

## LINGUISTIC IDENTITY CONSTRUCTION IN RAPE CASES: A CASE STUDY OF GUJRANWALA MOTORWAY CASE

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### Abstract

*The study aims to explore the linguistic identity construction of rape victims in Pakistani news media. It analyzes the identity construction process of social actors and their representation based on their actions. The qualitative research design has been used to analyze the data. Ten news reports have been taken purposely from 5 Pakistani English newspapers i.e. from The Dawn, The Express Tribune, The News, The Daily Times and The Nation. The conceptual framework has been adapted from Van Leeuwen's Social Actor and Action Network (2008) integrated with Tajfel and Turner's Social Identity Theory (1986). The framework explored identity and ideological relationships constructed through language. The study revealed the linguistic representation of Gujranwala motorway rape case with the help of inclusion and exclusion strategies; activation and passivation; nomination, categorization, and time sequencing. The findings revealed that the identity of the rape victim was constructed based on their affiliation to their family and other social actors. It also revealed that the victim's (female) identity is overpowered by other powerful social actors and exclusion of the main culprit. Also, it showed that the news media blame the victim for the incident, therefore, revealing the ideologies of society where the female victim is held responsible for the act of assault.*

**Keywords:** Linguistic representation, social actors, identity construction, ideology.

### Introduction

Identity construction is a process in which individuals develop a clear and unique of their self. Language helps to construct and reflect the social identity of events and people. Identity constructs and is constructed by language as they are related to each other in many way and they play an undeniable role in the formation of linguistic identities (Nortan, 1995). The linguistic construction of identity involves social actors of both sides as offender and victim on each side of morality scale as if the victim's identity is being constructed on one side as a social actor and offender's identity is also constructed on the other scale of morality. Identity of each individual is unique and is associated with other individuals and as they have a position associated with that identity. As the role assigned to an individual increases the linked identities gets multiplied as well (Stryker, 2002). Research proposes that there are multiple identities and these identities are activated in circumstances when the identities have a shared meaning (Stets, 1995; Deaux, 1992).

Identity and ideology are considered to be the shared commitments based on local, ethnic, religious perspectives and national inclinations. The ideologies create the identity of the people living in any particular area associated with any group of people from same group or community. "Ideology represents the imaginary relationship of individuals to their real conditions of existence" (Felluga, 2001). According to (Foucault, 1980; Fawad, 2015) power in communities constructs the identities of individuals and events. Language has its own power and authority by which it can destroy and create events, identities, and happenings. Ideologies are diligently linked to language because the language we use is the most common form of social behavior and in the form of this behavior we mostly rely on the common sense (Fairclough, 1989).

Actor and action network shows the representation of social actors and action and how social actors are presented with the help of their actions. Social actors can be excluded or included in the text at different places. Social actors are suppressed or backgrounded in

different contexts as some of them are excluded from one part of the text and included somewhere else and few of them are suppressed to different degrees (Leeuwen, 2008).

### **Research Questions**

1. What is the linguistic identity construction and representation in Gujranwala motorway rape case in Pakistani print media?
2. What is the role of language in ideological identity construction of rape victims, social actors and social events in Gujranwala motorway rape case?
3. How language and power relations influence the construction of identities in Gujranwala motorway rape case?

