

BETWEEN REPORTING AND DECONSTRUCTING: WHERE IS FEMICIDE IN THE HEADLINES OF NEWS PORTALS?



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ABSTRACT

This article aims to analyze the discourses in the headlines of the news portals of Piauí: Meio Norte, 180 graus and Cidade Verde, focusing on the Iarla Lima Barbosa case. As a theoretical-methodological resource, Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) is used, proposed by Fairclough (2006). Finally, it is understood that women have a place of equality, and as a human being, they need to be properly represented, in addition to the fact that such crimes must be correctly typified by the media so as not to ideologically reproduce concepts, representations and behaviors that are dangerous for these and future generations.

Keywords: Critical Discourse Analysis, Femicide, News Portals.

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INTRODUCTION

This qualitative research discusses violence when it reaches its deepest degree against women: femicide. To this end, news about intimate femicide is analyzed, from the perspective of Critical Discourse Analysis (ADC), published in three news portals in Piauí that have greater access: Portal Meio Norte, 180 graus and Cidade Verde.

The question that guided the investigation was: how does journalism portray intimate femicide and address the issue of gender violence against women? In this sense, the article aims to analyze the discourses on the subject in question in the headlines of these portals, focusing on the Iarla Lima Barbosa case.

On this occasion, Fairclough's (2006) Three-Dimensional Model was used, which allowed a macro look between the text and the social and discursive practice. It is understood that based on discourses, social structures are constituted, so that they "vary according to the social domains in which they are generated, according to the orders of discourse to which they are affiliated" (Resende, 2004, p. 186).

In view of the growth of violence in the country⁴ – especially with regard to gender crimes – there is a need to take an interpretative look at the journalistic coverage of cases of violence against women, femicide,⁵ as they are crimes that reach frightening proportions, evidenced daily in news published in the media.

The theme is not recent, because since Antiquity, women have been victims of the most varied forms of violence: physical, sexual, symbolic, patrimonial, economic and psychological. Such aggression was (and still is) admitted for cultural reasons, since women are considered submissive to men. In the last ten years, gender violence against women in Brazil has been more perceived as a social problem, and is currently seen as a serious violation of human rights⁶.

In the state of Piauí, such crimes have advanced significantly, leading women to be killed by partners, boyfriends or close people with great violence and frequency. The crimes of femicide in Piauí are widely reported by the press, but the way they report this fact has caused questions and concerns in people, in general.

⁴ According to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), in 2019, 126 women were killed because of their gender in Brazil since the beginning of the year, in addition to the record of 67 attempted murders.

⁵ The deaths of women resulting from gender conflicts, that is, because they are women, are called femicides or femicides ("Violence against women: femicides in Brazil". Institute of Applied Economic Research, 2013).

⁶ Available at: www.dossies.agenciapatriciagalvao.org.br/feminicidio/capitulos/como-e-por-que-morrem-as-mulheres/. Accessed in: 01/10/2024

Faced with this reality, the dissatisfaction with following journalistic coverage on news portals about gender crimes – in relation to the way the issue is addressed by the media in Brazil and Piauí, whose rates are alarming – especially among young people, motivated the interest in developing the theme of this research.

In times of media convergence, the media under analysis – news portals – stand out for the speed and propagation of information, through *hyperlinks* that are commented on and shared on social networks, allowing greater visibility of the news. That said, it is necessary for the press to fulfill the role of informing and typifying this type of crime in a more ethical and enlightening way.

Among the various occurrences recently reported, the case of Iarla Barbosa stands out, who was victimized by her boyfriend after a festive event in which they were. Analyzing the articles on the above case, it is noted that journalism can contribute to the perpetuation of the discourse of domination, naturalizing conceptions and practices rooted in personal relationships, collaborating and even justifying fatal violence against women, by reproducing descriptive approaches to crimes articulating sexist contours, reifying a patriarchal gender order, indirectly blaming the victim herself for her death.

It is assumed that *online* media, with their reach and potential, can make it difficult to confront violence against women when they disseminate inappropriately, by avoiding using the term *femicide*, casting doubt on the character of women. In this sense, it is important to address the convenience of confronting this practice in order to avoid perpetuating the media impunity of the perpetrators of the crime of femicide.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: A QUESTION OF GENDER RELATIONS

Violence against women is created in social relations, resulting from the inequality of strength in power relations between men and women. Such a situation has been reproduced in the media, notably when reporting on a femicide, exposing female vulnerability and bringing the reader information about the case at all times, in an incessant and permanent media race for journalistic scoops. In some reported cases, the spectacularization of the news is perceived, through which there is a fragmentation of events, so that they can generate "new" facts and "new" audiences.

In the sense of Prado and Sanematsu (2017, p. 147),

To create the spectacle or dispute the audience, part of the coverage tends to focus its narratives on the exploration of a "love story" with a tragic ending, a "moment of madness provoked" by the victim or a "monstrous" crime committed by an

"abnormal being" and cruel, who kills with refinements of perversity and then mutilates and destroys the body.

