

## Media Advocacy on the Struggle for Rights of Women with Disabilities: A Case Study of Drg Romi

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### ABSTRACT

This study aims to illustrate the struggle for the rights of women with disabilities in West Sumatra, Indonesia. In 2019, Drg Romi, a disabled female dentist, was targeted in a campaign attempting to cancel their standing as a civil servant. Data in the form of words, phrases, and sentences concerning Drg Romi in 2019 were gleaned from three West Sumatra newspapers (*Haluan, Padang Ekspres, & Singgalang*), which represented the total available printed media and passed the Press Council verification in West Sumatra. The data is in the form of information regarding the news production process, which was taken from the editorial leader of each newspaper. Data were collected by using observation, documentation, and interview techniques. Data analysis was conducted using qualitative techniques referred to as the extra lingual material method. The data was analyzed by writing memos during the research, coding the data, looking for themes and categories, discussing the data, and drawing conclusions. The results show that Drg Romi is positioned as both a subject and an object in the news sources. In both positions, the media managed to favorably position Drg Romi in a manner that benefited them and advocated for their fight for rights as a disabled woman.

**Keywords:** *Media advocacy, women's disabilities, struggle for rights, Drg Romi, Indonesia.*

### INTRODUCTION

Although the media in Indonesia is one of the many channels for discourses of femininity, it is inseparable from the assumption of feminism within a society seeing as the media constructs the opinion and viewpoint of the reader (Kiryakova et al., 2020; McGregor, 2019). The way the media displays images of women influences the realism of women in a sociocultural order. The future fate of Indonesian women, whether still being labeled as second-class citizens or having gained equality with Indonesian men, is determined by how women are displayed in the public domain (Aspinall et al., 2021; Nisa, 2019; Platt et al., 2018). This concept is known as the power of representation, where through language, the image of an object can construct the connotation that will be permanently associated with that object (Freelon et al., 2018; Lund et al., 2018; McGregor, 2019). This connotation has led academics to evaluate further studies related to the representation of women in the media.

Globally, research shows that the image of women in the media tends to be discriminatory. For instance, in legal cases, women are often blamed when they are the victims of sexual violence and abuse (Freelon et al., 2018; Juditha et al., 2022; Lund et al., 2018; McGregor, 2019). The right of women to defend themselves against such violence is usually considered a criminal act, seeing as most legal systems do not consider the context of the act. The studies of (Behm-Morawitz et al., 2018; Hilte et al., 2018; Wood & Elliott, 2020) rationalized that the existence of women in the media still orients them as low-class individuals who are under the power of men. Unfortunately, the worldwide resistance of women to fight this male dominance has not garnered the desired results.

Several studies concluded that media orientation depicts the powerlessness of women to resist male domination (Gravelin et al., 2019; Roberts et al., 2022; van der Wath, 2019). The media shows the ambiguity of attitudes in representing modern women. On one hand, women are described as free and egalitarian individuals, but on the other hand, women are still subject to the hegemony and domination of men (Brower et al., 2019; Mate et al., 2019). Consequently, women's resistance is still constrained by various social and cultural norms that limit their space for movement. For example, these domineering customs are reflected in social media within Iran, where women are forced to wear a hijab (Asghar, 2015; Hamzehei, 2014; Mohammadi & Hazeri, 2021; Shirazi, 2019; Terry, 2018). Brown and Knight (2015) and Taylor et al. (2016) revealed that there is a slightly extreme representation of women in Western media, where the press implicitly makes classifications based on race and skin color. Stereotypically, Caucasian women are portrayed as dominant, while women of color are portrayed as marginal.

In Indonesia, the study of the representation of women in the media has received similar attention. Several studies have revealed how the media portrays women in Indonesian society (Beta, 2019; Nisa, 2019; Parahita, 2019; Purwaningwulan et al., 2019; Susilo et al., 2019; Wahyuni & Adnan, 2022). Risdaneva (2018) analyzed media labeling techniques of major news outlets for women in ongoing legal cases. The findings showed differences in the labeling of women in *The Jakarta Post* and *The Guardian*. *The Jakarta Post* labels women based on their legal status, while *The Guardian* labels women based on the perspective of their gender and age. Likewise, several other studies have found that some media outlets depicted women as figures who can carry out dual social roles as housewives and career employees (Munawaroh, 2018; Purba & Nilawati, 2015; Rosita, 2014; Wibowo, 2017). Pointedly, women are regularly described as having more presence than men in secretarial and information technology (IT) employment.

