

Framing Femicide in South Africa: Critical Discourse Analysis of the *Sunday Times* and *Sowetan* print media newspapers

By

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Declaration

I declare that **Framing Femicide in South Africa: Critical Discourse Analysis of the *Sunday Times* and *Sowetan* print media newspapers**, hereby, submitted to the University of Limpopo, for the degree of Master of Arts in Political Science has not previously been submitted by me for a degree at this or any other university; that this is my work in design and in execution, and all material contained herein has been duly acknowledged.

Mphahlele, K (Mister)

Surname, Initials

Signature



Date

06/12/2024

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To my friends, family, and factions, *enkosi kakhulu. Makwande!*

Dedication

I dedicate this work to Kilase Mapheto, Ramatsobane Mphahlele, Ramadimetje Mphahlele, and Mmalake Matabane, the lineage of black womxn to whom I owe my being. *Camagwini!*

Abbreviations

ANCWL – African National Congress Women’s League

BMF – Black Management Forum

CDA - Critical Discourse Analysis

DA – Discourse Analysis

FQR – Feminist Qualitative Research

GBV- Gender Based Violence

IDC – Industrial Development Corporation

IMF – International Monetary Fund

IPV- Intimate Partner Violence

NASPERS - Nasionale Pers Besperkt

N-IPV - Non-Intimate Partner Violence

PABASA – Pan African Bar Association of South Africa

QRM - Qualitative Research Methodology

SA – South Africa

SAAN – South African Association Newspapers

TCA - Thematic Content Analysis

TRC – Truth and Reconciliation

TREC – Turfloop Research Ethics Committee

UCT – University of Cape Town

UN – United Nations

VAW - Violence Against Women

WHO – World Health Organisation

Abstract

Introduction – *Framing Femicide* is an intervention through the convergence of politics and the media. This study set out to critically analyse how print media ‘frames’ femicide as a social phenomenon by placing at the centre of critique, politically influenced factors such as language and ownership of the media as the “fourth estate” and exploring how these two factors factor in how the framing of the death (read as femicide) of black womxn is undertaken in selected newspaper houses in South Africa. This study used Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) and agenda setting theory both independently and simultaneously, as theoretical underpinnings. The study explored how language, central to doing critical inquiries, was employed by print media to frame femicide.

Methodology - The study adopted a Qualitative Research outlook deemed “particularly good at examining and developing theories that deal with the role of meanings and interpretations” to conduct what Saidiya Hartman calls “a mode of close narration” by analyzing newspapers as documents. The study sampled the work of Fairclough (1992, 2012, 2013), Wodak (2014), and van Dijk (2015) to craft ways through which CDA can be employed as part of a critical social analysis to interrogate the framing and representing femicide in selected print media houses.

Motivation - The rationale of the study lay in the fact of numbers, which ranked South Africa among the highest nation states where femicide prevails. Scholarship reveals that a woman is murdered every 4 (four) hours, and 57 1% of those murders are done by intimate partners. Owing to this, South Africa’s femicide rate is arguably 5 times higher than the global rate. This warrants an interrogation on how the “fourth estate” as a critical tool in a society is a constituent element which reflects the social realities and power dynamics when framing femicide.

Results – The study found that journalists in their framing of femicide conflate terms that relate to generalized gender-based violence with all-inclusive terms, which by default are not limited to women and specifically to violence against women.

Recommendations – The study recommends that writers, authors, and journalists engaged in news production for print media take caution of the implications of writing about social phenomena and not conflating common terms deployed in framing particular discourses.

Keywords: Femicide, Critical Discourse Analysis, Framing, Newspapers, South Africa.

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

NEWSPAPER REPRESENTATION OF FEMICIDE: A CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS (CDA) OF THE *SUNDAY TIMES* AND *SOWETAN* COVERAGES (2019-2020)

1.1 BACKGROUND AND MOTIVATION

South Africa's history can be read as synonymous with violence and homicide levels that are five times higher than the global average and this distinct feature of violence in South Africa is gendered, with males disproportionately affected both as perpetrators and victims¹. This study interrogated a subset of violence commonly referred to as femicide. The earliest mention of the term in South African activist and literary spaces was by Russell (2011) who defined the phenomenon as "the killing of women because they are women" as what constitutes an element of femicide. Studies on femicide and violence argue that when a woman is killed, it is most likely by an intimate partner and such a variant of homicide, which is known as intimate femicide, 'private femicide' and understood as the extreme consequence of intimate power relations².

Reference to official figures paint a rather unpleasing reality which reveals that a woman is murdered every four hours and after extensive interrogation of the data show that fifty-seven-point one percent (57,1%) of these murders are committed by intimate partners, suggesting that on average, a woman is murdered every three hours³. Considering this, it is safe to suggest in the preliminary that South Africa's black womxn are endangered as a demographic. This study interrogated the critical role of print media in the framing of femicide of black womxn in South Africa. The study employed Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) to unpack the frames through which femicide is represented from the two mainstream print media houses, *Sowetan* and *Sunday Times* from the period 2019-2020. The two years in which this study-maintained focus on, marks a year before the Covid-

¹ Seedat, M. (2009). The Construction of Violence in South African Newspapers: Implications for Prevention. *Peace and Conflict: Journal for Peace Psychology*, 5(2)117-135

² Abrahams, N., Mathews, S., Martin, L., & Lombrad, C. (2012). Every Eight Hours: Intimate Femicide in South Africa 10 Years Later! *South African Medical Research Brief*.

³ Statistics SA (2022).

19 global pandemic and other years that were governed by restrictions in the movement of goods and humans.

The Covid-19 global pandemic also intensified the prevalence of violence in many households with some instances culminating into femicide⁴. The justification is that there are traditional consumers who rely heavily on print media to shape their perceptions and views around discourses and therefore critical engagement with what is written into the phenomenon is a worthy undertaking. Ultimately, this study proposed an engagement with “how to represent ‘universal’ human suffering on a political and social plane so that something would be done. This engagement with framing femicide is born out of the conviction that ‘media can be used in tactical ways to transform local activism into transnational phenomena while insisting on the need to attend to the ongoing experience of colonial violence, born from indigenous dispossession and genocide that threatens the lives of indigenous women’⁵.

Scholars on violence argue that as a society “we have a specific problem of violence against women, particularly sexual violence and fatal violence against women”⁶. Femicide has become an increasing social concern for local communities, international organizations, and national governments. As read through homicide statistics projections, South Africa’s black womxn are endangered as a demographic. The significance of this, I argue, is an intervention geared towards finding justice serving frames for femicide so that the energy committed to ending violence does not go in vain.

1.2 RESEARCH PROBLEM

Femicide has become an increasing social concern for local communities, international organizations, and national governments. As read through homicide statistics projections, South Africa’s black womxn are endangered as a demographic. As a result, it was necessary to look at how the media, often referred to as the fourth estate of governance, which constitutes the “social realities and power”⁷, frame and represent femicide to

⁴ Ndlovu, S., Mulondo, M., Tsoka-Gwegweni, J., & Ndirangu, J. (2022). COVID-19 Impact on Gender-Based Violence among Women in South Africa during Lockdown: A Narrative Review. *African Journal of Reproductive Health*, 26(7), 59-71.

⁵ Risam, R. (2022). *New Digital Worlds: Post-Colonial Digital Humanities in Theory, Praxis and Pedagogy*.

⁶ Brodie, N. (2020). *Femicide in South Africa*. Kwela Books

⁷ Foucault, M. (2023). *Discipline and Punish. Social Theory Re-Wired*. Routledge, 291-299.

address the gap in research that looks into how the media frames the lives of black women who fall victims of violence. The importance of this, I argue, is an intervention geared towards finding justice serving frames for femicide so that the energy committed to ending acts of violence does not go in vain.

News coverage plays a key role in the perpetuation of the structure of dominance, gender, and social class, and the overall coverage of femicide is mainly episodic and described in personal terms rather than within a thematic frame⁸. This is because the news industry effectively educates citizens, shapes public attitudes, and stimulates political action⁹. The representation of femicide in the print media begs for a critical reading to avert the reproduction of frames that perpetuate legacies of violence on black people in the general sense and black womxn in particular.

Radio, television, satellite and most recently, the internet have all forced newspapers to alter the structure and address of their language as they bid to retain a profitable and influential share of the market for news and entertainment¹⁰. This has presented major challenges to the print media and has often led to revisions in the frames in which femicide is represented. The language framing in newspapers always encapsulated in what would sell to audiences and how information could best be packaged and presented to achieve the commercial end at all material times.

1.3 Preliminary Literature Review

Commentary on media discourse around femicide reveals that there are no scholarly engagements that unpack the role of the media in femicide. This is a call for concern since the news media play a substantial role in shaping society's perceptions of social issues, including domestic violence and femicide. Considering this, studies contend that minimal research has been undertaken to read into how the news media frame accounts of femicide within the context of domestic violence. For the media's coverage of violence against women carries the potential to shape public knowledge and opinion about the

⁸ Sela-Shayovitz, R. (2018). "She Knew He Would Murder Her" ; the Role of the Media in the Reconstruction of Intimate Femicide." *Journal of Comparative Social Work* [elektronisk ressurs] 13 - 24–24.

⁹ Clark, R. (2012). *Learning from Media: Arguments, Analysis and Evidence*. (2nd ed). IAP Information Age Publishing

¹⁰ Conboy, M. (2010). *The Language of Newspapers. Socio-Historical Perspectives. Advances in Sociolinguistics*.

issue in ways that may lead to political action. Media reports can also present very critical sources of information about the crime itself, and about the society in which crime takes place. This is because newspapers are littered with indicators that let us know who or what was considered valuable and important or what is considered a threat, not just in a physical place, but also at a particular point in time.

Studies reveal that South Africa rates among the highest on intimate partner violence in the world and South Africa's mass media have been recognized as playing an important role in influencing individual cognitions of social issues, including intimate partner violence (IPV). The study concurs and departs from the observation that few studies have investigated how such violence is represented within the South African media.

The Botswana print media outlets generally do not represent female victims of Intimate Partner Homicide (IPH) in a fair manner as they maintain denigration, degradation, and infantilization of women in their reports¹¹. Kenyan scholars also note that prevalent cases of femicide present the need to explore media coverage to ascertain adherence to the code of conduct for the practice of journalism as well as identify gaps in media coverage of femicide¹². Femicide is regularly presented as an incident, allegedly impossible for anticipation, rather than a tragic epilogue of long-lasting male violence against women which, as such, exists as a part of traditional gendered social relations and roles¹³. Femicide was introduced in the Italian media by feminist groups, and gained momentum as a pressing social problem, and a major narrative of male insecurity¹⁴. Often, politicians and journalists described the phenomenon using terms such as “women slaughter”, “massacre”, “carnage” and “epidemic”¹⁵.

¹¹ Bagai, K., & Faimau, G. (2021). Botswana Print Media and the Representation of Female Victims of Intimate Partner Homicide: A Critical Discourse Analytical Approach. *African Journalism Studies*, 42(1), 17–35. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23743670.2021.1884581>

¹² Research Planning and Strategy Department. (2024). An Analytical Overview of Femicide Reporting in Kenya: January 1st to January 31 2024. Published by the Media Council of Kenya.

¹³ Ibid

¹⁴ Bandelli, D. (2017). Gender: Hegemonic Lens for Making Sense of Violence against Women and Partner Violence. In *Femicide, Gender and Violence* (pp. 33-59). Palgrave Macmillan, Cham.

¹⁵ Ibid

The media, a medium and manifestation of discourse, tell us about and constitute social realities and power¹⁶. Power is central for CDA, as it often analyses the language use of those in power¹⁷, who in the case of this study are print media, and are responsible for the existence of what becomes public discourse on social issues. CDA researchers are interested in the way discourse (re)produces social domination, that is, the power abuse¹⁸ of one group over others, and how dominated groups may discursively resist such abuse, femicide in the context of this study.

1.3 Theoretical Framework

1.3.1 Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA)

This study adopted as its theoretical underpinning Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA)¹⁹, which is defined as the ability to provide the analytical context, skills and tools by which we can study how language constructs constitute and shape the world²⁰. CDA is also viewed in another dimension as an approach to textual commentary that evolved in the 1990s²¹. Its usage in scholarship is to highlight the relationship among the textual or linguistic features of a discourse event, the political processes of text production and distribution within and across a set of discourse events, and the relations of power that constitute the discourse events in context to social practices in which they are embedded²².

CDA is a political act itself, an intervention in the apparently natural flow of talk and text in institutional life that attempts to “interrupt” everyday common sense²³. Furthermore, CDA is regarded as a contemporary framework that attempts to break out of the linguistic/post-structural binary²⁴, as a form of critical social science geared to a better

¹⁶ Foucault, M.(1975). *Discipline and Punish. Social Theory Re-Wired*. Routledge, 291-299.

¹⁷ Wodak, R and Meyer, M. (2001). *Methods of Critical Discourse Analysis*. 2nd ed. Sage Publications.

¹⁸ Wodak, R. & Meyer, M. (2001.) *Methods of Critical Discourse Analysis*. 2nd ed. Sage Publications.

¹⁹ Wodak, R & Meyer, M. (2015). *Methods of Critical Discourse Studies*. 3rd ed. Sage Publications.

²⁰ Barker C & Galasiński D. (2001). *Cultural Studies and Discourse Analysis: A Dialogue on Language and Identity*. Thousand Oaks, CA, Sage Publications.

²¹ Okado-Gough, D. (2017). *Critical Discourse Analysis: Current Approaches and the Advent of multimodality*.

²² Fairclough, N. (1992). *Discourse and Social Order*.

²³ Silverman, M., & Torode, B. (1980). *The Material Word: Some Theories of Language and its Limits*. London: Routledge

²⁴ Luke, A. (1995). Text and Discourse in Education: An Introduction to Critical Discourse Analysis, *Review of Research in Education*, 21, pp.3-48.

understanding of the nature and sources of social wrongs, the obstacles to addressing them and possible ways of overcoming these obstacles²⁵. It is through all the surmised arguments on the position of CDA that this study intended to approach its objectives towards understanding the framing of femicide in the print media. It is argued that CDA represents a growing body of work that adopts the functionalist definition of what is discourse²⁶. This study was preoccupied with the language of writing femicide used primarily in South Africa's print media.

CDA is an interdisciplinary approach to the study of discourse, or put simply, talk and text, that views language as a form of social practice. Scholars working in the tradition of CDA generally argue that (non-linguistic) social practice and linguistic practice constitute one another and focus on investigating how societal power relations are established and reinforced through language use. In this sense, it differs from discourse analysis in that it highlights issues of power asymmetries, manipulation, exploitation, and structural inequities in domains such as education. As statistics indicate that globally, South Africa is ranked the highest in terms of the violence against women²⁷.

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1.3.2 Agenda Setting Theory

It can be used as a supplementary theory offering an alternative lens to reading the politics of print media. Agenda-setting theory plays an important role in the news media

²⁵ Fairclough, N. (2013). *Language and power*. Routledge.

²⁶ Richardson, J. (2017). *Analysing Newspapers: An Approach from Critical Discourse Analysis*.

²⁷ The Center for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (2016). *Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in South Africa: A Brief Review*.

²⁸ The Center for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (2016). *Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in South Africa: A Brief Review*.

by directing which issues receive attention and how they are portrayed²⁹. Agenda-setting refers to the media's ability to influence the importance placed on various issues in the public agenda³⁰.

Agenda setting theories offer an apt approach to abstracting the role and impacts of media representations³¹. These theories contend that while the media may not be able to enforce upon audiences what to think, they can powerfully direct what audiences do or do not think about. As the media evolve into a near-ubiquitous communications body, so they increasingly become a “real” public space in which politics occur for most people³². The agenda setting role of the mass media converges with many other paradigms in the communication field, including framing, priming, gatekeeping, cultivations and the spiral of silence³³. Due to time and space constraints, the mass media focus their attention on a few topics that are deemed newsworthy³⁴.

Considering this, this study explored agenda setting as a practice in which the South African print media are often found to conform to. The study looked at agenda setting as a political theory and as a functioning characteristic of the media, which is instrumental in the content that goes into print agenda, which often plays to a particular agenda. This has an implication on social issues and for femicide as the context of this study. This is because often, political actors are found in the media opining on femicide either through policy advocacy, lip-service to victims, or re-producing what the media say and thus making those bound to appear suffer the burden of representation³⁵.

Agenda setting theories offer an alternative approach to abstracting the role and impact of media representations³⁶. These theories hold that, while the media may not be able to

²⁹Sutherland, G., Easteal, P., Holland, K., & Vaughan, C. (2019). Mediated representations of violence against women in the mainstream news in australia. *BMC Public Health*, 19(1). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-019-6793-2>

³⁰ Adjei-Ohene, K. (2024). Examining the Coverage of Violence Against Women of 1 Color: A Focus on U.S. News Media. *Issues and Perspectives* (6010) CRN: 15603

³¹ McCombs, M. & Valenzuela, S. (2007). The agenda-setting theory. *Cuadernos de información*, (20), pp.44-50.

³² Ross, W.D. (2002). *The Right and the good*. Oxford University Press.

³³ McCombs, M. & Valenzuela, S., (2007). The agenda-setting theory. *Cuadernos de información*, (20), pp.44-50.

³⁴ *ibid*

³⁵ Hartman, S. (2019). *Wayward Lives Beautiful Experience*. Serpent's Tail.

³⁶ Ross, W.D. (2002). *The right and the good*. Oxford University Press.

enforce upon audiences what to think, they can powerfully direct what audiences do or do not think about. Agenda setting theories are popular in analyses of media representations with party political content. As the media evolve into a near-ubiquitous communications body, so they increasingly become a “real” public space in which politics occur for the majority of people.

1. 4 PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

1. 4.1 Aims and Objectives

Aim

This study aimed at exploring the framing of femicide in the South African print media through a CDA lens.

Objectives

- a) Interrogate South Africa's print media history and the underlying politics of racialized media ownership and control;
- b) Mapping the history of print media in South Africa and how language as a historical site, is a constituent element of power over subjected subjects through print media framing
- c) Explore linguistic nuances attendant to framing femicide in South Africa's print media,

1.5 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

1.5.1 Research Design

Qualitative methods have emerged as indispensable tools for garnering deep insights and understanding complex phenomena. It is natural for qualitative researchers to engage in a naturalistic inquiry, thereby studying real-world settings inductively to generate rich narrative descriptions and to construct case studies. Inductive analysis employs the process of abstraction to reduce and group data so that researchers can answer the study questions using concepts, categories or themes which are a fruit of qualitative research.

This qualitative study proposed to generate a deeper understanding of how the print media frame femicide in South Africa. The data sample used in this study was drawn from newspaper articles from two print media houses in South Africa.

1.5.2 Sampling

The data sampled in this exploration was newspaper articles published by two of South Africa's print media houses, namely: *Sunday Times* and *Sowetan*. Purposeful sampling was conducted where newspaper articles that cover subjects from "Gendered-Based-Violence" (GBV), "Intimate-Partner-Violence" (IPV), "Non-Intimate-Partner-Violence" (NIPV), and "the murder of women" and "femicide" were sampled. The researcher purposefully selected or chose appropriate and relevant newspaper articles to analyze the framing of femicide cases related to black womxn in the South Africa print media from 2019-2020. This selection was done through a purposive manner by picking from the digital archive, PressReader, articles which commented on the primary keywords on violence against women. The result of this was a diverse set of newspaper articles authored by journalists, public opinion and gender activist and civil society organizations.

1.5.3 Data Collection

This section of the study outlines the procedural undertaking for the collections of data. It does so by outlining the principles that govern data collection, assures data reliability and other attendant aspects and finally lays out its analysis procedure.

1.5.4 Data Analysis Method and Process

This study employed Qualitative Content Analysis as one of numerous research methods used to analyze text data³⁷. Qualitative content analysis is widely used to evidence the proliferation of gender stereotypes produced and reproduced by the mass media, concentrating mostly on the dire state of under-representation of womxn in the media as well as their objectification as limited sexual and/or domestic beings³⁸. Content analysis in qualitative research describes a family of analytic approaches ranging from

³⁷ Hsieh, H. & Shannon, S. (2005). *Three Approaches to Qualitative Content Analysis*.

³⁸ Zoonen, L. (1994). *Feminist Media Studies*. Sage Publications.

impressionistic, intuitive, and interpretive analysis to systematic, strict textual analysis. This study used both techniques, qualitative and Thematic Content Analysis (TCA) to arrive at its logical conclusion.

This “studying of text” as an inquiry was guided by the principles that govern CDA scholarship on language and communication. Document Analysis (DA) as a systematic procedure for reviewing data or evaluating printed and electronic material³⁹ was used by drawing from the archive newspaper articles that covered femicide cases. The efficiency of CD A requires data selection, instead of data collection and involves skimming, reading, and interpretation of data collected. This made it favorable for this study.

1.5.5. Quality Criteria

The compliance with quality standards in this study was guided by Chowhdry’s seminal work⁴⁰ on principles that govern quality criteria in qualitative research undertakings. These principles include sourcing credible data, and ensuring transferability, dependability, and confirmability. The researcher’s bias and assumptions at no point hampered with the production of scholarly work that adheres to academic integrity and the principles guiding the quality of qualitative research undertakings. Dependable and reliable data sources were drawn to allow scholarly continuity in the field of research.

1.6 Definition of Key Concepts

Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) - Critical Discourse Analysis, casually referred to as CDA, may be as fundamentally concerned with analyzing opaque as well as transparent structures of relationships of dominance, discrimination, power, and control as manifested in language⁴¹.

Discourse- is often used in reference to connected language in general, a realization or an abstraction, which is realized in specific pieces of connected and coherent language, or text⁴².

³⁹ Bowen, A. (2009). 'Document Analysis as a Qualitative Research Method', *Qualitative Research Journal*, vol. 9, no. 2, pp. 27-40. DOI 10.3316/QRJ0902027.

⁴⁰ Chowhdry, I. (2015). *Issue of Qualitative Research: An Overview*.

⁴¹ Wodak, R and Meyer, M. (2001). *Methods of Critical Discourse Analysis*. 2nd Edition. Sage Publications.

⁴² Gunnarsson, L. (2017). Why we Keep Separating the 'Inseparable': Dialecticizing intersectionality. *European Journal of Women's Studies*, 24(2), 114-127.

Discourse Analysis – scholars in the field of CDA argue that “we can think of discourse more generally as the way that language is constructed within social contexts and institutions and works in tandem (two ways) with social norms and values”⁴³.

Femicide - refers to the extreme form of violence against someone belonging to the female gender, i.e. the killing of a woman⁴⁴. The term femicide means the killing of women and girls on account of their gender, perpetrated or tolerated by both private and public actors. It covers, inter alia, the murder of a woman as a result of intimate partner violence, the torture and misogynistic slaying of women, the killing of women and girls in the name of so-called honour and other harmful-practice-related killings, the targeted killing of women and girls in the context of armed conflict, and cases of femicide connected with gangs, organised crime, drug dealers and trafficking in women and girls’⁴⁵.

Gender Based Violence (GBV) – Gender based violence encompasses a wide range of abuses that range from sexual threats, exploitation, humiliation, assaults, molestation, domestic violence, incest, involuntary prostitution, torture, insertion of objects into genital openings to attempted rape⁴⁶.

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) – murder of women/men by an intimate partner and may include but not limited to a current or past partner or a rejected hopeful. World Health Organization’s definition of intimate partner violence is, “behavior within an intimate relationship that causes physical, psychological or sexual harm to those in the relationship.”

Media Construction- defined as the process by which media creators shape, frame, and present information, events, or stories to influence audience perception.

⁴³ Gee, J.P. (2014). *An Introduction to Discourse Analysis: Theory and Method*. (4th ed.). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315819679>

⁴⁴ Cecchi, R., Sassani, M., Agugiaro, G., Caroppo, E., De Lellis, P., Sannella, A., ... & Masotti, V. (2022). A medico-legal definition of femicide. *Legal medicine*, 59, 102101.

⁴⁵ EIGE (2017) ‘Gender Equality Index’, <http://eige.europa.eu/genderequality-index/2015/countries-comparison/index/map>

⁴⁶ Mashiri, L. (2013). Conceptualisation of gender based violence in Zimbabwe.

Non-Intimate Partner Violence (N-IPV) – the murder of women/men by someone other than an intimate partner and may include but is not limited to strangers, family members, friends, and acquaintances.

Violence – a behavior that takes on particular meanings (for perpetrator, victim and others) in relation to the specific social, political, and cultural context in which it is enacted⁴⁷.

Violence Against Women (VAW)- the United Nations defines it as “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women and girls, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary de-privation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life.”

Womxn - defines/related to an inclusive term that refers to cisgender heterosexual women, transgender women, lesbian women, and other queer and feminine defined identities. The study proceeded to using this term to refer to all of the above mentioned and how their death, read as femicide, is framed.

Representation – refers to the visual embodiment of something⁴⁸.

1.7 Chapter Breakdown

Chapter One: Introduction

This chapter, which served as an introduction, presented the overall outline of the study on Framing Femicide in South Africa: A Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) of the *Sunday Times* and *Sowetan* coverages (2019-2020). It served as a precursor to ensuing chapters, which addressed a myriad of issues attendant to the undertaking of this ‘post-colonial’ media inquiry.

Chapter Two: Literature Review: Mapping historical and contemporary questions on media ownership, violence, gender, representation and agenda setting.

⁴⁷ Boyle, K. (2005). *Media and Violence: Gendering the Debates*. Sage Publications. London. Thousand Oaks.

⁴⁸ Williams, R. (2015). *Keywords: A Vocabulary of Culture and Society*. New Edition. Oxford University Press.

The second chapter introduced to the reader the focal areas that the overall study was premised/centered on, being the introduction to the reader, of femicide as a manifestation of violence in a country with deplorable statistics of violence, attached this to the relevance of building critique from context, or rather assume a geographic center of critique, which borrows from historical and material conditions. The chapter after this one served as an extension of the literature review, which attended to particular themes foregrounded by print media and the prevalence of violence. It discusses the boundless subtopics attached to the study's central preoccupation. This chapter and the previous chapter, were tied to the belly in an attempt provide a response to the third objective, which sought out to "*interrogate South Africa's print media history and the underlying politics of racialized media ownership and control*".

Chapter Three: Research Methodology: Using Critical Discourse Analysis as theory and Methodology in Doing Research on Media Critique

This chapter detailed the frameworks which served as guidelines towards bringing to the attention of the reader the research hypothesis. Subsequently, this chapter reflected on how the data was collected, the method underpinning this process, the identified research population, and tools of analysis used in what this chapter did was to identify, collect, clean, analyze, and interpret the data collected.

Chapter Four: Discussing the canon of what now occupies the Sowetan and Sunday Times archive: A historical account of South Africa's print media

Chapter Four detailed the process of data analysis by leading discussions on the canon of what now occupies the Sowetan and Sunday Times archive: Disentangling the data covering the 'murder' read as femicide of black womxn in South Africa's print media. This chapter investigated the inherent meaning of the research data obtained from the empirical study to allow for a logical interpretation of the data, which ensued in the next chapter.

Chapter Five: Results and Analysis: Interpreting the canon that now occupies the archive: Disentangling the data covering the 'murder' read as femicide of black womxn in South Africa's selected print media

The sixth chapter of this study dealt with the findings of the study through building discussions, prescribing recommendations, and limitations. This chapter was undertaken to test the hypothesis and respond to established research objectives. The next chapter handled the conclusion and recommendations of this study.

Chapter Six: Discussions, Recommendations, Limitations and Conclusion

This concluding chapter puts into detail the overall conclusions of this research undertaking, outlines the limitations which confronted this undertaking, and proceeds to prescribe recommendations for future research on violence against women and femicide as the highest form of such violence. This summary and discussion of the results, outlines the contribution of the research in the body knowledge on violence against women. This was done by discussing various contexts under which femicide prevails.

1.8 Conclusion

Chapter one intended to serve as a launchpad by providing for the reader a brief yet succinct introduction to Framing Femicide in South Africa: A Critical Discourse Analysis of the *Sunday Times* and *Sowetan* newspapers (2019-2020). The ensuing chapter brings to the attention of the reader key areas of discussion in this study, which include, but are not limited to, laying out basic comprehensions on femicide as violence, assuming positionality through introducing the geography in which the violence takes place and finally propose to the reader how to read on femicide and violence in South Africa by taking stock of the context and subsequent implications on discourse formation.

CHAPTER TWO

MAPPING HISTORICAL AND CONTEMPORARY QUESTIONS ON MEDIA OWNERSHIP, VIOLENCE, GENDER, REPRESENTATION, AND AGENDA SETTING

2.1 Introduction

This chapter attends to the study's first objective (a), which intended to interrogate South Africa's print media history and the underlying politics of ownership and control. In doing so, the study wrestled with bodies of work on femicide and the media in relation to the framing and representation of femicide of black womxn⁴⁹ in South Africa. It departs by breathing life into the question of inquiry by finding a more comprehensive meaning. It then proceeds to discuss the basic tenets of the social orders that make possible the eventuality that is femicide. In this instance, the researcher discusses the formation of a state and its relation to violence on the black bodies in South Africa as a physical marker of conquer and conquest. The study then looks at how the state's role in the formation of the print media in South Africa, often referred to as the 'fourth estate' with racist intentions to propagate English and Afrikaner Nationalism/Broerderbond.

This chapter engages with conversations on femicide, Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Violence Against Women (VAW), media representation and framing, and the critical role of the media in harmonizing all in the pursuit of justice and equality. The chapter will draw from leading scholars on femicide, such as Brodie (2020) and Spies (2020), among others. Ultimately, this chapter engages with literature on the history of the media in South Africa, politics of language developments, race as class as determinants for framing femicide, attends to the ideological and moral questions emanating from femicide, politics

⁴⁹ Womxn defines/related to an inclusive term that refers to cisgender heterosexual women, transgender women, lesbian women, and other queer and feminine defined identities. I proceeded to using this term to refer to all of the above mentioned and how their death, read as femicide is framed.

of representation, power as discourse and discourse as power and ultimately the politics of frame formation.

