

**REPRESENTATION OF GENDER IN CRIME NEWS REPORTS IN A DAILY
NEWSPAPER**

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**REPRESENTATION OF GENDER IN CRIME NEWS REPORTS IN A
DAILY NEWSPAPER**

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ABSTRACT

Newspaper reports serve as an important influence over public perception and opinion as it is a source of information about the world. There are various sections presented in newspaper such as technology, sports, and entertainment. One of the sections presented is on crime reports whereby the media reports the crime scenario almost every day around the world. The representation of victims, offenders as well as the situation of crime creates concern and awareness in the readers. This study focuses on the analysis of criminal news reports in a local printed newspaper. Its aim is to investigate the representation of gender in crime news reports and examine the language used in reporting the crime. The method employed is qualitative and quantitative while content analysis is used to analyse the data. The theoretical framework is based on the theme of 'negative image of men' proposed by Erlendson, J. (2011) and several categories to describe men and women in crime reports. The study reveals that men are cruel and irrational as they are represented in a negative image and women are weak and helpless and portrayed as the 'ideal victims'. The findings also indicate that the language included descriptive adjectives to describe about the victims, offenders and the situation of crimes. In addition, the news headlines portrayed men as the offenders and women as the victims. Overall, this study provides valuable information regarding crime news reports and is beneficial towards further studies on gender, language and media.

ABSTRAK

Laporan akhbar berfungsi sebagai pengaruh penting ke atas persepsi dan pendapat awam kerana ia menawarkan maklumat tentang segala yang berlaku di dunia. Di samping itu, laporan akhbar juga memaparkan pelbagai bahagian seperti teknologi, sukan dan hiburan. Terdapat juga bahagian laporan jenayah di mana senario jenayah telah dilaporkan oleh media hampir setiap hari di seluruh dunia. Perwakilan mangsa, pesalah, serta sifat jenayah mewujudkan kebimbangan dan kesedaran dalam diri pembaca. Kajian ini tertumpu kepada analisis laporan jenayah di dalam akhbar tempatan yang dicetak. Tujuannya adalah untuk menyiasat perwakilan gender dalam laporan jenayah dan meneliti bahasa yang digunakan dalam melaporkan jenayah. Kaedah yang digunakan adalah kualitatif dan kuantitatif manakala analisis kandungan digunakan untuk mengkaji data yang dikumpul. Kerangka teori adalah berdasarkan pada tema 'imej negatif lelaki' yang dicadangkan oleh Erlendson, J. (2011) dan beberapa kategori untuk menggambarkan lelaki dan wanita dalam laporan jenayah. Hasil kajian mendapati bahawa lelaki telah digambarkan sebagai kejam dan tidak rasional kerana mereka diwakili dalam imej negatif dan wanita digambarkan sebagai lemah dan tidak berdaya turut di gambarkan sebagai 'mangsa ideal'. Hasil kajian juga menunjukkan bahawa deskriptif adjektif digunakan untuk menerangkan mengenai mangsa, pesalah dan situasi jenayah. Di samping itu, tajuk berita menggambarkan lelaki sebagai pesalah dan wanita sebagai mangsa. Secara keseluruhannya, kajian ini menyediakan maklumat berharga mengenai laporan berita jenayah dan bermanfaat ke arah kajian lanjut mengenai gender, bahasa dan media.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

In this age of modernism, criminal issues spread widely through various mediums such as the television, internet and newspaper. These mediums play an essential role in a society by providing information for both individual and collective decisions. Thus, readers will make their own assumption and consideration as they please. For instance, news reports captivate people's interest to know about current issues and important stories as long as they are presented in a clear and interesting way. The news coverage in newspapers intends to convey messages and moral values to the readers about the reality of the world, especially about criminal activities.

1.1 Background of Study

Media language is found in ordinary speech and to conduct a study on its language features would be interesting. The study of media language is significant as it reveals a reflection of the wider society and culture. The media tends to affect the attitudes and opinions of society regarding people and issues through the way they are presented. Moreover, media language can tell us details about both the media and language.

News reports have a wide range of coverage through a variety of mediums. Reporters tend to find the latest stories in order to increase the readership of their news.

In Malaysia, there are several English newspaper publications, for instance, *New Straits Times*, *The Star*, *The Malay Mail*, and *The Sun*. Each of these newspapers provides different style of reporting the news. Thus, it is fascinating to examine media news reports as it serves as the main resource of news delivery.

People tend to refer to news reports and share the information gained with others. According to Wozniak, J. A. and McCloskey, K. A. (2010), “It has been known for some time that news stories influence public perceptions of social reality, reflect public interest, and play a large role in how people understand certain societal problems, especially crime (e.g., Curran, Gurevitch, & Woollacott, 1979)”. Additionally, they (ibid.) noted that mass media, specifically television news and newspaper reports, are a primary source of information about crime and violence and thus play a major role in shaping societal views of morality (e.g., McEvoy, 1996). Consequently, it indicates the roles of media in shaping people’s views and opinions toward certain issues.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

In this globalized era, people are no longer afraid to commit criminal acts, regardless of what gender they belong to. Despite all actions taken by the government to handle the issues, it still occurs in our daily lives. For instance, government has introduced ‘The Government Transformation Programme (GTP)’ in 2009. Reducing Crime is one out of six National Key Result Areas (NKRAs) in the GTP based on the society most pressing

concerns which cover the end-to-end process of fighting crime. In addition, it aims to improve public perception and to increase service delivery by PDRM (Ministry of Home Affairs, retrieved from www.moha.gov.my).

Nevertheless, everyone has to be responsible in helping to lessen the crime cases. People have been exposed to the cases through various mediums such as television and newspapers. However, only few are aware of the potential biases in the construction and reporting of news stories. It is important to look at the representation of gender in the crime reports as both sides might be presented differently in the news.

Further, the language used by journalists in writing the issues depends on their own views and perception. As a result, readers rely on what they read and generate their own assumptions. Besides that, the writer might adjust the use of language in the newspaper according to the needs of the readers due to the marketing strategies of the newspaper agency. For instance, they highlight on the current issues and trying to update latest information to the readers. Thus, it helps to increase the sales of the newspaper as the news values influence rating of the newspaper agency.

1.3 Research Objectives

This descriptive study investigates how crimes are reported in the news. In particular, it examines the representation of gender in news reports of robbery cases. This study also aims to observe the language used in crime reports as written in the daily newspaper. Issues pertaining to language and gender in the media are explored with the use of relevant theories and methodologies to yield the following research questions.

1.4 Research Questions

This study seeks to answer the following research questions:

- 1) How is gender represented in the crime news reports?
- 2) How do writers use language in reporting crime news?

1.5 Limitation of the Study

This study is limited to only one English newspaper, namely *The Star* because it has the highest circulation compared to another English newspaper in Malaysia (The Audit Bureau of Circulations, 2011). The collection of data for this study consists of crime news, namely robbery cases, which were reported over a period of 6 months (from February 2012 to July 2012). The reason of selecting crime news is due to the lack of study in this area in Malaysia and it is worth to be explored and research. As this study limited to only robbery cases, it is not covers other types of crime such as cyber-crime, prostitution or money laundering. The data source in itself is limited to only one newspaper and does not represent all the newspapers in Malaysia. As such, the results based in such small sample size cannot be generalised.

1.6 Significance of the Study

Criminal news reports are usually presented on the front page of a newspaper. News headlines usually attract a reader's interest which would lead them into buying the newspaper. However, one may ask the relevance and importance of conducting this study. Addressing the issues on media representation of gender in criminal news reports is significant as it enlightens the society on how the media presents the news.

Besides, crime rates have increased significantly over recent years, specifically in urban areas, further study is necessary as it informs the society to increase their awareness in preventing robbery cases in Malaysia. This study offers information about the language used by the writers in reports about crime. It also provides valuable points to journalists to eliminate elements of bias in news reports. To sum up, this study informs and encourages the public not to be involved in crime.

1.7 Definition of Terms

The following definitions of terms are described in order to gain clarity of meaning throughout this thesis:

Gender is a social category and it identifies social differences in terms of behavior, roles, and activities between men and women (Talbot, 1998). It also refers to the “socially determined ideas and practices of what it is to be female or male” (Reeves and Baden, 2000).

Crime is an action, which violates criminal law. According to Schiller, Black and Murphy (n.d:16-285) in *Crime and Criminality*, “crimes are defined as acts or omissions forbidden by law that can be punished by imprisonment and/or fine. Murder, robbery, burglary, rape, drunk driving, child neglect, and failure to pay taxes are all common examples” (retrieved from des.ucdavis.edu).

Robbery is defined as taking the property of another, with the intent to permanently deprive the person of that property, by means of force or fear.

Based on Law of Malaysia Act 574 Penal Code 390 (2006), robbery is stated as either theft or extortion as mentioned below:

“Theft is “robbery”, if, in order to commit theft, or in committing the theft, or in carrying away or attempting to carry away property obtained by the theft, the offender, for that end, voluntarily causes or attempts to cause to any person death, or hurt, or wrongful restraint, or fear of instant death, or of instant hurt, or of instant wrongful restraint”.

“Extortion is “robbery”, if the offender, at the time of committing the extortion, is in the presence of the person put in fear and commits the extortion by putting that person in fear of instant death, of instant hurt, or of instant wrongful restraint to that person or to some other person, and, by so putting in fear, induces the person so put in fear then and there to deliver up the thing extorted”.

News Reports argued by Herbert Gans (1980: 284) is about the economic, political, social, and cultural hierarchies and that reporting focuses “on those at or near the top of the hierarchies and on those, particularly at the bottom, who threaten them, to an audience, most of whom are located in the vast middle range between top and bottom”. He defined news as “information which is transmitted from sources to audiences, with journalists who are both employees of bureaucratic commercial organizations and members of a profession—summarizing, refining, and altering what becomes available to them from sources in order to make the information suitable for their audiences” (Gans, 1980: 80). Conceptually, Gans (1980: 52) divided news stories into two types: stories about “disorder news” that report threats to all kinds of order as well as the measures taken to restore order, and stories about “routine activities” that are normative and usually pose no direct threats. Despite their differences, both types of news making help to reproduce the dominant social order.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

In this chapter, some reviews are made based on the related topics of language, gender and media. The first part discusses about the language and gender in the news media as well as the theories used in this study. The second part presents the discussion on media news report and criminal news report especially the importance of research in this area while the last part offers available information on the relation of gender and crime.

2.1 Language in News Media

"Today there are about 6,000 languages in the world, and half of the world's population speaks only 10 of them. English is the single most dominant of these 10. British colonialism initiated the spread of English across the globe; it has been spoken nearly everywhere and has become even more prevalent since World War II, with the global reach of American power."

(Kenneally, *The First Word: The Search for the Origins of Language*; 2007; 226)

As stated in the excerpt above, it could be seen that English is one of the top ten languages spoken or used among the thousands of languages that exist in the world. This is also in

accordance to the listing of the ten most popular languages spoken in the world provided by the CIA World Factbook, which is one of the best geographic resources on the internet.

Even with the claim made by Crystal (2003, p.3) that a language will only be considered as a 'global language' when each country positions the language in a certain level of status, it is still an undeniable fact that English still remains to be a language that is spoken and used by most people in the world. As the study focuses on English daily newspaper namely *The Star*, the language plays an important role in providing information to the society especially in writing news reports.

Language in news reports plays a vital role in influencing a reader's belief and perceptions toward certain issues. According to Bell (1991), "it is the few talking to the many". It can be defined as a media that delivers their news via language to large audiences. Apart from that, he also gives reasons to the study of media language. He mentioned that it is interesting to see how the media uses language. Besides, media uses language that is often heard in society and language is an essential ingredient in media messages. Lastly, he stated that it is easier to collect data from media language than from face-to-face conversation. Therefore, it makes media language as a popular field of study.

Essentially, writers report on news that has happened in order to inform the readers. People need to know about certain issues as to what, how and when it happened. The demand on detailed news reports results in writers coming out with various styles of writing.

Based on a claim made by Chiasson, S. (2008, p.1), ‘the news media have the power to reinforce a particular ideology about crime and victimization’. A reader’s attitude and opinion about crimes are influenced, in large part by the selected information and views they are exposed to from the news agencies. As a result, people will believe what they read from the news reports and do not bother how the reports are presented.

Surrete (1998) as cited in Chiasson, S. (2008, p.11), identifies four ways that people obtain the knowledge on which they construct their social realities: *personal experience* (direct experience), *significant others* (peers, family, friend-input is sometimes referred to as conversational knowledge), *other social groups and institutions* (schools, unions, churches, government agencies) and the *mass media*. The last three sources of knowledge “are shared symbolically and collectively to form one’s symbolic reality” (p.11). He added that it is through the use of language that we are able to share the experienced realities of other people. He provided an example such as that our symbolic reality is made up of events that we are unable to personally experience, yet readily accept as truths, facts about the world that we do not experience, yet believe to be true; and things that we believe exist, but are unable to see. As a result, people tend to shape their knowledge and perception in various issues through their reading or information from others even though they have not experienced it. For instance, they gain knowledge about the history of people, places or events from reading materials, television or stories from the experts.

2.2 Gender in News Media

In general, there are various studies that have been done to the broad area of gender in media. Bahiyah Abdul Hamid (2009, p.107) claimed that feminist critics have commented on the ways that women are more often defined by: physical attributes (e.g., blonde, tall, nymph-like, stunning); age (e.g., young, middle-aged); marital status (e.g., married, spinster, divorced, widow); relationship to the 'other' (e.g., wife, girlfriend, partner, mistress); and abnormality of profession/occupation divided along gender line (e.g., 'woman/female' guard, officer, IT expert, doctor, nuclear physicist, driver/motorist/racing car driver, pilot/astronaut, etc). She added, males are usually defined by their: accomplishments (Senior Director, University of Malaya graduate, etc.); power (via force, status, authority, expertise); character (daring, brave, etc.); and occupation (guard, officer, IT expert, nuclear physicist, driver/motorist, pilot/astronaut, etc. (Bahiyah, 2009). In relation to the present study, the researcher aims to examine the representation of gender and the language used by the writers in reporting crime news reports.

One related study has been done on the press coverage of violent crime; a content analysis on *Chronicle Herald* newspaper by Chiasson, S. (2008). Based on the study, she found that women victims were reported in primary news stories more than twice as often as men and were overrepresented by the media. She added that the large percentage of female victims in primary news stories suggests that the news media viewed rape as crimes of interest, that is, as more newsworthy crime events compared to violent crime stories. Consequently, media representation of gender is based on the newsworthiness of the crimes.

