

Discursive Constructions of Violence in Philippine News Articles on the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao: A Critical Discourse Analysis

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Abstract

This qualitative research explored the discursive constructions of violence in Philippine news articles on Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao through critical discourse analysis. 51 news articles were obtained from five different online news media in the Philippines. It examined the discursive strategies, framing strategies, and linguistic features that discursively construct violence in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao using Halliday's transitivity analysis. It also investigated how these strategies reflect underlying ideologies, power relations, or socio-political positions in Philippine media discourse through Gramsci's Hegemony theory. Findings revealed that news articles utilized nomination, predication, argumentation, perspectivization, and mitigation as discursive strategies. For the linguistic features, material, mental, verbal, and relational processes were highlighted in representing acts, actors, and victims of violence in news reports. Additionally, it identified eight frames in media representation of violence, such as victimization, condemnation, conflict, normalization, peace, moral evaluation, crisis, and securitization frame. Using Gramsci's hegemony theory, it revealed that media discourse reflects underlying ideologies, power relations, or socio-political positions through manufacturing content, ideological dominance, and war of position. Collectively, these findings highlighted that Philippine media discourse does not simply report violence – it actively constructs meanings about violence, authority, and legitimacy through strategic and discursive choices. Based on these findings, linguistic choices in news reporting significantly influence ideology, public opinion, and socio-political meaning. The discourse of Philippine media regarding violence in BARMM both reflects and reinforces prevailing power dynamics by legitimizing state-centered responses while marginalizing alternative narratives. A critical, balanced, and context-sensitive approach to news reporting is essential to represent each side fairly and comprehensively without being subjective.

Keywords: Linguistics, news articles, violence, discursive strategies, framing strategies Critical Discourse Analysis, Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao