SARA MILLS' CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS OF THE REPRESENTATION OF NIKITA MIRZANI IN INDONESIAN ONLINE MEDIA COVERAGE

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Abstrak

Penelitian ini dilatarbelakangi oleh kecenderungan media daring dalam merepresentasikan figur publik perempuan yang kerap memuat bias gender dan konstruksi moralitas tertentu. Pemberitaan mengenai Nikita Mirzani menjadi contoh relevan untuk menelaah bagaimana perempuan diposisikan dalam wacana hukum dan sosial melalui framing media. Tujuan penelitian ini adalah menganalisis representasi perempuan dengan menelusuri konstruksi posisi subjek, objek, penulis, dan pembaca dalam teks berita menggunakan pendekatan analisis wacana kritis Sara Mills. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif dengan teknik pengumpulan data berupa studi dokumenter terhadap berita yang diterbitkan oleh Detik.com, Pikiran Rakyat, Kompas.com, dan CNN Indonesia. Analisis dilakukan dengan mengidentifikasi pola penempatan aktor perempuan dalam teks serta membandingkan strategi naratif yang digunakan masing-masing media. Keabsahan data dijaga melalui triangulasi sumber dan pembacaan ulang guna memastikan konsistensi interpretasi. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan adanya perbedaan konstruksi representasi yang signifikan. Detik.com dan CNN Indonesia cenderung menampilkan Nikita Mirzani sebagai subjek aktif yang tegas dan rasional dalam menghadapi persoalan hukum, sementara Pikiran Rakyat dan Kompas.com lebih menonjolkan aspek emosional serta moralitasnya sebagai perempuan publik. Temuan ini menegaskan bahwa representasi perempuan dalam media masih dipengaruhi nilai patriarkal yang membentuk relasi kuasa dalam narasi pemberitaan. Penelitian ini berimplikasi pada pentingnya kesadaran kritis media dalam membangun representasi yang lebih adil dan sensitif gender, sekaligus memperkaya kajian analisis wacana kritis dalam konteks media digital Indonesia.

Kata Kunci: *representasi perempuan, wacana kritis, Sara Mills, media daring, Nikita Mirzani*

Abstract

This study is grounded in the tendency of online media to represent female public figures in ways that often contain gender bias and specific moral constructions. News coverage of Nikita Mirzani serves as a relevant case for examining how women are positioned within legal and social discourse through media framing. The purpose of this research is to analyze the representation of women by exploring the construction of subject, object, writer, and reader positions in news texts using Sara Mills' critical discourse analysis approach. This research employs a qualitative descriptive method, with data collected through documentary study of news articles published by Detik.com, Mind of the People, Kompas.com, and CNN Indonesia. The analysis was conducted by identifying patterns in the placement of female actors within the texts and comparing the narrative strategies used by each media outlet. Data validity was ensured through source triangulation and repeated readings to maintain consistency in interpretation. The findings reveal significant differences in representational construction. Detik.com and CNN Indonesia tend to portray Nikita Mirzani as an active, assertive, and rational subject in responding to legal issues, while Pikiran Rakyat and Kompas.com emphasize her emotional dimension and moral positioning as a public woman. These findings indicate that women's representation in the media remains influenced by patriarchal values that shape power relations within news narratives. This study highlights the importance of critical media awareness in fostering fairer and more gender-sensitive representations, while also contributing to the development of critical discourse analysis in the context of Indonesian digital media.

Keywords: women's representation, critical discourse, Sara Mills, online media, Nikita Mirzani

1. INTRODUCTION

Online media in Indonesia plays a significant role in shaping public perceptions of public figures, including female celebrities. Reports about Nikita Mirzani often emphasize sensational aspects over her social or professional context as an individual. Media representations tend to favor controversial images over personal capacities and contributions. (Kania & Hamdani, 2023) found that vocabulary choices in news stories about women often exhibit a power bias that positions women as narrative objects. The language structure used reinforces stereotypes about women's emotions, morality, and behavior. (Marlianti & Suryani, 2012) also emphasized that the media shapes perceptions of women through narratives of aesthetics and body image. This pattern is recurrent in entertainment news, which often neglects information balance. This phenomenon demonstrates the importance of critically reading media texts to understand the power relations behind women's representations.

Analysis of online news reports shows that representations of women are often constructed through a male perspective as the center of the narrative. (Robaeti & Hamdani, 2023) identified that *online news* about women contains power relations that reproduce subordinate positions. In the context of Nikita Mirzani, the construction of discourse often positions her as a symbol of freedom and moral deviation. This pattern demonstrates the paradox between freedom of expression and the social norms applied by the media to public women. According to (Triadi & Aziz, 2019), the media tends to direct perceptions by emphasizing the personal aspects of female political figures, rather than their ideas. The same phenomenon is seen in news coverage of female celebrities, which is packaged with emotional narratives. The emphasis on sensational elements in news shows how the media negotiates economic values with morality. The role of digital media as a public discourse space requires a more critical reading of the language and narrative structures it uses.

The representation of women's bodies and images on social media demonstrates a new form of objectification linked to economic value and popularity. The Nikita Mirzani phenomenon is often associated with the visualization of the body and free expression that are considered to violate norms. (Maryam et al., 2024) highlight that social media contributes to the practice of objectification through self-images directed by algorithms and public expectations. In the context of *online news*, this becomes more complex because the media not only displays images but also directs moral readings of them. (Odillia, 2020) explains that narratives of women's empowerment in the media are often shrouded in commercial interests. Nikita Mirzani's image is often interpreted as a representation of modern feminism, but its presentation remains trapped within patriarchal media values. Women who refuse to submit to traditional social norms tend to be negatively highlighted. This situation demonstrates the struggle between bodily freedom and public morality.

The unequal representation of women in news about violence and conflict also reveals biases in the structure of media discourse. (Febrianti, 2024) found that news about female victims of violence more often emphasized the perspective of the perpetrator or institution. In the context of Nikita Mirzani, reports about personal conflicts were often framed in a judgmental or derogatory tone. The choice of diction and perspective indicates that the media still treats women as moral objects, not subjects of experience. (Limilia & Prasanti, 2016) explain that digital media shapes social perceptions through a dichotomy between ideal women and problematic women. Repeated representations create social constructions of women who conform or do not conform to norms. These stereotypes reinforce bias against figures who refuse to conform to societal expectations. A critical approach is

needed to understand the discursive positions that shape public opinion about women in Indonesia.

Media representation is never neutral because it is always shaped by ideology, economic interests, and social structures. (Watie, 2010) emphasized that mass media has the power to determine how women are viewed and judged. In the case of Nikita Mirzani, news coverage often shows a tug-of-war between the image of a free woman and a moral woman. (Kania & Hamdani, 2023) linked this phenomenon to the media's strategy of controlling meaning through language and text structure. The image of women in the news becomes a tool to reinforce certain social values that benefit dominant groups. (Maryam et al., 2024) showed that digital space actually strengthens new forms of surveillance of women's bodies. This pattern shows that freedom of expression in the media is often trapped in the circulation of conservative values. Critical discourse analysis provides a means to explore how this ideology operates through text.

Research on the representation of women in Indonesian media has grown quite extensively, but most still focuses on general issues such as advertising, politics, and popular culture. In-depth studies of public figures who are often at the center of controversy like Nikita Mirzani have not been systematically conducted using Sara Mills' approach. This approach offers a perspective that places subjects and objects in a power relationship through an analysis of the positions of readers and writers of texts. (Pamungkas et al., 2018) emphasizes the importance of reading visual structures and language simultaneously to understand the formation of meaning. Studying Nikita Mirzani through Sara Mills' analysis can reveal how the media negotiates morality and freedom in public discourse about women. This approach opens up room for interpretation of the patriarchal ideology hidden behind news construction. Focus on *online media* provides an opportunity to observe how representation changes in digital distribution

systems. This research is expected to contribute to a critical understanding of power relations in contemporary Indonesian media texts.