Erlendson, J. (2011, p.8) in his study demonstrates the negative image of men featured in three recurring themes that can be found in different forms of mass media. The themes were represented as 'The Desire for Pleasure', 'Defying Social Norms' and 'Manipulated Men'. The first theme, 'The Desire for Pleasure' indicated the men's desire for pleasures cause them to be irrational. Further, he mentioned the second theme as 'Defying Social Norms' which means the media exhibiting men as childlike and unable to act in accordance to social norms. The last theme namely 'Manipulated Men' is defined as men are easily manipulated when trying to please women. Roger (2008, p.21) as cited in Erlendson stated that women's strong, independent image becomes countered by their participation in immoral acts. These immoral acts involve manipulating and controlling men which displays, "women's negative role in the contemporary crisis in masculinity" (p.21). It indicated the negative image of men as cowardly and pathetic when being controlled by women. This theory will be used in the present study in order to examine the portrayal of men in the news reports.

Christie (1986) as cited in Greer (2007, p.23) describes the 'ideal victim' as "a person or category of individuals who when hit by crime, most readily are given the complete and legitimate status of being a victim". She added that this group includes those who are perceived as *vulnerable, defenseless, innocent and worthy of sympathy and compassion*. He classifies the group as elderly women and young children, as suggested, are typical 'ideal victims', whereas young men, the homeless, those with drug problems, and others existing on the margins of society may find it much more difficult to achieve legitimate victim status, more so to secure a conviction in court (Carrabine et al., 2004).

At one extreme, those who acquire the status of 'ideal victims' may attract massive levels of media attention, generate collective mourning on a near global scale, and generate significant change to social and criminal justice policy and practice (Greer, 2004; Valier, 2004). This theory will be used in the present study to look into the portrayal of women in news reports.

2.3 Media News Reports

News reports are significant in our daily lives as we can be made aware of the happenings around the world. People tend to buy newspapers in order to read about current news.

According to Wozniak, A. J., Kathy, A., McCloskey, K. A. (2010, p.937),

“It has been known for some time that news stories influence public perceptions of social reality, reflect public interest, and play a large role in how people understand certain societal problems, especially crime (e.g., Curran, Gurevitch, & Woollacott, 1979). It seems clear that mass media, specifically television news and newspaper reports, are a primary source of information about crime and violence and thus play a major role in shaping societal views of morality (e.g., McEvoy, 1996). A connection between crime reporting and attitudes about crime has been demonstrated, illustrating the influence that the media have on public opinion and perceptions (Gilliam & Iyengar, 2000, 2005; Holbert, Shah, & Kwak, 2004)”.

As a result, the news covers do not only increase the publicity of the newspaper, but also create moral awareness to the readers. It will increase the rating of the mass media publications and provide interesting presentation in order to attract the readers. In addition, mass media is influential and in a powerful position to shape other people's viewpoint. (Talbot, 1998). Consequently, it is important for the writers of news media to write reliable stories as it influences readers' crucial decisions on the news they read.

Chiasson, S. (2008, p.12) mentioned in her study that the “media dominated the distribution of shared knowledge” in four ways:

- 1) the way history (in terms of what the media defines as significant) is recorded and analyzed.
- 2) the way people of possible historical importance depend on media exposure to secure their place in history.
- 3) the way the media gains influence and acceptance in determining what is believed to be significant.
- 4) the way institutions need to “present their own message and images within the accepted respectability and familiarity of media-determined format”.
(Surrete, 1998)

It is important to note that previous studies show the importance of reporting valuable information to the society. Thus, it is from the media that people get to know about the world.

2.4 Criminal News Reports

Before further views on the studies of criminal news reports are presented, the term ‘crime’ has to be defined first. According to Schiller, J. , Black, W. , & Murphy, P. V. (n.d.), crimes are usually defined as acts or omissions forbidden by law that can be punished by imprisonment and/or fine. In addition, murder, robbery, burglary, rape, drunk driving, child neglect, and failure to pay taxes are common examples.

Based on Baharom, A. H. (2009, p.55), crime or more specifically criminal and violent behavior has become a major concern across the world in recent years and have gained considerable popularity in terms of the number of researches being conducted and results being debated. Plus, crime rates vary enormously across countries and regions. Thus, the focused researches on crimes show the significance of the findings to society.

Chermak (1994) in Julie, A. C. (2008, p.7) stated that “crime is an important news topic every day and that crime news has long been an information priority for news organisations” (p.7). Therefore, in the Malaysian context, crime has been a major concern of people whereby the news are covered almost every day in local newspapers. There are several newspapers that will come out with their own ideologies and different ways of writing in order to attract the readers.

Wilson. S, (2010) did a research on the source usage and news credibility in two Malaysian crime cases. She claimed that reporters rely on the police rather than criminals for the vast majority of their information while sources are primary gatekeepers of information and selection of appropriate sources is a central concern of the journalist as this determines the quality of the accounts (p.50). Hence, it affects belief and perception of the readers toward the cases reported. Therefore, the accuracy of the news report is important and the writers have to be professionals in their jobs.

According to Pollak, J. M. , Kubrin, C. H. (2007), critical attention as to how crime is reported in the news is necessary given the way in which the media represents these events and heavily influence the understanding of crime in society (p.59). Based on the claim, the media reports provided knowledge on crimes as well as moral values to society.

Chermak & Chapman, (2007, p.14) stated that typically violent crimes are overrepresented in the media and property crimes are underrepresented. Additionally, the focus tends to be very individualistic with specific offenses committed by particular individuals being presented without further consideration of structural or alternative causes of crime. Thus, this study focuses on the offenders, victims and authoritative person that involved in the crime news reports.

Chiasson, S. (2008, p.13) said that it is important to examine how crime is presented to readers. She added that there are four different models to explain crime news; the *market model*, the *propaganda model*, the *hegemonic model* and the *organizational model* (Surret, 1998). In the *market model*, news is presented as objective facts, “a true image” of society (p.14). Surret claimed that journalists seem to provide a product that the public wants, and the journalist’s “news sense” allows them to make those determinations (p.14). Next, the *propaganda model*, defined as news selected on the grounds that it serves the interests of their owners, not the public. In the *hegemonic model*, the mass media is viewed as ideological apparatuses that maintain social order by reproducing ideology and sustaining hegemony over time. Lastly, the *organizational model* proposes that it is a news agency’s

organizational needs that guide the news construction process. It is claimed that every organization within the media industry operates with a list of criteria as a way of selecting news stories such as the source used, the story's newsworthiness and the story's prominence given to a crime story (Surrete, 1998). News organisations socially construct reality because the majority of news content the public receives about crime has already been filtered and manipulated. Surret claimed that the organizational model is the best to explain the processes involved in creating news.

Writers of crime reports picture the crime situation by identifying the person involves in the crime. Generally, offenders are the persons who commit crimes and are against the law. While victims are defined as persons who, individually or collectively, have suffered harm, including physical or mental injury, emotional suffering, economic loss or substantial impairment of their fundamental rights, through acts or omissions that are in violation of criminal laws, including those laws proscribing criminal abuse of power (The 7th United Nations Congress, 1999).

2.5 Representation of Gender in Criminal Issues

According to Reeves and Baden (2000, p.2) in Dick, Pandolfelli, Dohrn, and Athens (2005), 'gender' refers to the "socially determined idea and practices of what it is to be female or male" (p.4). It means how we socially identify ourselves in the society.

Besides, gender is defined as 'cultural significance given to biological difference of reproductive organs (Hermes, 2007, p.191). Hermes added that it refers to men and women, as well as to appropriate and less appropriate ways to be a man or a woman (masculinity and femininity).

He claimed, "the analytical importance in using gender as a concept is to denote how society is structured in terms of power relations. It points to the huge difference between social categories and the qualities we ascribe to groups. In turn, it is of vital importance to understand that categories never fully describe how actual individuals live their lives" (p.191).

As a result, gender does not refer only to men or women, but the socially constructed idea of masculinity and femininity attributed to them.

Men and women in Malaysian culture have different socialization experiences and are generally encouraged to behave in different ways. Men have always been 'go-getters' and are willing to strive for what they want. In contrast, women are often encouraged to value relationships and emotions, to take care of others, and to focus on feelings rather than

results. These different socialization experiences can lead men to behave in aggressive way and women to behave more passively.

However, some men behave passively and some women aggressively (Jariah Mohd Jan, 2006). In the present study, the involvement of men and women in crimes is examined through the lens of the news writers in the portrayal of offenders, victims and authoritative person.

On the other hand, Ilene and John (1983, p.91) claimed that the relation between gender and criminality is strong. As presented in news, we can see that both genders are involved in committing crimes. Traditionally, people may believe that women should not be involved in crimes. However, the portrayal of women as offenders will be explored further in the analysis of this study.

Adler and Simon (1975) as cited in Anderson and Bennett (n.d) claimed that structural changes following the women's movement in the 1960s and 1970s produced an increase in women's crime rates because women began to be exposed to potential crime targets (i.e. target suitability and a pool of motivated offenders) similar to those confronting men. Adler also states,

“As women invade the business world, there is no reason to expect them to be anymore honest than men, and to the extent that crime is related to motivation and opportunity, the incidence of such white collar offenses as embezzle”.

The statement above indicates that women involved in crime as they are also part of the business world. For example, in Malaysia, women are well-known with their own cosmetic

business such as spa and beauty products. Thus, the possibilities to involve in crime are close as they might be the victims as well as the offenders.

However, within the robbery offenders, it is determined that females make up only seven percent of those robberies that are reported. Obviously, seven percent is not a large number and it can be seen that robbery is obviously still a very masculine-dominated crime. Though, as it can be observed in the literature, the number of new female criminals has gained over the males quickly over the last few decades (Ferguson, T. 2009, p.3).

According to O'Brien (1999) as cited in Ferguson (2009, p.4), there are no differences in the involvement of crime between male and female. O'Brien indicated that female can also become offenders in the male-dominated crime. He claimed, "as economic conditions have changed, females have taken on different roles in society. Females now too are stepping up to become the sole providers earning provisions for their families. With more and more single parent homes, females are being forced into the labor field in order to take care of the financial responsibilities for their families. Thus, as female and male roles become more similar, so will the crime rates" (p.4).

In summary, people commit crime no matter what gender they are as long as they get whatever they want. Obviously, they become offenders because they want to get rich and take over other people's property without thinking of the consequences.

CHAPTER 3

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

The detail's description of data is presented in this chapter. The instruments and theoretical frameworks are explained. This is followed by the methods, data collection and procedures of analysis. It also explains on the pilot study done prior to the actual research.

3.1 Theoretical Framework

After the researcher had gone through the literature related to the studies in language, gender and media, it was discovered that there have been several theories which are related to the studies on media. In particular, the researcher decided to apply the 'three recurring themes' proposed by Erlendson, J. (2011). Erlendson, in his study demonstrates the negative image of men. The themes were represented as *The Desire for Pleasure*, *Defying Social Norms* and *Manipulated Men*.

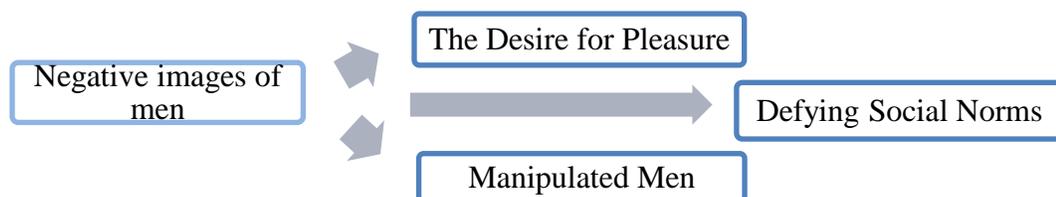


Figure 3.1 Negative images of men

In this particular framework, Erlendson looked at the category to analyze several forms of media that present a negative image of men. The themes that are utilized in this study examine the representation of men in the crime news reports. Besides using the framework provided by Erlendson (2011), another theory created by Christie (1986) as cited in Greer (2007) will also be utilized for data analysis in this study. The theory describes women as the 'ideal victim' which is defined as 'a person or category of individuals who when hit by crime, most readily are given the complete and legitimate status of being a victim, especially women'. The 'ideal victims' are categories as *vulnerable, defenseless, innocent and worthy of sympathy and compassion*. However, for the process of analysis in this study, the categories are utilized specifically as *Vulnerable and Defenseless and Compassion and Sympathy*. These categories are related to examine the representation of women in the media. (see chapter 2). If there are other new categories found in the analysis, those would be an addition to the field of knowledge.

3.2 Methods

The investigative approach in this study is a qualitative based research. According to Tewksbury (2009), qualitative research is one of the two primary approaches to the conduct of social science research and a superior means for conducting meaningful research in criminology and criminal justice. The knowledge gained through qualitative investigations is more informative, richer and offers enhanced understandings compared to that which can be obtained via quantitative research. At the core, qualitative research focuses on the meanings, traits and defining characteristics of events, people, interactions, settings/cultures and experience.

Further, the quantitative method is utilized to quantify certain value in order to provide evidence in support of the findings. Mixed methods research design is defined as a combination of both qualitative and quantitative method in order to comprehend the research problem (Creswell and Plano Clark, 2011 as cited in Creswell, 2012, p.535).

Rossmann and Wilson (1985) as cited in Johnson, Onwuegbuzie, & Turner (2007) identified three reasons for combining quantitative and qualitative research. First, combinations are used to enable confirmation or corroboration of each other through triangulation. Second, combinations are used to enable or to develop analysis in order to provide richer data. Third, combinations are used to initiate new modes of thinking by attending to paradoxes that emerge from the two data sources. Thus, the combination of methods is useful in this study in order to provide valid and reliable data analysis.

3.3 Instrument

The news reports were first collected from local English daily namely, *The Star* which is the main source of information for consumers. The newspaper was chosen because of the higher possibility to obtain data as it is one of the local English dailies with a high circulation and wide readership (see Table 3.1).

READERSHIP/CIRCULATION OF THE STAR NEWSPAPER

	Readership*	Circulation**
The Star (daily)	1,024,000	286,409
Sunday Star	973,000	295,552
New Straits Times	214,000	109,341
New Sunday Times	202,000	129,554
The Sun (daily)	-	300,550
The Edge	-	22,729

* Source: Nielsen Media Index (2011)

** Source: Audit Bureau of Circulation (Malaysia) (1 July 2009 - 30 June 2010)

Table 3.1 Circulation of *The Star* newspaper (source: thestar.com.my)

Based on Table 3.1, it shows that *The Star* is ranked first with a total number of 1,024,000 readerships. It is also circulated widely with a total number of 286,409. The newspaper is well-known for news coverage that manages to attract readers' interests to read. In addition, the updated news reports influence the readers to get to know about current issues happening around the world. Besides that, *The Star* is Malaysia's first provincial tabloid English newspaper. In addition, *STAR* has an average net circulation per publishing day of *The Star* and *The Sunday Star*.

