# The Multifaceted Perspectives of The Domestic Violence Case of Rizky Billar Towards Lesti Kejora: Sara Mills Critical Discourse Analysis

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Article History:	
First Received:	ABSTRACT
24/12/2022	This paper discusses the discourse on domestic violence that befell
Final Revision:	<i>Lesti Kejora by her husband, Rizky Billar, in the online media coverage tempo.com on 13 October 2022. This writing aims to describe feminism</i>
04/06/2023	in the domestic violence coverage of Rizky Billar against Lesti Kejora using Sara Mills' critical discourse analysis (CDA). The research
Available online:	method used is descriptive qualitative, utilizing the data analysis technique of Sara Mills' critical discourse analysis, which emphasizes
30/06/2023	the position of the subject-object, its consequences, and the position of the reader-writer. From the analysis results, it is known that ideological and legal aspects are present through the views of legal experts on domestic violence. The discourse in the object of this research is news that shows the feminist movement in favor of women led by women's rights legal experts. However, the discourse writers tend to side with Billar, who is most likely to be released from custody. At first glance, Lesti's discourse indicates as if she was not a victim is indirectly something that marginalizes women. The author reconstructs facts into a discourse adapted to the intent and purpose. Therefore, the position of the subject-object may differ from the actor in another context.

Keywords: Critical Discourse Analysis; online news, law on domestic violence, Lesti Kejora

## **INTRODUCTION**

Verbal and bodily violence are common in discordant households. All forms of violence, especially domestic violence, are violations of human rights, crimes against human dignity, and forms of discrimination that must be eradicated, especially since there is an aspect of intent (*opzet*) to persecute the offenders and not negligence (*culpa*). Domestic violence (KDRT) is an act of violence in the home, usually between spouses or roommates.

Based on The National Commission on Violence Against Women (*Komnas Perempuan*) annual record data, the amount of violence against women cases (*KtP*) throughout 2020 amounted

to 299,911 cases, consisting of cases handled by: [1] District Courts/Religious Courts totaling 291,677 cases. [2] Komnas Perempuan partner service institutions totaling 8,234 cases. [3] The Komnas Perempuan Service and Referral Unit (*UPR*) totaled 2,389 cases, with a record of 2,134 cases being gender-based cases and 255 cases of which were non-gender-based cases or witheld information. The increase in the number of cases does not mean that the number of violence cases in the previous year was less, but because the number of victims brave enough to report their cases increased and access to complaints institutions was also wider. (Komisi Nasional Anti Kekerasan Terhadap Perempuan, 2021).

Many cases of domestic violence have occurred for a long time, however, the problems like are not discussed and disseminated to other people. However, it's different from domestic violence cases in the world of celebrities, especially celebrities who are now very famous, such as Lesti and Rizky Billar, Indonesian singer and actor respectively. Many fans had pros and cons before they were engaged, and because they concealed their serial marriage, many thought Lesti was pregnant out of wedlock, which disappointed fans. Internet users complained about Lesti Billar's farce.

Many netizens, artist friends, and psychologists backed Lesti after Billar's domestic violence case was revealed online. Lesti demonstrated resilience as a victim of domestic violence by filing a report with the police. Despite this, Lesti withdrew her police report for a variety of reasons. Obviously, there are those who lament Lesti's decision, but there are also those who are pleased because there is a chance they will get along again.

This paper examines the problem of Lesti domestic violence by Rizky Billar with Sara Mills' Critical Discourse Analysis. The ideology behind the discourse contained in the news regarding the Lesti domestic violence case committed by her husband Billar from the online mass media is examined using Sara Mills' theory. Sara Mills criticizes the discourse by looking at how the actors in the discourse position women or describe women as marginalized and how the pattern of marginalization is carried out. Things to do in analyzing discourse, 1) what is the position of the subject-object in the story, and 2) how is the position of the reader towards the news or story that is displayed. In the end, the way the story is told and these positions are placed and displayed in the text make one party legitimate and the other party illegitimate (Eriyanto, 2009).