Some representations of women in the media presented in various research findings in the global and national realms still need to be revised. Previous studies have not been able to account for the demands of progressiveness in postmodernism philosophy, where globalization not only introduces global mindsets about the representations of women in local societies but also provides space for local phenomena to be raised into discourse battles (Habibi et al., 2018; Isroilovich, 2020). The dynamics of this paradoxical global framework have implications for the inadequacy of a phenomenon only seen from international and national perspectives. Fittingly, researchers must look at this phenomenon within a smaller local space to provide comparisons and formulate more comprehensive findings on the representation of women (Copeland, 2018; Habibi et al., 2018).

The representation of women in existing studies needs to be further explored through intense research of local phenomena. For example, in West Sumatra, Indonesia, with different social and cultural realities, the media must portray diverse and distinctive representations

of women. That postulate can at least be based on the ideological analysis put forward by (Agustari et al., 2022; Corredor, 2019; Keane, 2018) who found that the media in West Sumatra photograph local women in different ways and perspectives, so there may be differences in representation. With a more specific scope of study in spatial, temporal, social, and cultural contexts, this study can also represent the reality of women in media. In addition, to fill in the blanks of the existing studies, this research can map the ideology adopted by the media in West Sumatra in representing women. Therefore, conducting this research is essential, especially in the lives of contemporary people.

For example, over the past few months, the media of West Sumatra has focused on the struggle of women demanding justice for their rights. The case of Hayati Syafri, a lecturer who wore a full-cover veil which resulted in her being fired from IAIN Bukit Tinggi, is one of many cases. The media in West Sumatra recorded the case with a different frame from the national and global media. Consider the case of Drg Romi Syofpa Ismael, which caused a commotion at the national level. She is a dentist with a disability who was denied from being a civil servant in Solok Selatan Regency. These two cases illustrate how the media records and present the reality of the injustices faced by women and their efforts to fight for the rights to which they are entitled.

These local portraits can fill the space of various studies of the reality of the depiction of the reality of the marginalization and subordination of women in the existing media. With a more specific scope of this study in spatial, temporal, social, and cultural contexts, it is hoped that this study will explore the representation of the struggle for the rights of women with disabilities within the media of West Sumatra, Indonesia. In addition, research findings can also provide scientific contributions in the form of insights and ideological maps adopted by the media in West Sumatra in representing women.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

### *Media as a Social Construction Tool*

The conception of media as a tool to construct social situations following the wishes of certain parties is rooted in the arguments of Berger and Luckman (1967), who stated that the objective creation and conditioning of reality by interested individuals leads to notions being internalized within the community. The creation and conditioning of the community were conducted intensely, and the pattern that looked objectively made the conditioning unreadable to the layperson (Gergen, 2019; Hjelm, 2019; Siregar, 2018). Constructed reality is created through the externalization, objectification, and internalization phases. It is no longer neutral because it has been shrouded in various tendencies and pretensions (Li & Wang, 2019; Triana et al., 2021).

Language is the tool used by the media to create this social reality (Hassan, 2018; Ozyumenko & Larina, 2021; Yuzhakova et al., 2018). This argument aligns with Saussure (1959), who originally postulated that language's fragile and tenuous systematics makes it oscillating and unstable. Certain parties then take advantage of the confusion of speakers and speech partners in interpreting language to carry out their interests. The media can beautifully use language to convey information that forms the concept of understanding to the reader. Thus, using language in media becomes one of the study spaces for critical discourse analysis (Hassan, 2018; Ozyumenko & Larina, 2021). The hegemony and smooth driving of media opinion can be traced to the analytical features in various theories and approaches to critical discourse analysis. The main objective of studying existing linguistic

data is to map trends and paradigms in discourse analysis called ideologies (Fairclough, 2010; Scherbak, 2018).

*Mills’ Critical Discourse Analysis*

In responding to the reality of the marginalization and subordination of women in the media, critical discourse analysis has a new and specific approach known as feminist critical discourse analysis. This approach and analysis model was first introduced by (Mills, 2004). Mills’ model of discourse analysis intended to see the pattern of representation of female figures or actors in the news used to influence the meaning that appears to the audience (Mills, 2004). With their specific approach, Mills had little distinction from the general principles of critical discourse analysis. Mills directed the features of language analysis to the position of various social actors, ideas, and events in the news. These positions ultimately determined the form and meaning of the text that appears in the community (Mills, 2004). Subjects positioned high in the news will form a dominant space for other subjects who do not receive much space in the news. This unfair and objective division of positions ultimately shapes the reality of meaning among readers.

The observation of (Mills, 2004) discourse analysis model in the first stage is to map the subject and object in the news. Positions as subjects and objects in the news contain certain ideological content that can marginalize the position of women in reporting (Eriyanto, 2003). The subject's position will place a party as the interpreter of the event, while the object's position will place the party as the interpreted entity. In this reality, the subject's position is always superior to the object's position. In the second stage, (Mills, 2004) discourse analysis model maps the reader's position. Mills argued that the reality of reporting cannot be separated from identifying news producers about their audience segments. Departing from the argument that the text results from negotiations between writers and readers, Mills believed that producers tend to present news that their readers like. The reader cannot be only positioned as the recipient, but more than that determines the tendency of a news report. Thus, Mills’ analysis comprehensively relates the text, the writer, and the reader (Mills, 2004).