3.3.1 Data Collection of Crime News Reports

The data for the study was centered upon news related to crime committed, and the nature of the crime is robbery. A total of 72 crime news reports are collected over a period of 6 months from February 2012 to July 2012.

Months (2012)	News reports	No. of words	Writers		
			Male	Female	N/A
February	10	2327	6	-	4
March	10	1960	2	-	8
April	12	2712	5	2	5
May	15	3339	3	4	8
June	20	4469	4	3	13
July	5	1008	-	1	4
TOTAL	72	15815	20	10	42

Table 3.2 Crime news reports

As can be seen in the table, the highest reported crime news is in June with a total number of 20. The entire corpus constitute of 15815 words. The news reports are mostly presented by male writers with a total number of 20, while female writers wrote only 10 news reports. Although, out of 72, there are 42 news reports that did not state the name of the writers and as such the gender of the writers is not known (see Appendix II).

3.4 Data Collection

The crime news reports were mainly gathered from *The Star* Tower Library, Kuala Lumpur. In order to access the system, the researcher seeks for permission to collect the data from the newspaper agency. Further, the researcher was granted access to the agency for 1 week after made the payment to the agency. The crime reports in the system were taken from two sections of the newspaper, namely 'Nation' and 'Views' as both section primarily focuses on the current issues in the country. The data were then compiled and organized according to the months of which the crime news was reported for the process of analysis.

3.5 Data Analysis

For the purpose of analysis, crime news reports were analyzed using content analysis. Content analysis is popular in media research because it can reveal large-scale patterns in the media output and at the same time able to produce objective measurable verifiable accounts of the manifest content of messages (Fiske, 1990). The phases of data analysis for this study are presented in the following:

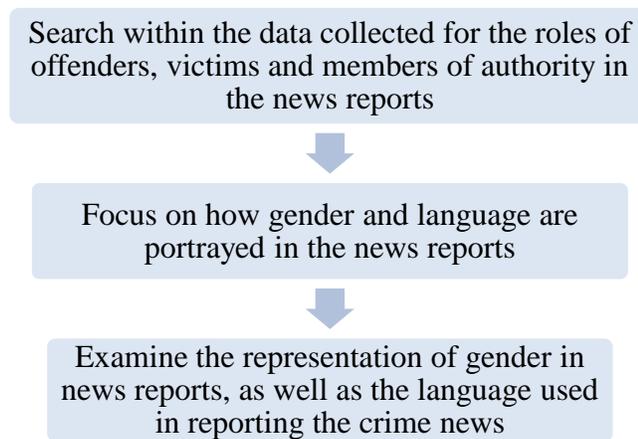


Table 3.3 Process of data analysis

Figure 3.3 presents how the data was analyzed to arrive at the findings of the study. In the first phase, a search was conducted within the data for occurrences of offenders, victims and members of authority in crime. Within these groups, the researcher looked at how men and women who committed crime are represented. Then, the data were organized and categorised according to the two theories elicited from Erlendson and Christie namely ‘the negative image of men’ and ‘ideal victims’ (see section 3.1). Next, there are lexical level analysis on the language used by the writers in portraying men and women in crime news reports. Specifically, the analysis of language focuses on adjective and headlines used in the

news reports. The portrayals of gender in news headlines are classified into men and women to look at how the language is used to represent the offenders and victims.

3.6 Pilot Study

Prior to running the actual research, a pilot study was conducted to test the methodology of the study.

Months	News reports	No. of words	Writers		
			Male	Female	Not mention
January	18	3495	2	2	14

Table 3.4 The data of crime news reports in January

The pilot study was carried out in January 2012 with a total of 18 news reports and 3495 words before the actual sampling was conducted. The data showed that there are offender, victim as well as member of authority represented in the crime news reports. The writers reported about the offenders and victims by mentioning their name and age. Besides, the authoritative people are identified through their title as Police officer or ranks in society. The involvement of men and women are presented in the following:

Months	Male			Female		
	Offenders	Victims	Authoritative	Offenders	Victims	Authoritative
January	17	12	12	1	7	-

Table 3.5 The Involvement of men and women in crime

Table 3.5 shows the numbers of offenders, victims and authoritative people involved in the crime. In January 2012, the offenders are comprised of 17 male and only 1 female. Meanwhile, the victims were mostly male as compared to female and men are majority as the authoritative person. Then, the categories in the two theories in methodology were applied in the pilot study. As a result, the data fit the categories and it could be used for the actual study. The languages utilized in the reports were also analyzed and the data consists of adjectives. The news headlines also portrayed gender. From the pilot study, it was proven that there are no problems with the methodology as it fit the particular theory by Erlendson and Christies as well as constitution of adjective and news headlines. The plan worked out well and the researcher was on the right track.

CHAPTER 4

DATA ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

4.0 Introduction

This chapter consists of three phases; first phase is the analysis on the portrayal of men in crime reports and second phase is the analysis on the portrayal of women in crime reports. The third phase includes the analysis of the language used in crime news reports with special focus on adjectives and headlines. The information gathered were analyzed in order to answer the research questions.

4.1 Portrayal of Men in Crime Reports

In this section, the analysis focuses on the portrayal of men in crime reports and the data was analysed based on the theory proposed by Erlendson (2011). Regardless of the theory used, the results also obtained several categories that portrayed men in the news reports.

Months (2012)	Male						
	Offenders	Victims	Authoritative	Negative Image			Dominant (cases)
				DP	DS	MM	
Feb	9	6	7	7	10	-	9
March	8	5	7	7	10	-	8
April	10	7	9	9	12	-	10
May	9	6	10	14	15	1	9
June	19	13	14	14	20	-	19
July	5	-	4	6	5	-	5
TOTAL	60	37	51	57	72	1	60

Keynotes: DP: Desire for pleasure, DS: Defying Social Norms, MM: Manipulated Men

Table 4.1 The involvement of men in crime reports

Table 4.1 indicates the involvement of men in the crime news reports. Analysis of data revealed that men are portrayed as offenders, victims and authoritative person. They are also portrayed as negative image and dominant in the crime cases. The following analysis further explains the representation of men in crime reports.

a) Men as Offenders

Male	Feb	Mac	Apr	May	June	July	Total
Offenders	9	8	10	9	19	5	60

Table 4.2 Men as Offenders

Table 4.2 depicts the representation of men as offenders in robbery crime reports from February 2012 to July 2012. Based on the data collected, the offenders of robbery involved young and older people ranging from age 18 to 50 years old. Throughout the months involved, the numbers of male offenders reported were higher with a total number of 60 (see Table 4.2). Thus, out of 60 occurrences, 19 male offenders were reported in the month

of June. There were school holidays from 1st June to 10th June that may be one of the factors for the high number of robbery cases.

However, there were only 5 male offenders portrayed in July as it was the holy month for Muslims and the beginning of Ramadhan, the fasting month. Thus, the total crimes for the month lessen to only 5 cases (see Appendix II).

The data showed that the offenders usually worked in groups as the representation of 'Robbery Gang' and 'Mamak Gang' in the crime news reports. There are 9 male offenders reported in February. In the news reports dated 6th Feb 2012, it was stated that the offenders were high in the wanted list. However, they were killed during a police dragnet. In March, the writers reported the involvement of 8 male offenders and there were cases in which the offenders committed two crimes at the same time. For instance, the news reports on 20th March 2012 mentioned that a young widow was robbed and raped. The offenders had reacted cruelly even though they had robbed the victim.

There were 10 males offenders reported in April while 9 male offenders were reported in May. Reports on illegal migrants that were shot by the police at the crime scene were also in the data. The writers of news reports mentioned the violence used by offenders in a few cases. The act of violence involved the use of weapons to hurt the victims and hunt for money. Several victims had also incurred physical and mental torture. For example, as reported in 19th May 2012, a pregnant woman was forced to lick the urine of one of the offenders and eat raw eggs in front of them. This action not only caused embarrassment and

traumatised to the victim, but also affected her health and emotions. In another case reported on 19th July 2012, it was mentioned that the offenders robbed and set the victim's house on fire. Thus, the action was very cruel and caused loss of family members.

Overall in the reports, men offenders used the act of violence such as rob, rape and kill. There was also high level of cruelty where they torture their victims.

b) Men as Victims

Male	Feb	Mac	Apr	May	June	July	Total
Victims	6	5	7	6	13	-	37

Table 4.3 Men as Victims

Men were also portrayed as the victims in crime reports. Table 4.3 illustrates the total number of male victims involved in the data collected. The victims were represented via the name mentioned as well as the action that occurred. They came from different backgrounds such as students, chefs, money-changers, foreigners, artists, *datuks*, cab drivers, businessmen and retired workers. The highest number of male victims reported was in June with a total number of 13. Thus, the month showed that men were not only the majority of offenders, but also the target for crime cases. On the other hand, there were no male victims reported in July. The findings revealed 37 male victims in the 72 news reports collected. The reports provided a lesson to readers that men also have the possibility to become a victim.

c) **Authoritative Men**

Male	Feb	Mac	Apr	May	June	July	Total
Authoritative	7	7	9	10	14	4	51

Table 4.4 Authoritative Men

Table 4.4 shows the authoritative men reported throughout the 6 months. There were 51 news reports on men in authoritative position in the crime cases. The highest was reported in June with total number of 14 and the lowest was in July with only 4 males. Based on the findings, the writers reported about the members of authority involved in the crime news reports. Most of the writers wrote the name of police officers who stated their comments and reports regarding the crime cases. For example,

Extract 1:

‘**DCP Mohd. Mokhtar** also said that initial investigations revealed that one of the suspects had a criminal record and was wanted in connection with drug and housebreaking cases in 2007’ (*The Star*, 3rd Jan 2012).

Based on extract 1, the writers initiated police involvement in the crime and the action taken to solve the cases. The role of authority indicated that the robbery cases have been forwarded for serious action by engagement of further investigation. The results showed that men were portrayed as the problem solvers as most of them were police officers.

d) **Negative Images of Men**

Erlendson, J. (2011) in his study demonstrates the negative image of men featured in three recurring themes that can be found in different forms of mass media. The themes were

categorised as ‘The Desire for Pleasure’, ‘Defying Social Norms’ and ‘Manipulated Men’.

The analyses that portrayed men as negative are presented as following:

i) The Desire for Pleasure

Erlendson stated in his study that men’s desire for pleasure causes them to be irrational.

The following points describe how men are portrayed in the crime reports as senseless, irrational, heartless and cruel.

1) Senseless and Irrational Men

Male	Feb	Mac	Apr	May	June	July	Total
Senseless & Irrational	3	2	2	7	6	2	22

Table 4.5 Senseless and Irrational Men

Table 4.5 shows the numbers of cases that portrayed men as being senseless and irrational.

Men who committed criminal acts against the law and loss control as a human being because of their desire for pleasure. They tend to do anything without thinking of the effects of their actions. The examples below describe men’s actions of being senseless and irrational.

Extract 2:

‘A 34- year- old woman in Sungai Labis, Segamat, was set on fire by a robber who also grabbed her gold chain worth RM2,000’ (*The Star*, 19th July 2012)

Extract 3:

‘Three in family die after allegedly drinking milk offered by ‘holy man’’ (*The Star*, 16th Apr 2012)

Extract 4:

‘A 66-year-old former Wanita Umno branch chief died after she was slashed during an attempted robbery at her home in Jeneri, Sik’ (*The Star*, 22nd July 2012)

Based on extract 2, it shows that the man became senseless when he robbed and set fire on the victim's house. The action was irrational as they not only robbed, but chose to burn the victim's house in order to eliminate the evidence. In extract 3, the victims' trust was betrayed by the 'holy man' that they believed could mend family disputes through a ritual, who finally poisoned them. Lastly, extract 4 indicated the irrational action of the offender by robbing and killing an elderly woman who should be protected and respected instead.

Barret, (2002) stated that 'whenever men have insisted on the limits of reason, declaring that logic alone cannot account for the guilt, dread, anxiety, alienation, and latent meaninglessness of life; they have been taking an existentialist stand. For Existentialism, "whether successfully or not, has attempted to gather all the elements of human reality into a total picture of man," and any picture of man that fails to consider the irrational element, the absurd, will be incomplete' (Barrett, W. 2002).

The statement made by Barret indicates that men will do anything when they lack reasoning in order to achieve their aims.

In addition, based on the study by Pollak & Kubrin (2007), 'the irrational nature of violence committed by youths showed that youths act senselessly and without remorse'. As this study showed that the youngest age of offenders is 17; they are too young to think of the consequences and followed their emotions in committing crimes. For instance, in news reports dated 19th March 2012, the writer reported on a taxi driver who was strangled by his seat belt during a struggle with some male teen bandits. The offenders were aged between

17 and 19, but dared to rob and kill people. It shows that they tend to do anything to get money and end up receiving punishment by the law.

