A CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS OF NEWS REPORTS ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN MALAYSIAN NEWSPAPER.

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Domestic violence is a social issue that is viewed in a stereotypical manner. The focus of the study is on how the elements of bias are manifested, through the use of language and the generic structure of the reports, in the news reports on the cases of domestic violence. The data shows that the news reports on the issue of domestic violence have been constructed with certain elements of gender bias. The text producers may or may not have intentionally used words that shade positive or negative perceptions to the male perpetrators and the female victims in the case of domestic violence. Besides, the generic structure of the text too may or may have constrained information that is presented to the readers and of how they are presented in the text. The features highlighted here are some of the features of the texts that may perhaps be the loop holes of how gender bias is being reproduced in the texts. They are often embedded in the texts, through the use of the linguistic features and the generic structure. The representation might be discreet, but they are found effective.

As the primary focus of the study was on how bias can be penetrated in texts, through the use of language and the generic structure of the text, the researcher extracted lexical items, for instance, *enraged* and *punched* that are used by the text producers to describe the male perpetrators and the female victims in the case of domestic violence reported in the local English daily, The New Straits Times. A comparison is made between the words used by the text producers to describe the male perpetrators and the female victims in order to unveil how gender bias may perhaps have been discreetly connoted in the texts, through the choice of words made by the text producers. It is realized that the text producers could have also utilized the generic structure of the texts in convincing readers of how the facts should be regarded.
It is hoped that this study would assist academic researchers who intend to study further into the area. It is also hoped that this study will inculcate interest among researchers who intend to further their study in this area.
Abstrak

Sudah sebati dalam masyarakat yang isu keganasan rumah tangga semestinya dijelaskan dengan nada yang stereotypikal. Fokus kajian ini adalah di atas elemen-elemen prasangka yang ditimbulkan dalam berita yang berkaitan dengan kes-kes keganasan rumah tangga, melalui penggunaan bahasa dan struktur teks.

Data-data yang diperolehi menunjukkan yang keganasan rumah tangga, biasanya dilaporkan dengan sentimen bias gender. Perkataan-perkataan yang dipilih dalam pemberitaan, secara kebetulan, mungkin akan menggambarkan pelaku dan mangsa secara berbeza yang barangkali berdasarkan jantina dalam kes-kes keganasan rumah tangga. Selain itu, struktur teks tersebut juga memainkan peranan dalam memampatkan informasi yang boleh disampaikan kepada pembaca dan bagaimana informasitersebut disampaikan. Ciri-ciri tersebut mungkin adalah kunci yang menjelaskan bagaimana elemen bias gender disuntik dalam teks-teks tersebut.

Fokus utama kajian ini adalah ke atas penggunaan bahasa dan struktur teks untuk menyuntik elemen-elemen bias gender, jadi penyelidik kajian ini telah mengekstrakkan perkataan-perkataan yang digunakan dalam teks untuk menggambarkan pelaku dan mangsa dalam kes-kes keganasan rumah tangga, yang dilaporkan dalam surat khabar bahasa Inggeris. Perbandingan antara perkataan-perkataan yang digunakan untuk menggambarkan pelaku dan mangsa, berdasarkan jantina, dibuat untuk menyingkap elemen-elemen bias gender dalam teks-teks tersebut. Selain itu, pemerhatian pembaca terhadap perbezaan antara pelaku dan mangsa juga dipengaruhi oleh struktur
teks-teks tersebut. Ini adalah ketara dalam laporan berita, yang merupakan teks yang mempunyai struktur yang berbeza daripada teks lain.

Harapannya adalah kajian ini dapat membantu penyelidik-penyelidik yang ingin menceburi bidang kajian ini. Selain itu, adalah harapan penyelidik yang kajian ini dapat menimbulkan kesedaran orang ramai tentang kewujudan elemen-elemen yang bias gender dalam teks-teks, terutamanya dalam teks-teks laporan berita.
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# Table of Content

Abstract iii  
Abstrak v  
Acknowledgement vii  
Table of Content viii

Chapter 1  
1.0 Background of the study  
- 1.1 Media Bias and Language 1  
- 1.2 Stereotyping 2  
- 1.3 Gender Stereotyping 3  
1.4 Statement of problem 4  
1.5 Objectives of the study 5  
1.6 Research questions 6  
1.7 Significance of the study 6  
1.8 Scope and limitation 7

Chapter 2  
2.0 Domestic violence 8  
2.1 Media bias  
- Media and violence 9  
2.2 Critical discourse analysis 11
Chapter 3

3.0 Type of study 16
3.1 Theoretical framework 16
3.2 Data collection 17
3.3 Social cognition framework 18

3.4 Data analysis
   • 3.4.1 Textual analysis 19
   • 3.4.2 Socio cognitive analysis 23

Chapter 4

4.0 Introduction 25
4.1 Textual analysis 26
4.2 Social cognition 27

4.3 Data analysis
   • 4.3.1 News report 1 28
   • 4.3.2 News report 2 33
   • 4.3.3 News report 3 36
   • 4.3.4 News report 4 39
   • 4.3.5 News report 5 44

4.4 Social Cognition
   • The discourse of gender bias 49
   • The discourse of male patriarch 50
Chapter 5

5.0 Discussion of the finding 51
5.1 Limitations of the study 53
5.2 Implications for further research 54

Bibliography 56

Appendix
Text 1
Text 2
Text 3
Text 4
Text 5