2.2 Defining femicide

The objective in this chapter was to of the study, which intended to interrogate South Africa's print media history and the underlying politics of ownership and control by looking at 'the social order which tolerated the violent death of women' in an attempt to 'denote a political intention that came to represent not only a feminist targeting of patriarchal hegemony, but also a significant global challenge of a major order. Existing literature on femicide proves to be limited in that its focus is on locations with high rates of femicide, which may exclude cases of femicide that do not directly fall in line with 'any such unequivocal occurrences'⁵⁰.

Understanding femicide and the media's role in undoing this violence requires one to take stock of the geo-political space in which one finds themselves. The term might have a common denominator but is not often constructed in the similar way; for Global South countries confronted with legacies of violence, Latin America countries refers to the phenomenon as feminicide⁵¹.

Femicide is regularly presented as an incident, allegedly impossible for anticipation, rather than a tragic epilogue of long-lasting male violence against womxn which, as such, exists as a part of traditional gendered social relations and roles⁵². The murder of women by their partners are rarely classified as femicide, and how the media's portrayal of these murders fails to convey the systemic nature of violence against womxn that also entrenches racial and class-based oppression by seemingly valuing some lives more than others⁵³.

⁵⁰ Branch, D. (2019). "Femicide in the News: How Newspaper Articles Represent the Killing of Women and Girls in Detroit and ciudad Juarez. Honours Theses. 3151.
https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/honors_theses/3151

⁵¹ Tuentes, L. (2020). "*The Garbage of Society*": *Disposable Women and Socio-Spatial Scripts of Femicide in Guatemala*.

⁵² Zorica, M. (2014) "Femicide in Media." *Temida*, 17(1), 81–96. Web.

⁵³ Spies, A. (2020). The Portrayal of Victims of Intimate Femicide in the South African Media. *Journal of Media Studies*, 12(1), 41-59.

Ultimately what all these constitute has consolidated what is now termed “femicide machine”, read as an apparatus that did not just create the conditions for the murders of dozens of women and the little girls, but developed the institutions that guaranteed impunity for those crimes and even legalized them⁵⁴. But, by and large, the study argues that femicide is not a standalone phenomenon but has a strong relationship with structural violence in society⁵⁵.

2.3 Locating South Africa with violence

By definition the word ‘violence’ is defined as behavior designed to inflict injury to people or damage to property. South Africa as a nation state is rich with a history of violence, which can be traced from as early as the dawn of colonialism and the creation of a settler colony. This violence was seen through the protracted wars against settler colonialism waged by the indigenous communities against first the British crown and later against the Dutch trading company, and was buried with the legacies of apartheid in the emerging democracy under the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). That violence continues to date and takes varying forms and shapes.

2.4 The idea of frames as context and discourse formation

As part of the methodological process, this study made use of newspaper articles to interrogate framing and representation, since visuals come in handy in framing subtle messages⁵⁶ to try to isolate some of the basic frameworks of understanding in our society for making sense out of events and to analyze the special vulnerabilities to which these frames of reference are subject⁵⁷. In this study, the intention was to approach framing as a constructive practice capable of generating varying perspectives and perceptions which influences the ‘social order’ that prescribes and regulates violence in South Africa.

⁵⁴ Roy, C.M., Bukuluki, P., Casey, S. E., Jagun, M.O., John, N.A., Mabhena, N., & McGovern, T. (2022). Impact of COVID-19 on Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Response Services in Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria, and South Africa: A Cross-Sectional Survey. *Frontiers in Global Women's Health*, 2, 780771.

⁵⁵ Leite, T.H., Marques, E.S., Corrêa, R.G., Leal, M.D.C., Olegário, B.D.C.D., Costa, R.M.D., & Mesenburg, M.A. (2024). Epidemiology of Obstetric Violence: A Narrative Review of the Brazilian Context. *Ciência & Saúde Coletiva*, 29, e12222023.

⁵⁶ Burgoon, J.K., Buller, D.B., & Woodall, W.G. (1996). *Nonverbal Communication: The Unspoken Dialogue*. McGraw Hill. New York.

⁵⁷ Goffman, E. (1974). *Frame Analysis: An Essay on the Organization of Experience*. Northeastern UP.

Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) represents a growing body of work that adopts the functionalist definition of discourse⁵⁸ in an attempt to make an understanding and a reading of femicide framing in South Africa. CDA may be as fundamentally concerned with analyzing opaque as well as transparent structures of relationships of dominance, discrimination, power, and control as manifested in language⁵⁹. Its usage in scholarship is to highlight the relationship among the textual or linguistic features of a discourse event, the political processes of text production and distribution within and across a set of discourse events, and the relations of power that constitute the discourse events in context to social practices in which they are embedded⁶⁰. CDA, as a result, becomes a critical tool to interrogate in the framing of femicide, shaping the socio-political linguistic frameworks of activism and gender relations.

While a lot has been written on femicide and GBV in South Africa, a lot of work still needs to be done around the relationship between femicide and the media having given a background of print media in South Africa. Moreover, this was precisely aided by CDA to analyze how language as a discursive element is used as a tool of power to navigate around the discourse. The most important understanding we need to establish is around the discussion on whether we label this social ill as Femicide or simply as GBV, which has become a fabric and defining factor of our society.

When a woman or child is killed, she is most likely to be murdered by an intimate partner or a related individual. This form of homicide, known as intimate femicide, is conceptualized to be the most extreme consequence of intimate power relations⁶¹. South Africa is an extraordinarily violent country with homicide levels five times higher than the global average⁶². A distinct feature of violence in South Africa is its gendered nature, with males disproportionately affected both as perpetrators as well as victims of violence.⁶³

⁵⁸ Richardson, J. (2017). *Analyzing Newspapers: An Approach from Critical Discourse Analysis*.

⁵⁹ Wodak, R., & Meyer, M. (2001). *Methods of Critical Discourse Analysis*. 2nd Edition. Sage Publications.

⁶⁰ Fairclough, N. (1992). *Discourse and Social Order*.

⁶¹ Matthews, R., & Ross, E. (2010). *Research Methods: A Practical Guide for Social Sciences*.

⁶² Seedat, M. (2009). "The Construction of Violence in South African Newspapers: Implications for Prevention". *Peace and Conflict: Journal for Peace Psychology*, 5(2)117-135

⁶³ Krug, E.G. (2002). World Report on Violence and Health. *World Health Organization*, 12.

There seems to be a problematic element in how the South African media construct the femicide that occurs in separate instances but seems organized and consistent. This problematic construction uses language as a discursive practice. Furthermore, it cuts across race and class and is hidden under the veil of language. As outlined through the topic, this study was firstly preoccupied with generating an understanding first of what constitutes frames and secondly, how frame construction or representation is detrimental in writing about a socio-political phenomenon such as femicide. The researcher's conviction is that "the framing of violence against women is the obligation of media practitioners and journalists to prevent the crime"⁶⁴.

2.5 Locating violence in the social and political landscape of South Africa

In South Africa's history and transition to "democracy", parallel hierarchies of militarism (one state, one liberation) became entrenched and, with them, cultures of violence, which for Brodie moved almost seamlessly between the violence of politics, the violence of crime, and violence in the home⁶⁵. Furthermore, the emergence of Pretoria as the white murder capital of the world, with whites murdering at most black people, consistent with the colonial culture, from the late 1970s to the early 1990s, and the subsequent surge of black male suicides, homicide-suicides and family killings from the mid-1980s onward were directly tied not just to political tension and a growing 'culture of violence', but were directly and undeniably linked to increased access to firearms⁶⁶. It is the same firearms that continue to this day; to facilitate the senseless killing of womxn in South Africa, Reeve Steenkamp is one but example of the ramifications of having firearms in the wrong hands.

Scholars of violence borrow from history to argue that it tells the same story in South Africa - how guns escalate violence, not the other way around⁶⁷. Furthermore, reminds us of the fact that the first firearms in South Africa were brought in by colonizers⁶⁸. However, this study will not attempt to reduce the argument to the state's lack of inability to regulate gun ownership. As a matter of fact, guns are just one of the many causal

⁶⁴ Grzyb, M., Naudi, M., & Marcuello-Servós, C. (2018). Femicide Definitions. In *Femicide across Europe* (pp. 17-32). Policy Press.

⁶⁵ Brodie, N. (2020). *Femicide in South Africa*. Kwela Books

⁶⁶ *ibid*

⁶⁷ *ibid*

⁶⁸ *ibid*

factors of femicide, which relies heavily on ownership. But, the nature and case of Catherine Modisane or that of Uyinene Mrwetyana is one to really be used to point out the fact that there is no need to put more guns in the hands of womxn to deal with or counter femicide.

2.5. South Africa's Print Media: The Historical Background

The earliest and largest publishing company organized in South Africa and created with the intention to build institutions that would popularize a white minority state propaganda after the declaration of the Union of South Africa in 1910 was Naspers. But, before this move by the Dutch settlers, there existed the *Cape Argus* traceable in the last quarter of the 18th century⁶⁹. The “fourth estate” defined as free media in democratic states⁷⁰, mostly in emerging democracies, is known to have been and was then realized through the formation of entities such as Naspers, the South African Association Newspapers (SAAN), Argus Company and Johnnic Communication (JohnCom). The earliest of such entities established as forerunner to South Africa's print media was founded in 1915, as De Nasionale Pers Beperkt (National Press Ltd). It is important to get this matter clarified since it has gone on to inform the print media we now have in South Africa. True to the nature of all media houses of that period, Naspers was formed and controlled by white Afrikaner men committed to pushing state propaganda and agenda-setting. This legacy continued into the post-apartheid South Africa, and it seems Sowetan was not immune to this, as scholars argued that “even though the Sowetan is a black newspaper in terms of its personnel composition, it however reflects the patriarchal nature of the South African society.”⁷¹

The South African press at that time reflected the Afrikaner and English politics of the country⁷². But this was not only limited to politics but also included the representation of

⁶⁹ Ansell, G. (2005). *Soweto Blues. Jazz, Popular Music and Politics in South Africa*. Continuum.

⁷⁰ Burak, B. (2018). *Media Discourse, Ideology and Print Media in Turkey*.

⁷¹ Nodoba, T. (2011). *The Political Role of Black Women Journalists in Post-Apartheid South Africa: Sowetan (1994-1999)* (Doctoral dissertation, Stellenbosch: Stellenbosch University).

⁷² Chimutengwende, C. (1978). *South Africa: the Press and the Politics*.

many other discourses that are represented differently, and femicide has been no exception since then and now. This study was set in post-apartheid South African print media and was not oblivious to the fact that the media we have today is but a successor to Naspers. What stands out the most is the fact that during both political eras, the media remains under the control of the same social, racial, and economic class.

2.6. *Maybe the problem is with my language: Making sense of “the semantics and pragmatics of preposing”*⁷³ media representation

Notes on Language

Our language builds our thoughts and is a powerful tool to describe the world⁷⁴. While functionalist discourse analysts argue that if language use contributes to the reproduction of social life, then, logically, it must play a part in production and reproducing social inequalities⁷⁵. This study initially proposed to read into what has been written and relegated to the archive to propose alternative ways of framing femicide that might yield a richer way of undoing violence in South Africa.

Moving from the premise that historically political interventions in support of popular causes effected a division between the language of the politically respectable bourgeois newspaper and that of radical periodical pamphlets in the first half of the nineteenth century, which has been seen as the zenith of the ‘publicists’ in print⁷⁶. Language users, and subsequently newspaper readers, have the important capacity to tell what a text or conversation was about⁷⁷.

South Africa has twelve official languages, two of them not indigenous, with a direct history to settler colonialism and subsequently the violence it carried through. Historically and to date, both languages, English and Afrikaans, have taken turns in riding on the privilege of enforced categorization as official languages of instruction to the colonized subject, has informed state communications protocol, adopted wholly as a language of

⁷³ Ward, G.L. (1988). *The Semantics and Pragmatics of Preposing* (1st ed.). Routledge.

<https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315536996>

⁷⁴ Grzyb, M., Naudi, M., & Marcuello-Servós, C. (2018). Femicide definitions. In *Femicide across Europe* (pp. 17-32). Policy Press.

⁷⁵ Richardson, J. (2017). *Analysing Newspapers: An Approach from Critical Discourse Analysis*.

⁷⁶ Chalaby, K. (1998). *The Invention of Journalism*. MacMillan Press.

⁷⁷ Van Dijk, T. (1985). *Handbook of Discourse Analysis*. London and New York.

trade in the fourth estate until the later emergence of a black press that report in indigenous languages. The media, read by and large as the fourth estate, was no exception. This was the case with Naspers, the newspaper conglomerate founded to push white state propaganda over the interests of the majority, who were black.

So, it began that in South Africa over the many years of history, of the twelve official languages, English has gone to become the predominant language of instruction over the nine, which would be categorized as domestic/indigenous languages. This facilitated an erasure of the people whose languages are grossly overlooked by the state. This overlooking has transcended into the post-apartheid state character. But then what is the use of language in understanding femicide? And most importantly, in the South African context, Branch (2019) branches out further in pointing this out by taking a position that language is used to describe acts of femicide, domestic homicide, and intimate partner homicide in newspapers⁷⁸. He secondly points out that “language use is vital in the construction of a social problem, but more importantly, how society responds to the problem”⁷⁹.

Language, sources, and contexts are vastly important in constructing news stories on crime and justice, as these factors demonstrate which subjects are considered to be newsworthy. Thus, an examination of femicide and violence against women in the news is vital in the understanding of how news media report on violence against women, subsequently shaping public opinion and further public policy⁸⁰. The scholar extends the argument by positing that “existing femicide literature proves to be limited in that its focus is on locations which high rates of femicide, which may exclude cases of femicide that do not directly fall in line with ‘any such unequivocal occurrences’”⁸¹.

Newsworthiness is further socially constructed because the decision that which stories are newsworthy goes beyond one reporter or journalist; all that the decision is influenced

⁷⁸ Branch, D. (2019). “Femicide in the News: How Newspaper Articles Represent the Killing of Women and Girls in Detroit and ciudad Juarez. Honours Theses. 3151. https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/honors_theses/3151

⁷⁹ *ibid*

⁸⁰ *ibid*

⁸¹ *Ibid*

by values, beliefs, and bureaucracy as well⁸² and to this effect, “competition, deadlines, reporters’ ambitions, what sells, journalistic traditions, racism, sexism, class prejudice, bias of sources, reporters’ opinions, manipulation, and hierarchy in the newspaper”⁸³.

2.7. Is it because my name is Catherine Modisane? Looking at race and class in creating mega cases

Consumers of mass media are bombarded with ideas about various racial groups due to the power that mass media holds to create, enforce, and reproduce stereotypes and racial ideologies.⁸⁴ Understanding what mega cases mean brings one sooner to the call from Feminist and critical media studies perspectives to provide an understanding of hegemonic discourses of gendered violence in media discourse⁸⁵. In light of such realities and calls to action it is important to submit the observation that femicide cases which dominate public discourse based on how they are frequently represented in multiple forms of media such as print media, radio, television, and contemporary multimedia forms may be categorized as mega cases owed to how forms of media, newspapers in the context of this study, report on them over a prolonged period. This is oftentimes a subject of the victim’s racial and class position in a society.

To put context to this I turn to the story of Catherine Modisane, a black woman, who unfortunately died in what is often referred to as BnB in South Africa’s real estate lexicon. By the time of her death, she was married to South African musician popularly known as Pitch Black Afro. The slang refers to facilities that offer bed and breakfast and must be read along the first three lines in the song from Louis Armstrong⁸⁶ all point to a cold bed on which one meets their ultimate death. This story is also important an observation based on the class position of the place the murder took place, it was not in a five star posh hotel in an upper class neighborhood which would’ve drawn the attention of media

⁸² Taylor, R. (2009). Slain and Slandered. *Homicide Studies*, 13(1), 21-49. doi:10.1177/1088767908326679

⁸³ Ibid

⁸⁴ Abraham, L., & Appiah, O. (2006). Framing news stories: The role of visual imagery in priming racial stereotypes. *The Howard Journal of Communications*, 17, 183-203.

⁸⁵ Jackson, S. (2013). Framing Megan Williams: Intersecting Discourses of Race, Class, and Gender in Television News Coverage of Racialized Rape. Annenberg School for Communication. Departmental Papers (ASC). University of Pennsylvania

⁸⁶ [Louis Armstrong – \(What Did I Do to Be So\) Black and Blue? Lyrics | Genius Lyrics](#)

practitioners from close and afar but a lower class facility often geographically displaced from media practitioners on a national scale.

Race has always been a significant sociological theme, and the media cannot be viewed outside of its lens⁸⁷. Other scholars view race as a complicated multiplicity of identifications producing, reproducing, and transforming identifications under changing social and historical circumstances⁸⁸. It is no exception that a specific race in South Africa founded the media and specifically, the print media, as white imaginations to spread news, and at state level state propaganda. What followed what the use of a language that promoted through it all that is white culture, this would mean the reproduction of even unjustified myths such as Cobbing (1998) who argued that Mfecane was “a characteristic product of South African liberal history used by the apartheid state to legitimate South Africa’s racially unequal division⁸⁹.”

Global South criteria for news coverage are often reversed, that race, class and one’s location determine exactly how a certain case is represented in the media⁹⁰. Women of colour are undeniably affected by violence against them, and the effects can even continue long after the violence has stopped or discontinued⁹¹. Often representation is determined by one’s class to receive better media coverage, e.g., the case of Reeva Steenkamp generated a global media response and attention in comparison to that of Catherine Modisane who was “allegedly” killed by her husband, Thulani Ngcobo, popularly known as Pitch Black Afro⁹². The case did not attract much media attention because as Nechama Brodie in her seminal work *Femicide in South Africa* argues, one’s

⁸⁷ Winant, H. (2000). Race and Race Theory. *Annual Review of Sociology*, 26, 169-185. Retrieved June 24, 2021, from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/223441>

⁸⁸ Walker (2005). Walker, M. (1998). Academic Identities: Women on a South African Landscape. *British Journal of Sociology of Education*, 19(3), 335–354. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0142569980190304>

⁸⁹ Cobbing, J. (1988). The Mfecane as Alibi: Thoughts on Dithakong and Mbolompo. *The Journal of African History*, 29(3), 487-519. doi:10.1017/S002185370003059

⁹⁰ Brodie, N. (2020). *Femicide*. Kwela Books.

⁹¹ Dutton, M., James, L., Langhorne, A., & Kelley, M. (2015). Coordinated public health initiatives to address violence against women and adolescents. *Journal of Women's Health*, 24(1), 80–85. <https://doi.org/10.1089/jwh.2014.4884>

⁹² Zulu, T. (2020). ‘Rapper Pitch Black Afro Guilty of Culpable Homicide for Wife’s death’. *Oudtshoorn Courant.Com*. 18 June 2020. Available at: <https://www.oudtshoorncourant.com/News/Article/National/rapper-pitch-black-afro-guilty-of-culpable-homicide-for-wife-s-death-202006180240>. Accessed on 29/10/2020

race and class can be an important determinant of news coverage⁹³. This kind of coverage doesn't give a broader understanding of the issue because it's limited to a smaller section of a systemic problem⁹⁴. But this kind of representation shall be critically engaged in Chapter Four of the study.

2.8 Making sense of the senseless: Understanding Femicide

Femicide can be well understood as a senseless act with no moral or ethical consideration. However, other scholars further define femicide as the killing of females by males because they are female⁹⁵. Femicides are violent deaths of women resulting from power struggles between men and women⁹⁶. Femicide has been investigated from different perspectives and throughout a variety of disciplines, such as psychology, sociology, and political movements, which include feminism. To understand femicide, we need to understand how each discipline has framed and analyzed the problem⁹⁷.

For this study, femicide was understood as a term adopted by Latin American feminists, describes woman-killing rooted in gendered power structures and produced by patriarchal and social organizations of gender⁹⁸. Such social organizations, as this study interrogates, fall short of being critical of the conditions they represent in their reporting, femicide.

While a lot has been written on femicide and GBV in South Africa, a lot of work still needs to be undertaken around looking into the representation of femicide in the media. Moreover, precisely engaging Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) to interrogate how language as a discursive element is used as a tool of power to frame discourses is crucial. What is particularly important is the need to establish an understanding on whether we

⁹³ Brodie, N. (2020). *Femicide in South Africa*. Kwela Books

⁹⁴ Adjei-Ohene, K. (2024). Examining the Coverage of Violence Against Women of 1 Color: A Focus on U.S. News Media. Issues and Perspectives (6010) CRN: 15603

⁹⁵ Russell, D. (2011). *Femicide. The Power of a Name*.

⁹⁶ Meneghel, S., Ceccon, R., Hesler, L., Margarites, A., da Silva, S., & Vasconcelos, V. (n.d). Femicide: Narratives of Gender Crimes. Postgraduate Public Health Program, Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS), Rua São Manoel.

⁹⁷ Saccomano, C. (2015). *The Causes of Femicide in Latin America*. Institut Barcelona Estudis Internacionals.

⁹⁸ Fregoso, R. & Bejarano, C. (2010). Introduction: A Cartography of Feminicide in the Américas. In R. Fregoso & C. Bejarano (Ed.), *Terrorizing Women: Feminicide in the Americas* (pp. 1-42). New York, USA: Duke University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1515/9780822392644-003>

label this social ill as Femicide or simply as GBV, which has become a fabric and defining factor of our society.

This study acknowledges the interrelation between GBV and femicide and locates femicide as the extreme manifestation of GBV. It also acknowledges the prevalence of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), which describes physical or sexual assault, or both, of a spouse or sexual intimate partner⁹⁹.

The news media play an important role in shaping society's perceptions of social issues, including domestic violence. Some scholars argue that minimal research has been conducted to examine whether news media frame stories of femicide within the context of domestic violence¹⁰⁰. Accordingly, public issues grow up around private troubles when the experiences of individuals are understood as exemplifying a larger social problem, and the news media, in particular, are positioned to play a vital role in the construction of such problems¹⁰¹. Arguments posit that journalists' word choice or language also influences the framing of domestic violence¹⁰². Word selection in both the title/headline and throughout an article can potentially influence the general public's understanding of an event and the participants involved.

In a paper titled "*Social representation of intimate partner violence in the South African media*", Isaacs argues that South Africa has one of the highest rates of intimate partner violence in the world¹⁰³. The South African mass media have been recognized as playing an important role in influencing individual cognitions of social issues, including IPV. He further argues that, and this is very important as it is a motivating element of this study,

⁹⁹ Campbell, J. (2002). Health Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence. *The Lancet*, 359(9314), pp.1331-1336.

¹⁰⁰ Gillespie, L.K., Richards, T. N., Givens, E.M., & Smith, M.D. (2013). Framing Deadly Domestic Violence: Why the Media's Spin Matters in Newspaper Coverage of Femicide. *Violence Against Women*, 19(2), 222-245. doi:10.1177/1077801213476457

¹⁰¹ Best, J. (1999). *Random Violence: How we Talk about New Crimes and New Victims*. Univ of California Press.

¹⁰² Bullock, C. F., & Cubert, J. (2002). Coverage of domestic violence fatalities by newspapers in Washington State. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 17(5), 475-499.

¹⁰³ Isaacs, D. H. (2016). Social representations of intimate partner violence in the South African media. *South African Journal of Psychology*, 46(4), 491-503.

“however, few studies have investigated how such violence is represented within the South African media.”¹⁰⁴.

What this study wanted to look into were the kinds of representations, in the linguistic sense, frame femicide. Brodie (2020) lists “man, cop, husband, traffic cop, warder” are listed as some of the words that are front liners in reporting cases of femicide; often these words are followed by “shoots, fatally shoots, guns, kills.”¹⁰⁵ The media’s coverage of violence against women as ‘de-gendering’ the problem whilst ‘engendering’ the blame¹⁰⁶.

The term femicide is used in reference to “all killing of women, regardless of perpetrator status.”¹⁰⁷ Oftentimes, when a womxn is killed, she is most likely to be murdered by an intimate partner. This form of homicide, known as intimate femicide, is conceptualized to be the most extreme consequence of intimate power relations¹⁰⁸. Femicide is the killing of womxn and girls for being women and girls¹⁰⁹. South Africa is an extraordinarily violent country with homicide levels five times higher than the global average¹¹⁰. A distinct feature of violence in South Africa is its gendered nature, with males disproportionately affected both as perpetrators as well as victims of violence¹¹¹.

With that argument, it should serve as sufficient grounds to explore how the media constructs, represents, and frames femicide. This study was not centered on IPV since this type of violence can be perpetrated by both partners but focused specifically on femicide. Accordingly, femicide or feminicide was introduced in the Italian media by feminist groups and gained momentum as a pressing social problem, exposed by the media as a major narrative of male insecurity¹¹². Politicians and journalists alike

¹⁰⁴ *ibid*

¹⁰⁵ Brodie, N. (2020). *Femicide In South Africa*. Kwela Books

¹⁰⁶ Barnes, M. D., Hanson, C. L., Novilla, L. M., Meacham, A. T., McIntyre, E., & Erickson, B. C. (2008). Analysis of media agenda setting during and after Hurricane Katrina: Implications for emergency preparedness, disaster response, and disaster policy. *American journal of public health*, 98(4), 604-610.

¹⁰⁷ Campbell, J. & Runyan, C. W. (1998). ‘Femicide: Guest Editors’ Introduction’, *Homicide Studies*, 2(4), pp. 347–352. doi: 10.1177/1088767998002004001.

¹⁰⁸ Abrahams, N., Mathews, S., R., Martin, L., & Lombrad, C. (2012). *Every Eight Hours: Intimate Femicide in South Africa 10 Years Later!* South African Medical Research Brief.

¹¹⁰ Seedat, M. (2009). “The Construction of Violence in South African Newspapers: Implications for Prevention”. *Peace and Conflict: Journal for Peace Psychology*, 5(2)117-135

¹¹¹ *ibid*

¹¹² Bandelli, D. (2017). Gender: Hegemonic Lens for Making Sense of Violence against Women and Partner Violence. In *Femicide, Gender and Violence* (pp. 33-59). Palgrave Macmillan, Cham.

described the phenomenon with terms such as women slaughter, massacre, carnage and epidemic.

Content analysis on how the media portray victims of sex crimes, notes that language pertaining to women is often highly sexualised and promotes traditional representations of females or gender stereotypes¹¹³. It is imperative that journalists utilise language that avoids victim blaming when reporting on domestic violence¹¹⁴. While journalists should avoid the use of some types of language, they must also be sure to include others. Making this type of distinction of the relationship between the victim and the offender is important for accurately portraying the context of intimate partner abuse that culminates into femicide¹¹⁵.

In terms of discourse, the media (a medium and manifestation of discourse) tells us about what constitutes social realities and power¹¹⁶. On the role of media's role in normalizing roles scholarship contend that the fervent attention granted to the impacts of media representations on children, in particular, can be attributed to the theme's invocation of moral and ideological assumptions that the social constitution of children and, by unspoken extension, adults. In the contexts of this body of work, the assumptions will be navigated around womxn¹¹⁷.

The location of a mental model also explains another fundamental property of discourse meaning its incompleteness. Semantically speaking, a discourse is like the tip of an iceberg; only some of the propositions needed to understand a discourse are expressed; most other propositions remain implicit and must be inferred from the explicit propositions (given a body of world knowledge). In the case of micro sociologists, discourse analysts deal primarily with text and talk, and hence with a typical 'micro' dimension of society¹¹⁸. CDA is mainly interested in the discursive reproduction of social inequality. Discourse is

¹¹³ Benedicts, R. (1993). *Patterns of Culture: An Analysis of Our Social Structure as Related to Primitive Civilizations*.

¹¹⁴ Meyers, M. (1997). *News Coverage of Violence against women: Engendering Blame*

¹¹⁵ *ibid*

¹¹⁶ Foucault, M.(1975) *Discipline and punish."* *Social theory re-wired*. Routledge. 291-299.

¹¹⁷ Buckingham, D.(2003). *Media Education: Literacy, Learning and Contemporary Culture*.

¹¹⁸ Meyer, J.C. (2000). Humor as a double-edged sword: Four functions of humor in communication. *Communication theory*, 10(3), 310-331.

inherently part of both cognition and situations. Furthermore, discursive acts are by definition social acts.

Stott and King (1977) on their contribution to debate and struggle over images of women in the media, commented that “this last decade which referred to 1967 to 1977 had seen few books attempting to develop our understanding of the representation of women in media, its relationship to women’s employment in radio, television, or journalism, or the ways that women ‘read’ or understand broadcast programs or articles”. “Bodies of work on feminist theory and feminist media scholarship is a body of work through which we can trace a number of interwoven narratives or histories”.

It is important for any society to pay close attention to femicide and the existential curve it has created and continues to grow in the society unabated. One of the greatest challenges for studies on femicides in Brazil is the lack of official data, which prevents a view of the contexts and situations in which these femicides occur¹¹⁹. We would add that the barriers include non-classification of femicide in the law, as well as the categorization thereof as a common crime, rather than a heinous crime, as demanded by some feminists, considering that it represents veritable genocide of women¹²⁰.

2.9 Why representation matters and should be interrogated

Representation is ultimately based on practice, on what people make of the discourse¹²¹. It is on such a premise, that there arises need for a society to interrogate the kind of ‘practice’ and of ‘what people do’ in the context of media practitioners and outlets in South Africa in their understanding of/and representation of femicide. The primacy, as Wodak and Meyer (2000) argue, of practice keeps asserting itself. This primacy may extend also to those who might be writing articles for newspaper outlets which this study is interrogating.

¹¹⁹ Pasinato, W. (2013). “Femicídios” e as mortes de mulheres no Brasil. Cad. Pagu, n.37, p.219-46, 2011. Disponível em: . Acesso em: 19 ago. 2013.

