

Unmasking the frenetic guise of infidelity case among Indonesian artists on CNN News media: Critical discourse analysis

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Abstract - Infidelity cases are one of the everlasting problems for human life. It is becoming thought provoking news for reader when it occurs around celebrities' life. This study aims to investigate the infidelity case published on CNN Indonesia media in 2023, particularly of the victim's personal position and readers' responses to news texts. The data collection technique used were by reading and recording data. Data collected was analysed using Sara Mills' perspective analysis model of critical discourse analysis to investigate subject-object position and writer-reader position. The reader's position was examined in three stages: (1) the reader's position as a reader of a news text, (2) the reader's position as seeing himself/herself in a news text, and (3) the reader identifies within the group on the news text. Based on the subject-object position in the news, it was discovered that these news texts of the affair cases positioned the female victim as both subject and object, while another news text positioned the husband as the subject and the wife as the object. Accordingly, based on the subject-object position depicted on the news, the reader engagement of interesting news material increases news media ratings. The results of this study revealed that celebrity news regarding affair and infidelity cases are not only reported by journalists but disclosed privately through an Instagram account. This research shows that infidelity news in the mass media is caused and influenced by readers and perpetrators of actions themselves.

Keywords: marriage victims; infidelity cases; subject and object position; reader position; critical discourse analysis

1. Introduction

Humans become sophisticated creatures in knowledge and technological advances due to the presence of the Industrial Revolution 5.0 era. The progress within this era is expected to prevent and minimize the problems that may take place in human beings' life. Nevertheless, there are some problems that cannot be resolved by technological advances. Domestic affair and infidelity case is one of the cases that may cause disharmony in the family (Clara & Wardani, 2020; Putri, 2023). The phenomenon of real infidelity case was evidenced in the National Commission for the Protection of Women, namely Komnas Perempuan Indonesia (2017) which show record there were up to 1,298,585 divorce cases from 2012 to 2016 but there were at least 187,558 (14.46%) divorce occurred due to infidelity cases. In national marriage registration in Indonesia, the data vary from one city to another place. In 2018, in Pati Regency, for example, there were 3,462 lawsuits and 3,252 divorce cases. As for 2019, the data show that at least 2,691 recorded divorce cases were mostly caused by the infidelity factor (Deviana, 2021). In 2023, the divorce rate in Indonesia will increase, this is proven by cases of infidelity by state civil servants in the period 2020 – 2023 which recorded 172 cases (Dzulfaroh & Hardiyanto, 2023).

The infidelity already has become a social problem and consider as disease and roots on disharmonious situation within the household of the community. Infidelity is a relationship between a man and a woman without being known to a legitimate spouse that involves physical or emotional interaction and reciprocal desire, dependency, and fulfilment to each other (Jackson, 2000). The word cheating and infidelity had long been a study in social science as well as massive social diseases. Moller & Vossler (2015) argued that infidelity is an act of deceitfulness of someone who already had a partner to the binding norms of physical and emotional relationships with someone outside of their relationship. Furthermore, Nagurney and Thornton (2011) explained that there were two types of infidelity, namely infidelity with emotional relationships and infidelity with sexual activity. Emotional relationships arose when couples love or felt love by someone outside the current relationship (Whitty, 2008). This emotional relationship was not categorized as having sexual components. Although at this time, along with the growth of technology and the internet, one can accommodate emotional or sexual needs online or known as cybersex (of Commerce, 2002).

Infidelity was the main cause and arguments for divorce cases among people who have been married (Scott et al., 2013). The impact of infidelity was not only divorce, but it also caused stress that interfered with the mental health of victims (Cano & Leary, 2014). Basically, victims of infidelity in a relationship will experience various trauma after the relationship ends, such as anxiety, depression, and loss of self-confidence (Bird et al., 2007). Infidelity was a phenomenon classified as dangerous and sad, and became the case with the most difficult treatment in the therapy stage (Shrout & Weigel, 2018). The impact of the affair made this topic required a deeper exploration of various fields of science.

One of the characteristics of infidelity is to share sexual or emotional intimacy with someone in a relationship without the consent of the real partner (Bird et al., 2007; Fretes et al., 2016). There are numerous cases of infidelity that take place abroad, for example in America. The research in America about infidelity cases with a total of 90,000 samples founds that 56.8 percent of men and 55.8 percent of women had an affair of the total number of respondents (Adamopoulou, 2013). It is relatively high enough compare to Indonesian case of infidelity that only around 14 % cases.