2) Heartless and Cruel Men

Male	Feb	Mac	Apr	May	June	July	Total
Heartless & Cruel	4	5	7	7	8	5	36

Table 4.6 Heartless and Cruel Men

Men are described as heartless and cruel in the news reports. Based on table 4.6, there are 36 cases that show men as being heartless and cruel. This could be proved from the examples taken from the crime reports as the following:

Extract 5:

‘A woman was hurt after being thrown out of her four-wheel drive which was driven away by two robbers’ (*The Star*, 12th Apr 2012)

Extract 6:

‘A pregnant woman was not only robbed in her own house, she was also forced to lick the urine of one of the robbers’ (*The Star*, 19th May 2012)

Extract 7:

‘A 20-year old widow was not only robbed of her mobile phone and RM150 but was also raped repeatedly before she managed to escape’ (*The Star*, 20th May 2012)

Extracts 5-7 show that the victims have been robbed, raped and injured. In the first example, the woman was thrown out of her own car by the robbers while the second example showed that even though the victim was pregnant, the offenders acted cruelly without any sense of humanity. A widow had been robbed and raped repeatedly as stated in the last example. The victims were tortured mentally and physically as well as suffered a

loss of dignity as a woman. The reports created feelings of sadness and sympathy among the readers. The desire for pleasure caused the offenders to lose their morality and act irrationally.

ii) Defying Social Norms

Male	Feb	Mac	Apr	May	June	July	Total
Defying Social Norms	10	10	12	15	20	5	72

Table 4.7 Defying Social Norms

As this study focuses on the robbery cases in Malaysia, the 72 samples of cases itself described the act of confronting the social norms. The acts of rape, killing and violence in the cases are against the social norms as human beings. Throughout the 6 months, the highest robbery cases were in June 2012 (see Table 4.7). In the data collected, many examples indicated a negative image of men as defying social norms. For instance,

Extract 8:

‘A senior citizen was attacked and robbed while she was home alone in Kota Sentosa, more than 10km from here’ (*The Star*, 8th Mar 2012)

Extract 9:

‘Idols at Hindu temple along Jalan Nong Chik were destroyed while jewellery worth more than RM15,000 were stolen during an early morning robbery here’ (*The Star*, 17th May 2012)

Extracts 8-9 indicated that men defying the social norms as they caused injuries to the senior citizen. Malaysians are encouraged to respect the elderly and senior citizens. However, the offenders’ bad behaviour pushed them to defy the social norms. The second example presents men as being disrespectful of the place of worship and destroyed the prayer items, and this is also against the social norms. Erlendson (2011) claimed, ‘when the media displays men as being irrational, this can also portray men as distancing themselves

from society's social norms'. He described the second theme of the media that exhibits men as childlike and unable to act in accordance to social norms.

iii) Manipulated Men

Male	Feb	Mac	Apr	May	June	July	Total
Manipulated Men	-	-	-	1	-	-	1

Table 4.8 Manipulated Men

The theme 'manipulated men' indicated the negative image of men as cowardly and pathetic when being controlled by women. Based on the data collected, there is only one case presented men being manipulated by women. The detail is present in the following example:

Extract 10:

'A syndicate is believed to be training maids to rob the wealthy'
(*The Star*, 22nd May 2012)

The extract 10 revealed maids or women who are trained to become robbers. The maids broke the trust given by their employers and cause trouble to them. Basically, maids are easily trusted by employers to handle the household and this gives them a chance to manipulate the employers.

e) Men as Dominant

Male	Feb	Mac	Apr	May	June	July	Total
Dominant	9	8	10	9	19	5	60

Table 4.9 Men as Dominant

Table 4.9 shows men as dominant as they are the majority of offenders in crime cases with a total number of 60. In contrast, there were only 10 female offenders who committed crimes, but most of them were part of a group led by men (see Table 4.10).

They took over the crime scene and committed crimes that caused trouble to the victims.

For instance,

Extract 11:

‘The woman, who lives just minutes from the Permas Police Station, was injured when she tried to fight off a **parang-wielding man**’ (*The Star*, 14th July 2012)

Extract 11 shows that the offender dominates the victim as he was armed with a weapon to attack the woman. It supported the statements above claiming that a real man must be a winner and aggressive on the battlefields.

According to the Sixth Annual Children & the Media Conference (1999), a real man must be strong, tough and, above all, a winner. He must be willing to compromise his own long-term health; he must fight other men when necessary; he must avoid being soft; and he must be aggressive on the “battlefields” of sports as well as in his consumption choices.

Wood as cited in Erlendson (2011) mentioned that the ideology in Western culture has always viewed men as dominant. Wood explains that this is because Western culture is predominantly patriarchal which means that American “ideology, structures, and practices were created by men”. In this local study, men are also viewed as dominant from the following example,

Extract 12:

‘Without any apparent reason, Jai hit him with a stick and took his motorcycle key. After that, he asked for RM30. Still not done with Asri, Jai called a few more friends. When they arrived, Asri received another round of beating’. (*The Star*, 10th Feb 2012)

The offender hurt the victim a few times to show his strength and dominance over the victim. Thus, men are represented as dominant in crime cases as compared to women.

4.2 Portrayal of Women in Crime Reports

This study also focuses on the portrayal of women in crime news reports. Women are portrayed according to different categories as shown in the following analysis:

Months (2012)	Female				
	Offenders	Victims	Authoritative	Vulnerable & Defenseless	Innocent & Compassionate
February	1	3	-	1	-
March	3	6	-	3	3
April	1	6	-	3	5
May	2	8	-	2	3
June	3	14	1	4	4
July	-	5	-	1	5
TOTAL	10	42	1	14	20

Table 4.10 The involvement of women in crime reports

Table 4.10 shows the involvement of women in crime news reports. Women are portrayed as offenders, victims and authoritative in the crime news reports. Besides, they are also portrayed as the ideal victims and are listed into two categories. The two categories are vulnerable and defenseless and innocent and compassionate. Further analyses are explained as follows:

a) **Women as Offenders**

Female	Feb	Mac	Apr	May	June	July	Total
Offenders	1	3	1	2	3	-	10

Table 4.11 Women as Offenders

Based on Table 4.11, there were only 10 female offenders who committed crimes of robbery throughout the six months. The highest involvements were in March and June 2012. In July, there were no reports on females committing crime. The portrayals of women as offenders are shown in the following crime news reports:

Extract 13:

‘The maid ran away from her employer’s house in Kelana Jaya yesterday after taking a set of diamond necklace, ear-rings and bangles. (*The Star*, 22nd May 2012)

Extract 14:

‘Police have arrested two couples and a mother to one of the suspects believed to be involved in a spate of robberies involving the elderly in the district’ (*The Star*, 25th May 2012)

Extract 15:

‘Reporter slashed and robbed by two women’ (*The Star*, 22nd March 2012)

The offenders were mainly men with total number of 60, in contrast to women with only 10 offenders. Most of the offenders were in a group led by men. As a result, the data indicated that women were less inclined to commit crime compared to men.

b) Women as Victims

Female	Feb	Mac	Apr	May	June	July	Total
Victims	3	6	6	8	14	5	42

Table 4.12 Women as Victims

Table 4.12 depicts the portrayal of women as victims. Throughout the six months, the highest number of victims was in June with a total number of 14.

According to Wood (1994), ‘good women are pretty, deferential, and focused on home, family and care towards others. Subordinate to men, they are usually cast as victims, angels, martyrs, and loyal wives and helpmates’. This is shown through the total number of female victims in the crime reports which was 42 compared to men with 37 victims. They became the target victims because of many reasons. Moreover, there are a few cases where the victims were able to survive and protect themselves. The potential victims usually come from rich and well-to-do families. The majority of the cases occurred in Kuala Lumpur, an urban area that is inhabited by people with high incomes.

In order to support the result, there was a study made to explore the relationship between income and crime by Hipp (2007) using a unique non-rural subsample from a large national survey (the American Housing Survey). The findings indicated that higher income reduces disorder but increases crime. Another study by Fedderke and Luiz (2008) in their research on South Africa found that rising incomes lower political instability; in turn increasing crime rates.

In addition, several writers reported about the victims in detail by mentioning their names and age. According to the Australian Institute of Criminology (2010), young people aged 15 to 24 years are at a higher risk of assault than any other age group in Australia and males aged 15 to 19 years are more than twice as likely to become a victim of robbery as compared to males aged 25 or older. The age factor did not matter where females were concerned and females of all ages faced the risk of being assaulted. The writers also mentioned about the belongings that have been robbed from the victims such as money, ATM cards, laptops and cars. Most of the belongings are returned back by the police once they caught the offenders.

c) Authoritative Women

Female	Feb	Mac	Apr	May	June	July	Total
Authoritative	-	-	-	-	1	-	1

Table 4.13 Authoritative Women

Based on table 4.13, there was only 1 female member of authority involved in the crime news reports. The portrayal of authoritative women is shown in the following:

Extract 16:

‘Brickfields deputy OCPD Supt. Aida Abdul Hamid said police arrested a 21-year-old man at a flat unit in Taman Desa at 3am yesterday following investigations by a special team’ (*The Star*, 28th June 2012)

The report showed the comments made by the female police officer regarding the arrest of a suspect and further investigations by a special team. Out of 72 news reports, there was only one portrayal of a female police officer. It illustrates that the majority of police officers are men as compared to women.

d) Vulnerable and Defenseless Women

Female	Feb	Mac	Apr	May	June	July	Total
Vulnerable & Defenseless	1	3	3	2	4	1	14

Table 4.14 Vulnerable and Defenseless Women

According to the theory of ‘ideal victims’ in Greer (2007), the data collected supported the claim as women were the ideal victims and portrayed as weak and helpless. Table 4.14 shows that the total number of vulnerable and defenseless women who have been victims of crime is 14. They are victims of crimes who did not fight back as well as followed the instructions of the offenders. For instance,

Extract 17:

‘Lone women approaching their cars appear to be the target of armed robbers’
(*The Star*, 25th Jun 2012)

Extract 18:

‘Last Monday, a group of men abducted the woman near a train station when she was on her way to work in Kuala Lumpur. They took her to an undisclosed location where they raped and robbed her. They also forced the victim to pose naked for pictures’ (*The Star*, 20th Jan 2012)

Extract 19:

‘M.Yugeswari, who is nine months’ pregnant, said the robbers who broke into her house in Sungai Siput, also kicked her in the stomach’ (*The Star*, 19th May 2012)

Extracts 17-19 portray women as the ideal victims as they are weak and helpless. The second example shows a woman being victimized as she was abducted, robbed, gang-raped and forced to pose naked for pictures. The women were afraid of the offenders and simply obeyed their orders. The women were also defenseless, with no strength to fight back.

The third example shows a pregnant lady who was kicked in the stomach by the robbers. Her condition of being pregnant deemed her unable to fight back, showing that she is weak and helpless. The data shows that male victims are only being robbed while most of the female victims were robbed, raped and tortured at the same time.

e) Innocent and Compassionate Women

Female	Feb	Mac	Apr	May	June	July	Total
Innocent & Compassionate	-	3	5	3	4	5	20

Table 4.15 Innocent and Compassionate Women

Women are also portrayed as the ideal victims because of their innocence and the fact that they are compassionate. Table 4.15 shows that 20 cases involved innocent women such as older people, pregnant ladies, widows and students as the victims. For instance,

Extract 20:

“A good Samaritan was slashed twice on her wrist by two women when she stopped her car to lend them a helping hand during a downpour at Lengkok Bukit Jambul near here”. (*The Star*, 22nd May 2012)

Extract 20 shows the woman became a victim of crime because of her sympathy. She felt pity for the two offenders, who looked like they were having a problem with their motorcycle, but it was actually a trap. She did not think of the consequences of her action as the kindness dragged her to become a victim. Furthermore, female victims were innocent as elder people also became the target of robberies. Women’s nature as being kind and soft is one of the causes of them being abused through violent acts such as rape and murder.

4.3 Language use in the Crime Reports

The languages utilized by the writers in reporting crime news reports are also presented in this chapter. The focuses are on the adjectives used in the news report as well as the headlines as the two items has the most occurrences in the reports. The analysis is presented in the following sections.

4.3.1 The Use of Adjectives

The data showed that adjectives were widely used by the writers in the news reports. The analysis found that a ‘descriptive adjective’ was mostly used to describe about the offenders, victims, authoritative person and the situation of crimes. Generally, descriptive adjectives are adjective that ascribes the attribute of noun. The following are examples of the analysis:

‘Initial investigations revealed that the two Indonesians came to the country with **valid documents** and the local was from Seberang Jaya’ (*The Star*, 6th Feb 2012).

‘Valid documents’ are legal documents in compliance with the law. The writer indicated that the Indonesians possessed valid documents to come into the country.

‘A family went through a harrowing time at the mercy of four armed robbers in the **wee hours** of the morning at their home in Kampung Berkat in Ijok, near here. (*The Star*, 8th Feb 2012)

The writer reported that the family went through a bad time early in the morning.

‘He said Bidin, the **sole breadwinner**, was working as a security guard to support his family’ (*The Star*, 22nd Feb 2012)

The writer used the words ‘sole breadwinner’ to indicate that Bidin was the only person who earned money to support his family.

‘The police tracked down the suspects after Chin’s father-in-law lodged a “**missing person**” report on Thursday’ (*The Star*, 19th Mar 2012)

The writer highlighted the words ‘missing person’ to show that there were reports on lost persons made by the victims.

‘There was a **loud knocking** on our bedroom door’.

(*The Star*, 27th Mar 2012)

The writer described the knocking as producing much noise. The loud knocking was from the offender outside their bedroom.

‘It was a **harrowing experience** but I am just grateful that no one got hurt’ (*The Star*, 27th Mar 2012)

The victim said that he faced shocking or frightening moments that made him feel very upset. Regardless of the bad moment, the victim felt grateful as no one in the family was hurt by the offenders.

‘The reign of the “high-class” armed robbery gang that targeted the **rich and famous living** in high-end condominiums ended when city police arrested seven gang members’ (*The Star*, 31st Mar 2012)

The writer reported on the target victim who lived in a place that is expensive and known by many people.

‘A suspected robber has been found dead after a botched holdup where he was shot by the **potential victim**’ (*The Star*, 3rd April 2012)

The potential victim or referred to as a possible victim shot the robber to death. Thus, it showed that the victim managed to protect himself from being a victim of robbery.

‘One of them sustained **minor injuries** during a scuffle when policemen ambushed the three at Jalan Hulubalang 1 at around 4.30am yesterday’ (*The Star*, 3rd April 2012)

The writer described the injuries as less serious. The descriptive adjective was used as readers will know about the condition of the offenders involved in the crime.

‘At first, I thought my son was having a **bad dream** and asked my husband to check on him’ (*The Star*, 12th April 2012)

The victim clarified that she thought her son had a terrible dream. The adjective ‘bad’ was used to describe about the dream.

‘A video has emerged showing a **burly, long-haired man** attacking a **small - sized woman** at a used-car dealership here’ (*The Star*, 27th April 2012)

The writer used descriptive adjectives to describe the appearance of a man and a woman in the video. It also exposed the masculine and feminine attributes of both genders. The masculinity indicates that the man is strong whereby the femininity attributes portray women as small.

‘A news portal has reported that the **ugly attack** happened at the premises of the shop’ (*The Star*, 27th April 2012)

The writer used the descriptive adjective ‘ugly’ to the verb to show the unpleasantness of the situation that occurred at the shop.

‘A **retired policeman** was assaulted by four suspected robbers when he tried to help a victim near his house in Taman Desa Rishah here’ (*The Star*, 3rd May 2012)

‘Retired policeman’ referred to the man that has left his job. It was used to indicate the policeman who in turn became the victim when he tried to help another victim earlier.

‘I saw a **sharp object** in his hand and I feared that he was going to use it on me’ (*The Star*, 5th June 2012)

The adjective was used to refer to the object that is able to cut or pierce something. The statement was made by the victim of the robbery who told the writer about the scene of the robbery.