¹²⁰ Meneghel, S; Ceccon, R; Hesler, L; Margarites, A; da Silva, S, & Vasconcelos, V. (n.d). Femicide: Narratives of Gender Crimes. Postgraduate Public Health Program, Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS), Rua São Manoel.

¹²¹ Wodak, R and Meyer, M. (2001). Methods of Critical Discourse Analysis. 2nd Edition. Sage Publications.

As an attempt to understand the ideological position of representation as embodied through visual discourse it is worthy to borrow a method to read representation as a discursive ideological undertaking from the work of Pierre Bourdieu (1972) on *Outline of theory of practice*, which indulges the reader on the primacy of practice and the fundamental difference between, participant knowledge and ‘outsider’ knowledge¹²². And Malowski (1923) in the seminal text *The problem of meaning in primitive languages* labors to demonstrate how representation originates in action and use of language that are inextricably interwoven with action, and how action is twice recontextualized, first as representation, in ‘narrative speech’ and then in the construction of new realities, in the language of ritual and magic. This is done through arguing that “language in its developed literary and scientific functions is an instrument of thought and of the communication of thought”¹²³

In what would be a fitting response to the question on why representation matter and should be attended to as a site of inquiry, Nechama Brodie in her seminal text on femicide in South and its subsequent framing narrative, argues that media reports can be a very rich source of information about the crimes themselves, femicide in this case, and about the societies in which these crimes takes place- because newspapers are full of indicators that let us know who or what was considered valuable and important or what was considered valuable and important or what was considered a threat, not just in a physical place, but even at a particular point in time¹²⁴. Representation produces discourse which is often ventilated in the public arena through various outlets such as the media. The ensuing discussion brings to the fore how discourse factors in the framing of femicide.

2.10 Discourse and power in understanding femicide in print media representation

The interrelationship between discourse and power in understanding femicide and subsequently how the media represents the violent social phenomenon is not one to be overlooked as a field requiring rigorous critical inquiry. This argument is credited to the

¹²² Bourdieu P. Translator’s foreword. Nice R, trans. In: *Outline of a Theory of Practice*. Cambridge Studies in Social and Cultural Anthropology. Cambridge University Press; 1977:vii-viii.

¹²³ Malinowski, B. (1923). *The Problem of Meaning in Primitive Languages*. In C. K. Ogden, & I. A. Richards (Eds.), *The Meaning of Meaning* (pp. 296-336). London: K. Paul, Trend, Trubner.

¹²⁴ Brodie, N. (2020). *Femicide in South Africa*. Kwela Books. Johannesburg.

idea that power, and institutions which exists under the control of those who wield social and political power, the print media in the context of this study, those who govern through racial and class gender divisions , has always had a grip on how discourse¹²⁵ and this has gone on to influence how the media represents and constructs femicide and ultimately the kind of social discourse built around the phenomena.

The term 'discourse' has become a common currency in a variety of disciplines; critical theory, sociology, linguistics, philosophy, social psychology and many other fields, so much that it is frequently left undefined as if its usage were simply common knowledge¹²⁶. In relation to extended stretches of language, whether written or spoken, discourse is used to refer to the internal organization of the text which gives it coherence. It is a form of power that circulates in the social field, the print media in the context of this study, and can attach to strategies of domination as well as those of resistance¹²⁷. Discourse is a principle which structures society at an institutional, social, and individual level¹²⁸. Most of the work on power done by post-structuralist feminists has been inspired by Foucault. For Allen (2008), Foucault analyses modern power as a mobile and constantly shifting set of force relations that emerge from every social interaction and thus pervade the social body.

Contemporary media systems are in transition¹²⁹. In the past, the news media was credited with the power to set the agenda on topics people thought about¹³⁰, and newspapers were regarded as the most efficient print media elements have an effective role in media discourse. Besides determining political agenda, newspapers function as the instrument of hegemony of the political authority¹³¹. Newspapers, although convenient for analysis, may not be the best indicator of how messages about crime are

¹²⁵ Erdogan, B. (2017). What Is Discourse? In: Humanitarian Intervention and the Responsibility to Protect. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-47683-4_2

¹²⁶ Wodak, R. (2006). Dilemmas of discourse (analysis).

¹²⁷ Diamond, I & Quinby, L. (1988). Feminism and Foucault Reflections on Resistance. ISBN(s)155553032X

¹²⁸ Weedon, C. (1987). Feminist practice and poststructuralist theory. Blackwell: Oxford

¹²⁹ Williams, B. A., & Carpini, M. X. D. (2011). *After broadcast news: Media regimes, democracy, and the new information environment*. Cambridge University Press.

¹³⁰ McCombs, M. (2005). A Look At Agenda Setting: Past, Present and Future. Journalism Studies 6(4): 543-557

¹³¹ Burak, B. (2018). Media Discourse, Ideology and Print Media in Turkey.

transmitted¹³². At this point, the feminist work that has been inspired by Foucault's analysis of power is so extensive and varied that it defies summarization (Allen, 2008). Foucault (1972) contend that discourse produces the things of which it speaks and furthermore that only through discourse, which must be understood as visual embodiment, that knowledge and meaning are produced¹³³.

Post-structuralists assert that knowledge, meaning, experience, and subjectivity are constituted through language¹³⁴. In contrast to liberal humanists who view language as a transparent reflection of human experience and meaning, poststructuralists do not see language as neutral¹³⁵. For this reason, language can be seen as social and a site of political struggle¹³⁶. From a post-structuralist perspective, subjectivity is constructed or socially produced through language¹³⁷.

One major element in the discursive reproduction of power and dominance is the very access to discourse and communicative events¹³⁸. Furthermore, the access of minorities to the mass media is a critical condition for their participation in the public definition of their situation¹³⁹. This has a direct impact even on potential victims of GBV, which often culminate in femicide in the sense that those who do not have access to print media do not have that critical engagement on the social ills we are dealing with and might trap them. This also of course does not exclude potential perpetrators brought up into hetero-patriarchal backgrounds which perpetuate dominance and submission roles in society.

2.11 Media framing: The implications of framing on the femicide discourse

Literary and likewise research scholars and activists submit that framing can be defined as 'part of the collective struggle over meaning that takes place through a multiplicity of

¹³² Branch, D. (2019). "Femicide in the News: How Newspaper Articles Represent the Killing of Women and Girls in Detroit and ciudad Juarez. Honours Theses. 3151. https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/honors_theses/3151

¹³³ Foucault, M. (2005). *The order of things*. Routledge.

¹³⁴ Garvey (1997). Willig, C. (1999). *Applied discourse analysis: social and psychological interventions*. Berkshire: Open University Press.

¹³⁵ *ibid*

¹³⁶ Weedon, C. (1987). *Feminist practice and poststructuralist theory*. Blackwell: Oxford

¹³⁷ *ibid*

¹³⁸ Van Dijk, T. (1985). *Handbook of Discourse Analysis*. London and New York.

¹³⁹ *ibid*

media and interpersonal communication'¹⁴⁰. Another dimension into that phenomenon is the contention that when people engage in framing, they cull aspects of reality to build a story that makes connections between the culled elements and promotes a particular interpretation of reality¹⁴¹. A frame organizes thinking by highlighting certain events and facts, then linking them together in a coherent way, that makes some aspects of reality seem pertinent and rendering other aspects as irrelevant or invisible¹⁴². Framing is a process of 'active, interested meaning creation by different actors vying for support for their respective positions'¹⁴³. Framing interprets and constructs narratives based on the distribution of power in society and is therefore linked to hegemonic meanings and 'to the development of counterhegemonic ways of seeing'¹⁴⁴.

Be that said, the manner in which print media houses frame their representation has a huge implication on public perception and social discourse on multiple issues such as femicide in the context of this study. Framing is viewed in terms of a "signature matrix" that includes various condensing symbols (catchphrases, taglines, exemplars, metaphors, depictions, visual images) and reasoning devices (causes and consequences, appeals to principles or moral claims)¹⁴⁵. Framing is defined as a central organizing idea or story line that provides meaning to an unfolding strip of event¹⁴⁶.

News is a representation of the world in language; because language is a semiotic code, it imposes a structure of values, social and economic in origin, on whatever is represented; and so inevitably news, like every discourse, constructively patterns that of which it speaks¹⁴⁷. Media frames promote a particular problem definition, causal interpretation, moral evaluation, and/or treatment recommendation through their

¹⁴⁰ Vliegenthart, R. & Zoonen, L. van. (2011). 'Power to the frame: Bringing sociology back to frame analysis', *European Journal of Communication*, 26(2), pp. 101–115.

¹⁴¹ Entman, R. M. (2007). 'Framing Bias: Media in the Distribution of Power', *Journal of Communication*, 57(1), pp. 163–173.

¹⁴² Ryan, C. & Gamson, W. A. (2006) 'The art of reframing political debate', *Contexts*, 5(1), pp. 13–18

¹⁴³ Fiss, P. C. & Hirsch, P. M. (2005). 'The Discourse of Globalization: Framing and Sensemaking of an Emerging Concept', *American Sociological Review*, 70(1), pp. 29–52.

¹⁴⁴ Carragee, K. M. & Roefs, W. (2004). 'The Neglect of Power in Recent Framing Research', *Journal of Communication*, 54(2), pp. 214–233.

¹⁴⁵ Gamson, W.A. (1992). *Talking politics*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

¹⁴⁶ Gamson, W. A., & Modigliani, A. (1989). Media discourse and public opinion on nuclear power: A constructionist approach. *American journal of sociology*, 95(1), 1-37.

¹⁴⁷ Fowler, R. (1991). *Language in the News*. London: Routledge.

emphasis of certain facets of an event to the exclusion of others¹⁴⁸. How news frames are adopted also depends on the interplay of the various competing factors in the same issue. For instance, arguing that national interests affect international news discourse and that issues are framed accordingly¹⁴⁹.

News framing can exert a strong influence on public opinion, and this might have an implication on femicide in South Africa's print media, which also includes a crop of traditional news media consumers who have not moved to embrace social media which has been seen as a platform which has escalated the global discussion around femicide¹⁵⁰. Framing can help us to understand how citizens make sense of political, social, and economic issues¹⁵¹. Framing is particularly helpful for understanding the effects of news media content for issues that are subject to different presentations and interpretations¹⁵². Framing femicide/feminicide as a human rights violation is one method to persuade states to adopt and amend legislation¹⁵³. No studies have been focused on how the media frames homicide-suicide¹⁵⁴. This is a critical aspect of dealing with femicide that needs to be critically interrogated. The media have the unique ability to harness the attention of news consumers and shape public opinion concerning important social problems such as domestic violence as well as society's role in prevention and intervention efforts¹⁵⁵.

¹⁴⁸ Entman, R. M. (1993). Framing: Towards Clarification of a Fractured Paradigm. *Journal of Communication*, 43(4), 51-58.

¹⁴⁹ Mandizvidza, D. (2013). A Critical Discourse Analysis of the coverage of the constitution referendum by *The Herald* and *Newsday* in March 2013.

¹⁵⁰ de Vreese, C. H., Boomgaarden, H. G. and Semetko, H. A. (2011). '(In)direct Framing Effects: The Effects of News Media Framing on Public Support for Turkish Membership in the European Union', *Communication Research*, 38(2), pp. 179–205. doi: 10.1177/0093650210384934

¹⁵¹ Chong, D., & Druckman, J. N. (2007). A theory of framing and opinion formation in competitive elite environments. *Journal of Communication*, 57(1), 99-118

¹⁵² de Vreese, C. H., Boomgaarden, H. G. and Semetko, H. A. (2011). '(In)direct Framing Effects: The Effects of News Media Framing on Public Support for Turkish Membership in the European Union', *Communication Research*, 38(2), pp. 179–205. doi: 10.1177/0093650210384934

¹⁵³ Weldon S.L. (2006). Inclusion, solidarity, and social movements: The global movement against gender violence. *Perspectives on Politics* 4(1): 55–74. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1537592706060063>

¹⁵⁴ Marzul et al (1992) cited in Gillespie, L, et al (2013) "Framing Deadly Domestic Violence: Why the Media's Spin Matters in Newspaper Coverage of Femicide." *Violence against Women* 19.2 222–245. Web.

¹⁵⁵ Gillespie, L. K., Richards, T. N., Givens, E. M., & Smith, M. D. (2013). Framing Deadly Domestic Violence: Why the Media's Spin Matters in Newspaper Coverage of Femicide. *Violence Against Women*, 19(2), 222-245. doi:10.1177/1077801213476457

While there is optimism in finding that the majority of the sampled femicide–suicides are framed as domestic violence, the fact remains that many femicide–suicides are explained away in overly simplistic terms, as isolated instances of perpetrator jealousy or loss of control¹⁵⁶. They furthermore argue that some articles are missed opportunities to channel the media's power to educate and advocate for victims by providing news consumers with accurate depictions concerning deadly domestic violence followed by perpetrator suicide¹⁵⁷ and most importantly labelling the crime for what it is, femicide.

The production and consumption of text and discourse serve purposes, thus there is a need to be critical of what representation the media is making¹⁵⁸. Apart from aesthetic ones, which are studied in poetics and stylistics, texts also represent social values and traditions (which some might be problematic, reproduced and represented) and relate to ideological positions¹⁵⁹.

But speaking of some of the texts, the representation scholarship argues that headlines do not represent the gist of what is often intended to say¹⁶⁰. Furthermore, because the media is a very fallible and often quite flawed source of information about violent crimes, femicide is not an exception in this regard¹⁶¹. It is in fact the core of this study. There has always been the conviction that subjective elements like emotions, opinions and personalization are necessary to get the public involved; for example in investigative reporting in which certain abusive practices are being scrutinized by a committed journalist based on his own personal and often emotional findings¹⁶². Thus, the need to engage critically in the entire discourse that concerns print media representation, to flag out all the grey areas and red flags that are been represented in framing femicide.

¹⁵⁶ *ibid*

¹⁵⁷ *ibid*

¹⁵⁸ Van Peer, W. (2016). *The taming of the text: Explorations in language, literature and culture*. Routledge.

¹⁵⁹ *ibid*

¹⁶⁰ Short, M. (1988). Speech presentation, the novel and the press. *The taming of the text: Explorations in language, literature and culture*, 61-81.

¹⁶¹ Brodie, N. (2020). *Femicide in South Africa*. Kwela Books

¹⁶² Welbers, K & Opgenhaffen, M. (2019). Presenting News on Social Media, *Digital Journalism*, 7:1, 45-62, DOI: [10.1080/21670811.2018.1493939](https://doi.org/10.1080/21670811.2018.1493939)

Misleading headlines affect readers' memory, their inferential reasoning, and behavioral intentions, as well as the impressions people form of faces¹⁶³. On a theoretical level, this study argue that these effects arise not only because headlines constrain further information processing, biasing readers towards a specific interpretation, but also because readers struggle to update their memory to correct initial misconceptions. It is the behavioral intentions and implications that need to be studied critically. To question ourselves as to how the print media's framing of femicide inform the traditional consumers of newspapers' behaviors and intentions in approaching GBV and subsequently femicide.

Headlines play a very substantial role in news communication. A headline serves to summarize the main idea of an article, it allows the reader to page through many news items to get an abbreviated news update or to choose which articles to read, and it serves to grab attention and maximize interest¹⁶⁴. Brodie (2020) looks at how the media's coverage of femicide has tended to create a typically narrow and shallow view of the phenomenon.

A significant factor in the reinforcing of these "narrow and shallow" perception is the reporting of violence against women in the print media¹⁶⁵. It is argued that murders of women are regularly sexualized by journalists and conversely that sexual assaults of women are framed within a discourse of murder. They further contend that the habitual linking of the concepts of sex and death in reporting, which in some contexts effectively produces a conflation of the offences of rape and murder, contributes to the way in which rape is received by criminal justice professionals, victims and the wider public. Brodie (2020) argues that "media coverage of murder can be integrated with other data to create a broader and deeper understanding of violent crime – but, at the same time, acknowledging how the media's coverage of femicide has tended to create a typically narrow and shallow understanding of the phenomenon instead"¹⁶⁶.

¹⁶³ Ecker, U. K., Lewandowsky, S., Chang, E. P., & Pillai, R. (2014). The effects of subtle misinformation in news headlines. *Journal of experimental psychology: applied*, 20(4), 323.

¹⁶⁴ Dor, D. (2003). On newspaper headlines as relevance optimizers. *Journal of Pragmatics*, 35, 695-721.

¹⁶⁵ Smith, J & Mason, P. (2008). *Conflation, Collocation and Confusion: British Press Coverage of the sexual murder of women*. Journalism. Sage Publication. Vol. 9(6): 691-710. DOI: 1177/1464884908096241

¹⁶⁶ Brodie, N. (2020). *Femicide in South Africa*. Kwela Books.

Scholarship exploring how the murder of women by their partners argue that the crimes are rarely classified as femicide, and how the media's portrayal of these murders fails to convey the systemic nature of violence against women that also entrenches racial and class-based oppression by seemingly valuing some lives more than others¹⁶⁷. In South Africa, every year there are multiple femicide cases involving female police officers who are killed by their partners¹⁶⁸. What this data reveals is the fact that very often, even people who have professional experience with handling guns can at times of vulnerability fall victims to gun violence, which marks the culmination of femicide in South Africa. But most importantly, this reveals the reality that legacies of apartheid and colonialism laced with patriarchal undertones and misogyny continue to reproduce themselves and South Africa's print media is no exception.

Within the Global South, the observation from Brazil is that femicide is directly linked to race and class¹⁶⁹. Furthermore, the author reiterates that the failure to categorize homicide on the basis of race or class promotes misleading narrative "frames" that ignore the intersectional nature of femicide as it relates to race and class¹⁷⁰.

2.12 Conclusion

This chapter of the study labored to outline some of the most fundamental issues that are party to our understanding of how the media operates in the arena of discourse formation and analysis. Among many this chapter grappled with fundamental questions such as contextualizing frames and their subsequent centrality in writing about violence and femicide. While this chapter has discussed the intersection between femicide and how the media's twist matters through how the phenomenon is framed, the next chapter of the study is preoccupied with the literary bodies of work which attended to femicide and media representation in South Africa's print media while drawing other scholarly insights from Global South nation states and by extension other countries of the world. draws from scholarly articles, journals, books and conference papers on the subject of

¹⁶⁷ Spies, A. (2020). The Portrayal of Victims of Intimate Femicide in the South African Media. *Journal of Media Studies* 12(1) 41-59

¹⁶⁸ Brodie, N. (2020). *Femicide in South Africa*. Kwela Books.

¹⁶⁹ Goncalves, J. (2017). Femicide in Brazil is directly linked to race and class, according to researchers: *Brasil de Facto*

¹⁷⁰ *ibid*

femicide and violence against womxn to foreground the rationale for critical inquiries on violence and the role of the media in undoing violence. The next chapter of this study moves to thoroughly lay out the research methodology that underpinned the study.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY: USING CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS AS THEORY AND PRACTICE IN DOING RESEARCH

3.1 Introduction

Methodology attends to the ways in which empirical data is collected and methodologically includes asking questions, through reading documents, to observation of both controlled and uncontrolled situations that influence print media frame formation. In this chapter of the study, the researcher delves in by giving a brief discussion on the methodological processes that were deployed in doing Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) on Framing Femicide in South Africa. This theoretical framework was considered for this feminist enquiry, in investigating the print media's framing and subsequent representation of femicide in South Africa historically black newspapers. The chapter outlines the qualitative process of doing research, such as sample identification, data collection, data analysis, and in conclusion addresses issues attended to ethics and reflexivity in qualitative research.

3.2 Research Methodology

Research methodology involves learning the various techniques that can be used in the conduct of research and in the conduct of tests, experiments, surveys, and critical studies¹⁷¹. This study is premised on the principles of qualitative research methodology. This method was adopted owed to the fact that it "can be used to explore human behavior

¹⁷¹ Goundar, S. (2012). Research methodology and research method. *Victoria University of Wellington*, 1(1), 1-47.

for the development of organizations”¹⁷². This study is premised on the “commitment to making visible women’s lived experiences, to gender and gender relations as socially constructed and historically specific to reflexivity and the inclusion of the researcher and the research process as researchable topics and to the emancipation of women constitute feminist research methodologies as a separate paradigm”¹⁷³. This method of inquiry was adopted for its conception of placing ‘commitment’ as a method to study social phenomena. This is owed to the fact that it borrows and constitutes a method from the basic principles of what makes feminist research, and which is the moral intention of this intervention. Which is one that is engaged in entangling all forms of oppression. Therefore, this study took methodology as born out of an informed commitment to pursuing justice, with the acknowledgement that methodological undertakings towards social problems vary.

Qualitative research can often be defined in terms of the kind of data it produces and in terms of the form of analysis it employs. To this effect, some scholars also argue that as a way of inquiry, qualitative research involves various kinds of nonnumerical or qualitative data, such as interviews (oral communication), written texts or documents, visual images, observations of behavior, case studies, and so on¹⁷⁴, which can be read to make better an understanding of public discourses of scholarly interests. This study sought the archive for written texts such as newspaper articles which frame femicide and its subsequent forms of othered violence which included but not limited to Gender Based Violence (GBV), Interpersonal Violence (IV), Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), Non-Intimate Partner Violence (N-IPV) to conduct a qualitative linguistic framing analysis. Furthermore, the process of qualitative research is defined as an iterative process in which improved understanding of the scientific community is achieved by making new significant distinctions resulting from getting closer to the phenomenon studied¹⁷⁵. Qualitative research approaches are concerned with understanding human behavior from the

¹⁷² Mohajan, H. K. (2018). Qualitative research methodology in social sciences and related subjects. *Journal of economic development, environment and people*, 7(1), 23-48.

¹⁷³ Lentin, R. (2003). Pregnant silence:(en) gendering Ireland's asylum space. *Patterns of Prejudice*, 37(3), 301-322.

¹⁷⁴ Maruster, L & Gijsenberg, M. (2013). *Qualitative Research Methods*. SAGE Publications. London

¹⁷⁵ Aspers, P., & Corte, U. (2019). What is Qualitative in Qualitative Research. *Qual Sociol* 42, 139–160. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11133-019-9413-7>

perspectives of the people involved, therefore they use language to record aspects of social reality¹⁷⁶. Furthermore, qualitative research is broadly defined as “any kind of research that produces findings not arrived at by means of statistical procedures or other means of quantification”¹⁷⁷.

In terms of analysis, qualitative research mostly relies on various methods of interpretation¹⁷⁸. This is owed to the condition that qualitative data sets are often spoken or written language, or images that have symbolic content, and making sense of the data should involve interpreting their meaning. Qualitative research is an approach for exploring and understanding the meaning individuals or groups ascribe to a social or human problem¹⁷⁹.

Qualitative research is an umbrella term that covers a wide range of techniques and philosophies; thus, it is not easy to define¹⁸⁰. In broad terms, qualitative research is an approach that allows you to examine people’s experiences in detail, by using a specific set of research methods such as in-depth interviews, focus group discussions, observation, content analysis, visual methods, and life histories or biographies. Researchers use the qualitative approach to explore the behavior, perspectives, experiences, and feelings of people and emphasize the understanding of these elements.

3.3 Research Design

Addressing any social problem in the academy and by extension society requires of one to assume a critical, coherent, and convincing method to disentangle whatever challenge we are dealing with. As such, the reality even in this attempt to understand the framing of femicide in South Africa’s print media and how this representation contributes toward the perpetuation of the social problem we are dealing with. This study was conducted using qualitative research methods wherein the researcher mainly relied on secondary data as a form of archival information. Given the universally accepted definition of qualitative

¹⁷⁶ Welman, J.C., Kruger, S. J., & Mitchell, B. (2012). *Research Methodology for the Business and Administrative Sciences*. Cape Town: Oxford.

¹⁷⁷ Strauss, A., & Corbin, J. (1990). *Basics of qualitative research: grounded theory procedures and techniques*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage Publications, Inc.

¹⁷⁸ Maruster, L & Gijsenberg, M. (2013). *Qualitative Research Methods*. SAGE Publications. London

¹⁷⁹ Creswell, J.W. (2014). *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches*. SAGE Publications. London

¹⁸⁰ Hennink, M; Hutter, I; & Bailey, A. (2010). *Qualitative Research Methods*. SAGE Publications. London.

research methodology as articulated by scholars who argue that qualitative research involves various kinds of nonnumerical or qualitative data such as written texts or documents and so on¹⁸¹. This study used newspaper articles, which are classified as secondary data, which have been briefly explained in chapter one. On a political and moral level, qualitative research is conducted to foster social change not through violence but ultimately by changing who we are¹⁸². However, it is worth noting that while some methods lend themselves more readily to certain epistemological perspectives, no method of data collection is inherently positivist, phenomenological, or critical¹⁸³.

Research design is defined and understood as “the researcher’s overall plan for answering the research question or testing the research hypothesis.”¹⁸⁴. The research design helped the researcher to capture the representation of femicide scholarship and the changing trajectories observed before and after the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic as outlined in the timeframe of the study. This methodological process allowed a convenient access to reading archived newspaper articles from both *Sunday Times* and *Sowetan*.

3.4 Placing the text at the center of analysis: Linguistic residues on femicide writing

As stated earlier in this work, this study placed language use, and framing tools in newspapers at the center of inquiry. The researcher believes that language in post-colonies such as South Africa, having given its historical position in earlier chapters (Chapter Two), is an important site of inquiry when reading the archive to map and trace the linguistic framing of femicide in South Africa’s print media. What remains in the archives when newspapers have been printed, some with articles documenting femicide, is contextualized in this study as “linguistic residues” on written forms. This section borrows the work of *Donald Matheson* on *Discourse and Media: Analysing Media Texts*, *Margaret Hawkins’* editorial work on *Framing Languages and Literacies: Socially Situated*

¹⁸¹ Maruster, L & Gijsenberg, M. (2013). *Qualitative Research Methods*. SAGE Publications. London

¹⁸² Lichtman, M. (2013). *Qualitative Research for the Social Sciences*. SAGE Publications. London.

¹⁸³ Harvey, D. (1990). Between space and time: reflections on the geographical imagination1. *Annals of the association of American geographers*, 80(3), 418-434.

¹⁸⁴ Polit, D., Beck, C. & Hungler, B. (2001). *Essential of Nursing Research Methods: Appraisal and Utilization*. 5th ed. Philadelphia: J.B Lippincott Co.

Views and Perspectives, John Richardson on *Analysing Newspapers: An Approach from Critical Discourse Analysis* to sketch a methodology on doing textual analysis premised on the conviction that language first represents social realities and contributes to the production and reproduction of social reality or social life' and Martin Conboy's seminal text on *The Language of Newspapers: Socio-Historical Perspectives* to build a critical map on reading and writing about the femicide of black womxn¹⁸⁵.

Norman Fairclough (2012) posits that the "analysis needs to draw out the form and function of the text, the way that this text relates to the way it is produced and consumed, and the relation of this to the wider society in which it takes place"¹⁸⁶. CDA approaches discourse as a circular process in which social practices influence texts, via shaping the viewpoints of those who read or otherwise consume them¹⁸⁷. In doing narrative analysis, to study the framing and representation of femicide, the researcher sought to examine the text in terms of what is framed and what could have been but is not framed.

3.5 Reading the archive: methods of data collection

The archive in this study referred to PressReader, which serves as a digital archive for print media, and served as a useful source for data collection in this body of work. This study borrowed the conventional methods used in the undertaking of qualitative social research to analyze frame and context formation. The study adopted a qualitative undertaking which can be understood as Qualitative Content Analysis, which is widely used to evidence the proliferation of gender stereotypes produced and reproduced by the mass media, concentrating mostly on the dire state of under-representation of women in the media as well as their objectification as limited sexual and/or domestic beings¹⁸⁸.

In this inquiry, the researcher assumed a "pro-archive" approach which places the archive as a repository of public discourse from which we can break in and draw accounts on femicide to draw a multidisciplinary understanding of the phenomenon as an existential political problem. It purposefully draws from the *Sunday Times* and *Sowetan* articles that

¹⁸⁵ Womxn defines/related to an inclusive term that refers to cisgender heterosexual women, transgender women, lesbian women, and other queer and feminine defined identities. I proceeded to using this term to refer to all of the above mentioned and how their death, read as femicide in framed.

¹⁸⁶ Fairclough, N. (2012). *Analysing Discourse: Textual Analysis for Social Research*. Routledge.

¹⁸⁷ Van Dijk, T. A. (2015). *Critical discourse analysis. The handbook of discourse analysis*, 466-485.

¹⁸⁸ Van Zoonen, L. (1994). *Feminist Media Studies*. Sage Publication.

are engaged with the problems of GBV and femicide as its epiphenomenon. This study was qualitative in conduct as it had initially proposed an attempt to generate a deeper understanding of how the selected print media houses frame femicide in South Africa. The data to be used was therefore drawn from newspaper articles from two historical earmarked print media houses in South Africa.

3.6. Data presentation and thematic procedure

The analysis of print newspapers was focused on four constituent producing framing position and will look out for (i) naming and shaming either naming the victim to understand how the life of those who die are archived or shaming the perpetrators, (ii) headlining language since “language is functional and is constituted as social and written, enacts social and cultural perspectives and identities”¹⁸⁹, and borrowing the idea that “the term language is used in its most sensual to mean verbal language, words, sentences” (iii) attitude markers to look at for how attitudes of either victims, perpetrators, next of kin, or any other attitude responded/attended to femicide is framed, and (iv) intervening titling, which attends to how the title of an article can be read as recommendation an intervention to a problem at hand. The data collected and presented for analysis were categorised as DS (meaning data set) and number as per article from 1-50, therefore referred to as DS 1. All data interrogated in this chapter were drawn from the *Sunday Times* and *Sowetan* newspapers between the years 2019 and 2020. A total of 104 weekly publications from the *Sunday Times* and 480 from *Sowetan* over a period of two years were studied and purposefully selected to trace consistent themed framing patterns, such as locating “gender” as the root problem or looking at victims and perpetrators of violence. Of the total publications perused, only a total of 33 sampled newspaper articles were purposefully selected considering their textual and linguistic relations to the theme of violence against women in South Africa’s selected print media publications. The selection criteria was outlined thoroughly in the previous Chapter Four on Methodology. The following summarises the themes and subthemes.