This infinite cycle has accentuated inequalities, fostered misconceptions in relation to the condition of being a woman. Therefore, it is assimilated that gender inequalities violate women's rights, hence why it is necessary to reflect on how institutions, symbols, and language fall under the masculine and the feminine. It is important to know the ways in which cultural meanings are constructed for these differences, giving meaning to them and, consequently, positioning them within hierarchical relations.

To discuss gender, it is necessary to refer to the social system of power that casts differences between women and men based on social norms and body relations, with regard to race and sexuality.

Saffioti (2004, p. 4) highlights the patterns of distinctions such as the "gender order", in which the structure of social relations is centered on the set of practices that differentiate bodies and social processes, emphasizing the differentiations between women and men through everyday examples, in various spheres, such as politics, family and work. Thus, sexed bodies are socially constructed. For the aforementioned author, the issue of the oppression of women is a constituent part of a system based on the exploitation of human beings by human beings.

Patriarchy refers to millennia of the closest history, in which a hierarchy between men and women was implanted, with male primacy. [...] The concept of gender carries an appreciable dose of ideology. And what is this ideology? Precisely the patriarchal one, forged especially to cover a power structure that places women far below men in all areas of human coexistence. It is to this power structure, and not only to the ideology that covers it, that the concept of patriarchy concerns (Saffioti, 2004, p. 4).

Patriarchy reproduces itself through a symbolic power that operates in the subjectivity of the subjects. It is a mechanism of power and domination that strives for male supremacy. Thus, violence is exercised through symbolic means of communication and knowledge, and its victims become accomplices of violence itself (Bourdieu, 2002, p. 1-2).

In this sense, it is reproduced in the planes of discourses and *habitus*⁷ in which male domination over women is seen as natural. Chauí (1985) conceives violence against

⁷ The concept of *habitus* was created by sociologist Pierre Bourdieu, and it is about principles that generate distinct and distinctive practices through which individuals perceive the social world around them and react to it. *Habitus* are "systems of durable, structured dispositions, predisposed to function as structuring structures, that is, as a generating and structuring principle of practices and representations that can be objectively 'regulated' and 'regular' without being the product of obedience to rules, objectively adapted to their end

women as the result of an ideology of male domination that is produced and reproduced by both men and women. In this sense, violent action treats the dominated being as an "object" and not as a "subject", and is even silenced, becoming dependent and passive.

In the sense of Bourdieu (1999, 2003), violence is discussed by observing symbolic productions, relating to the exercise of symbolic power, invisible between the dominant and the dominated, but which, like all power, manages to impose meanings as legitimate.

Symbolic violence is instituted through the adhesion that the dominated cannot fail to grant to the dominant (and, therefore, to domination) when he does not have, in order to think about it and to think about it, or rather, to think about its relationship with him, more than instruments of knowledge that both have in common and that, being no more than the incorporated form of the relationship of domination, make this relationship be seen as natural; or, in other words, when the schemes that he puts into action to see and evaluate himself, or to see and evaluate the dominant ones (high/low, male/female, white/black, etc.) result from the incorporation of classifications, thus naturalized, of which his social being is a product (Bourdieu, 1999, p. 47).

It is understood that symbolic violence is marked by an implicit relationship of submission naturalized by beliefs in oppression as something inevitable, such as the conviction in female fragility. When assessing the understanding of gender, race, sexuality and class violence, it is not possible to limit oneself only to the analytical and descriptive aspect, but to have a notion about the political dimension, the historical and symbolic circumstances, as well as globalization, which can offer important bases for understanding violence against women.

In this sense, Saffiotti (2004, p. 116) highlights that male domination is linked to the capitalist and racist system, so that there is no way to separate the problem of violence against women from the general problems inherent to the capitalist and unequal society, when women, even occupying and performing the same work as men, are paid less, they are marginalized from relevant economic and political functions.

In turn, Scott (1995, p. 45) attests that patriarchy is a power structure in which the domination and exploitation of women by men prevails, guaranteeing them sexual and reproductive rights over women's bodies.

Violence is, then, the result of the domination and exploitation of women by men, as they have been taught to believe that they have prerogatives over them. The macho

without assuming the conscious intention of the ends and the express mastery of the operations necessary to achieve them and collectively orchestrated, without being the product of the organizing action of a conductor".
BOURDIEU, P. **Symbolic power**. 10. ed. Rio de Janeiro: Bertrand Brasil, 2003. p. 53-54.

ideology is reproduced by patriarchy to maintain the model of inferiority in relation to women, dominating and exploiting them, armed with what they have learned normatively to also practice violence against them. Although there is male domination, not everyone uses it in the same way, just as not all women submit equally to this superiority.

In this sense, gender studies clarify aspects about the impact of issues of racism and sexism, when statistics show that violence against women affects black women more. According to the Atlas of Violence, published by the Institute of Applied Economic Research (IPEA), in 2018, considering the data from 2016,

The homicide rate is higher among black women (5.3) than among non-black women (3.1) – the difference is 71%. In relation to the ten years of the series, the homicide rate for every 100 thousand black women increased by 15.4%, while among non-black women there was a drop of 8%. In twenty states, the homicide rate of black women grew in the period between 2006 and 2016, and in twelve of them the increase was greater than 50%. Compared to the evolution of homicide rates of non-black women, in this case, there was an increase in fifteen states and in only six of them the increase was greater than 50%.

