Methodology

3.0 Type of Study

      This is a qualitative study to seek the linguistic means used by text producers in news reports on wife abuse. One of the chief reasons for conducting this qualitative study, is to analyze how gender stereotyping, a form of gender biasness, could be ideologically embedded in the linguistic means used in the texts or news reports. Topics on gender stereotyping have been widely studied, especially gender stereotyping and media. But yet, not many have actually paid attention to the existence of gender stereotyping in news reports, especially news reports on wife abuse. Hence, this study is carried out to analyze the existence of gender stereotyping in news reports on wife abuse, through the generic structure of the texts and the linguistic features used.

3.1 Theoretical Framework

      It is important to familiarize with the theoretical framework that is adopted and adapted in the study as it attributes to the credibility of the study and makes it defensible. The framework chosen in the study more or less determines the validity of the study, in analyzing the purpose of carrying the study. In choosing the most suitable framework to analyze the data, it is vital to first be familiarized with the theoretical frameworks held in the specialist area.
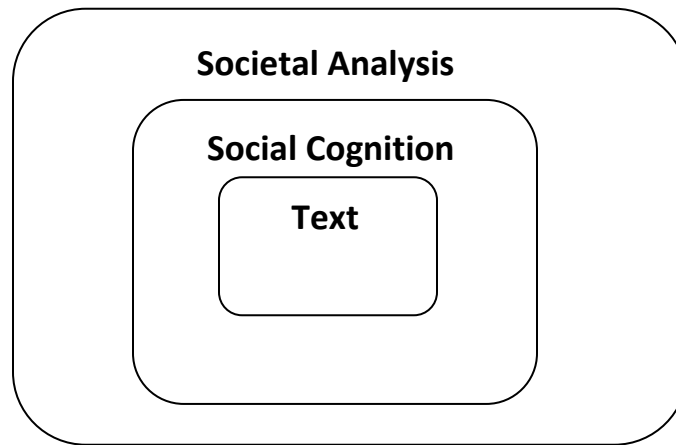
3.2 Data Collection

There are three factors that the researcher pays attention to in the method of the data collection. First of all, the researcher would only look at news reports on wife abuse, which means abusive behaviours that involved a male - female couple, in a civil relationship. Therefore, reports on domestic abuse that involved mother and child or cohabited partners are excluded in this study. Besides that, the researcher only picks reports that involved physically abusive behaviours only . Lastly, the data of the study are only taken from the local English dailies as the focus is on the Malaysian context.Strategizing these factors helps the researcher to narrow down his search of the data for the study.

Due to time constraint and the diversity of data found on the internet, the researcher has taken the initiative to contact the Ministry of Women and Family Affairs. The researcher has been informed that the ministry has had compilations of news reports on domestic violence, from local and international English dailies. The researcher makes the selection of data, based on the criteria which have been discussed at the beginning.

After going through a compiled number of news reports on domestic violence at the archive of the Women and Family Affair Ministry, the researcher has successfully retrieved six news reports from the same local English daily, The News Straits Times, of the year 2001 and 2003.

3.3 Social Cognition Framework

Social Cognition framework is a theoretical framework that is proposed by Van Dijk. The analysis of the framework is divided to three dimensions; textual analysis, social cognition analysis and societal analysis.

Societal Analysis

Social Cognition

Text

(adapted and adopted from Eriyanto 2001)

3.4 Data Analysis

3.4.1. Textual Analysis

A systemic textual analysis is carried out to reveal the number of properties of the texts that may penetrate or sustain the elements of bias in the texts analyzed. A textual analysis is carried out to look at the generic structure and linguistic features of the texts. The generic structure and the linguistic features are the formal properties of the texts that provide the local and global coherence.

Generic Structure

The term "generic structure" that is used in the analysis is equivalent to what Van Dijk addresses as the superstructure of the text. The term is used specifically to refer to the knowledge of the canonical discourse structure which members of discourse use to anticipate information that facilitates reading and comprehension of the texts. The facilitation and comprehension mainly refer to pragmatic structure rather than the semantic structure in the texts. Here, the pragmatic values referred include the process of inferences, entailment, and implicature. The generic structure analysis of the data would include the analysis of the headline, the lead, the main event, the back grounded event and the commentary.

One of the most obvious initial categories of news is the headline. Referring to an extract of a headline, e.g., Farmer *held over hammer assault on first wife*, it can be claimed the headline

provides the strategic cues that readers refer in interpreting the content of the texts, which is why the communicative function of the headline is clear. Despite the fact that the information provided in the headline are the minimum, it constitutes the basis for skimming purpose.