The critical discourse analysis framework of Mills’ model in providing linguistic data can be seen in the following table (Eriyanto, 2003):

Table 1: Framework of Sara Mills’ model

Levels	Analysis Goals
Subject-Object Position	a. How are the events viewed? b. From whose perspective was the event seen? c. Who is positioned as the narrator (subject), and who is the story's object? d. Do each actor and social group have the opportunity to present themselves and their ideas, or are they presented by other groups or people?
Readers Position	a. How does the author display the reader's position in the text? b. How the reader positions himself in the displayed text? c. To which group does the reader identify himself?

## METHODS

This research uses a descriptive qualitative approach. The analysis is conducted through qualitative research procedures and presents data by providing the most explicit description of the representation of women in the media. Research using this qualitative method also prioritizes the depth of appreciation of the interactions between concepts studied empirically and descriptively by describing data in the form of words as a sign system that provides a more comprehensive understanding. This research is documentary-based (Gallinucci et al., 2018). Documentary research is collecting data in the form of documents related to the object of study or data collection that is naturally available, or a documentary survey conducted to solve a problem which is focused on a critical and in-depth analysis of relevant archived materials by prioritizing philosophical and theoretical than empirical tests in the field (Stieglitz et al., 2018).

Data sources in this study were taken from three newspapers: *Haluan*, *Padang Ekspres*, and *Singgalang*. The data sources are selected based on the status of the three newspapers that have passed the Press Council verification. In addition, the breadth of reach of the three newspapers tends to be higher than other media in West Sumatra. With these considerations, selecting the three newspapers' data sources is considered representative to describe the entire printed media in West Sumatra. The objectification of the selection with these criteria also helps researchers limit the scope of research to be more focused and directed. In line with the limitation principle, the news in the media used as data is news about women in 2019–2020. The year's selection was based on considerations of the recency and time scope of the data.

Based on the specified period, it was found that there were 14 news items in the three newspapers. Details of the amount in each media data source can be seen in the following table.

Table 2: Fourteen news stories in the three mass media data sources

Media	Numbers of News	Percentage
<i>Haluan</i> (H)	4	28.5%
<i>Padang Ekspres</i> (PE)	7	50%
<i>Singgalang</i> (S)	3	21.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>100%</b>

Data were collected using documentation, observation, and interview techniques. These three techniques are relevant to the type of data collected (Alam, 2021; Jentoft & Olsen, 2019). Documentation techniques are used to collect research data in the news spread in the media as data sources. Data collection with documentation techniques inventory all published discourses within the required data timeframe. The observation technique was used to collect research data in the form of thematic texts containing women's discourses on the media as data sources that had been previously inventoried. In carrying out the observation technique, the researcher uses a lingual data collection technique known as the *simak libat bebas cakap* (SLBC) technique (Sudaryanto, 2001). Data collection with interview techniques was used to obtain data in the form of views of media news producers and sources of data related to the representation of women published in the media they manage. The interview technique used by the researcher is an open-structured interview. The researcher prepares questions per the orientation of the answers to formulate the problem and develops them flexibly in interview activities.

The data analysis activities apply qualitative analysis techniques, which always relate the data to the context of the observed events that can be identified based on where events occur, behavior, and community activities. Lester et al. (2020) and Vaismoradi and Snelgrove (2019) also stated that qualitative data analysis activities have started since the data was collected. The stages of data analysis and data collection can go hand in hand. To parse the data that has been collected in the analysis phase, the researcher divided the process into several stages: 1) writing memos during the research, 2) coding the data, 3) looking for themes and categories, 4) discussing the data, and 5) drawing conclusions.

## RESULTS

Mills (2004) assessed that the representation of women in the news could not be seen from the production aspect that involved news producers alone. Furthermore, data analysis must include elements of consumption that affect consumers or news readers. According to Mills, the readership segment, in practice, plays an essential role in determining the representation of women in the news produced. Based on these arguments, the representation analysis of Drg Romi is divided into the analysis stages of the Subject-Object Position, which are described as follows:

The Subject-Object Position Analysis was directed to identify the position of Drg Romi in the news. This analysis maps them as an interpreter of events or an interpreted entity. In this reality, the Subject's position is always superior to the Object's. Position of the subject-object of the news Drg Romi on each data source media can be seen in the following table:

Table 3: Subject-object position analysis

Positions	Numbers of News	Percentage
Subject	10	71.5%
Object	4	28.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>100%</b>

In detail, the position of Drg Romi in the news, as Subject and Object, can be seen in the following table of news titles.