2. METHOD

This study uses a qualitative approach with the critical discourse analysis method of Sara Mills' model. The qualitative approach is used to examine the meaning and ideology hidden in news texts. Sara Mills' model emphasizes the position of the subject, object, and the relationship between the writer and reader in the formation of discourse meaning. The purpose of this approach is to reveal how the media frames the representation of women, especially the figure of Nikita Mirzani, through the structure of language and news narratives. The researcher acts as the main instrument that reads, interprets, and draws meaning from the text (Eriyanto, 2011). The research is descriptive analytical with a focus on revealing the power relations and ideological views implied in the news text (Moleong, 2017).

The research data sources were obtained from online news texts published by four national media outlets: Detik.com, Pikiran Rakyat, Kompas.com, and CNN Indonesia. These four media outlets were selected because they have a wide readership and strong representation of mainstream news in Indonesia. The primary data consisted of news articles discussing Nikita Mirzani in the October 2025 period, covering legal, social, and popular culture issues. Secondary data were obtained from books, journals, and methodological literature relevant to critical discourse analysis, gender, and media representation (Creswell, 2014). All data were taken from official sources to ensure their validity and authenticity (Bungin, 2011).

The data collection technique was conducted through a documentation study that focused on collecting online news texts. (Sugiyono, 2018) explains that documentation is an effective technique for obtaining written data that reflects social reality. The first step is an in-depth reading

of news discussing cases or issues related to Nikita Mirzani. The second step is the identification of discourse elements that depict symbolic violence or gender representation through Sara Mills' perspective, including the roles of the subject, object, and reader. The third step is an evaluation of the text to assess the reader's position and the direction of the media's view of female characters. The fourth step includes data interpretation using Sara Mills' framework to understand the structure of meaning in each text. The fifth step is drawing conclusions from the analysis results that describe the pattern of media representation of public women.

Data analysis was conducted using Miles' interactive model (Miles et al., 2014) , which includes data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing. Each news text was reduced based on its relevance to the research focus. Relevant data were presented in the form of tables, discourse notes, or quotes that show the positions of the subject, object, and reader according to Sara Mills' theory. The interpretation stage was carried out by tracing the relationship between word choice, sentence structure, and media narratives that shape Nikita Mirzani's image. The analysis was directed at how the text represents women in social and cultural power relations. (Krippendorff, 2004) emphasized that text analysis aims to understand hidden meanings through symbols and language structures.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The news analyzed came from online media outlets Detik.com, Pikiran Rakyat, Kompas.com, and CNN Indonesia, which covered Nikita Mirzani's legal case. These four media outlets were chosen because they have a wide readership and are often the primary reference for disseminating public information. The analysis was conducted to examine how Nikita Mirzani's figure is represented in the news texts and how women's positions are presented within the context of legal and social discourse. Based on Sara Mills' approach, the construction of meaning in the text is influenced by the positions of the subject, object, writer, and reader. Through this analysis, we can understand how the media frames reality and shapes public perception of women involved in legal cases. The main focus lies on the depiction of roles, perspectives, and narrative power that emerge in the representation of Nikita Mirzani in these various news reports.

Detik.com News Analysis

According to Sara Mills' approach, the representation of female figures in media texts can be understood through the positions of the subject, object, writer, and reader. The following analysis focuses on the *Detik.com news article* entitled *"Nikita Mirzani's Reaction to Being Sentenced to 11 Years in Prison and a Fine of Rp 2 Billion in an Extortion-TPPU Case"* published on (Detik.com, 2025) October 9, 2025, to reveal how Nikita Mirzani's position is constructed in the news text.

Subject Position

In Sara Mills' theory, subject position is a crucial element in determining who has control over constructing the meaning of an event. Subjects have the authority to interpret reality and direct readers to a particular perspective. In the context of the news coverage of Nikita Mirzani, this position demonstrates how the media provides space for women to express their views and attitudes amid legal and social scrutiny.

> Data Citation 1 (Detik.com, October 9, 2025): *no problem for eleven years. It's a prosecutor's demand. The prosecutor has the right to prosecute as he pleases," said Nikita Mirzani at the South Jakarta District Court. "The important thing is that it's over, and the prosecutor won't prosecute anymore , right? Then it's up to me," she added.*

The quote above shows Nikita Mirzani as the main subject who dominates the discourse. She speaks directly and shows no fear of the demands she faces. The diction used reflects the confidence and assertiveness of a woman capable of controlling her own narrative. Through this presentation, the media portrays Nikita as an active and empowered figure, not as a weak individual before the law. This construction signifies a shift in the representation of women in the media, where women are no longer positioned as victims, but as figures with a voice and power over their reporting.