Subsequently, the headline of the texts would be followed by what is known as the lead, which summarizes the text. The lead provides the information that readers need to co refer in reading the texts. Besides summarizing, the lead also serves as an introduction after the headline. This is an extract of a lead, e.g. *Kangar, Tues- A 45 year old farmer has been detained by police after he allegedly hit his first wife on the head with a hammer after she scolded him for courting his second wife's 22 year old sister.* Referring to the lead, it is apparent that the lead does not only summarize the content of the texts but it is the part that readers refer to in understanding the content. The body of the texts can be divided to different parts. One part is the main event. The main event describes the situation of the event occurred or the chronological of series of events reported. E.g. *He lost his temper and punched her in the face before grabbing a hammer and hitting her on the head with it.*

Whereas the commentary and background, which are also parts of the body of the texts, place the event reported in a larger perspective. They provide the factors that readers must know in order to understand the purpose of reporting the event or events. The commentary, e.g. *Perlis Criminal Investigation Department chief Deputy Superintendent Kamal Pasha Jamal said the 41 year old housewife received several stitches for her injuries to the incident which occurred about midnight last Friday .*and the background, e.g. *The suspect was angry after he found out his wife had gone out with her friends without his permission he said,* in the texts implicitly or explicitly

narrate the details that are related to the main event in the texts.

Linguistic features

The analysis of the linguistic features would include the analysis of the lexical features and the syntactic structures. This analysis is also known as the semantic move analysis (Van Dijk, 2001). The lexical and syntactic choices made by the text producers signify the different attributes and descriptions of the   text producers in analyzing the events, which include the actors and the actions performed, lexically or syntactically.

Text	
Enraged man parades wife nude on motorcycle	
Linguistic choices	Explanation
Lexical choices	The use of adjectives that may contribute to the portrayal of the positive or negative attributes of the social actors that are being described. The word " enraged" in the extract is the adjective used to describe the state of affair of the perpetrator, which has negative connotation
Transitivity	The use of transitive verbs that would positively or negatively portray the actions performed by the social actors described. The

	verbs are mainly chosen to foreground or to background actions that are carried out by the social actors, either in positive or negative manner. The word "parade" is an example of a transitive verb, which requires the social actor who performs the action and a person or an object affected by the action carried out.
Voice (i.e., active and passive)	The use of active or passive sentences that would foreground or back ground events which are the focus in description. Here, the focus is mainly on whom is given the priority in the sentences. The use of active statements would immediately foreground the actor who performs the action, while using passive statements would foreground the object or the actor affected by the action carried out. The extract above is in active form, which gives the potential focus on the perpetrator, compared to the victim.

3.4.2 Socio-cognitive Analysis

Socio-cognitive analysis involves identifying different social variables (e.g., class, gender, patriarch, social roles) and their cognitive realization into the process of composing a text. They are the mental portrayal that are socially structured and shared by the text producers with other members of discourses. The generic structure and the lexical choices made by the text producers in creating the texts represent the different discourses drawn in the texts. The discourses are the schematic representations of individuals, role held and events involved in. The discourses lubricate the interpretation of the texts, which mainly rely on the linguistic features and the generic structure of the texts. The social cognitive analysis is carried out to understand how the linguistic features and the generic structures are unreservedly related to the discourses depicted by the text producers in the texts.

Enraged man parades wife nude on motorcycle

Chukai, Sun- A 33 year old woman was paraded in the nude on a motorcycle in Sri Bandi, about 40 km from here, by her enraged husband yesterday .

State police public relations officer Assistant Superintendent Md Nor Ali said the man, aged 30, had suspected his wife had been having an affair with another man for eight months.

In her police report, the woman said her husband had taken her to an oil palm estate, tied her to a tree, undressed and beat her at about 2.30 pm.

The man then forced the woman, who was still naked, onto a motorcycle and paraded her for about 30 minutes.

He then stopped the motorcycle in a crowded place and started kicking and verbally abusing her.

When told to stop beating his wife, the man rode off, leaving the woman behind.

One of the villagers who witnessed the incident gave a sarong to her to cover her body. The couple, who have

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two children, are Myanmar nationals and have been living and working at the estate .

The table below shows two different discourses which can be drawn out from the text above.

A discourse that is gendered bias	**A discourse that is male patriarch**
The verbs used like *tying, undressing* and *beating* signify a discourse of gender bias as they immediately trigger a mental picture that distinguishes the two social actors in the text. The male perpetrator and the female victim. Besides that, the generic structure of the text also does so by putting forward the event that represents the male perpetrator completely different from the female victim.	The verb used like *forced* and *paraded* mirror a discourse of male patriarch society. They portray the domination of the perpetrator, who was also the husband over the victim or legally known as the wife, who was submissive. Furthermore, the generic structure of the text too focuses on the event that reflects and pictures the perpetrator as a chauvinist who had total control over the victim.
Enraged man parades wife nude on motorcycle	*Enraged man parades wife nude on motorcycle*
the man, aged 30, had suspected his wife had been having an affair with another man for eight months. The examples above are extracts taken from one of the news reports. The text begins with a headline that negatively justifies the perpetrator's act of parading the victim in nude. The cause of the perpetrator's act is only elaborated in the commentary made by the	The extract above is the headline of one of the news reports. The perpetrator's chauvinistic attitude is already highlighted in the headline. It is gathered that the victim had little or no opportunity to retaliate to the perpetrator who had publically humiliated her. It would have highlighted to the readers of the opposite

state police officer.	characters between the perpetrators and victims, which are discussed subsequently in the texts.