Rape and Violence against Women in Two Al-Jazeera News

1Rachmadina Adelia, 2Maman Lesmana
Arabic Studies Program, Faculty of Humanities
Universitas Indonesia
Corresponding Author: Rachmadina Adelia

Abstract: This article discusses the position of women as victims of violence in two articles in Al-Jazeera newspaper. The purpose of this research is to explain how Al-Jazeera placed women as victims of violence in the news delivered. This research uses qualitative method with literature study. The results show that Al-Jazeera is a newspaper committed to accuracy, objectivity, neutrality and is attentive to achieve harmony with the Arab society and its cultural, social, and cultural components. According to the type of discourse in the news presented by Al-Jazeera, Al-Jazeera uses a lot of non-fiction discourse, referential discourse, expediative discourse, descriptive discourse, and conative discourse. In the both data, it is found that there is no misrepresentation or an unrighteous practice of describing a person, a group, and an opinion. All opinions are conveyed according to what exists, not exacerbated or twisted. Two examples of stories taken depict the women clearly and plainly. It can be concluded that Al-Jazeera has been fighting for women's rights. This corresponds to the mission of Al-Jazeera. In addition, Al-Jazeera is also careful in conveying the news. Cases are sought out and analysed from the causes, effects, and reactions of others. This corresponds to the source of knowledge used by Al-Jazeera, a site that provides opinions with the deepest dimensions beyond the news through analysis, scientific research, and the study of depth.

Keywords: Al-Jazeera, women, violence, discourse, news

Date of Submission: 16-01-2018
Date of acceptance: 01-02-2018

I. INTRODUCTION

Violence against women in the Middle East is just as common as in any other regions in the world. Violence that occurs against women in general is physical violence done by the women's own partner. Several Middle Eastern countries have experienced some violence against women; there are cases such as two million girls in some Middle Eastern countries undergoing mutilation, killing of girls, sex in pregnancy, and the government negligence for the safety of girls (Ayunda, 2015). In addition, lately in the Middle East there has been a lot of rape and mistreatment of women committed by ISIS (Ap/ds, 2016). The news then entered in the newspaper news discourse. According to the BBC Indonesia website on November 13, 2013, Egypt was ranked first for cases of violence and abuse against women. The second position was occupied by Iraq followed by Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Yemen. Al-Jazeera is one of the most well-known Arabic-language newspapers. Al-Jazeera is a reflection of Arab mass media that upholds a neutral attitude towards cases worth reporting. The Doha-based mass media, Al-Jazeera, is an international media that provides coverage of cases that occur in various countries. Al-Jazeera is neither a party nor a political action, merely a mature, visionary, and independent media. The employees of this newspaper represent all forms of thought, from the flow of Islam, nationalist and liberal. Al-Jazeera is a reflection of various thoughts in Arab countries and Islamic countries that contain a variety of things that live under one roof to serve the community (Ad Dien). In addition, Al-Jazeera newspaper presents various news about violence against women; the news of violence against women, action against violence against women, and some cases involving the wider community related to women's violence, and much more (Al-Jazeera.net).

News about Rape

This sub-chapter explains how Al-Jazeera presents news about the rape that occurred South Sudan. The question is, which strategies are used to represent women as victims of rape? The news article used as the research material is Al-Jazeera online, dated March 23, 2016:

"Rape is a weapon against women in the South Sudanese state."