Discourse analysis examines the structure (surface structure) and what the author or speaker intends to convey (deep structure), but critical discourse analysis is necessary for analyzing the ideology underlying language and language as a tool of power. In today's rapidly evolving society, language is used to communicate and display power. Additionally, fake news has made it difficult

to distinguish between right and wrong. Language errors result in injustice and inequality, resulting in numerous social problems. Thus, language is frequently abused.

Critical discourse analysis is essential for solving social problems and revealing the power of discourse in this ongoing change. According to Fairclough and Wodak, discourse is text and social practice (Haryatmoko, 2019). This thought was influenced by the thoughts of Foucault and Bourdieu. Foucault stated that discourse governs both thought and action. Ideas will dictate conduct. However, according to Bourdieu, discourse is a tool of power that employs language and social relations as symbols. This is critical discourse. Therefore, CDA seeks to investigate discourse beyond text. In CDA, discourse is a social practice with a function.

Likewise, according to (Darma, 2009) CDA is a linguistic study that not only examines discourse from a linguistic perspective, but also relates it to its context. The context indicates that language is used in accordance with specific situations and conditions in order to achieve the desired outcomes (Masitoh, 2020). Wijana & Rohmadi (2010) revealed that CDA always considers the discourse's context, including setting, circumstance, and conditions. Setting, circumstance, and condition will determine who communicates with whom and why; in what types of audiences and situations; via what medium; how various types of communication develop; and each party's relationships. In social and cultural research, critical discourse analysis is a novel method. Based on the results of a symposium held in January 1991, experts T. Van Dijk, N. Farchlogh, G. Kress, T. Van Leewen, and R. Wodak in (Haryatmoko, 2019) agreed on three things; 1) all approaches must be oriented towards social problems, 2) the main concern is ideological demystification. 3) Must always be reflective in the research process.

According to Teun A. Van Dijk in Haryatmoko (2019) is a micro-discourse relationship and a macro social structure. On the micro aspect of discourse, critical discourse analysis assumes that linguistics is the subject matter in explaining a text, which focuses, among other things, on the study of structure, semantics, pragmatics. On the macro aspect of social structure, critical discourse analysis assumes that social science analyzes social structures and institutions, organizations, group relations, social political processes, communication and interactions.

Sara Mills' critical discourse analysis can examine social structure, inequality, and irregularities, especially gender and feminism. Sara Mills' critical discourse analysis model addresses textual representations of readers and writers. According to (Widya Wardani et al., 2016). Subject-object positions have ideological content. This position limits storytelling by explaining an event or discourse from the writer's perspective, so the reader's meaning depends on the writer. The subject of representation can reconstruct facts and interpret the event's actions,

which are used to construct the author's meaning and communicate it to the public. Defining an event is subjective, so the perspective and point of view used will also affect it.

Sara Mills also stated a text must consider the reader's position. There are two indirect address methods for readers can be applied (Rohana & Syamsuddin, 2015): mediation or truth-telling to make the reader identify with the characters. Through shared cultural values that readers use to interpret a text. Media's position is a subject that constructs reality, complete with views, biases and partiality. The media also has partiality towards a certain matter. There is an ideology which is an important factor for the media in determining the direction of its program. Ideology has a role of determining what is good or bad to tell the public. Thus, ideology influences media programming (Sobari & Faridah, 2012).

According to (Eriyanto, 2009) representation refers to how a person, a group, certain ideas or opinions are displayed in action. There are also two important things in representation, namely, whether an idea is displayed as it should be and how the representation is displayed which can be seen from the words, sentences and visual aids of an idea displayed in text or announcements to the public.

