

Chapter 4

Data Analysis

4.0 INTRODUCTION

This chapter will analyze the data, based on the research premise, research method and procedure stated in Chapter Three. The data are a set of news reports on wife abuse, which are taken from the local English daily, The New Straits Times, from the year 2001 and 2003. The data collected will be analyzed, based on the textual and social cognition analysis, which are adopted and adapted from Van Dijk's "Social Cognition" framework. Van Dijk's Social Cognition framework (1988) is a three dimensional framework, which approaches discourse in the broader and wider perspective. The analysis of the framework includes;

- Textual Analysis
- Social Cognition
- Societal Analysis

However, the focus of the paper will be on the textual analysis and the social cognition analysis of the data collected.

4.1 TEXTUAL ANALYSIS

The significant purpose of conducting a textual analysis is to identify the traces of discourse or discourses, which are embedded in the texts. Texts are the end product of discourse or discourses, which have undergone different modifications in different contexts, of different discourse or discourses. But yet, there are significant traces that mark the existence of the discourse or discourses that cannot be avoided by the text producers and can be trailed by the members of discourse. The analysis of these traces shall include the analysis of the generic structure of the texts and the linguistic cues which are embedded in the texts.

The term “generic structure” is used to refer to the comprehensive organization of the texts that facilitates members of discourse in looking at the texts as meaningful, institutional based product. The texts have to be meaningful as how they should be presented as the product that marks the discursive practice of the institutions. The linguistic cues are the language implicatures that are frequently used to denote the social actors and social actions represented in the discourses. Different lexical items are used to refer to different social actors and this may vary from one discourse to another. Besides that, the lexical items may also connote the text producers’ opinion of how the events are to be seen. The lexical choices and the syntactical representations are the linguistic representations of the text producers’ view in the texts.

4.2 SOCIAL COGNITION

The term “social cognition” which is adopted and adapted into this study, refers to the interpretation of the discourses that are embedded in the text. The term is specifically chosen to be adapted into the study as the approach can be used to interpret the discourses that can be possibly drawn to create the texts cohesively and coherently. Importantly, it is of how the discourses are used by the text producers to produce socially acceptable texts.

The discourses are basically the frames of the schemas that the text producers draw together in constructing the texts. The term “schema” refers to the conceptualize social mental representations of things; which could be broken up to person schema, role schema and event schema. These schemas are social representations of how the events, the characters of the social actors and the roles of the social actors are being socially perceived by the members of the discourses. These schemas which are part of the discourses, may dilute the neutrality of the texts and cause the reports to take sides. This mainly because the members of the discourses rely on the schemas to process and to interpret the texts, which are the product of the manifestation of discourses.

What is clear is that different discourses deliver or construct different schemas, which explains the reason of the existence of different discourses in a text itself.

4.3 DATA ANALYSIS

The data of the study are collected from the local English daily, The New Straits Times, year 2001 and 2003. The analysis is divided into two parts, as described earlier. First, I shall be looking at the textual analysis of the data. Then, I shall be doing the discourse interpretation, based on the textual analysis.

4.3.1 NEWS REPORT 1

The news report “Farmer held over hammer assault on first wife” is a case of domestic violence, where the victim is the first wife to a 45 year old farmer, who has two wives. The incident took place when the farmer’s first wife started “ scolding” the husband for chatting with the younger sister of the second wife. It is then that the perpetrator hit and injured the victim, using a hammer as claimed in the report.

Text 1

Farmer held over hammer assault on first wife

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.

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.

The housewife reported to police that her husband had brought his second wife’s sister to their house at Batu 5, Jalan Kuala Perlis, on the night of the incident.

He said that she had alleged that it was not the first time her husband had brought the woman to the house.

She scolded him while he was having a chat with the woman, the younger sister of her husband’s 34 year old second wife, who lives in another house.

He lost his temper and punched her in the face before grabbing a hammer and hitting her on the head with it.

Kamal Pasha said the farmer, now on police bail, could be charged under Section 324 of the Penal Code for causing grievous injury. He is liable to face a maximum 20 year’s jail, a fine and whipping upon conviction.