The discourse strategy used in the first news headline about women's violence by Al-Jazeera is the discourse of nominalization. Nominalization is the process of changing the verb that has the meaning of action or activity into a noun that has meaning of the event. Every action or activity always contains an offender, for example who rapes, who fires, and who steals. In contrast to the action or activity, the event or a symptom emphasizes on telling the readers that there has been rape, shootings and theft. Transformation is done from raping into rape cases, from firing into shooting cases, and from stealing into theft cases. (Eriyanto, 2001: 177). Nominalization is closely related to the transformation of an active sentence form that always requires a subject. In the active sentence is also always in the form of a verb, which refers to the process that is happening by the subject, while in nominalization does not require a subject. The word "rape" becomes the discourse of nominalization. Verbs are made into nouns, from "(to) rape" to "rape". This makes the impression of displaying only the
incidence of rape. The perpetrator who plays a role in the rape or who is raping has not been mentioned. This nomination can lead to two possibilities, first, whether in the news will be shown the perpetrator who committed the rape, second whether the perpetrator is not displayed or hidden. Judging from the contents by a quick read, in this news the offender is displayed by Al Jazeera. The phrase “women in the country of Southern Sudan” explains another type, the kind of discourse of assimilation. The strategy of discourse-assimilation-individualization is concerned about whether the category of perpetrators being displayed are obvious. In a news discourse, it is not specified who the perpetrator is, except the location of the perpetrator’s community or group. The effects of assimilation and individualization are different. Assimilation has a generalization effect, whereas individualization has a specification effect. This strategy creates something else, such as a sense of solidarity from the community in question. (Badara, 2012: 47) Women in South Sudan is clearly a generalization. There is no specific mention of which women because not all women in South Sudan experience the rape. This could lead to the prejudice that all women in South Sudan experience rape, even if it is only a few women. The sentence is used by the editor not because they do not know the number of victims of rape, but to attract readers to know more about the incident. Meanwhile, the word “weapon” mentioned to the news raises the impression that women have the ability to make the worst thing that has happened in their lives a means to show justice. Although rape is not something to be proud of and shared with the general public, but justice must still be enforced. From the title it is not clear whether the position of women in this news in a marginal position or cornered. Next is the news release paragraph:

"Angelina - a woman who has four heads"

In this section, there is a categorization discourse. An ideology used in the media can be known from the categorization process. Giving a category in a particular event or action can provide the characteristics or attributes that are always present in accordance with the category in question. However, the granting of the category does not add to any understanding and information regarding the cases. Editors use categorization that makes the news interesting. There will be some interpretation by the readers in understanding the categorization. Whether it is relevant or not, the categorization will also cause certain prejudices in every reader who read it (Eriyanto, 2001: 185). The above sentence is a categorization of a woman named Angelina who entered the 4th decade in her age, which means that the woman is 40 years old. The editorial clearly mentions the age of the female victim of the reported rape, though it is unclear how old she actually is in her forties. In addition, there is also the discourse of identification, the discourse strategy relating to how to define a person, group, or event. Almost the same as categorization, the difference lies in the process of defining by way of putting a clause. This usually uses connective words to link sentences. Giving identification is intended by the editor to provide more information about the perpetrator, but on the other hand raises a certain suggestion to the readers because it is generally in a form of assessment of a person, group, or cases that occur. The addition of a good sentence will lead to a good judgment of the perpetrator or the event behind it, but if the addition of a bad sentence will give a bad judgment (Badara, 2012: 45), such in the following sentence:

"Struggling to cope with psychological effects from a rape incident in front of his 20-year-old son ".

This explains how much Angelina has suffered as the victim of rape after the incident. Moreover, the incident was done in front of his son. This raises the thought that the perpetrator who committed the rape did not think about the child of the raped victim. This may have been the ruthlessness that causes psychological effects on the victim after the incident. Furthermore, the strategy used by Al Jazeera in the first news content, the discourse of objectivation, is seen in the sentence:

"In an interview with Al Jazeera Net, Angelina says that she has been raped."

Angelina has been raped twice, this phrase shows objectivation by giving clear information how many times she was raped. This will not provide the perception that rape occurs several times or is not a continuous thing. This expression is thoughtful for victims of rape because it is mentioned as it is. Angelina is not in marginal position.

Another strategy in this first news, i.e. identification in the sentence:

"Angelina's first rape was committed by armed opposition forces led by Risk Machar in Bur Town."

