

Criminal Acts Against Spanish Tourist Couples: A Critical Discourse Analysis Teun A. Van Dijk

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Article Info	Abstract
Article History Received: May 14, 2025 Revised: May 19, 2025 Published: May 24, 2025	<i>Criminal acts such as assault or rape are things that cannot be tolerated. This research uses qualitative data with descriptive methods. Data collection techniques were carried out through documentation, attention, and notes. As for the analysis method, the approach is based on the Critical Discourse Analysis model of Teun A. Van Dijk. Based on the discourse analysis of the news discourse of Spanish celebrities raped by 7 people in India, 4 suspects were arrested published by CNN Indonesia media, it can be concluded that the news preparation structure has a conceptual framework following Teun A. Van Dijk's theory which includes macro structure, superstructure and micro structure. Microstructure is a dimension of AWK that has the most detailed discussion. The microstructure consists of semantics, which consists of 6 data, syntax has 8 data, and rhetoric consists of 2 data. The level of a person's understanding in conducting discourse analysis on a news discourse can influence the perception to respond to the contents of the news.</i>
Keywords criminal acts; online news media; newspapers; critical discourse analysis; Teun Van Dijk	

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INTRODUCTION

Crime or crime that cannot be tolerated in society, because it has violated social norms and can cause harm to victims or others. The emergence of crime is caused by limited ways of obtaining the desired needs, so they have to commit criminal acts. The causes of cases of abuse and rape are uncontrolled emotions, no respect for others, giving priority to oneself, and unhealthy competition causing crime (Zaidan, 2016) . With the rapid development of the era, information media such as print media, online print media, and social media have a very important role in opening up the views or perspectives of society towards criminal acts. The ability of a writer to create a discourse can influence public understanding to know a fact. Ratnaningsih (2019) explains that Discourse is the formation of a more complex language and is equipped with elements of coherence and cohesion that are interrelated, so that complex discourse is a communication process and one of the language productions that can be explained through spoken and written varieties.

analysis is a step taken to understand discourse more deeply as a three-dimensional object consisting of three elements, namely: text, social cognition and context (Al-juboori, 2022). Discourse analysis is used to determine the practice of ideology in the media. In addition, critical discourse analysis can be a sorting process in analyzing a news text that aims to achieve

what the author of the discourse wants (Anwar, 2021) . In fact, in critical discourse analysis there are objectives that are used to describe the role of discourse practices to maintain social relations related to unequal power relations (Assidik, 2022) .

Various discourse analysis models developed and introduced by experts, the Teun A. Van Dijk model is a model that is often used in analyzing discourse in news texts. This is because the Teun A. Van Dijk model collaborates on discourse elements so that they can be used and applied practically (Ratnaningsih, 2019) . With the existence of a critical discourse structure, it can make it easier for someone to see the rhetoric and persuasion processes that are carried out when other people convey messages (Sudiana, 2020) . In the critical discourse analysis of the Teun A. Van Dijk model , there are three elements, namely macro and micro structures, social control and power and social cognition (Al-juboori, 2022) .

This study examines the news text entitled " *Spanish celebrity raped by 7 people in India, 4 suspects arrested* " published by the online newspaper media, *CNN Indonesia*. This problem is a problem for people who want to visit other countries and is the reason for raising the title. Thus, the title is one of the news texts that can apply discourse analysis with the Teun A. Van Dijk model. The dimensions of the Van Dijk approach text are divided into three, including macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure (Khofifah, 2022) . The reason why *CNN Indonesia* was chosen as a data source is that *CNN* is one of the largest media companies that has expanded a lot, including Indonesia. *CNN Indonesia media* presents actual news, accurate information, and trusted sources.

Previous research conducted by Hari Bakti Mardikantoro and Haryadi entitled *Corruption in Media Construction: Analysis of the Microstructure of Semantic Corruption News Texts on Television* in 2019 using the critical discourse analysis method, found that the news text taken was in accordance with the structure of the Van Dijk Critical Discourse Analysis model (Haryadi, 2019) . Research conducted by Angela Tanjung Saragupita and Sulis Triyono who studied the social phenomenon in Nurbayan's song in 2023 using the critical discourse analysis method, concluded that the news had three dimensions of analysis, namely the text dimension, the social cognition aspect, and the social context aspect (Triyono, 2023) . Previous research conducted by Afrinar Pramitasari and Ismiatun Khofifah which studied Ridwan Kamil asking the local government to be vigilant ahead of Eid al-Adha in 2022, found that the news text had three dimensions of Van Dijk's Critical Discourse Analysis model, namely macrostructure, superstructure and microstructure (Khofifah, 2022) . Critical Discourse Analysis research that studied the topic of *Ideological News in the Case of Ferdy Sambo being sentenced to Death* conducted by Irawati, et al. using the Teun A. Van Dijk model. This research fulfills the conceptual structure of Critical Discourse Analysis by finding macrostructure, superstructure and microstructure. This study found representations of ideology and power (Rapi, 2024). Research conducted by Syafila Chabsarotul Islamiyah, et al. examined the topic of *Anies Criticizing the Neutrality of Law Enforcers: If there is something crooked, straighten it out* with Teun A. Van Dijk's Critical Discourse Analysis model, concluding that the news text is in accordance with the conceptual framework of Critical Discourse Analysis which has a macro structure, superstructure and micro structure that are interrelated in a social context so that readers can understand it more easily (Jayanti, 2024) .