¹⁸⁹ Carbó, P. A., Andrea Vázquez Ahumada, M., Caballero, A. D., & Lezama Argüelles, G. A. (2016). “How do I do Discourse Analysis?” Teaching Discourse Analysis to novice researchers through a study of intimate partner gender violence among migrant women. *Qualitative Social Work*, 15(3), 363-379.

3.7. Population of the Research

Population is characterized by the nature of the study and social artefacts, the size of the population and the unique characterization of the population¹⁹⁰. While a population is a complete set of people with specified characteristics¹⁹¹, this study was premised not on people as the main subject but relied on secondary data which was newspaper articles collected from the *Sunday Times* and *Sowetan* newspapers published from January 2019 to December 2020. The population of interest is the study's target population that it intends to study or treat¹⁹². The corpus of newspaper articles used in this study exceeded well over 584 over a period of two years from both *Sunday Times* and *Sowetan* newspapers accessed using PressReader.

3.8. Sampling

In qualitative research, inquiries sampling occurs when researchers examine a portion or sample of a larger group of potential participants and use the results to make statements that apply to this broader group or population. The extent to which the research findings can be generalized or applied to the larger group or population is an indication of the external validity of the research design. The process of choosing/selecting a sample is an integral part of designing sound research. An awareness of the principles of sampling design is imperative to the development of research with strong external validity¹⁹³.

The process of sampling is argued to be one of the principal areas of confusion, a problem not helped by the inadequate way that it is covered in the literature, where there is little agreement on definitions and authors frequently invent new and complex terms which

¹⁹⁰ Bezuidenhout, R., Davis, C & Du Plooy-Cilliers, F. 2014. Research matters. *Quantitative Data Analysis*, pp.228-251.

¹⁹¹ Browner, W. S., Newman, T. B., Cummings, S.R., & Grady, D.G. (2022). *Designing clinical research*. Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.

¹⁹² Majid, U. (2018). Research fundamentals: Study design, population, and sample size. *Undergraduate research in natural and clinical science and technology journal*, 2, 1-7.

¹⁹³ Neil, S. (2010). *Encyclopaedia of Research Design*. Sage Publications. <https://dx.doi.org/10.4135/9781412961288.n398>

cloud simple fundamental issues¹⁹⁴. This study borrowed mostly from purposeful sampling as a technique widely used in qualitative research for the identification and selection of information-rich cases for the most effective use of limited resources¹⁹⁵. In this process, where purposeful sampling is at the core of inquiry, whether the methodology employed is quantitative or qualitative, sampling methods are intended to maximize efficiency and validity¹⁹⁶. In sampling procedures, whether purposeful or probability, are designed to capture elements of both similarity and differences, of both centrality and dispersion, because both elements are essential to the task of generating new knowledge through the processes of comparison and contrast¹⁹⁷.

By invoking Saidiya Hartman (2019), the researcher intended to make use of a vast range of archival materials that represent the everyday experience¹⁹⁸ of violence on black womxn from selected historically designated black newspaper houses in South Africa, Sowetan and Sunday Times to conduct a critical reading and sound analysis on femicide and subsequently make an interpretation on how it is framed. Having outlined earlier the method of doing such an intervention, this study read newspaper articles for headlines that covered the margins of what defines femicide. Individual reading of a number of (n=33) articles was conducted to draw the linguistic framing of the event. From the total body of daily and weekly newspaper publications, only a total of 33 articles out of the 584-newspaper publication were purposefully sampled to respond to the aim/research question of this study. In formulating variables, the samples were selected on the basis of accounts of race is the first theme I checked how important it is that when writing, one race matters in relation to violence. Second to race, the class status is another variable I looked to interrogate based on the conviction that one's class determines their representation in the press and subsequent other class benefits. Thirdly, since gender is

¹⁹⁴ Marshall, M. (1996). Sampling for qualitative research, *Family Practice*, Volume 13, Issue 6, Pages 522–526, <https://doi.org/10.1093/famppra/13.6.522>

¹⁹⁵ Patton, M. (2002). *Qualitative research and evaluation methods*. 3rd Sage Publications; Thousand Oaks, CA.

¹⁹⁶ Morse JM, Niehaus L. (2009). *Mixed method design: Principles and procedures*. Left Coast Press, Walnut Creek, CA.

¹⁹⁷ Palinkas, L. A., Horwitz, S. M., Green, C. A., Wisdom, J. P., Duan, N., & Hoagwood, K. (2015). Purposeful Sampling for Qualitative Data Collection and Analysis in Mixed Method Implementation Research. *Administration and policy in mental health*, 42(5), 533–544. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10488-013-0528-y>

¹⁹⁸ Hartman, S. (2019). *Wayward Lives: Beautiful Experiments*

present in the initial question, it is however worth noting that womxn relate differently to men in terms of ownership and control of the media and what goes to print.

3.9. Data Collection

By data collection, it is meant the process of gathering and measuring information on variables of interest in an established systematic fashion that enables one to answer stated research questions, test hypothesis and evaluate outcomes¹⁹⁹. There is a calculable number of qualitative methods that can be used for gathering data²⁰⁰. Data collection instrument for this research was desktop methodology. Desk research is defined as the process of accessing published secondary data²⁰¹. The study relied on secondary data sources in the form of archived digitalized newspaper articles.

The secondary data was obtained from newspaper articles, which were purposefully selected from two mainstream newspaper houses in South Africa: Sowetan and *Sunday Times*. In this process the researcher purposefully selected newspaper articles as archival documents to analyze the linguistical framing of femicide in the South Africa print media from 2019-2020.

The study employed desktop research as an instrument to collect data from the print media houses selected for this purpose of the study. The data for this study was sourced from online databases of *Sunday Times* and *Sowetan* newspapers through the online digital archive PressReader. Pressreader is a digital newspaper distribution and technology company, that provides access to over a thousand newspapers, magazines, and eBooks from publishers globally. The distribution of these secondary materials is done by ProQuest. The researcher purposefully selected or chose appropriate and relevant articles with keyword/terms in the newspaper articles to analyze the framing of

¹⁹⁹ Goodwin, W & Goodwin, L. (1996). Understanding Quantitative and Qualitative Research in Early Childhood Education. Teachers College Press. New York

²⁰⁰ Sapsford, P & Jupp, V. (2006). Data Collection Analysis. SAGE Publication. London

²⁰¹ Zhou, L., & Nunes, M. B. (2016). Formulating a framework for desktop research in Chinese information systems. In *Handbook of Research on Innovations in Information Retrieval, Analysis, and Management* (pp. 307-325). IGI Global.

femicide in the South Africa print media from 2019-2020. This data collection methodology did not require much logistics to enable the gathering of data.

3.10. Data Collection Instrument

This study made use of PressReader as a collection tool to access online archival material database to read both newspaper houses. This study employed a desktop methodology as the research data collection method to access newspaper articles from digital archive, PressReader to give an account of how femicide is framed in South Africa since by function desk research is “a research approach used for critically evaluating and analyzing secondary data and existing literature.”²⁰².

3.11 Data Analysis

Data analysis by definition involves the systematic application of statistical tools²⁰³. It is a process that facilitates the reduction of large amounts of collected data to make sense of them²⁰⁴. Data analysis is conducted so that the researcher can detect consistent patterns within the data, such as the consistent covariance of two or more variables²⁰⁵. The undertaking of this study was undertaken through the lens of Narrative Analysis. This process involves a close reading of texts to interpret and make meaning of the information they reveal²⁰⁶. This approach takes stories as the unit of analysis²⁰⁷. It is largely defined as a systematic procedure for reviewing or evaluating documents, both printed and electronic (computer-based and Internet-transmitted) material²⁰⁸. Yet in using document analysis, this study ultimately borrowed some methodological and theoretical abstraction for conducting research grounded in CDA. This grounding is deemed crucial in discussing discursive events and discursive context in narrative analysis framing to better understand the discourse around the framing of femicide in South Africa’s print media.

²⁰² Zhou, L., & Nunes, M. B. (2016). Formulating a framework for desktop research in Chinese information systems. In *Handbook of Research on Innovations in Information Retrieval, Analysis, and Management* (pp. 307-325). IGI Global.

²⁰³ Lewis-Beck, M. (1995). *Data Analysis: An Introduction*. Issue 103. SAGE Publications. London

²⁰⁴ Miles, M & Huberman, M. (1994). *Qualitative Data Analysis*. (2nd Ed.) California. SAGE Publications

²⁰⁵ Bless, C; Smith, C; & Kagee, A. (2006). *Fundamentals of Research Methods: An African Perspective*. (4th Ed.). Cape Town. Juta and Company

²⁰⁶ Thuv, T. (2023). *Qualitative Method: Narrative Analysis*.

²⁰⁷ Esin, C. (2011). Narrative analysis approaches. *Qualitative research methods in psychology: Combining core approaches*, 92-117.

²⁰⁸ Bowen, A. (2009). 'Document Analysis as a Qualitative Research Method', *Qualitative Research Journal*, vol. 9, no. 2, pp. 27-40. DOI 10.3316/QRJ0902027. This is a peer-reviewed article.

The data analyzed provided grounds to interrogate how language functions as a discursive elements that produce a myriad of discourses in the framing of femicide and the power dynamics attendant to linguistic representation.

3.12. Data Analysis Method and Process

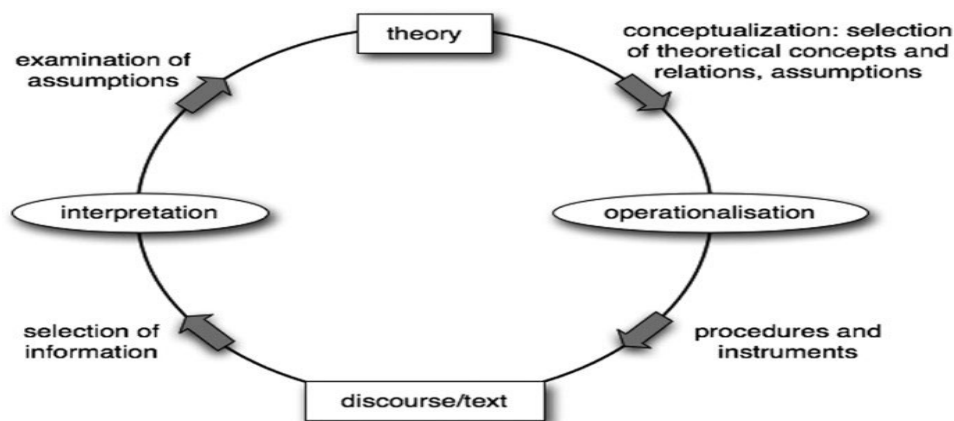


Figure 1: Research design for Critical Discourse Analysis (adopted from Wodak and Meyer, 2001).

As observed from the illustration, mediating theory and text are the generalisation of the theory and interpretation of the text. The concepts and assumptions expected of the text then contribute to the selection of data that supports assumptions before they are examined under theory.

Quantitative content analysis is widely used to evidence the proliferation of gender stereotypes produced and reproduced by the mass media, concentrating mostly on the dire state of under-representation of women in the media as well as their objectification as limited (sexual and/or domestic) beings. This study made use of both techniques to arrive at its logical conclusion.

Having drawn newspaper articles from PressReader, the research then proceeded to interpret the framing across for subsets of violence against womxn, briefly introduced earlier in this study, but namely IV, N-IPV, IPV, GBV and ultimately femicide. This focus point allowed the researcher to sift through hundreds of newspaper articles from both *Sowetan* and the *Sunday Times* and purposefully select and generate screenshot photographic images of articles worthy of inquiry in this study. The second phase which

ensued was the intense reading of individual articles which cover the theme of femicide to generate an interpretation on how journalists, activists, public opinion leaders and civil society organisations prescribe as violence against womxn and some of the dominant prescriptions attended to ending the scourge of femicide. These prescriptions and descriptions and exhaustively discussed at length in the ensuing chapter of Data Analysis and Discussions.

3.12.1. Narrative Analysis

As stated above, the study relied on Narrative Analysis, which, by operation, explores the stories told by people about their lives, to understand more about how they make meaning out of their experiences²⁰⁹. Narrative can refer to an entire life story, woven from threads of interviews, observations, and documents²¹⁰. This study leaned as well on Narrative Analysis to foreground and expand on the multiple meanings and implications of textual/linguistic framing of femicide in South Africa's print media with specific attention to those historically declared black, namely Sowetan and Sunday Times newspapers, respectively.

In conducting a Narrative Analysis, the study assumed an interpretive approach to analyze newspaper articles and subsequently analyzed the framing of femicide from the data sampled. Interpretive frames are defined as schematic lenses that guide teacher perception, interpretation²¹¹ and in this study has been carried out by culling out excerpts from newspaper articles in selected newspaper houses, Sowetan and Sunday Times and presented for analysis.

3.13. Familiarization with the data

During this phase, the data analysis was repeatedly conducted while searching for persisting patterns and themes of framing which culminate into creating an archive for femicide. It was important to read the overall data set at least once before beginning to

²⁰⁹ Bailey-Rodriguez, D, Frost, N & Elichao, F. (2018). Narrative analysis. *Doing qualitative research in psychology. A practical guide. 2nd edn.* London: SAGE Publications Ltd, 209-232.

²¹⁰ Riessman, C. K. (2008). *Narrative methods for the human sciences.* Sage.

²¹¹ Reisman, A., Enumah, L., & Jay, L. (2020). Interpretive frames for responding to racially stressful moments in history discussions. *Theory & Research in Social Education*, 48(3), 321-345

break into themes, as ideas and identification of possible patterns were shaped as the data was read. Then the data was transformed into written form²¹².

3.13.1. Generating initial codes

After familiarization with the data occurred, a list of ideas was generated. The next step was the production of initial codes from the data. The codes identified a feature of the data that appeared interesting to the analyst and referred to the most basic elements of the raw data. All actual data extracts were coded and collated together within each code by reproducing in verbatim titles of the newspaper articles, purposefully selected for this study.

3.13.2. Searching for themes

When all data were coded and collated, the different codes were sorted and identified into potential themes. Collating all the relevant coded data extracts within the identified themes was then undertaken. The researcher analyzed the codes and considered how different codes could be combined to form an all-embracing theme. The themes were then arranged into subthemes.

3.13.3. Reviewing themes

Themes that emerged from the data were then reviewed and refined. This assembly process was done by reading articles from both newspaper houses, *Sowetan* and *Sunday Times*, into themes to allow a thematic summary that ensures that at the end of each theme. All collated extracts for each theme were read and considered as to whether they appeared to form a coherent pattern. This pattern was analyzed in lieu of contemporary discourses of violence.

3.13.4. Defining and naming themes

The definition of theme in qualitative CDA leans towards any source of information from the data that consistently appears throughout the various secondary data sources that the study sought to sample. The construction thereof is built by lumping together newspaper articles with similar or (like-framed) titles, attending to frame construction in

²¹² Braun, V., & Clarke, V. (2006). Using thematic analysis in psychology. *Qualitative Research in Psychology*, 3 (2).

reporting femicide. These consistencies were search by how frequently articles are titled either as expressions of general violence, violence against women, Gender Based Violence (GBV), Interpersonal Violence (IV), Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), and non-intimate Partner Violence (N-IPV). Themes were defined and further refined. Defining and refining refers to identifying the essence of what each theme is about and determining which aspect of the data each theme captured. Race, Class, and Gender (RCG).

Thematic Analysis as a method of analyzing qualitative data involves reading through a data set and identifying patterns in the data to constitute a theme. In this process, for categories under which femicide is applicable in the context of Violence Against Women (VAW) was through arranging the data within the categories of IV, IPV and N-IPV. These distinct themes assist in locating the geo-spatial realities under which femicide is permissible. In this manner of analysis, the researcher was able to look at space and how state regulations facilitate conducive environment for the perpetuation of violence.

3.13.5. Production of the report

The researcher made a final analysis and wrote the report, or in this instance, the analysis for the dissertation. The researcher also made provision for a concise, coherent, logical, non-repetitive, and interesting account of the story of the data, within and across the themes.

3.14. Establishing rigor and trustworthiness

By characterization, a research project can only be deemed trustworthy when it reflects the reality and ideas of the participants²¹³. However, in light of this, this study did not engage actively with participants; it was nonetheless rooted in inquiries premised on secondary data samples. In this study, trustworthiness was ensured by the researcher laying aside their preconceived ideas about the phenomenon under investigation. Ultimately, trustworthiness involves the following elements: credibility, dependability, confirmability, and transferability²¹⁴. This study has adhered to academic writing processes and ensured that all procedures were adhered to.

²¹³ Krefting, L. (1991). "Rigor in Qualitative Research: The Assessment of Trustworthiness". in American Journal of Occupational Therapy: Vol 45

²¹⁴ ibid

3.14.1. Credibility

For CDA research undertakings, credibility attends to the confidence of the data, similar to internal validity in quantitative research and exists when the research findings reflect the perceptions of the people under study²¹⁵. Internal validity is important in qualitative research, as researchers are able to demonstrate the reality of the participants through detailed description of the discussion.

It is argued that theoretical concepts should have generalizability and transferability, meaning that concepts should be applicable to other similar situations²¹⁶. This stresses the significance of rich descriptions so that readers are equipped with the knowledge on which to base judgment. The following steps are instrumental in enhancing credibility and inform the undertaking of the data collection process of this study.

3.14.2. Reliability

Reliability refers to the reproducibility of a measurement using the same subjects²¹⁷. The principle of reliability is premised on the notion that there is some sense of uniformity or standardization in what is being measured, and that the methods need to consistently capture what is being explored²¹⁸. Reliability, therefore, refers to the extent to which a measure, procedure, or instrument provides the same result on repeated trials²¹⁹. To achieve this methodological procedure, the researcher ensured that articles purposefully selected were well within the themes that the study sought to explore and analyzed were sourced.

3.14.3. Validity

Validity concerns the difficulty of gaining accurate and unbiased impressions of the phenomena being studied. To suggest that a study is valid is to look for the extent to which the researchers' conclusions match with the reasons people have for acting and

²¹⁵ Polit, D., Beck, C. & Hungler, B. (2001). *Essential of Nursing Research Methods: Appraisal and Utilization*. 5th ed. Philadelphia: J.B Lippincott Co.

²¹⁶ Strauss, A., & Corbin, J. (1990). *Basics of qualitative research: grounded theory procedures and techniques*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage Publications, Inc.

²¹⁷ Khan, M.B.M. (2011). *Student governance in higher education institutions in Western Cape, South Africa: A case study*. University of Kwazulu Natal

²¹⁸ O'Leary, Z. (2006). *The Essential Guide to doing research*. SAGE Publications. London

²¹⁹ *ibid*

thinking. To help assure that the research findings are valid, researchers often concentrate on the following:

How researchers in the field of Gender Studies document subjects before interpretation. How emerging themes and categories relate to the meanings displayed by the people reported, and how they arrive at the decision to involve the transformation of data gathered from the themes that developed and categories and descriptive interpretation of the themes²²⁰.

Finally, validity in qualitative research seeks to address whether the researcher sees what he or she thinks he or she thinks. In principle, validity is concerned with the accuracy of findings. Therefore, it refers to the agreement between the value of a measurement and its true value, as quantified by comparing a measurement with values that are as close to the true values as possible.

3.15. Ethical Consideration

Ethical consideration attends to the principles of conduct regarding what is wrong and right about the researcher and those researched²²¹. The qualitative researchers have an obligation to respect the rights, needs, values, and desires of the informants²²². Scholarship concerned with the conduct of ethically sound research cautions researchers to be aware of these issues and other issues before, during, and after the research has been conducted²²³. Some of the issues involve informed consent, privacy, confidentiality, and anonymity²²⁴. While this study posed no assault on the principle of ethical integrity, ethical clearance was sought to allow concerned regulators a chance to test the level of ethical considerations concerned with the execution of this study. The researcher does commit to upholding principles within every singular composition of this research intervention. For ethical clearance, the study was proposed to the Turfloop Research

²²⁰ Kirk, J., & Miller, M. L. (1986). *Reliability and validity in qualitative research* (Vol. 1). Sage.

²²¹ Thomas, G. (2011). A typology for the case study in social science following a review of definition, discourse, and structure. *Qualitative inquiry*, 17(6), 511-521.

²²² Creswell, J.W. (2014). *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches*. SAGE Publications. London

²²³ Miles, M & Huberman, M. (1994). *Qualitative Data Analysis*. (2nd Ed.) California. SAGE Publications

²²⁴ *ibid*

Ethics Committee (TREC) and was duly approved for undertaking with the registration TREC/120/2024: PG on 20 May 2024.

3.16. Reflexivity

It is almost practically impossible to remain 'outside' of one's study topic while conducting research. In doing research, this process is understood as reflexivity, and it pertains to the 'analytic attention to the researcher's role in qualitative research'²²⁵. As a concept, it refers to a certain level of consciousness which one soon assumes to enable critical attention in qualitative interventions. Reflexivity entails self-awareness of one's positionality in relation to the research subject. Accordingly, reflexivity is a process of introspection on the role of subjectivity in the research process²²⁶. Reflexivity is defined as a continuous process of reflection by researchers on their values, about 'recognizing, examining, and understanding how their 'social background', location and assumptions affect their research practice'²²⁷.

3.17. Conclusion

This chapter elucidated the research methodology of the study, including the study's research design. The purpose of a research design is to maximize valid answers to a research question. This was achieved by using a nonexperimental, qualitative, exploratory-descriptive approach that was contextual. The researcher was the main data collection instrument. The researcher has satisfactorily made sense of data by using a desk methodology to analyze it and ensured that the data was trustworthy and credible. Observing the principles of beneficence and human dignity. Chapter Four presents a theoretical lens through which the analysis of the data that ensues in the next chapter. This lens is constructed through a discursive engagement with and on the historical legacies' attendant to the media houses subject to this study.

²²⁵ Gouldner, H. P. (1971). The Natural History of the Education of the Black Child in the City. Final Report.

²²⁶ Parahoo, K. (2006). Nursing research principles, processes and issues (2nd ed.). Hampshire, UK: Palgrave Macmillan

²²⁷ Hesse-Biber, S. N. (2007). The practice of feminist in-depth interviewing. *Feminist research practice: A primer*, 111-138.

CHAPTER FOUR

MAPPING THE HISTORY OF SOUTH AFRICA'S PRINT MEDIA

4.1. Introduction

This chapter discusses the making of print media in South Africa, its assumption of race politics, the emergence and brief demise of the elite educated and civilized print media, and the emergence of historically declared “black newspaper” with a particular focus on the *Sunday Times* and *Sowetan* newspapers. This chapter sets off by locating the center of critique and unpacking the political declarations imposed upon print media throughout South Africa’s violent “anti-black history”. The chapter is a response to the set-out objective (b) on mapping the history of print media in South Africa, unpacking the underlying politics of ownership and the culture of agenda setting in the industry, and how these dynamics relate to the framing and subsequent representation of black subjecthood to violence.

New linguistic concepts, ideas and research works which deal with specific problems and questions related to linguistic speech analysis and gender were thoroughly engaged upon to bring out the nuances of framing and writing that go side by side with the media’s framing of femicide. Ultimately, this chapter engages in locational and contextual discussion of key terms and topic construction in the framing of femicide and sets the tone for data analysis designated in the next chapter.

4.2. Understanding the media’s plane of operations in South Africa

A thorough layout of the methodological processes which influence the use of language and how it becomes and “instrument” of power, which Noam Chomsky (2004) argued is instrumental in forming a social order, sometimes an order characterized by violence in the Global South countries, violence that is very often firstly racialized and secondly gendered as a medium of communication. It then proceeded to discuss in detail what framing entails in the context of undertaking CDA studies engaged in language as a social and political tool, detrimental in doing and undoing violence.

To take note of the prevailing discourses, the study returned to The Steyn Commission, which set out clear intentions of the state on the use of print media to advance the interests of apartheid South Africa both locally and internationally. To this effect, the commission report noted that “by curtailing the scope of the media, the commission hoped to remove the ‘hard, tangible and exploitative images which identify the structural weaknesses of apartheid”²²⁸ and this is understood as an attempt by the state at “limiting what can be known, whose perspective matters, and who is endowed with the gravity and authority of historical actor”²²⁹.

This development in media control has, without doubt, sanctioned devastating implications on the lives of black people and their representation thereof in the process. Deciding what can be known in South Africa’s master and slave social relations was thus enacted in the “fourth estate” pre- and post-apartheid through various state regulations of the media. This meant that the image of South Africa’s violence was framed by the state through legislation and relied on the patriotism of those who own and control the media, and in the case of South Africa, predominantly a white minority population. This also meant that the representation of black bodies became a negotiated practice and subsequently created a racialized, classed, and gendered forms of representing the life of the black folk.

This marked the official practice of agenda setting in print media, both by the state as the legislator and censor and white capitalists who doubled as both controllers and owners. The development as presented what is called “an unquestioned valorization of the oppressed subject”²³⁰. In the apartheid era, the *Sowetan* served disenfranchised urban black communities and promoted their interests in a society in which they were not democratically represented²³¹.

Historically, *Sowetan* and *Sunday Times* were designated and dubbed as ‘black newspaper’ houses if we are to give a racial marker to them, however, their control and

²²⁸ Tomaselli, K & Tomaselli, R. (1982). How to Set Your House in Order: Read all About It In Steyn Commission II

²²⁹ Hartman, S. (2019). *Wayward Lives: Beautiful Experiments*. Serpent’s Tail

²³⁰ Foucault, M.(1975). *Discipline and punish. Social theory re-wired*. Routledge. 291-299.

²³¹ Cowling, L. (2014) Building a Nation: The *Sowetan* and the Creation of a Black Public, *Journal of Southern African Studies*, 40:2, 325-341, DOI: [10.1080/03057070.2014.901639](https://doi.org/10.1080/03057070.2014.901639)

ownership as with all other media houses fell under the armpit of state control and governance of press censorship through freedom of speech and expression. This means that the state grants freedom of speech, but not without prescribing limitations on the extent to which the freedom can be stretched. And so, writing about violence takes the position of a negotiated area of contention in studies on politics, gender, violence, and media framing.

The *Sowetan*, a black readership newspaper established in the 1980s, grew to be the biggest circulation daily in South Africa in the 1990s²³². It is understood to be “a successor newspaper to the *World* and the *Post*, newspapers that were banned for their criticism of the apartheid state in the 1970s.”²³³. Since its inception, the *Sowetan* allowed a collective re-imagining of black public life that formed a counterweight to apartheid representations of black Africans and facilitated public engagement with questions of citizenship and nationhood long before the inception of South Africa's constitutional democracy²³⁴. The newsroom of *Sowetan* converged with the newsrooms of other non-Black Times Media Group titles between 2009 and 2012²³⁵.

4.3. Discussing framing formation

Framing studies are often “based on the assumption that how an issue is characterized in news reports can have an influence on how it is understood by audiences”²³⁶. Framing can be defined as “persistent selection, emphasis, and exclusion”²³⁷ of either visual or textual forms of news representation. This process involves actors within social movements who “assign meaning to and interpret relevant events and conditions in ways that are intended to mobilize potential adherents and constituents, to garner bystander

²³² Fenton, C. (1981). ‘New Rush to Join Black Media Boom in Townships’. *Sunday Express*.

²³³ Cowling, L. (2014). Building a Nation: The *Sowetan* and the Creation of a Black Public. *Journal of Southern African Studies*, 40(2), 325–341. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/24566532>

²³⁴ Cowling, L. (2014) Building a Nation: The *Sowetan* and the Creation of a Black Public, *Journal of Southern African Studies*, 40:2, 325-341, DOI: 10.1080/03057070.2014.901639

²³⁵ Majavu, A. (2015). Merging the Black press with mainstream newspapers in post-apartheid South Africa: a phenomenological study of journalists at *Sowetan* newspaper between 2009 and 2012 (Doctoral dissertation, Auckland University of Technology).

²³⁶ Scheufele, D. and Tewksbury, D. 2007. “Framing, Agenda Setting, and Priming: The Evolution of Three Media Effects Models”. *Journal of Communication* 57(1): 9–20

²³⁷ Gitlin, T. (1980). *The whole world is watching: Mass media in the making and unmaking of the new left*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

support, and to demobilize antagonism²³⁸. To borrow from other scholars, framing in the most applicable context to this study refers to the “shaping of the audience’s understanding of what types of behavior amount to violence against women and girls, who enacts these behaviors, who is impacted by them, where these behaviors occur, and how they are responded to”²³⁹.

Detrimental in doing CDA studies is the understanding that “thematic framing has the potential to increase the collective responsibility of society in tackling risk factors and environmental conditions.”²⁴⁰. Scholars contend that previous framing analyses of femicide media coverage were performed almost exclusively on what is variously described as domestic violence or intimate-partner violence²⁴¹.

To be critical of how perceptions are built is to take stock and acknowledge the argument that “media philosophy and media organization reputation can be important influences on news framing.”²⁴². Femicide is not exempt from being born out of the influences and perceptions built on the consciousness of those who consume print media as a source of information. To this effect, the information that the media provides to citizens fuels their attitudes and opinions towards social movements²⁴³.

4.4. Breaking down text: Placing language at the center of undoing gendered violence in South Africa

Having argued in the earlier chapter how South Africa’s official languages are a manifestation of conquer and conquest, it remains an important undertaking to demonstrate how written language can be an important site of inquiry in doing scholarship on violence. Firstly, this study intends to ‘examine the intended role and unintended effects of writing’. This departs from the conviction that “the limitations of an approach

²³⁸ Snow, D & Benford, R (1988). Ideology, frame resonance, and participant mobilization. *International Social Movement Research*, 1, 197-218

²³⁹ Easteal, P; Holland, K; & Judd, K. (2015). Enduring themes and silences in media portrayals of violence against women. *Women’s Studies International Forum*. Vol.48. 103-113

²⁴⁰ Brodie, N. (2019). A Mixed Method Study of Media Coverage of Femicide

²⁴¹ *ibid*

²⁴² Worthington, N. (2011). Gender discourse and Ubuntu media philosophy: News framing of rape in Sowetan Online. *Journalism Studies*, 12(5), 608-623.

