

Feminist Standpoint Theory (A Case Study of Mulyana from a Radical Feminist Perspective: Violence Against Women)

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ABSTRACT

In this research, we examine the media representation of cases of gender-based violence committed by Mulyana against her partner, Siti Amelia, using a qualitative approach and descriptive analysis methods. The main focus of this study is how online media constructs narratives related to chronology, motives of perpetrators, and how information is conveyed in the news. The results of the study show that the media tends to highlight sensational aspects such as the alleged pregnancy of the victim without delving in depth into the structural roots of the violence, such as the patriarchal system and gender inequality. And it was also found that there was a tendency in the news to indirectly corner the victims. This case shows that femicide is not just a criminal act, but a real manifestation of male domination over women's bodies and identities in a patriarchal society. Therefore, a feminist approach in reporting as well as social and cultural transformation is very necessary to prevent similar violence in the future.

Key words: femicide, gender inequality, patriarchy, media representation, feminism

ABSTRAK

Dalam penelitian ini, kami mengkaji representasi media terhadap kasus kekerasan berbasis gender yang dilakukan oleh Mulyana terhadap pasangannya yaitu Siti Amelia, dengan menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif dan metode analisis deskriptif. Fokus utama kajian ini adalah bagaimana media daring menyusun narasi terkait kronologi, motif pelaku, serta cara penyampaian informasi dalam pemberitaan. Hasil studi menunjukkan bahwa media cenderung menonjolkan aspek sensasional seperti dugaan kehamilan korban tanpa menggali secara mendalam akar struktural dari kekerasan tersebut, seperti sistem patriarki dan ketimpangan gender. Dan ditemukan juga adanya kecenderungan dalam pemberitaan yang secara tidak langsung menyudutkan korban. Dalam kasus ini menunjukkan bahwa femisida bukan hanya sekadar tindakan kriminal, akan tetapi sebuah wujud nyata dominasi laki-laki atas tubuh dan identitas perempuan dalam masyarakat patriarkal. Oleh karena itu, pendekatan feminis dalam pemberitaan serta transformasi sosial dan budaya yang sangat diperlukan untuk pencegahan kekerasan yang serupa di masa mendatang.

Kata kunci: femisida, ketimpangan gender, patriarki, representasi media, feminisme

INTRODUCTION

Feminism, as a system of ideas, serves as a framework for studying social life and human experiences from a women-centered perspective. It has a long history as a reflection of the responsibility to realize justice for humanity. Feminism raises awareness about the reality of gender inequality. This awareness leads to the understanding that the marginalization resulting from gender imbalance originates from differing meanings rooted in historical realities.

Mass media play a crucial role in exposing and disseminating information regarding the case of Mulyana, who mutilated his girlfriend, Siti Amelia, in Serang, Banten. Media outlets such as Kompas.com and BantenNews.co.id have provided in-depth reports on the backgrounds of both the perpetrator and the victim, as well as a chronology of the events. For instance, Kompas.com reported that Mulyana killed his girlfriend because he refused to take responsibility for her pregnancy.

Recently, a shocking news story surfaced on Platform X concerning the “Mulyana case of mutilating his girlfriend.” Violence against women once again shook public consciousness with this horrifying tragedy involving Mulyana, a man who cruelly mutilated his partner. This incident is not merely a criminal case but a reflection of deeper structural issues related to power relations, gender inequality, and the persistence of patriarchal culture within society.

From a feminist perspective, this violence illustrates how women frequently become victims in imbalanced relationships where control, ownership, and domination over women’s bodies are normalized. The case opens space for critical reflection on how gender-based violence is not only physical but also rooted in systematic social injustice, which positions women as vulnerable and often powerless against violence from those closest to them.

Feminism teaches that a woman’s body belongs only to herself. Tragically, this case exemplifies the ongoing relevance of feminist struggles for the rights to life, security, and bodily autonomy. This is not merely about one individual, Mulyana, but about how systems and cultures allow violence against women to persist and sometimes even normalize it.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study employs a qualitative approach with a descriptive analytical method. This approach was selected to portray the incident of mutilation committed by Mulyana against his girlfriend through narrative and interpretation of mass media coverage. Descriptive qualitative analysis enables the research to capture implicit meanings within the communication presented by the media, as well as to explain how society constructs social understanding of the event.

The data utilized in this study are secondary data obtained from various online media sources, including national and local news portals, official police reports, and interview excerpts featured in news coverage. The selection of data sources was purposive, taking into account media credibility, information accuracy, and relevance to the research objectives.