Analysis of Text 1

Generic Structure	Description
Headline : Farmer held over hammer assault on first wife	<p>The headline of text 1, which reads as followed “Farmer held over hammer assault on first wife”, has the function of more than just informing the readers of the actors and circumstance that are reported in the text. In fact, it shades different notes of the perpetrator and victim, who were involved in the event reported.</p> <p>Firstly, the perpetrator is portrayed as a chauvinistic man that had intentionally injured the victim, who was also his wife. Here, his action is justified as having lack of respect and tolerance towards the opposite gender. This claim is further exploited with his polygamy status in his marriage. The victim, who is addressed as the perpetrator’s first wife, may instantly imply that the perpetrator may have had a second or third wife. The perpetrator is being discriminated when he is being referred by his profession as a “farmer”. What can be inferred here is that the perpetrator’s physical attribute. Readers may have had the impression that the perpetrator is a strong and bulky man, injuring the victim, who is a woman. In addition to that, he is also viewed as a low-income earner who surprisingly could afford having more than a wife.</p> <p>Compared to the perpetrator, readers may have more sympathy for the victim. This is because of the fact that she is not only injured by her own husband, using a hammer. Her status as the “first wife” portrays as a submissive wife,</p>

Lead : 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.

who could have been forced into a polygamy marriage.

The lead, which is extracted from text 1, is constructed based on the main event and the background of the event reported. The perpetrator being detained by the police for injuring the victim is main event reported here. While at the same time, the victim scolding the perpetrator for courting his second wife's sister is the background event that contextualizes the main event here. What is clear here is the text producer's report that is slanted towards the victim.

Firstly, the perpetrator is made guilty of the allegation of hitting the victim on the head with a hammer when the text producer foregrounds the perpetrator's state of being detained by the police. This may have given a negative impression on the perpetrator. Besides that, the word "courting" that is used in this context, has a negative connotation on the perpetrator. It portrays the perpetrator as a womanizer, who has bad intention to even his sister in law.

Besides being portrayed as the victim, the perpetrator's wife is also represented as a wifely lady when the verb 'scold' is used to describe her dispute against the husband's intention. Scolding is an act to discipline or to regulate someone, who has misbehaved, compared other verbs that are also associated to married women like nagging and

<p>Commentary: 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.</p>	<p>This is a paragraph that states the commentary from the Perlis Criminal Investigation Department chief Deputy Superintendent. It signifies the interference of the legal discourse in the text. The purpose of bringing in the commentary may possibly to pertain the text producer’s perspective of looking at the case from the legal discourse.</p> <p>The number of stitches received by the victim is also not precisely quantified, which may perhaps have been exaggerated by the text producer to stir the sensational value of the news. But yet, this also represents the text producer’s bias attitude in portraying the two social actors in the text. The victim is constantly fore grounded as weak and helpless, compared to the perpetrator.</p>
<p>Commentary: He said that she had alleged that it was not the first time her husband had brought the woman to the house.</p>	<p>In this commentary paragraph, the perpetrator’s reputation as a womanizer is deduced by the victim’s allegation that it was not the first time the perpetrator had brought the sister of the perpetrator’s second wife to their house.</p> <p>Besides that, the inclusion of the allegation also signifies the lack of respect that the perpetrator has for his wives. Firstly, bringing another lady to the house where his first wife is living is a sign of disrespect. Secondly, the perpetrator also has no respect for his second wife as he may be having an affair with the sister of his second wife, without her knowledge.</p>

Main event: He lost his temper and punched her in the face before grabbing a hammer and hitting her on the head with it.

Referring to this extract, readers may infer that the victim's scolding may have only caused the perpetrator losing his temper, but it is not the cause of the assault. The cause of the assault could be deduced from the fact that the perpetrator is emotional and lack of patience, when the text producer claims that "he lost his temper and punched her in the face". Besides that, the text producer also demonizes the transgression by describing the assault in detail, of how the perpetrator grabbed the hammer and hit in on the victim's head.