Ermayanti, et al. researched "Sara Mills' Critical Discourse Study on Women's Language in the Viral Rubric of the Radar Sorong Newspaper February-April 2020 Edition". This study aims to describe the position of the subject-object and the position of the writer-reader in the mass media of the Radar Sorong newspaper, the February-April 2020 edition. This research is a qualitative descriptive study. The subject of this research is the Viral Rubric of Radar Sorong Newspaper. The object of this research is the position of women's language in reporting. The research data was obtained by analyzing the Viral Rubric of Radar Sorong Newspaper using Sara Mills' CDA by looking at several elements. The instrument used is a table of language style screening presented in the news. In accordance with the research objectives, the results of this study show that the elements of Sara Mills' CDA have certain positions (Ermayanti et al., 2020).

Furthermore, Siti Nur Alifa Abdullah's research in 2019 entitled "Sara Mills' Discourse Analysis on Women's Violence in the Household, a study on coil reporting". This study used a descriptive research method with the critical discourse analysis model approach of Sara Mills with the research object being five news headlines on violence against women in the Kumparan online media. The results of the study show that the online media Coil in reporting on women's discourse, has its own perspective, by depicting women as victims described in the text, also finds women representing the subject in the news text (Abdullah, 2019). Yosi Zamzuardi and Syahrul conducted research in 2019, examining gender with the title "Discourse Analysis of Cases of Sexual Harassment against Women in Online News in the Perspective of Sara Mills' Analysis". The research method uses descriptive research with the Sara Mills analysis model with the results of the research namely, 1) News texts are biased in presenting women in news texts based on five types of media news, 2) Marginalization of women is manifested in the form of weakening of women's position, for example when women travel alone, has a big body posture, beautiful face also in a lonely condition treated with inappropriate things. 3) The perspective in the news weakens the position of women even though there has been evidence of violence committed by the perpetrators, 4) Acts of sexual harassment against women have become the agenda of the feminist movement in order to increase the sense of security for women themselves where they are, and 5) In the era of globalization there is still news which marginalizes and harms women (Zamzuardi & Syahrul, 2019).

However, this can be balanced, as seen in a research done by (Asheva & Tasyarasita, 2022) on a news article entitled "Indonesian Woman Sends Poisoned Satay to Ex-Boyfriend, Ends Up Killing Delivery Man's Son Instead" published in asiaone.com, 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021. Depending on the position of the reader, third person pronouns are predominantly used to convey the narrative objectively such as 'he', 'she', and 'her'. By employing these pronouns, both perspectives can be viewed from the subject and object positions, objectively presenting the article's narrative. According to the results of the ideology analysis, the author did not have a tendency to marginalize or defend the woman.

According to the General Provisions of Law Number: 23 of 2004 concerning the Elimination of Domestic Violence (PKDRT), domestic violence is any act against a person, especially women, that causes physical, sexual, psychological misery or suffering, and/or neglect of the household, including threats to commit acts, coercion, or unlawful deprivation of independence within the household. The PKDRT Law covers physical, psychological, sexual, and household neglect. Domestic violence, as defined in Article 1 point 1 of the PKDRT Law, involves perpetrators' acts of violence against others, especially women, that can lead to physical, sexual, psychological, and/or household neglect, including threats to commit acts, coercion, or unlawful deprivation of liberty.

PKDRT Law Articles 44 and 45 outline domestic violence penalties. Criminal law classifies crimes by processing method. Ordinary offenses can be processed without a victim report, while complaint offenses require a victim complaint or consent. Thus, only complaint offenses can be revoked to end sentencing. Hence, if the above provisions are read comprehensively, the report

can only be revoked to stop the legal process if the victim's physical or psychological violence does not cause illness or an obstacle to work, position, livelihood, or daily activities.

The Criminal Code ("KUHP") itself has provided restrictions on the revocation of reports on complaint offenses. Article 74 paragraph (1) of the Criminal Code states that complaints can only be made within six months from the time the person entitled to complain becomes aware of a crime, if he resides in Indonesia.

