

Narrative Analysis of Reporting Tribunnews.com and Asumsi.co In Sexual Harassment News at Universitas Sriwijaya

Amelia Fitri Julaika*, Fajar Junaedi

Communication Department, Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta, 55183, Indonesia

*Corresponding author's email: amelia.fitri.fisip17@mail.umy.ac.id

ABSTRACT

Keywords

Sexual harassment
Universitas Sriwijaya
Narrative analysis
News

This research raises how the media reports on sexual violence at Universitas Sriwijaya. Sexual violence on campus is a sensitive issue in Indonesia. There are two media examined in this study, Tribunnews.com and Asumsi.co. This study uses narrative analysis from Algreidas Greimas. The results of this study indicate that journalists as narrators have not placed themselves on the victim's side. Journalists try to be neutral in the narrative structure of the news. This impartial narrative makes the news, not in favour of the victim.

1. Introduction

In November 2021, Universitas Sriwijaya became in Indonesia after news of sexual harassment committed by a lecturer at Universitas Sriwijaya, Adhitya Rol Asmi (initially A). Universitas Sriwijaya located at Palembang, South Sumatera Province, Indonesia.

The sexual harassment has been widely discussed in almost all media in Indonesia to date. The sexual harassment was reported directly by one of the female students as a victim with the initials DR. This news started to appear for the first time when DR's story was uploaded to his Twitter account @unslifess last September. In this upload, DR directly told how the events that happened that day and received a lot of support from his fellow students who encouraged the victim, who had been silent, to have the courage to report it to the authorities.

Sexual harassment in Indonesia continues to increase from year to year. From the Indonesia Ministry of Woman and Children Protection data in November 2021, sexual violence against women increased to 8,800 cases. Sexual violence against women can occur anywhere, even in an educational setting. (cnnindonesia, 2021). Talking sexual harassment, which leads to sexual violence in this decade, is constantly grappling with how to take appropriate action to suppress the rough treatment of the perpetrators, who, even today, in the realm of education, is a specific target to carry out the such deviant treatment. Sexual violence occurred at various universities in Indonesia, one of which was Universitas Sriwijaya.

This sexual harassment was constructed in various ways by several media in Indonesia, including Tribunnews.com and Asumsi.co. The researcher chooses the news portal Tribunnews.com as the object of research because Tribunnews.com is the most popular online media with the most visitors. The researcher choose Asumsi.co as the object of study because Assumsi.co is a news portal that presents up-to-date and easy-to-understand news coverage for young citizens. By bringing pop culture, Asumsi.co is one of the new news portals that is visited by people, especially young Indonesians.

The sexual harassment phenomenon is interesting to discuss because, in crimes involving women, the narrator raises narratives that tend not to pay attention to ethical and gender codes, which the mass media constructs and creates specific definitions following the goals and interests of the media itself. Research on the framing of reporting on women's sexual violence during a pandemic in online media found recommendations for solutions framed by the media still tend to solve problems that blame the victims of violence, not on anticipation or recommendations for punishment for the perpetrators. Thus the focus of the news narrative on cases of sexual violence is still far from taking sides with victims and fair law enforcement (Aristi et al., 2021).

Other research shows that news about sexual violence on Tirto.id shows that Tirto.id packages this news to represent sexual violence against women as a common enemy due to patriarchy. Tirto.id made framing the ineffectiveness of law enforcement in Indonesia in dealing with cases of sexual violence, the destructive influence of patriarchy on society and male perpetrators of sexual violence, as well as invitations and education to the public to fight together to stop sexual violence against women (Rahayu & Agustin, 2019). Other research shows that in reporting sexual violence, the media tends to use psychological facts with statements, opinions, and judgments as news sources (Olivia, 2020).

Unlike several previous studies, this research focuses on reporting sexual violence on campus. The issue of sexual violence on campus is still sensitive in Indonesia. When sexual violence occurred on campus, campus officials argued that sexual violence did not exist. This statement is different from what the media reports. The purpose of this study is to find out and analyze how the media *Tribunnews.com* and *Asumsi.co* narrate the news of Sexual Harassment using the Algirdas Greimas' actant model.

2. Method

To analyze the narrative in the news, the writer uses the narrative structure of Algirdas Greimas with narrative semiotics. Greimas developed structural theories into structural narratives, even in his work he formulated the concept of a narrative unit called actants (HS & Parninsih, 2020). With his method, the text as a sign system always consists of surface structure at the word and syntactic levels and deep structure with an underlying meaning.

Greimas was thus alone among his renowned fellow researchers in integrating the "structural analysis of narrative" into a broader theoretical framework and in recognising narrative as a general condition necessary to grasp meaning. Narrativity plays a crucial role in general linguistics theory, far removed from the virtues of narrative alone in all its forms (Bertrand, 2019).