Object Position

In Sara Mills' theory, the object position describes the party targeted by the subject's views or judgments. In news texts, objects are typically presented through descriptions, accusations, or views directed by others. Objects don't have a direct voice, but their existence is crucial because it determines the direction of discourse and public assessment of an event.

Data Citation 1 (Detik.com, October 9, 2025):
"I laughed because he made up so much stuff. He was just asking about assets. The prosecutors also need to have their assets checked, because there are several prosecutors in my case who didn't register their assets in the LHKPN (State Gazette). Please investigate their assets," said the Comic 8 star.

From this quote, the object's position is directed at the Public Prosecutor (JPU), who is the party criticized by Nikita Mirzani. She questions the legitimacy of the lawsuit and reverses the power position by directing accusations at law enforcement. In the context of the discourse, Nikita is no longer a passive object, but rather a subject who transforms the JPU into an object of criticism. This pattern demonstrates how the media provides space for women to engage in symbolic resistance against legal

authority. This depiction challenges patriarchal constructions that often position women as powerless recipients of treatment.

Position of Writer and Reader

In critical discourse analysis, the positions of the writer and reader are crucial because they reveal how the media directs the audience's perspective on an issue. News writers play a role in selecting diction, perspective, and narrative structure, which can influence readers' interpretations. Meanwhile, readers are positioned to respond to the text according to the direction desired by the media.

Data Citation 1 (Detik.com, October 9, 2025):
"After the panel of judges closed the hearing on Thursday (October 9, 2025), Nikita Mirzani, smiling, approached friends and relatives in the courtroom. She even danced, raising both index fingers to form an 11."

In the quote, the author chooses light-hearted diction such as *smiling* and *dancing*, which depicts a relaxed atmosphere amidst a serious legal context. This narrative choice shows that the author is trying to present Nikita Mirzani's human side and direct the reader to view her sympathetically. The reader is positioned as an observer who experiences Nikita's unique attitude without having to judge her negatively. This way of depiction creates an emotional distance between the legal event and public acceptance, so that the media appears to be trying to maintain a neutral impression while still conveying empathy for the main character.

Ideological Meaning and Representation of Women

Mills' ideological analysis highlights how media discourse shapes certain social images that reflect dominant values or power. In reporting on Nikita Mirzani, the media portrays a woman as bold, independent, and in control of her own

narrative. This depiction indicates a shift in how the media represents women in the public sphere.

Data Citation 1 (Detik.com, October 9, 2025): *"Oh, definitely, definitely. Yes, you have to be (freely optimistic) because it's not true admit it," said Nikita Mirzani firmly.*

This quote depicts Nikita Mirzani as an optimistic figure who does not bow to pressure. Her attitude reflects a resistance to old stereotypes that position women as emotional or irrational creatures when facing legal issues. In this case, the media plays a role in shaping a new image of strong and empowered women. This representation ideologically demonstrates a shift in values in Indonesian media reporting, where women are beginning to be positioned as equal individuals with a voice in public discourse.

Pikiran Rakyat News Analysis

Pikiran Rakyat's news coverage highlights the legal case involving actress Nikita Mirzani from a perspective that highlights her calm and confident demeanor amidst the ongoing legal process. The publication employs a more formal and balanced reporting style than other entertainment portals. Through Sara Mills' approach , we can observe how the positions of subject, object, writer, and reader interact in shaping the representation of women in the legal and public spheres.

Subject Position

In Pikiran Rakyat's reporting, Nikita Mirzani is positioned as a central figure, maintaining control of the narrative despite facing serious legal charges. She is the center of attention, portrayed not only as a defendant but also as an individual capable of maintaining composure amid public and media pressure.