Despite institutional political advances, such as the creation of laws that protect women, this has not prevented homicide. In 2016, 4,645 women were murdered in Brazil, which represents a rate of 4.5 homicides for every 100,000 Brazilian women. In ten years, there was an increase of 6.4% (IPEA, 2018).

According to the same institute, Piauí appears as one of the states with the lowest rate of crimes against women's lives. In 2016, however, given the fluctuation over ten years, there was an increase of 50%. Consequently, the high rates give rise to a reflection on gender issues. That said, in a region where explicit machismo reigns, femicide crimes have reached alarming rates.

FEMICIDE: OH, IS THIS LOVE? NO, IT'S THE EXTREME OF THE ANTI-FEMININE HORROR CONTINUUM

Femicide or femicide is the murder of women motivated by their sex, that is, the death of women because they are women. Also called "gender-related" or "gender-related murder", this term refers to crime that has its origin related to misogynistic social practices, based on hatred of women. Such violence is presented in a universal and structural way, and is related to the predominant male symbolic domination, especially in Western culture.

According to Pasinato (2011, p. 230), femicide is the result of power differences between men and women.

Symbolic violence is instituted through the adhesion that the dominated cannot fail to grant to the dominator (therefore, to domination), since he does not have to think about it or think about himself, or rather, to think about his relationship with him, but instruments of knowledge that both have in common and that, being nothing but the incorporated form of the relationship of domination, show this relationship as natural; or, in other words, that the schemes that he mobilizes to perceive and evaluate himself or to perceive and evaluate the dominator are the product of the incorporation of classifications, thus naturalized, of which his social being is the product (Bourdieu, 1982, p. 220).

The term *femicide* was used for the first time in 1976, by Diana Russell, writer and feminist activist, during testimony before the International Tribunal on Crimes against Women, in Brussels. By the way, Russell has become a reference on topics related to feminism and gender violence. Later, together with Jill Radford, she published a book on the subject, entitled *Femicide - the politics of woman killing*, a work that became the main reference on the subject. These authors define femicide as the murder of a woman by a man, with a misogynistic motivation (Pasinato, 2011, p. 223).

In this text, femicide is alluded to as "the extreme of the *continuum* of anti-feminine terror." (Russel, 1992, p. 20). Soon, it culminates in the practice of killing the woman, who has generally maintained some relationship with her tormentor.

Historically, femicide is not a recent fact or circumscribed to a region, but an old and global phenomenon that found justifications in the resistance of women who did not adapt to the roles imposed on them. From these inappropriate behaviors, women could provoke violent reactions in their fathers, husbands or partners, as a way of disciplining or punishing them for such conduct, ensuring the maintenance of order and power.

In this way, it denotes the ratification of the inequality that inferiorizes and subordinates women to men, guaranteeing control and possession over the female body, even causing their death. Added to this is conjugal domination, which also solidifies patriarchy, in a union legitimized in the church where marriage served not only the bond between partners, but to sustain the social roles of the spouses and safeguard the maintenance of this paradigm.

To aggravate the situation, for a long time, adulteresses could be murdered, and it was unnecessary to be caught in the act, and only rumors about the alleged betrayal were enough⁸. In turn, male adultery, even with punishment provided for by law, was and still is seen as something natural and that does not affect the stability of the family nucleus.

⁸ Law of December 16, 1830. Criminal Code of the Empire of Brazil. Source: https://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil_03/leis/lim/lim-16-12-1830.htm Accessed in: 01/10/2024

Consistent with the Criminal Code of 1830, even denying the right to kill a woman in cases of adultery⁹, Brazilian jurists found a way to maintain the "traditional male honor" in force in the first Civil Code of 1916: they argued that even if they murdered their partners, under the pretext of adultery, they did not pose a risk to society, were "moved by "passion" and, therefore, they lost their reason momentarily, because they were faced with a strong emotion. From this perception, the expression *crime of passion* was born, a term that has never existed as a formal legal figure in any Brazilian Penal Code, although it has made up for this lack (Rinaldi, 2015).

Unfortunately, the press, in its discourse, still uses the murder of women by their partners as a *crime of passion*, instead of naming it appropriately, as *femicide* or *intimate femicide*. By using the term *passionate*, it gives a false impression that the crime occurred because someone could not contain themselves, was dominated by feelings – which can be confused with a romanticized view.

For Pasinato (2011, p. 234), the femicide "acts in a calculated and premeditated manner, which appears to be a circumstance diametrically opposed to that which fits the legal concept of crime of passion".