‘An **unemployed man** was jailed four years for robbing a 54-year-old man’ (*The Star*, 8th June 2012)

The writer described the man as jobless, yet was jailed four years for the crime he committed. It showed that the offender tried to get money to support his life, but in an unlawful way, that is by committing crime. The adjectives used also indicated that the writer stressed on the loss of the offender; who had no job and was sent to jail.

‘Teoh was **brutally beaten** and dumped at the Talang oil palm estate in Kuala Selangor’ (*The Star*, 17th June 2012)

The writer reported on the cruel beating of the victim. The action showed the violence that occurred during the robbery where the offender did not only rob but also hurt the victim.

‘Her fiance Leong Chee Keong, 32, said he and Lim managed the gallery together and he was at home in Pulau Tikus to look after his **ailing mother** when the incident occurred at 10pm on Tuesday’ (*The Star*, 28th June 2012)

The adjective is used to describe the condition of the victim’s mother. His mother was sick and in poor health.

4.3.2 Gendered Headlines

According to the BBC (2003), the headline of a news story is a short summary which introduces the story at the beginning of a TV or radio news broadcast, or which appears above articles in a newspaper or on a website. Based on the table 4.16, there are headlines that portray the gender of people involved in the crime reported. They are assigned into male victims and offenders as well as female victims and offenders.

Male		Female	
Offenders	Victims	Offenders	Victims
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Man relieves chef of key and mobile phones 2. Brothers deny robbing labourer 3. 10-man gang robs foreign tourists in Tanjung Bungah 4. Masked men rob family 5. Robbery accused: Fleeing man handed me iPad 6. Two men claim trial to robbery 7. Armed men rob elderly couple of RM60,000 8. Police arrest 'delivery men' 9. Three men rob guard of cash and ring while he was riding home 10. Jobless man jailed for robbery 11. Man shoots clerks in RM2,000 toll plaza heist 12. Parang-wielding men rob retired teacher 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Datuk and family loses RM200,000 to armed robbers 14. Office boy loses company bike to robbers 15. Mawi and family tied and robbed by four men 16. Man robbed of money and handphone in his house 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reporter slashed and robbed by two women 2. Maids trained to rob the wealthy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Minister's wife, a victim of smash and grab 4. Actress Wardina robbed 5. Young widow robbed and raped 6. Robbers throw woman out of vehicle 7. Pregnant mum robbed 8. All Teoh's family wants is for her to wake up 9. Yet another lone woman attacked and robbed 10. Trio held over assault of woman at mall car park 11. Woman robbed and set on fire in Segamat 12. Megat Junid's widow robbed 13. Ex-Wanita Umno leader killed during robbery bid

Table 4.16 Headlines that portray gender

The results show that male offenders are represented more in the headlines than male victims. In addition, female victims are represented more than female offenders in the headlines. Thus, the headlines highlighted more on male offenders and female victims. This is also additional support of analysis that men are the offenders and female are the ideal victims. It showed that the data collected consisted of mainly male offenders and female victims. The additional analyses on the headlines are presented as below:

Example 1:

‘Man robbed of money and hand phone in his house’

The portrayal of the man in E1 indicated that he is the victim of robbery. The writer indicated the gender to attract readers’ attention to read the news. However, the gender of the news writer was not mentioned in the news reports.

Example 2:

‘Mawi and family tied and robbed by four men’

Example 3:

‘Actress Wardina robbed’

The E2 and E3 obviously revealed the victims of the robbery from the names mentioned. Readers tend to focus on the name of the victims when they read the headlines. This can be seen as one of the writer’s strategies to attract the reader’s attention because the victims are well-known people in the entertainment industry. Their names are used to highlight the robbery cases reported by the writers. Thus, people are interested to know about what

happened to the artists. However, the names of writers for both news reports are not mentioned.

Example 4:

‘Office boy loses company bike to robbers’

Example 5:

‘Reporter slashed and robbed by two women’

E4 and E5 illustrated the jobs of the victims. The writers directly mentioned the jobs to acknowledge the victims to the readers. This is one of the strategies in headlines as the readers focus on the victims of crime and continued to read the whole news report.

Example 6:

‘Ex-Wanita Umno leader killed during robbery bid’

This headline mentioned about a politician who became the victim of robbery. The word ‘wanita’ is Malay language, but the writer used it to indicate a political organization called ‘Wanita Umno’.

Example 7:

‘Young widow robbed and raped’

Example 8:

‘Pregnant mum robbed’

The writers portrayed female victims through the headlines presented. E7 mentioned about a widow with a bad experience of becoming a robbery and rape victim.

Meanwhile, E8 mentioned about a pregnant woman who became a victim of robbery. The writers write a short headline as a guide to the readers about the stories of women being victimized. Thus, the readers especially women will be more careful of their surrounding in order to avoid the same cases happen to them.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.0 Introduction

The discussions of findings within the objectives of this study are presented in this chapter. It also consists of the recommendations for future research and summary of the study. The results of this study show that participants of crime namely offenders, victims and authoritative person are being portrayed differently by the media. The findings are discussed as the following:

5.1 Representation of Gender in Crime Reports

The findings in Chapter 4 reveal that men and women are represented differently in the robberies news reports. It has proved that men are the offenders of crime while women are the victims. In addition, most of the crime reports depict women as weak and helpless as they did not fight back and became victims of sexuality. Based on the results, male victims were only robbed by the offenders, however women were not only robbed, but they have been raped and mentally tortured. Thus, it supports the theory of 'ideal victims' in Greer (2007), claimed that women are ideal victims and portrayed as weak and helpless.

As the results show that men are the offenders of crime, they are portrayed as negative and dominant. They tend to react irrationally and use violence on their victims. For instance, the offenders used weapons such as *knife*, *parang* and *guns* to frighten and hurt the victims. There are also several cases whereby the crime caused physical injuries as well as death of the victims. Therefore, the news reports create awareness to the readers to be cautious in their daily life.

On the other hand, the findings also portrayed men as the authoritative person in the crime cases. There are 51 male police officers and one female police officer reported in 72 news reports collected. Their portrayal at the end of news reports basically provided readers with update and comments regarding the crime cases. Besides, people are informed with the investigations or further actions taken by the police to overcome the issues.

Weisburd & Eck (2004), in their studies of ‘what should police do to reduce crime, disorder and fear’ has identified five broad strategies that have been the focus of systematic research over the last three decades. They classified the strategies as increasing the size of police agencies, random patrol across all parts of the community, rapid response to calls for service, generalized investigations of crime and generally applied intensive enforcement and arrest policies. Consequently, the authoritative person plays an important role to reduce the crime cases as they should always keep on eyes and patrol the residential and public area.

Despite the portrayal of gender in crime news reports, it is discovered that crime has a tremendous effects to the society, especially the victims of robberies.

They will experience a trauma after being victimised in the bad tragedy. Thus, everyone should alert and avoid from being a victim of crime. As this study shows that women are the ideal victims, they should take an action to avoid from being the target of crime. Women should be more confident and vigilant as well as do not portray themselves as weak. They should not show off with their belongings such as gold jewelry in the public to prevent themselves from becoming the victims of robberies. Further, they should have accompanied by friends or family whenever they are alone. These strategies could help them from becoming the victims of crime.

However, this study shows that men are also the target victims of robberies. Men as victims are seen as weak; therefore they should equip themselves with martial arts skill as protection during the terrifying moments. Besides, men and women should be friendlier with their neighbourhood and community. They should voluntary and take turn to patrol their living place especially at night for their safety. In these modern days, the offenders will use various tactics to rob their victims whereby they tend to uses weapons to hurt their target. Both genders have to take the responsibility as a whole and be more update about the current trends of robberies.

In addition, the high numbers of crimes will make the society feel insecure of their surroundings. It will trigger feelings of fear whenever they read about crime news reports. Thus, people should be concerned of what happening around them. For instance, a quick action should be taken if they see someone suspicious and witness of crime ought to make a police report.

Despite the actions taken by the government to reduce crime, safety programme should be organised in order to educate people to aware of their surroundings and encourage them to be more careful in their life. Nowadays, people tend to spread crime news just in one click through social media such as Facebook and Twitter. Therefore, it will make others to alert on the news and avoid themselves from being the victims as well as reduce the crime rates.

5.2 Language Used in the Crime Reports

The researcher focused on the adjective and headlines used by the writers in crime news reports. Writers of news reports used descriptive adjective to describe further on the situation of crimes. There is only one portrayal of masculinity and femininity in the news reports such as, 'burly, long-haired man attacking a small - sized woman'. However, the analysis on headlines portrayed men as offenders and women as victims. Therefore, it creates the elements of stereotyping in the headlines.

The headlines are usually followed by the lead, which elaborates the headline briefly and provide the readers with the direction of the reports. It is written in short and easier for the readers to scanning the headlines in order to get overall views of the news. Based on the Governance and Social Development Resource Centre, a fair gender portrayal in the media should be a professional and ethical aspiration, similar to respect for accuracy, fairness and honesty (White, 2009). Therefore, this study educates writers to avoid stereotyping in writing crime news reports.

Moreover, the writers of news reports may or may not have preferably used words that would have demonized the image of offenders and let the victims gain sympathy. The use of words like ‘brutally beaten’, ‘sharp objects’ and ‘armed men’ described the offenders as having the intention of injuring their victims. Despite the descriptive adjective, the writers also used condition adjectives to report on the crimes. The adjectives used in news reports influence readers’ understanding regarding the crimes reported.

5.3 Recommendation for Further Research

There are many other questions that have come out from this study for further investigation. Future research could do more specific investigations in certain aspects such as thorough analysis of language elements in news reports. For instance, the passive verbs or active verbs used in writing a news reports. Besides that, further studies can also include other newspapers such as Malay, Chinese or Indian newspaper publications. Other researchers should also make a comparison between different types of newspapers and explore the representation of gender.

On the other hand, future research could also consider exploring other aspects than news reports such as advertisements, pictures and reader’s columns, comments and feedback sections in the newspaper. Besides, the same study on the portrayal of gender in news reports may also focus on online newspapers and compare the results with the printed newspaper. Questionnaires and interviews to the readers and authoritative person could also provide more concrete and reliable data of respondents’ perceptions and opinions.

5.4 Summary

This study covers all the points needed to achieve the objectives of the study. Based on all the points and facts that have been discussed throughout this research, it is shown that men were described as cruel and heartless while women as weak and helpless. Besides, women were described as the ideal victims of crime as compared to men. Furthermore, men were portrayed as the dominant gender in the crime cases as the findings showed that the majority of offenders were men.

In addition, the writers used the language elements successfully through the usage of adjectives and headlines. The adjectives were used to describe the crime cases and elaborate more on the participants. In addition, the headlines portrayed men as the offenders and women as the victims of robbery. Writer's styles in using language influence the reader's ideologies while reading the news reported. Therefore, they should be responsible and write an accurate news reports.

Overall, the result indicated that the representations of gender in media portrayed men and women differently as the social actors. Apart from the portrayal of men based on the theory used, this study contribute to a new finding that men are also dominant in the crime cases. In addition, it is discovered that the portrayal of women in the crime news reports support the theory of 'ideal victims' by Christie (1986) as cited in Greer (2007). Further, the writer's style of using language in reporting crime news could provide valuable information to the readers as well as guidelines to the new writers.

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APPENDIX I

Involvement of Gender in crime news reports

MONTH	NEWS																		Total							
	GENDER																									
January	1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8		9		10		11		12		18	8
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F		
	√	√	√		√	√	√		√	√	√		√		√		√	√	√		√		√	√		
	13		14		15		16		17		18															
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F														
√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√		√																
February	1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8		9		10						10	4
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F						
	√	√	√		√	√	√		√		√	√	√		√		√	√	√							
March	1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8		9		10						9	7
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F						
	√	√	√		√		√	√	√		√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√						

MONTH	NEWS																								Total	
	GENDER																									
April	1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8		9		10		11		12		M	F
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F		
	√		√		√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√		√		12		
May	1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8		9		10		11		12		12	9
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F		
	√	√	√		√		√	√		√	√	√	√	√		-	-	√	√		√	√	√	√		
	13		14		15																					
	M	F	M	F	M	F																				
√		√	√	√																						
June	1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8		9		10		11		12		20	15
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F		
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July	1		2		3		4		5																5	5
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APPENDIX II

Headlines of news reports

January 2012 (Pilot Study)

No	Date	Headlines	No. of Words	Writer
1	3 Jan 2012	Police smash robbery gang with four arrests	227	Not mention
2	4 Jan 2012	Man relieves chef of key and mobile phones	71	Not mention
3	5 Jan 2012	Minister's wife a victim of smash and grab	131	Not mention
4	7 Jan 2012	Money-changers lose RM160,000 in road heist	217	Not mention
5	7 Jan 2012	Robbery gang busted after crime spree	326	Male
6	10 Jan 2012	Brothers deny robbing labourer	112	Not mention
7	12 Jan 2012	Killed duo high on wanted list	316	Male
8	13 Jan 2012	Hunt on for remnant member of Mamak Gang	190	Not mention
9	13 Jan 2012	Actress Wardina robbed	239	Not mention
10	14 Jan 2012	Man robbed of money and handphone in his house	195	Not mention
11	20 Jan 2012	Teen robber to be whipped 10 times	113	Not mention
12	20 Jan 2012	Cops closing in on rape suspects	129	Not mention
13	25 Jan 2012	10-man gang robs foreign tourists in Tanjung Bungah	209	Female
14	27 Jan 2012	Datuk and family loses RM200,000 to armed robbers	176	Female
15	31 Jan 2012	Petrol station manager robbed	199	Not mention
16	31 Jan 2012	Robber asks victim to prepare breakfast	155	Not mention
17	31 Jan 2012	Youth who changed his mind after robbing student arrested	263	Not mention
18	31 Jan 2012	Student robbed of wallet and phone	227	Not mention

February 2012

No	Date	Headlines	No. of words	Writer
1	1 Feb 2012	Gang members caught after robberies in several states	239	Male
2	6 Feb 2012	Robbery suspects killed	242	Male
3	8 Feb 2012	Robbers killed after car chase	347	Male
4	8 Feb 2012	Bank robbers escape with only RM20	286	Male
5	10 Feb 2012	Office boy loses company bike to robbers	215	Not mention
6	10 Feb 2012	Rubber tapper charged with robbing woman	262	Male
7	20 Feb 2012	Moneychanger assaulted and relieved of RM100,000	190	Male
8	22 Feb 2012	Former Customs officer gets five years for RM300 robbery	135	Not mention
9	22 Feb 2012	Masked men rob family	97	Not mention
10	29 Feb 2012	Robbery accused walks free as victim has returned to China	314	Not mention