Data Quote 2 (Pikiran Rakyat, October 12, 2025): *"In a hearing held on Thursday, October 9, 2025, the Public Prosecutor (JPU) read out the charges against Nikita for alleged threats, extortion, and money laundering (TPPU). The prosecutor demanded an 11-year prison sentence and a fine of Rp 2 billion. Nikita, who was present wearing all white, appeared calm as she listened to the charges read out."*

The quote emphasizes Nikita's position as an active and empowered subject in facing legal situations. The calmness portrayed by the media demonstrates self-control and trust in the legal process. This image demonstrates a woman who does not succumb to pressure, but instead appears rational and calm. The media, in this case, does not emphasize the emotional side, but instead presents a woman as intelligent and measured in her actions. This reinforces the image of a modern woman who is independent and capable of facing public challenges with grace.

Object Position

The object positions in this news text are directed at other parties involved in the legal case, particularly the Public Prosecutor (JPU) and Nikita's personal assistant, Mail. Both are part of the narrative structure that supports the interpretation of Nikita's position as the main figure.

Data Quote 2 (Pikiran Rakyat, October 12, 2025): *"Nikita's attorney, Fahmi Bachmid, believes the charges are too harsh and inconsistent with the legal facts presented at trial. He plans to file a plea, or defense statement, to be read at the next hearing. The case also implicates Nikita's personal assistant, Mail, who is suspected of assisting in the extortion."*

This quote demonstrates that the object of discourse is not limited to the legal actor, but also involves individuals close to the main subject. By positioning Mail and the prosecutor as the objects of the narrative, the media directs readers to view the legal context as a complex and interconnected

system. The emphasis on the defense from the attorney also strengthens Nikita's position as a party who still has the opportunity and right to defend herself. In the context of gender discourse, this demonstrates that women are given equal space to speak out and fight for justice for themselves.

Position of Writer and Reader

Pikiran Rakyat's reporting employs a neutral and informative journalistic style. Writers avoid emphasizing emotion, but rather systematically present facts so readers can assess the legal situation for themselves. In this way, readers are positioned as those invited to understand the legal process without being led to excessive sympathy for the figures reported.

Data Quote 2 (Pikiran Rakyat, October 12, 2025):

"Legal observer from the University of Indonesia, Andi Rahman, views the Nikita Mirzani case as an example of how the law applies equally to public figures. He said this case also serves as an important lesson for celebrities to be more cautious in digital activities that could potentially be criminal."

This quote demonstrates the author's attempt to present a professional perspective to balance the narrative. Readers are guided to view Nikita's case not only from a personal perspective, but also from a social and educational perspective. By presenting the voices of legal experts, the author strengthens the credibility of the news while positioning readers as members of the public, encouraged to think critically about legal and media issues. This strategy reflects the media's role as a public information provider with a social responsibility to maintain objectivity and rationality.

Ideological Meaning and Representation of Women

The ideological meaning emerging in Pikiran Rakyat's reporting depicts women as rational individuals capable of facing pressure with composure and self-control. The media does not portray Nikita Mirzani as a sensational figure, but rather as a strong and courageous woman who openly faces the legal process.

Data Quote 2 (Pikiran Rakyat, October 12, 2025):

"After the trial, Nikita emphasized that she respected the ongoing legal process. She stated that the demands were the prosecutor's prerogative and believed the panel of judges would adjudicate the case fairly."

From this quote, it appears that the media framed Nikita as someone who understands her position within the legal system. This representation demonstrates that women can be rational and diplomatic without losing their grace. Pikiran Rakyat, through its reporting style, reinforces the image of empowered women with legal awareness and social responsibility. The ideology presented does not simply boost the celebrity's popularity but also directs the public to understand that women have the ability to navigate legal discourse on an equal footing with men.

CNN Indonesia News Analysis

A CNN Indonesia report highlights the legal aspects of Nikita Mirzani's case through a factual approach and a focus on the prosecutor's demands. The news outlet presents a highly systematic news structure, focusing primarily on the details of the articles, points of the charges, and relevant legal elements. Through Sara Mills' perspective, the construction of meaning in this text reveals how the positions of subject, object, and reader are shaped to create certain perceptions of female figures within legal discourse.

Subject Position

In the CNN Indonesia news text, the subject position is given to the legal apparatus, particularly the Public Prosecutor (JPU), who is the central figure controlling the narrative. Nikita Mirzani is presented not as a figure who controls the discourse, but as a recipient of legal treatment and within the framework of a formally formulated demand.