The Australian website of Relationships made monthly online survey that was conducted in January 2018 by requesting website visitors to provide their understanding of infidelity. There were around 1,800 respondents in the same month of the online survey. The survey data reports that the majority of respondents (41% male, 58% female) answers all types of infidelity are equally dangerous (Relationships Australia, 2018). Hence, the result is in line with a study that found out men judge an affair from a sexual perspective rather than emotional perspective, while women judge infidelity from an emotional perspective rather than sexual perspective (Buss, 2000). Men and women within the scope of the affair case can be either the perpetrators or victims. Many factors can cause infidelity, one of them is popularity. Popularity in the entertainment industry holds as a double -edged knife. It means that it can bring both, virtues and unfavorable outcomes if couples cannot restrain themselves to stay faithful (Winata et al., 2023).

The domain of popularity is always attached to celebrity's personas. This study observes that many celebrities caught in an affair case are reported in various media. Popularity is proven to be a result of having a power in making a taboo thing as a reasonable thing. The case of famous female singer namely NS (Fahri et al., 2022) whom notoriously known to cheat with fellow Sabyan gambus musical instrument player team is an example that becoming a 'pelakor' (the other woman or mistress) is

considered by many readers as a typical and trivial thing compared to reputation (Nuzuli & Sunata, 2022). In fact, the impact of popularity in terms of power becomes the actors' assets in marketing themselves on negative (Afriliani & Lestari, 2019; Asmarani & Emilapalau, 2022; Irwanto, 2016; Prisanto, 2018).

In 2023, CNN Indonesia media reports analyze the portrayal of victims among celebrities. Researchers employ critical discourse analysis to examine the underlying messages and perspectives conveyed in the reports. Critical discourse analysis was known as knowledge in an effort to influence, pursue, support, and react to a thing that was either consciously or unconsciously represented. The discourse used in this analysis was not merely in the form of words written on paper, but all types of expression discourse, such as speeches, music, photos, images, and others. All of these types had the influence of power or control of certain personal or group to control certain groups through discourse henceforth it contained ideology.

The theory used in this discourse analysis is the theory of Sara Mills (1992). Sunarto (2000) stated that Sara Mills's discourse specifically focused on feminism discourse on how women displayed in general. When women were publicized in the media, such as advertisements or news, they were always described and seen negatively as follows: as sexual objects or at the same time sex symbols (exploitation, pornography), objects of violence, and were always blamed. Fairclough (1995) stated that the center of attention of Sara Mills's discourse analysis of the perspective or position of how the perpetrators displayed in the text. The report discussed all things that were rarely displayed. Most were given highlights and some of them were marginalized.

The position of the object and subject of a case was used to determine the purpose of the text. This also emphasized the way the writer and reader were explained in a text. The explanation was related to the understanding of the reader and the way social actors were positioned in a text that became a validity. Mills (1992) suggested that the position of the reader in a text was very important that they must be recognized in a text. In this case, the author of the text communicated directly with the reader. For example, the author used pronouns like me, you, us, and them placing the reader as part of a text. The use of my words, you, us, and they could be applied to recognize themselves as subjects or objects.

Furthermore, Gripsrub (2002) suggested that the narrator was not simply a storyteller but s/he could also be the subject or object in determining reality. Hence, this can be seen as an effort to attract the sympathy of the reader. Therefore, news was not only a medium for the target of the creativity of journalists and readers, but it also works as a negotiation form between journalists as writers and readers. Referring to Sara Mills, the position of the reader was divided into two: direct and indirect position through journalist of news report.

At recent years, there are many cases of affair and infidelity in the field of entertainment industry in Indonesia that involve fellow actors and commoners. Of course, this phenomenon leads to a hot topic of mass media reporting. However, today there are various points of view on solving the problem of infidelity. In the past, cases of infidelity became a disgrace to the family and were kept secret by the victim. But now, not only journalist and news readers, the victim of the affair is opening the case itself to the public. This is usually done through their personal outpouring their problematic life on the Instagram account.

Based on the complexity of those phenomena, this study aims to investigate the current affair of infidelity victims in celebrities reported on the news of CNN Indonesia media. CNN Indonesia's media selection is due to being the most visited media in April – June in 2023 with the rise of infidelity cases. The analysis limits in finding out the subject-object position and writer-reader position. The reader's position was examined in three stages: (1) the reader's position as a reader of a news text, (2) the reader's position as seeing himself/herself in a news text, and (3) the reader identifies within the group on the news text. As for the main reference is the reporting of celebrities infidelity case with their spouses.

The study employs the critical discourse analysis approach of and using Sara Mills' theory to analyze the problems. Research on critical discourse analysis by Sara Mills' has high relevance in the context of the development of digital communication and its role in shaping society's views. Specifically, this research will discuss the structure and meaning of texts that contain discriminatory elements or are detrimental to certain groups in digital media discourse. Assessment involves identifying language, narratives and communication patterns that can strengthen or spread negative views towards certain parties (Mills, 2014).