²⁴³ Entman, R. M. (1993). Framing: Towards Clarification of a Fractured Paradigm. *Journal of Communication*, 43(4), 51-58.

based on common language within the framework of 'ordinariness' are apparent"²⁴⁴ in our framing of femicide in South Africa. This study advocated undertaking a sociological study of aspects of language and text that disentangle the framing of femicide. This move is supported by the "idea of intimate synergies between creative thought and dissident action"²⁴⁵ as causal factor in violence. This study labored to demonstrate how "state violence, the violence of coloniality, gender-based violence and violence against the oppressed"²⁴⁶ are all seen through the media's framing and representation of violence against black womxn²⁴⁷ in South Africa.

Initially, the study intended to go against the grain on advocating writing that "normalize violence against women (VAW), sensationalize it, and sometimes even eroticize it"²⁴⁸ to being critical of the implications of the language we employ to write about femicide. This study borrowed from the assumption that English writings, which represented the violence of early modern Ireland and England, were significant in revealing the fraught relationship between historical developments and aesthetic representations²⁴⁹. It sought to argue through Noam Chomsky that "a deep understanding of language is thus a prerequisite to a deeper understanding of our humanity."²⁵⁰

Language gives meaning to social structures, identity-creating and oppressive ones,²⁵¹ and how we use it to frame femicide informs the formation and not only the meaning of violent systems of oppression capable of reproduction through the "fourth estate" enterprise. Language in a multimodal construct entails the boundaries and distinctions between various modes, while language as a multimodal construct sees language itself as multimodal; it focuses on the social constructs, social meaning and language as a

²⁴⁴ Hüppauf, B. (1997). Emptying the Gaze: Framing Violence through the Viewfinder. *New German Critique*, 72, 3–44. <https://doi.org/10.2307/488567>

²⁴⁵ Mehta, B. J. (2014). *Dissident writings of Arab women: Voices against violence*. Routledge.

²⁴⁶ *ibid*

²⁴⁷ Womxn defines/related to an inclusive term that refers to cisgender heterosexual women, transgender women, lesbian women, and other queer and feminine defined identities. I proceeded to using this term to refer to all of the above mentioned and how their death, read as femicide in framed.

²⁴⁸ England, S. (2018). *Writing terror on the bodies of women: Media coverage of violence against women in Guatemala*. Rowman & Littlefield.

²⁴⁹ Covington, S. (2014). 'Realms so barbarous and cruel': Writing Violence in Early Modern Ireland and England. *History*, 99(336), 487-504.

²⁵⁰ Chomsky, N. (2004). *Language and Politics*. AK Press

²⁵¹ Baez, B. (2002). Learning to forget: reflections on identity and language". *Journal of Latinos and education*, v. 1, n. 2, p. 123-132.

force in social change rather than the combination or orchestration of various modes in communication²⁵².

This chapter set out to “explore the ways public language frames, obscures, and manipulates the realities of race and racism”²⁵³ by placing at the center of critique social constructs such as race and language to interrogate how the media in its framing of femicide navigates these aspects. This is due to a long-standing argument that contemporary racio-linguistic ideologies must be situated within colonial histories that have shaped the co-naturalization of language and race as part of the project of modernity²⁵⁴. Feminist and post-colonial analyses of representational politics generate particular aesthetic and ethical questions and dilemmas²⁵⁵.

4.5. Conclusion

While this chapter has labored to present central arguments on the historical formation of print media in South Africa, its racialized history, its adoption as an organ of the state, the emergence of black print media houses, the suppression thereof, the linguistic framing and (mis)representation thereof, and the subsequent implications of such an act, the next chapter of the study is preoccupied with data analysis procedure. It set out by drawing lessons on doing CDA to understand the representational framing of femicide in South Africa and discuss how print media participates in the creation of social phenomena and perceptions. This chapter serves as an important and indispensable pathway for the reader towards understanding the context of the following chapter. The pathway is laid out through thorough discussions on some of the operational principles and facts that readers should be aware of in order to take stock of this CDA undertaking.

²⁵² Wang, J., Jin, G. & Li, W. (2023). Changing perceptions of language in sociolinguistics. *Humanit Soc Sci Commun* 10, 91. <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41599-023-01574-5>

²⁵³ Stewart, M. W., & Dixon, R. (2010). Speaking Race/Hearing Racism. *Race, Gender & Class*, 17(3/4), 142–158. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/41674757>

²⁵⁴ Rosa, J., & Flores, N. (2017). Unsettling race and language: Toward a raciolinguistic perspective. *Language in Society*, 46(5), 621–647. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/26847619>

²⁵⁵ SCHUHMANN, A. (2015). SHOOTING VIOLENCE AND TRAUMA: TRAVERSING VISUAL AND SOCIAL TOPOGRAPHIES IN ZANELE MUHOLI'S WORK. In A. SCHUHMANN & J. MISTRY (Eds.), *Gaze Regimes: Film and feminisms in Africa* (pp. 55–80). Wits University Press. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.18772/22015068561.11>

CHAPTER FIVE: RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

INTERPRETING THE CANON THAT NOW OCCUPIES THE ARCHIVE: DISENTANGLING DATA COVERING THE ‘MURDER’ READ AS FEMICIDE OF BLACK WOMXN IN SOUTH AFRICA’S PRINT MEDIA

5.1 Introduction

This chapter of the study presents the data collected for the inquiry and presents linguistic texts on framing femicide for analysis. As discussed thoroughly in Chapter Four of the study, this chapter returns to its methodological underpinning, Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), and its basic tenets were to inform the methodological and theoretical processes of doing data analysis. Having defined discourse as a series of events, the analysis process entailed drawing a frame analysis for reading the forms and ways of writing about femicide and the attendant linguistic framing. Finally, the chapter responds to the objective (d) as outlined in Chapter One, which sought to interrogate the role of print media in framing femicide by exploring how language is central to discourse formation.

By setting out this objective, the study wished to arrive at a critical conclusion wherein an understanding of how femicide is framed and represented by reading parallel with Richard Wright’s idea of a “culture of social death” articulated by JanMohamed (2005)²⁵⁶ as a lived experience and how the victim’s identities are represented to understand racial and class framings, attend to femicide and politics of erasure. This chapter is limited only to presenting the data collected and will relegate the discussion thereof to Chapter Six.

5.2 Presenting findings for analysis

Here, the study is preoccupied with paging through the archive as a methodological process to uncover how femicide is written into the canon of South Africa’s violence. Scholars argued that the public²⁵⁷ sees the world, not as it is, but through the filter of the media²⁵⁸. This analysis is also premised on the fact that “because of both the linguistic and cultural turns in sociology, political science, anthropology and history, texts and discourses have become more than a means for quantitative analysis, for example

²⁵⁶ JanMohamed, A. R. (2005). *The Death-Bound-Subject: Richard Wright’s Archaeology of Death*. Duke University Press. <https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctv11cw3xk>

²⁵⁷ Fairclough, N. (2013). *Language and power*. Routledge.

²⁵⁸ McCombs, M. (2005). A Look at Agenda Setting: Past, Present and Future. *Journalism Studies* 6(4): 543-557

content analysis of media or other printed materials, or some kind of illustrative and mostly paraphrased analysis of narrative interviews”²⁵⁹.

5.4 Summary of themes and subthemes

5.4.1 Theme One: Active voicing and framing femicide

Active voicing as a thematic reading attempts to grapple with data samples, which are headlined to draw attention to activist-centred newspaper headlines that seek to garner public support towards bringing an end to the scourge of femicide in South Africa. This theme discusses, in brief synopsis, action-based interventions to violence against women.

No	Themes	Subthemes
Theme One	Active voicing in framing femicide	Data Set 1: “#Am I next?” Data Set 2 – “Popcru believes death of police officer was murder”. Data Set 3: Anti-mining activist “refused” bribe. Data Set 4: Slain activist refused bribe. Data Set 5: Grisly death follows Facebook affair. Data Set 6: I am scared for the safety of my daughters, other kids and women. Data Set 7: Wave of fear grips female students. Data Set 8: “#AmINext activist stabbed by ex”. Data Set 9: Crimes that shock the nation.

²⁵⁹ Reisigl, M., Wodak, R., & Meyer, M. (2009). Methods of critical discourse analysis.

Theme Two	Victim and perpetrator framing and representation	Data Set 10: “Woman dies after ‘lover set her alight”. Data Set 11: “Murdered mom to be Tshego Pule laid to rest”. Data Set 12: “Mom rushed outside after seeing Precious’ killer”. Data Set 13: “Family still in shock over girl’s killing by her father”. Data Set 14: “Burnt in her car after years of abuse”. Data Set 15: “Man chops lover to death with panga”. Data Set 16: “Son sees dad stabs mom, hangs himself”. Data Set 17: “Jilted lover kills girlfriend, injures elder sister”. Data Set 18 – “Wife ‘killer confessed”. Data Set 19: Mother relives her daughter’s slaying.
Theme Three	Gendering the frame	Data Set 20: “Men hang your head in shame”. Data Set 21: “Men are the root of all evil and mayhem that is in full bloom in South Africa”.

		Data Set 22: Women still dying for love in SA. Data Set 23: Place of Weeping. Data Set 24: “Lugalo’s murder shows how brutal life is for women in SA”. Data Set 25: “Violence against women is the problem of every man in South Africa”.
Theme Four	Rape and murder as ritual	Data Set 26: “Family heartache over rape tragedy”. Data Set 27: “Another rape case for student’s killer” Data Set 28: “Teen raped on Christmas eve, murdered on New Year’s Eve”.
Theme Five	Framing of Interventions	Data Set 29: “<i>Death penalty is no solution</i>”. Data Set 30: Give mom killers’ heavy sentences. Data set 31: Open letter to honorable president of South Africa, Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa Data Set 32: Mr President, ending the tyranny of violence must be your top priority. Data Set 33: “Women call for castration of GBV”.

Data Set 1: “#Am I Next?”. Sowetan.



Excerpt 1

Pictured on the first page is the image of a slain victim of femicide, University of Cape Town (UCT) student Uyinene Mrywetyana. The death of black womxn is seen as a tragic event always waiting to happen and capable of inducing speculation on who the next victim might be.

Data Set 2: Popcru believes death of police officer was murder.

Popcru believes death of police officer was murder

Woman's body found in river

By **Lulamile Feni**

An inquest docket has been registered following the discovery of the lifeless body of W/O Nosipho Mphakathi at the weekend, Eastern Cape police have said.

Mphakathi had been missing for four days before her

body was found floating in Umzimvubu River at Port St Johns on Saturday afternoon. The 40-year-old detective was stationed at Port St Johns police station.

Provincial police spokesperson Col Sibongile Soci confirmed the inquest docket. "The body was retrieved near a lodge in Port St Johns at about 3pm on Saturday.

"The body was discovered by the owner of the lodge, who raised the alarm with police."

Provincial commissioner Lt-Gen Liziwe Ntshinga has sent condolences to Mphakathi's family, friends and colleagues.

She was reported missing on Friday, even though her family had last seen her late on December 8.

"She was last seen by her 16-year-old son leaving her home-stead at Tyibane locality in Port St Johns on December 8 at about 11pm," Soci said.

The Police, Prison and Civil Rights Union (Popcru) in the

Eastern Cape believes Mphakathi was murdered and called for speedy arrests if investigations indicate her death was not an accident.

Popcru provincial chair Loyiso Mdingi said its call came in the context of SA's scourge of gender-based violence.

"We strongly condemn any form of abuse of women and children.

"Now a woman who is dead is a policewoman, someone who committed her life to protecting the country and its citizens," Mdingi said.

"She died under mysterious circumstances. We send condolences to her family, children, colleagues and fellow Popcru members."

Excerpt 2

In this sampled article the victim's name does not appear in the headline; rather, the occupation and the association to which the mentioned professionals are attached are

mentioned in the headline. What also stands out from the headline is how the categorization of such a crime is vague and obscured, meaning that one cannot explicitly point out the nature of the murder in line with this study's established operational categories on violence against women.

Data Set 3: Anti-mining activist pays ultimate price. Sunday Times.

Lungelo Xakaza, the daughter of the late Fikile Ntshangase, and Nozipho Xakaza at Ntshangase's funeral at Umphumulo, in KwaMaphumulo, outside Durban.

Anti-mining activist pays ultimate price

Assassins cut down deeply religious opponent of coal mine's expansion

By MATTHEW SAVIDES and ORRIN SENGH

● "oJesus, Hovvu Jesu, Hovvu Jesu" (Oh Jesus). These were the last words of Fikile Ntshangase, an anti-mining activist gunned down in KwaZulu-Natal nine days ago.

At about 6.30pm last Thursday, as she chopped vegetables, she was on the phone to a friend, Victor Langa. Ntshangase was deeply religious and Langa was playing her a gospel song. Then gunshots rang out.

"She said: 'oJesus, Hovvu Jesu, Hovvu Jesu.' That's all. I only heard one shot. I suspected it was a thunderstorm," said Langa.

It wasn't a thunderstorm. His friend was dead. Assassinated. Langa was the last person to hear her voice. A short while later neighbours ran to the house. Three men were seen running away. No arrests have been made.

Ntshangase was lying face-up in a pool of blood. At least one shot was fired as she lay on the ground. A single bullet hole in the floor of her Sonkhelwe home indicates this.

The activist's death has been blamed on a "culture of intimidation" within a community deeply fractured over a proposed 220km² expansion to the Sonkhelwe anthracite mine on the border of the Hahluwe-Umfolozi Park. The expansion is the subject of three court cases, one of which will be heard in the Supreme Court of Appeal this week where it is argued that the mine should be interdicted from operating until it obtains environmental authorisation. In a parallel case, set for March in Pretoria, community members want the mining rights granted in 2016 to be set aside. Meanwhile, Tendele is suing the 19 families who are refusing to move to determine the amount of compensation they are entitled to — a possible precursor to eviction proceedings.

The family of 63-year-old Ntshangase is not one of those but she took a leading role in the Mfolozi Community Environmental Justice Organisation (MCEJO), a vocal opponent of the mine.

Tendele Coal Mining has operated the Sonkhelwe mine since 2007. In 2016 permission was granted for an expansion.

Though the area is not currently being mined, it is

Excerpt 3

Having discussed the history of violence earlier in Chapter Three, attached to the arrival of guns in South Africa, it is still without doubt that black womxn fall victim to the gun violence resulting from the commitment to the conservation of the earth as humanity's common heritage. This also follows a spate of similar attacks directed at womxn who daily confront South Africa's white capital to address issues attendant to black existential crises that determine our collective ability to dismantle the master's violent house.

Data Set 4: Slain activist 'refused bribe'. Sunday Times.

Slain activist 'refused bribe'

Crime • Society • Discrimination • Human Rights • White-collar Crime • South Africa News • Politics
8 Nov 2020 By **MATTHEW SAVIDES** and **ORRIN SINGH**

A brazen attempt to “buy off” community leaders blocking a huge coal-mine expansion in KwaZulu-Natal has raised new questions about the assassination of KwaZulu-Natal anti-mining campaigner Fikile Ntshangase.

Ntshangase, 63, was shot dead last month after refusing an alleged R350,000 bribe. She had threatened to tell who offered her the bribe and of a meeting between mine management and community leaders at which payoffs were discussed.

Many in the area of the Somkhele coal mine who supported Ntshangase now fear for their lives.

Documents seen by the **Sunday Times** say two men, Phillip Zwane and Nkosi Mlambo, appear to have tried to get money for persuading

the community in the Mkhuze area to withdraw court cases lodged against Tendele Coal Mining.

Two affidavits link Zwane and Mlambo to the bribe claims. One says the men claimed to be acting for Tendele.

Minutes of a Zoom meeting on April 19 say Tendele CEO Jan du Preez and community development manager Nathi Kunene met Zwane and Mlambo, who were members of anti-mining lobby Mfolozi Community Environmental Justice Organisation.

Ntshangase was a member of the group, which is a party to court cases over a planned 220ha expansion of the mine. One case went to the Supreme Court of Appeal this week. Another is scheduled for the high court in Pretoria next year.

The group's legal representative said this week that the April meeting took place without the go-ahead from the organisation, and that neither Zwane nor Mlambo had the authority to negotiate.

None of the four parties at the meeting dispute the veracity of the minutes.

The minutes say Mlambo said that for the group to postpone the court case, with the chance of withdrawing it, two things needed to take place:

Seven members of the group should each be given a “payment” of R350,000.

Legal costs would be R1.2m.

Last week, Du Preez denied knowing of any money offered or requested or linked to Ntshangase. But this week he and Kunene said Zwane and Mlambo approached Tendele, saying the group would postpone the case if R350,000 was arranged.

They said Zwane and Mlambo wanted the cash and would per-

sue the group to quit the court actions.

“This request for compensation was refused by Tendele.

“Compensation was never offered to any community members to withdraw from the court case,” the mine said.

Du Preez and Kunene said it was indicated that the money was needed to manage future projects and business opportunities on behalf of the group.

“Nothing was ever paid,” they said.

The allegations of the bribes came after Ntshangase's murder on October 22.

“She was very outspoken,” said her daughter Lungelo Xakaza. “That's just who she was.”

A week before her death, Ntshangase said in a meeting of the group that she had been offered money — in the region of R350,000 — to sign a memorandum of understanding between the

group and Tendele.

She said she would depose an affidavit, saying who offered the money, and what was required in return.

She was killed before she could do so, but had spoken to her legal representative and her family about the bribe.

The memorandum says that the court cases against Tendele “would be withdrawn”. There is no mention of compensation in the document.

In the affidavit, given to the **Sunday Times** this week, a community member said Zwane had visited him around the time of the April meeting and offered him what was understood to be a R300,000 bribe to withdraw support for the group's litigation against Tendele.

The community member said they would also be offered work with the mine, and would be made “rich”. The person's identity is not being published for fear of reprisal.

The document states that Du Preez

Excerpt 4

This article from the newspaper, house *Sunday Times*, gives an account of how an activist, Fikile Ntshangase, met her untimely death owed to her commitment to the struggle against mining activities in her community. What the framing omits in the heading of the article is only accounted for in the first paragraph of the article. While such a crime can be labelled as both NIPV and Violence Against Women (VAW), it, however, falls out of the character of GBV, IPV. This is owed, firstly, to the fact that there is no relationship between the victim and the perpetrator and secondly that the victim met her untimely death owed to the fact that she was a womxn, black, and committed to waging a war against mineral exploitation by private monopoly at the detriment of indigenous communities. These struggles are commonly waged by African womxn who have an intimate and symbiotic relationship with the environment and are therefore committed to its preservation, for it guarantees their existence as a people. The account of Fikile Ntshangase if for the first time accounted for in Excerpt 3 titled “*Anti-mining activist pays ultimate price*” dated.

Data Set 5: Grisly death follows Facebook affair. Sunday Times

Grisly death follows Facebook affair

By NIVASHINI NAR

● A British man paid the ultimate price after becoming entangled in the web of an alleged South African "black widow".

The charred remains of Jannadas Harkant Nathvani, 71, were identified two weeks ago, almost eight months after he travelled to SA from India – where he had been on a pilgrimage – to meet Zahera Boomgaard, a Gauteng woman he met on Facebook.

Boomgaard has since been arrested and charged with the kidnapping and murder of Nathvani and her friend Lynette Mustapha.

It was Mustapha's charred remains, also found in Walkerville, south of Johannesburg, that led police to crack the case of the missing man.

Police have not revealed the motive for the killings. Boomgaard is, however, also charged with several counts of fraud and the theft of Mustapha's vehicle.

She is also linked to the disappearance of 83-year-old retired naval engineer John Naisby, who travelled from Cape Town to Walkerville to meet her after they began an online romance on Facebook.

Naisby told his wife in 2012 that he was going to Gauteng to meet a woman by the name of Zahera Woolley. He has not been seen since, but money was withdrawn from his bank account days after his disappearance.



The charred remains of Jannadas Harkant Nathvani, left, were found in the De Dur area of Gauteng after he went to meet Zahera Boomgaard, above. Picture: Simon Mathabula



she is linked to Naisby's disappearance and investigations are continuing.

Police spokesperson Col Brenda Muriidli said Boomgaard was also linked to "other cases with pending investigations".

Muriidli said Nathvani landed at OR Tambo International Airport on January 25.

"On May 6, the daughter of the deceased, Mala Nathvani, called the Newcastle police and requested their assistance to locate her father."

person case on May 10.

"The location of Mr Nathvani, alive or dead, was the biggest challenge. The person of interest, during interviews with the investigating team, kept insisting that Mr Nathvani was still alive," Muriidli said.

During this time, Nathvani's Facebook account was still active, with posts saying he was fed up with the lockdown in SA. However, friends and family, who had commented on the posts, were sceptical that he had created them.

The breakthrough came on August 8. National Prosecuting Authority spokes-

confirmed that charred remains that had been found on March 11 were that of Mr Nathvani.

His identity was confirmed by DNA obtained from the UK and dental records from India.

Postmortem results revealed signs of blunt and sharp force trauma.

Nathvani's children asked SA Community Crime Watch to facilitate the cremation of the retired accountant according to Hindu rites.

InNumbers

2012

John Naisby disappears without a trace after meeting Zahera Woolley

2020

Zahera Boomgaard is arrested for the murder of her friend Lynette Mustapha and Jannadas Harkant Nathvani

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Excerpt 5

The word "grisly" is synonymous with horrific or devastating circumstances. This article is framed in a way that "the manner of death" takes center stage in the headline framing. It also raises awareness in the reader to understand the social spaces under which violence finds an outlet to take place. In line with this and reference to other articles in the data set where "private spaces" were deemed as conducive for the embodiment of violence, the article refers to social media as a site where potential victims are often lured and ultimately fall victim of violence.

Data Set 6: I'm scared for the safety of my daughters, other kids, and women.



Excerpt 6

In this article, Botha (2019) addresses both Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and Non-Intimate Partner Violence (N-IPV) and presents the idea that 'there is no architecture without action, no architecture without events, no architecture without program...no

architecture with violence'²⁶⁰ which succinctly captures at its core the reality that people's experiences of space are often synonymous with the violence in occupied territories. A sizeable body of research has established that many other demographic factors besides gender are correlated with the fear of crime²⁶¹.

Botha (2019) wrote, "I wish I had a solution to offer at the end of this article, with ideas on what our next move as a country should be, to save the bodies of women and children from this war". Again, Botha (2019) frames the killing of womxn and children as an act of 'war' which triggers security complexes in the lives of black womxn and children who have to navigate through the daily violence. Safety and security remain one of the primary preoccupations critical to engaging with space and locality, and often inform how people relate to particular spaces. Having demonstrated in the earlier chapters through literature how South Africa has become one of the murder capitals of the world, it is no surprise that a matter attendant to security complexes arises from public perceptions on femicide. What is built in the archive of violence against black people is a reminder of centuries of violence buried in an attempt to build a democratic state that keeps haunting the society through a variety of forms, such as gendered violence.

Data Set 7: "Wave of fear grips female students". Sowetan.



Excerpt 7

Ledwaba (2019) commented that "young women in South African universities are fearful of their lives" and moves consistent with Pumla Dineo Gqola's locating of the Female Fear Factory²⁶² that seems to have found fertile reproduction grounds in South African

²⁶⁰ Tschumi, B. (1994). Violence and Architecture", in Architecture and Disjunction.

²⁶¹ Callanan, V., Rosenberger, J. (2015). Media, Gender, and Fear of Crime. Criminal Justice Review, 40(3), 322-339. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0734016815573308>

²⁶² Gqola, P. (2021). Female Fear Factory. Melinda Ferguson Publishers

universities. This followed a spate of violence that had engulfed the academy, with the numbers shooting up the ceiling in 2019.

The reference to “murder” as a relational action to gender-based violence (GBV) and/or VAW is a defining element of what femicide ultimately achieves in terms of victim formation and archiving the ultimate demise of the lives of black womxn. Secondary to this and consistent with the idea that “women’s subjective feelings contribute to the intersubjective power-related process of producing space”²⁶³ in the sense that space is attached to actions by virtue of existence and always carries memory, often violent and deadly. Womxn develop individual maps of places where they fear assault as a product of their experience of space and secondary information²⁶⁴. This frame formation is instrumental in how it relegates the identity of the victim to a secondary frame, which takes the form of a ‘subtitle’.

Data Set 8: #Am-I-Next activist stabbed by ex.

#Am-I-Next activist stabbed by ex

Zozo's no more

By **Yoliswa Sobuwa**

A 19-year-old university student, Asithandile Zozo, who organised gender-based violence protests following last year's horrific killing of the University of Cape Town student Uyinene Mrwetyana, was herself murdered on Monday.

The incident happened exactly a week before the anniversary of the murder of Mrwetyana, who was also 19 when she was killed on August 24 last year. Mrwetyana was raped, tortured and killed inside a post office station by an employee.

At the time of Mrwetyana's burial, Zozo was at the forefront of a student movement she had hurriedly organised to fight gender-based violence.

during the solidarity protests carrying a placard with statement "Am I Next?"

That question was painfully answered on Monday after she was brutally stabbed – allegedly by her jilted boyfriend – before she succumbed to her wounds as she was being rushed to hospital. The boyfriend apparently attempted to commit suicide after he overdosed with tablets.

In a tragic moment related by one of her relatives, Zozo's 47-year-old mother is said to have come across a group of people next to her block of flats in Idutywa, Eastern Cape, and overheard them talking about rushing a girl to hospital.

She was walking home from work and little did she know that the girl they were talking about rushing to Butterworth Hospital was her beloved Zozo, who was a student at Wits University in Johannesburg.

the mother's name not to be mentioned because of the sensitivity of the matter.

Speaking on behalf of the family, Zozo's uncle Mthubanzi Mniki said the mother was not even aware that it was her daughter who was being rushed to hospital.

"She was not aware that it was her daughter who was being rushed to hospital. Unfortunately, when she later went to the hospital it was too late as her daughter was no more."

Mniki said Zozo was stabbed to death at her mother's rented apartment.

Early this month, Zozo sent messages to her Facebook friend (who asked not to be named) about her bitter ex-boyfriend who would not accept their break-up.

Some of the messages read: "We had a huge fight on the night when I tried to break up with him and he took the with him he will kill me. He then disappeared and his family started asking me questions, of which I was forced to explain everything to them. They told me to go back to him for my safety."

She wrote that she went back to him but things did not work out and she eventually managed to break it off with him again. "That day he slapped me twice," she said.

Zozo's cousin Sinesighe Mniki, 24, said: "A woman had the audacity to encourage another woman to go back to an abusive relationship for her safety. This is very shocking. She did not deserve to die like that. She was a very sweet and ambitious child."

Police spokesperson Capt Kaya Tonjeni said the man was under police guard in hospital after being admitted for overdosing on tablets and would be charged with murder.

Excerpt 8

Sobuwa's (2020) attempts to draw a connection between activism and the continuing violence faced by womxn in South Africa by writing about the death of an activist who

²⁶³ Koskela, H. (1999): Gendered Exclusions: Women's Fear of Violence and Changing relations to space.

²⁶⁴ Pain, H. (1997). Social Geographies of Women's Fear of Crime. Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers, 22 (2)231-244

was vocal in raising an existential question that was profoundly audible in South Africa's social movements. The #Am-I-Next emerged as a talk but to the spate of violence that was witnessed in 2019 and ignited national protests across the country after the death of UCT student Uyinene Mrwetyana.

Data Set 9: *Crimes which shook the nation.*

Crimes which shook the nation

Gruesome murders made for decade's grim headlines

By **Promise Marupeng, Peter Ramothwala and Tankiso Makhetha**

The CCTV video footage of murderer Sandile Mantsoe casually strolling out of his flat while pulling a large bin shocked the nation when it was later discovered that the container was carrying the lifeless body of his girlfriend Karabo Mokoena.

The footage, admitted into evidence during Mantsoe's trial but not previously publicly released, showed how Mantsoe retrieved a wheeled bin from a room near his flat at 9.57pm. Less than 10 minutes later he's captured pulling the clearly heavy bin into a lift.

This was one of the most shocking violent crimes to have been reported in SA this past decade. Sowetan looks at this and other crime stories which also numbed the country in the last 10 years.

Mantsoe, who was found guilty of murdering his girlfriend, Karabo Mokoena, was sentenced to 32 years in prison on May 3 2018.

Mokoena's body had been doused with petrol and set alight in a seemingly desperate but gruesome attempt to dispose of it.

• Qualified teacher, Themba Tauhane, was sentenced to two life terms and an additional five years in prison for the murders of Gabisile Shabane, 13, who was living with albinism, and her 15 month old cousin Nkosikhona Ngwenya in August 2019.

The two children were abducted from their eMalahleni home in Mpumalanga for muthi purposes. While Gabisile was found buried in a shallow grave in Cullinan, east of Pretoria, Nkosikhona's body was found in a river. He was thrown over a bridge after his abductors realised he had no albinism but a light complexion.

• The woman dubbed "the black widow" in the media was sentenced to 15 years in jail for fraud and theft. She had gone on a spending spree,

mainly in Benoni, with the credit card of a medical doctor who was found dead in a lodge room in Sasolburg, northern Free State.

Malibhanye Maoeng, 30, was not tried for murder even though she had checked into the lodge with Highlands Park FC team doctor, Godfrey Sankubela Dire.

Maoeng's theft rap included Dire's Mercedes-Benz C-Class car found in her possession in Benoni.

• A 33-year-old serial rapist was handed one of the country's heaviest sentences with a total of 1,258 years in jail.

In 2019, Bongani Masuku was sentenced to a total of 20 life terms and an additional 758 years for charges including murder, rape, kidnapping, house robbery, robbery and assault.