March 2012

No	Date	Headlines	No. of words	Writer
1	3March 2012	Robbery accused: Fleeing man handed me iPad	127	Not mention
2	6 March 2012	Two men claim trial to robbery	150	Not mention
3	7 March 2012	Seven robbery suspects caught at an apartment	134	Not mention
4	8 March 2012	Senior citizen robbed and assaulted	241	Not mention
5	19 March 2012	Cabbie dies in robbery	257	Not mention
6	20 March 2012	Young widow robbed and raped	175	Not mention
7	22 March 2012	Reporter slashed and robbed by two women	192	Male
8	24 March 2012	Family's night of terror	194	Not mention
9	27 March 2012	Mawi and family tied and robbed by four men	158	Not mention
10	31 March 2012	'High-class' robbers fall off perch	332	Male

April 2012

No	Date	Headlines	No. of words	Writer
1	3 April 2012	Suspected robber found dead at parking lot	190	Male
2	3 April 2012	Three suspects held after robbery spree	89	Not mention
3	4 April 2012	Robbed in broad daylight	218	Not mention
4	6 April 2012	Ex-hardware seller charged with robbery linked to Datuk's death	237	Female
5	12 April 2012	Robbers throw woman out of vehicle	234	Male
6	12 April 2012	Armed men rob elderly couple of RM60,000	201	Male
7	16 April 2012	Beware deadly con men	391	Male
8	17 April 2012	Police arrest 'delivery men'	163	Not mention
9	26 April 2012	Sales executive loses more than RM5,000 in break-in	261	Not mention
10	27 April 2012	Attack and robbery at car dealership caught on camera	326	Male
11	28 April 2012	Proven- no organs harvested	313	Female
12	28 April 2012	Armed robber shot dead by trader	89	Not mention

May 2012

No	Date	Headlines	No. of words	Writer
1	1 May 2012	The curious case of a rock, a flowerpot, bangles and a ring	239	Female
2	2 May 2012	Syndicates busted	284	Male
3	3 May 2012	Robbers assault ex-cop who tried to help neighbour	251	Not mention
4	12 May 2012	Illegal migrant shot in robbery bid	207	Not mention
5	15 May 2012	Robbery may be motive	349	Female
6	16 May 2012	'Pillar of society' found strangled in the bedroom	287	Male
7	16 May 2012	Five held over armed robberies	113	Not mention
8	17 May 2012	Robber caught-on phone camera	102	Not mention
9	17 May 2012	Idols smashed in temple robbery	169	Not mention
10	19 May 2012	Pregnant mum robbed	277	Female
11	22 May 2012	Maids trained to rob the wealthy	236	Not mention
12	25 May 2012	Foreman denies robbing couple at home	236	Female
13	25 May 2012	Masked robbers hit three houses in a row	105	Not mention
14	25 May 2012	Cops break up holdup couples	300	Male
15	30 May 2012	Gang of four on robbery spree grab RM300,000 loot	184	Not mention

June 2012

No	Date	Headlines	No. of words	Writer
1	2 June 2012	A sure bet for failure	229	Not mention
2	5 June 2012	Three men rob guard of cash and ring while he was riding home	176	Not mention
3	6 June 2012	Robbers prey on customers having supper	192	Not mention
4	6 June 2012	Samurai sword-wielding robbers steal car and jewellery	176	Not mention
5	7 June 2012	Guard survives hail of bullets	272	Not mention
6	8 June 2012	Jobless man jailed for robbery	96	Not mention
7	9 June 2012	Family terrorized and robbed of RM200,000	149	Not mention
8	10 June 2012	All Teoh's family wants is for her to wake up	252	Male
9	11 June 2012	Drummer walks in on robbery	263	Female
10	11 June 2012	Policeman and three youths held for robbery	195	Not mention
11	12 June 2012	Bogus cops stab factory worker to death in robbery	327	Not mention
12	16 June 2012	Man shoots clerks in RM2,000 toll plaza heist	188	Not mention
13	17 June 2012	Cops arrest another suspect in teacher's abduction case	271	Male
14	18 June 2012	61-year-old killed in robbery	142	Not mention
15	20 June 2012	Three robbers die in shootout	317	Female
16	21 June 2012	Student and boyfriend robbed at garden	117	Not mention
17	25 June 2012	Yet another lone woman attacked and robbed	398	Male
18	26 June 2012	High speed chase ends with crash and arrest of duo	205	Not mention
19	28 June 2012	Artist attacked in art gallery	307	Female
20	28 June 2012	Trio held over assault woman at mall car park	197	Male

July 2012

No	Date	Headlines	No. of words	Writer
1	14 July 2012	Retired school teacher injured but managed to scare robbers away	405	Female
2	19 July 2012	Woman robbed and set on fire in Segamat	146	Not mention
3	19 July 2012	Megat Junid's widow robbed	99	Not mention
4	19 July 2012	Parang-wielding men rob retired teacher	142	Not mention
5	22 July 2012	Ex-Wanita Umno leader killed during robbery bid	216	Not mention

APPENDIX III

Samples of news reports

Publication Date: 01 Feb 2012

Publication: The Star

Section: Main

Edition: Final

Page: 8

Source/Agency: The Star

Word count: 239

Gang members caught after robberies in several states

By: M. KUMAR kumar@thestar.com.my

KUALA LUMPUR: Eight members of a gang, including two siblings and a couple wanted in four states for committing various robberies and burglaries, have been nabbed.

The gang, said to have been active for eight months, was responsible for at least five cases in Selangor, Perak, Negri Sembilan, and Kuala Lumpur.

An assortment of stolen goods, including six vehicles, laptops and flat screen TVs worth over RM260,000 were recovered.

Cheras OCPD Asst Comm Mohan Singh said police received a tip-off on Jan 14 on the gang's presence at four-star hotel in Jalan Pudu.

He said following a stake-out for about 40 minutes, three members of the gang were spotted walking to their vehicles.

"As we moved in, two of them got into a car and tried to ram our personnel.

"Several shots were fired, but the duo escaped. However, we managed to arrest another gang member," he said yesterday.

ACP Mohan Singh said over the course of two weeks, his officers managed to track the remaining suspects in Port Dickson, Perak, Kepong and Damansara.

"All the suspects, aged between 25 and 31, have been remanded to assist in police investigations," he said.

Publication Date: 08 Feb 2012

Publication: The Star

Section: Main

Edition: Final

Page: 18

Source/Agency: The Star

Word count: 347

Robbers killed after car chase

Trio shot dead and one escapes into plantation shortly after robbing family

By: A. RUBAN ruban_22@thestar.com.my

KUALA SELANGOR: A family went through a harrowing time at the mercy of four armed robbers in the wee hours of the morning at their home in Kampung Berkat in Ijok, near here.

Three of the robbers were later shot dead following a high-speed chase that ended with their getaway car crashing and turning turtle. Another robber fled into a nearby oil palm plantation yesterday. They were all believed to be foreigners.

Recalling the family's terrifying moments, college student Mohd Aminudin Abdul Rahim, 20, said the robbers stormed into their two-storey wooden home at about 3am through the ground floor bathroom.

The civil engineering diploma student said he and a younger brother were sleeping on the upper floor when they were awoken by the robbers. Three of them were armed with a parang, sickle and crowbar. They then woke up their three other young siblings as well as father Abdul Rahim Din, 46, and mother Noryatimah Jamal, 42.

"The four men, one wearing a mask, forced us into the living room and tied my hands up".

"They also tied my father and younger brother," he said, adding that his mother and his three young siblings were not tied.

The robbers ransacked the house for about 30 minutes and left with a laptop, six mobile phones and about RM1,500 in cash.

Mohd Aminudin and his family were not harmed. As the robbers made their getaway, the youngster managed to free himself and dashed out of the house to chase after the culprits.

"After a while, I saw a police car and the cops advised me to return home," he said.

Selangor CID chief SAC Mohd Adnan Abdullah said police received a distress call at about 3am.

"Police rushed to the scene and spotted a Proton Wira driving away," he said, adding that a three-kilometre high-speed chase followed along Jalan Parit Mahang.

Police recovered the stolen, laptop and the handphone along with two pistols, a parang. They believed that with the trio's death, police had solved five out of the 13 robbery cases in Selangor since the year began.

Publication Date: 08 Feb 2012

Publication: The Star

Section: Main

Edition: Final

Page: 3

Source/Agency: The Star

Word count: 286

Bank robbers escape with only RM20

By DURIE RAINER FONG durie@thestar.com.my

KOTA KINABALU: Two thieves who broke into a bank here and ransacked three floors of the building escaped with only RM20 in loose change.

Closed-circuit television (CCTV) recordings showed the men rummaging through the staff drawers at Asia City here on Monday.

They had broken a padlock at the back to gain entry and decided to flee after the alarm was triggered at 8pm.

Policemen in a patrol car came by but did not find anything suspicious and the bank staff only discovered the robbery yesterday.

Bank manager Maturin Sipin said only RM20 in coins were missing, adding that they were still checking to see if any documents were missing.

Kota Kinabalu Traffic and Public Order chief Deputy Supt Peter Anak Umbuas said two suspects had been arrested in connection with the case.

Publication Date: 10 Feb 2012

Publication: The Star

Section: SwMain

Edition: Final

Page: 3

Source/Agency: The Star

Word count: 215

Office boy loses company bike to robbers

KUCHING: An office boy was beaten and robbed near Kampung Pulo in Petra Jaya.

Mohammad Asri said he was riding along the village road around 9am yesterday when his way was blocked by a man he identified as just Jai.

Without any apparent reason, Jai hit him with a stick and took his motorcycle key.

After that, he asked for RM30.

Still not done with Asri, Jai called a few more friends.

When they arrived, Asri received another round of beating.

Before they left, they took Asri's black Honda Ex-5 which belonged to his company.

A report on the case had been lodged at Gita police station.

Publication Date: 10 Feb 2012

Publication: The Star

Section: Main

Edition: Final

Page: 34

Source/Agency: The Star

Word count: 262

Rubber tapper charged with robbing woman

By: FARIK ZOLKEPLI farik@thestar.com.my

KUALA TERENGGANU: A rubber tapper who allegedly robbed a woman of her gold bracelet and forced her to prepare breakfast for him claimed trial in the Sessions Court here.

Mahadi Mamat was charged with relieving Siti Nur Aien Mohd Nazeri, 20, of her RM2,000 bracelet after breaking into her home in Kampung Bukit Payung.

The accused, who was armed with a machete, is also said to have forced the victim to prepare breakfast for him, but Siti used that chance to escape to her neighbour's home at 8.30am on Jan 29.

Mahadi was charged under section 397 of the Penal Code for armed robbery.

DPP Masriwani Mahmud argued that the accused should not be granted bail as he stayed in the same village as the victim.

Mahadi then pleaded with the court that he had to take care of his elderly parents, thus should be allowed bail.

Judge Wan Fadilah Nor Wan Idris fixed bail at RM12,000 and set March 7 for mention.

Publication Date: 29 Feb 2012

Publication: The Star

Section: PG Main

Edition: Final

Page: 16

Source/Agency: The Star

Word count: 314

Robbery accused walks free as victim has returned to China

GEORGETOWN: A 23-year-old man has been freed by a Sessions Court here of robbing a Chinese national of RM110,000.

Judge Sitarun Nisa Abdul Aziz ruled that the prosecution had failed to establish a prima facie case against P.Ganeshwaran.

“The complainant (Chen Jianguo) had returned to China and was not called to testify.

“Hence, the prosecution has failed to establish a prima facie case against the accused and he is free to go,” she said yesterday.

Ganeshwaran was charged with robbing Chen while armed with a weapon near a hotel in Batu Feringgi here at about 8.330pm on Nov 3, 2010.

The offence under Sections 395 and 397 of the Penal Code carries a maximum jail term of 20 years and whipping.

Publication Date: 31 Mar 2012

Publication: The Star

Section: Main

Edition: Final

Page: 14

Source/Agency: The Star

Word count: 332

'High-class' robbers fall off perch

Cops nab seven who steal from the rich and famous

By: STEVEN DANIEL stevend@thestar.com.my

KUALA LUMPUR: The reign of the "high-class" armed robbery gang that targeted the rich and famous living in high-end condominiums ended when city police arrested seven gang members.

The robbers, aged between 20 and 35 years, are believed to have raked in millions of ringgit in loot from at least 60 cases since last year, including 12 in Kuala Lumpur, 18 in Penang and 30 in Selangor.

The gang targeted mainly titled people, well-known businessmen and expatriates, said city police chief Deputy Comm Datuk Mohmad Salleh.

"The seven-member gang included two women. We have so far recovered five gold bars that had already been melted and nine necklaces".

"Other items were six watches including an antique Rolex, 30 locket, 25 rings, RM17,000, handphoned, gold bracelets, gold bangles, anklets and various jewellery," he told a press conference at the city police headquarters in Jalan Hang Tuah here yesterday.

DCP Mohmad said police got their break when they arrested five suspects at about 9pm on March 16 at a house in Taman Berkeley, Klang.

This followed the gang's most recent case when they broke into a condominium located in Mont Kiara on March 11, where they tied up the victims before fleeing with valuables worth about RM1.5mil.

"After questioning the suspects, we arrested two more gang members in Jalan Pasar here on March 21," he said, adding that the suspects would be sent to Penang and Selangor once their remand expired on April 4.

Publication Date: 06 Apr 2012

Publication: The Star

Section: Main

Edition: Final

Page: 16

Source/Agency: The Star

Word count: 237

Ex-hardware seller charged with robbery linked to Datuk's death

By: MAIZATUL NAZLINA nazlina@thestar.com.my

KUALA LUMPUR: A former hardware seller was charged in a Sessions Court here with committing gang robbery in 2009, leading to the death of Master Builder Association of Malaysia's former president Datuk Patrick Wong.

Chin Wee Siong, 50, who is now a detainee at the Simpang Renggam detention centre in Johor, claimed trial to the charge after it was read to him in Chinese.

Chin was accused of using a parang to rob programme analyst Nicholas Wong Fye, 30, with two others still at large, of a HTC handphone, identity card, driving licence and RM300 cash.

The offence under Section 395 of the Penal Code, which was read together with section 397 of the same Act, was allegedly committed at Wong's house in Bukit Bandaraya, Bangsar, at 7pm on Nov 17, 2009.

Nicholas is Wong's son.

DPP Amira Sariaty Zainal said Chin would be released from Simpang Renggam in four months.