Table 4: SFS News reporting perspective in the Media Republika

Code	Date and Page	Title	Position
H-1	25 March 2019 [p. 2]	<i>Drg Romi tetap berharap jadi PNS</i> [Drg Romi still hopes to become a civil servant]	Subject
PE-1	24 July 2019 [pp. 1 & 7]	<i>CPNS dibatalkan, Drg Romi gugat Pemkab</i> [CPNS canceled, Drg Romi sues district government]	Object
PE-2	25 July 2019 [p. 1 & 7]	<i>Romi Syofpa Ismael, dokter gigi daerah tertinggal di Solsel: berkursi roda usai melahirkan, kelulusan CPNS dibatalkan</i> [Romi Syofpa Ismael, a dentist in disadvantaged regions in Solsel: Wheelchair after giving birth, civil servant candidate is canceled]	Subject
S-1	1 August 2019 [pp. 1 & 11]	<i>Hak-Hak Drg Romi akan diberikan</i> [Romi's rights will be given]	Object
PE-3	2 August 2019 [pp. 1 & 7]	<i>Istana siap pulihkan hak CPNS Drg Romi</i> [Palace ready to restore civil servant rights Drg Romi]	Subject
H-2	6 August 2019 [pp. 1 & 7]	<i>SK Drg Romi belum dalam genggamannya</i> [The Decree of Drg Romi is not in your hands yet]	Object
S-2	6 August 2019 [pp. 1 & 11]	<i>Akhirnya dokter disabilitas itu jadi PNS</i> [Finally the disability doctor becomes a civil servant]	Object
PE-4	6 August 2019 [pp. 1&7]	<i>Drg Romi ditempatkan di RSUD Solsel</i> [Drg Romi placed in Solsel Hospital]	Subject

H-3	7 August 2019 [pp. 1 & 7]	<i>Pemprov minta polemik Drg Romi diakhiri</i> [Provincial Government asks polemic Drg Romi ended]	Subject
S-3	7 August 2019 [p. 1]	<i>Romi bertugas di RSUD Solsel</i> [Romi on duty at Solsel Hospital]	Subject
H-4	24 August 2019 [pp. 1 & 7]	<i>Pemkab Solsel terima Drg Romi</i> [Solsel Regency Government receives Drg Romi]	Subject
PE-5	24 August 2019 [pp. 1 & 11]	<i>Lengkapi berkas, Drg Romi tunggu NIP</i> [Complete the file, Drg Romi waits for employee ID number]	Subject
PE-6	26 August 2019 [pp. 20 & 19]	<i>Drg Romi serahkan keterangan disabilitas</i> [Drg Romi submits disability information]	Subject
PE-7	14 October 2019 [pp. 16 & 19]	<i>SK CPNS diterima, Drg Romi telah efektif bekerja</i> [The Decree has received, Drg Romi has effectively worked]	Subject

Note: *Haluan* (H), *Padang Ekspres* (PE), and *Singgalang* (S)

### *Drg Romi as the Subject*

As a subject who was given space to speak in the news, Drg Romi tells the chronology of events that they experienced. This can be seen in the following data excerpt in PE-2.

Table 5: Excerpts from Padang Ekspres

PE-2 [1]	<i>Ami tunggu-tunggu laporan Panselda terkait kurang atau tidaknya berkas Ami. Namun tidak ada. Ami mengira berkasnya baik-baik saja dan lengkap. Ternyata, berkas ditahan dan tidak dikirim Panselda. Didiamkan saja tanpa memberi tahu Ami. Hingga melalui grup Whatsapp teman sejawat Ami mendapat kabar ada peserta yang dibatalkan kelulusannya dan itu adalah Ami.</i> [Ami is waiting for the regional selection committee's report regarding the lack or absence of Ami's file. But nothing. Ami thinks the file is fine and complete. Apparently, the file was withheld and not sent by the regional selection committee. Just be silent without telling Ami. Until through the WhatsApp group, Ami's colleagues received news that a participant had their graduation canceled, and it was Ami.]
PE-2 [2]	<i>Padahal, rekomendasi yang diberikan Kementerian Kesehatan Panselda berkonsultasi perihal ini, ada poin yang memihak ke Ami. Tapi, tetap saja diabaikan Panselda.</i> [In fact, the recommendations were given by the Ministry of Health, regional selection committee, consulted about this matter, and there were points in favor of Ami. However, the regional selection committee still ignored it.]
PE-2 [3]	<i>Dokter menyatakan Ami bisa bekerja, tapi tetap saja kelulusan dibatalkan Pemkab.</i> [The doctor said Ami could work, but the district government still canceled her acceptance.]