Identification of the forces that raped Angelina is clearly displayed. It does not generalize the armed opposition forces, but certainly the troops with the Risk Machar leadership. The editor also does not add or take away information about the perpetrators of this rape. It is mentioned as it is. Different things arise in a sentence stating that the second perpetrator in the act of rape that occurred against Angelina, as follows
"Soldiers who belong to the government forces"

This sentence contains assimilation, which means there were many soldiers belong to government troops who committed the rape. However, it is possible that not all of the soldiers did such a dishonest act. This sentence can be assumed that Angelina forgets who the soldiers are, or which government the soldiers belong to that has raped her, or is it the editorialist who generalizes that the perpetrators of the second rape Angelina was a soldier who belongs to government forces.

In addition to using discourse strategies in this first news content, the editor also uses the pronoun, the pronoun "I". This will bring the readers into the story. Especially the story that directly derived from Angelina. The readers feel empathy with Angelina’s story and become part of the event. This will give the readers a lot of attention, especially a woman reader who will feel a heart-breaking fate if the rape happens to her. There is another identification strategy that supports this news.

Some do not mock Angelina as a raped woman, there are also parties who do not want to be blamed, as if covering the perpetrator's crime and do not wish that the name of their organization to lose its reputation.

The director of the South Sudan State Army Media Brigadier General Malik Aywen refused to accept the validity of allegations against government soldiers on the incidents of rape attributed to his members, telling Al-Jazeera that most of the rape cases took place in areas under the control of Riek Machar's pro-rebel forces, former Vice President Salva Kiir, “he criticized the report issued about the incident of rape because his army was not involved from these allegations, which he considered to be untrue.”

Other sentences that indicate the opinion that doubts the victim, namely:

"Doubts persist among those interested in justice issues in bringing perpetrators of rape to justice, especially since some victims know their abductors."

While the sentence below is the opinion of the victim who fights for the justice:

"Angelina Daniel, head of the Women’s and Justice Organization, who works to defend all crimes against women and girls, said that ... We will raise these issues to bring these criminals to justice."

Identification in the first and second sentences tends not to believe victim in the news. This can include hiding the offender from the case. But the purpose of the editorial can be seen to show the true face of the government, which does not care about the fate of women victims of rape and defend perpetrators of rape. While in the third sentence Angelina as one of the victims still want to bring the perpetrators for justice. She is not giving up even though the government, whose men committed sexual crimes, still refused to acknowledge the victim. Angelina is depicted as a strong woman and wants to uphold her rights for justice from the government in her country.

News on Violence against Women

The second news is news of violence against women found in Al-Jazeera on-line, March 13, 2013. When viewed from the title, the discourse used is the discourse of identification. The article is titled:

"The government forces"

which states "Violence against women in Tunisia. (Merely) a statement or a reality?” explains that there is violence against women in Tunisia, with an additional text to question the fact. Here the editor tries to get the readers’ attention to know what's really going on and what's called the statement and what's the reality. Whether the statement or reality is related to the incident of violence against women or the cause of the violence. It will be answered when readers read this news as a whole. A statement and a reality are two different things. A statement has a meaning of notification; either positive or negative statements can be actual or not, and may be appropriate or exaggerated. In this news the statement is an exaggerated statement. Meanwhile, ‘reality’ is something that truly exists and there is evidence for its existence. It's interesting to keep reading until the end of the news. Anything that makes this news a statement and what makes this news a reality. It is not clearly illustrated whether the editor will reveal the victim or the perpetrator.
Furthermore, judging by the beginning of the paragraph of this second news article, the editorial uses a strategy of discourse of differentiation and identification. Differentiation-indiffences is a strategy to know the process of marginalisation that occurred in a discourse news or cases (Badara, 2012: 43). Differentiation can create certain prejudices by creating a line between "us" and "them" parties. "Us" are good and "them" as bad parties. Both words are used to denote a reality of ostracism, marginalization, and poor imaging of a person or a group through a discourse.