"I urge the court to impose bail of RM50,000 in two sureties as it had caused a death and also to ensure Chin attends the hearing," she said.

Chin was unrepresented.

Sessions Court Judge Che Mohamad Zulkifly Jusoh set bail at RM40,000 with one surety pending trial on May 3.

On Nov 29, 2009, it was reported that Wong died on Nov 28 after he fell from the first floor of his house while fleeing armed robbers.

It is learnt that three armed men entered his house in Bangsar through the back entrance.

Publication Date: 16 Apr 2012

Publication: The Star

Section: Main

Edition: Final

Page: 5

Source/Agency: The Star

Word count: 391

Beware deadly con men

Three in family die after allegedly drinking milk offered by 'holy man'

By: AUSTIN CAMOENS and SHAUN HO austin@thestar.com.my

PETALING JAYA: Before, there was only the risk of losing money or ending up with a broken heart to glib-tongued swindlers.

Now, Malaysians have to be on the lookout for deadly con men pretending to be mediums to gain the trust of unsuspecting victims before robbing and even killing them.

A recent triple murder in Taman Sri Ramal, Kajang, has highlighted the existence of such vile fraudsters.

A medium who claimed he could mend family disputes through a ritual, poisoned them with milk laced with weedkiller in the wee hours of April 1.

He fled the house after stealing their jewellery and valuables and setting a gas cylinder on fire in the kitchen.

K.Rajeswary, 28, died in hospital on April 4 while her brother Manivaran,33, died four days later. Their mother M.Sakunthala,63, died on Saturday.

Selangor police chief Deputy Comm Datuk Tun Hisan Tun Hamzah said although deaths were rare in cases involving con men, many other cases, however, go unreported.

"People should be wary and be extra cautious when seeking alternate solutions to problems, including family disputes and medical ailments," he said.

He said in most cases, the public seek these people out of desperation.

As con men look for ways to manipulate strengths and weaknesses, they would first work on gaining trust.

"The eventual victims are easily duped because they are usually in state of distress. The con men prey on their desperation to get what they want," he said.

Publication Date: 27 Apr 2012

Publication: The Star

Section: Main

Edition: Final

Page: 4

Source/Agency: The Star

Word count: 326

Attack and robbery at car dealership caught on camera

By: A. RUBAN ruban 22@thestar.com.my

KLANG: A video has emerged showing a burly, long-haired man attacking a small-sized woman at a used-car dealership here.

The five-minute clip that surfaced on YouTube on Wednesday also shows several men ransacking the place and carrying away some of the loot. A news portal has reported that the ugly attack happened at the premises of the shop.

While the man in the jacket and woman were involved in a heated exchange of words in the office, another woman walked aimlessly by and at least three others sat quietly behind their workstations.

Another man with what looks like a metal rod can also be seen standing by while two men with cameras shoot the dramatic scenes.

The woman was seen trying to escape several times and was, at one time, pushed against a pillar by the man. He also grabbed, pushed, and kicked her each time she tried to get away or ward off his blows. The man also grabbed a file from the office table, which the woman is seen trying to pull back from him.

When she eventually sat, the bully and the man with the iron rod are seen talking to her in an unruly manner.

North Klang OCPD Supt Shukor said police were aware about the incident. "It took place on April 7 and we are still investigating the case," Supt Shukor said.

On reports that the unruly visitors were unhappy customers who felt they had been cheated by the car dealer, Supt Shukor said: "There are several fraud cases in such businesses and thorough checks must be conducted."

Netizens who commented on the You Tube posting said complaints had previously been lodged against the dealer, accused of cheating car buyers.

A news portal alleged that the attack was carried out by a mob of disgruntled customers from an underworld gang. They reportedly took away five cars, two laptops, wallets and belongings of some staff members, as well as nearly RM70,000 in cash.

Publication Date: 28 Apr 2012

Publication: The Star

Section: Main

Edition: Final

Page: 2

Source/Agency: The Star

Word count: 313

Proven- no organs harvested

Indonesia debunks claims after second autopsy on bodies of three men

By: MERGAWATI ZULFAKAR merga@thestar.com.my

PETALING JAYA: A second autopsy done on the bodies of three Indonesian men shot by Malaysian police showed no evidence of organs being harvested.

Indonesia's Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa said the autopsies carried out by the country's police forensics team and the Mataram University medical faculty on Thursday and yesterday proved that their organs were still intact.

The Indonesian media has been reporting allegations from the families of the three Indonesians that there were unusual stiches around the eye area and cuts on the chest and abdomen of the bodies. Malaysian officials denied the organ harvesting allegations two days ago.

The three men were shot dead by police on March 24 when they tried to attack the officers with machetes after they were spotted trying to break into a house in Linggi, Negri Sembilan.

Marty told the Indonesian media in Jakarta that the allegations against the Malaysian Government were "irresponsible". The press conference was held after reports from the second autopsy were received.

The bodies arrived from Malaysia on April 5 and were exhumed for the second round of autopsies to be conducted at the Bhayangkara Hospital in Lombok.

Marty said the autopsies were conducted because it was important to determine the truth, adding that the Indonesian Government was concerned over the welfare of its citizens abroad. He reminded the Indonesian media that the government would investigate claims on any issues before making any statement.

Indonesia's police head of medicine and health Mossadeq Ishaq, who was present at the press conference, said the second autopsy revealed that the brain, eyes, heart, liver, kidneys and other organs were still intact. In Putrajaya, Wisma Putra issued a statement saying that the autopsy reports received from the Tuanku Jaafar Hospital in Seremban revealed that the organs from the three bodies had not been harvested or removed.

Publication Date: 01 May 2012

Publication: The Star

Section: Main

Edition: Final

Page: 25

Source/Agency: The Star

Word count: 239

The curious case of a rock, a flowerpot, bangles and a ring

By: TERENCE TOH Terence.toh@thestar.com.my

KUALA LUMPUR: A former employee of a tobacco company was charged in the Sessions Court here with robbing a woman while armed with a rock and a flowerpot.

K.Kanan, 29, pleaded not guilty before Sessions judge Singh Bhag Singh to robbing R. Kange, 42, of her bangles and ring worth RM5,000 with unusual weapons.

Kanan allegedly committed the offence with seven others still at large at about 3pm on April 28 at flat in Sentul here.

He is also believed to have cause injury to Kange and her husband during the robbery.

Kanan was arrested the following day and charged with gang robbery under Section 395 of the Penal Code, which carries a penalty of up to 20 years in jail and whipping.

DPP Amira Sariaty Zainal asked for a heavy bail amount to be imposed.

However, Kanan, who was unrepresented, pleaded for lighter bail, saying he was currently unemployed and had to support his mother.

Upon questioning by the judge, Kanan said he had been charged for another criminal offence in Ampang although this was subsequently withdrawn.

Jagjit Singh said because robbery was a serious offence and that Kange had allegedly been injured, he was imposing a RM20,000 bail with two sureties.

He also ordered Kanan to report to the nearest police station twice a month and fixed May 22 for mention.

Some of Kanan's family members, who were present in court, were seen in tears after the proceedings.

Publication Date: 02 May 2012

Publication: The Star

Section: Star Metro South and East

Edition: Final

Page: 2

Source/Agency: The Star

Word count: 284

Syndicates busted

Robbery gangs active in Nusajaya detained by police

By: MOHD FARHAN SHAH farhaan@thestar.com.my

JOHOR BARU: Police had thwarted two active groups of robbers responsible for 22 reported cases in Nusajaya with the arrest of eight men.

Nusajaya OCPD Supt Noor Hashim Mohamed said following a tip off, the police detained three members of a robbery gang syndicate more affectively known as Gang Polo.

He added that the men- aged between 18 and 25 years, were arrested on April 24 at around 1.35pm in Taman Pulai Indah and Bandar Baru Kangar Pulai here.

Supt Noor Hashim said the arrest were made just hours after the group had robbed a house in Taman Nusa Bestari.

“We managed to recover the victim’s jewellery, cash, and a Toyota Vios and following the arrest the police also managed to find other stolen items including a motorcycle, a watch, and a bracelet”.

“We also seized tools for drug consumption, two parangs, and a bag with tools for break into people’s houses,” he added.

With the arrest, police had solved 13 house break-ins cases and now tracking other members of the syndicate.

Publication Date: 15 May 2012

Publication: The Star

Section: Main

Edition: Final

Page: 22

Source/Agency: The Star

Word count: 349

Robbery may be motive

RM2,000 in real estate agent's possession missing, say sources

By: RASHITHA A. HAMID and SHAUN HO newsdesk@thestar.com.my

PETALING JAYA: Robbery is believed to be the motive behind the murder of 42-year-old real estate agent Cheng Chai Moi. Sources said this was because about RM2,000, which Cheng had on her, was missing. Police have quizzed six people in connection with the murder. Police said that the victim was not sexually assaulted and the post-mortem report showed that she died due to strangulation.

Cheng's body was found dumped in the Batu dam in Ulu Yam with strangulation marks on her neck and wounds on her face.

She was last seen by her husband at about 10am last Tuesday when she left their apartment in Jingjang Utara. She was said to have gone to meet a potential tenant at 1pm and left after accepting a RM2,000 deposit from a couple who had wanted to rent a house.

While searching for Cheng, her husband found her car near a mosque in Jalan Ipoh on Wednesday. He identified her body the next day at the Kuala Lumpur Hospital morgue.

A neighbor, who only wanted to be known as Madam Lim, said Cheng was secretary of the residents' association and was friendly and humble. Fazilah Abdul Muthalif, 42, said Cheng would always stop at the convenience shop, which she owns, to chat.

"I hope police will find the culprit soon," Fazilah said.

Meanwhile, the Malaysian Institute of Estate Agents (MIEA) is compiling a set of safety precautions for real estate agents. MIEA deputy president Siva Shanker said agents needed to be more vigilant in light of the recent attacks. A real estate agent was reported to have been stripped naked and tied up by two "prospective clients" during a viewing at Mont Kiara last Thursday. She was also allegedly raped.

"Estate agents, by the nature of our work, are more at risk as we meet strangers all the time," he said, adding that MIEA would release the guidelines by the end of the week. "All we can do to minimise the risk when meeting the unfamiliar client is to have a buddy system or register at the guard house," Siva said.

Publication Date: 19 May 2012

Publication: The Star

Section: Main

Edition: Final

Page: 34

Source/Agency: The Star

Word count: 277

Pregnant mum robbed

Expectant mother also kicked and forced to drink intruder's urine

By: Compiled by YUEN MEIKENG, LIM WEY WEN and A.RAMAN

A PREGNANT who was not only robbed in her own house, she was also forced to lick the urine of one of the robbers, reported Harian Metro.

M.Yugeswari, who is nine months' pregnant, said the three robbers who broke into her house in Sungai Siput, also kicked her in the stomach.

The 22-year-old was alone in her house when three men broke in through the back door.

"One of them wore a mask and held me back as the other two searched my house for valuables." She said, adding that she vomited after smelling the body odour of the men.

"One of them took some raw eggs from the refrigerator and forced me to eat it," Yugeswari said.

Another suspect then started urinating on the floor and forced her to lick it.

Yugeswari said the robbers made off with RM5,000 cash and RM10,000 worth of jewellery.

Sungai Siput OCPD Supt Azman Salim confirmed that police have received a report on the matter.

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Word count: 300

Cops break up holdup couples

Gang preyed on hapless senior citizens

By: M. SIVAVANTHAN SHARMA north@thestar.com.my

NIBONG TEBAL: Police have arrested two couples and a mother to one of the suspects believed to be involved in a spate of robberies involving the elderly in the district.

In the latest robbery on May, 16, a woman, aged 64, fell victim while waiting for her child at the bus stop in front of the Sungai Bakap Hospital near here.

She was approached by two women who drove up in a Proton Waja. The two women offered to sent her home. Without suspecting anything, the victim agreed to follow them in their car.

Once inside, she was relieved of her valuables and injured in the process before she was dumped at the Relau-Bandar Baharu road junction here.

South Seberang Prai OCPD Supt Shafien Mamat said police nabbed a couple three hours later after the car was spotted near the robbery scene.

Supt Shafien said police proceeded to raid a house here and detained two more suspects along with the mother to one of them on the same day. He said the police recovered all the items taken from the senior citizen earlier- a cellular phone, bangles, a ring, a necklace and tablet notebook all worth about RM15,000.

The suspects, aged between 19 and 46, have been remanded until May 30, he told press conference at the district police headquarters here.

Four suspects are from Johor and one from Penang. One of the men has 11 criminal convictions for robberies and burglaries.

Their modus operandi was to look for elderly people waiting at bus stops or markets and offer them a lift home before mugging them.

Police believe they have been solved five cases involving senior citizens lured by the couples. Those who have fallen victims to this group should assist police by calling the investigating officer Insp Ahmad Shafiq Ahmad Nordin at 019-4372009.

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Word count: 263

Drummer walks in on robbery

Local band member shocked to find robbers at his home

By: LOSHANA K SHAGAR loshana@thestar.com.my

PETALING JAYA: A drummer with a popular local band was shocked to find four robbers when he came home to his double-storey house here.

The robbers immediately tied him and put him with the rest of his family in room before continuing to ransack the house in Kota Damansara.

They also obliged his pleas and returned his Mykad and credit cards after taking his cash and handphone.

“However, they threatened to kill me if I tried to fight back,” said the drummer, who wished to remain anonymous”. He said although he had noticed the main door unlocked, he continued to walk into the house at 3.40 am yesterday.

“I thought my grandmother had come to stay over for the day, and that the noise was my parents conversing with her.

“By the time I reached the stairs to go up, there were two men, dressed in black, walking down. I could do nothing,” he said.

He described the robbers as small in stature. “Their faces were covered by ski-masks and they carried steel rods, wooden sticks and wires,”

He told them to take what they wanted but to leave him and his family unharmed. They had beaten up his older brother who had put up a struggle earlier.

“My brother now has a bruised lip and has bruises all over his body,” he said.

“We lost laptops, iPads, cash, diamond rings, jewellery and other valuables. They kept demanding wang (money) and emas(gold), and asked if we had peti besi(safe box),” he said. The drummer called the police after the robbers left.

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Word count: 252

All Teoh's family wants is for her to wake up

By: AUSTIN CAMOENS and STEVEN CHIEW newsdesk@thestar.com.my

SERDANG: The family of teacher Teoh Soo Kim do not know if she can hear them, but they have been at her bedside night and day and praying for her to recovery.

Teoh, 51, was seriously injured in an anduction-cum-robbery and is still in a medically-induced coma.

She was beaten up and dumped at the Talang oil palm estate in Kuala Selangor.