Masuku's eight-year reign of terror between 2010 and last year was localised in Pretoria's north-western townships such as Soshanguve, Mabopane, Winterveldt and Klipgat, where he and his gang would target young women, rob and rape them.

• Lebogang Gift Mokoena was sentenced to 13 life sentences and 340 years in prison in the South Gauteng High Court sitting in Palm Ridge, Ekurhuleni, on Thursday.

In October 2018, the court found Mokoena guilty of 13 counts of rape, nine of kidnapping, nine of robbery with aggravating circumstances, nine of pointing an object that resembles a firearm, two of aiding and abetting someone to commit an offence and one of sexual assault. He raped eight women.

• Palesa Madiba went missing following a sleepover at her friend Tshidi Mkhwanazi's home in Phiri, Soweto, on August 9, 2013.

Madiba's body was found two years later buried in Mkhwanazi property. This year Tshidi's uncle, Dumisani Mkhwanazi, was arrested and charged with Madiba's murder and defeating the ends of justice.

Back in 2013, when asked by Madiba's relatives about the whereabouts of their daughter, Mkhwanazi had told them he had last seen her when she



Karabo Mokoena

left the house on August 12, the Monday after her weekend sleepover.

• In August 2004, Limpopo province was shaken by news of the gruesome murder of 10-year old Sello Chokoe of GaMaleka near Polokwane.

Chokoe was hit with a blunt object at a small koppie near his village and his private parts including his ear and arm were harvested.

He died few days later at a hospital in Polokwane. His killers were never arrested.

Excerpt 9

The title of the article suggests that the country has witnessed unprecedented manifestations of crimes worthy of pause and pondering. What the authors do not labor to indulge the readers is on the typology of crime the article seeks to attend to. What rather appears insert is a photograph of a victim of a violent crime captioned Karabo Mokoena. The same procedure, which would count as considerable erasure and omission of what could be snippets of important details, the authors could be effecting on the article can be seen in the subheading that follows the headline. And so, in the context of the headline in this article, it would be justifiable to argue that the author joins the exodus in labeling femicide just as a crime, like any criminalized and illegal activity in the penal and justice system of the country.

What the article also does in a closer reading is that it provides an account of a few crimes that took place in the past decade from the date of print. Some of these accounts fall out of the scope of this research inquiry, while some others justifiably do. What also appears

is the fact that in stealing from Biko, “sometimes your death can be a politicizing thing” is that the life of Karabo Mokoena accompanied by her image, serves to eternity, as a subject of reference on crime and violence in South Africa. It is not giving the problem a name that appears in this newspaper article. For the authors stick to all accounts of violence, just as crimes, despite how different all the accounts are.

5.4.2 Theme Four: Victim and perpetrator framing

This theme explores newspaper articles that addressed two points of framing mechanisms. The first exploration is contingent upon how the victims are represented in the articles, whether their names and any other personal information are provided, and accompany the news headlines. This exploration is undertaken to take stock of the prevalent politics of erasure on the lives of victims of femicide. The second objective in this theme is to check how the lives of the perpetrators are framed in relation to the victims. The third objective explores newspaper articles framed in relation to the next of kin of victims of violence against women.

Data Set 10: Woman dies after ‘lover set her alight’.

Woman dies after 'lover set her alight'

Victim was in abusive relationship

By Tankiso Makhetha

A woman, who spent nine days in intensive care unit after she was doused with paraffin and set alight allegedly by her partner following an argument in her Tembisa, Ekurhuleni, home, has died.

Dorcas Rathokane, 52, died from severe burn wounds on Friday following the August 5 incident that left the community shattered.

Neighbour Elizabeth Maseko recalled how Rathokane ran out of her house, engulfed in flames.

"I was woken up by her screams for help. I was confused, so I ran to the window to see what was happening and I saw her running to the top outside of her house while she was in flames," Maseko said.

She said she couldn't find her house key as she was startled. Police said yesterday that the man, Thabo Mokoena, 35, allegedly accused Rathokane of cheating. Spokesperson Brig Mathapelo Peters said they were prioritising the case.

"I know that guy constantly doused her. I would hear her screaming for help or would hear them having arguments. But I didn't think it would get to this point," Maseko said.

Another neighbour, who asked not to be named, said the accused allegedly arrived home drunk and had an argument with the deceased.

"He drunk a lot that guy. But you wonder where he got alco-



Beauty Mofokeng says the family is hurt by the murder of her sister Dorcas Rathokane (inset) who was doused with paraffin and set alight, allegedly by her lover. / ANTONIO MUCHAVE

hol from because alcohol was banned," the neighbour said.

"He got to the house and had an argument with her. I don't know what the argument was about, but he got paraffin and doused her with it and set her alight."

Rathokane's niece, Refiloe Mofokeng, described her aunt as a loving and caring person, adding that the family was confused by what led to the incident.

"I live in a different section of Tembisa, so I received a call from a neighbour at around 1am on August 5, telling me that my aunt had been burnt," she said.

She said they rushed to her aunt's house and when they

arrived the fire had been put out but not before Rathokane suffered severe burn wounds.

"The paramedics were in the house with her and they didn't allow us to see her at that time. They said she was injured badly and needed to treat her before taking her to the hospital," Mofokeng said.

She said her aunt spent close to two weeks in hospital before succumbing to her injuries.

"She was burnt on her upper body. It was severe, but we thought she was going to make it. We spoke briefly to her, but couldn't go see her because the hospital didn't allow any visitors because of Covid-19 [restrictions]," she said.

Rathokane's sister, Beauty Mofokeng, said Rathokane did not discuss the details of her relationship with the accused and that they did not know much about their relationship.

"They were together for less than six months. Whenever she spoke about their problems, she did not get into detail but we understood that because couples have fights and you never know what happens," she said.

Peters said: "The suspect allegedly assaulted the victim before he was stopped by community members."

Mokoena has appeared in the Tembisa magistrate's court and his case was postponed.

Excerpt 10

The article the author highlights the prevailing and persistent violence against women at the hands of their lovers. This specific form of violence is characterized as IPV where the perpetrator and victim relationships are often of an intimate nature, with a prevailing history of past abusive bouts which ultimately ends with the death of the other.

Data Set 11: Murdered mom-to-be Tshego Pule laid to rest. Sunday Times

•**South Africa**

mal settlement and the secluded dirt road is used by people dumping refuse. It is understood that a waste picker found the body.

Her family said they last saw Pule on the previous Thursday when she left her Mool-outlands home with Shoba to go shopping for clothes for the baby. They said she had not returned home, and had last been active on WhatsApp at about 11pm that night.

The CCTV footage allegedly shows Pule getting into a grey Jeep outside Shoba's home last Thursday night. Shoba did not get into the car with her.

Shoba remained tight-lipped about his relationship with Pule, but his father, Mvokhe Shoba, said the unborn baby had been the product of an affair.

"What he told us is that they had an affair some time ago. It was one of those things and he only told us after her family told him she was missing," he said. "We told us that she became pregnant and they were preparing to buy clothing for the child."

He said his son is engaged to another woman, who was also in the dark about his affair.

"We really feel grieved and shocked and full of grief, and our hearts go out to the Pule family. We are going through the same indescribable pain and we just don't understand it. We pray every day that the culprit or culprits are arrested and brought to book."

The elder Shoba said his son is innocent and that he is crushed by grief.

"He had an interview with the police... he spent two or three hours with the top brass of the police. They took all the details and all viewed the footage of his place."

In a case of mistaken identity, a man named David Shoba was accused on social media earlier this week as being Pule's boyfriend. Police have confirmed that he is not connected to the investigation.

Pule's uncle, Tumbung Katuke, told the Sunday Times that detectives visited the devastated family this week and showed them CCTV footage, the grainy images understood to be the last time the expectant mother was pictured.

He described how the cameras captured his niece leaving Shoba's apartment complex in Westlake, Florida, on the Thursday night before getting into a Jeep that had pulled up at the gate.

He said the footage showed Shoba accompanying Pule and speaking to the driver of the mystery car before it pulled away.

Pule's body was found three days later, about 70m away.

Westlake caretaker Ali Madhe said Shoba had not returned home since Pule's death.

"On Tuesday the detectives came to ask some questions and they wanted to see the footage from our cameras," he said.

Katuke said his niece, who had worked as a makeup artist and wanted to pursue studies in marketing, had been looking forward to becoming a mother. He said the family

knew Shoba as Pule's boyfriend.

"She was so excited. She was going to have a girl and her name was to be Leungu."

Her death has left her family in tatters, especially her aunt, Precilla Chwa, who took her in 11 years ago after her parents died.

"She is not OK at all. She is in an emotional state, all of us are," Katuke said.

Katuke, an attorney who defended murderer Sandile Mamonse, pledged to never again represent those who rape, kill and molest women and children.

In 2018, Mamonse was sentenced to 32 years in prison for murdering Katuke.

Murdered mom-to-be Tshego Pule laid to rest

Excerpt 11

Captioned consistently with Nechama Brodie's idea of the femicide bingo that the media often uses in relation to the violence against womxn in South Africa and by extension all countries dealing with violence. It is often owed to chilling accounts, which detail the gruesome deaths of victims of violence, that people are moved and propelled towards social change. An account of a black woman murdered while pregnant is the tragedy any society wants to avoid from befalling its young and innocent citizens, mostly womxn.

Data Set 12: Mom rushed outside after seeing Precious' killer.

Manaka pleads not guilty to killing college student

By **Peter Ramothwala**

The man charged with the rape and murder of a college student has pleaded not guilty to all charges against him.

Aubrey Manaka, 28, appeared in the Morebeng magistrate's court for robbery, housebreaking with intention to rape, rape and murder of Precious Ramabulana, a Capricorn TVET student who was killed in her rented room in Mokomene, Botlokwa, outside Polokwane in November. Magistrate Lebogang Rahorile-Nchabeleng asked Manaka to stand up as she read out each count for him and asked him to plead.

Manaka, who appeared calm and confident, pulled the microphone towards his chest and pleaded not guilty to all the charges. Manaka's lawyer Zuwani Nenzhelele confirmed to the court that Manaka was not pleading guilty.

It also emerged yesterday that Manaka allegedly raped a 19-year-old girl in February 2014.

Precious' mother Peggy Ramabulana also attended the court for the first time and sat next to other family members in the front row of the court.

After Manaka's appearance, Ramabulana was rushed to the vehicle after she became emotional. Precious' uncle Simon Ramabulana said: "She [Peggy] is in a process of recovering and now she relapsed.



Precious Ramabulana's mother Peggy (white hat) is supported in court by Precious' uncle Simon Ramabulana and friend Khulani Mohale (white T-shirt) yesterday. / PETER RAMOTHWALA

Mom rushed outside after seeing Precious' 'killer'

She said she felt like the incident is fresh in her mind. She is not coping at all."

The Ramabulana family has labelled Manaka a "remorseless criminal".

Simon said they were shocked that Manaka didn't plead guilty to the charges.

"His plea shows that he is a heartless criminal. We don't understand why he didn't plead guilty because there is an overwhelming evidence

against him," he said.

He said Manaka should have pleaded guilty because he was found in possession of Precious' cellphone which was stolen on the night she was killed.

He said the family was optimistic that Manaka will go to jail for a very long time.

"With what the state has told us, we are hopeful that Manaka will be punished. We didn't even know that he has

another rape charge which was recently added," he said.

Precious' friend Khulani Mohale, 21, said she would only find peace when Manaka receives a hefty jail term. "He took everything from me. Since Precious' death I'm lonely. I have no one to talk to because he took away my only friend."

Manaka's case was postponed for further instructions from the National Director of Public Prosecutions.

Excerpt 12

This article is a report on the account of a next of kin's response to encountering the man standing accused of the murder of the slain Capricorn College student Precious

Ramabulana, who was murdered cold-blooded by a man who had no relation to her named Aubrey Manaka. This article highlights how murder/femicide leaves dire traumatic experiences on those who live to tell the tale and seek justice for their loved ones who fall victim to femicide in South Africa.

Data Set 13: *Family still in shock over girl's killing by her father.* Sowetan.

Tuesday February 25 2020 Sowetan

Family still in shock over girl's 'killing by her father'

Grade 1 pupil assaulted and later dies in clinic

By **Penwell Dlamini**

The family of the Soweto man who allegedly assaulted his daughter who later died at a clinic is still in disbelief at what happened.

The 57-year-old man from Dlamini allegedly beat up his daughter, who lived with him, and later took her to a clinic. The grade 1 girl was certified dead at the clinic from the injuries she sustained.

Yesterday, the family of the man met at the house where the incident happened still trying to come to terms with the tragedy. When Sowetan visited the modest face-brick home, the family refused to speak and allowed one of its members, who did not want to introduce herself, to talk.

"We can't say anything at the moment. What we can confirm for now is that yes, this is the home where the incident happened. We are still shocked as a family. We do not know how this thing could have happened," she said.

"We don't know what actually happened as there were no witnesses. He took the child to Tshiawelo Clinic but we are not sure if the child actually died there. We are shocked with the whole thing."

Police spokesperson Capt Kay Makhubele said the man took his daughter to Tshiawelo Clinic on Sunday.

"It is alleged that the suspect brought his daughter to the clinic after he assaulted her ... The child was certified dead on arrival. Police were called and the man was arrested."

The news of the child's death also shocked neighbours who knew both the father and his daughter. "I don't know how he could have done something like this. He was a nice guy who liked playing his drums. I am actually shocked."

"He was just a guy who liked his zol [dagga] a lot. That is all. He never looked like a violent man," one of the neighbours said.

Another neighbour said: "On Friday I saw him coming from the shops with his daughter. They were happy together. I was shocked to see him coming out of a police van on Sunday morning with shackles on his ankles."

"I am still asking myself what could have happened."

The father is expected to appear in the Protea magistrate's court today to face a murder charge.



**He was just a
guy who liked
his zol (dagga)
a lot. That's all**

Excerpt 13

This article unveils a category of gendered violence considered Non-Intimate Partner Violence (N-IPV), which are instances where a familial person not intimately related is the perpetrator of the crime. What is also notable is the fact that the crime also finds expression within the category of where violence takes place within private and personal space, confirming the argument that perpetrators of violence are often known individuals, contrary to popular view that violence is often perpetrated by people unknown to victims. This article was framed towards raising an issue of common assault and no reference to dominant framing planes in discourse formation. For ethical and moral issues which are often born out of the age of the victim, the name of the victim is omitted in both the headline and the attendant subheading.

Data Set 14: *Burnt in her car after years of abuse.* Sowetan.

Sowetan Monday December 2 2019 News 3

Burnt in her car after years of abuse

Jealous lover 'kills' young mom

By **Tankiso Makhetha**

A close friend of a 28-year-old woman who was allegedly burnt to death in her vehicle by her boyfriend has described the couple's relationship as volatile.

Lebo Bokaba, who was one of the last people to see Kgagelo Tshwane after last weekend, told Sowetan that the couple had been together for years and claimed that Tshwane, 37, had allegedly beaten the mother of two's arms during an argument in 2015.

"He was very violent towards her and didn't want her to speak to other men. He once broke her arms in 2015 after she found him with another woman. He once beat her to a pulp while she was heavily pregnant with their now three-year-old child as well," Bokaba said.

Bokaba said she last saw Tshwane alive after they went on a holiday with a group of friends last weekend.

Tshwane's charred body and car, a Mini Cooper, were found in Mmabana. Tshwane has been accused and charged with kidnapping, robbery, murder, defiling the ends of justice and possession of suspected stolen property.

"We didn't have network [service] at the lodge where we were staying in Bhebe and we didn't pay attention to phones because of that," Bokaba said.

"On Saturday night Kgau realised she had 14 missed calls from the guy's number but said she would not call him back because she was on holiday, but she eventually called in and called him back."

Bokaba said Tshwane and Kgau got into an argument, which prompted her to leave them at the lodge in the middle of the night.

She said she grew concerned when Tshwane's mother called her on Sunday evening to ask when the group would return from their trip.

"I told her that Kgau had left us on Saturday night. Our concern grew on Monday morning when her mother called me again to tell me that Kgau had not returned," she said.

Bokaba contacted Tshwane's colleagues, who said she had not arrived at work on Monday and that her phone was switched off.

"Her mother went to the Gatlharuwa (police station) to report her missing but she was shocked when she was told by the police that Kgau's car was found in Mmabana and it was burnt," she said.

Her mother went to North West and identified her body.

Tshwane's mother, Naomi Tshwane, yesterday said she was too distraught to speak.

Tshwane appeared in the Bhebe magistrate's court on November 27 and is expected to apply for bail on December 11.

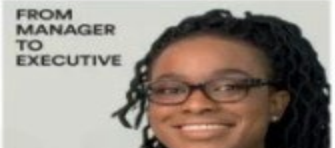
Police said he was found in possession of Tshwane's bank card, from which he had allegedly withdrawn R1000.

North West provincial police commissioner Lt-Gen. Bule Molekane said police

Kgagelo Tshwane's burnt car, allegedly torched by boyfriend.

STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

FROM MANAGER TO EXECUTIVE

Excerpt 14

This particular article comments about a manner of death which can be categorised under Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) where the intimate partner is the perpetrator of the crime. This framing tool has the potential of making more audible the argument that are barely womxn killed by complete strangers, but very often by people they've lived with either temporarily or permanently.

Data Set 15: Man chops lover to death with panga.

Man chops lover to death with panga

Suspect accuses her of cheating

By Peter Kamukunda

A woman who was chopped to death, allegedly by her boyfriend, was wanted to file for a protection order after years of physical abuse.

Fortis Namakachi, 35, from Hahinda village, outside Thoposenda in Limpopo, was stabbed with a sharp object on her upper body and chopped with a panga on her head on Saturday.

Namakachi's uncle Owen Makhobane told StarNews yesterday he had on several occasions advised his niece to secure a protection order against her abusive boyfriend, fearing he would kill her one day.

"She took my advice lightly. I said this because I could see the man had turned her into a screaming bag. He would even beat her inside my yard."

Makhobane said he received a protection order against the man earlier this year. "After he assaulted her in front of me in my yard, I went to the police and got a protection order. I even told Fortis to do the same but she only pretended to do so."

The uncle said the family was now facing a monstrous task of making Namakachi's 35-year-old daughter.

"We are still going to explain to her when she grows that her mother was killed. It is a painful thing to say to a child."

Makhobane said the law must take its course.

Provincial police spokesperson Brig Mafodisa Mupfema said the incident happened in the suspect's home in Hahinda, Vuwani.

"It is alleged that the suspect accused his wife of cheating and after a heated argument, he then stabbed and chopped her with sharp instruments."

The victim died on the spot. Angry community members pursued the suspect, caught him and started beating him up," he said.

Mupfema said the police were called and the 45-year-old suspect was taken to hospital where he was admitted and placed under police guard.

His family said that the man, who is married, had been accused of appearing in court, returned home very angry on Friday.

His cousin said the man went to his girlfriend's home after coming back from her place on Friday.

"He didn't say much because he was drunk. The next day he invited her to his mother's house and argument ensued in the house," she said.

"The incident occurred on, we didn't think he was capable of something so heinous. They were not sleeping together, she only came to visit."

The cousin said the pair had been dating for five years.

Provincial police commissioner Lt Gen Nkomo Lethaba condemned the incident and violent behaviour when dealing with domestic issues.

"The SAPS will deal decisively with any perpetrators of gender-based violence and this arrest should send a strong message about our determination to stamp it out."

MEET for social development spokesperson Bhekizizwe Mkhawane said the very sad state of affairs cannot continue. We strongly can't comprehend what drove some men to do this to the very people they have vowed to protect and love.

"The impact on families, especially children, in such cases, is just too huge to comprehend. Men need to understand their behaviour will ensure their children will continue to be victims and therefore, we need men to take the biggest stand against this scourge."



Excerpt 15

In this newspaper, the author entered into the murder register a case where the perpetrator stands accused of butchering, "chopping" his lover to death with a panga. In this article, both the headline and subheading obscure/do not reveal the name of either the victim or the alleged perpetrator of such gratuitous violence against women.

Data Set 16: Son sees dad stabs mom, hangs himself.

Son sees dad stabs mom, hangs himself

Tragic end to 'turbulent' affair

By Thomas Mqandane

A toddler witnessed his father stab his mother several times and watching her to death before hanging himself.

The three-year-old boy witnessed the incident in their home in Mankwato, east of Pretoria, on Friday, February 22.

The boy's father, 35, was accused of strangling his wife in a pool of blood with some sharp weapons, with the father of her children, 35, hanging from a rope tied to the roof of their open shed in Mankwato.

Yesterday, Mankwato's mother Lytina Mankwato, 45, described the incident as painful. Mankwato was called to the scene and witnessed her daughter's father hang from the roof.

Mankwato, who lives just a few miles from Mankwato, said the incident happened after Mankwato had visited his children at a place where her daughter had moved to after the two had fought. They then started arguing. Mankwato was allegedly trying to intervene. Mankwato returned with him to their home and said him in returning their open shed. "Calmly grabbed Mankwato and forced her to go back to their shed."

When they arrived, the argument escalated out of control. "I have tried my best to bring peace among the two, my daughter was trapped in an abusive relationship with a man who used to assault her."

She described Mankwato as a



Gideon Mankwato (father of the victim) was killed on Friday, February 22.

son's three-year-old son, who was present at the incident, said he

watched his father stab his mother in a pool of blood, with her legs kicking. I grabbed her leg trying to talk to her, her eyes were rolling."

She said her daughter rushed her to call an ambulance. "I waited three days to get the police to arrive. I ended up asking for people to find a way to reach her to hospital."

By the time the cops arrived, it was too late for her.

Mankwato said the incident happened after Mankwato had visited his children at a place where her daughter had moved to after the two had fought. They then started arguing. Mankwato was allegedly trying to intervene. Mankwato returned with him to their home and said him in returning their open shed. "Calmly grabbed Mankwato and forced her to go back to their shed."

When they arrived, the argument escalated out of control. "I have tried my best to bring peace among the two, my daughter was trapped in an abusive relationship with a man who used to assault her."

She described Mankwato as a



Lytina Mankwato, the mother of the victim, was killed on Friday, February 22.

playboy. "He didn't want to change his cheating behaviour and that didn't go down well with my daughter who ended up moving out."

According to the couple's friend and neighbour, Mankwato, 35, who also witnessed the couple's last fight, Mankwato and Mankwato had a turbulent relationship with a man who used to assault her."

He described Mankwato as a



Lytina Mankwato, the mother of the victim, was killed on Friday, February 22.

playboy. "He didn't want to change his cheating behaviour and that didn't go down well with my daughter who ended up moving out."

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He described Mankwato as a

Excerpt 16

This article is a case of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) narrated through a third party, next of kin, where both the victim and perpetrator are unnamed in the news headline and the subtitle that ensues in the newspaper article. The manner of death in this news report is of common occurrence were perpetrators of violence again.

Data Set 17: Jilted lover kills girlfriend, injures elder sister. Sowetan.

Jilted lover kills girlfriend, injures elder sister

Suspect 'spoke' of his plan in pub

By **Promise Marupeng**

A bitter break-up led to a man killing his girlfriend and wounding her elder sister in Tembisa, Ekurhuleni, at the weekend.

Sibongile Mgbadeli, 40, was admitted to the local hospital after she was shot twice by the enraged boyfriend of her sister, Ncindelwa, on Saturday. She was discharged on Wednesday.

"He [the sister's boyfriend] arrived at my sister's shack where I was visiting in Extension 10 (an informal settlement) and demanded that we open the door, and when we refused he got angry and left.

"He later returned and managed to gain entry into the shack after breaking the door with an axe," Mgbadeli said.

She said after gaining entry into the shack, the boyfriend shot her twice.

"I was trying to break up the fight between him and Ncindelwa, who had been in a four-year relationship with him," Mgbadeli said.

"After shooting me, he turned the gun on my sister and killed her instantly.

"Our younger sister was present but survived the shooting after she ran out of the shack."

Mgbadeli said the boyfriend, who is also the father to their two-year-old daughter, had been abusing her 39-year-old sister during their relationship.

"We had told our sister to leave him several times, but he would always talk her back into coming home."

A man who was with the boyfriend at the local tavern on Saturday night said the man had mentioned that he wanted to kill his partner.

"He said 'when I leave here I'm going to kill my wife and her sisters because they influenced her to leave me'," he said.

The man, who cannot be named, said he did not know that the boyfriend would really go and shoot the sisters.

"I was not even aware that he had a firearm. We are shocked as his friends and he is on the run now."

The man also told Sowetan that the boyfriend had been seen twice in the area after the shooting.

A neighbour said she heard the noise from the shack around 10pm on Saturday and thought it was just another argument between Ncindelwa and her boyfriend.

"This man is always aggressive and did not want to be reprimanded by anyone.

"After we heard gunshots and screams, I and other neighbours went to the shack and found Ncindelwa dead and her sister badly injured.

"The man just walked away with his gun before paramedics arrived."

Police spokesperson Capt Mavela Masondo said police had opened a case of murder and attempted murder for investigation.

"We are looking for the boyfriend of the deceased, aged 45, who can help the police in the investigation," said Masondo.

"Anyone who has information about his whereabouts should please call or visit the nearest police station with the information or call crime stop on 08600 10111."

I was not even aware he had a firearm. We are shocked as his friends

Excerpt 17

Gun violence seems to have a consistent emergence were lovers, married and some unmarried are implicated in the crime. In this article the "lover" is reported as having launched a scathing attacker on his partner and the attack was extended to an immediate next of kin being the sister to the victim. In both attacks, womxn are in the receiving end of the violence.

Data Set 18: Wife 'killer confessed'.

Wife 'killer confessed' to the murder

'Accused shared picture of wife and her vehicle with hitmen'

By Peter Ramothwala

The husband of one of the two businesswomen who were killed execution style in Polokwane, Limpopo, two months ago allegedly shared pictures of his wife and her vehicle's description with hitmen because he suspected her of cheating on him.

The explosive revelations were made in the Polokwane magistrate's court yesterday where Thabo Leshabane, 57, and his four co-accused appeared for a bail application in the double murder of businesswomen Makosena Mabusela-Leshabane, 48, and her friend Tebogo Mphuti, 35.

Investigating officer W/O Gerard Kotze told the court that Leshabane had confessed to the murder of his wife Mabusela-Leshabane, adding that he shared with the hitmen pictures of his wife and that of her black Mercedes-Benz SUV.

"He also confessed that he installed tracking devices on his wife's phone and laptop, as he always wanted to know her whereabouts. He said he suspected his wife of cheating," said Kotze, as he opposed bail for the five men.

Kotze added that Leshabane gave his alleged accomplices – John Zulu, 30, Ndonzo Buthelesi, 25, Bhokimose Phiyose, 35, and Thembeani Dlamini, 30 – an undisclosed amount of money for expenses to go to Polokwane as they trailed his wife.

"He confessed that he gave them money and further told the four men where his wife would be sleeping in Polokwane.

"The women booked accommodation at Cycad Lodge and woke up there before going to

meet a property agent," he said.

However, Leshabane kept on shaking his head in disagreement as Kotze told the court about his involvement in the murder.

Kotze said Leshabane attempted to commit suicide by drinking an unknown chemical after he became aware that police knew of his involvement.

"According to a witness, Leshabane was aware that the police knew he ordered the hit. He drank poison and the witness said he took him to hospital."

Kotze said the witness told the police that Leshabane confided in him that he wanted to kill himself as he was tired of living.

The court further heard that Leshabane has previous convictions after he contravened the Road Traffic Act in 1995.

Leshabane, who hails from Mokokotla village in Bolobedu

outside Tzaneen, was also convicted of accusing people of witchcraft in the area in 1987. Kotze described Leshabane as a jealous person.

Magistrate Janine Ungerer postponed the case to today to allow the defence to cross-examine Kotze.

Mabusela-Leshabane's sister Peggy Mafjane said the revelations in court proved that the state has a watertight case against the five men.

"We are shocked but at the same time happy that justice will prevail for our sisters. What I heard in court showed that the police worked very hard in this case," she said.

Mabusela-Leshabane, a senior aviation finance consultant, and Mphuti, who was in the construction and property sector, were shot at point-blank range and killed while they were about to view a warehouse to rent in Magnavina, Polokwane, on October 20.



Thabo Leshabane and his four co-accused appeared in the Polokwane magistrate's court for his wife's murder. / SUPPLIED

Excerpt 18

This particular article covers a reportage of a confession to conspiring to a murder of a 'wife' by an alleged husband in what appears to be an arranged hit were very implicating and leading information of the wife were shared with hired gunmen.

Summary of the theme: Victim and perpetrator framing.

Of the thirty-four n= (33) newspaper articles analysed in the undertaking of this study a margin equivalent to half n= (16) newspaper articles from the sampled data framed femicide in line with the personal conduct of the perpetrator while another half was framed through next of kin experiences thus building a living archive of the life of the victims of femicide. Scholars have argued over time that through framing planes the "media stigmatize offenders, sentimentalize victims and sanctify those deemed particularly vulnerable or tragic"²⁶⁵

Of the total number (n=33) of newspaper articles analysed in the study, 10% of the sample revealed that the relationship between the victim and perpetrator was personal, some revealing perpetual trends. The data revealed that womxn were often described in relation

²⁶⁵ Jewkes, Y. (2015). Media and Crime. 3rd Edition. Sage Publication.

to their social position rather than in any other forms such as victim naming in the case of victims who are of legal age. References such as wife, girlfriend, mom, girl, teen, activist, woman, and daughter appeared in the headlines as common framing technique.

Findings of this studies confirm an earlier conviction that often journalists and writers alike through language mis-frame violence against women as GBV without taking caution of the fact that the term is applicable to both men and women as common victims and perpetrators and children as both witnesses and victims of GBV and not femicide or violence against women.