4.3.2 NEWS REPORT 2

The second data is a report that is taken from the New Straits Times, a local English daily. “

Woman says husband tried to run her over” is a piece of report of how the perpetrator who is the husband of the victim, made attempts to run over the victim with his car after a quarrel.

Text 2

Woman says husband tried to run her over

Marang, Wed. - A man allegedly tried to run over his wife twice during a quarrel; causing injuries to her left shoulder and left leg.

In the 3am incident at Kampung Batu 9, Bukit Payong yesterday, the couple, who are separated, had a quarrel in the car after visiting their children at Kampung Seberang Baruh in Kuala Terengganu.

District criminal and investigation department head Assistant Superintendent Jasmin Abd Rahman said the wife lodged a report at the Marang station at 11 am yesterday.

He also said the man, 51, had earlier lodged a report at 5 am at the Bukit Payong police station claiming that his wife fell while coming out of the car.

However, Jasmin said the 44 year old wife claimed that her husband knocked her down and broke her shoulder in his attempt and when he tried to run over her the second time, the vehicle hit her leg.

Jasmin said the woman ran to a neighbour's house to seek help and the neighbour sent her to the Kuala Terengganu Hospital.

We picked up the man, a foreman at a car workshop in Pekan Cabang Tiga , at 4 pm on the same day, he said.

Analysis of text 2

Generic Structure	Description
<p>Headline: Woman says husband tried to run her over</p>	<p>The headline of the second piece of data here is injecting an allegation claim from the victim on the perpetrator. It is an allegation claim because the perpetrator has yet to be proven guilty by court. Still, it is still a strong allegation as it derives from the victim, who is also the perpetrator's wife. Based on her marital status to the perpetrator, readers may perceive the perpetrator negatively and may have set a bias perception of him. Besides that, being a woman in the male supremacy society, she may gain more sympathy from the readers, as compared to the perpetrator. Furthermore, the phrasal verb "to run over" may also implicitly infuse the idea of the perpetrator having the intention to harm the victim physically.</p>
<p>Lead: Marang, Wed. - A man allegedly tried to run over his wife twice during a quarrel; causing injuries to her left shoulder and left leg.</p>	<p>The lead of this text presents the main event that actualizes the victim's allegation that the perpetrator had the intention to injure her, after their quarrel. Here, the text producer quantifies the number of attempts made by the perpetrator in trying to run over the victim. Besides that, the text producer also briefly mentions the injuries sustained by the victim in the incident. Quantifying the number of attempts made by the perpetrator and pointing out the injuries sustained by the victim may significantly construct a bias judgmental from the readers of the perpetrator.</p>
<p>Commentary: District criminal and investigation department head Assistant Superintendent Jasmin Abd Rahman said the</p>	<p>This is a commentary report that is extracted from the text. The inclusion of the commentary from the District Criminal and Investigation</p>

<p>wife lodged a report at the Marang station at 11 am yesterday.</p>	<p>department head Assistant Superintendent may have verified the allegation made by the victim on the perpetrator.</p>
<p>Main event: However, Jasmin said the 44 year old wife claimed that her husband knocked her down and broke her shoulder in his attempt and when he tried to run over her the second time, the vehicle hit her leg.</p>	<p>In this paragraph, the text producer describes the perpetrator’s action as intentional. The use of the verb “knock down” shows that the perpetrator knocked down the victim at the purpose of injuring her. The use of the verb “break” in referring to the action of breaking the victim’s shoulder, after knocking her down. Besides that, the word “attempt” shows the perpetrator had made the trials to injure the victim intentionally, which then further elaborates the perpetrator’s intention to injure the victim with his vehicle.</p>

4.3.3 NEWS REPORT 3

The news report “Woman lodged police report after husband assaults her with belt” is a report of how the victim was assaulted by her husband, using a belt. The reason of the assault was that the victim did not seek the perpetrator’s permission, who was also the husband to the victim, before going out with her friends. The report here significantly represents the male supremacy practice in the society, where wives are supposed to seek the husband’s permission before going out.

Text 3

Woman lodged police report after husband assaults her with belt.