### **Review of the Literature**

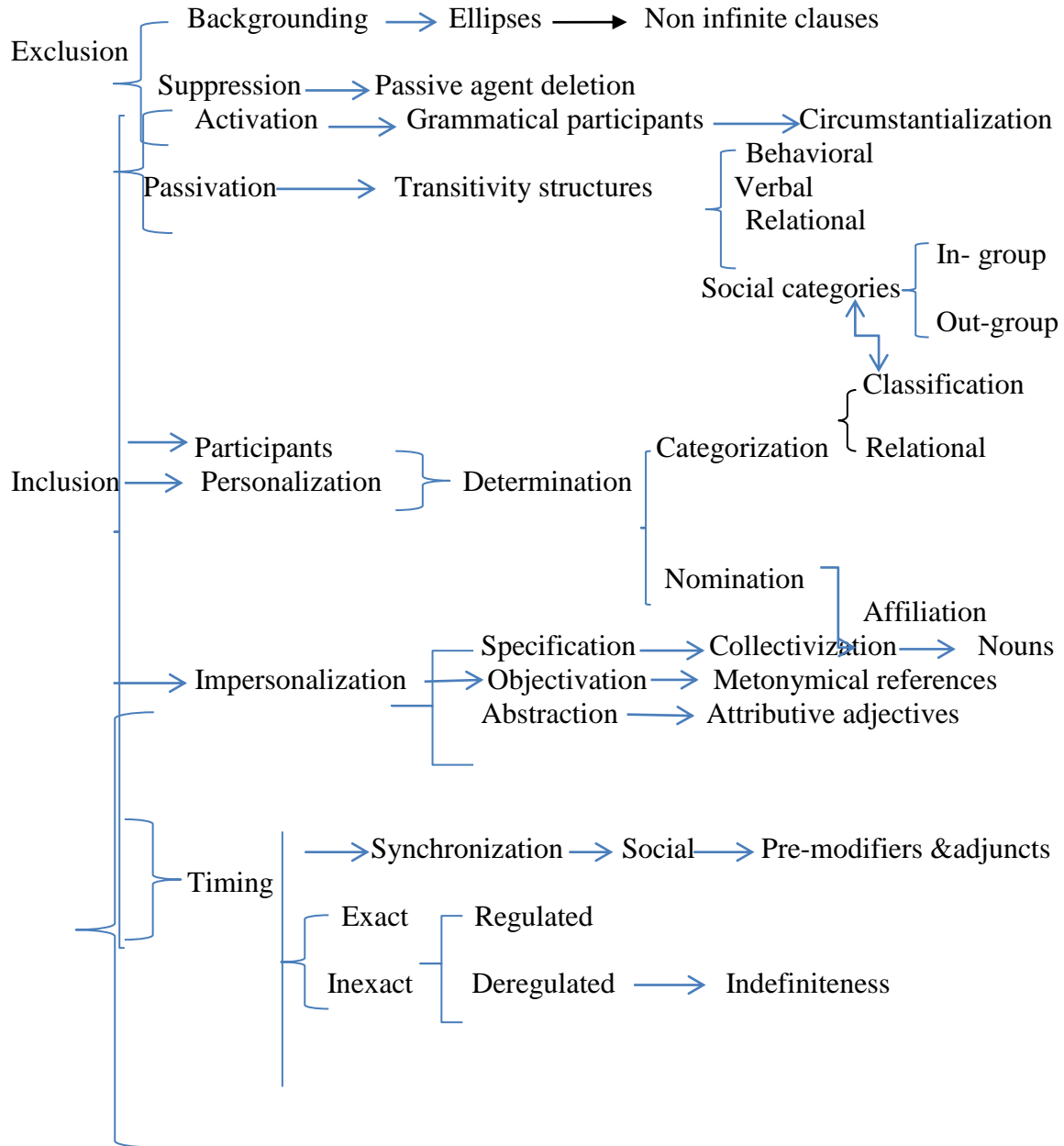
A research was conducted in 2019 to analyze language, ideology, and the development of identity. The results of the study demonstrate the connection between language use and identity formation. The study's findings demonstrate how a Belarusian-speaking person's identity develops in connection to others and how it is built with the use of various communicational tools. According to the study, identity is also created at other levels, including local, interpersonal, and national positions (Vasilyeva, 2019).

In "Exploring Victim Blaming Attitudes in Cases of Rape and Sexual Violence: The Relationship with Patriarchy" Haezreena (2021) presents that it is common to transfer the blame of the offender on victim for the heinous act and its really problematic for the victim as well as the blame gets shifted to victim and in all this the attention towards the offender gets shifted to victim for their own pledge. The normalization of rape myths has led to the convention of victim blaming in different social institutes as police and court.

Due to their distinctive identity, nomination, association, or resemblance to others, social actors are portrayed and formed in various ways (Leeuwen, 2008). Thus, identities exist as both types and individuals. For instance, the victims are both types and individuals because they represent the entire female community. According to the members in their associated community, their assault was both unique and common.

### **Research Methodology**

The study is qualitative in nature. Data is collected from Pakistani English Newspapers as Dawn, The Nation, Express Tribune, The Daily Times and The News ten news reports are analysed in this study. For the analysis of data Van Leeuwen's Social actor and Action network (2008) integrated with Tajfel & Turner's Social identity theory (1986) is used. The following framework is adopted in this study as given below in the fig 1.



**Fig1. Conceptual framework adapted from Van Leeuwen's Social Actor and Timing Network Model (2008) and Tajfel & Turner's Social Identity Theory (1986)**

## Data Analysis

Ten news reports are selected and analyzed by adapting the conceptual framework. It involves the exclusion and inclusion

### **(I) *Robbers gang-rape woman waiting for help on motorway in Punjab***

The opening of the article says a “woman”, a noun explaining an adult from a generalized category of particular group excluding her name in the report. Social actors in this report are presented as participants in this report as robber, woman unnamed, her children and her husband as possessive pronouns and a police officer. We can see social affiliation where a woman is represented on the basis of her husband and family as they logged a complaint for her pledge. The line “The police official stated that two armed men found the woman alone”, “alone” an adjective showing the existential category and meaning which is used to show the women is not allowed get out without a man and it also states her dependence that she was alone 32 and they took advantage of it. The other participants who have major role as robbers, their background or family relatives are excluded as they have not been mentioned in the article whether the actor and action in sync to the places is mentioned in the case of victim as reported by the police official as “The woman is said to be a resident of the Defence Housing Authority and her husband worked abroad, the police officer said”.

The notion of “husband” here shows her relation and affiliation to a male as one social actor being dependent on another to be represented and it also shows the authority of male being beside the woman as a “protector” and savior also here resident enduing with “ent” shows that it is seen as identification of the victim by her association with a place. It also says she “is said to be” it shows deregulation and inexact information as they are not sure and no proof is provided as well. The dialogue states the background of victim and her physical state that she was alone and her husband works overseas. In the report the male patriarchy has been seen that woman was “alone” and the robbers took benefit of that and robbed, tortured, terrified and raped her.

They committed the crime and that crime is justified by the inclusion of alone and not having a male to protect her significantly forms an ideology that woman should not go out alone as she is not safe. In the headline of the report, the ending words say “while she was waiting for help”, the word “help” here is very significant linguistically as it works as noun and verb both while denoting the trait of helping someone and as verb to offer service to someone who is needy and also regarding the social status of the victim and her fragility that she could not help herself and have to wait for the help and it is passivized as it is not exact or clear that was she waiting for help from police or her family member as the other dialogue which makes her a helpless victim and it is deregulated as “woman had yet to call the helpline when the armed men reached 33 there” woman here represents specific category to whom she belongs showing the affiliation of the victim and armed men here shows the force implied and as the use of verb in past participle in “reached” shows they approached the victim and forcefully harmed her. “Armed and reached” shows backgrounding as they are presented as past participles and they represent the verbal process as well that how accuses are represented and it also constructs their identity.

### **(II) *Two robbers gang-raped a mother of two on the Motorway late Tuesday night inGujjarpura police limits***

The article opens with two active participants nominated as Robbers in a generalized category of people who are known by their affiliation of criminal activities, and two backgrounded participants as children and unnamed woman defined via specification of her

relationship and affiliation of her with her kids. In the article the regulation of the time is mentioned as “after running out of fuel at around 1.30am”. The time with the action is connected with the behavioral and semiotic representation of the victim, frightened and waiting for another social actor which Motorway Police, as they did not respond to her. As in the meantime the rape occurred, as they found her on the road as being the “male” a dominant community suppressing the identity of woman and showcasing the ideology that women outside is their property. The exclusion of her children as being active agent and their fear of seeing their being mother tortured as in the report “took the woman and her children to nearby bushes where they raped her repeatedly in front of the children” again here the misuse of power is shown as she was with her children” a mother of two” was not even spared by those robbers. When the victim contacted the police, being unreachable still they said that they it was out of our zone as per the report “The Motorway police spokesman said the incident did not occur in the limits of Motorway Police”. Spokesman shows an active participant from the police to represent them in the reports and the statements to show a category of specific people with a specified category and in grouping of the category police. Here the institutional power is showed to be misused by the officials as they just behaved carelessly leaving the victim in despair and still indirectly blamed her that she did not contacted the in-zone helpline or did not checked her car and fuel.