A deep understanding of how digital language and discourse are used to spread discriminatory messages is highly relevant to protecting gender differences. Even though there has been previous research exploring Sara or mailing list discourse, further critical discourse analysis is still needed to understand in depth the language structure, framing, and meaning construction that underlies the

discourse (Nuryani & Isnaen, 2018; Susilo, 2018). Through this approach, researcher able to dig a deeper reason to identify the rhetorical power and manipulation strategies that may be used in the discourse (Khan, 2019).

This research is expected to make a significant contribution to our understanding of the dynamics of discriminatory digital communication. By incorporating critical discourse analysis of Sara Mills' model, this study can open the door to a better understanding of how news policies and practices can be shaped to protect the public from negative impacts. In addition, this research can provide a deeper view of how the news discourse can affect people's perceptions and attitudes, to design effective mitigation and prevention strategies in the use of information technology.

2. Method

This research method utilized in this study was a critical discourse analysis with a descriptive qualitative research approach. The findings described in the form of words, sentences, or pictures rather than numbers were the characteristic of qualitative descriptive research (Hasan et al., 2023; Sugiyono, 2010). The subjects of this study were the media reporting of the Indonesian CNN period in 2023 which published infidelity news among celebrities represented with titles, "Kronologi rumor Fandy Christian selingkuh usai Dahlia bongkar chat" (Chronology of Fandy Christian cheating rumors after Dahlia dismantles Chat), "Alasan istri bongkar perselingkuhan Virgoun: Saya capek" (The reason why Wife Reveals Virgoun's Affair: I'm Tired); and "Akui selingkuh, Rendy Kjaernett masih ingin benahi kerusakan keluarga" (Admitting to having affair, Rendy Kjaernett still wants to fix family damage". The qualifications of critical discourse analysis were to determine the right choice of the discourse analysis theory applied, and then considered the purpose of the analysis.

Apart from that, with this approach, researchers can find out the reader's position in a discourse. Data collection was taken by recording news parts that illustrated the location of the subject-object using the Sara Mills' Critical Discourse Analysis method. The data analysis technique used was the content analysis technique. This technique can explain the forms of communication expressed by writers in the form of newspapers, books, magazines, novels, etc (Martono, 2010). By combining news reports, readers' responses and comments, as well as the self outpouring heart of the victims through instagram account, this study met the requirements of Sara Mills' model analysis.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 Results

In this research, a news item from electronic media was presented with the theme of infidelity among celebrities in 2023. The three news titles mentioned above were published by CNN Indonesia Kompas Media the news included, "Kronologi Rumor Fandy Christian Selingkuh Usai Dahlia Bongkar Chat", "Alasan Istri Bongkar Perselingkuhan Virgoun: Saya Capek", dan "Akui Selingkuh, Rendy Kjaernett Masih Ingin Benahi Kerusakan Keluarga" (CNN Indonesia, 2023; CNN Indonesia, 2023a, 2023b). The news exhibited the behavior of the husband who was having an affair behind his legal wife. The case of infidelity was finally known to the public because of the courage of the wives as brave women to defend their rights in their marriage. The data analyzed was the subject-object position and the reader's position of the news title.

The object of this study is limited to cases of infidelity committed by Indonesian celebrities in 2023. The limited data in this case aims to make the results of the study more focused based on the use of Sara Mill's model of critical discourse analysis related to linguistic structure with object analysis and analysis of the subjects of the victims. The result includes: Subject-Object Position and Reader Postion.

3.1.1 Subject-Object Position Analysis

The first thing analyzed on the part of the described discourse analysis was how the actor's position was displayed in the discourse. Critical discourse analysis of celebrity infidelity case news under the titles translated into English, i.e., "Chronology of Fandy Christian Cheating Rumors After Dahlia Dismantles Chat" and "Why Wife Exposes Virgoun Infidelity: I'm Tired", The news writer presents women as the subject of writing, because women in the news text present themselves as perpetrators and are defined as victims. Sentences that show women as the subject of the discourse are contained in the title as well as in the content of the news. The first title is with the sentence "after Dahlia dismantles the chat" while the second title is with the sentence "the reason the wife exposed the affair". The headline of the two stories indicates that both wives are positioned as subjects, or people who tell stories experienced related

to infidelity committed by their husbands. They try to present themselves related to providing information that they are experiencing infidelity.