Kuantan, Mon- A 38 year old housewife was assaulted by her husband with a belt in their house at Kampung Galu, Raub, after she visited a friend on Deepavali day without his permission.

State Criminal Investigation Department senior officer Assistant Superintendent Abdul Aziz Mohd Noor said in the 11.30 am incident yesterday, the victim was washing clothes when her husband hit her more than five times with the belt from behind.

The suspect was angry after he found out his wife had gone out with her friends without his permission he said

The victim suffered minor injuries and received outpatient treatment at the Raub Hospital.

She then lodged a police report at the Raub police station.

We are looking for the husband, a 34 year old lorry driver, who has since gone missing Aziz said.

Those with information can contact the Raub police or the nearest police station.

Analysis of text 3

Generic Structure	Description
<p>Headline: Woman lodged police report after husband assaults her with belt.</p>	<p>The headline of the text does more than just informing the readers of the content of the text. First of all, the word “woman” in the headline refers to the victim as the police report was made by her. Besides that, lodging a police report by the victim, who is intimately related to the perpetrator, may validate the assault conducted.</p> <p>Besides that, the sentence “husband assaults her with belt” is phrased as fact, without any mitigation by the verb modals. This may perhaps be inferred as the text producer’s opposing to the perpetrator’s transgression and supporting the victim’s decision to lodge the police report on the perpetrator.</p>
<p>Lead: Kuantan, Mon- A 38 year old housewife was assaulted by her husband with a belt in their house at Kampung Galu, Raub, after she visited a friend on Deepavali day without his permission.</p>	<p>What can be inferred from the lead is an exaggerated picture of a husband assaulting the wife, without reason, mercilessly. Readers may have had the impression that the perpetrator was unreasonable and emotional as the victim was assaulted, using a belt because that she visited a friend on an auspicious day, without his acknowledgement. It is not made clear to the readers of the relation between the victim and the so called friend. In fact, the curiosity of the friend’s identity is back grounded by the focus given on the assault.</p>
<p>Commentary: State Criminal Investigation Department senior officer Assistant</p>	<p>The commentary by the State Criminal Investigation Department senior officer</p>

<p>Superintendent Abdul Aziz Mohd Noor said in the 11.30 am incident yesterday, the victim was washing clothes when her husband hit her more than five times with the belt from behind.</p>	<p>Assistant Superintendent Abdul Aziz Mohd Noor endorses the victim's claim of the perpetrator's transgression. The event that is stated by the representative from the state criminal investigation department senior officer is the victim washing clothes when she was intentionally injured by the perpetrator with a belt, without her having the opportunity to protect or to retaliate.</p> <p>Besides that, the claim is also supported by the claim that the victim has been hit more than five times by the perpetrator. It shows that it was no accident, but an assault as it was held intentionally by the perpetrator to punish the victim.</p>
<p>Background: The suspect was angry after he found out his wife had gone out with her friends without his permission he said</p>	<p>It is understood that being angry refers to a person in a state of mind that is unable to control the mind and behaviour in a rational manner. This refers to the perpetrator's state of mind of hitting the perpetrator with a belt.</p> <p>Besides that, the victim is said to have gone out with friends, which means more than one. Thus, it does not make sense that the perpetrator should distrust the victim, if he had ever had. The claim " had gone out with her friends" also disputes the previous claim that the victim had visited a friend on that day, which may connote a misconduct of the victim that triggered the perpetrator's transgression.</p>

4.3.4 NEWS REPORT 4

“Enraged man parades wife nude on motorcycle” is a case reported in the News Straits Times. In this case, a man parading his wife in nude, in the public as he suspected his wife of having an eight month affair with another man.