It is worth highlighting the complexity of the concept of femicide, and for a very detailed view of this phenomenon, relevant clarifications are presented. Initially, it is necessary to understand that not all cases of women murdered by a man are framed as femicide or femicide, only those that go through gender issues, that is, when a thief murders a woman to steal, he did not commit femicide; or if the death was committed accidentally by a man, it is also not femicide. It is opportune, therefore, to understand that the death of women due to gender issues does not represent an isolated fact, but belongs to a historical context of structural relations of power, domination and privilege of men over women in society (Rodríguez, 2013).

Table 1 lists the types of femicide, in accordance with the National Guidelines on Femicide (2016).

Table 1 – Femicides / Femicides: category of analysis to understand social reality

| | |
|--|--|
| | Death of a woman, committed by a man with whom the victim had or has had a relationship or intimate bond: husband, ex-husband, partner, boyfriend, ex-boyfriend or lover, person with whom she has children. Included is the hypothesis of the friend who murders a woman – friend or acquaintance – who refused to have an intimate relationship with him (sentimental or sexual) |
|--|--|

⁹ The crime of adultery, present in the Penal Code since 1940, was repealed. It is article 240 of the Penal Code of 1940, repealed by Law No. 11,106/05, published in the Official Gazette of the Union on 03.29.05.

| | |
|--|---|
| Not intimate | Death of a woman, committed by an unknown man, with whom the victim had no relationship. For example, a sexual assault that culminates in the murder of a woman by a stranger. It is also considered the case of the neighbor who kills his neighbor without there being any kind of relationship or bond between them. |
| Childish | Death of a girl under 14 years of age, committed by a man, in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power conferred by his condition as an adult over the girl's minority. |
| Familiar | Death of a woman, in the context of a family relationship between victim and aggressor. Kinship can be by consanguinity, affinity or adoption. |
| Systemic sexual | Killing women who are previously kidnapped, tortured and/or raped. It can have two modalities: - Disorganized systemic sexual – when the death of women is accompanied by kidnapping, torture and/or rape. It is assumed that active subjects kill the victim in a given period. - Organized systemic sexual – it is assumed that in these cases, the active subjects act as an organized network of sexual femicides, with a conscious and planned method for a long and indeterminate period. |
| For prostitution or stigmatized occupations | Death of a woman who is engaged in prostitution and/or another occupation (such as <i>strippers</i> , waitresses, masseuses or dancers in nightclubs), committed by one or more men. It includes cases in which the aggressor(s) sign the woman motivated by the hatred and misogyny that the victim's condition as a prostitute arouses in them. This modality evidences the weight of social stigmatization and justification of the criminal action by the subjects: <i>she deserved it; she did where; she was a bad woman; Her life was worth nothing.</i> |
| For human trafficking | Death of women produced in a situation of human trafficking. Trafficking means the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or reception of persons, using threats, use of force or other forms of coercion, whether it be kidnapping, fraud, deception, abuse of power, granting or receiving payments or benefits to obtain the consent of the person(s) for the purpose of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or organ harvesting. |
| For human smuggling | Death of a woman out of hatred or rejection of her ethnic or racial origin or phenotypic traits. |
| By female genital mutilation | Death of a girl, resulting from the practice of genital mutilation. |

Source: National Guidelines on Femicide (2016).

In the case of this article, the point of discussion focuses on the category of intimate femicide, that is, that committed by someone with whom the victim has maintained a personal relationship, such as dating, marriage or affective/sexual relationships. With this in mind, the apprehension of the diversity of types of femicide is fundamental for the entire population.

METHODOLOGICAL AND OBSERVABLE PROCEDURES

The methodology results from a set of procedures to be used by the researcher in search of knowledge, from the full understanding of that object of study. Due to the object to be researched, the approach of this research will be qualitative and its characterization,

empirical, as it will provide greater familiarity with the problem, with a view to making it more explicit.

The analysis of this material is anchored in multidisciplinary studies, mainly in the theories of Norman Fairclough (2003, 2005), Pierre Bourdieu (2002), Judith Butler (2017), Diana Russel (1992), Joan Scott (1995) and Marcela Lagarde (2006), among other authors, addressing topics related to communication, feminism, CDA, gender and violence against women, and demanded field analysis for the *online* environment. The portals were chosen because they have the highest number of accesses, according to *Alexa Traffic Rank*¹⁰.

To achieve the proposed objectives, the analysis was guided based on the Three-Dimensional Discourse Model, proposed by Fairclough (2005). To this end, the methodological part took place in four stages: pre-analysis; the textual; social practices; and discursive practices.

Thus, the stage of data collection and analysis was organized, namely: stage 1 – Textual analysis: in it, the categories are organized through transitivity and lexicalization. In the transitivity system, each proposition consists of three elements: the process (the central element); its participant(s); and your circumstances. In the lexical, expressions and variations of vocabulary are analyzed. So, the title, the subtitle, the subtitle were examined. In stage 2 – Analysis of social practices, the ideological practices that flowed in the *corpus were analyzed*. Finally, in stage 3 – Analysis of discursive practices, the forms of production, distribution and consumption were categorized.