Greimas explained that in the narrative, each character is placed in six positions. The first is the subject, namely the main character. The second is the object which is the goal of the subject. The third is the sender, the carrier of value that the subject will use to achieve his goal. The fourth is the recipient who receives the value brought by the subject, the fifth is the supporter as the subject's assistant in attaining the object, and the last is the barrier that hinders the subject in achieving the goal (Eriyanto, in Vebrynda, 2015).

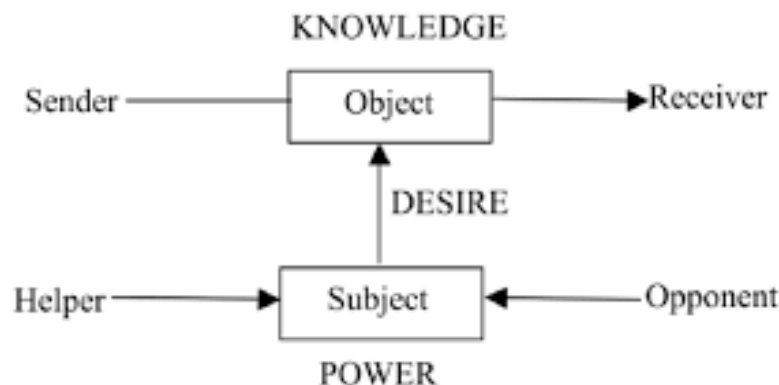


Fig. 1. Algirdas Greimas' Actants Model (Smeets, 2021)

This model focuses primarily on action taking place at the level of the plot. It can be used to reduce every narrative action to a set of six components: the subject, the object, the helper, the opponent, the sender, and the receiver. Each of these actants revolves around three axes. The subject and object are juxtaposed at the axis of desire. This relationship between subject and object is called a junction and can take the form of conjunction when the subject and object are brought together, and the form of a disjunction when the subject is freed of the object. The axis of power is where the helper and the opponent are positioned. At the axis of knowledge, also known as the axis of transmission, resides the sender who asks for the junction between subject and object, and the receiver who profits from this junction (Smeets et al., 2021)

3. Result and Discussion

In the results of study on narrative analysis of reporting on cases of sexual harassment that occurred at Universitas Sriwijaya on the online news platforms Tribunnews and Asumsi.co. The results of this study include the structure and narrative elements in the news and analysis using the actants model.

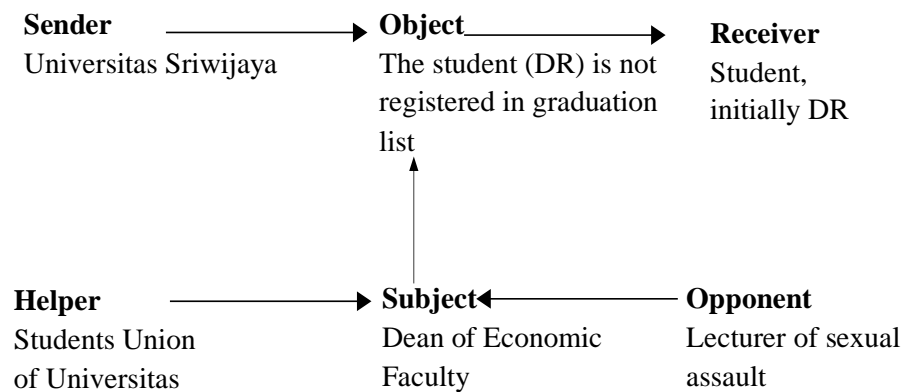


Fig. 2. Actant Model on Tribunnews.com News

The actant's scheme in the news entitled "Student of Universitas Sriwijaya Allegedly Victim of Sexual Harassment Revoked from Judicial List, said the Dean" the news clearly emphasized how the flow of commotion occurred during graduation ceremony at Universitas Sriwijaya. The fight happened when one of the female students shouted her name, which was not mentioned until the event ended. The sexual assault was widely shared on Twitter. It is suspected that the female student

was a victim of sexual harassment by a lecturer at the Faculty of Economics while carrying out her thesis guidance. The student union of Universitas Sriwijaya stressed that their colleague's name should have been listed on the list of graduation participants, but something different happened. The student union of Universitas Sriwijaya also went directly and was ready to assist DR in this case.