Text 4

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

Analysis of text 4

Generic Structure	Description
<p>Headline: Enraged man parades wife nude on motorcycle</p>	<p>The headline of the text may have given the readers the impression that the perpetrator is releasing her anger and fury on the victim. Enragement is an emotional state, where it is normally triggered. However, the cause of the perpetrator's enragement is not mentioned.</p> <p>Hence, readers may infer the perpetrator's action as a form of behaviour that the perpetrator takes upon the victim, to release his anger.</p> <p>Besides that, the use of the word "parade" in the headline would have also suggested that the action is held by the perpetrator to humiliate the victim intentionally, with the purpose to please himself.</p> <p>The word "nude" connotes a disgraceful situation that the victim faced in the word of the event. Being forced to get nude in the public is disgraceful. Besides that, it also shows that the perpetrator had no respect for the victim, as his wife and as a human. He had had the intention to strip and paraded her in public.</p>

<p>Lead: 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 .</p>	<p>The event that is foregrounded in the lead is of how the perpetrator humiliated the victim disgracefully in public.</p> <p>The use of the passive structure “was paraded” does not only foreground the state that the victim was in, but also shows that it was done involuntarily by the victim.</p> <p>It was disgraceful enough that the victim was paraded in nude. What further exaggerates the event is the mentioning of the distance that she was forced to do so. According to the lead of the text, the victim was paraded in nude for about 40 kilometers. By quantifying the distance, it may have a stronger negative impression of the readers on the perpetrator, who is being demonized from the beginning.</p>
--	--

<p>Commentary: 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.</p>	<p>The reason of the perpetrator’s anger towards the victim is only described in the commentary, which is the third paragraph in the text. What is obvious is that the text producer may have not seen this is as the solid reason to the perpetrator’s action.</p> <p>According to the Assistant Superintendent, the perpetrator had suspicion of the victim having an affair with another man for almost 8 months. However, the suspicion of the victim had committed the adultery as claimed by the perpetrator is actualized by the commentary from the Superintendent.</p>
<p>Background: 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.</p>	<p>The event that had occurred before the victim being paraded is reported in this paragraph. The victim claimed to have been taken by the perpetrator to an oil palm estate and being physically abused by him. Readers are given</p>

	<p>the impression that the perpetrator had treated the victim inhumanly. He had not only undressed her, but also tied her to a tree before beating her.</p> <p>It is clear in the claim that the perpetrator is emotional and cruel. He had taken those actions, solely based on what is said to be a suspicion.</p>
<p>Main event: The man then forced the woman, who was still naked, onto a motorcycle and paraded her for about 30 minutes.</p>	<p>The trauma and agonizing state that the victim went through is being described here. It is clearly stated that the victim was forced onto the motorcycle, before being paraded by the perpetrator in nude. What the text producer may have wanted to imply is the lack of respect that the perpetrator had for the victim.</p> <p>Furthermore, it is claimed that the victim was paraded in nude for about 30 minutes. It is a claim that is made factual, as if the text producer were at the scene of the incident. This may eventually stir the sympathy readers have for the victim and the anger towards the perpetrator.</p>
<p>Background: He then stopped the motorcycle in a crowded place and started kicking and verbally abusing her.</p>	<p>This paragraph draws readers' attention to the perpetrator's behaviour which is negatively portrayed. As if parading the victim in nude was not enough, the perpetrator is said to have physically abused the victim by kicking and also verbally abusing her. The paragraph here is added in to sustain the early claims that dehumanize the perpetrator.</p>
<p>Background: When told to stop beating his wife, the man rode off, leaving the woman behind.</p>	<p>Here, the perpetrator is said to have only stopped beating the victim when he was told. This may imply that the perpetrator had no intention to stop beating the victim if he had not been told. Furthermore, this also significantly shows that the members of the</p>

	<p>public were against the perpetrator's way of treating the victim.</p> <p>Besides that, this paragraph also forefronts the perpetrator's wife as the helpless victim, who had no opportunity to retaliate or to protect herself from the perpetrator.</p>
--	---

4.3.5 NEWS REPORT 5

The news report “Woman wants police to act on assault” refers to a police report made by the victim, who claimed to have been abused by the perpetrator. According to the victim, the perpetrator started the transgression, way back in 1997, when they first got married. The victim had lodged several police reports on the perpetrator, however, no actions had been taken so far. The most recent abuse was when the victim made a visit to a friend on May 9 when she was trailed and slashed by the perpetrator.

Text 5

Woman wants police to act on assault

Johor Baru, Wed.- A 24 year old woman, who claimed to have been assaulted by her husband since they married in 1997, suffered severe injuries following the latest alleged incident on May 9.