The findings also reveal that through intervening frame analysis that the prescription is often geared towards the indoctrination of men and boys as better members of the society. Attendant to this is the recommendation to deliver heftier punitive judgements against perpetrators of violence against women which boils into the conversation around the death penalty as a possible deterring intervention. What the data reveals is that the framing of femicide over and above all happens as an incidental occurrence and barely seen as an ongoing social issue.

Summary of the theme

This theme has lumped together all newspaper articles which traces action-oriented responses as framing tools for violence against women and femicide. Some of the themes that emerged within this thematic exploration includes fear and existential anxieties owed to the frequent occurrences of violent acts against women reported in South Africa during the observed period governing this study. This theme also explored articles to trace how newspapers frame the manner of death for victims of femicide.

5.4.3 Theme Two: Gendering the frame

Having defined framing in the previous chapter, gendering the frame interrogates newspaper articles that attaches particular genders and how they are represented as either responsible for, or at the receiving end of femicide. This theme explores what is not said but could be said about femicide and how associations between gender and social behaviour are created.

Data Set 19: “*Men, hang your heads in shame-president*”.

By **Kgothatso Madisa**

Men, hang your heads in shame - president

President Cyril Ramaphosa says South African men must hang their heads in shame over the continued killing of women.

Ramaphosa and other political leaders yesterday spoke out following the killings of a University of Cape Town student Uyinene Mrwetyana, allegedly by a Post Office employee, as well as the murder of female boxing champion Leighandre "Baby Lee" Jegels by her estranged policeman lover.

"We have just commemorated Women's Month. Sixty-three years after the women of 1956 marched for the right to live in freedom, women in this country live in fear, not of the police but of their brothers, sons, fathers and uncles. We should all hang our heads in shame," he said.

DA leader Mmusi Maimane said the country was in crisis and that this was not a country

he would want to live in.

"We need to act and we need to act decisively. This matter has gone on for far too long and as a citizen of this nation I don't want to live in a country where our sisters walk around and feel, as the slogan has been going, are they next," Maimane said.

The EFF said the killings were not isolated cases and were further proof that the country was up in arms against women.

"This war requires a decisive response which must begin with all men in our country accepting that they are trash. We can never solve a problem when we keep denying it," said EFF spokesperson Mbuyiseni Ndlozi.

Deputy president David Mabuza, Moral Regeneration patron, said there had been a breakdown of the moral fibre of the society.

Excerpt 19

Madisa (2019) reiterates the call/a statement made by the sitting president of the republic that "we should all hang our heads in shame" over the continued killing of women" and this places the scourge of femicide as a continuum that seems to be deeply rooted in the core fabric of the society with men seemingly implicated in the perpetuation of the violence.

Data Set 20: "*Men are the root of the evil and mayhem that is in full bloom this spring in SA*". Sowetan

Men are the root of the evil and mayhem that is in full bloom this spring in SA

Teaching your sons to treat girls and women with respect goes a long way



Fred Khumalo
Watching You

The month of September marks the beginning of spring, a time of new beginnings; a time when flowers come into bloom, turning a rather drab world into a kaleidoscope. In short, spring is the time of hope.

Yet as we hurtle into spring, it is as if, as a nation, we have been kicked in the butt by the devil himself.

Our cities and townships, our villages and farms are splattered with blood instead of the splash of colourful flowers.

In KwaZulu-Natal we are burning trucks and barricading roads

the blasé attitude we assume that worries me. A woman gets raped viciously and killed. We mouth a few platitudes, shrug our shoulders, and move on.

It is enough. But it won't stop until we tell the truth. In all these instances of rising levels of violence, the perpetrator is a man. Always.

Uyineni Mrwetyana was raped and killed by a man. As was the aspiring boxer Leighandre Jegels who was killed by her ex-boyfriend.

There are hundreds of other women who get killed every month whose names the general public will never know. They get killed by men.

Yet in our public pronouncements we pretend as if these people are being killed by a faceless ogre from outer space. No. The ogre is the man who is reading this.

It is the man sitting next to

you on the train, in a bus, in a taxi. It is the man you call your father, your son, your brother. It is the man sitting next to you in church, at the shebeen.

The perpetrator is every South African man. Those not directly involved are complicit, many times through silence or inaction.

We know the man next door is abusing his wife or his children, but we look the other way. Until it is too late: until the man has killed the long-suffering woman or child.

When a rape takes place in

our midst, we shrug and tell ourselves: "It's not our problem."

The attitude reminds me of that unforgettable utterance by Reverend Martin Niemöller who, after the slaughter of millions of Jews by Adolf Hitler's Nazi regime, confessed, taking partial responsibility for the murders.

"First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out because I was not a socialist. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out because I was not a trade unionist. Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me – and there was no one left to speak for me."

What Niemöller was saying is simply that, as a priest, he could have spoken out right from the beginning. Perhaps his voice and that of many like him could have slowed down, or even stopped the Nazi juggernaut. But he chose silence, because what was happening was not his problem.

What can a man do? Speak out immediately when you witness abuse. But more importantly, start by teaching



Excerpt 20

Brodie's argument on media framing but against the spirit of laying individual guilt towards a collective guilt rather than reference to the personal and intimate case framing. Khumalo (2019) points out in the headline that "*Men are the root of the evil and mayhem that is in full bloom this spring in SA*" and goes to prescribe that "*teaching your sons to treat girls and women with respect goes a long way*". One reading of this is that Khumalo (2019) suggests that the problem is deeply rooted and there is a need to take stock of how the society raises its sons lest the problem of violence reproduce. All men are products of their environment²⁶⁶.

Of the 'mayhem' that seems to have plagued the country Khumalo (2019) writes that "*but most remarkable is the sudden upsurge in femicide*", which would suggest that the problem is not a new entry into the journal of violence against women. The framing in this article marks femicide as an epiphenomenon of a greater evil confronting the society.

²⁶⁶ Head, B. (1981). *Serowe. Village of the Rain Wind*. African Writers Series. Heineman Publishers

This, Brodie (2020) calls ‘framing the country’s entire understanding of violence through a lens of a country at war’. Khumalo (2019) comments that “*there are hundreds of other women who get killed every month whose names the general public will never know. They get killed by men*”. On this point, Khumalo (2019) speaks to the countless erasure and silencing of the lives of black womxn who fall out of the margins of mainstream media reporting.

“But the government must also come to the party. Domestic violence and sexual abuse cases should be given priority, and perpetrators sent away for a long time”. A continuous string of violent acts that sweep through the nation, taking form of violent protests and killing a major number of black people. Consistent with Biko’s²⁶⁷ assertion that “your method of death can be a politicising thing” in South Africa, where Uyinene Mrwetyana’s death triggered protests across the country over the senseless murder of black womxn and often students within South Africa’s higher education institutions.

Data Set 21: *Women still dying for love in SA.* Sowetan.

²⁶⁷ Biko, S. (1976). *I Write What I Like*. Heineman Publishers

Women still dying for love in SA

Gender-based violence on the rise

Women's Rights • Human Rights • Society • Sexism • Discrimination

By Yoliswa Sobuwa



Loyiso Saliso

Many women walk around with scars, which are a painful reminder of what it is like to be a woman in SA.

Some of these scars were inflicted

by the men who proclaimed their undying love for them.

According to statistics, one in three women die in the hands of their partner daily. Pontsho Serumula's life changed in 2013 when her husband allegedly dosed her with acid.

The 34-year-old mother of three from Thokoza, on the East Rand, sustained third-degree burns. Six years down the line, Serumula is still fighting for justice as her husband is still walking around free. "The life of a woman in this country is meaningless and worthless.

"We are not safe in our homes, workplaces and in the hands of the justice system," she said.

Loyiso Saliso, a mother of two girls, was emotionally and verbally

abused by the father of her youngest daughter. Saliso said a year ago, President Cyril Ramaphosa declared gender-based violence and femicide a national crisis in the country, but yet women's bodies are still crime scenes. Ramaphosa convened a summit last year to address gender-based violence.

"A year later, we are still mourning [women] and our children while we are alive. Justice still doesn't know my name and the only freedom I know means living in fear on a daily basis," she said. Zanele Nhlapo, a mother of three, lost her confidence when her ex-boyfriend burnt her with acid in 2014. "Everyday I have to tell myself that I am beautiful and worthy to be loved. I still get people who give me strange looks, but I have learnt to

Excerpt 21

Sobuwa (2019) in writing of violence experienced by black womxn reminds us of statistical references, which argue that "one in three women die in the hands of their intimate partner daily". The negotiation between pleasure and love as a way to say that there is a lot of violence that takes place instead of creating building loving experience for most black womxn in South Africa. Therefore, violence becomes the preoccupation and death the ultimate outcome. In the categorisation of violence that befalls womxn, what the article exposes is the frequency at which womxn negotiate violence not from strangers but from "men who proclaimed undying love for them"²⁶⁸. What the author also commits is the error of writing GBV as exclusively an experience limited to womxn only in South Africa. This

²⁶⁸ Sobuwa, Y. (2019). Women still dying for love in South Africa. Sowetan Newspaper.

is often the error of language use frequent in our day-to-day usage of terms that relate ultimately to VAW. This error moves beyond the walls of newsrooms into the minds of newsreader and informs their perceptions and conception of the kind of violence that is femicide.

Data Set 22: Place of Weeping. Sunday Times.



Excerpt 22

The idea of cover paging to temper with the attention of the reader is sometimes part and parcel of some of the strategies employed by print media to mobilise the readership around reading and thinking around and about particular issues of social importance and femicide cum gendered violence in phenomenological and textual framing practices.

Data Set 23: Lugalo's murder shows how brutal life is for SA women.

Lugalo's murder shows how brutal life is for SA women



Damned if you do, damned if you don't. The brutal killing of Kwasa Zozo Lugalo is a reminder that there is absolutely nothing women can do to safeguard themselves against gender-based violence. The work that needs to happen shouldn't have a lot to do with women.

In fact, often when women do try to safeguard themselves by not walking late, by being aware of their surroundings, jogging on routes that are more populated and reporting their every move to their trusted contacts, many have still found themselves in violent situations or worse — they are found dead.

This is despite doing everything by the book when it comes to avoiding danger — danger that shouldn't exist, by the way. Because of the violent nature of our society, we have almost been conditioned into thinking that crimes against women and children exist and all the vulnerable can do is implement mechanisms to avoid exposure to this existing danger. We have normalised this constant threat of violence that follows women and children. So much so, we have placed the duty to protect, the duty of vigilance — on the vulnerable.

The very people who are in danger/vulnerable are expected

Danger of GBV crimes should not exist in a decent society

ed to be in control of their safety. The truth is, without a perpetrator deciding to act, the threat of danger would not exist. The danger exists because of the perpetrators — who are mostly men. That is where the bulk of efforts aimed at fighting gender-based violence should be focused. The problem is not with women or children: we are therefore fighting a losing battle if we focus our interventions on them.

I started this article off with the statement "damned if you do, damned if you don't" because here is Lugalo who tried various avenues to get out of

the abusive relationship she was in — but still ended up being killed.

The question that often arises in situations of gender-based violence is, "why didn't she leave the abusive relationship? Why didn't she speak out?" Well Lugalo did leave.



Lugalo did ask for the perpetrator's family to intervene and her life was still violently taken away from her. She took all the necessary precautions, yet today we are speaking about her in the past tense.

This speaks to the earlier point I made. There is nothing women can do to deal with this scourge. Women have marched, women have screamed, women have petitioned, women have received protection orders, women have followed the law enforcement procedures, kept evidence, ran, moved homes and attended defence classes. Despite all of

their actions, little change occurs, which speaks to the fact that it is not in the hands of women to fix this scourge.

The perpetrator is said to have previously threatened to kill Lugalo if she chose to leave the relationship. Out of fear, she remained in the relationship. She reached her breaking point and decided to leave. The perpetrator's family is said to have encouraged her to stay with him and pretend — for her own safety. This is part of the problem in our society. Perpetrators are coddled and protected by their loved ones, instead of being brought to book.

There really is no respite or best solution for women against gender-based violence other than mechanisms that would have been implemented by law enforcement, well-resourced and backed up by the state. But more often than not, as you and I know and may have experienced, law enforcement and the state are found wanting in their various functions when having to deal with GBV.

It was just last year, during this very month, when women took to the streets in numbers after the killing of Uyinene Mrwetyana on August 24 2020. The same period in 2020, we are still mourning the unnatural, brutal deaths of women — mostly occurring at the hands of men.

It feels onerous and deeply troubling on my side to wish a life taken so violently, so early, to rest in peace. We have lost a bright, hopeful young person yet again. My heart goes out to Lugalo's father Mxungile and mother, Ntombekhaya. I cannot imagine the constant fear and trauma of suffering such a loss while living with the reality that you have other daughters to take care of and continue to raise in a world that has vividly shown you just how brutal and violent it is to women — your child.



People put flowers, ribbons and wrote messages outside the Clareinch Post Office in Claremont where Uyinene Mrwetyana, a 19-year-old University of Cape Town student was killed last year. /ESA ALEXANDER

Excerpt 23

The brutality of existing in an unjust society is the preoccupation of the global south countries, where womxn and children are the primary victims and rate low as perpetrators of violence. Both cautions that "danger of GBV crimes should not exist in a just society". What the author does here is to restrict the definition of GBV to only a phenomenon which, in this case, relates to women. This terminology is also defined and recognizable in the soul of the justice system of South Africa. The framing of the violence could be re-framed to consider the phenomenon of VAW rather than conflating the term GBV.

Data Set 24: Violence against women is the problem of every man in SA.

Eradicate the scourge by socialising our children, examining our beliefs

2011 年 12 月 15 日

We discussed the rapidly changing historical climate of the international environment following the end of the Cold War and the emergence of the new world order. Some of the major challenges facing the world today are:

- **Environment:** Global warming, ozone depletion, deforestation, desertification, and the loss of biodiversity.
- **Population:** Rapid population growth, especially in developing countries, leading to increased demand for resources and land.
- **Globalization:** Increased trade and economic integration, leading to both opportunities and challenges for developing countries.
- **Technology:** Rapid technological advancement, particularly in information technology, leading to new opportunities and risks.
- **Peace and Security:** The end of the Cold War has led to a period of relative peace, but there are still significant threats to global security, including terrorism, nuclear proliferation, and regional conflicts.

We also discussed the role of the United Nations and other international organizations in addressing these challenges. The United Nations is the primary international organization for maintaining peace and security, promoting economic and social development, and protecting human rights. Other organizations, such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the World Trade Organization (WTO), play important roles in addressing specific global issues.

We concluded by discussing the importance of international cooperation and partnership in addressing the challenges of the 21st century. The world is a global village, and we all have a stake in its future. By working together, we can create a more peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable world for all.



A prosecutor outside the Washington Metropolitan's report is charging the woman as William Marbury appeared for the murder of Fungshing Pui.

the least sophisticated, more naive, a more traditional way of conceptualizing it, perhaps they involve an alternative.

With appropriate assumptions, all systems, and indeed all systems of systems, can be modeled. And the modeling without delay, and indefinitely, can be completed, predominantly at a computational level. There is a non-computational level that must be distinguished as essential to the modeling process, and that is the level of the system. In all cases, why a system is a system, a system's goals, and goals that goals have, other than those stated on the system, are more relevant to modeling. It is essential to modeling to have knowledge, comprehensive and complete, of the system. But this does not imply that the system is.

In the existing work, a system's goals, perhaps being given as a formalized set, are the primary parameter. A single goal, or a set of goals, is used to guide the model, and the model is used to find a solution, or solutions, to the goals. In the modeling process, the system, the system's goals, and the system's goals are the system's goals, and the system's goals are the system's goals.

the following the world's largest and most advanced in its field.

As a result, the company's management and employees should be able to better understand the company's vision and mission, and the company's goals and objectives. This will help them to better understand the company's vision and mission, and the company's goals and objectives.

The company's vision and mission are to provide the world's largest and most advanced in its field. The company's goals and objectives are to provide the world's largest and most advanced in its field.

The company's vision and mission are to provide the world's largest and most advanced in its field. The company's goals and objectives are to provide the world's largest and most advanced in its field.

The company's vision and mission are to provide the world's largest and most advanced in its field. The company's goals and objectives are to provide the world's largest and most advanced in its field.

[illegible]

Read as a call for collective bargaining and working together towards bringing an end to violence, and the responsibility is delegated to men to deal diligently with undoing and ending the scourge of violence.

87

Mother relives her daughter's slaying

Malebogo shot by hubby 24 years ago

Supermodels • Celebrities • Gossip • Family • Bullying • Society • Viral

+1 more By Linda Kea Moreotsene

For the remaining families of femicide victims, emerging on the other side of the havoc that this violent act wreaks is a hard, debilitating slog. Sifting through the ashes, they speak of self-blame about their perceived failure to prevent it, why they did not recognise the signs which in retrospect seem abundantly clear, and even questioning whether the family should have allowed her to get married in the first place.

That was Violet Matshelo's experience. Her daughter Malebogo, better known as Blondie, a 20-year-old mother of an 11-month old boy, was murdered by her husband 23 years ago in her mother's house. She has moments where she feels like she failed because she could not keep her daughter safe.

The husband, Martin Tawana, took his life moments after shooting Malebogo. Matshelo, 63, remembers that day, March 3 1995, vividly. She arrived home from work to find carnage, traumatised neighbours who wouldn't meet her eye, first responders, and her first-born sprawled in her bedroom with multiple gunshot wounds to her body. She still sobs as though it happened yesterday. Taking care of and raising her grandson, Gosego, now 24 years old, in addition to her two remaining children, has anchored her life, but she has never sought counselling, despite taking her grandson to a therapist throughout his childhood. "My journey has been one of agony. But I've had support from my family, and the power of prayer has brought me to this point, but sometimes I don't know how I sur-

vived. "Although there were things that I now recognise as signs, you never think that it will happen until one day you find your child dead in your house," Matshelo said. Although she believes God has a purpose for her life, she admits she sinks into darkness on certain dates. "The date of her death and my grandson's birthday are really hard – she was buried on his one-year birthday."

Bringing the mother he never knew to life for her grandson, who does not even remember his mother's voice, is heartbreaking. So is seeing these incidents become entrenched, even for a small community like Pampierstad in Northern Cape.

As for the bitter sweet experience of watching all the women w



Excerpt 25

Moreotsene (2019) wrote that "Malebogo shot by hubby 24 years ago" a memorabilia of violence that has been ongoing for over two decades. "For the remaining families of femicide victims, emerging from the other side of the havoc that this violent act wreaks is a hard, debilitating slog.

Summary of the theme

This theme sampled newspaper articles that gender VAW as duly an act that men are responsible for, should take accountability and responsibility, and prescribe possible intervention and punitive measures for those who are found guilty of perpetuating violence. From the data sampled between 2019 and 2020 derived from both Sowetan and Sunday Times newspaper houses, 10 percent of the data was made of newspaper

articles which framed men as central and responsible for violence and subsequently femicide (See Khumalo, 2019; Botha, 2019; Botha, 2020; Sewati, 2020).

This analytic theme is borrowed from scholars who contend that “representations of social violence are endemic to Western culture, having roots deeply embedded in patriarchy.”²⁶⁹ What is, however, visible is how frames are used in the data sampled to “convey blame” on perpetrators of femicide.

5.4.4 Theme Three: Rape and Murder as Ritual

This theme engages with how rape and murder share a relational intersection and how newspaper frame the lives of black womxn and children whose lives add to the growing statistics of violence against women and femicide in South Africa. This theme is premised upon South Africa’s global rankings on violence and homicide, and how we use such occurrences to take stock of persisting patterns of violence. Ultimately the theme posits and agrees with scholars of violence in South have observed that rape is always followed by murder²⁷⁰ and this culture has become a common ritual, weaving together the scourge of femicide in South Africa.

Data Set 26: Family heartache over rape tragedy. Sunday Times.

Family heartache over rape tragedy

By ORRIN SINGH

● A gloomy sky spat rain in KwaMashu, north of Durban, on Friday morning matching the sombre mood of dozens of people who watched as a tiny coffin bearing the body of four-year-old rape victim Sanelisiwe Mhlongo was lowered into the ground.

Draped over it was a blue blanket with the words “Love you to the moon and back”.

One of the mourners was the mother of the girl’s nephew, a 15-year-old boy, who has been arrested in connection with the rape and murder.

The woman, who cannot be identified to protect the identity of her minor son, watched with mixed emotions.

She told the Sunday Times she felt she had failed as a parent.

The 49-year-old mother of four said the teen, her youngest son, had made a confession to her in the presence of police. The boy’s father and Sanelisiwe’s mother are cousins.

The grade 9 pupil was arrested on Tuesday after Sanelisiwe’s naked body was found with stab wounds in dense vegetation behind her home in KwaMashu. The body was found on Heritage Day after Sanelisiwe had been reported missing the previous day.

According to relatives, she had been left in the care of an older uncle who in turn entrusted her into the care of the teenager.

The boy’s mother said all her sons had been living at their grandparents’ home in KwaMashu after her husband died several

years ago. “My failure to be a mother was to separate [from] my children,” she said.

“Life started to change when their father died. I couldn’t cope with my husband’s death and began drinking. I never used to drink before that.”

She said she was struggling to come to terms with her youngest being arrested in connection with the crime.

“This whole thing is painful. But I don’t have tears – I cried too much when I lost my husband.”

The woman described her accused son as a quiet and neat person who recently began behaving suspiciously. But she did not know if he was drinking or taking drugs.

Lost for words

Sanelisiwe’s father, Phumani Majoor, 30, was lost for words when asked to describe his daughter.

“She was so young, she had a good heart,” he said.

“I don’t have many words to say but I am hurt, because when you have a child you see the future, but when they are taken away from you in this manner it is more painful than an open wound.”

Majoor, who lives in Mandeni in northern KwaZulu-Natal, said he received a call from police when Sanelisiwe initially went missing and was asked if he had taken her.

The following day investigators contacted him once again, this time to break the news of her death.

“In the morning I got a call again and they



Mourners lower the coffin of rape/murder victim Sanelisiwe Mhlongo, 4, into the ground.

“When I saw my child in the was so hurt. Even now I have a cause I am still in disbelief that is son who can do something as painful to a child.”

²⁶⁹ Cameron, D & Frazer, E. (1987). *The Lust to Kill: A Feminist Investigation of Sexual Murder*. Cambridge: Polity

²⁷⁰See Gqola, P. (2018). *Rape: A South African Nightmare*. Melinda Ferguson Books. Johannesburg.

Excerpt 26

The title obscures the reader from linking rape to murder and only reports of a rape tragedy. This concealing is overshadowed by the non-mentioning of any details of the victim, both in the title and throughout the article. Secondary to this the title lays bare only in the article the aftermath of the tragedy, that is, “a tiny coffin bearing the coffin of four-year old rape victim Sanelisiwe Mhlongo is lowered into the ground”, and only in the second paragraph mentions the rape and murder. Pumla Dineo Gqola in her Seminal work, *Rape, A South African Nightmare* argues that “as our newspapers cover more and more instances of rape, we respond to them as individual acts of brutality, as we must in order to be empathetic to the violated, but having done that, we then stop reading rape as more than a moment, a singular event”²⁷¹ is made sense of in this particular case. However, this does not constitute an iota.

Data Set 27: Another rape case for student's 'killer'.



Aubrey Manaka, 28, who allegedly raped and murdered Precious Ramabulana in November, will appear in the Polokwane high court next month for allegedly raping a minor. / PETER RAMOTHWALA

Another rape case for student's 'killer'

Manaka is accused of raping boy (5)

By Peter Ramothwala

The man accused of the rape and murder of college student Precious Ramabulana will be tried for the rape of a five-year-old boy.

Aubrey Manaka, 28, who allegedly raped and murdered the Capricorn TVET College student in November, will appear in the Polokwane high court for allegedly raping the minor.

Prosecutor Paul Olivier told the Morebeng magistrate's court yesterday that the National Director of Public Prosecutions gave an instruction that the rape case in which he allegedly raped the boy be reinstated.

Manaka was appearing on the Ramabulana matter.

"The case [of the boy's rape] will be heard in the Polokwane high court on a date to be determined soon," he said.

Magistrate Raborile Nchabeleng asked Manaka if he understood the new charges read in court.

"Yes, I understand," said Manaka, who appeared calm in his sleeveless grey sweater and trousers.

Police spokesperson Brig Motlalela Mojapelo said the case emanates from a 2014 incident in which Manaka allegedly raped the boy. "The case was withdrawn because there was no complainant. However, we managed to trace the complainant and it has been reinstated," he said.

Olivier said in the Ramabulana case, Manaka is facing a

count of break-in with intent to rape, robbery, rape and murder.

Manaka's lawyer from the Legal Aid Board Zuwani Nenzhelele asked for a postponement to allow him to go through the new charges as he only received it yesterday in court.

Nchabeleng postponed the matter for February 4.

There was drama outside the court as students and community members started banging a police van as they bayed for Manaka's blood.

College Student Representatives Council chairperson Wendy Matsena said they were angry and wanted the justice system to speed up the trial.

"It shows that the court is dealing with an animal. He didn't even show any remorse. We are shocked that he raped a minor; this shows the man must remain in jail," she said.

²⁷¹ Gqola, P. (2015). *Rape, A South African Nightmare*. MF Books.

Excerpt 27

This article forms part of a national footprint on the spates of violence faced by students in institutions of higher education and training. This violence was evident and experienced within and outside of institutional premises and mostly affected female students who were often victims of the double tragedy of rape and murder. The precious life of Precious Ramabulana is one of the many such tragedies. But, in this article, Precious Ramabulana's life is recalled to further lament that her alleged "killer" has made news headlines, though under a different pretext. The perpetrator was not intimately involved with the victim.

Data Set 28: *Teen raped on Christmas' Eve, murdered on New Year's Eve.*

Teen raped on Christmas' Eve, murdered on New Year's Eve

40-year-old man is suspect for both crimes against 15-year-old girl

By Yvonne Mubhele

A 15-year-old girl was mutilated and murdered allegedly by a man who was out on bail for allegedly kidnapping and raping her just days before she was found dead.

Zanele Ntsho's decomposing body was found on Thursday after she went missing on New Year's Eve.

The man accused of killing her was out on bail after he was arrested and charged with kidnapping Zanele and her friend and kept the pair in his house in Banteng, North West, from December 30 to 31, where he allegedly raped the teenagers.

He was arrested shortly after the incident, charged with two counts of rape, and was released on bail.

The man was arrested again on January 2 for Zanele's murder after she went missing on December 31.

Her body was found dumped in a void on January 5 and the man was apparently the last person seen with her on December 31.

The 40-year-old man, who cannot be named because he has not been added to gazetted names, appeared in the Banteng magistrate's court yesterday on charges of murder and kidnapping.

His murder was postponed to March 2 for further investigation.

The girl's mother, Evelyn Ntsho, yesterday told Simons that she regrets allowing her daughter to leave their home on New Year's Eve, especially after the teen

was found after being kidnapped a few days before she was killed.

"I told her not to go because she knew that she was kidnapped on December 30, and we only found her on Christmas Eve. So, I was not comfortable with her leaving but I also knew that it would not be fair to deprive her from a little bit of fun because she was going through trauma," Ntsho said.

She said her anxiety was compounded when she could not reach her daughter on her cellphone and when she failed to return home on January 1.

"I went to the police station and told them that Zanele was missing again and that I suspected that the guy who initially kidnapped her was behind her disappearance. We went to the guy's house and we didn't find her there," Ntsho said.

She said people said the family that the suspect was the last person to be seen with her daughter when they saw them walking into a bush together on January 1.

The suspect was arrested a few days later and pointed out where he had dumped the teen's body.

"I was heartbroken because I knew I should not have allowed her to leave the house. This guy kidnapped my daughter and her friend and kept them at his house where he had his way with them for five days," said the mother.

"We opened a case of rape against him but we did not think he would be behind her disappearance again."

She described her daughter as a fun-loving but easily distracted person.

"I don't want to lie, my daughter liked having fun, sometimes we did sing and her studies because of that and did not perform well. She was meant to start with grade 10 next week when schools reopened but now she's gone," she said.

Excerpt 28

N-IPV attends to the tragedy of rape and murder which is often the experience of many victims of gendered violence. Scholars on the subject of rape and violence have argued at length how rape is in itself, a murderous act where the soul and morale of the victim is completely obliterated and diminished. The death that follows suit is the metaphorical dictate of the last "nail on the coffin".

Summary of the theme

The body of data sampled revealed that articles which framed femicide through the “rape and murder” linguistic jargons make no mention of/or reference to the crime as VAW or subsequent common categorisation of gendered violence. What the data also reveals is that in all of the newspaper articles headlines the victims are unnamed, not aged, and so are the perpetrators until a later stage in the article. Only caricatures of how both the victim and perpetrators relate are provided, assisting in determining what forms of gendered violence would one categorise such violence in reference to the official and commonly used terms. The data also through this theme highlight how very frequent rape is a precursor to the violent murders of black womxn whose lives are accounts of South Africa’s violent history.

The data sampled revealed through analysis that articles which framed femicide through the “rape and murder” framing planes make no mention of/or reference to the crime as VAW or subsequent common categorisation of observed VAW. What the data also reveals is that in all of the newspaper articles headlines the victims are unnamed, not aged, and so are the perpetrators until a later stage in the article. Only caricatures of how both the victim and perpetrators relate are provided, assisting in determining what forms of gendered violence one would categorise such violence in reference to the official and commonly used terms. The data also through this theme highlight how very frequent rape is a precursor to the violent murders of black womxn whose lives are accounts of South Africa’s violent history.

5.4.5 Theme Five: Framing of Interventions

This theme has lumped together all newspaper samples collected from the earmarked media houses, which are preoccupied with proposing interventions towards femicide. This is an attempt to revisit some of the most consistent conversations on “discipline and punish” towards those who perpetrate violence against women, which culminates in femicide.

Data Set 29: “*Death penalty is no solution*”. Sowetan.

Public comment that begins by engaging with public legal opinion over punitive penal system measures to judge perpetrators of femicide.