Another text that became the subject of news content began with content revealing events "...Began on Sunday (14/5), when his wife, Dahlia Poland, uploaded a photo of Fandy's conversation with a woman named "Cha". The text gives reinforcement to what is written in the title. FC's wife provided information to the public by sending screenshots of conversations between her husband and a mysterious woman. As for the other text of the use of sentences or captions that the wife uses as follows: "My weekdays ceunah [Sundanese, meaning need another confirmation]. You see, it's a holiday week". The sentence or caption comes from the content of the chat she shared, my weekdays is an affectionate call or special code for her husband from the woman she calls "Cha"

Along with the news of her husband's infidelity, she also received accusations from different online reader and respondents. He responded to the accusations with the words "Who says it's fun to improve ratings," and "Those who have known me for a long time should know what kind of person I am.". This accusation is suspected to be a way to increase the ratings of the soap opera played by her husband to rise and be more popular with the viewers of the soap opera. However, the negative accusation against her was refuted by a sentence of statement shown to people who had been following her news for a long time that what she was doing was providing information correctly and truthfully.

The second title also has similarities in writing the position of the subject and object. The first text contained in the title "Why the Wife Exposed the Virgoun Infidelity: I Am Tired", in the title above shows that the wife of celebrity V feels tired or tired. The response from the researcher happened not once, but many times. The word "tired" in the title becomes a measuring tool for the occurrence of infidelity events in her family's household. In this case, the wife's position in this news is as a subject or perpetrator. The phrase "the reason the wife dismantled" is clear enough to indicate that it was the wife who opened and publicized the case to the public. Further evidence was also cited in the testimony of the wife who stated "This time I am tired, because I have given opportunities many times. I was just manipulated". The quote above reinforces the meaning of the word "I am tired" contained in the headline.

On the other hand, the position of the object in this news is shown with the sentence "After repeatedly giving opportunities, Inara admitted that she was tired of Virgoun who even kept repeating her actions even though she had made a statement in August 2022". This sentence puts the position of the wife as a victim of the behavior of the husband named V. The position of the victim in this case makes her the object of news. Another quote that corroborates the wife being an object can also be found in the sentence: "Dengan surat ini menyatakan ..." Translated to "With this letter, I declare that I am Virgoun Teguh Putra admitting while still in the status of being married to Inara Rusli that it is true that I have had immoral relations like husband and wife which is prohibited by religion and government". This sentence is a confession of celebrity V on his Instagram account. "

Unlike the previous two titles, the use of a sentence in the title "Admit Cheating, Rendy Kjaernett Still Wants to Fix Family Damage" focuses on the man's side. Celebrity RK positioned himself as a subject who told his mistakes. The phrase "admit cheating" and the phrase "want to fix the household" indicate his position as a subject and perpetrator. Another quote that strengthens his position is the sentence "Here I want to express my apologies to my family, especially my wife and children. And for colleagues, friends, and the public audience or the news noise and uncertain that exists these days". The above quote is a celebrity RK apology to several parties. According to him, the behavior he has done has an impact on the people around him.

Furthermore, the position of the object in this third news is the wife. The text content in this third news story focuses on the wife's next move after RK's confession on social media. This can be proven by the sentence "He claimed to have collected evidence of infidelity as a reason to file a divorce lawsuit with the court. The celebrity's wife didn't even hesitate to post some evidence on social media." The word "ia" or meaning 'she' in the above quotation refers to RK's wife. The point of view of the object in this news revolves around the decision of the wife in the state of being cheated. The sentence "However, this lady has not revealed the details of plans to file a formal divorce lawsuit from Rendy Kjaernett in court" also reinforced the position of the object of the wife in this news.

Collectively, the position of subjects and objects in reporting infidelity cases in CNN Indonesia media has differences. However, if examined in general in these three news, the status of the subject in this case is actually the electronic news media itself. The media placed the cases of celebrities as if they were a food dish for the general public to consume. Of course, the names of celebrities in this study have already been popular earlier than the cases they are currently experiencing. The object in this news can

be concluded to be in the form of news itself. This is evidenced by the massive increase in reader ratings by CNN Indonesia which wrote a hot issue that was becoming a news topic as the main headline.

It was in the sense of who was the subject published in CNN Indonesia electronic media. The topic of the news was the news itself apparently carrying out a massive rating increases by highlighting issues of current hot topics on a national scale that received publication every time the issue rose to the surface. In this case, CNN Indonesia as the publisher of this news had succeeded in carrying out the initial objective of creating this news; the news that gather a lot of enthusiasm among the general public in observing emerging issues. This condition cannot be separated from the dexterity and time management of CNN Indonesia team in collecting data and publishing very precise news. The success of CNN Indonesia was proven by the 'similarweb.com' page site as shown in the image below.