Data collection was conducted through document studies by gathering, selecting, and categorizing information from multiple detailed news articles discussing the Mulyana case. The data collection process was systematic, employing keyword searches such as “Mulyana mutilation girlfriend,” and “mutilation in conscious or unconscious state.”

Data analysis employed content analysis techniques to identify the main themes emerging in the media coverage, such as the motives behind the act, the perpetrator’s state of consciousness,

public reactions, and the media's framing of the crime. The analysis was conducted with critical communication context in mind. Each piece of data was coded, grouped, and interpreted to demonstrate how the media shapes public understanding of the incident and the perpetrator's awareness.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Research Findings

The analysis of online media coverage on the Mulyana case involving the death of Siti Amelia revealed several key patterns in media representation closely related to gender and violence against women.

Framing the Case as Violence and Sensational Crime



Some major media outlets present news using explicit language, as exemplified by the headline in *Kompas.com* (April 21, 2025): “Kill and Mutilate Girlfriend, Man in Serang Banten Faces Death Penalty.”

This news coverage predominantly focuses on the violent details, which often dominate the narrative, thereby diverting attention away from discussions on the underlying social and gender-related factors that contribute to such violent behavior.

Motive for the Murder and Emphasis on Pregnancy



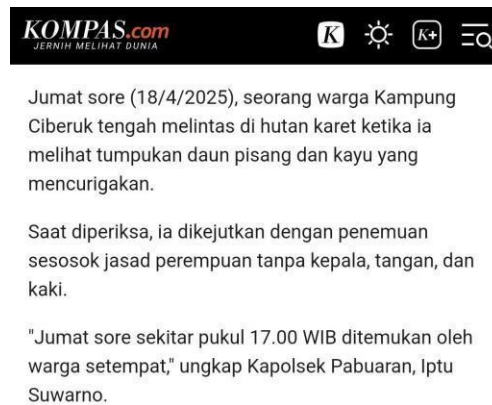
The media also highlighted the motive behind the murder and mutilation committed by the perpetrator, with several outlets reporting that the act was related to the victim's pregnancy outside of formal marriage. For example, *Kompas.com* titled its article, "Refusing to Marry Pregnant Girlfriend, Man in Serang Brutally Kills and Mutilates Partner" (April 21, 2025).

It is alleged that the victim demanded accountability from the suspect, based on her condition of being pregnant as a result of their relationship. However, this demand reportedly provoked the suspect's anger. In an emotional state, Mulyana then planned the murder of his girlfriend. He lured the victim to a secluded rubber plantation in Gunung Sari, Serang Regency. There, he strangled her unconscious using her veil, then pushed her body off a cliff and strangled her again until she died. The atrocity did not end there; Mulyana proceeded to mutilate the victim's body using a machete. Body parts such as the head and feet were placed into a white sack and discarded in a river, while the torso was covered with banana leaves and firewood near the crime scene.

In the media coverage of the murder and mutilation case in Serang, the perpetrator is often portrayed as someone who "lost control" or was "provoked by emotion" due to pressure from the victim. For instance, *Banjarmasin.co.id* reported: "According to the suspect's statement, he acted out of confusion because the victim was pregnant" (April 27, 2025).

This narrative can both reinforce and be subject to critique, as the media frames the news in a way that potentially tends to excuse the perpetrator's actions while overlooking the broader structural responsibilities involved.

Public Perception of the Case



This case shocked the local community after dismembered body parts of the victim were discovered in a gruesome condition in a rubber plantation. According to Kompas.com on April 18, 2025, a resident of Kampung Ciberuk found the headless, handless, and footless body of a woman in the rubber forest, covered only with a pile of banana leaves and wood.

The Chief of Police in Pabuaran, Iptu Suwarno, stated, "On Friday afternoon, around 17:00 Western Indonesian Time (WIB), the body was found by local residents."



Warga Cerita Sosok Pelaku Kasus Mutilasi di Serang: Enggak Nyangka, Orangnya Baik

SERANG, KOMPAS.TV – Salah satu warga mengaku tidak menyangka bahwa Mulyana merupakan pelaku kasus mutilasi di Serang, Banten. Pelaku dikenal warga sebagai sosok yang rajin beribadah.

"Orangnya baik, alim, ngomongnya lembut gitu," ujar salah satu warga, Muhammad Hanafi pada Minggu (20/4/2025).