### ***(III) Motorway Rape incident: Lahore CCPO blames victim for choice of route, travelling late at night***

The report is about the suppression and victim blaming from the very beginning as in the report the CCPO said “I am surprised that a mother of three, a lone driver after leaving Defence should have taken the straight route from GT Road, a generally well-populated area” looking at the statement and the choice of words, and the construction of the victim’s identity instead being justified is more blamed as he said she was “alone” as it shows women are not allowed to be alone and they should have someone with them when they go outside. He also added that” she should have taken another route” as she knew it wasn’t that populated and she had her kids with her, the victim is being blamed for her own pledge and choice even though as per the above reports the victim tried to seek help from motorway police. Passivization of facts and participants as social actor is seen as the victim is actively dragged being responsible for her rape but the patriarch society with full of males and male police could not save but blame her. Gender stereotyping and considering woman as lowly and fragile is proved by the CCPO in the above statement, even though she tried to escape but as they did not use their power to help the victim but to only suppress her and her identity, making her an out group as she 35 was travelling “alone” and led her to her pledge. While looking at the details police knew that she has got into the problem, but when she tries to get help the excuse of being out of zone is presented and social act of injustice started from here, as per the reports police is the one who made her go through all of this.

### ***(IV) Police make headway in Lahore motorway rape case***

In this article the identity construction of the culprits is shown and it states that “Police says suspect has criminal record”, here the word “suspect is taken as both noun and the verb as the person has a criminal record before and he is suspected to be guilty and not proved yet. Suspect itself shows how the accused person is a suspect not “criminal” as nothing has been proved yet. In the meantime there was also news that the suspect has been arrested but yet he is not as the police stated “important progress has been made in the case. However, he has not been arrested yet”. The pronoun “he” indicates the culprit is a male and he is not identified nor



arrested, only his DNA sample matched with a previous rape case as per the police “a suspect's DNA sample was already present in the Forensic Science Agency's DNA bank, which matched with the samples taken from the rape victim”, when the statement is broken into textual and contextual point of view the word sample already being present in the Lab shows the incompatibility of our police and other law institutions that the culprit already ruined a life and yet he is free, why? Because he was only “accused” not proved guilty, not arrested nor punished as he was unknown till this case no one bothered to fight for justice for the last victim. Linguistically, data matching with the new victim with the old one construct the dark side of the patriarchal society that the one “male” was the predator of two female victims. Here it also denies the ideology men being the protectors of women.

Furthermore in the report initially police official stated there is no arrest made yet 36 but they stated they are looking for the rapist. News on the arrest of a suspect on TV channels and social media are incorrect,” said IGP and after that he said “We will soon arrest the accused and bring them to justice”, here the word “we” shows a social category in group. In which the police and Govt institutes are all referred as they are working in a team making up a place for many social actors being represented on the basis of one word to show the affection towards the victim. But here as the police have no statement from the victim media questioned and IGP replied “Police contacted the rape victim to obtain her statement on the matter. However, the woman's family told the police that the woman was not in a condition to have her statement recorded as of yet”. Linguistically here the word woman, victim and condition shows the physical identity of the victim, here emotional and psychological state as she was not able to speak and record her statement. Woman’s family as a social actor here replied on the behalf of the victim to police making her a “passive agent” without her words the case details are formulated till now. This shows the dilemma of the society the victim is mostly unnamed and kept behind the curtain to save the “family honor” making the rapists even more courageous and heinous of this shameful act.

#### ***(IV) Motorway gang-rape a ‘blind incident with no evidence’: Punjab law minister***

The opening of the article with words like “blind incident” and “no evidence “are the mirror to the unjustified statements made by the higher authority sitting on the seat of the Law minister. He told that this is a blind incident which they had no lead by saying this he accepted that till now the law could not do anything to bring justice and they even got no evidence contradicting the above articles details in which they stated they have got the DNA sample of the accuser and too that there were two men and the DNA sample of one of them matched with the previous rape victim. In 37 the statement no evidence means no lead to the case, apparently, no justice to the victim as they did not catch the rapist yet. But after that to cover up the situation he also said “We will have to develop the evidence through an investigation and have it corroborated and only then will we be able to get to a point where we can have a concrete picture,” here “we” signifies the in grouping of the institutes regarding law and then doing social othering for the accuser. Here we can see the backgrounding and passivization of victim as he started with we, it means he is referring to a group he belongs. And to have a “concrete picture” as yet the events are inexact and they are not clear to them. In the meantime, a man claimed that he was the eyewitness to this incident as he told he “saw one of the robbers dragging the woman out to the fields”.