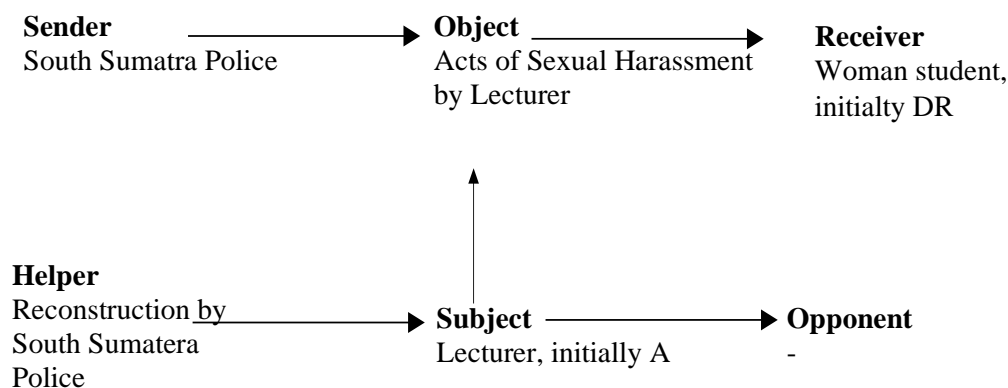


Fig. 3. The actant's scheme

The second schematic in the same news title explains in detail how the process of handling a typical case of sexual harassment that occurred at Universitas Sriwijaya began. In this news, the narrator from Tribunnews.com describes in detail the steps each party took, such as the dean, students union, and South Sumatra Police, to the victims who directly assisted in the reconstruction processing.

Part two illustrates how the lecturer with the initials A places the position as the subject, which places the primary role in achieving the object. Sexual harassment carried out consciously by the perpetrator is undoubtedly essential in this news. The perpetrator took the opportunity when the victim asked for a signature for a thesis at the history education laboratory. At the crime scene investigation, the South Sumatra Regional Police requested the victim's presence to re-enact the harassment scene. At the reconstruction, DR explained how; initially, he was invited to exchange stories outside the thesis, needed to get carried away and commit these immoral acts. During the reconstruction examination, the victim admitted that lecturer A held, hugged and kissed DR until he forced himself to keep his genitals until he ejaculated. However, in this Tribunnews.com report, the narrator did not explain why the victim did not resist until the incident occurred.

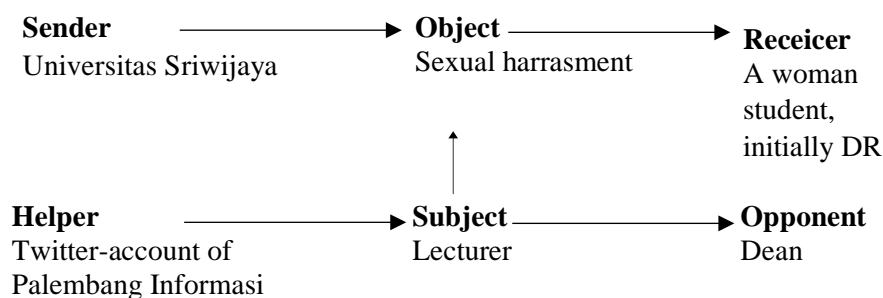


Fig. 4. Actant Model on Asumsi.co News

From the Asumsi.co news, there are several actants and the relationship between the actants. The first is the sender. Universitas Sriwijaya is referred to as the sender in the news. The campus is the determinant as the giver of value for the case that happened to the student. The object of this narrative is sexual violence, something that a Universitas Sriwijaya lecturer deliberately did. The subject of this narrative is the perpetrator, the lecturer who knowingly sexually harassed his students. In the news, the recipient is the victim, an economics faculty-student whose name has been removed from the graduation participant list. The support in this narrative is the Informasi Palembang Twitter account, which indirectly put pressure on the university to take a unilateral decision by removing the victim's name from the list of graduation participants. At the same time, the barrier to the news narrative was the Universitas Sriwijaya dean, who issued a summons to the victim to clarify this case. However, the dean gave conditions for the victim to come alone and carry out the clarification in private.

The use of language in a story greatly influences the arrangement of reality that occurs from various events to become a meaningful narrative or discourse. The language of news is the language of commodities that have symbolic and economic exchange values.

The process of compiling reality that occurs from various events to become a meaningful narrative or discourse is strongly influenced by language. Language is used as a conceptual tool and a narrative tool. The mass media use language not only to describe reality. More than that, the media use language to determine the image (image meaning) of a reality that the audience will understand. The structure of the construction of reality and the meaning arise from reality. Media will present influenced by how the media chooses the words used, prioritizing, reducing, and highlighting a series of facts and how they are presented. Thus, the media will become the dominant source of information for audiences to obtain a picture of the reality of an event. Through texts composed by the media, they can manipulate context or reality.

There are several patterns of mass media influencing the language and meaning of news, namely: (1) developing new words and their associative meanings. (2) broaden the meaning of existing terms; (3) replace the old meaning of a term with a new meaning; (4) strengthen existing conventions of meaning in a language system.