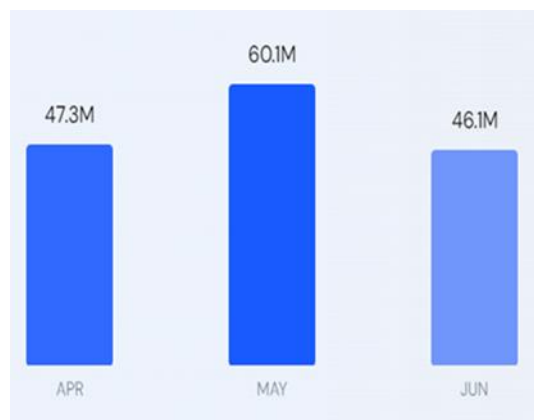


Figure 1. Number of Visitors to CNN Indonesia Version of Similarweb.com

The above figure represented the number of the reader and enthusiasts of CNN Indonesia within the last three months (starting from April – Juni). The estimated time coincided with cases of celebrity infidelity in Indonesia. This was proven by the news that vocalist V's affair began on Tuesday, April 25, 2023. It had been proven that the issue of vocalist V's affair was currently still being discussed on social media. As expected, this contributed to the increasing number of visitors to the CNN Indonesia news media. The next news emerged at a time when rumors of infidelity were abuzz, namely from the famous actor FC. This news was published on Monday, May 15 2023. The latest news, in this research, highlighted the issue of an affair between a fellow celebrity, senior actor RK and an actress SS. The issue of the affair was published by CNN Indonesia on Sunday, July 2, 2023. Even though the news had only just surfaced, a number of mass media outlets were already investigating the information regarding the news. The popularity of this news was also enlivened by other media, including the following.

Table 1 Number of Case Finding Based on the Google Chrome Version

Virgoun	25 April 2023	2,010,000	Google Chrome
Fandy Christian	15 Mei 2023	129,000	
Rendy Kjaernett	2 Juli 2023	10,800,000	

The table above presented the total number of findings or results related to issues and news about celebrity' infidelity cases. The source of all these findings came from Google Chrome, which was a trusted search engine with the most users. All of these findings were taken by researchers starting from Friday, July 14 2023. The first issue of infidelity was from celebrities V with the number of findings reaching 2,010,000 results, starting from the time the researchers took the data. The next affair news was found with 129,000 results, from actor FC. The latest case of infidelity from senior actor RK, although it had not been long since the issue of his infidelity appeared on the surface, the number of search engine

findings reached 10,800,000 results. Therefore, the subject in this case was electronic news media that placed celebrity cases to be consumed by the general public. As a reminder, the names of the celebrities in this study were already popular before their cases blew up.

3.1.2 Reader's Position

This analysis emphasized on how the reader's position was described in a discourse, the reader positioned themselves in the displayed discourse, and how the reader identified themselves with a group. The position of readers in these three news stories is identified in three aspects. First, how the reader's position is displayed in the discourse of the news text. Second, how the reader positions himself in the discourse shown. Third, how readers position themselves on groups in news discourse.

The news is actually not solely a product of journalists. News in text form is considered as the result of a blend of negotiation between the author and the reader. The reader is placed not only as the party receiving the text, but also the party who participated in the transaction as will be seen in the published text. Indeed, news is the result of an understanding between the wishes of journalists and their news readers.

The findings of this study are as follows. First, the reader is identified as an all-knowing figure in cases of infidelity. Secondly, readers also not only position themselves as seekers of information, but also as fans and social sanctioners. Third, readers identify themselves with a group of similar victims who have been aware of infidelity behavior in society.

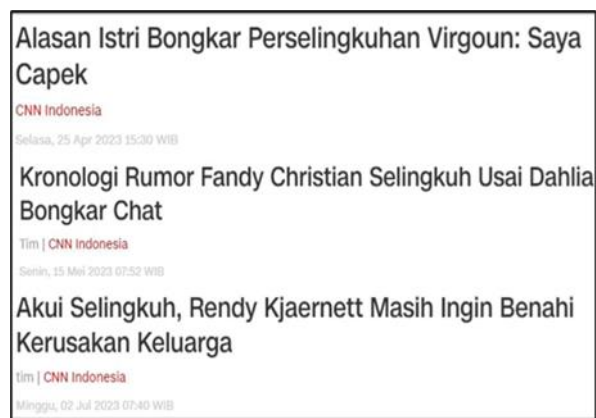


Figure 2 Related Affair News Headlines

Researchers then analyzed news text discourse from CNN Indonesia regarding cases of celebrity infidelity. The news used as the object of study were the infidelity news of celebrities namely V, FC, and RK. The first thing was the reader's position displayed in the news text discourse. The news published by CNN Indonesia displayed interesting things accompanied by homogeneous content between the three news stories. Readers were given the background to the news about this celebrity affair, as follows.

Based on the image above, the headlines or news titles had the same interest, namely how the audience knew about how the affair case came to surface. In the titles of "Kronologi Rumor Fandy Christian Selingkuh Usai Dahlia Bongkar Chat" and "Alasan Istri Bongkar Perselingkuhan Virgoun: Saya Capek" the readers were shown the reasons and chronological disclosure of the case. However, this was different from the headline in the news about actor RK. The position of the header above told the readers as if RK admitted his actions himself. The text of the news stated that the confession of the affair was made by the wife, who was the victim in this case.