Victims of domestic violence are people who experience violence and/or threats of violence within the household. Whereas protection is all efforts aimed at providing a sense of security to victims carried out by the family, advocates, social institutions, police, prosecutors, courts or other parties, either temporarily or based on a court order. Therefore, temporary protection is protection that can be directly provided by the police and/or social institutions or other parties, prior to the issuance of a protection order from the court. An order of protection is a stipulation issued by a court to provide protection to a victim.

Article 3 of the PKDRT Law states that the elimination of domestic violence is carried out based on the principles of: a. respect for human rights; b. justice and gender equality; c. non-discrimination; and D. victim protection. Furthermore, in Article 4 the elimination of domestic violence aims to:

- a. preventing all forms of domestic violence;
- b. protect victims of domestic violence;
- c. take action against perpetrators of domestic violence; and
- d. maintain the integrity of a harmonious and prosperous household.

### **METHOD**

This qualitative research approach uses a descriptive method that uses Sara Mills' (year) critical discourse analysis to analyze the data. The data source for this research is news about Lesti domestic violence by Rizky Billar through the online mass media metro.tempo.co. (October 13, 2022) entitled "*Legal Expert Requests Rizky Billar's Domestic Violence Case Not to Be Resolved Peacefully*" (Merdeka & Faiz Ibnu Sani, 2022).

Data analysis techniques by looking at who are the subjects and objects in the discourse in the news, and their consequences. Furthermore, the analysis of writers and readers of the discourse. The idea of Sara Mills (Eriyanto, 2009) as seen in the part the actor's role is displayed in the text and the role of the reader and writer is displayed in the text. In the discussion and results of the research, examine 1) Subject-Object Position, 2) Writer-Reader Position. Sara Mills' analytical

framework places more emphasis on position in the text. These positions are in the form of subject and object. The position of the subject as the interpreter is the person who tells the story. While the position of the object as interpreted is the person being told.

#### **RESULTS & DISCUSSION**

The first data in this study can be proven from a fragment of a sentence contained in the mass media entitled "*Legal Expert Requests Rizky Billar's Domestic Violence Case Not to Be Resolved Peacefully*"(Merdeka & Faiz Ibnu Sani, 2022). Judging from the theory of Sara Mills' (Mills, 1995) dan (Mills, 2003), the position of the subject described here is a legal expert, while the police as an object in this discourse. According to the title, legal expert, Halimah Humayrah of Pamulang University, has observe dsocial issues affecting Indonesian women and advise the police to move the case forward because this is a criminal case that has been investigated. Both the title article as well as the content explicitly indicates that Rizky Billar did commit the violence, implying that he was already under police investigation. This is cemented with the use of the verb *resolved* which implies the readers that the issue of domestic violence is no longer a speculation, but something that already needs to be resolved. The police are stipulated by the author as the object in this sentence fragment which is handling the case. The ideology behind this discourse is the feminist movement carried out by legal experts who recommend that Lesti Kejora continue to sue him.

Why didn't the author first report that Rizky Billar was detained starting today, namely October 13, 2022, this is interesting for the reader and it can be observed from this position in the case that it constructs the reader's research that the author really wants to emphasize that legal experts disagree if the domestic violence case was carried out by Rizky Billar was not continued and stopped here in a peaceful way. The author wants to convey to the general public or readers, there is a legal expert who fights for women's rights and has empathy for women, readers can learn from Lesti's experience, if there is domestic violence there must be the courage to report it to the authorities, not even from a legal standpoint. There is reason to dismiss this case. If it becomes a public concern and disturbs the community, the case must be forwarded to court. Indirectly this legal expert provides support for Lesti and women in Indonesia to fight for their rights as women so that they are free from arbitrary actions (in this case the husband) and live freely of expression and continue to work in carrying out their daily tasks normally and happily.