Note: *Padang Ekspres* (PE)

In the above excerpts, it can be seen that the points became the substance of the protest of Drg Romi to the government, particularly the Regional Selection Committee for Civil Servants South Solok Regency. They feel they have been harmed because their rights have been taken unilaterally without the proper mechanism; as a CPNS selection participant who has followed all the established procedures, Drg Romi cannot accept the decision to cancel the Civil Servants graduation set for her. Among the arguments presented by Drg Romi is the result of a medical examination carried out by a doctor. The result stated that she can work, but it still did not affect the district government's decision.

In the legal process, Drg Romi is also actively speaking in the news about herself. She actively gives her opinion of the legal steps she is taking and the goals she hopes to achieve. The position of the subject can be seen in the following excerpts.

Table 6: The position of the subject in the news

PE-3 [1]	<i>Alhamdulillah, sangat mendapatkan apresiasi yang luar biasa. Ami di sini cuma berharap keadilan buat Ami dan keluarga, terutama anak dan suami. Untuk bisa hak Ami dipulihkan kembali.</i> [Alhamdulillah, I really appreciate the overwhelming response. Ami only hopes for justice for Ami and her family, especially her children and husband. So that Ami's rights can be restored.]
PE-4 [1]	<i>Ami sangat bersyukur dan berterima kasih kepada media dan pihak-pihak terkait yang telah membantu perjuangan Ami untuk diangkat kembali jadi CPNS di Solsel.</i> [Ami is very grateful to the media and related parties who have helped Ami's struggle to be reappointed as a CPNS in Solsel.]
PE-4 [2]	<i>Semua itu terkabul juga berkat doa banyak orang, doa keluarga, orang tua, dan doa suami dan anak-anak. Ami tak akan melupakan jasa-jasa dan perjuangan banyak pihak untuk Ami.</i> [All of this was also answered thanks to the prayers of many people, the prayers of family, parents, and the prayers of my husband and children. Ami will never forget the services and struggles of many parties for Ami.]
PE-4 [3]	<i>Di manapun Ami ditempatkan, Ami siap menerima. Baik di RSUD Solsel maupun di tempat pelayanan kesehatan lainnya. Ami siap bertugas layaknya dokter gigi lainnya, dan siap jalankan amanah negara dengan ikhlas.</i> [Wherever Ami is placed, Ami is ready to accept. Both at the Solsel Hospital and other healthcare facilities. Ami is ready to serve as any other dentist and is ready to sincerely carry out the state's mandate.]

Note: Padang Ekspres (PE)

In the above excerpts, it can be seen that the media gave space to Drg Romi to convey her opinion during the legal process. In the PE-3 data, she shared her impression after meeting with the head of the presidential staff of the Republic of Indonesia, Moeldoko. Drg Romi recounts her welcome experience; the government listened to their protests and tried to find a solution.

Meanwhile, in PE-4, Drg Romi expressed her gratitude to the media, who always accompanied her. In this context, she has a positive perception of the media, where the news strongly supports the rights struggle.

The representation of Drg Romi as a subject continues when their struggles have paid off. In the end, the government finally appointed her as a civil servant, and she was placed in the Solsel Hospital. The subject's position in the news topic can be seen in the following data.

Table 7: The position of the subject in the news of the topic

H-3 [1]	<i>Terima kasih kepada PDGI, gubernur, wakil gubernur, bupati, dan pihak-pihak lain yang telah banyak membantu, termasuk kawan-kawan dari media dan masyarakat yang senantiasa mendoakan saya.</i> [Thank you to PDGI, governors, deputy governors, regents, and other parties who have helped a lot, including friends from the media and the public who always pray for me.]
S-3 [1]	<i>Saya akan menjalankan tugas sesuai amanah. Saya akan mengabdikan untuk masyarakat Solok Selatan.</i> [I will conduct my duties according to the mandate. I will serve the people of South Solok.]
H-4 [1]	<i>Harapan Ami, bisa bekerja kembali dengan nyaman tanpa ada intimidasi dari pihak tertentu. Dan semoga hal ini tidak akan terjadi lagi di Pemkab Solsel. Mencari keadilan itu memang harus disuarakan, kalau tidak hak akan dirampas begitu mudahnya.</i> [Ami hopes that she can work comfortably again without intimidation from certain parties. And hopefully, this will not happen again in the Solsel Regency Government. Seeking justice must be spoken; otherwise, rights will be taken away so easily.]
PE-5 [1]	<i>Alhamdulillah, doa Ami akhirnya diijabah. Ami bersyukur, karena pada akhirnya perjuangan yang dilakukan menuai hasil yang diharapkan. Ami berterima kasih pada semuanya yang sudah berempati dan mendukung Ami. Termasuk kepada media, Ami ucapkan terima kasih.</i>



[Alhamdulillah, Ami's prayer was finally answered. Ami is grateful because, in the end, the struggle that was carried out reaped the expected results. Ami thanks everyone who has empathized and supported Ami. Including the media; Ami says thank you.]