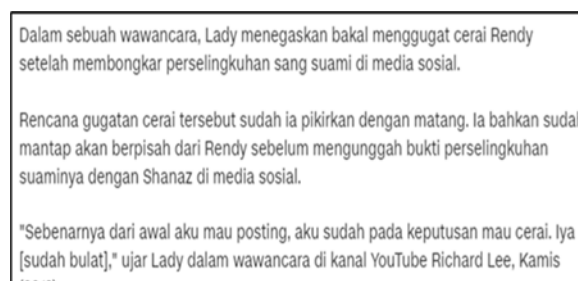


Figure 3 Rendy Kjaernett's Wife's Confession

The confession of this celebrity legal wife made the readers positioning themselves as people who knew chronologically the confession of the case. Furthermore, once it was analyzed in terms of how the audience positioned themselves in the displayed discourse, the reader could position themselves according to the initial purpose of reading the news. If the reader only wanted to read the news text just to find information about the theme of infidelity by CNN Indonesia, then the reader would only get limited information about related infidelity. Another thing was that the readers did not only focus on the information provided, they were also shared attention and empathy for the victim of the affair. For example, readers gave comment on the perpetrators and victims of infidelity in the comment's column or in other mass media. This was a kind of social sanction when someone conducted an infidelity. This sanction could be regarded as a manifestation of the restorative justice theory. Readers tried to respond by not conducting criminal acts, yet by positioning these cases against the perpetrators and victims (Ginting, 2020).

The image above presented the general public' comments of concern in responding to viral news (Prasetya et al., 2022). On the other hand, when we analyzed it on the perspective of readers who were



Figure 4. Readers' Comment: Instagram Version

not fans and were only curious, the reactions given were vary. For example, the comment given by the account @icong.14 above. Meanwhile, comments from the accounts @dindasefonita, @fachreza.aulia, and @akhbargh were positioned as fans of both the perpetrator and the victim who were disappointed because of the affair.

The third stage or the final analysis of to which group the reader identified themselves, this analysis was solely based on the thoughts held by each reader. When we analyzed the headlines in these three news stories, the readers categorized themselves with the victim group. The word “bongkar” in the title of “Kronologi Rumor Fandy Christian Selingkuh Usai Dahlia Bongkar Chat” and “Alasan Istri Bongkar Perselingkuhan Virgoun: Saya Capek” made the readers empathized with the victims since the readers assumed that the perpetrators should end the infidelity himself. On another case, the news entitled “Akui Selingkuh, Rendy Kjaernett Masih Ingin Benahi Kerusakan Rumah Tangga” the word “akui” was considered inappropriate because the perpetrator did it after the victim spread the evidence of the affair. The case of infidelity in CNN Indonesia news had similar motive in term of writing style. Victim feminism was generally well protected, the words “bongkar” (meaning: disambled) and “akui selingkuh” (meaning admits cheating) were enough to position the victim as a party who deserved empathy from readers.

3.2 Discussions

3.2.1 Subject-Object Position Analysis

Cases of infidelity in the news are increasingly prevalent in Indonesia. It is proven that currently many acts of violence that occur are caused by infidelity or have motives because they want to cheat and commit infidelity (Detikcom, 2023). The form of infidelity is divided into 2 types, namely physical cheating and digital cheating. Physical cheating is an affair that fulfills the element of adultery (Affandi, 2010). However, based on the legal context, not all forms of infidelity can be criminalized. Based on Article 284 of the Criminal Code or the Indonesian Criminal Code, adultery is not only a criminal act,

but also an act that violates the norms of decency that are highly enforced in this country. Furthermore, digital cheating is a form of infidelity that does not meet the element of adultery.

One of the factors increasing cases of infidelity is due to very open access, namely technology. Technology can help humans to do things better, but on the other hand, technology can also have a bad impact on humans (Suryawan, 2018). The case of infidelity that researchers took is also an example of the use of technology that has a bad impact. The celebrities reported in the findings all communicated with other women with smartphone technology. There is even one of them who uses a transportation service application to make communication. This is so that the confidentiality of these actions is not known by people around.

With regard to the increasing number of cases of infidelity, it has an impact on increasing divorce in the household. For example, recently in 2023 the divorce rate in Sidoarjo Regency has increased to 2,582, and the most occurred in January (Belani, 2023). Previously, the number of divorces in 2020 had reached 5,417 cases, plus the remaining cases in 2019 as many as 617 cases, so that the total cases to be resolved in 2020 were 6034 cases. This does not rule out the possibility based on the cut off calculation in 2021 experiencing a significant increase. As for the factors causing high divorce in Sidoarjo, one of them is because it is known that leaving a partner is due to the presence of another ideal man or woman. This is a causative factor that always appears in the range of 2016 – 2019 (V. D. Arista, 2022).