After the news regarding the disagreement of legal experts if the police stopped the Rizky Billar domestic violence case, it was reported that "The police officially detained Muhammad Rizky alias Rizky Billar for a case of domestic violence. Head of Public Relations of Polda Metro Jaya Senior Commissioner of Police Endra Zulpan said the detention will be carried out for the next 20 days." In this case, if analyzed with Sara Mills' CDA, the positions can be simplified as follow:

Subject n	object n
Police	Billar

It can be described that Rizky Billar, who had committed domestic violence against his wife Lesti Kejora, with an offense complaint from Lesti to the police, has been processed quickly and is serving the sentence according to with the rules of Law No. 23 of 2004 concerning Domestic Violence. From this sentence it can be interpreted that every citizen who commits a crime of domestic violence will receive punishment according to the crime. But this is if the victim complained to the police. Despite the title, the actor within the news are the law enforcements, police and the case investigators as the author wanted to highlight the investigation process. This is further supported by the clauses in the coming paragraph; "Investigators have issued a stipulation..." and "Investigators have the consideration to detain the suspect..." written in active forms. Furthermore, this sentence is examined from a position as a reader, this shows that the investigation process has been completed on the Rizky Billar domestic violence case, where the police have decided that Rizky Billar was detained for the first 20 days. The author's ideology in this sentence, which has the right to officially announce a decision, is the police. This discourse could not have been expected by Rizky Billar.

"According to Zulpan, the provisions for detention by investigators are in accordance with the Criminal Procedure Code (KUHAP). Apart from that, this step was taken because of considerations to anticipate the recurrence of domestic violence", the quote describes that the subject in this sentence is Zulfan from the police, and the object is Rizky Billar. Based on this sentence, it can be interpreted that the police decision to arrest Rizky Billar is in accordance with procedures and the Criminal Code. The ideology behind this discourse is that this decision does not violate the rules, in providing a deterrent effect for perpetrators who commit domestic violence against victims. It is hoped that Rizky Billar will introspect himself and not repeat this criminal act of domestic violence against his wife Lesti Kejora. For the media, the news conveyed by the author is an opportunity to further strengthen its existence and popularity, especially if the media is always in the spotlight, because the reader's focus is on the news displayed on the page.

Rizky Billar's placement as the object of the article can be seen throughout the news article as the actor was placed in the object position as the one who received the subject's action seen in the sentences "The police officially detained Muhammad Rizky alias Rizky Billar for a case of domestic violence" and "Investigators have the consideration to detain the suspect..."; Rizky Billar is positioned as a direct object when he's mentioned in the same sentence with the law enforcement. Another one that further cement Billar as the object can be seen in the sentence "Rizky Billar has become a suspect in domestic violence against Lesti Kejora", as the phrase is constructed in the passive voice, Billar becomes the direct object who is conveyed as an actor or doer. The author portrayed him as a suspect instead of witness as the replacement noun within the news article is *suspect*, putting him in suspicion of being guilty already; this corelates with the author's ideology that is also seen through the title as a matter of great importance not to diminish domestic violence.

As a whole, the author succeeded in making the reader respect the legal expert from Pamulang University, Halimah Humayrah with her feminist movement fighting for women's human rights, as well as educating the Indonesian women's community to have the courage to report if domestic violence occurs and not withdraw the complaint offense with any considerations, so that it is resolved and decided by the Court not amicably. The author mainly uses nouns, such as: *the police, investigators, suspect*, to substitute the actors' names with the pronouns *he* and *she* mainly being used for the interview section. This shows that the author wants to deliver to the readers the chronology of the investigation and the actors' roles in it as clearly as possible.

On the other hand, the author does not explain the fact that Lesti was a victim of Billar's domestic violence, in the discourse so that it reads as if it was Lesti who was guilty of Billar being arrested. In the end, the way it is reconstructed doesn't seem to be in Lesti's favor. Despite being the victim as well as being mentioned in the news's title, the focus falls instead towards the investigation done to the police towards Billar and the opinion of the expert.