The three portals surveyed have the practice of addressing issues inherent to the local population, especially emphasizing police and political news. As for the structure, the Meio Norte Portal includes the editorials of: news; entertainment; Sports; police; politics; Curiosities; Cars; programs (*link* with TV Meio Norte programming); cities (*link* of the 149 correspondents/cities); *blogs* (31 *blogs*); videos (films of the articles selected and published on the portal); albums (photographs of social columns); specials. The *layout*¹¹ of the portal highlights 13 news items in a reel-type album, so that the reader can access the article of interest. The headlines are organized horizontally, and the images gain greater prominence.

¹⁰ *Alexa Traffic Rank* ranks websites by the traffic they have. Available at: www.maisacessados.com. Accessed in: 01/10/2024

¹¹ Graphic Design.

On *mobile*¹², the stories are made available vertically, and load with good speed. It has advertising spaces and *pop-ups*¹³ that can make it difficult to read and stay on the page.

Portal 180 graus works with the editorials of: politics; entertainment; general; sport; municipalities (news coverage of the 224 municipalities of Piauí); *blogs* (5 *blogs*); multimedia (contest page and videos); real-time (real-time event coverage); *teens* (news aimed at young teenage audiences). The *layout* of the portal highlights 16 news items distributed on the cover. It also has a reel-type album, in which the reader can access the eight featured articles. Headlines are arranged horizontally. In the *mobile* system, the articles are made available in responsive mode, that is, vertically, and load with good speed.

The Cidade Verde Portal, on the other hand, has a cleaner graphic structure, that is, with less information, making it easier to read: a larger highlighted headline, four more news selected on the main page, and a reel with four main articles. It offers readers the editorials of: politics; entertainment; general; sport; *cvplay* (space where the portal discloses all the local programs of TV Cidade Verde, archive and live programming, in real time); economy; cities; living well; highlights TV/Radio (highlights of TV and Radio of the Cidade Verde Communication System).

In order to achieve an overview of the articles published in the portals Meio Norte, 180 graus and Cidade Verde, in 2017, regarding the intimate femicide of Iarla Barbosa, a summary of the titles of the reports is presented in Chart 2.

Chart 2 - Articles collected on the Iarla Lima Barbosa case from June 19 to 30, 2017

| DATE | HEADLINE | PORTAL | AUTHORS HIP | LINK | PUBLISHING |
|--|---|-------------------|--|---|-------------------------|
| 06/19/2017 - 8:19 AM Last updated on 06/19/2017 - 02:5 PM | Army officer kills girlfriend and shoots two women; arrested | 180 degree | The Editorial Board | https://180graus.com/ron-da-180/tenente-do-exercito-mata-namorada-e-fere-mais-2-mulheres | Police / blog Ronda 180 |
| 06/20/2017 - 06:02 PM Last updated on 06/20/2017 - 11:4 PM | Lieutenant who killed girlfriend said she was 'insinuating' herself; see | 180 degree | The Editorial Board | https://180graus.com/ron-da-180/tenente-do-exercito-que-matou-a-namorada-diz-que-ela-estava-se-insinuando | Police / blog Ronda 180 |
| 06/19/2017 - 10:29 am | Mother of young woman killed by Army Lieutenant: 'they took a piece of me' | Green City Portal | Flash Izabella Writing Caroline Oliveira | https://cidadeverde.com/noticias/250107/mae-de-jovem-morta-por-tenente-do-exercito-levaram-um-pedaco-de-mim | General |

¹² Mobile operating system, such as *tablets* and mobile (*smartphone*).

¹³ A *pop-up* is a type of window that opens in the browser when you visit a web page or access a specific link. It is used by website authors to open some extra information or as a means of advertising.

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------|---|-------------------------|--|---|---------|
| 06/19/2017 – 10:52 a.m. | BEC lieutenant confesses to police that he killed girlfriend out of jealousy | Green City Portal | Flash Izabella Pimentel Redaction Caroline Oliveira | https://cidadeverde.com/ noticias/250110/tenente- do-bec-confessa-a- policia-que-matou- namorada-por-ciumes | General |
| 06/20/17 –03:23 PM | Prosecutor mourns death of young man and talks about fight against femicide | Green City | Rayldo Young | https://cidadeverde.com/ noticias/250209/promotor -lamenta-morte-de- jovem-e-fala-sobre-luta- contra-feminicidio | General |
| 06/21/17 –04:30 PM | Delegate gives details of the death of an Army officer's girlfriend and believes in femicide | Green City | The flash of the Sena | https://cidadeverde.com/ noticias/250310/delegad a-da-detalhes-da-morte- de-namorada-de-oficial- do-exercito-e-cre-em- feminicidio | General |
| 06/22/17 –12h8 | Judge orders preventive detention of lieutenant suspected of killing girlfriend | Green City | Izabella Pimentel | https://cidadeverde.com/ noticias/250352/juiz- decreta-prisao- preventiva-de-tenente- suspeito-de-matar- namorada | General |
| 06/19/2017 – Noon | Young woman killed by lieutenant had been dating for a week | Mid- North | The Editorial Board | https://www.meionorte.co m/noticias/jovem-morta- por-tenente-estava- namorando-ha-uma- semana-320517 | News |
| 06/27/2017 – 05:28 PM | Army lieutenant indicted for the death of his girlfriend | Mid- North | The Editorial Board | https://www.meionorte.co m/policia/tenente-do- exercito-e-indiciado-pela- morte-da-namorada- 321018 | Police |