This study has a novelty from previous studies, namely this study examines news about criminal acts that occur outside Indonesia and are reported by the media *CNN Indonesia*. Conducting in-depth and understanding of how online newspapers such as *CNN Indonesia* create news text schemes, readers are more critical in accepting information presented to understand hidden or unknown meanings by readers. Therefore, this study is aimed at the public

to provide valuable insights, see actual information and hone public perceptions that can understand the delivery of discourse that is in accordance with reality.

RESEARCH METHOD

The first thing to do is to identify a relevant news article, where the main focus is on an online newspaper with the title "*Spanish celebrity raped by 7 people in India, 4 suspects arrested*" published on *CNN Indonesia*, the news discourse was published on March 4, 2024. After identifying the newspaper, the next thing is to understand the basic concepts in critical discourse analysis with the *Teun A. Van Dijk model*. The next is to build an analytical framework that includes the elements that will be explored in the newspaper, such as word choice, to the narrative used. The analysis technique used is content analysis. This technique is carried out in several stages. The first stage is to analyze with certain elements that are in accordance with Van Dijk's theory, the second stage is to classify data with certain criteria and the third stage is to make predictions based on certain theories.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

From the results of the discourse analysis that has been done, it was found that the discourse has a conceptual framework based on Teun A. Van Dijk. To better understand the contents of the news discourse entitled "*Spanish celebrity raped by 7 people in India, 4 suspects arrested*", the following explanation can be seen:

Text

The Van Dijk model has three dimensions for analyzing a discourse, namely the dimensions of text, context and social cognition. Text is an object that has a certain scheme. By using this scheme, the text can be analyzed completely, not only focusing on the internal structure such as words, sentences, and paragraphs. The text structure, in this context, consists of three parts: microstructure, superstructure, and microstructure. The following is a discussion of the Van Dijk model discourse analysis based on text dimensions.

Macro Structure

The topic of this discourse discussion is concluded from the general meaning of the main discussion of the text. The topic is a basic description of the whole object that the initiator of the discourse wants to describe in his discourse (Ratnaningsih, 2019). The existence of the topic is followed by subtopics that support the existence of the basic topic. Through the existence of the topic, the news discourse that is analyzed can explain how the discourse is structured, displayed, and enjoyed by the reader.

The topic that became the center of attention discussed the rape and violence of a Spanish celebrity and her partner in India. The subtopic contained in this news discourse was the arrest of four suspects by Indian authorities in connection with the rape of a female tourist from Spain and the violence experienced by her partner, where the victim's identity was initially kept secret but was eventually revealed as an *Instagram vlogger*. This case began with a Spanish tourist couple who were on vacation in India after a long trip visiting several Southeast Asian countries, then an attack carried out by seven people occurred when the Spanish tourist couple spent the night in a tent in the Dumka district. The victim described the form of attack and rape of the victim as the main goal of the perpetrator. A police car patrolling the Dumka area rescued the Spanish tourist couple. Indian police are still searching for the suspect who was declared a fugitive to be brought to justice.

Superstructure

Superstructure is a text framework whose structure and discourse elements are arranged in the text as a whole which can be interpreted as certain topics that want to be conveyed by arranging the parts in a certain order (Arman, 2019) . Some categories of superstructure such as opening, core and closing. The opening of this discourse news is that Indian authorities arrested four suspects involved in the rape of a Spanish tourist and an attack on her partner. The core of this discourse news is a Spanish tourist couple who were attacked by seven men while spending the night in a tent in the Dumka district. The main purpose of the attack by the seven Indian men was to rape a female tourist from Spain. This news closes with the rescue of a Spanish tourist couple when a police car patrolled the Dumka area, and currently the police are still looking for the remaining suspects who have not been arrested.

Microstructure

The analysis that has been carried out on the news discourse text, found the existence of semantic, syntactic and rhetorical elements in accordance with the conceptual framework expressed by Teun A. Van Dijk, namely:

1. Semantics

- a. Background: is information about time and geographical location in a narrative. Background can be a supporter of the desired idea emphasized in a text. The background that will be conveyed and how the background is conveyed has a strong relationship with the author's purpose in a text. Background is the basis taken by the author to build an opinion (Ratnaningsih, 2019) .