As per the statement “dragging” is one of the forceful acts performed by the rapists without the concern of the victim and it also shows backgrounding as its ending with –ing words

and they are used in non-infinite clauses. The man saw it and he reported it to police but yet the Law minister said there is no evidence. The man added that “The man was also sleeping with the woman”, here “sleeping” shows backgrounding and also as “the man” is generalizing the category and woman as well as two different categories of social actors and the words are horrific and terrifying how he saw the painful act yet did not moved to help the woman because she was a mere woman in the hands of the butchers. She also stated that he tried to call the police at 15 to help but no one came.

***(V) Frustration among public was touching a new high as investigators failed to report any breakthrough almost 72 hours after the gang rape of a woman on the motorway near here***

The article opens up with emotional grief as “frustration” to be seen as the emotional representation of social actors regarding the rape and the victim. “Frustration” nitself shows the anger of disappointment as the failure of the authorities to see visible and clear evidences. Here “investigators failed” gives us an insight to the institutionalization and the state of being of the powerful social actors as police, and they are unable to find out something regarding the incident and the event. When a case is represented by the media, there are different types of news run by the print and TV but not all of them are true and the same happened here while nominating the age of the victim as “the 32-year-old victim” there is no verification by the family of the victim or any verified form as ID card and her ATM card used was a fake news.

Here in the report at different occasions we can see the specification for the identity of the victim as “woman” represents a category having all kind of woman; black, white, tall, short, young and old. As the age of the victim as 32 years old shows to which age group she belongs linguistically. The report has other factors of inclusion as the affiliation with the country as per the line “A French National had been attacked”. The “French” shows to the community, ethnicity or the group of people she has been associated or belongs. It shows the out grouping of a community member that she is not the part of this nation or ethnicity as she is the victim. The identity construction is two sided as the victim is on one scale of the morality and the offender is on the other as stated by Stryker, in 2002, as the victim is represented as a female, helpless and naïve, while the rapists is referred as “two men “ , “attackers”, “two violent suspects” and “perpetrators” . Which also construct them as the individuals and how the society see them in out-group category, they are rapists and they have committed the crime and they are obligated to be called as the attackers as the attacker is a person who misuses the power given to him.

***(VI) Prime suspect in Motorway rape case arrested: Police***

The report opens up as the arrest of the main suspect “Abid Ali” was made in “Faisalabad” by city police. In the report its states that the criminal was arrested as there was gang rape of a “mother of two” showing again the affiliation and the representation of the victim on the basis of her “kids” and her family as making her own identity seems as illusion and being real but not treated as real as Felluga, (2001) says that the ideologies forms a relationship between the real and imaginary relationships. When talking about violence, the issue is raised once someone face and then it’s all silent everywhere whether it’s a protest or talks on social media as in the report also it says “The horrific incident caused a countrywide outpouring of anger and brought sexual violence against women into national focus once again”. Horrific 45 states the emotional attachment of the language to the victim and the incident and “outpouring” symbolizes the overflow of the empathy and the state of the people regarding the incident and outpouring is not just sympathy it follow “anger” which shows their hatred towards the offenders.

Discussing Sexual violence is not a new phenomenon but as it says that it was brought up in “national focus once again” the word again indicates it is not a new thing its going since so long, when case like this happens it comes into the light and after sometimes it is not even in the news and not in the media and any texts. Furthermore, the report discusses the remarks of the higher authorities as most important social actors in a row as of the President as he says “it’s a matter of a national relief”, the words shows his breath of freedom as being in the position of the ruler of the country. Relief here also indicates how important it was to catch the criminal and put him behind the bars as he was at large since so much time. He continues to discuss the punishment for the ones who are to be found guilty (not found yet) and most importantly he says “Let everyone feel safe in Pakistan, specially our women and children” basically women and children are referred as naïve and dependent beings, but the question is that from whom they have to be safe? . “Our” shows here the in- grouping of the victim and her family with the institute and the government as the president referred to the country as “ Pakistan” which is an Islamic republic and Islam is the religion that provide protection to woman and children. So basically they are trying to show that they are still the savior of the women and they are not harmful to her.

#### ***(VII) Court approves physical remand of suspect in motorway incident***

After the arrest of the rapist he was still denying his crime and for making him confess the court sent him to a physical remand. The protest to bring justice continues 46 as the victim was still not out and nor she recorded her statement as being in the state of shock and trauma. In other cases of rape and in this too the protestants and public demand for the public hanging of the offender and the role of the institute in this is also discussed by the report as it says that “The horrendous crime has sparked anger and countrywide protests calling for public hanging of the rapists”. The choice of words in the report shows how frustrated the public is right now on this extremely heinous act by two animal masked humans. As the “protests calling for public hanging for the rapists” calling here tells they demand for it and there is no request if we see it in semiotic sphere and then constructing the meaning on the social action.