Source: Authors

Considering the headlines organized in Chart 2, it can be said that the texts published specifically about the Iarla Lima Barbosa case designate her sometimes as a *young woman*, sometimes as a *girlfriend*. In the same sense, the perpetrator of the crime is represented by his profession/rank: *lieutenant*, *army officer*, placing him asymmetrically above the victim, who was a student. In this sense, the killer appears to be a person with better financial condition and an unpolluted figure, due to the rank of army officer.

Thus, it is possible, based on Leeuwen (1997, p. 183), to verify the various ways in which social actors can be represented discursively, and what forms language has to refer to people, the ways in which social actors can be represented and establish sociological and critical relevance in some linguistic categories: "representations include or exclude social actors to serve their interests and purposes in relation to the readers to whom they are represented. drive".

Thus, it is conceived that the ways in which social actors are represented in the texts can indicate ideological positions in allusion to them and the activities they perform. For the aforementioned author, social actors can be activated when they are represented as a dynamic force in an action, or passive (passive to an action). This process can also mark the presence of power.

The actors or social groups involved in social events and practices and the relationships established between them can be analyzed, in texts and interactions, from a representational point of view, in terms of which actors and activities are included or excluded in the representation, and which actors and activities are included in the representation.

It is interesting to apprehend who is represented as *an agent* or *patient*, with regard to action. Here, attention is paid to the activation/passivation of Iarla Lima Barbosa in the titles. By the way, in the texts of the headlines, Iarla is always passive in the action, as in the passages: *kills girlfriend, killed by Lieutenant*.

It is also noteworthy that professional occupation is a meritorious category for the representation of these social actors in journalistic news. In this case, by mentioning the aggressor's profession, the importance of his profession is attested, and the victim's fragility is pointed out, when they represent her only as *a girlfriend* or *student*.

It is an ideology that helps to keep women in the symbolic space of the *domestic* or *inferior environment*. Furthermore, it is interesting here to investigate whether Iarla is represented by her activity, occupation or function, and also by age, sex, origin, social class, etc. It is worth noting that the point of view of the perpetrator is highlighted in the title of the article of Portal 180 graus, attributing to the victim the condition of guilt for femicide: "Lieutenant who killed girlfriend said she was 'insinuating' herself". This fact resumes the historical construction of the woman's responsibility for all the harm caused to her, while to the aggressor, the condition of the one who suffers a psychological shock with the situation and who commits the crime in a pulsional way.

The nine texts analyzed specifically on the Iarla Lima Barbosa case can be divided into three groups, following the chronological order of publication: five texts on how the crime occurred; one with the victim's mother's account; Three texts with voices from the official authorities about the crime. It was decided to present the mother's account, the voice of one of the authorities and the three reports of the crime to acquire a mixed sample of the headlines.

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

It then proceeds to the analysis and the discussion itself, based on the texts of the headlines of *the online* portals.

HEADLINE 1: ARMY OFFICER KILLS GIRLFRIEND AND SHOOTS TWO WOMEN; HE WAS ARRESTED (SOURCE: PORTAL 180 GRAUS – 19 JUNE 2017)

Textual analysis – Headline 1

As for the vocabulary, the title presents three verbs – *kills*, *shoots*, *was arrested* – and one agent – *Army officer*, highlighting the action of this subject (active agent – authorship or responsibility), who kills the recipient of the action, that is, the *girlfriend*, shoots two women, and was arrested (passive agent of the action).

Analysis of social practices – Headline 1

In the construction of the title of the article, the woman is the passive subject of the action, which disqualifies and reduces women to the condition of victims. It is noted that inequalities persist and resonate in their own expression in the title of the news, when Iarla is enunciated in a passive voice to emphasize her condition as a victim. Another form of erasure, softer, of Iarla, was to include the activity of the social actor of whom we speak: Lieutenant, officer, military.

Analysis of discursive practices – Headline 1

It is in the analysis of discursive practices that the processes of production, distribution and consumption of meanings are observed. The production of articles for Portal 180 graus is carried out by a team of journalists. However, there is no way to identify the author of the article/headline 1, as there is no signature of authorship of the text, not even on the *blog* Ronda 180, where it was published. The headline was published at 8:19 a.m. on June 19, 2017.

As for the aspect of intertextuality, the author does not directly report the source. Regarding distribution, it takes place over the *internet*, without access control, and the content is distributed free of charge on the portal, with permission to share on social networks, and can be consumed through computers, *smartphones*, *tablets*.