With the sentence, "Not long after, Lesti Kejora came to this police headquarters. She was observed entering through the back door and heading straight for the lobby elevator." What Lesti meant as a victim of domestic violence when she came to the police station in this discourse is not clearly reconstructed. Even though Lesti's previous visit to the police was to file a complaint against domestic violence. In this discourse, Lesti seemed weak, not brave enough to come through the front door like before. Even though Lesti is abused, her rights are being fought legally so that her husband does not treat her arbitrarily, which is causing the community to generate extraordinary sympathy. The community as readers have less respect for Lesti's actions due to how she was portrayed. She was also implicitly blamed as the reason behind Riky Billar's change of status from witness to suspect as the author first chronologized Lesti Kejora's arrival in the police station in a discreet manner before Billar's detainment and police gathering evidence. The

readers can interpret this as a cowardly act of not addressing the issue upfront and marginalize the depiction of women in domestic violence cases.

Furthermore, this is contrasted with the legal expert, Halimah, who was portrayed in a more confident and outspoken light despite being a woman through the clause "Criminal law expert from Pamulang University, Halimah Humayrah, urges the police...", by addressing Humayrah first as her occupation then name, the verb *urges* also provide a stronger impact of call to action. This is juxtaposed later on with the author's portrayal of Lesti Kejora as the domestic violence victim, who in comparison described as non-confrontational. The community of readers are positioned in a way that they respect the legal expert's occupation more so than the victim despite both being women.

With this entire discourse, in addition to respect for legal experts, there is also respect for the police who handled the Rizky Billar domestic violence case against Lesti seriously and quickly, from starting as a witness to becoming a suspect. The author's portrayals towards them shows how the third party within the discourse played an active role within the news article. It's just that the perpetrators of domestic violence are still treated well, in this discourse it can be seen from the use of the words "two arms held", "guarded". The use of the verb *guarded* which is according to (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d.) means to protect someone or something from being attacked or stolen; it has a more positive connotation. This implies to the readers that despite the crime, the polices were not just holding Billar in case he runs away, but also protecting him from the reporters and mass public that may be there during the arrest. The reader's impression is, is this special treatment for popular artists because they have money power, so that the police who have institutional power treat them well.

#### CONCLUSION

In the discourse on the news entitled "Legal Expert Requests Rizky Billar's Domestic Violence Case Not To Be Settled Peacefully". It can be seen that the feminist movement from criminal law experts at Pamulang University, which in this discourse as a subject, influences readers to fight for their rights as women. In this discourse, Rizky Billar is the object being detained due to the domestic violence case against Lesti.

The treatment of the police as actors or participants in this discourse shows what they have done according to the procedure. It seems that the police have the power to stop Lesti's complaint offense. Getting legal experts to talk and express opinions. In certain sentences legal expert as a subject as contained in the title. In another sentence, the police is also found as the subject. Thus, the author reconstructs facts into a discourse, adapted to the intent and purpose. There is an ideology behind every sentence that is poured into the discourse.

The author does not explain the fact that Lesti was a victim of Billar's domestic violence, in the discourse it reads as if it was Lesti who was guilty of Billar being detained. The way it is reconstructed in the end, it doesn't seem to be in Lesti's favor.

If the reader (the public) receives an interesting title and the complete exposure displayed in the media, it will lead his opinion to become public opinion, and the public does not realize that their thinking is being conditioned on the same understanding. So that people will think, think and argue the same way about what is reported by the media.

Social impact will create pressure on the subject that is displayed by the media, and the media can change the standards that have been created before. Readers have power in terms of influencing what is displayed by the media. With the arrival of Lesti to the police, for which he did not say why, but at the same time Billar changed his status from a witness to a suspect and was detained by the police so that domestic violence against Lesti would not happen again, on the contrary Lesti's arrival to the police this time could create a new order which is not necessarily acceptable to society. Lesti's actions can set a precedent that can marginalize women themselves.

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