Data Quote 3 (CNN Indonesia, October 10, 2025):

"The Public Prosecutor (JPU) is demanding that the panel of judges at the South Jakarta District Court sentence Nikita to 11 years in prison and a fine of Rp 2 billion, or an additional six months in prison. The prosecutor believes Nikita has been proven guilty of extortion and money laundering."

This quote demonstrates that the primary subject of the report is the prosecutor, not the defendant. CNN Indonesia emphasizes legal authority as the primary source of legitimacy for the news, while Nikita is only mentioned in a passive position as the recipient of the charges. This framing creates a discourse that positions the law as a dominant, inviolable force. Thus, the image of women here is not portrayed as emotional or weak, but as individuals subject to formal and procedural legal structures.

Object Position

Nikita Mirzani was the primary target of legal action in a CNN Indonesia report. The description of the charges, articles, and evidence demonstrates that she is positioned as an individual being examined and assessed through a legal, rather than a personal, perspective.

Data Quote 3 (CNN Indonesia, October 10, 2025):

"Nikita is said to have distributed information and/or electronic documents containing blackmail with threats to defame as regulated in Article 45 paragraph 10 letter A in conjunction with Article 27B paragraph (2) of the ITE Law in conjunction with Article 55 paragraph 1 of the Criminal Code."

This quote illustrates Nikita's role as an object of a legal system that judges her actions based on criminal laws. She is no longer the center of the social narrative, but rather a subject constructed within a strict and impersonal legal discourse. CNN Indonesia displays a legalistic reporting style to demonstrate its journalistic discipline in conveying the facts. Discursively, women in this position are understood as part of a legal structure that leaves no room for emotion or personal defense. This image reinforces the media's position as an institution that prioritizes legal accuracy over social empathy.

Position of Writer and Reader

In CNN Indonesia's text, the author positions himself as a presenter of legal data and facts without offering personal opinions. The use of direct quotes from prosecutors and detailed articles demonstrates the media's role as a conduit for legal information to the public. Readers are positioned as those invited to rationally understand the details of the case without emotional impulses.

Data Quote 3 (CNN Indonesia, October 10, 2025):

"The prosecutor cited eight aggravating factors, leading to the criminal charges against Nikita. According to the prosecutor, Nikita's actions damaged the reputation and dignity of others, disturbed the public, and disrespected her during the trial."

The author uses formal language and a narrative structure consistent with court reporting. Readers are positioned as intelligent audiences capable of judging based on legal evidence, not on the popularity of figures. Through this style, CNN Indonesia maintains its

journalistic credibility as a national media outlet oriented toward integrity and precision in information. This strategy demonstrates the media's power to shape a neutral perception of the law in the public eye.

Ideological Meaning and Representation of Women

The ideological meaning of CNN Indonesia's news portrays women as subject to a rational and objective legal system. Nikita Mirzani's representation in this text depicts a public woman confronted by state structures, not fellow individuals. The media portrays her without dramatic elements, but rather within the context of legal formalities and criminal accountability.

Data Quote 3 (CNN Indonesia, October 10, 2025):

"Nikita admitted he wasn't concerned about the prosecutor's criminal charges. He said the prosecutor's job was done, and he would focus on preparing his defense memorandum or plea."

This quote demonstrates Nikita's attempt to regain control of her narrative despite being within an oppressive legal system. In Sara Mills' discourse, this passage demonstrates a shift in position from passive object to reflective subject who begins to speak for herself. CNN Indonesia does not direct readers to take sides, but rather presents the dynamics of women struggling to maintain a rational and resilient image amidst legal domination. The emerging ideology affirms that women are capable of actively participating in the public sphere, including in confronting a legal system that is often patriarchal and hierarchical.

Kompas.com News Analysis

Kompas.com's news focuses on the views of an ITE criminal law expert on the case between Nikita Mirzani and Reza Gladys. This media outlet highlights deeper legal aspects, particularly regarding the possibility of resolving the case through civil channels. From Sara Mills' perspective, this text demonstrates a shift in discourse, where the narrative no longer centers entirely on Nikita as a celebrity figure but shifts to the legal authority interpreting the events. The way the media frames information creates a structure of meaning that represents women within a rational and formal analytical framework.