Her husband, sales executive Tan Lee Ming, 48,said he and his twin sons were praying hard for her recovery.

"We only want her to regain her strength sufficiently so that we can take her home," he said.

Serdang OCPD Supt Abdul Razak Elias said a task force had been tasked with hunting down the suspects.

"We are working on a number of leads on the case at the moments," he said, declining to elaborate further.

It was reported on Saturday that police were on the hunt for two men believed to be part of syndicate that prey on women.

The two men are wanted in connection with the abduction and robbery of the special education teacher who is warded at the Sungai Buloh Hospital.

The two were identified through a CCTV footage retrieved from a petrol station near Puncak Jalil.

Teoh went missing after living her house in Bandar Kinrara 2 at 7am on Wednesday to pick up one of her students for class.

She was found unconscious by passers-by at 11am the same day. Those with information on the case are urged to contact 03-8074 2222 or the nearest police station.

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Page: 27

Source/Agency: The Star

Word count: 327

Bogus cops stab factory worker to death in robbery

BUKIT MERTAJAM: A 27-year-old factory worker from Myanmar was stabbed to death by three bogus policemen after he refused to hand over his hard-earned money in Taman Nagasari at the Prai Industrial Estate here.

Tunminhlat, who started work only two months ago, was walking along the road with a colleague when three men, in their 20s, came over and identified themselves as police personnel.

The “policemen” then demanded money before instructing them to jump on the back of their motorcycles at about 9.30pm on Sunday.

Tunminhlat’s friend suspected something was amiss and quickly got off the motorcycle as the rider was about to pull away.

He then waited for Tunminhlat for about 10 minutes before he went to search for him.

Several hundred metres away, he saw his friend’s body on the ground with multiple stab wounds in abdomen. He then called the police.

Police believed the victim may have put up a fight when the men tried to grab his wallet before he was stabbed in the process. They sped off on three motorcycle after taking his wallet containing a few hundred ringgit.

Central Seberang Prai OCPD Asst Comm Azman Abd Lah said police were now looking for the trio responsible for the incident, which had been classified as murder under Section 302 of Penal Code.

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Source/Agency: The Star

Word count: 271

Cops arrest another suspect in teacher's abduction case

By: M.KUMAR kumar@thestar.com.my

SHAH ALAM: Police have arrested a second man in connection with the case of a 51-year-old special education teacher who was abducted and robbed on June 6.

Selangor CID chief Senior Asst Comm Mohd Adnan Abdullah said a 22-year-old man was arrested at a hotel in Puchong on Friday.

"His looks matches up to almost 90% with one of the suspects caught on CCTV," he told reporters after a Selangor Police Family Association (Perkep) cycling event here yesterday.

SAC Adnan said the man had several prior criminal records, including one in which he broke into Datin's car.

He said the suspect was still keeping mum and had refused to cooperate but police were confident that he was one of the men behind Teoh Soo Kim's abduction and robbery.

Police are still looking for three more men to help in investigations.

SAC Adnan said the first suspect, aged 48, who was arrested in Ipoh last Saturday, had been released on bail.

Meanwhile, Teoh has started to show signs of recovery, said her son Edward.

She had been under medically-induced coma at the Sungai Buloh Hospital since the attack.

"We are still praying for her to recover fully and are with her everyday." He said in a Facebook posting yesterday.

Teoh was brutally beaten and dumped at the Talang oil palm estate in Kuala Selangor.

She went missing after leaving her house in Bandar Kinrara 2 at 7am to pick up one of her students for class.

She was found unconscious by passers-by at 11am the same day.

Those with information on the case are urged to contact 03-8074 2222 or the nearest police station.

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Source/Agency: The Star

Word count: 317

Three robbers die in shootout

Cops spot trio trying to break into home

By: RASHITA A.HAMID rashitha@thestar.com.my

RAWANG: Three men, believed to be Indonesians, were killed in a shootout with the police at Taman Templer Saujana near here during an early morning attempted robbery.

It was learnt that the robbers were trying to break into a house belonging to contractor Mohd Azhar Nordin, 46, in Jalan TS12 here when they were spotted by policemen patrolling the area.

Two of the suspects were trying to enter the double-storey house while another was waiting in a car.

Realising the police's presence, the two suspects rushed into their car and tried to escape, but they did not get very far as their vehicle skidded a short distance away. The suspects alighted from their Proton Wira and tried to escape on foot.

Selangor CID chief Senior Asst Comm Mohd Adnan Abdullah said that when the policemen introduced themselves, the suspects opened fire. This forced the police to return fire, killing all three on the spot.

Police seized a revolver and a semi-automatic pistol at the scene. They also found house-breaking tools in the robbers' car which was reported stolen in Puchong on Jan 7.

"At the contractor's house, we found signs of an attempted break-in. We also found a handphone and bag that we believe belonged to the robbers," he said.

At the time of incident, Mohd Azhar was out of town, while his wife, three children and a maid had slept through all the drama.

They only realised that their house was almost broken into and that the suspects had been shot dead after being informed by the police.

Mohd Azhar said he received a call from his wife and rushed home immediately.

He said his house had been robbed six times in the last three years. The last time his house was robbed was last year when robbers fled with her daughter's jewellery. The bodies were sent to Kuala Lumpur hospital for post-mortem.

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Word count: 398

Yet another lone woman attacked and robbed

By: AUSTIN CAMOENS and WONG PEK MEI newsdesk@thestar.com.my

KUALA LUMPUR: Lone women approaching their cars appear to be the target of armed robbers.

In the past few weeks, there have been several cases of unaccompanied woman who were attacked by armed assailants. The most recent is that of a woman who nearly had her finger severed by an armed robber near Taman Tun Dr Ismail here. The incident occurred at around 6.30am yesterday.

"The man who was of dark complexion brandished a knife and demanded for her valuables and handbag," said Brickfields OCPD Asst Comm Wan Abdul Bari Wan Abdul Khalid.

"The woman had stopped in front of a friend's house in Jalan Datuk Sulaiman when she was approached by the man on a motorcycle." ACP Wan Abdul Bari said a scuffle broke out between the two and her finger was almost severed when he tried to slash her. He got away with her handbag eventually.

Just 32 hours earlier, another woman was attacked and robbed about 9km away while walking in the carpark of mall here.

"We received a report that the woman in her 20s was slashed on her head when she was about to get into her car at the Mid Valley Megamall on Friday," he said.

He said the woman had just alighted the lift near the cineplex at around 10pm when she was approached by a man armed with sharp object. "She struggled with the man who tried to grab her handbag but she relented when the man slashed her on her head," he said, adding that the woman lodged the police report at around 4am yesterday.

ACP Wan Abdul Bari said police were investigating the cases under Section 395 of the Penal Code for armed robbery and urged anyone with information to come forward.

Mid Valley City Sdn Bhd's management said the woman was sent to the University Malaya Medical Centre in an ambulance 25 minutes after the incident. She was discharged the next morning.

"Her loss consist of an Iphone, a wallet with cash, the victim's identity card, her driving licence and bank cards, "it said. CCTV footage of the attack and robbery had been sent to the authorities, it said. The cases of women being targeted by robbers came to light when Internet marketer Chin Xin-Ci posted on Facebook about her attack and near abduction by two men at a shopping mall car park on May 27.

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Page: 8

Source/Agency: The Star

Word count: 307

Artist attacked in art gallery

By: WINNIE YEOH winnie@thestar.com.my

GEORGE TOWN: An artist was tied up and assaulted during a robbery at her gallery in Love Lane here.

Lim Dang Chii, 31, was alone in the art gallery when a man barged into the premises and tied up her hands and legs. She was then locked in the toilet.

He took away RM300, a tablet and a handphone. Before leaving the premises, he knocked the artist's head against the floor several times and used a knife to injure her neck.

He told her in Bahasa Malaysia that he had to hurt her so that she would be afraid to call for help.

However, after he left, Lim managed to make her way to the front of the gallery where she shouted for help.

She was later sent to Penang Hospital by passers-by for treatment. She received several stitches on her neck and also sustained bruises on the head and cuts on her left arm.

Her fiancé Leong Chee Keong, 32 said he and Lim managed the gallery together and he was at home in Pulau Tikus to look after his ailing mother when the incident occurred at 10pm on Tuesday.

"I'm normally away for about an hour every evening to check on my mother and feed her.

"What the robber did was very heartless. He could have just taken away the paintings which we could always draw again.

"Why did he have to hurt my fiancée even after taking her stuff? Luckily, her injuries are not serious," he said when met at the hospital.

George Town OCPD Asst Comm Gan Kong Meng said the case had been classified as causing grievous hurt during a robbery under Section 394 of the Penal Code.

He also urged for witnesses or those with information on the robbery to call the Rakan COP hotline (04-2691999) or any police station.

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Word count: 405

Retired school teacher injured but managed to scare robbers away

By: YEE XIANG YUN xiangyun@thestar.com.my

JOHOR BARU: A 71-year-old retired teacher received 21 stiches after both her palms were slashed during a robbery which took place on July 9, at her home in Permas Jaya.

The woman, who lives just minutes from the Permas police station, was injured when she tried to fight off a parang-wielding man. Her screams for help scared the robber who fled with some loose change. Recalling her terrifying ordeal, which took place at 6.55am, the woman, who did not want to be identified, said that she had just returned from her morning walk.

"I was about to drive my daughter's car when I noticed a blue car slowly passing by the house. A man in his early 30s, who sat in the passenger seat kept looking at me. "Suddently, the car reversed into my front porch. The gates were ajar. I realised that I was about to get robbed so I immediately reached out to close the house door.

"However, the man moved swiftly and managed to push me against the wall inside my house placing a parang to my neck. "He warned me not to scream, but I was so afraid that I screamed for help anyway," she said when met at her home. The woman tried to push him away but in the midst of scuffle, both her palms and fingers were slashed. The mother-of-four said the robber was unhappy that she only had RM40 with her and demanded for more money and threatened to slash her again.

"I told him to let me go so that I can get money from my purse in the living room. He released me but when I turned back after taking the money, he had already gone," she said.

Her 45-year-old daughter, a lawyer, who was also at home during the incident said she heard her mother screaming for her not to come downstairs. She called the police hotline and police station from her room upstairs.

They arrived more than 20 minutes later. She said her mother was rushed to a clinic in Taman Sentosa where she received 21 stiches and seven injections for both hands. She said that a police report was made at Permas Jaya police station.

When contacted, Johor Baru South OCPD Asst Comm Zainuddin Yaakob said police were investigating the case. He urged those with information about suspicious looking individuals loitering in their neighbourhood to contact the police hotline at 07-2212999.

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Section: Views

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Page: 4

Source/Agency: The Star

Word count: 146

Woman robbed and set on fire in Segamat

A 34-YEAR-OLD woman in Sungai Labis, Segamat, was set on fire by a robber who also grabbed her gold chain worth RM2,000, reported *Malaysia Nanban*.

Field worker T. Parvathy had ridden on a motorcycle to a provision shop in the estate to buy groceries at about 1pm on Monday but when she did not come back after an hour, her husband, V. Sivakumar, tried to contact her on the handphone.

A few hours later, he received a call that Parvathy, a mother of three, had been admitted to the Segamat Hospital with severe burns.

Upon reaching the hospital, the doctors told him that his wife's chances of recovery were slim because her condition was serious.

Noticing that his wife's gold chain was missing, Sivakumar said he believed that the man who had called for an ambulance to take Parvathy to hospital might be responsible for the incident.

> The daily also reported former Tamil Nadu chief minister M. Karunanidhi as urging the Indian government to fund a proposed project by Universiti Malaya to translate parts of medieval Tamil literature into Bahasa Malaysia.

In a letter to Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Karunanidhi said there were about two million Tamils in Malaysia, many of whom were eager to know their roots, tradition and culture.

He said the Department of Indian Studies at Universiti Malaya had been attempting to carry out the project by a team of five to six research assistants.

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Page: 5

Source/Agency: The Star

Word count: 99

Megat Junid's widow robbed

PETALING JAYA: The late Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Tan Sri Megat Junid Megat Ayob's house was robbed by three men who escaped with jewellery and watches worth RM50,000.

During the 5.30am incident, his widow Puan Sri Faizah Shuib, 67 was sleeping on the ground floor.

Petaling Jaya OCPD Asst Comm Arjunaidi Mohamed said the robbers jumped over the fence near the guard post and overpowered the guard.

"They then forced open the rear door before entering Faizah's room and tied her up with her maid."

ACP Arjunaidi said the robbers ransacked the entire house before escaping 30 minutes later.

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Page: 6

Source/Agency: The Star

Word count: 142

Parang-wielding men rob retired teacher

KUANTAN: Three parang-wielding men robbed a retired teacher of RM40,000, including her Proton Waja car in an early morning robbery at her house in Kampung Sebooi, Temerloh.

Temerloh Police Chief ACP Mohd Noor Mansor said during the 4.30am incident three men broke into the 59-year-old teacher's house, blindfolded and tied her up, before ransacking the house.

He said the woman was living alone and one of the assailants

had threatened to slit her throat with a machete.

"The three men robbed her of her jewellery and cash that was kept in a closet and also escaped with her car," he said yesterday.

He said she later managed to untie herself before alerting her neighbours and calling the police.

Mohd Noor said initial investigations revealed that the three men came into the house through the kitchen after forcing open a window. — Bernama

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Page: 3

Source/Agency: The Star

Word count: 216

Ex-Wanita Umno leader killed during robbery bid

ALOR SETAR: A 66-year-old former Wanita Umno branch chief died after she was slashed during an attempted robbery at her home in Jeneri, Sik.

Halimah Yunus (pic) was found with a deep wound on her neck by her husband Mee Hashim, 63, when he returned home from performing *terawih* prayers at the village surau at 9.20pm on Friday.

Halimah was found sprawled on a bed on the ground floor of her double-storey semi-wooden house.

"She was still conscious then and told me that a man had attacked her," said Mee. "I sought the help of my neighbour to send her to Sik Hospital but she was

pronounced dead on arrival," he said at the Sultanah Bahiyah Hospital mortuary yesterday.

Mee said the robber had entered through the back door and fled after injuring his wife, adding that nothing was taken.

"I left my wife at about 7pm to go to the surau. Halimah didn't come with me because she was not feeling well," he said.

Halimah's only child Norliza Mansor, 46, who lives in Sungai Petani, said the last time she spoke to her mother was on Wednesday when she promised to buy her mother a *jubah* for Hari Raya.

Sik OCPD Deputy Supt Mohd Ismail Ibrahim said police have classified the case as murder.