A case or perpetrator playing in it can be displayed singly or there are no other perpetrators in it. However, there are other ways that can have another effect, that is by cases presenting cases or other perpetrators in the discourse. The effect to the first group is to look as if it is worse than the other group. There is a comparison within the discourse if there are two distinct groups. It is a strategy to corner a less dominant group by presenting another group considered more dominant and better (Badara, 2012: 43).

The following sentence shows differentiation:

"The position on the status of women in Tunisia after the revolution varies among the women activists who emphasize the high level of violence against women, and the official view that exaggerates the discussion about the aggravation of this phenomenon."

The difference in attitudes between women activists and official parties, such as this government is clearly seen as a differentiation. Female activists on the one hand are organizations that emphasize the high level of violence against women in Tunisia, but on the other hand the official party or organization shows things that are contrary to what women activists say by saying that women activists' opinions are exaggerated.

The exaggeration is explained by the discourse of identification, the violence attributed by women activists for renaissance movements, leaders, and others. From this sentence the readers can guess whether the official or government is not willing to acknowledge the violence that has occurred, or indeed the victim or this woman who is too exaggerating to associate this violence with other things. It could also be this sentence editorial intends to show two different things between the victim and the authorities. All will be clear and answered by looking at the content of this news.

The content of the second news from Al-Jazeera's editorial on violence against women uses a strategy of abstract discourse, as does the following case:

Objectivation: Democrats have committed corruption three times.

Abstraction: Democrats have repeatedly committed corruption.

The difference between the two sentences above lies in how many Democrats have committed corruption. The first sentence clearly shows the number given, while the second sentence gives a different word. It raises a different interpretation to the readers. The word ‘repeatedly’ caused a bad impression on the Democrats who seemed to be constantly corrupting. Van Leeuwen reveals that a discourse conveyed in abstract form is not caused by the editorial ignorance of the news but as one strategy to describe a person or a group (Badara, 2012: 44).

أن منظمتها رصدت منا حالات لنساء تعرضهن بعد مرحلة الثورة للعنف بمختلف أشكاله...

"... His organization has been researching hundreds of cases of women who were subjected to violence of various kinds after the period of the revolution."

The word hundreds in the sentence does not indicate a specific number even though it is clear in the hundreds. This unspecified amount of usage may be due to unknown exact numbers, but the vocabulary of hundreds means the number of women who are victims of violence. This could illustrate the number of women who have experienced violence in Tunisia from different types of violence.

Furthermore, identifiable discourses can be seen from various cases, from victim statements, statements of representatives of organizations and governments that support the case or even express other opinions. Such in the sentence below:

وأتى نتاء إلى أن هناك الكثير من النساء ضحايا العنف في تونس يلتم ينتم إلى الضحية ويرفضن الكفاح عن تعرضهن لانتهاكات، معينة أن فضح

الاعتداءات ضد المرأة بشكل عيني تدل على الكثير من الضحايا لأسباب متعددة

"Najat (Secretary General of the Democratic Women's Association) points out that many women victims of violence in Tunisia are silent and refuse to reveal violations against them, given that exposing the attacks on women is a heavy burden for many victims for various reasons."

The sentence explains the fear of women victims of violence to demand justice for what has happened. The consequences of violence against women are not only physical traces, but the mentality of women as victims and these are consequences that are difficult to be forgotten. Al-Jazeera blatantly mentions many women who feel that way. The condition of women as victims of violence is clearly described.

Another sentence is expressed in the form of identification discourse is the following.
One of the divorced women who previously experienced marital violence.

"One of the divorced women who previously experienced marital violence.”

The identification of victims of violence with the word "divorced woman" and "previously married violence” indicates the specificity of the victim. In that sentence it is clear the condition of the victim who has been divorced and not a good thing for a marital relationship plus the divorce is due to violence in marriage. It is clear that the perpetrators of violence are a man because in that sentence there is a phrase “one of the women” coupled with the word “marriage” which must be done by male and female couples because in Tunisia same-sex marriage is illegal and can be sentenced two months to two years.