Subject Position

The subject position in the Kompas.com news story is occupied by legal expert Andi Widianto Hummerson, who acts as an interpreter of Nikita Mirzani's legal situation. He is the primary source determining the direction of the case's interpretation through his academic perspective. This position demonstrates the shift in control of discourse from public individuals like Nikita to legal authorities with professional legitimacy.

Data Quote 4 (Kompas.com, October 3, 2025):

"Cybercrime expert (ITE), Andi Widianto Hummerson, assessed that the case of alleged defamation with threats of blackmail between artist Nikita Mirzani and beauty doctor Reza Gladys has aspects that can be resolved through civil channels."

The quote demonstrates that the primary subject in the text is neither the perpetrator nor the victim, but rather an expert authorized to objectively assess the legal situation. Kompas.com employs a narrative strategy that emphasizes academic authority to strengthen the credibility of the news. This creates a discourse that positions women, in this case Nikita Mirzani, not merely as objects of controversy, but as part of a legal issue that requires systematic study. With this position, Kompas.com demonstrates a shift in focus from sensationalism to an analytical and legalistic approach.

Object Position

In this news story, Nikita Mirzani and Reza Gladys are the subjects evaluated and discussed by the main subject, a legal expert. Both are figures described through legal language and normative explanations. The narrative constructed makes Nikita a symbol of a complex legal issue, not simply a perpetrator of the reported act.

Data Quote 4 (Kompas.com, October 3, 2025):

"The money Nikita demanded in the threat has been given by Reza, so this no longer falls entirely into the category of a criminal act."

In this sentence, Nikita is positioned as the object of legal analysis, not the subject of the narrative. The media perspective highlights the actions and their consequences within a legal framework, rather than from an emotional or moral perspective. Reza is also positioned as the party reacting to the actions within a legal cause-and-effect framework. CNN Indonesia and Pikiran Rakyat previously portrayed Nikita as an active, speaking figure; while Kompas.com framed her as a legal entity subject to legal interpretation. This representation demonstrates a shift from emotional discourse to a neutral, legal discourse.

Position of Writer and Reader

Kompas.com's writers position themselves as impartial, academic perspectives. The language used is informative, without incorporating personal opinions or judgments. Readers are encouraged to view this case from a legal perspective, not merely as a moral or entertainment issue.

Data Quote 4 (Kompas.com, October 3, 2025):

"Andi emphasized that if Reza feels aggrieved by the negative review uploaded on TikTok,

the appropriate legal route is a civil lawsuit against the reviewer."

The quote demonstrates that the author encourages readers to understand applicable legal principles without biasing any party. Readers are positioned as rational audiences who need to understand the context of digital law and the impact of social media on a person's reputation. Kompas.com constructs its text to provide legal education to the public, rather than simply sensationalizing celebrity cases. This strategy reinforces Kompas.com's image as a media outlet that emphasizes accuracy, balance, and educational function in its reporting.

Ideological Meaning and Representation of Women

The ideological meaning in the Kompas.com text represents women within a complex and multidisciplinary legal dimension. Nikita Mirzani is portrayed as part of a developing digital legal system, not simply as a controversial public figure. The image of women in this text shifts from an emotional to a rational one, where she is treated as a legal subject with the same rights and obligations as others.

Data Quote 4 (Kompas.com, October 3, 2025):

"Product reviews on social media are a legitimate form of social control, as long as they are conducted responsibly and competently."

This quote demonstrates that Kompas.com's discourse focuses not only on Nikita but also on the broader social context of digital ethics and freedom of expression. Women in this text appear as members of society with critical roles in the digital public sphere. The media presents the ideology of legal equality and social responsibility as the primary framework, rather than emotional stereotypes or personal morality.