Public hanging is not a new phenomenon or new concept for the public and government and the demand is of for the both as they were involve in making a normal woman’s life hell and making her identity crumbled in the society and above all of that committing a sexual crime in front of her children. Later in the report the remarks of the Prime Minster, the supreme power in Pakistani political sphere, was also discussed here as he said “There should be public hangings” as he gave acceptance for the hangings and he also he said “but unfortunately when I had a discussion about it I was told that there is no international acceptance for it” first he showed his point of view but still the political and ideological hindrances as his hands are tied and it is also including the international interferences in this as the victim is a “ French National” and they did not allowed it and it can be seen diachronically that this decision should have been regulated by the government of the country where it happened but yet yes we are still the slaves of Europeans as he further mentions “the European Union has given us GSP status for trade and this could affect it” here we follow the Europeans again as they gave us the generalized system of preferences over poorest countries in the world to trade with 47 them and if the criminal is hanged in public it will affect the trading and they will not do anything against it to save the country’s trade.

#### **(VIII) To be a woman is not to be**



The report unfolds the opinionative and questioning nature of the report as it points towards the existence of “woman”, as a specific category and a social actor. The case is also about a “woman” and the report continues as “Living in Pakistan, you must learn to bear pain and grief”, the affiliation of social actor to their country as “Pakistan” and the verbal representation of it with the actors as “you must learn to bear pain and grief” shows how the actors should learn to act accordingly as they are represented on the basis of their relation with their country and also their actions determine how the activities are observed. The report continues as it defines what happened as “the two rapists-robbers who emerged out of that desolation are very much a product of this society”, abstraction can be seen here as the collective noun as “two rapists-robbers” as their 51 names are affiliated with their activities as they are rapists and robbers. It also shows the behavioral processes as it addresses the rapist as “are very much a product of this society”, they are nominated as a category as out-group that are the part of society but they are still addressed as out-cast because of their acts and the activities. “Product” here shows how the society gave birth to the criminals showing the power dynamics in hidden words. It also shows the relationship of similar cases but suppressing the identity of the previously available data and the details as “That is how we have little children sexually abused and then brutally murdered”, the reference to the earlier happenings as of same nature as their identity is suppressed the “children” here is mentioned as passive agents in this report and the incident as using past participles as “abused and murdered” to show the backgrounding as well while linguistically representing the case.

**(IX) Motorway rape case: affected woman identifies both suspects at Camp Jail**

Both rapists were arrested as the police declared, and the family of the victim was also informed. In the headline of the report the rape case “affected woman” shows the representation of the victim by the media as a suppressed identity who is being represented with the help of past participles. It also shows the verbal and behavioral processes in the report as she is just another woman who was affected by a monstrous act by rapists but yes there is also an acknowledgement of the fact that yes she is a victim and she is representing the community in which there are affected woman by the animals named as suspects, and yet they are not announced as criminals. Furthermore, it says that the woman identified them immediately”, here again the victim is generally categorized as a woman while her name and identity is suppressed and the use of past participle “identified” shows the action performed and it refers to activation but yet the victim is passive. The use of pronoun “them” refers to the out-grouping of the rapists as they are not included nor considered the part of in-group. It also shows that this is the first time in the report after her refusal for the statement, she is an active participant in this incident coming out to identify criminals in the Camp Jail. In the report the timing for this event is also mentioned as “on Wednesday” they were brought in front of the victim to identify. As she was there and they could attack her which is technically not possible in front of police but yes “The suspects were produced before the woman under strict security measures” here again we see the suppression and backgrounding as use of past participle as “produced” 56 shows suppression and backgrounding and “the woman” shows how the victim is being included as an in-group. As the suspects were there and she was about to identify them and they were under a high profile observation as they could have attacked her or can run away as well, but the suspects are here foregrounded and the victim is presented as a “woman” as a passive agent in the report.

