

# Community Solidarity through News Strategy in Tragedy of Yuyun's Case: A Discourse Analysis Perspective

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*Yuyun Herawati was one of the brightest students at SMPN 5 Rajang Lebong, Bengkulu. Tragedy came to her family when her father found her corpse 1 km in distance outside the village. She was still 14 years old and had been raped by more than 10 men before being tragically murdered. Yuyun is believed to have been attacked by 14 males in an afternoon on April 12, 2016. Seven of the attackers were seniors from her school. The police arrested the rapists and killers. They also confessed that they had abused alcoholic drinks and pornographic contents. The suspects, aged between 16 and 17 years old, pled guilty to violating the 2014 law on child protection. This tragedy made Indonesian society, mostly women cursed this sadism murder within sexual abuse death. Most of the newspapers in Indonesia showed their solidarity to this tragic case in their articles. Support for the family has also happened in social media. The hashtags #LightForYuyun and We are with Yuyun have become themes in a campaign to highlight and expose the case. The articles show solidarity for the victims by using micro level analysis by Van Dijk, through headlines, lexical choice and language style.*

**Keywords:** *discourse analysis, lexical choice, linguistic feature, Yuyun's tragic case.*

## I. INTRODUCTION

The tragedy seized public attention in the Indonesian community and fully warned of children's amorality and potential dehumanizing next generation. It will be our responsibility to prevent the same case from happening in the future. The government, parents, teachers, and all societies need to work harder, because women and children should be protected from violence. The result of this research will be an important recommendation for the government and all level of societies to be more conscious and aware so that we will not have similar tragic case like Yuyun.

## II. METHODOLOGY

In this study, the method used is descriptive analysis. According to Djajasudarma (1993:1), descriptive analysis method is a method that can provide the characteristics, properties' and sets of data image through data selection, after the data is collected. This research has two major questions: (1) what lexical choices and other linguistic features are used within news strategy in the articles? (2) how does the representation of community solidarity appear in the article through news

strategy? At most, the writer uses theorization and point of view of Van Dijk (2001) and Marianna & J, Phillips (2002). The techniques used in this study include doing literature study, collecting data, doing classification and data analysis, and drawing conclusions.

## III. RESULTS

### A. *The Role of Mass Media*

Teun A. van Dijk states (1995b:2): "Media power is generally symbolic and persuasive, in the sense that the media primarily have the potential to control to some extent the minds of readers or viewers, but not directly their actions."

For this case, the Jakarta Post as the dominant and big newspaper written in English in Indonesia can form and influence the readers through the articles.

The information that appears in headlines is the representation of skillfully-packaged set of words optimizing micro-rhetorical linguistic choices (Johnston, 2002). The main purpose of headlines in a newspaper is to attract the reader's attention. However, headlines also help to summarize stories, help readers index the contents of the pages, and depict the mood of stories.

### B. *The Influence of Headlines to the Readers*

The headlines of the articles represent the information or news written by the authors. The headlines show the dominant concept and the most important information in the article. The theme and topic are realized in a headline, it is also mentioned by van Dijk (1988:248), "The headlines define the overall coherence or semantic unity of discourse, and also what information readers memorize best from a news report".

Because the headlines shown in the up part of the article, it has the main role in influencing the readers. The topic can be viewed from the title or leads from the article. The title and the leads can directly conclude the message from the whole information.

### C. *Level of specificity and degree of completeness*

Van Dijk states (1993b:275): "One of the most conspicuous forms of over-completeness in discourse is the irrelevant

negative categorization of participants in order to delegitimize or marginalize their opinions or actions.

#### D. *The Lexical Choice.*

The lexical choice will give a positive or negative effect to the actors or the topic. It relates to the statement from Van Dijk (1993b:264) "choice of words that imply negative (or positive) evaluations".

In this research, the author shows the concept of community solidarity which appears in some headlines about Yuyun's tragic case in some articles from the Jakarta Post. This research aims to recommend and show the world that Indonesian people cannot tolerate the crime. The solidarity in anger and supporting action conducted by Indonesian society, particularly women, can be viewed through the articles. Using the headlines and lexical choices, the Jakarta Post represents the solidarity and support from Indonesian society for Yuyun's case.

### IV. DISCUSSION

To begin the discussion, researcher will show three headlines taken from the local well-known English newspaper, the Jakarta Post.