DISCUSSION

The coverage of Nikita Mirzani demonstrates the construction of a dominant and confident image of a woman in public. The media not only highlights the legal aspects but also showcases Nikita's personality, which dares to challenge authority. This representation demonstrates how female figures can control the narrative surrounding themselves in the digital space. This pattern differs from findings (Astuti, 2004) , which portray women in the media as still passive and subject to patriarchal discourse. This change in direction demonstrates a paradigm shift in women's social roles in the modern public sphere.

A strong depiction of women also emerges through the media's portrayal of Nikita as a rational and critical figure. Reporting does not emphasize emotional aspects, but rather emphasizes her decisiveness and intelligence in responding to legal demands. This pattern contrasts with findings (Santoso, 2016) , which found that television often frames women's bodies and morality as the primary source of attraction. This shift marks a shift in media discourse from bodily aesthetics to women's intelligence and thinking power. The media is beginning to present women as subjects capable of communication and argumentation.

The language used in the news text demonstrates symbolic resistance to legal and social power structures. Nikita's direct quote emphasizes resistance to legal pressure while demonstrating women's ability to manage their own discourse. This concept resonates with research findings (Pamungkas et al., 2018) , which revealed persistent gender inequality in print media. However, in the digital context, women appear more capable of seizing narrative space and projecting power through expressive language. This process demonstrates that media has become a new arena for women to negotiate meaning and symbolic power.

The involvement of online media provides opportunities for women to play an active role in shaping public perception. Nikita's figure exemplifies how women can utilize digital space as a platform for self-representation. Reporting highlights her courage and confidence without diminishing her humanity. This phenomenon differs from findings (Darwis & Ismail, 2018) , which found that women in electronic media are more often positioned as objects of visual attraction. This change demonstrates a social dynamic that increasingly recognizes women's agency within public communication structures.

Online media provides women with access to control their image and assert their presence in public discourse. The resulting narratives present women as active participants, not simply recipients of social views. The use of digital media as a means of expression demonstrates women's independence in defining themselves. This thinking aligns with the notion (Chaniago, 2020) , which views social media as an alternative space for women to voice their opinions autonomously. The emphasis on individual expression marks a transformation in gender discourse toward a more balanced balance between men and women.

The construction of meaning in Nikita Mirzani's reporting demonstrates how the media can shape new understandings of women's courage and resistance. Reporting not only serves as a conveyor of information, but also as an ideological arena that champions certain social meanings. This representation aligns with the view (Juanda & Azis, 2018) that women play an active role in shaping narratives in modern literary works. This assertion is reinforced by research (Irwanto et al., 2018) that shows women in television media are beginning to produce their own identities. A similar view is expressed by (Istiyanto & Sos, 2002) who observe that the media often becomes a space of tension between ideal images and the social reality of women, and (Sunarto, 2010) who highlights gender stereotypes in children's television programs as an early form of social construction of women.

4. CONCLUSION

The research findings confirm that Nikita Mirzani's representation in online media is not neutral, but rather constructed through language that embodies power relations and specific ideologies. The core findings demonstrate that women are positioned in an ambiguous situation: appearing as subjects with voice and courage, yet remaining constrained by moral and emotional narratives that control their image. The choice of diction, sentence structure, and reporting perspective shape women as objects of public judgment and demonstrate the persistence of patriarchal values that operate latently in journalistic practice.

The relationship between language, ideology, and representation is evident in the way media directs readers in interpreting female figures. Language functions not only as a means of information but also as a tool for framing reality, regulating women's position within a symbolic hierarchy. Ideology operates through the media's perspective, which reinforces certain moral standards, so readers tend to adhere to the framework of judgment established by the text. This process demonstrates how public perception of women is shaped through systematic discourse mechanisms.

This research's theoretical contribution lies in strengthening the relevance of Sara Mills' model for interpreting power relations in reporting on controversial female figures in the legal realm, a topic that has not been widely studied in depth. This study broadens understanding of the practice of women's representation in digital media, particularly in the context of celebrities who exist at the intersection of popularity and social morality. Its practical implications encourage media outlets to be more reflective and gender-sensitive, while simultaneously fostering critical awareness among readers to prevent passive consumption of news texts.

This research positions the representation of women as a crucial issue in contemporary media

studies and shows how language becomes a key instrument in shaping the image, power, and social meaning of women's bodies and identities in the digital public space.

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