Based on the data quotes taken from the *CNN Indonesia news media* , the results of the discourse analysis only found a place setting where "[3] The Spanish woman was known to be on vacation with her partner in the state of *Jharkhand, eastern India* , when the attack occurred. Before vacationing in India, the two had visited several Southeast Asian countries and Sri Lanka. Based on the data found in the news text paragraph, it was found that the data above contains semantic elements, namely *Jharkhand, eastern India* stating the place setting.

b. Details:

It is an element related to the control of information presented by a communicator. News discourse has information limitations to facilitate understanding of information and become the basis for developing a news text. Details are the thoughts of the discourse maker to express his attitude implicitly. Details aim to describe very detailed parts of an event. The detailed quotations referred to in the news discourse text:

[2] Indian authorities initially did not reveal the victim's identity. However, it was later discovered that the woman was a vlogger with 200 thousand followers on Instagram.

[3] The Spanish woman was known to be on holiday with her partner in the eastern Indian state of *Jharkhand* when the attack occurred. Before going on holiday to India, the two had visited several Southeast Asian countries and Sri Lanka. [5] "They beat us and robbed us, although not many things [were taken] because all they wanted to do was rape me," the 28-year-old woman said in her Instagram post. Based on the discourse analysis that has been carried out, detailed elements were found in the data above. The second detail explains that the victim has 200 thousand

followers, then the third detail explains that the two Spanish tourist couples were on holiday together in India, the fifth detail explains the actions carried out by the perpetrators. From this analysis, it is stated that the data above which was taken from the news text contains detailed elements.

- c. Intent: is a statement used to support the meaning of a text by providing a statement that is considered reliable. Intent aims to establish the basic position of desires, attitudes, and beliefs (Mukhlis et al., 2020) . The intent contained in this news discourse excerpt:

[1] Indian authorities arrested four suspects suspected of involvement in the rape of a Spanish tourist and assaulting her partner.

[5] "They beat us and robbed us, although not many things [were taken] because all they wanted to do was rape me," the 28-year-old said in her Instagram post.

Based on discourse analysis, the data above contains elements of intent. The first data explains that the authorities have taken action against the perpetrators of violence and rape experienced by the Spanish tourist couple, the fifth data explains the purpose of the attack on the Spanish tourist couple.

2. Syntax

a Active Sentence:

It is a series of words that can express a complete meaning, with the subject performing the action. Active sentences usually begin with the prepositions " *me-*" and " *ber*" , the subject performs the action directly, and has a SPOK or SPK pattern. From the data source, there are active sentences such as:

[1] Indian authorities arrested four suspects suspected of involvement in the rape of a Spanish tourist and assaulting her partner.

[3] The Spanish woman was known to have been on holiday with her partner in the eastern Indian state of *Jharkhand* when the attack occurred. Before going on holiday to India, the two had visited several Southeast Asian countries and Sri Lanka.

[5] "They beat us and robbed us, although not many things [were taken] because all they wanted to do was rape me," the 28-year-old said in her Instagram post.

[7] A police car patrolling the Dumka area saved the two from the attack. The police immediately took action to find the perpetrators and took the two tourists to the hospital.

Based on the analysis of Teun A. Van Dijk, it was found that the data above contains elements of active sentences. The first data found the words *arrest* and *attack* . The third data found the word *vacation* . The fifth data found the words *beat* , *rob* and *rape* . The seventh data found the words *patrol* and *save* . The data above also has an SP-OK pattern, thus convincing that the data above has elements of active sentences/words.

b Coherence:

It is a sentence that has a reciprocal relationship between words clearly and correctly. This means that this sentence can create a logical relationship between sentences in one paragraph. The decision to connect or separate is entirely up to the writer of the news discourse. Coherence elements generally use conjunctions *and/* or conjunctions *of effect*

(Ratnaningsih, 2019) . Based on the data sources obtained, the quote that is the coherent sentence is:

[5] "They beat us and robbed us, although not many things [were taken] because all they wanted to do was rape me," the 28-year-old said in her Instagram post.

[6] In another post, the Spanish woman said she was hit on the head with a helmet by the perpetrators until her "mouth was crushed".

[7] A police car patrolling the Dumka area saved the two from the attack. The police immediately took action to find the perpetrators and took the two tourists to the hospital.

Based on the data above, an element of coherence was found where the fifth, sixth and seventh data have a relationship so as to create a flow. The data in The above is taken based on the news text, explaining the actions of the perpetrators of the attack on Spanish tourists which were seen by the Indian police, who finally took action against the perpetrators.

c Pronouns:

It is a word in a language that functions to replace another expression in a sentence. Thus, there is no need for repetition of words that give a monotonous impression. Based on the data sources obtained, the quotes containing pronouns are:

[5] "They beat us and robbed us, although not many things [were taken] because all they wanted to do was rape me," the 28-year-old said in her Instagram post.