Excerpt 29

The article moves against the grain in the title of the piece by suggesting that “even if we had the death penalty, we would still have high rates of femicide and other violent crimes

because too many criminals are never caught, not to mention prosecuted and successfully convicted”. Calls to action the legal and justice system to bring to book those who commit acts of violence. The builds upon what is now public knowledge, the fact that South Africa is yet to relieve the high number of cases which has to undergo forensic examination to lay grounds for prosecution against acts of violence. The Foucauldian idea of discipline and punish²⁷² were those who were witnesses to punitive action were also to be found guilty of the same crimes they stood as witnesses to the execution would stand as a deterrent to such an intervention because perpetrators commit crimes despite their awareness of the implications of their actions.

Data Set 30: Give mom ‘killers’ heavy sentences.



Excerpt 30

Read against the prevalence of violent murders of black womxn, some of them met their ultimate deaths while pregnant. This form of framing plane is categorized under intervening titling were the author through the headlining of the article, recommends what can be deemed as an intervention to the scourge of violence against women and children in South Africa. The author prescribes prolonged ‘heavy’ sentences on “mom killers”. This framing follows a spate of violence seen on the body of young black mothers and at times pregnant women.

Data Set 31: “OPEN LETTER TO HONORABLE PRESIDENT OF SOUTH AFRICA. CYRIL MATAMELA RAMAPHOSA” collectively authored and signed by South African ‘Women’

²⁷² Foucault, M.(1975). *Discipline and punish.Social theory re-wired*. Routledge. 291-299.

Aird, E., Rowe, D. (2016). Breathe, baby, breathe: Clearing the way for the emotional emancipation of Black people. *Cultural Studies. Critical Methodologies*, 16 (3), 333-343



Excerpt 31

Some of the organisations which endorsed the open letter included the Black Management Forum (BMF), the African National Congress Women's League (ANCWL), PABASA, Young Women, and Identity Partner. An interesting observation to make here is that part of the signatories included the ANCWL, which at the time was led by Bathabile Dlamini, who served as Minister in the Presidency for Women from 2018 to 2019 under the cabinet that the president led. In the same spirit, in another publication, Sowetan, which was analysed in the earlier part of this chapter, Dlamini prescribed that perpetrators of GBV be castrated as a punitive measure. We again here return to the work of Michael Foucault on Discipline and Punish to gauge the extent in which the penal system can be used as a tool of justice to arrive at a juncture where violence is completely alienated as a social character counter the idea of viewing the penal system as existing as "of a certain mechanism of power".

The open letter addressed to the president also openly launches a critique against some of the decisions taken by the state entity, Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), arguing that they deliberately, if not intentionally, isolated black 'women' from economic rescue missions during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Data Set 32: Please Mr. President. Ending the tyranny of violence must be your top priority. Sunday Times.

Please Mr President, ending the tyranny of violence must be your top priority

Society • Domestic Violence • Violence Prevention • Violence and Abuse • Personal Safety • Crime • Discrimination • Human Rights • Child Health • Women's Rights • Sexism • Parenting • Family • Child Abuse
2 Jun 2019 [+1 more](#)

Dear President Cyril Ramaphosa, we congratulate you and welcome your new cabinet to office. As concerned academic and civil society leaders, we call on you to make ending violence against women and children your top priority. Mr President, you recognised gender-based violence (GBV) as "a crisis that is tearing our society apart" during the summit on GBV and femicide in November. You signed the declaration and pledged immediate action. We welcome this commitment but it's important to recognise that the problems of violence against women and children are deeply intertwined and that GBV does not cover all violence against children, in particular violence in the home.

So, we ask that SA's new cabinet makes ending violence against women and children in all its forms

the top priority. While poverty and inequality are high on the government's agenda, violence carries equally high social and economic costs for families, the state and business, and needs to be given equal priority.

Violence against women and children is widespread. Several South African studies point to the saturation of violence in the everyday lives of children. The "Birth to 20-Plus" study found that 99% of children had experienced or witnessed some form of violence, and more than 40% had multiple experiences of violence

In their homes, schools and communities.

All forms of violence affect children of both genders. Evidence shows that more boys experience

sexual abuse than previously believed and that both boys and girls similarly experience physical abuse, but emotional violence is poorly understood.

At the same time, almost 50% of South African women experience intimate-partner violence during their lifetimes, and nearly 40% of women reported physical abuse during pregnancy in a study from KwaZulu-Natal.

Violence against women is inextricably linked with violence against children. Both forms occur in the same households and share the same drivers. Shared risk factors include family conflict, poverty, alcohol and substance abuse, patriarchy within the family and in society at large, and social norms that tolerate violence towards women and children.

The interaction of social and personal factors contributes to a never-ending cycle of abuse in which victims are at increased risk of re-victimisation, or of becoming perpetrators themselves.

Violence is associated with short- and long-term effects on children's health and development. Starting during pregnancy, the latest research suggests that intimate-partner violence has a negative impact on the unborn child, increasing the risk of neurodevelopmental disorders, lower intellectual functioning and poor parent-child bonding.

Children who are abused learn to tolerate violence and are at increased risk of poor mental health (including anxiety and depression), drug and alcohol abuse, risky sexual behaviours and HIV, exter-

nalising behaviour problems (such as aggression and delinquency) and poor social functioning. In the Birth to 20-Plus study, violent behaviour was reported by more than 65% of primary school children, rising to 89% of adolescents.

An investigation into the social burden and economic impact of violence against children in SA found that preventing children from experiencing and witnessing violence reduces multiple social problems from self-harm, HIV infection, drug and alcohol abuse, and interpersonal violence. The study also shows that violence has a substantial impact on the economy. The research team calculated that the long-term cost of violence against children in 2015/2016 stood at R238bn, or nearly 5% of GDP.

SA's response to violence against

Excerpt 32

Letters to the editors are credited as "the only place in the newspapers where readers have their say, in their own words, on the small and large issues that preoccupy communities everywhere"²⁷³. Furthermore, reinforcing this fact, scholarship on the usefulness of newsletters in newspapers suggests that the section is an invaluable archive for studying social phenomenon. To support such a view, scholars argued that newsletters enable activist-researchers writing feminist histories to share difficult-to-access information, resources, and primary sources via photocopying and other modes of print reproduction²⁷⁴.

Data Set 33: Women's call for castration of GBV. Sunday Times

²⁷³ Franklin, B. (2006). *Local Journalism and Local Media: Making the local news*. Routledge. Taylor and Francis Group.

²⁷⁴ McKinney, C. (2015). Newsletter networks in the feminist history and archives movement. *Feminist Theory*, 16(3), 309-328. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1464700115604135>



Excerpt 33

This newspaper article addressed some of the proposed interventions on GBV largely by “women”. What also stands out is the fact that, read in the broader sense to generate nuanced meanings, GBV is conceived with men in mind, that men, women and children can be both victims and perpetrators of GBV.

Summary of the theme

These forms of framing are a consistent trend in the print media and often appear in newsletters. From the data sampled, n=3 (number of articles addressed to the sitting president of the Republic of South Africa, Honourable Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, calling on him to “make ending the violence against women and children”²⁷⁵ his top priority. Another letter addressed to the president is an outcry co-signed by South African women that “we can't breath Mr President”²⁷⁶. From the overall data sampled, n=1 newspaper article bears the keyword femicide in the framing title to comment about the growing statistics of black womxn who lose their lives at the hands of strangers, lovers, and family members.

5.5 Overall summary of findings

Of the thirty-four n= (33) newspaper articles analysed in the undertaking of this study, a margin equivalent to half n= (16) newspaper articles from the sampled data framed femicide in line with the personal conduct of the perpetrator while another half was framed through next of kin experiences thus building a living archive of the life of the victims of femicide. Scholars have argued over time that through framing planes the “media

²⁷⁵ Except 20

²⁷⁶ Except 13

stigmatise offenders, sentimentalise victims and sanctify those deemed particularly vulnerable or tragic”²⁷⁷.

Summarily, what the data presented reveals seems to complement the challenges of the media flagged by scholars on violence against women, that there is a particular kind of writing about femicide that the media gets wrong²⁷⁸. This study posits that part of crafting solutions lies in how we diagnose the problems researchers attempt to solve through research undertakings on violence. The findings presented in this data were saturated from a corpus of newspaper articles that tackled the issue of VAW. However, many could not be included in the data set for analysis owed to the fact that for purposes of selection, the author relied on the headline and/or title of selected newspaper articles from both the *Sunday Times* and the *Sowetan* newspapers, respectively.

5.6 Conclusion

The next chapter provides an overall and thorough discussion and conclusion of the study by building a summary of the major themes found to have been detrimental in the framing of femicide in South Africa’s print media pre- and in the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. It looks at the living conditions and how black womxn’s relationships with spaces and the society were framed by way of discursive engagement with emerging themes and how they informed social perception and knowledge on violence against womxn and femicide as a prevailing outcome of such violence.

²⁷⁷ Jewkes, Y. (2015). *Media and Crime*. 3rd Edition. Sage Publication.

²⁷⁸ Brodie, N. (2020). *Femicide in South Africa*. Kwela Books.

CHAPTER SIX

DISCUSSION, RECOMMENDATION, LIMITATIONS, AND CONCLUSION

“In a country such as South Africa, where violence is so embedded in many processes of communication, and not just contestation, it is possible to misread violence as something else, to cease seeing some manifestation of it”.

– *Pumla Dineo Gqola (2015)*

6.1 Introduction

This chapter of the study attempts to talk back to the findings excavated from the archives in the previous chapter by way of discussing the findings, exposing the limitations of the study, laying out recommendations for future studies, and ultimately giving the overall conclusion of the study. What this chapter attempts to do is an “examination of the text in terms of what is present and what could have been but is not present.”²⁷⁹ by employing Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) frameworks and tools of analysis as explained in Chapter Four of this study. This study was undertaken based on the impression and acknowledgement that framing is intended to drive perspectives and build perceptions in the thought processes of those who engage in the written texts from South Africa’s selected press houses. This interdisciplinary study engages with how politics ultimately influence language and violence as instruments in the possession of those in power. It particularly seeks to explore how femicide is framed.

This study set out to explore three objectives, which were set out in the introductory chapter, which intended to;

- a) Interrogate South Africa’s print media history and the underlying politics of racialized media ownership and control;
- b) Mapping the history of print media in South Africa and how language as a historical site, is a constituent element of power over subjected subjects through print media framing

²⁷⁹ Prior, P. (2003). Tracing process: How texts come into being. In *What writing does and how it does it* (pp. 173-206). Routledge.

c) Explore linguistic nuances attendant to framing femicide in South Africa's print media,

To arrive at the set-out objectives a set of chapters were consolidated to respond to the methodological and theoretical undertakings emanating from the research questions derived from the objectives. Chapter Two responded to objective (a), Chapter Four of this study was dedicated to objective (b), while Chapter Five attended to objective (c) of the study which presented the data samples that informed this critical inquiry.

6.2 Summary and discussion of the research

This study's archival findings were not hard a predicament to arrive at. Firstly, notable is the fact that violence is read as synonymous with blacks in post-colonial and the Global South. Secondly, this reality has black womxn at the receiving end of the violence. Statistics and news reporting exist to confirm this reality. The findings of the study are built upon the hypothesis that contends that the term femicide is unlikely to be used when framing the phenomenon in the total sample of 33 newspaper articles. What is rather exposed from the archive is the fact that terms which mediate as synonyms attached to the event are mostly preferable in the framing of femicide. Second to this, the data also reveals that in instances where the term is explicitly used, was found mostly in the newsletter section of both the *Sowetan* and *Sunday Times* newspapers. This study therefore hopes to add to the ongoing call for a critical reading on how the print media frame and represent femicide in South Africa by drawing on analysis from two newspaper houses, *Sowetan* and *Sunday Times*, which were and still are designated historically for coverage of the lives of black people in South Africa. The overall analysis through CDA is a narrative drawn from the archive, totalling $n=33$ (number of articles) published newspaper articles.

Subsequently, black womxn in South Africa own no more than 13% of the land²⁸⁰ while collectively black people struggle within a meagre 24%,²⁸¹ which accounts for 472,282 square meters of the entire country. Reading femicide within the context of political discourse in South Africa to trace instances where political action is placed central to

²⁸⁰ Annual Performance Plan 2023-24. Department of Agriculture, land Reform and Rural Development, Republic of South Africa.

²⁸¹ Land Audit Report (2017). Version 2: Phase II: Private Land Ownership by Race, Gender, and Nationality.

framing femicide in South Africa's print media industry. Such intervening frames serve as important markers that prescribe either individual or collective action of and from those deemed instrumental towards bringing an end to femicide. Such framing techniques can be seen from *Except 22* titled "Men Hang Your Heads in Shame" and *Except 23* "Women Picket for a gender just society" and other attendant frames used to represent femicide in South Africa's print media houses, the *Sunday Times* and *Sowetan* independently.

As discourse formation spills over into perception and behavioural pattern constructions, the more we write prescriptively about a particular phenomenon or socialised disorders, in the words of Saidiya Hartman, we might find ways to "live as if we were free."²⁸² This study relied upon South Africa's signatory status to Bretton Woods bodies such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF), United Nations (UN), and the World Health Organisation (WHO) to borrow for contextualisation, particular terms used universally in scholarships on gender and violence and the framing thereof of gendered violence. Therefore, the definitions of these terms may not be defined in South Africa's legislative excerpts due to the constitution and many other supplementary statutes remaining silent on defining such terms in relation to violence. However, as revealed in the data sampled, these terms often find expression in the framing of femicide in South Africa (see Khumalo, 2019 & Excerpt 12 for such framing formations).

Dlomo (2019) wrote that "women in this country have been living in a heightened state of anxiety" and that "every time picture is posted, you think you could literally be next, the rate of femicide seems to have risen shockingly before eyes, but it's a reality we've lived with for so long". Between existence and the speculative realm of existence is one reality that Dlomo (2019) attempts to paint and make sense of the continued *death-bound-subjectivity*²⁸³ and consistent to Ba's idea of "juxtaposition of words from which springs the idea, Thought, History, Science, Life"²⁸⁴. This questioning also reinforces the creation of historical trauma, which results in "the psychological wounding of communities and

²⁸² Hartman, S. (2019). *Wayward Lives: Beautiful Experiments*. Serpent's Tail.

²⁸³ Mohamed. A.J. *Death-Bound-Subjectivity and Subject Formation*.

²⁸⁴ Ba, M. (2008). *So Long A Letter*. African Writers Series. Translated by Modupe Bode Thomas

cultural groups caused by traumatic events such as holocaust, genocide, slavery) that can result in longstanding consequences and mental suffering for their descendants²⁸⁵.

6.3 Contribution of the Research

This interdisciplinary research bears varying contributions to the scholarship on violence against women and the attendant linguistic implications in the framing and subsequent representation of femicide in South Africa. These contributions are discussed thoroughly, including themes from the researcher's engagement with the data analysed. The ensuing discussion is built upon the results of the data syntheses. By extensively employing CDA as a reading lens, this study hoped to contribute to the body of knowledge on violence, which interdisciplinarily flows from the field of political sciences and media studies, and their preoccupation with language, violence, and gender. By looking at how governments/states can actively create spaces where violence finds expression by looking at the Covid-19 pandemic and the responses that governed the movement of people, this study leaned on agenda-setting theory as action communicated through the media by the state. It does so by reading secondary data through newspaper articles to critically interrogate how language use affects social consciousness and develops public perceptions on violence, especially in its gendered manifestation. By placing language at the centre of critique, the study intended to demonstrate how language is not a neutral social tool, but a by-product of varying social dynamics that shape social realities in a society.

6.3.1 Social Context

Biko's politicising manner of death is seen through textual framing such as burnt, raped, chopped, hacked, shot, strangled. Whether violence happens in public or private spaces, the study found that the crime was committed by individuals who had private lives with their victims. Barely were the victims strangers to the perpetrators. Fewer are the cases in the data sampled in this study. But also, what the data revealed is that the subject has always remained in the domain of public interest in as far as the commentary that appears

²⁸⁵ Grills, C., Aird, E., Rowe, D. (2016). Breathe, baby, breathe: Clearing the way for the emotional emancipation of Black people. Cultural Studies. *Critical Methodologies*, 16(3), 333-343

in the data sample by various stakeholders and public commentators. The subsequent discussion ties the idea of space and how violence takes place.

6.3.2 The Covid-19 Pandemic and beyond

Scholars engaged in research on violence wrote that “being home does not offer safety and comfort for women in South Africa because many violent attacks on their bodies happen at home” and with the lockdown’s attendant to the Covid-19 pandemic in April 2020, through the provocation of the national state of disaster homes ceased to serve as safe spaces for many working class womxn whose labour fell outside the confines of what was categorised as essential services. Safety is not limited to geography but contingent upon the performative spaces created within geographical markers. Statistics South Africa’s Governance, Public Safety, and Justice Survey (GPSJS) 2023/24 revealed a decline in the sense of safety among individuals walking in their neighbourhoods during the day and at night since 2019/20.²⁸⁶

From B&Bs, lodges, post-offices, colleges, and universities versus homes, the class struggle and violence in South Africa are ultimately attached to social spaces. From a total of thirty-three articles analysed in this study, 15 of the murders took place in public spaces and are categorized within the NIPV and IPV, while 15 took place in personal spaces and therefore fall under the category of Interpersonal Violence (IV). Gender shapes bodies as they shape space and are in turn shaped by its arrangements.²⁸⁷

Surely as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic were people movement was policed by the state, with the army marching through the streets of the country, often publicly seen dispersing state violence, and where the movement of labour was curtailed only to essential services, the home became the only space where a lot of people were designated until the first easing down of the lockdown regulations on the 1st June 2020. This is why it is notable that femicide and subsequently many other forms of gendered violence skyrocketed.²⁸⁸ This is owed to the fact that there were no other spaces that

²⁸⁶ Statistic South Africa. (2024). Statistical Release (P0341): Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey. [Statistical release](#)

²⁸⁷ Ilich, I. (1982). *Gender*. Pantheon Books.

²⁸⁸ Ndlovu, S., Mulondo, M., Tsoka-Gwegweni, J., & Ndirangu, J. (2022). COVID-19 impact on gender-based violence among women in South Africa during lockdown: A narrative review. *African journal of reproductive health*, 26(7), 59-71.

provided outlets for mediation of conflict, worse in instances where IPV was a prevailing concern (Maketha, 2019).

Politically informed killings of black womxn were also a notable manner of death that connects the intersection between the class and race struggle waged by black people in South Africa and demonstrates the common outcomes of resistance and confrontation with violence from the state and private, often white capital. And so, such violence was “the outcome of a variety of interrelated factors at individual, interpersonal, community and societal levels,” which our public commentary on violence against women needs to be recorded. This is to assure that black womxn are not erased from the class struggle for land ownership and the right to self-determination in South Africa. This strikes the intersection between one womxn’s individual struggle and the systemic oppression of black womxn and ultimately how space is made for violent masculinities to take center stage, and war talk is legitimized²⁸⁹.

6.3.3 Waves of Violence and of Fear

The idea of ‘residual systems of violence’ and the Chomsky idea of the creation of a social order, which becomes visible in how language is used, often as a literary culture of writing about violence. Some data point to intimate partner violence, discussed in the earlier chapter of this study. Some scholars argue that “if women remain fearful of physical violence from men, they are less likely to demand wide-ranging changes to gendered relations²⁹⁰.

Of the total n=33 newspaper articles analysed in the study, 10% of the sample revealed that the relationship between the victim and perpetrator was interpersonal, some revealing perpetual trends. The data revealed that womxn were often described in relation to their social position rather than in any other form, such as victim naming in the case of victims who are of legal age. References such as wife, girlfriend, mom, girl, teen, activist, womxn, and daughter appeared in the headlines as a common framing technique.

The findings of this studies confirm an earlier conviction that often journalists and writers alike through language mis-frame violence against women as GBV without taking caution

²⁸⁹ Gqola, P. (2015). Rape: A South African Nightmare. MF Books Joburg

²⁹⁰ Carter, C & Weaver, C. (2003). Violence and the Media. Open University Press

of the fact that the term is applicable to both men and women as common victims and perpetrators and children as both witnesses and victims of GBV and not femicide or violence against women.

The findings also reveal that through intervening frame analysis that the prescription is often geared towards the indoctrination of men and boys as better members of the society. Attendant to this is the recommendation to deliver heftier punitive judgements against perpetrators of violence against womxn, which boils into the conversation around the death penalty as a possible deterring intervention. What the data reveals is that the framing of femicide, over and above all, happens as an incidental occurrence and is barely seen as an ongoing social issue.

6.4 Limitations of the research

Having set out to analyse data covering femicide in South Africa's print media, some of the limitations to the undertaking of the study laid partly on the lack of resources to undertake data collection in the practical sense where the researcher would access physical archives of earmarked newspaper houses to draw the rich archival accounts of the demise of working-class black womxn in South Africa. These limitations were facilitated by the inability/unavailability of financial resources to carry out the data collection process, and thus subjected the study to heavy reliance on desktop methods to draw the accounts of femicide in South Africa's print media. The primary limitation was that the data gathering procedure relied on a digital archival website, which can be prone to alteration and tampering insofar as cybersecurity is concerned. The study nonetheless ultimately settled for the use of PressReader as a data collection tool courtesy of the University of Limpopo Library Services.

6.5 Recommendations for future studies

Based on the study's archival excavation results, premised on principles that guide studies through CDA. This study recommends that for future inquiry on the subject of violence and representation, if the preoccupation is on femicide and print media framing, scholars extend the scope of years for investigations. Secondly, the study recommends that language users and journalists, media practitioners, and activists alike make the distinction in writing about femicide and attended reference terms. Having laboured

earlier in the chapter to provide succinct definitions on the terms of reference on VAW, this study urges language users to pay particular attention to how they deploy the use of the term GBV in relation to VAW.

By definition, GBV includes men, women, and children, and yet writers often fall into the entrapment of deploying the term as referring to violence limited to womxn only. The categorisation is misleading and may construe literary activism against VAW. The study also proposes for future scholarship inquiry that are focused on the representation of femicide on womxn in same sex relationship in an attempt to trace similarities in representation, identifying causal problems and prescribing possible interventions to violence against womxn and children which goes against the grain of suggesting that apart from legal and penal systems reviews, how we raise boys, and the overall attitude of men, there are other avenues of framing femicide. The reality is that womxn in same sex relationships are not immune from IPV and other manifestations of relational violence.

6.6 Conclusion

This study initially set out to situate how language as a constituent element of power constitutes the Chomskian (1975) idealisation on “language and politics” and realities by situating language as a political entity that sanctions and influences communication and public perception. As a legacy of political systems such as colonialism in the Global South used by oppressive colonial regimes to subdue and misconstrue the realities of subjected people. This was executed through tracing how these oppressive regimes were central to the creation of the print media in their own language and their continued control even in post-colonies through the continuous use of colonial languages as official and dominant languages of communication. This position rests on the argument that “it is those with vested interests who use the media as a conduit to make a moral statement about a particular individual, group or behaviour.”²⁹¹ This control is central to understanding the fourth estate, agenda setting, and how it can be used to create social perceptions and realities pertaining to violence. This study borrows from earlier scholars on gender and

²⁹¹ Jewkes, Y. (2015). *Media and Crime*. 3rd edition. Sage Publication.

violence who argue that “violence is a feature frequently defining women’s experience of sexuality”²⁹².

Studies that commented on the emerging trends of violence against womxn and children during the Covid-19 pandemic charged at the restriction and policing of human movement as responsible for the peaked spate of violent acts. This was owed to the fact that many people, some who had known histories with interpersonal violence, were locked up with their abusers for prolonged periods, uncertain at that time. Some did not make it out of the time capsule alive. In conclusion, the study wants to reiterate the argument that given the fact that the Covid 19 pandemic regulations were an attempt at averting humanitarian crisis, they became breeding grounds for the perpetuation of violent crimes, destructive enough to trigger an alarm on a looming humanitarian crisis.

What the study’s archival excavation exposed was how the killing of black womxn and children was a responsibility of people intimately related to them as was the case with Ncindelwa Mgabadeli, Sibongile Mgabadeli, Mabusela Leshabane, Kgaugelo Tshwane, Malebogo Tawana, Asithandile Zozo, Nosipho Mphakathi, Tebatso Matlatse and Karabo Mokoena and thus culminating into what is categorised as IPV personally related as was the case with Sanelisiwe Mhlongo falling under the category of IV, by people in charge of public institutions as was the case with Uyinene Mrwetyana categorised as N-IPV, and by people identified as lovers pursuing new relationships as was the case with Zaheera Boomgaard.

This study laboured to situate language at the centre of violence. Firstly, by arguing how in South Africa dominant languages of the press and state communication are born out of political dynamics. Secondly, the study focused on how imposed languages are used to communicate violence on people who are subject citizens and what this ultimately builds is an environment where misrepresentation sits at the centre of public discourse. Ultimately, the researcher intended to argue out how informed framing on violence against womxn and children should not be conflated as general framing on GBV, as the two are distinctly different forms and manifestations of violence. The researcher intended

²⁹² Jacobs, S & Klesse, C. (2013). Introduction: Special Issue on “Gender, Sexuality and Political Economy. *International Journal of Political and Cultural Studies*. Springer.

to cast light on how the use of language as a framing tool can intervene in how society approaches a social problem as a cause for national and/or international concern and how the problem can be addressed. The primary intention of this study was to interrogate through critique how we write about violence against womxn in the media and its agency in creating critical public perception about violence and what the society ought to be doing as a counter social movement. This study is an attempt at building upon a critique of violence and how the media is often complacent in its misdiagnosis and subsequent framing, particularly in print media as a fourth estate.

The researcher hopes that after going through the torturous labour of engaging this text, my reader will be able to take a position on my argument; to which I contest that, there are multiple ways to critique violence, and my inquiry is interested in building through an and my inquiry is interested in building through an oftentimes heavy reliance on the political history of an identified geographic space, how language is imposed and used to control/rule, by its imposition on public institutions to form nations, how those who rule control what can be said and written by virtue of ownership and control of the media, how such powers spiral into public perceptions of violence, how these perceptions influence social behaviour. I hope the reader found it easy to follow in my critique of how femicide is framed in South Africa, which points out what could have been written but not said through a critique of key terms and discussions of selected newspaper headlines. The state creates a social order which is cast in the predominant language and imposes it through its fourth estate, the media.

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Appendix 1: Turn-It-In Report

KS Mphahlele (201324763).docx			
ORIGINALITY REPORT			
7%	6%	4%	5%
SIMILARITY INDEX	INTERNET SOURCES	PUBLICATIONS	STUDENT PAPERS
PRIMARY SOURCES			
1	Submitted to University of the Western Cape Student Paper	2%	
2	ulspace.ul.ac.za Internet Source	<1%	
3	repository.up.ac.za Internet Source	<1%	
4	hdl.handle.net Internet Source	<1%	
5	wiredspace.wits.ac.za Internet Source	<1%	
6	is.muni.cz Internet Source	<1%	
7	ir-library.mmust.ac.ke Internet Source	<1%	
8	www.scribd.com Internet Source	<1%	
9	documents.worldbank.org Internet Source	<1%	

Appendix 2: Ethical Approval Letter (TREC)



University of Limpopo
Department of Research Administration and Development
Private Bag X1106, Sovenga, 0727, South Africa
Tel: (015) 268 3935, Fax: (015) 268 2306, Email: tukiso.sewapa@ul.ac.za

TURFLOOP RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE
ETHICS CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE

DATE: 20 May 2024
PROJECT NUMBER: TREC/120/2024: PG
PROJECT:

Title: Framing Femicide in South Africa: Critical Discourse Analysis of the Sunday Times and Sowetan print media newspapers
Researcher: KS Mphahlele
Supervisor: Dr GS Mrubula-Ngwenya
Co-Supervisor/S: Dr MC Tlowane
School: School of Social Sciences
Degree: Master of Arts in Political Science

PROF D MAPOSA
CHAIRPERSON: TURFLOOP RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE

The Turfloop Research Ethics Committee (TREC) is registered with the National Health Research Ethics Council, Registration Number: **REC-0310111-031**

Note:

- i) This Ethics Clearance Certificate will be valid for one (1) year, as from the abovementioned date. Application for annual renewal (or annual review) need to be received by TREC one month before lapse of this period.
- ii) Should any departure be contemplated from the research procedure as approved, the researcher(s) must re-submit the protocol to the committee, together with the Application for Amendment form.
- iii) PLEASE QUOTE THE PROTOCOL NUMBER IN ALL ENQUIRIES.

Finding solutions for Africa

Appendix 3: Editing Certificate



WriteRight Language Editing Services
640 Munnik Avenue, Bendor, Polokwane, 0699
Registration No. 2023/162786/07
moffatsebola@gmail.com, 0697110718
DATE: 17 December 2024

Re: Certificate of Editing

I hereby advise that I edited a dissertation titled: **"Framing Femicide in South Africa: Critical Discourse Analysis of the *Sunday Times* and *Sowetan* print media newspapers"** by MPHAHLELE KGOHATSO SHAUN. My editorial interventions entailed, among other aspects, the following:

- English academic language editing, including grammar, spelling, tenses and subject/verb agreement. Efforts were made to ensure that UK English instead of US English was used consistently in the text. Therefore, verbs such as "organize", "emphasize", "realize" and "behavior" were spelled thus, "organise", "emphasise", "realise" and "behaviour", respectively.
- Style and full reference editing according to the Institution's style guide. Here, I checked consistency in the formatting of in-text references and the list of references, including checking that all the sources cited in text were duly acknowledged and that all the sources on the list of references appeared in the text. Addressing inconsistencies in the use of font types and sizes throughout the document.

Please note that I have not had sight of the manuscript since editing, with Kgothatso either accepting or rejecting suggested changes or corrections, as is usual. Unless tampered with prior to your reception of the edited work, I trust you will find the editing quality in order.

Regards
Prof Moffat Sebola,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Moffat Sebola", is written over a light-colored rectangular background.