#### A. *The headlines*

##### **Teenage gang rape case at forefront of Indonesia's battle against sexual violence.**

Jakarta | Thu, May 5 2016 | 02:47 pm  
(<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2016/05/05/teenage-gang-rape-case-at-forefront-of-indonesias-battle-against-sexual-violence.html>)

There is specific message from the headline, which relate to two sides, between the teenage gang rape and Indonesia. The teenage gang rape represents the suspects of young men doing rape versus the people of Indonesia which is represented by the phrase "Indonesia's battle".

However, the lexical choice "Indonesia's battle" used shows that how this tragic case angered most Indonesian people. Although the article mentioned 118 civil society groups, the big numbers of support represent the voice of Indonesian people.

The headline shows the solidarity of the community to Yuyun's case, which represents the voice of most Indonesian people.

##### **Experts call for early childhood character building to prevent sexual violence.**

Jakarta | Thu, May 12 2016 | 06:55 am  
(<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2016/05/12/experts-call-for-early-childhood-character-building-to-prevent-sexual-violence.html>)

From the headline, we can see the lexical choice of the noun 'experts'. From the article, the experts refer to "activists from Women's Action Committee" and "mental health experts", they have led to a call from mental health experts for an emphasis on character building from early childhood to prevent deviant behavior in later life. The author mentions some experts in the headline to prove that this case is a big one and the experts urge to all elements of society concerning to early childhood character building. They demanded the government and police

to be firm in handling the murder and rape case of YY, 14 year-old student from Bengkulu who was brutally raped and murdered by 14 young men in early April.

##### **Agency to assist family of Bengkulu rape, murder victim through trauma.**

Jakarta | Mon, June 6 2016 | 09:29 pm  
<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2016/06/06/agency-to-assist-family-of-bengkulu-rape-murder-victim-through-trauma.html>

From the headline, the readers are given the information about an agency which will assist the family of the Bengkulu rape. In the article, it mentions that the agency refers to The Witness and Victim Protection Agency (LPSK). LPSK plans to send a support team to protect the family members of 14-year old gang rape and murder victim Yuyun, because the family has been severely traumatized by the highly publicized case. Police officers would also be involved in the group to ensure the safety of the family. The team also coordinates with law enforcement personnel to determine the right strategy to ensure that the family's rights are protected

The concept of solidarity coming to this case, almost all elements in Indonesian society scream and anger with the offenders and they think a punishment many felt was too soft, 10 years.

#### B. *Lexical Choice and Detail Information*

There are some sentences showing the community solidarity from Indonesian people:

- a. 118 civil society groups, including Perempuan Mahardhika, Simponi and the Indonesian Legal Aid Foundation (YLBHI), urged the government to pass the sexual violence bill on Tuesday. They made this call in the wake of the recent Bengkulu gang rape and murder case.
- b. The recent case of the gang rape and murder of a junior high schoolgirl in a remote village in Bengkulu has gathered hundreds of people in Indonesia's capital, Jakarta, to speak up against violence against women.
- c. Kate Walton, a Jakarta-based Australian activist, said the gruesome case of 14-year old Yuyun, who was brutally raped and murdered by 14 young men in Bengkulu last month, was only one of many other similar cases happening across the country.
- d. Martha Veronica, a recent college graduate from Bengkulu, expressed her concern over delayed public attention, which often happens in cases of violence against women, including Yuyun's case, and this was something that needed to be questioned.
- e. National Commission on Violence Against Women (Komnas Perempuan) vice chairwoman Budi Wahyuni, who was also at the rally, said there was an urgent need to fight against sexual violence against women because the number of cases of violence against women had continued to grow.
- f. Komnas Perempuan recorded 16,217 cases of violence against women in 2015, a rise from 11,207 in the

previous year, with 1,657 of those cases being sexual-violence cases.

- g. Activists from Women's Action Committee lit candles during a protest titled "#SOS (Save Our Sister): Ring the Alarm! Indonesia is on Sexual Violence Emergency State" in Jakarta on May 4. They demanded the government and police to be firm in handling the murder and rape case of YY, 14 year-old student from Bengkulu who was brutally raped and murdered by 14 young men in early April.
- h. Gang rape and murder cases across the nation catapulted into the media spotlight following the death of a 14-year old schoolgirl named Yuyun. Her tragic story has captured the world's attention and brought the battle against sexual violence to the forefront of Indonesia's public sphere.

## V. CONCLUSION

In all three provided headlines that discuss Yuyun's tragic case, the author concludes that every single headline content contains several of linguistic forms and structures. The headlines' shapes are in phrases even in sentences with semantic meaning, and they existed as well, with their own style.

The headlines, the lexical choice and the information given in the article shows the anger of Indonesian society, and also support from them for the victim and her family.

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