**(X) Motorway rape case: Both convicts sentenced to death**

The final report of the Motorway rape case leads to the conclusion of the event and to the punishment of the rapists. The report is mainly about the death sentence of the “convicts” a verb referring to the suspects of the crime as they were only suspects before and not proved guilty. The use of past participle “sentenced” here refers to the suppression of the event as its just reported and “both” shows specification here as its collectively referring to two rapists. The social actor represented here are criminal and the institute as Law and court as they are powerful participants in this case and they have played an active role in the construction of the case and the ideologies. In the report it says “An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Thursday reserved its verdict in the Motorway gang-rape case, on completion of arguments of parties”, “reserved” as being a past participle shows the suppression in the report and the timing network is also present here as “on Thursday” as an exact day mentioned. ATC her is shown as a powerful social actor which announced the results of the hearings and as it says there was a “completion of the argument” an argument is two sided from two parties and it shows there was a denial and fight from the perpetrators’ side as well to prove them innocent but yet they were proved guilty and was sentenced to death as well. Verdict and the argument are both court language words used as nouns here, referred as possessives to show the seriousness of the event and it lead to the conclusion as well.

### **Findings and Discussion**

The present study reveals that victims and rapists are not the only social actors in the society when it comes to rape cases but also the institutes as Police, Government generally and specifically as different institutes as law making agencies, administration, investigating teams and court as well. It displays the role of print media in linguistic representation of rape cases as it shows inclusion of the victims and above stated social actors and in rape case and exclusion of rapist.

### **Exclusion**

Exclusion is mainly excluding activities of the actors and social actors from the text (Leeuwen, 2008). Exclusion does not just mean removing social actors; it may also demonstrate how different ideologies, religious convictions, and social beliefs are practised alongside one another. Social exclusion is also understood as being excluded from a certain group or debate. It also illustrates how social exclusion is not only ignored at various textual levels until the reader is engaged and able to relate to it. (Riva & Eck, 2016). There are two types of exclusion can be seen in media reports as suppression backgrounding.

### **Suppression**

When an actor or action is suppressed in exclusion, it means that textual references to that actor or activity are also eliminated. It does not include social actors in the depiction of a specific event and does not leave any indication that the actors might appear elsewhere in the text (Leeuwen, 2008). The victim's name is suppressed because it is not stated anywhere and she is not portrayed as being featured in any news stories. The agents and actors who were involved in the case as minor social actors are likewise suppressed. When reporting on an appalling crime, facts about the victim's state and circumstances are withheld. The fact that rapists continued to travel freely before being apprehended demonstrates how the accused's ideological identity is constructed alongside that of the victim. (Evayni&Akhyar, 2019).

Suppression while representing the victim is shown in the form of passive agent deletion with the help of non-infinite clauses and attributive clauses as well. As non-infinite clauses as

using past participles as: robbed, raped, contacted, travelled, reached, arrested, worked, reported, walked, confessed and many more in text shows how the case proceeded and different situations are presented. Attributive clauses are also used in the text as *“the 32-year-old victim”*, *“Police says suspect has criminal record”*, and *“two violent suspects”* as few phrases of analysed data from the reports showing attributive clauses.

### **Backgrounding**

Backgrounding is a sort of exclusion, although it is a little softer than suppression because the social actors who are excluded from one section of the text are still represented in other parts of the text. This tactic is also implied to delay the appearance of other social actors, delaying the actors' participation in the events. It places emphasis on the circumstances and experiences that the victim endured, but it comparatively decreases on the number of social actors and appearance time. Evayni&Akhyar, (2019).

Backgrounding is also used to depict social actors and events when employing ellipses and non-infinitive clauses ending in -ing and -ed words, but it is most frequently used with words that end in -ing. A few instances from the analysis's text are cited to illustrate how backgrounding is presented in various reports. As *“alone driver after leaving”*, *“travelling late at night”*, *“sleeping with the woman”*, *“dragging the woman”*, *“checking her petrol tank”*, *“outpouring of anger”*, *“choosing the route”*, and *“public hanging of rapist”* shows how they are used to show backgrounding in the text as mostly -ing words are used with victim as using pronouns *“she and her”* to delay the presence of other social actors to show the activity related to victim only and same is for the rapists.

### **Inclusion**

The second tool of social actor representation is inclusion. Inclusion as a name represents being included or including something, but it also represents social actors and acts in which actors are prominent. Social actors are highlighted because they are assigned specific roles to play in any event or activity, and they are also identified and portrayed based on their actions. (Nursya'bani, 2014). Inclusion is used in text to display and represent social actors, agent or any group or community (Irawanto, 2022). Inclusion is analyzed in the reports with the help of Passivation, Activation, Participants, Personalization, Impersonalization and Action.