E. Nimalee , a mother of four, brought her problem to Skudai State Assemblyman Khoo Kong Ek yesterday, alleging police did not take action on her four reports against her husband.

She lodged the reports on July 3, Sept 20 and Oct 9 last year as well as May 9.

Khoo said Nimalee’s 32 year old husband, who does not have a permanent job, had always vented his anger on his wife by punching her, even in ;public places.

He said the man had attempted to strangle Nimalee and also threatened to kill her on several occasions.

Khoo said their children were not spared the physical abuse, with the younger ones “ being thrown like a basketball as part of entertainment” by the abusive husband.

“ Nimalee moved to her mother’s house two years after the marriage due to the physical abuse.”

“ Nimalee visited a friend on May 9. However she was trailed by her husband who slashed her with a parang on her neck, shoulders and arms.

“She was hospitalised for four days and received 86 stitches”.

A police spokesman, when contacted, said Nimalee’s husband was being sought to assist investigation. He is believed to be working as a security guard in Singapore.

Analysis of Text 5

Generic Structure	Description
<p>Headline: Woman wants police to act on assault</p>	<p>The headline of the text ambiguously reports the event here as a case of gender oppression, where the victim was a woman, who pledged for help from the police.</p> <p>The use of the action verb “want” may actually refer to the victim being in a desperate situation, where she needed the police to act immediately on the assault involving her. This is because she was only a common citizen, who had minimum privileges in commanding the police force. So, her request may be inferred as the derivation from the forlorn situation that she was involved in.</p>
<p>Lead : Johor Baru, Wed.- A 24 year old woman, who claimed to have been assaulted by her husband since they married in 1997, suffered severe injuries following the latest alleged incident on May 9.</p>	<p>The lead of the text puts more focus on the relation between the perpetrator and the victim of the case reported. The allegation made by the victim that the perpetrator had been abusing her is faltered as a claim made by the victim. But it does not dispute the facts that the victim was indeed severely injured, which were signs of being abused.</p> <p>What is captivating is that the victim is being referred as “a 24 year old woman”. The referent does not only distance the victim from the perpetrator, but also accredits the victim as a young lady, who deemed some respect from the perpetrator, despite their relation.</p> <p>The adjective “ latest” that compliments the word “ alleged” in the lead may strongly suggest that it was not the first time that</p>

	<p>perpetrator had taken aggressive behaviour on the victim. In fact, it may exaggerate the report on the abuse.</p>
--	--

<p>Background: E. Nimalee, a mother of four, brought her problem to Skudai State Assemblyman Khoo Kong Ek yesterday, alleging police did not take action on her four reports against her husband.</p>	<p>This is a paragraph that states the claim made by the victim on the allegation that the police did not take any actions after having lodged four reports against the perpetrator.</p> <p>The text producer may have the intention to portray an abusive mask of the perpetrator, who had not only had one report against his abusive behaviour, but four. Plus, making police reports may actually portray the severity of the actions made by the perpetrator on the victim.</p>
<p>Commentary : Khoo said Nimalee’s 32 year old husband, who does not have a permanent job, had always vented his anger on his wife by punching her, even in public places.</p>	<p>This is a commentary statement made by the state assemblyman, Khoo Kong Ek. The purpose is to validate the claim made by the victim that she had been physically abused by the perpetrator, as Khoo is a public figure.</p> <p>The statement that the perpetrator had always vented anger on the victim may lead to the inference that the perpetrator was unable to control his temper and used the victim to express his furious temper.</p> <p>Besides that, readers may also mentally picture the perpetrator of having respect for the victim when he was alleged of punching the victim, even in public places.</p>
<p>Background: He said the man had attempted to strangle Nimalee and also threatened to kill her on several occasions.</p>	<p>The paragraph here further describes how the perpetrator had actually assaulted the victim inhumanly. Strangling and threatening another person are not only against the law, but are also</p>

	<p>socially abhorred.</p> <p>The word “attempt” used would possibly describe the perpetrator of having intention to harm the victim, which may lead to the possibility of killing the victim, as claimed.</p>
--	---