Then there is the use of the ‘I’ pronoun in this second news item. Sentences that use pronouns very influential for readers are in the following sentence:

"I had a bitter experience with my ex-husband who beat me and insulted me every time I quarrelled with him because of his addiction to drinking alcohol”

The use of the pronoun 'I' in the above sentence becomes very intimate for the readers, especially the woman who has undergone a marriage relationship. The readers will seem to be the victim of the cases told while reading the sentence. There will arise sympathy as fellow women. For men of course, the above sentence insinuated not to commit violence in a marriage relationship for any reason, especially for reasons of alcohol or drinking.

Mills (1992: 183-184) also argues with the use of pronouns also place the readers in the whole discourse. This strategy indirectly makes the writing editor take into account the existence of the readers. It has the effect of attracting attention from audiences reading the discourse.

The vocabulary of the “bitter experience” above also illustrates that violence in marriage for any reason is negative. The incident will continue to be remembered in life as agony; bitter experience that can affect victim psychologically. Al-Jazeera poured the victim's story as it is, nothing is hidden. Although the perpetrator (male) is not specifically told by the name of the example, it is intended to show how the situation of women as victims to want to get justice and to share experiences with other women out there. Furthermore, there is a replacement in the sentence:

"Using his hands to beat her from time to time, eventually pushing her to file a divorce case from him about a year ago”

The statement of the expression "to beat him from time to time" is in fact a cursory reading of this sentence which may be intended to hide the perpetrator's existence, but if it is clearly noted, the word “his hands” mean the hands of the man who beats the women.

Furthermore, there is an association discourse strategy. Discourse-dissociation strategy is connecting perpetrators with a larger community. The news discourse presented was then associated with the behaviour, characteristics, other perpetrators outside the news, and others (Eriyanto, 2001: 189). For example, if there is a case about the government that does not end in justice, the readers will remember other similar cases and conclude an unequivocal attitude about the government.

The association will show whether the perpetrator or the case is associated with other perpetrators or other larger cases in which the perpetrator is located, either explicitly or not (Badara, 2012: 50). Unlike associations, dissociations do not relate cases or perpetrators to larger cases and other perpetrators.

"Tunisia is not a dispute and violence are practised all over the world.”

Violence that occurred in Tunisia is associated with violence that has occurred around the world. It is undeniable that throughout the world there must be violent acts of different kinds, especially violence in marriage relations. It exists in every part of the world. This makes violence in Tunisia not a new thing, but a typical issue of humanity.

Another strategy that is also used to convey this event is the identification strategy; sentences that support the description of this second story. There are opinions that support that violence is a negative thing and some are opposed if this violence is linked to various reasons. This is seen in the sentence below:

"According to Najat Yacoubi, marital violence "threatens society for destroying families and creating psychological problems for children," and stated that his organization is currently leading an "efficient" campaign to raise awareness of the impact of violence on society.
This indicates the idea of some activities of an organization that has a positive purpose. Although the organization is not specifically mentioned, it appears that some are concerned about cases that should not exist in a marriage relationship, that is violence.

Another sentence from Najat, as in the following excerpt:

"On the cause of the widespread violence, Najat said that the violence was linked to men and political choice to implement certain social patterns, expressing her concern about "the decline of women's freedom in the shadow of the rise of Islamic group."

Najat clearly explains the causes of violence associated with men. The man in the sentence is given the impression not far from violence. In addition, not only from the male perpetrator alone, politics also contributed to the events of violence through social patterns in Tunisia. He also shows concern to women who are not free.

In the above sentence it is clear that representatives of the Ministry of Women trying to calm the situation in Tunisia which is experiencing increasing violence against women. He also builds the conviction that beyond the frightening fears it can trigger to raise awareness and strengthen women in the future. Fear should not be constantly felt or exaggerated, but is taken as a positive side to become a stronger person because life will go on.