### **Passivation and Activation**

Passivation occurs when a social actor is engaged in an activity or is marginalized in a report on their role in the circumstance and is shown as an object by employing a passive sentence. (Irawanto, 2022). As few examples from the text are quoted here: *“woman had yet to call the helpline when the armed men reached there”*, *“two armed men found the woman alone.”*, *“as investigators failed to report any breakthrough”* *“affected family departed”* and *“the women of this nation would have felt safe”* shows passive sentences are used to show how the victim is marginalized here and also the verbal and behavioral processes showing perception towards victim in print media.

According to (Leeuwen, 2008) activation is dynamic and active representation of social actors. Activation is used to foreground social actors and it is realized by grammatical participants via circumstantialization. Circumstantialization is seen in text when social actors are put through some situation or undergo any action (Nursya'bani, 2014). As in text analysed can be seen as in the mentioned text from the analyzed data as *“they raped her”*, *“took the woman”*,

“to have her statement recorded”, “samples taken from the rape victim”, “robbers dragging the woman”, “A French National had been attacked and “victim shared responsibility for her rape”.

### **Personalization**

Personalization is the representation of social actors as human beings based on their activities, and they are shown as "human," and personalization is achieved by the determination of categories through nomination and categorization (Leeuwen, 2008).

### **Nomination**

Nomination is the representation of social action agents through their distinct identity, as well as the ranks of a social actor in relation to their role in the context of an event and those who are nominated (Irawanto, 2022) & (Nursya'bani, 2014). Nomination is shown by using proper nouns and nouns as “the court”, “Judge”, “CCPO”, and “the investigators” and nouns as “mother” as it also adds association or personal relation as “her children”, “her husband”, and “her brother”, with the help of possessive pronouns. It furthermore nominates the social actors with the help of affiliation of their place of belonging as “A French National”, showing nationality of the victim as, “affected family”, and victim being represented on the basis of her relationship as “her husband”.

### **Categorization**

Categorization can be shown while expressing distinct social actors' categories and classification as in-group and out-group as member and non-member. In-group categories connect people with whom they have membership or connection, and it also allows people to feel included and considered as a part of a specific group. Out-group forms a line between members and non-members, which is quite significant and may be seen by the actor who is excluded. Social categorization also builds and shapes the identity of different social actors as to show them as member or alien (Boudenhansen et al., 2012). In this case, all social actors are included and realized as in-groups like police and other officials using possessive pronouns such as "us" and "we" and rapists as out-groups as they are omitted at various levels in the text. Categories also describe the specification and general categories as a victim, such as "a woman, mother, lady" used to refer to both specific and general categories to which she belongs. While other categories are also there as government institutes and rapists as “armed men”, “robbers”, and “attackers” showing their category to which they belong and also the noun presenting them represents them out-group as they belong to a criminal category.

### **Impersonalization**

Impersonalization is the use of abstraction, objectivation, and specification to represent social actors other than humans, such as concrete nouns and nouns. Attributive adjectives are used to determine abstraction. The specification is realized through the use of collective words such as "we, us, the police, the courts," as well as the numbers implemented in collectivization. Objectivation depicts the metonymical references in the text as they are transformed for the reader's sake to display the victim's representation.

### **Timing Network**

Timing network is also clearly visible in the reports as few examples are quoted here from the text as “around midnight”, “on Wednesday” and “at around 1.30am”. The examples from the text shows how the events and data is described and chained but some timing in the text



are also deregulated as any time or specific time of the day can be mentioned but the purpose is to show action aligned with time in the reports.

### Conclusion

The results of the reports analyzed demonstrate the inclusion and exclusion, but it also illustrates how victim blaming is present in the text both directly and indirectly, and how blame is frequently moved to the victim rather than the rapist. As a common belief that rape is caused by the victim has led to the institutionalisation of victim blaming attitudes throughout society, including courts and other government institutes (Haezreena, 2021). In the reports it also exerts the power dynamics and ideologies formed in society on the basis of events reported as “why she left alone” shows the ideologies existing in society related to a woman and the choices they make. Linguistic representation does not only show how the victim is represented in the text but also how the other social actors present in the text constructs the identity of the victim. It also presents the myths associated with female victims as they are responsible for their own pledge in many ways shows the male dominant side of society. It also highlighted the treatment a victim receives from the law making institutes while being represented in the media reports.

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