This study examines cases of infidelity using a critical discourse analysis approach. Critical discourse analysis is inherently specialized and can be measured using the standard language used. Discourse can be used to represent positions and ideas about who is speaking on a text. Written or verbal discourse can have meaning when the analysis of the text underlies each word (Armayanti, 2019). The theoretical approach in this research uses critical discourse analysis theory of Sara Mills. Discourse is not something neutral, it contains constant social practices and conflicts that contain truths and authorities that want to be conveyed to readers (Mills, 1997). Mills focuses on feminist discourse, which shows how texts are biased in presenting or reporting women's problems. Similarly, in reporting various aspects of life, women are considered more marginalized. In many cases, women tend to be presented in the text as the wrong party or considered wrong compared to men (Darma, 2013).

Discourses that portray gender bias tend to give negative labeling and marginalize women as a common description that occurs in the culture that develops in Indonesian society. The developing culture considers women as weak objects and are in the domination of male power and violence (Arista, 2017). Sara Mills' findings also looked at how actors' positions on the news are displayed in the text. In this case, who is treated as a subject or object, whether it tends to side with men or women. Similar to the findings of this study, Sobari and Silviani (2019) found subject-object positions in *kompas.com* and *detik.com* news. The news analyzed tends to present men as subjects and women as objects. Instead, in terms of the reader's position, the text clearly puts the male as the subject. Readers are led to follow a storyline that positions men as subjects. If the subject is a male, the reader is directed to read the news text with a male perspective.

This subject-object analysis can reveal the truth of a case according to its proper circumstances. Ahsin and Nugraheni (2022) analyzed the position of subjects and objects in seven news titles published by CNN Indonesia. Based on the analysis, the position of the Subject-Object in the discourse describes how events can be seen, from whose perspective the event is seen as well as Who is positioned as the narrator (subject) and who is the object being told.

Abdullah (2019) findings show the female side as the object and subject of news. From the Subject position, it is explained that women in the text position can display or tell what happened to them. While as an object, the incident that happened to the woman received indecent or abusive behavior from the husband, as the findings in this case were in the form of physical violence, blows, arguments, and even receiving repeated knife stabs. Based on the results of analysis conducted in the *Kumparan* media, it was shown that this media prioritized showing women as victims who were persecuted with all forms of violence. On the other hand, some news reports there are also women presented as subjects that reflect partiality in giving important attention to women. As found in the news content of the *Kumparan* media, the news frequently presents women's content women case and children in general.

The position of the object subject in the result of this study displays findings that are different from the news that has been published online. The woman in this case is shown as a subject who narrates the events she experienced as well as the object or victim of the affair. Abdullah (2019), Arista (2017), and Darma (2013) showed findings about women as weak and helpless victims and received violence treatment, precisely in this study women were positioned as the main subject or someone who dared to open and report private events to the public. This attitude removes the stigma of women who are feminine

becoming a strong woman who can be assertive about something that happens in their lives (Halberstam, 2017). This case can certainly remove the norm of weakness of women's attitudes in online media. Indainanto (2020) found an overall comparison of online media framing that highlights female victims as the cause of the problem by emphasizing the bad victim category which is reported as arrogant, stubborn, seductive dress, and mingling with familiar environments in the night world.

The discussion of the position of subjects and objects in this study is analyzed and displayed following the development of era civilization. Today, postmodernism has changed the paradigm of femininism among them with the term 'situational criticism' (Benhabib, 2020). As an implication, this view breaks critical thinking that all things have the same position so that today there is a naming with the term masculine woman that appears as a comparison.

3.2.2 Reader Position

News is not merely the product of journalists, text is considered the result of negotiations between authors and readers. The reader is placed not only as the party who receives the text, but also the party who participates in the transaction as will be seen in the text, because the news is the result of an agreement between the journalist's intention and the reader (Mills, 1997). The reader's position in this finding covers several aspects. First, the reader is identified as an all-knowing figure in the case of the affair. Second, readers also not only position themselves as seekers of information, but also as fans and social sanctioners. Third, the reader identifies himself or herself with a group of victims who have discovered infidelity behavior.