Maher also added "Violence against women during the transitional period is not related to the rise of the Islamic Renaissance Movement into a force, noting that many thinkers consider Tunisian society “bit rough”. From this sentence it can be seen that there is a misjudgement of the cause of the widespread violence against women in Tunisia, because the Tunisian society itself has a rough character by tradition, not necessarily because of the Islamic Renaissance movement. The final identification that supports this news, that is:

"A person in charge of information at the Ministry of Women Maher Sweilem told Al Jazeera Net that it is overreacting to discuss the ongoing phenomenon of violence against women and the fear of some organizations regarding the decline of women's status in Tunisia. But it remains a legitimate fear - and in his opinion - for vigilance and further strengthening the status of women in the future."

In this sentence, Sweilem clearly gives freedom to debate on social issues.

II. CONCLUSION

Al-Jazeera is a newspaper committed to accuracy, objectivity, neutrality, and caring to achieve harmony with Arab society and its cultural, social, and cultural components. The editorial of the Al-Jazeera newspaper represents a female victims by the way it is in real life. Not only that, Al-Jazeera also plays a sense of concern among readers, especially women, to share what is happening in the excerpts of news taken, that is, women are sexually abused or raped in a cruel way. This can be seen from the language style and selection of vocabulary used in delivering the news or cases that occur.

According to the kind of discourse which in the news presented by Al-Jazeera, Al-Jazeera uses a lot of non-fiction discourse, referential discourse, explicative discourse, descriptive discourse, and conative discourse. The discourse of non-fiction means that Al-Jazeera is spreading the real and true news, while the referential discourse has shown that Al-Jazeera always uses the opinion of a competent person in his field, not of indiscriminate persons. Exploitative discourse is also used by Al-Jazeera which means that the message is intended to provide knowledge and broaden the readers’ view, not to influence or to shift the readers’ opinions for the sake of certain interests. There is also a descriptive discourse, which shows that Al-Jazeera not only gives a story, but also enlightens completely about what is going on. Conative discourse is also used which means that Al-Jazeera tries to engage the readers, although not all readers understand what is conveyed like the culture and society of the country in the news. However, it is helped by a fairly clear picture given about the conditions in the country related to the events that occurred. In the four-data taken that have been analysed there is no misrepresentation experiment or an unrighteous practice of describing a person, a group, and an opinion. All opinions are conveyed according to what exists, not exacerbated or twisted. Four examples of news taken depict women perpetrators clearly.

In contrast to the very clearly described victims, the perpetrators in four news examples are generally represented exclusively. However, it does not mean that Al-Jazeera defends the perpetrators. It is a strategy to highlight the female perpetrators to reveal the actual events that have taken place and to draw the readers’ attention to the position of...
women in life. The first and fourth stories of the perpetrators are depicted as military figures with weapons, while the second and third stories of the perpetrators are the husbands of the female victims themselves. Al-Jazeera tries to be neutral by publicising cases of sexual violence to women not limited to those that occur in a marital relationship, but also the incidents of sexual violence related to military soldiers in connection with government. Although the news articles relating to military soldiers has not clearly described the identity of the perpetrators, Al-Jazeera has tried to portray the perpetrators and not cover them up. As seen from the statements from certain parties that defend women’s rights and show a sense of concern to the fate of women victims of sexual violence presented by Al-Jazeera, it can be concluded that Al-Jazeera has been fighting for women’s rights. This corresponds to the mission of Al-Jazeera. In addition, Al-Jazeera does not convey the cases irresponsibly. Cases are sought out and analysed from the causes, effects, and reactions of others. This corresponds to Al-Jazeera’s source of knowledge, a site that provides opinions with the deepest dimensions beyond the news through analysis, scientific research, and in-depth study.

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