HEADLINE 2: MOTHER OF YOUNG WOMAN KILLED BY ARMY LIEUTENANT: 'THEY TOOK A PIECE OF ME' (SOURCE: PORTAL CIDADE VERDE – JUNE 19, 2017)

Textual analysis – Headline 2

In this headline of the Cidade Verde Portal, Iarla is mentioned as a passive agent of prayer: *killed by Lieutenant*. Furthermore, he is represented as *a young man* and, once again, the profession of the murderer is alluded to: *lieutenant of the Army*. The title also uses the mother's emotional speech, highlighting her pain: *they took a piece of me*.

Analysis of social practices – Headline 2

By using the term *young*, without expressing the profession, the victim is placed, once again, in the position of a fragile person – since the perpetrator of the crime has been attributed a profession of respect and authority, superimposing him over it. In addition, the text is appealing, exploiting the mother's feeling of grief to attract readers.

Analysis of discursive practices – Headline 2

This time, the article is signed by two female journalists, Izabella Pimentel and Caroline Oliveira. The entire article, including the headline, has multimedia resources. The production is directed to the consumption of the public of Portal Cidade Verde, especially in the city of Teresina. The consumption of the material produced extends to the world through the *internet*.

HEADLINE 3: BEC LIEUTENANT CONFESSES TO POLICE THAT HE KILLED GIRLFRIEND OUT OF JEALOUSY (SOURCE: CIDADE VERDE PORTAL – JUNE 19, 2017)

Textual analysis – Headline 3

Again, the headline gives greater prominence to the profession of the perpetrator of the crime, and as for the victim, it refers to it as *girlfriend*. The transitive clause demonstrates the objective of the actions and complements the information: *he confesses to the police that he killed his girlfriend out of jealousy*. The victim is represented as a passive agent, and the cause of his own violence, that is, the verdict is already determined: *out of jealousy*.

Analysis of social practices – Headline 3

Currently, the main cause of crimes of violence against women is gender inequality, a structural, social, historical, and cultural situation. Society places women in the place of submission and less power in relation to men. Any factor, such as the woman's behavior, her way of acting, dressing, her color, economic issues, or exercising her sexuality, serve as accepted social justifications, and because they are easily welcomed, they continue to suffer such aggression.

Bourdieu (2003, p. 17) states that "the division between the sexes seems to be 'in the order of things', as it is sometimes said to talk about what is normal, to the point of being inevitable". Thus, inequalities between the sexes end up being inevitable, which is not biological, but because they are constructed and decided by their societies to meet the interests of dominant men.

Headline three brings a whole ideological charge when it focuses on the "justification" of the author of femicide as *jealousy*. Intertextually, the sense is that he was out of his mind, affected by jealousy, hence why he committed the crime. So, if he killed her out of jealousy, it was the victim's fault, indirectly, for having provoked such a reaction.

Analysis of discursive practices – Headline 3

The article containing this headline was published on the Cidade Verde Portal, at 10:52 am (23 minutes after the publication of text 2 on the same portal), on the day that the murder of Iarla Lima Barbosa occurred (June 19, 2007), around one o'clock in the morning. All the press was attentive to the coverage of the case, having already heard from the victim's mother and the police.

In this text, the voice of the police authority stands out, legitimized by the press and consumed by readers as irrefutable. In the case of this portal, the TV station also covered the case, reinforcing the importance of the channel. The text is signed by journalists Izabelle Pimentel and Carolina Oliveira, on the *General* page, published on the internet, and in the case of this portal, access to the content is free. If the reader has a visual problem, the text can be heard through the Audima¹⁴¹¹ system.

¹⁴¹¹ *Audima* is an application used by news sites to provide digital inclusion with audio. All content written on the internet can also be listened to through this system.

HEADLINE 4: YOUNG WOMAN KILLED BY LIEUTENANT HAD BEEN DATING FOR A WEEK (SOURCE: PORTAL MEIO NORTE – JUNE 19, 2017)

Textual analysis – Headline 4

The headline begins with the most common discourse, so far, of representation of the victim and the perpetrator of the crime in the other texts analyzed, respectively: *young man* and *Lieutenant*. Iarla is in a position of passivity at the beginning of the text, and when she appears as an agent of the action, *she had been dating for a week*. Intertextually, it is suggested that Iarla was negligent with himself, for being in a boyfriend for such a short time, going out with him and being killed.

Analysis of social practices – Headline 4

The headline invites reflection on how present and latent the issue of the feminicide's profession is in this discourse, which places him in a superior position to that of the victim. In fact, in all the texts analyzed, he is inserted in a place of power: he is a military institution, where what is expected is that he behaves in a way that protects life, and not destroys it – which can be seen as a fatality, a momentary, passing madness. For her part, Iarla is in a position of passivity and somehow was reckless and blamed for her own death.

With this in mind, according to the selected headlines, it can be inferred that Iarla is configured as a victim, as a passive subject of the actions of the main theme, alongside the agent of violence – José Ricardo – or the representatives of the law.