"Enggak nyangka saja, orangnya baik. Warga di sini enggak nyangka, orangnya baik kok," lanjutnya.

After the perpetrator of the violent act was revealed, the community was surprised because the individual was known to have an excellent reputation within the local environment. In a video

broadcast by Video.Kompas.com, a resident expressed disbelief that Mulyana was the perpetrator of the mutilation case in Serang, Banten. The perpetrator was known by locals as a devout person. “He is a good person, religious, and speaks softly,” said one resident, Muhammad Hanafi, on Sunday (April 20, 2025). “I just can’t believe it, he is a good person. People here didn’t expect it because he seemed so good,” he continued.

Furthermore, the community increasingly recognized the importance of enforcing strict regulations and providing protection for women to prevent the recurrence of gender-based violence cases such as this. This case has sparked a debate concerning social responsibility and cultural norms, especially regarding the stigma attached to pregnancies outside of formal marriage, which contributes to such situations.

Overall, society hopes that this incident will serve as a lesson and receive serious attention from all parties, including law enforcement agencies, families, and the broader community, to prevent similar acts of violence in the future.

Discussion

Male Dominance and Control over Women’s Bodies

From a feminist perspective, this case clearly illustrates that male dominance over women remains a fundamental issue. Masculinity provides men with the power to dominate women across various aspects of life, including rights over their bodies (Darwin, 1999). In this context, Mulyana’s act of taking the victim’s life serves as a stark example of male control over women’s bodies and lives, demonstrating how patriarchal structures still support violence and oppression against women.

Gender-Based Violence and Femicide

This case exemplifies femicide, defined as a human rights violation related to gender, in which the perpetrator deliberately and consciously ends the life of a woman due to gender-based power dynamics and societal constructions (Salamor et al., 2024). Mulyana’s mutilation of the victim reflects that such violence is not merely an ordinary crime but a structured effort to erase the victim’s identity and existence as a woman, asserting patriarchal power and control over women’s bodies and lives.

Pregnancy as a Risk Factor for Violence

Pregnancy outside of official marital ties often triggers violence in patriarchal societies (Larasati, 2021). In this context, pregnancy can be a catalyst for perpetrators to commit more severe acts of violence, highlighting how rigid gender norms and social structures exacerbate aggressive behavior toward women. Feminist theory interprets this phenomenon as a method of social control that confines women and perpetuates gender inequality.

Radical Feminist Perspective on the Mulyana Case

Radical feminism emphasizes violence against women as a consequence of patriarchal systems that maintain male dominance. From this viewpoint, femicide is often seen as an effort by men to preserve their control over women (Zulaichah, 2022). The Mulyana case is not merely an individual act but reflects broader gender-related injustices. Media coverage should address these issues to raise public awareness that femicide is a systemic problem requiring collective action.

Social and Cultural Implications of Violence Against Women

The persistence of patriarchal culture in Indonesia reinforces norms detrimental to women, affecting various spheres including workplaces, access to justice, and fundamental rights. It is evident that discrimination against women is deeply embedded in social, political, and economic structures, hindering women's opportunities and freedoms to thrive fully. Lack of gender awareness and weak enforcement of laws related to violence against women contribute to severe incidents such as the one experienced by the victim in this case (N. P. A. Larasati, 2021). The violence perpetrated by Mulyana serves as a concrete illustration of how patriarchal injustice can incite gender-based violence. Therefore, a transformation of cultural values and legal systems that support women is imperative to prevent future gender-based violence and to build a more just and equitable society. Efforts to protect and empower women must be enhanced through education, advocacy, and rigorous, consistent law enforcement, alongside societal mindset changes to recognize gender equality as a vital component of everyday life.

Conclusion

Based on the research findings analyzed in the discussion and drawn from various news media, violence in intimate relationships can escalate to extreme and horrific actions. Fear and refusal to take responsibility in such cases help in understanding contributing factors to violence and its impact on both victims and perpetrators. Mulyana felt pressured and emotional due to the repeated appearance of the victim, reflecting the fragility of their relationship. In this emotional state, Mulyana killed the victim by strangulation and subsequently mutilated her body to eliminate evidence and conceal the crime. The prompt arrest and legal process of Mulyana reflect justice for this heinous crime of murder and mutilation. Understanding the factors that cause violence and homicide in dating relationships is essential as a warning about the importance of moral education, emotional support, and improved social welfare to prevent future tragedies.

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