PE-6 [1] *Apa yang Ami dapatkan, tak lepas dari peranan media yang sudah membantu perjuangan Ami bersama LBH Padang. Juga tak lepas dari doa masyarakat, keluarga, dan para dokter se-Indonesia yang turut mendukungnya secara moril dan materil.*

[What Ami achieved could not be separated from the role of the media that had helped Ami's struggle with LBH Padang. It also cannot be separated from the prayers of the community, family, and doctors throughout Indonesia, who also support her morally and materially.]

Note: *Haluan* (H), *Padang Ekspres* (PE), and *Singgalang* (S)

From the above excerpts, it can be seen that the struggle for the rights of Drg Romi produced positive results. In the end, she was appointed as a civil servant and placed in the Solsel Hospital. Drg Romi expresses her special thanks to the media for various interview opportunities. She mentioned the importance of the media's role in assisting the legal process she went through in fighting for her rights. In addition, Drg Romi also hopes that the case she experienced would not happen again. In her statement, she voiced justice and equality for other people with disabilities and that they also have the right to various accesses like other citizens.

#### *Drg Romi as the Object*

As the object that other people talk about in the news, Drg Romi is represented positively. Wendra Rona Putra, Drg Romi's attorney and the director of the Padang Legal Aid Institute (Lembaga Bantuan Hukum [LBH]), was the first subject who dominantly spoke about Drg Romi as an object. The representation of Drg Romi as an object can be seen in the following data.

Table 8: The representation of Drg Romi as an object

PE-1 [1]	<i>Pihak tergugat lainnya akan difinalisasi ketika proses gugatan rampung. Yang pasti objeknya berkaitan dengan SK pembatalan Drg Romi yang dikeluarkan Bupati Solsel.</i>
	[The other defendants will be finalized when the lawsuit process is completed. What is certain is that the object is related to the decree of cancellation of Drg Romi issued by the Regent of Solok Selatan.]
PE-2 [4]	<i>Semestinya stigma, tindakan diskriminasi, dan perampasan hak atas pekerjaan terhadap Drg Romi tidak terjadi.</i>
	[Supposedly, the stigma, discrimination, and deprivation of the right to work against Drg Romi should not happen.]
H-3 [2]	<i>Benar kami telah mendengar rencana pengangkatan Drg Romi telah diajukan Bupati Solsel ke Kemenpan-RB. Namun, ini tentu belum selesai. Masih ada proses sehingga SK CPNS itu benar-benar sampai ke tangan Drg Romi.</i>
	[It is true that we have heard of the appointment of Drg Romi has been proposed by the Regent of Solsel to the Kemenpan-RB. However, this is certainly not over. There is still a process, until the CPNS decree reaches Drg Romi.]
PE-7 [1]	<i>Kasus masalah bantuan dari LBH Padang untuk Drg Romi sudah clear dilakukan. Peralnya, Drg Romi bulan lalu [September, red] sudah menerima SK pengangkatan dan sekarang sudah ditempatkan menjadi CPNS di Kabupaten Solok Selatan.</i>
	[The case of assistance from LBH Padang for Drg Romi has been cleared. Last month Romi [September, ed] received a decree of appointment and has now been placed as a civil servant in South Solok Regency.]

Note: *Haluan* (H), *Padang Ekspres* (PE), and *Singgalang* (S)

In the above excerpts, it can be seen that the position of Drg Romi, as an object, got a positive representation of Wendra Rona Putra. As a legal representative who accompanies the struggle of Drg Romi, Wendra Rona Putra is from the perspective of justice seekers who position Drg Romi as a victim of discrimination for whose rights must be fought. Wendra Rona Putra's view that certain parties have usurped Drg Romi, who legally passed the requirements to be a civil servant. From this point of view, Wendra Rona Putra motivates and assists Drg Romi in winning back her rights. Wendra Rona Putra represented Drg Romi until the final stages of the legal struggle and his positive representation of Drg Romi finally paid off, as seen in the PE-7 [1] above.

In addition to Wendra Rona Putra, the representation of Drg Romi as an object can also be seen from the point of view of government officials of the Republic of Indonesia. Among the officials who gave perspective on Drg Romi was Akmal Malik, the Director-General of Regional Autonomy at the Ministry of Home Affairs. The following data shows the representation of Drg Romi by Akmal Malik.