A different research finding regarding the position of readers was found from the research of Sobari and Silviani (2019). In terms of the reader's position, the text clearly positions the male as the subject. The reader is led to follow a storyline that positions the subject as a man so that the reader is directed to read the news text with a male perspective. Meanwhile, using the same basic aspects of Mills' theory, Ahsin and Nugraheni (2022) research identifies the reader's position in the discourse of reporting sexual harassment of Riau students as the wider community in general. This is because the discourse aims to provide information related to harassment events committed by a lecturer to his students. The goal is to lead readers' opinions to the assessment of the behavior of UNSRI lecturers. In the discourse, it is explained that the position of the reader is the public in general who are led by their opinions to agree with the author's arguments that expose immoral activities in the academic environment. The public response is needed as support for the government's efforts to eradicate the sexual mafia in academia in particular. While the author as part of the government employee describes that these activities are not strongly supported by the government, there are even laws that can ensnare perpetrators as a form of criminal act.

The position of the reader in this study places the target (woman/wife) as a victim who needs to be empathized, even in their position as subjects in the news. In presenting the news, women are portrayed as strong figures and dare to open or tell openly the case that happened to them. Of the three celebrities, it was his wife who opened the case by telling social media. In contrast to the findings of Siagian et al. (2022) in media reporting, iNews.id women are still portrayed as marginal, weak, helpless and sensitive women. The reader is taken to the position of narrator (narrator) so that the reader accepts it as reality.

Based on this, the position of readers in this study favors the female victims. The author's partiality to the victim in this case can in fact create a positive public opinion in the perspective of society. The placement of the reader's position in the news is also one of the factors that help form a positive female construction. Mapping the reader's position in the news is also one of the factors that help shape the construction of positive women. Readers will generally agree with the author's idea of the value orientation that exists in society, so that readers will place themselves on the main character or victim reported in the text (Rafiq, 2019).

One example of journalists' impartiality in writing a story is to use word choices that can further blame female victims. This was published by RRI Samarinda Online Media in 2021 with the headline "The Sad Story of a Rape Victim Forced to Marry a Perpetrator". In the news, female victims are represented through the use of word markers such as the use of words such as a child, sexual violence, forced marriage, rape, warnings for women, and using diction that can aggravate trauma and cause victims to get worse (Putri et al., 2022). This can lead the reader to the position that they are on the side that blames the perpetrator and victim.

News in a similar way was also found in Tribunnews.com news texts that still represent the image of women in accordance with patriarchal culture in general. Tribunnews.com in reporting on the issue of violence against women has also produced word choices characterized by violence with sentence

structure, labeling and special word choices both in the title and news text. From the victim's point of view, news in the *Tribunnews.com* media often chooses to use words that can hurt the victim, for example in the words "molested", "impregnated", and "fenced" which do not care or respect the victim at all (Widiyaningrum, 2021). As for the way news writers present the reader's side in a news text, one of them is the use of the word "I" to place the reader as if he also experienced the events that happened to the victim. This is directly or indirectly a vehicle and way to understand the character of victims who experience disorders in mental psychological conditions (Aini & Mayasari, 2022).

When reading the title, usually readers can already estimate the content referred to in the news. In the three news that have been analyzed, the requirements for writing news titles are in accordance with the expectations of the news, especially with regard to the prerequisites, which are provocative and interesting. The nature of the profocation in the title was made with the aim of attracting the interest and enthusiasm of the audience to read the news. The three news in this study have quite provocative titles, with the use of the phrases "unload chat", "I am tired" and "admit cheating" which are all able to make readers seem to feel the same as the feelings of the victim so that there is a sense of interest in reading the contents of the news.

4. Conclusion

Critical discourse analysis of news of celebrity affair embodied in cases with the titles: "Kronologi Rumor Fandy Christian Selingkuh Usai Dahlia Bongkar Chat", "Alasan Istri Bongkar Perselingkuhan Virgoun: Saya Capek", and "Akui Selingkuh, Rendy Kjaernett Masih Ingin Benahi Kerusakan Keluarga" shows the subject's position as the narrator by choosing this kind of issue due to the massive hype of the news. The object in electronic newspaper media reporting also has its own position to make the news becomes increasingly popular. The results of the analysis showed in the position of the subject of the three news, two news positions women as subjects as well as objects, and one news positions men as subjects and wives as objects.

As for the findings from the reader's position, the readers identify themselves as an all-knowing figure in the affair case. Moreover, the readers do not solely place themselves as information seekers, but also as fans as well as the one who give social sanctions. Hence, the readers classify themselves with the group of victims who have experienced infidelity behavior. Based on the researchers' findings, victim representation does not necessarily have to be carried out by the transporting party. Newspapers and the general public can also insert themselves in a such case. As such, the case of affair and infidelity that publicly uncluttered in CNN Indonesia news had comparable motive in term of writing news style. Victim feminism was generally well protected particularly using specific expression such as in the words "bongkar" (meaning: dismantled, exposed publicly) and "akui selingkuh" (meaning admits cheating) which were clear enough to position the victim as a party who deserved empathy from readers.

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