The data above is taken based on the news text paragraph, where the word " I" becomes the word " 28 year old woman" .

3. Rhetorical

The rhetoric referred to in this analysis is a language style in the form of sentences to emphasize or provide counter-confirmation. In the data [8] and [9] the language styles found in discourse are found.

[8] Jharkhand police chief Ajay Umar Singh told The Indian Express that all the rapists had been identified.

[9] Currently, the police are still looking for the remaining suspects who have not been arrested.

Based on the analysis results obtained from the data source, elements of rhetorical sentences were found. The rhetorical sentences in the forward data emphasize that the Indian police have taken concrete action in uncovering and handling the case, by giving hope that justice will be upheld. The ninth data emphasizes that the Indian police are trying to arrest the suspect who is still a fugitive and gives the impression that the criminal is still under the supervision of the Indian police.

Context

Context in critical discourse analysis is explained as a situation, event, background and condition. This shows that discourse is seen, produced, understood, and analyzed through a certain context (Ratnaningsih, 2019) . Therefore, context is part of the elements that will be worked on and described

in critical discourse. Through context, things that influence discourse in producing discourse will be clearly depicted.

The social context in Van Dijk's model leads to a solution where power and social dominance are maintained and reprocessed through discourse. The social context includes the mechanisms and strategies used by the most dominant groups or institutions to regulate the behavior and thoughts of individuals or other groups in society. While the context of power leads to the ability or capacity of both individuals or groups to influence the thoughts and forms of action of others. Power is often not realized by the affected party. The purpose of the dimensions of social control and power is to find out how discourse texts are produced, distributed and viewed, and how the discourse influences the thoughts and actions of others.

By understanding social control and power in discourse, readers or researchers can reveal the mechanisms of domination and injustice hidden in the text and help create critical awareness among the community. The results of the analysis of news text discourse based on the dimensions of social control and power are as follows:

- a) Authorities: The news highlights the role of Indian authorities in arresting the accused and rescuing the victim, indicating prompt and responsive action by the police. This can be seen as an attempt to build a positive image of the authorities.
- b) Media: By revealing the victim as a well-known vlogger, the media may be trying to gain more public attention. This could also affect how the case is viewed by the public, by providing a familiar face and story.
- c) Perpetrators and Victims: Perpetrators are portrayed anonymously but as a cruel and immoral group. Victims, on the other hand, are portrayed as known and worthy individuals who suffer because of the perpetrator's actions. This creates a clear dichotomy between the "good victim" and the "bad villain".

Social Cognition

Social cognition is the process of creating news texts that involves the individual cognition of the author (discourse creator). Social cognition or the ability to create a discourse is closely related to mental structure. Each discourse is produced through a scheme or model that influences how someone views an object. In this scheme, the discourse will select and process information that comes from experience and socialization (Wijayanti et al., 2020). Based on the news discourse that has been analyzed using the Van Dijk model, elements of the social cognition dimension were found which can be explained as follows.

- a) Public Perception: This news affects public perception about safety in India, especially for foreign tourists. The percentage results on sexual violence confirm that this is not an isolated case but part of a larger problem.
- b) Empathy and Engagement: by providing personal details about the victim, this story encourages readers to feel more emotionally involved and perhaps care more about the issue of sexual violence.
- c) Stigma and Stereotypes: This news can also reinforce negative stigma and stereotypes about India as a dangerous place for women, especially foreign tourists. This can affect the global view of the country.

CONCLUSION

Based on the discourse analysis of the news discourse *Spanish Celebrity Raped by 7 People in India, 4 Suspects Arrested* published by *CNN Indonesia media*, it can be concluded that the structure of the news has a conceptual framework, in accordance with Teun A. Van Dijk's theory which includes macrostructure, superstructure and microstructure. Microstructure is a

dimension of Critical Discourse Analysis that has the most detailed discussion. The selected news text has a total of 11 paragraphs of data which are the reference data in this study. The microstructure consists of semantics consisting of 6 data, syntax has 8 data and rhetoric consists of 2 data. Through this critical discourse analysis, it can be seen that this news not only reports the facts of the incident but also shapes public perceptions of sexual violence and security in India. The choice of words, specific details, and direct quotes from victims contribute to building a strong and emotional narrative. Social control and power are reflected in the quick actions of the authorities, while social cognition shows how this news can influence the views and attitudes of readers towards the issues discussed. The level of a person's understanding in conducting discourse analysis on a news discourse can influence the perception to respond to the contents of the news. Critical discourse analysis can provide benefits to improve reading literacy for any group.

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