Table 9: The point of view of government officials of the Republic of Indonesia

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S-1 [1]	<p><i>Jadi kita minta Pak Bupati untuk menyurati PPK [Pejabat Pembina Kepegawaian-red]. Nanti melalui Kemendagri kita akan siapkan formasi khusus untuk jabatan yang sama ya dengan dokter gigi bagi difabel. Nah tentunya ini membutuhkan proses dengan Kemenpan-RB. Tentunya kami berharap Pak Gubernur juga akan terus memberi, memfasilitasi, sehingga hak-haknya Bu Romi akan bisa kita berikan sebagaimana seharusnya.</i></p> <p>[So, we asked the Regent to write to the Pejabat Pembina Kepegawaian – PPK (Employee Guidance Officers). Through the Ministry of Home Affairs, we will prepare special formations for the same position as dentists for people with disabilities. This requires a process with the Kemenpan-RB. Of course, we hope the Governor will continue to give and facilitate so that we can provide Mrs. Romi her rights as they should.]</p>
S-1 [2]	<p><i>Nah untuk itu saya katakan sama Pak Bupati, kita tidak usah dulu mempersoalkan persoalan prosedural, yang substansialnya adalah bagaimana Bu Ami bisa mendapatkan hak-haknya kembali. Itu dulu. Memang saya katakan kita berharap sesungguhnya kewenangan ada sama Pak Bupati. Tapi saya katakan prosedural sudah dibuat sedemikian rupa. Nah oleh karena hasilnya ternyata mendistorsi hak-haknya orang, jadi kita secara substansi kita berusaha mendorong kembali agar hak-hak beliau ini dipenuhi.</i></p> <p>[So, I said to the Regent that we don't have to question procedural issues, the substance of which is how Mrs. Ami can get her rights back. It was then. We hope that the real authority lies with the Regent. But I say procedural has been made in such a way. Now, because the result turns out to be distorting people's rights, we are trying to push back so that her rights are fulfilled.]</p>
PE-3 [2]	<p><i>Kami harap permasalahan Drg Romi bisa cepat mendapatkan solusinya. Panselda dan Panselnas sudah mem bahas nya bersama lintas kementerian. Harapan lain, tentu Kemenpan-RB bisa menyetujui formasi khusus buar Drg Romi tahun ini supaya masalahnya cepat selesai.</i></p> <p>[We hope that the problem of Drg Romi can quickly find a solution. Panselda and Panselnas have discussed it together across ministries. Another hope is that the Kemenpan-RB can approve a special formation for Drg Romi this year so that the problem is quickly resolved.]</p>

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In the above excerpts, Akmal Malik, as a government official, facilitated the rights struggle carried out by Drg Romi. They saw what happened to Drg Romi as a form of deprivation of their rights. They felt a responsibility to help find a solution as a government official. Akmal Malik provides an overview of the procedures that can be taken by Drg Romi in the struggle for their rights. They also clearly stated their willingness to communicate with all relevant parties so that Drg Romi could immediately regain their rights. As a form of support, they promised Drg Romi to prioritize the substantial aspects of solving the problem.

Meanwhile, for procedural and administrative problems, Drg Romi will have to deal with related parties later.

Besides Akmal Malik, other government officials such as Muzni Zakaria, the Regent of South Solok, represented Drg Romi in fighting for her rights. They are a regional official who is directly related to the case of canceling the graduation of civil servants, such as with Drg Romi. From the perspective of Muzni Zakaria, the representation of Drg Romi can be seen in the following data.

Table 10: Government officials who represented Drg Romi in fighting for their rights

H-2 [1]	<i>Kami atas nama Pemkab Solok Selatan, didampingi Ibu Rieke dan Ketua Panselda, menyampaikan permohonan maaf atas permasalahan yang terjadi, yang mungkin telah melukai hati masyarakat Indonesia, khususnya kawan-kawan dari disabilitas.</i> [On behalf of the South Solok Regency Government, accompanied by Mrs. Rieke and the Chair of the Panselda, we apologize for the problems that occurred, which may have hurt the hearts of the Indonesian people, especially friends with disabilities.]
S-2 [1]	<i>Nanti Romi akan berdinasi di RSUD setempat.</i> [Later, Romi will serve at the local hospital.]
PE-4 [4]	<i>Rencana kami mau mendaftarkan di RSUD karena berada di pusat kota dan ramai, sehingga memudahkan Drg Romi untuk beraktivitas.</i> [We plan to register at the RSUD because it is in the city center and is crowded, making it easier for Drg Romi's activities.]
H-4 [2]	<i>Bahwa peserta seleksi CPNS Romi Syofpa Ismael dinyatakan lulus pada formasi disabilitas dokter gigi ahli pratama ditempatkan di RSUD Solse.</i> [That the CPNS selection participant Romi Syofpa Ismael was declared to have passed the disability formation of primary expert dentists placed at the Solse Hospital.]