In language use, researchers analyze the choice of words or sentences from each paragraph that make up meaning. One of the reports from Tribunnews.com describes the chronology of the crime

scene investigation. The news began with a female student whose name was not registered on the list of graduation participants until a commotion occurred, and it was suspected that she was a female student who received immoral acts from a lecturer. In one of the paragraphs, it was written, "Lecturer A directed the victim to hold his genitals until he climaxed or ejaculated. After that, lecturer A cleaned the student's hands using a tissue."

Here it is emphasized that when asked to "hold the genitals", the perpetrator is described as not accepting the victim's rejection. The narrator does not explain the conditions and attitudes taken by the victim when the act was committed to him.

The narrative structure from Asumsi.co does not mention the reconstruction investigation that the South Sumatra Regional Police have carried out so no elements of cornering are shown through the text. In this report, Asumsi.co seems to be on the victim's side because, in this report, the narrator shows how the campus sided with the lecturers as perpetrators of sexual harassment. In one paragraph, "Ironically, if Universitas Sriwijaya seemed to be forcing the victim to provide clarification, A, one of the two lecturers who were suspected of committing sexual harassment actually withdrew from being summoned by the Police. A couldn't attend because there was a family event."

In the analysis of the news paragraphs, the researchers sees the narrator's satirical words towards the university, which still looks protected. The narrator constructs reality by presenting a university that does not expressly give a warning to the perpetrators so that the perpetrators indirectly delay the process arranged by the South Sumatra Province Police.

4. Conclusion

Based on the findings and description of the research results that have been presented in the discussion section, the researchers detail the conclusions and suggestions regarding research on the narrative analysis model of Algirdas Greimas reported by Tribunnews.com and Asumsi.co regarding sexual harassment that occurred at Universitas Sriwijaya as follows.

First, the stories and plots in reporting on cases of sexual harassment that occurred in the education sector, events are not presented chronologically. The journalist (as narrator) wants to position himself as objective in reporting, when in fact, in cases of sexual harassment, taking the victim's side is essential. In addition, the narrator packages events sensationally through the choice of words because they are in accordance with market desires which tend to want instant and sensational news. Writing news that is not chronological has an impact on reducing overall information on cases so that readers can only see rape cases from part of the events in the news narrative, which is written according to the narrator's point of view and media interests.

Second, the narrative structure does not contain complete elements, which start directly from a disturbance of balance, awareness of a disorder, efforts to correct disturbances and recovery towards balance. Meanwhile, a whole narrative structure should contain initial conditions and regularity, disturbance of balance, awareness of disturbances occurring, efforts to correct disturbances and restoration towards balance. An incomplete structure is used to take on the dramatic side of capturing the reader's attention. The structure of the news, which does not start from the balance (equilibrium) but directly at the stage of disruption, makes it possible for journalists to show that the social reality in society is indeed not in a state of balance. Various problems in society have disrupted the existing balance, so noise, violence, and threats grow everywhere. However, on the other hand, journalists also do not care about which structure of the news. The main thing is that the news can attract the public's attention.

5. References

- Aristi, N., Janitra, P. A., & Prihandini, P. (2021). Fokus narasi kekerasan seksual pada portal berita daring selama pandemi COVID-19. *Jurnal Kajian Komunikasi*, 9(1), 121. <https://doi.org/10.24198/jkk.v9i1.30673>
- Bertrand, D. (2019). From Narratology to Narrativity, and Back. *Pratiques*, 181–182, 181–182. <https://doi.org/10.4000/pratiques.10348>

-
- HS, M. A., & Parninsih, I. (2020). The Application of Narrative Theory by Greimas in Understanding the Story of the Garden Owners in Al Qalam verses 17-32. *Islah: Journal of Islamic Literature and History*, 1(1), 61–74. <https://doi.org/10.18326/islah.v1i1.61-74>
- Olivia, H. (2020). Analisis Isi Berita Kekerasan Seksual Di Media Online. *Acta Diurna Komunikasi*, 2(4), 1–10. <https://ejournal.unsrat.ac.id/index.php/actadiurnakomunikasi/article/view/30695/29508>
- Rahayu, M., & Agustin, H. (2019). Representasi Kekerasan Seksual Terhadap Perempuan Di Situs Berita Tirto.Id. *Jurnal Kajian Jurnalisme*, 2(1), 115–134. <https://doi.org/10.24198/kj.v2i1.21321>
- Smeets, R., De Pourcq, M., & van den Bosch, A. (2021). Modeling conflict: Representations of social groups in present-day dutch literature. *Journal of Cultural Analytics*, 6(3), 1–31. <https://doi.org/10.22148/001c.24722>
- Vebrynda, R. (2015). Korupsi dalam Film Indonesia. *Jurnal ILMU KOMUNIKASI*, 11(2), 151–164. <https://doi.org/10.24002/jik.v11i2.415>