to ensure that the company can be achieved according to the target set. In educational institutions, supervisors hold full roles, duties, and responsibilities to carry out educational supervision by carrying out assessments and coaching from the technical aspects of education and administration in educational units. However, the reality is the opposite of what happened.

Furthermore, the author, as a subject, interprets the news to be conveyed to the audience. As is the case in the fragment below that the author describes that the object in the storytelling is a Ph.D. student and the case he experienced and the cause.

**PEOPLE'S MINDS** – A very talented Ph.D. student chose to end her life as a result of suffering from anxiety and depression.

News discourse illustrates a perspective that weakens the position of women. Although there is already evidence that the victim's suicide factor is due to being sexually assaulted by the perpetrator and is strengthened by the testimony of friends and people who recognized the victim during his lifetime, the perpetrator did not get strict sanctions. In fact, the case of Josie Jolley was not followed up because it was considered a factor in the victim's suicide, not because of sexual violence.

The above fragment of discourse illustrates a perspective that weakens the position of women. Although there is already evidence that the victim's suicide factor is due to being sexually assaulted by the perpetrator and is strengthened by the testimony of friends and people who recognized the victim during his lifetime, the perpetrator did not get strict sanctions. In fact, the case of Josie Jolley was not followed up because it was considered a factor in the victim's suicide, not because of sexual violence.

#### **4. Conclusion**

The following are some conclusions based on the results and discussions regarding the discourse of sexual assault news in online media. In the first place, it clarifies linguistic units, which are defined as words that convey a particular meaning and are associated with the social reality that takes place. A few of the words discovered have meanings that do not fit in with the current state of affairs in the world.

Second, the object is placed on four discourses, placed by victims and perpetrators of sexual violence. The position of the subject is not only the author but also the legal apparatus as the second source of information. Thus, the above news discourse explains that not all sexual violence news discourses present the position of women as the object of being told.



The discourse on the news of sexual violence in online media explains that all victims of sexual violence are women. The impact of sexual violence occurs on women will experience excessive depression to commit suicide. The media contributes to this problem because the news discourse that is displayed contains elements of partiality to particular parties or groups. Therefore, women are portrayed as guilty victims.

**Funding:** This research received no external funding.

**Conflicts of Interest:** The authors declare no conflict of interest.

**Publisher's Note:** All claims expressed in this article are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of their affiliated organizations, or those of the publisher, the editors and the reviewers.

## References

- [1] Abdullah, S N A. (2019). Sara Mills Discourse Analysis of Domestic Violence a Study of Coil Media Coverage. *Journal of Da'wah And Communication* 4 (2): 101. <https://doi.org/10.29240/jdk.v4i2.1236>.
- [2] AO, Revelation. ( 2021). Novia Committed Suicide At Her Father's Meal, Allegedly Sexually Assaulted By Police Officers. 2021. <https://kabartrenggalek.com/2021/12/novi-bunuh-diri-diduga-alami-kekerasan-seksual-oleh-anggota-polisi.html>.
- [3] Badara, A. (2014). *Discourse Analysis: Theory, Methods, And Their Application To Media Discourse - Dr. Aris Badara, M.Hum.* [https://books.google.co.id/books?hl=id&lr=&id=gBQvDwAAQBAJ&oi=fnd&pg=PR12&dq=analisis+berita&ots=n8MPfj8kyE&sig=n1my3BAroZp3VjuM51KQcXHLbE&redir\\_esc=y#v=onepage&q=analisis+news&f=false](https://books.google.co.id/books?hl=id&lr=&id=gBQvDwAAQBAJ&oi=fnd&pg=PR12&dq=analisis+berita&ots=n8MPfj8kyE&sig=n1my3BAroZp3VjuM51KQcXHLbE&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q=analisis+news&f=false).
- [4] Eriyanto. (2001). *Discourse Analysis : An Introduction to Media Analysis*. Yogyakarta: PT LKis Printing Cemerlang.
- [5] Masito. (2020). "Approaches in Critical Discourse Analysis. *Elsa Journal* 18 (1).
- [6] Meilisa, H. (2020). A Chronology of Rapes That Led Victims to Commit Suicide Because of Depression." *SecNews*. 2020. <https://news.detik.com/berita-jawa-timur/d-5085713/kronologi-pemeriksaan-yang-membuat-korban-bunuh-diri-karena-depresi>.
- [7] Mills, S. (2001). *Discourse*. USA & Canada: Taylor & Francis e-Library.
- [8] ———. 2005. *Feminist Stylistics*. New York, London: Routledge.
- [9] Muhajarah, K (2016). "Violence Against Women In The Household. *Sawwa* 11 (2): 127–46. <https://doi.org/10.21580/sa.v11i2.1452>.
- [10] Princess, E A. (2021). Shock, High-Achieving Student In The UK Commits Suicide After Sexual Abuse." *People's Mindcom*. 2021. <https://www.pikiran-rakyat.com/internasional/pr-012119554/syok-mahasiswa-berprestasi-di-inggris-bunuh-diri-usai-pelecehan-seksual>.
- [11] Sobari, T, and Lilis F. (2012). "Sara Mills' Model In Discourse Analysis Of Gender Roles And Relations. *Semantics* 5 (1): 88–99. <http://e-journal.stkipsiliwangi.ac.id/index.php/semantik/article/view/464>.
- [12] Tempo. co. (2017.). 16-Year-Old Girl Hanged Herself, Allegedly Depressed Raped By Security Guard. 2017. [https://nasional.tempo.co/amp/860566/girl-16-years-hanging-herself-allegedly-depressed-raped-security-guard#aoh=16476967671241&referrer=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com&amp\\_tf=From%25124s](https://nasional.tempo.co/amp/860566/girl-16-years-hanging-herself-allegedly-depressed-raped-security-guard#aoh=16476967671241&referrer=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com&amp_tf=From%25124s).
- [13] Wahid, W W and Umaimah. K (2021). SARA MILLS DISCOURSE ANALYSIS ON CASES OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (*Tribunnews.Com And Tirto. Id Media Reporting Study*), no. 2: 14–32.
- [14] Zamzuardi, Y. (2019). Discourse Analysis of Sexual Harassment Cases Against Women On Online News In The Perspective Of Sara Mills Analysis. *Dialectics: Journal of Indonesian Language, Literature, and Language and Literature Education* 6 (1): 36–53. <https://doi.org/10.15408/dialektika.v6i1.9750>.