Analysis of discursive practices – Headline 4

Carrying out the analysis of discursive practices allows us to look at each text under analysis in order to interpret the event on the agenda. There is the journalist's gaze, at a given moment or situation, in the face of an event, such as the case under analysis, to which the press is attentive, in order to produce more content on the subject; and the specific vision of the reporter, and/or editor, and/or the editorial line of the portal, and/or the communication conglomerate which, to a greater or lesser extent, is a reflection of the social context in which it operates.

This mode is revealed in the selected voices, in the highlighted speeches or even in the approach to the theme, in the cuts made, in the aspects emphasized and in the order in which the elements are presented.

It is observed here, and it is seen as a practice, from the headlines analyzed, that the way the media talks about violence against women is part of the violence itself. The social meanings cast on their acts, the way in which discourses about violence circulate in the public space, and the social practice that is repeatedly informed by these episodes, narrated in their production and reproduction, with titles endowed with great ideological charge and purely descriptive approaches to crimes, can aggravate the situation of gender violence, naturalizing the condition of victim and its blame, which demands reflection.

In headline 4, the article, published on the *News page*, does not have a signature, and the source is Portal Meio Norte. There is no multimedia material, but an option is available for those who want to listen, instead of reading or increasing the font used. Distribution takes place over the internet, free of charge, and there is freedom to share on social networks, drawing attention to the icons of these networks. For access, the following are required: technological resources; literate and technical literacy (in this case, for reading the published text); Portuguese language.

HEADLINE 5: PROSECUTOR MOURNS THE DEATH OF A YOUNG WOMAN AND TALKS ABOUT THE FIGHT AGAINST FEMICIDE

Textual analysis – Headline 5

The headline explores the speech of the prosecutor, who laments the death of *young Iarla*, again represented as *a young woman*, and draws attention to the fight against femicide. The promoter is an active subject in prayer. Thus, the term *prosecutor* is at the beginning of the sentence, that is, it is an active subject, behaving with a voice of authority, when he states that: "he guaranteed that the Public Prosecutor's Office has acted with the Justice".

In addition, the article cites *cases of femicide*, naming the type of crime. It justifies that the prosecutor's statement took place after a note released by the 10th Prosecutor's Office, in which he expresses solidarity with the family of the *young Iarla Lima Barbosa* – again represented as a young man, referring to the perpetrator of the crime as *boyfriend and Army soldier, José Ricardo Silva Neto*.

Analysis of social practices – Headline 5

In this headline, the press gave voice to the prosecutor, an official speech that dealt with femicide and brought to the debate the discussion about gender crime and its high

rates. In the other texts, the press focused on the outcome of Iarla's violent death, on the family's emotion and on building gender stereotypes. In this text, one can still see Iarla being designated as *young*, and the offender, *military* – again building the fragile and submissive image of the victim.

The way information is produced and exposed in the media, without a sociological bias, questioning and mobilizing civil society to solve the problem, ends up contributing to the trivialization of gender violence, as if women suffering violence could be considered something normal and commonplace.

Analysis of discursive practices – Headline 5

The making of the journalistic text follows a structural pattern, and the presentation of the social actors contained in these publications also obeys an order prefixed by the style and writing manuals. In general, they present the social actors contained in the texts in the following order: position/occupation, followed by name, and in the case of the characters, an ordinary person who "embodies" the news – in the case of this analysis, the main characters (victim and perpetrator) who appear in these headlines.

Within the scope of text 5, the portal gave voice to an official source of information, which is even one of the sources most heard by journalists – representatives of public security – in the case of this text, a prosecutor.

The author of Manchete 5, published on the General page of the Cidade Verde Portal, was journalist Rayldo Pereira. It brings multimedia elements – audio for the inclusion of the visually impaired – and is available to those who have access to technological resources and understand the Portuguese language.

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

The main objective of this article is to analyze the discourses about femicide in the headlines of the portals Meio Norte, Cidade Verde and 180 graus, focusing on the Iarla Lima Barbosa case. On this occasion, she started from the following question: how does journalism portray intimate femicide and address the issue of gender violence against women?

In order to operationalize the data analysis, Fairclough's (2006) Three-Dimensional Model was used, in the three-dimensional perspective of discourse, pointing out discursive practices, social practices and textual analysis.

By promoting the general survey, it was identified that the woman victim of femicide, in these reports, appears in a situation of inferiority, because she is a student, since her killer is an officer – lieutenant of the Army, a profession that legitimizes the use of weapons for the establishment of order. Additionally, she appears as *guilty*, since in his speech, *she killed out of jealousy*. In this sense, even though he is of an unblemished profession, he was struck by a moment of madness and justifies the crime by jealousy.

For all this, it is understood that journalism needs to narrate in a forceful way the condition of domination and violence suffered by women victims of femicide. In the present case, one cannot avoid the function of clarifying and reporting on gender violence as a constructing element of these crimes. This is because such carelessness can, in a way, safeguard or even protect criminals who cowardly use the condition of *male superiority* to commit such atrocities.

Finally, it is considered that women have a place of equality, and as a human being, they need to be properly represented, in addition to the fact that such crimes must be correctly typified by the media, aiming at the non-ideological reproduction of concepts, representations and behaviors that are dangerous for these and future generations.

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