<p>Commentary : Khoo said their children were not spared the physical abuse, with the younger ones “ being thrown like a basketball as part of entertainment” by the abusive husband.</p>	<p>The inclusion of the commentary that the perpetrator had also mistreated his children would make the perpetrator’s action more salient. This is because the commentary was quoted from Khoo, the state assemblyman, talking about how the perpetrator had mistreated his children other than his wife. The perpetrator is being dehumanized for his aggression.</p>
<p>Main Event: “ Nimalee visited a friend on May 9. However she was trailed by her husband who slashed her with a parang on her neck, shoulders and arms.</p> <p>“She was hospitalised for four days and received 86 stitches”.</p>	<p>The main event captured in the paragraph is of how the perpetrator trailed and injured the victim severely, compared to the event where the victim went to visit a friend. The text producer diverts readers’ focus on the event where the perpetrator first trailed the victim before slashing her with a parang, instead of the event that had provoked the perpetrator’s anger.</p> <p>The use of the verb “trail” may hint that the perpetrator had been stalking the victim. The connotation of the word here is also further implied by the statement that the victim had only gone to visit a friend. In the context, visiting a friend is without any implication as the relation of the victim to the friend is not mentioned at all. Referring back to the event here, the fault would be pointing the</p>

	<p>perpetrator who had not only stalked the victim, but also slashing her on the neck, shoulders and arms with a parang. Furthermore, the use of the action verb “slash” strongly implies that the perpetrator had had the intention to injure the victim severely.</p>
--	---

4.4 Social Cognition

This sections looks at the different schemas that are linguistically embedded in the different discourses that are drawn in the texts. The data of the study are basically texts that denote the discourse of domestic violence. As reported, the social actors were married couples, where one was being portrayed as the perpetrator and the other as the victim. It is a social event that is regarded with gendered bias in a male dominating society.

Embedded in the discourse of domestic violence are;

- a) the discourse of gender bias
- b) the discourse of male patriarch

4.4.1 THE DISCOURSE OF GENDER BIAS

The texts are said to be gender biased as the text producers constantly foreground the women's vulnerability in the male dominating society. Referring to the texts here, it is clear that the perpetrators' actions are being criticized because of their gender and identity. Any forms of oppression and abusive behaviours towards women, are badly condemned and slammed. However, this is not done explicitly in the texts as they are news reports of the events. Hence, the text producers would have chosen linguistic features that express the criticism towards the actions.

Firstly, the uses of the action verbs like punching, hitting, assaulting and slashing negatively denote the perpetrators' actions. These action verbs depict the aggressive acts taken by the perpetrators to oppress and to force the victims. On the contrary, these verbs denote the victims

being in frail and helpless state, due to the actions performed by the perpetrators. It is unclear if the text producers have exaggerated in describing the actions.

Besides that, the inclusion of commentaries that side the victims may also slant the neutrality of the reports. The commentaries proposed that the victims are indeed the oppressed parties, compared to the perpetrators. The inclusion of the commentaries has actually diverted the readers' focus on looking at the news reported neutrally. In fact, the inclusion of the commentaries encourages the readers to put more weight on the state of the victims, compared to the perpetrators.

4.4.2 THE DISCOURSE OF MALE PATRIARCH

The referential words used by the text producers to address the perpetrators, are the symbolisms of the male patriarch society. The references are used to implicitly describe men's empowerment over women either domestically or professionally. Professionally, the perpetrators are being described based on their profession like farmer and foreman, while domestically, they are recognized as the husband and father. These references may highlight the cause of women's submission to the perpetrators' mistreatments and also of how the victims are being empowered by the perpetrators. Referring to the perpetrators based on their professions may highlight the fact that the victims are financially dependent on the perpetrators to support the family. Besides that, the perpetrators who are also referred as the husband or the father, are also being acknowledged as the head of the family, who have the rights and are the decision maker at home. Here, the texts are basically referring to the male patriarch family structure in the conservative Asian families, where men have more rights, economically or domestically than women.