

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

One of the most famous second wave feminist figure, Betty Friedan (1960, 1966), criticized the most common mindset of women about happiness that existed through childrearing and also homemaking. This resulted to the subordination of women and various kind of mistreatment on them. M. D Hammond and N. C Overall (2017) revealed in their study about how women are compared as the most incompetent one because they will try to seek power and safety under the men's influence. They proved this statement by examining cases of intimate relationships that showed the signs of sexist attitude. The caring relationship behavior that occurred between gender will caused men to feel satisfaction from having women to take care of them, and women would view them as someone more superior whom they can depend on. Many women are not aware on how such behavior could maneuver their overall being and create a prejudice called sexism.

Glick and Fiske (1996) provide a more specific type of sexist attitude called "Hostile Sexism" that has a function to sustain gender inequality by advocating aggression towards women that tried to challenge men's societal power. Hostile Sexism is created through a big pressure from the society, injustice of power, and the

dependency of women on them challenge the power of hostile sexism, which underlined by fear that women will use their relationship dependence to control and exploit men. Sibley, and Tan (2011) found that men's hostile sexism predicted greater hostility during couples' conflict discussions, which resulted in men who endorsed hostile sexism being less successful in obtaining desired changes from their partner. One of the most recent case of hostile sexism that led into a rape case and murder came from Hathras district, India. On the 14th September 2020, a 19 years old Dalit woman was gang raped by four men. The police reported that one accused tried to kill her and the victim named four men have raped her. The victim's brother claimed that the four men were not arrested for the first 10 days. After the victim's death, police forcibly cremated her without the consent of the family. This caused a big uproar from across the country, and later Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) identified that the cause of this gang rape and murder was because the accused was frustrated that the victim ignored his call after they had a huge fight.

In this era, where most of people can gain easy access of information, we can see the shifting of perspective and ideology of gender through news that were reported from online news portal. As one of the biggest outlet to provide a widespread of information for the public, news media are used to be the instrument in shaping the public's opinion. Soothill (2004) concluded that media reporting on assault cases often justified the masquerading of rape as a form of woman seduction. Sacks, M, Ackerman A. R & Shlosberg A (2017) pointed out in their study, many news reporters wrote rape

news that perpetuates into rape myths. They suggest though that the local media's reporting on sexual assault indirectly may reinforce some of the commonly known rape myths. Franiuk et al (2008) said that the value that help to shape the "rape myth culture" is the news media. From their study, many of news headline endorsed a situation where the male subjects were less accused as a rapist and choose to use a wording with less impact of the actual matter. The news media hold a big power in shaping the public perspective over a case, and they could mute the voice of victim and women will be left out with no other media that can help them to put their story into details about the crimes committed against them.

Rape myth, defined by Burt (1980) is a "prejudicial, stereotyped, or false beliefs about rape, rape victims, and rapists". The most fundamental issue here has to do with the term "myth" which is a false or apocryphal beliefs that explained important cultural phenomenon and serve to justify existing cultural arrangement. When it combined with the cultural theory of rape, rape myths are attitudes and beliefs that are generally false but widely and persistently held, they are to serve to deny and justify male sexual aggression against woman. In addition, naturalization also contribute in forming rape into a myth in the society. This idea is originally proposed by Norman Fairclough (1992, 1995), and he argues that naturalization's aim is to dominate the public mindset. Norman Fairclough described that in the process of normalization, the non-dominant discourse/s often to be deemed and treated as arbitrary and treated as obsolete. He also added that every explanation should be seen as rationalization and that could not be

taken only at the face value but in need of explanation. The importance of news report voice is to stop the normalization of rape myth, because normalizing the abnormality of rape will diminish its actual matter, and will cause a process whereby something unacceptable is presented as acceptable, and worse will put the victims on a bad light.

This research will investigate about how hostile sexism and rape myth occurred in the reporting of gang rape case in Harthras from news portal India Today and The Indian Express, and to see the power relation that occurred inside their news articles. The reason why was because these two news portal are one of the most famous name in India that people already acknowledge. The research will use two news articles from two well-known news portals; India Today titled '*Hathras case: Accused was frustrated after victim ignored him, says CBI charge sheet*' and '*No proof of rape, tongue being cut in Hathras case: UP Police*', and another two from The Indian Express titled '*Hathras case: It is our collective dignity and decency that is erased forever*' and '*Brutality of Hathras crime, brazen police abdication, have shaken and shamed us all*'. We will analyze the news based on the journalist tone and sentences in the news articles by using Text-Oriented Disourse Analysis by Norman Fairclough, as we will only be focusing on the textual context and the discourse within the text. For in depth analysis transitivity system and appraisal will be implemented in the TODA method. Transitivity will be used to see the context that is expressed inside the news articles, and appraisal theory will help us to understand the context beyond language in order to determine the stance of the journalist.

1.2 Research Question

Based on the background of the study, the research questions that are going to be developed will be:

1. How did India Today and The Indian Express represent the Hathras Gang Rape Case in their news article?
2. How did they voice their stance about this case inside their news articles?
3. How is the comparison after analyzing the news articles from India Today and The Indian Express?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of analyzing the discourse of Hathras gang rape case through online news portal articles, India Today and The Indian Express, are as follow:

1. To analyze the hostile sexism and rape myth occurred in the news articles of India Today and The Indian Express that reported about the Hathras gang rape case.
2. To see the reporter stance through their news articles regarding the case.
3. To compare both news portal to see how they position themselves within the text.

1.4 Scope of the Study

The scope of this study was the news about Gang-Rape case in Hathras on September 2020 reported by India Today and The Indian Express. This study will be focused on the power of voice in the news reported by the online news outlet regarding the case that derived from hostile sexism, and the involvement of news media on shaping rape myth about the case.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The aim of this study is to help other researcher in understanding how big the power relation of journalist in news portal can be in constructing a case or a matter inside their articles. This study focused on how this power relation works inside India Today and The Indian Express in covering the Hathras gang rape case. In addition, this study also aimed to contribute in the discourse analysis field study, especially in the English department.