Note: *Haluan* (H), *Padang Ekspres* (PE), and *Singgalang* (S)

In the above excerpts, it can be seen that Muzni Zakaria indirectly states that Drg Romi is on the right side. As the highest leader in South Solok Regency, they admit that their agency made a procedural error that harmed Drg Romi. For that reason, Muzni Zakaria apologized to Drg Romi for the loss they suffered. As a form of accountability for these mistakes, they facilitated the graduation of Drg Romi and placed them as a civil servant in South Solok Regency. Not only did Muzni Zakaria arrive at a decision, but they also placed Drg Romi at the South Solok Hospital. The work location will make it easier for Drg Romi to conduct her work.

## DISCUSSIONS

Based on the data analysis presented above, it can be seen that the West Sumatran media represented Drg Romi, a woman with disabilities, in two forms: subject and object. As a subject, Drg Romi was given the space to express her aspirations fully without being manipulated and distorted by the media. What Drg Romi spoke of was quoted in full and presented in writing. Meanwhile, several actors represented Drg Romi as an object, including Wendra Rona Putra, Akmal Malik, and Muzni Zakaria. In this representation, Drg Romi was seen from the perspective of these actors. Each actor gives views according to their capacity. In the end, the perspective of the subject-object weaves complete information on the struggle for rights carried out by Drg Romi to obtain graduation as a civil servant.

In their position as the subject, Drg Romi tells the complete chronology of events that they experienced. Drg Romi explained that from the beginning, their status had been declared to have passed the civil servant selection. Still, the relevant institution annulled the graduation. The chronology began a series of news coverage of Drg Romi in the media. After

getting the attention of several parties, Drg Romi struggles came to light. She also given the space to speak freely through the media in their struggle. Drg Romi freely expressed her hopes, communicated with the government, and demanded that she regain her rights. All these processes were well recorded through the position of Drg Romi as a subject in the news.

While in his position as an object, Drg Romi gets a positive perception from the characters who represent them. Their struggle to meet several parties received good response and benefited her. Figures such as Wendra Rona Putra, Akmal Malik, and Muzni Zakaria are essential actors in the struggle process of Drg Romi. The positive perceptions of these actors support the struggle of Drg Romi until they reach their goals. The positive representation obtained by Drg Romi is challenging to find in cases reporting about women in other places. The results of previous studies generally show a negative representation of women as objects. In this context, there is a vital role for the West Sumatran media as a means of advocacy that accompanies the struggle for the rights of Drg Romi. This finding implicitly shows differences in the functions and roles of men and women that cannot be separated from today's social construction. By itself, what happened to Drg Romi represents that gender functions and roles can change from time to time according to the construction of the community concerned about the position of the roles of men and women.

There is a type of subject-object representation in the news that Drg Romi pointed out that the West Sumatran media has a different characteristic from other media. The West Sumatran media gave full support to her struggle. Effectively, the existing media became a means of advocacy mediating the events of Drg Romi with the readers. As a funnel of information, the media indirectly raised support for them. With such a position, the press of West Sumatra succeeded in advocating the struggle for the rights of Drg Romi. This finding is different from other research which tends to be stereotypical in presenting gender issues. Several researchers stated that the media still shows men and women in stereotypical positions, limiting our perception of human possibilities (Brescoll, 2016; Coyne et al., 2016; Grau & Zotos, 2018; Koenig, 2018). Furthermore, Wood and Elliott (2020) pointed out the four stereotypical depictions that make the media continue to reflect and encourage the development of traditional male-female relations, namely: 1) dependent women/independent men, 2) incompetent women/men have authority, 3) women take care/men earn a living, and 4) women as victims and sex objects/male aggressors.

From several studies, it is known that the representation of women in the media tends to focus on the following: beauty (in a narrow sense), body size/physical (in a narrow sense), sexuality, emotional, and dependent (as opposed to independent) (Brown & Knight, 2015; Chaniago et al., 2018; Das & Sharma, 2016; Ho, 2023; Raslie & Zaidi, 2022; Taylor et al., 2016). In contrast to women, the representation of men tends to show that they are: physically and intellectually strong, have power, have sexual attraction based on strength and power, and are physical and independent in thought and action (Das & Sharma, 2016; Jackson & Vares, 2015; Shroff et al., 2018; Taylor et al., 2016). This finding is reinforced (Das & Sharma, 2016), who viewed that the stereotypes about women in Indonesian media are embedded in various illustrations from soap operas, infotainment, and teleconferencing, to news on the representation of women in media.

## CONCLUSION

By exploring the representation of the struggle for the rights of women with disabilities within the West Sumatra, Indonesia media, this study concluded that the West Sumatran media have succeeded in advocating for the struggle for the rights of Drg Romi as a disabled woman. In

the context of critical discourse analysis, this success is due to the representation of the subject-object position towards Drg Romi in the news. Various forms of news written about Drg Romi benefit them as a woman who fights for their rights. Both as subject and object positions, the way the West Sumatran media reported on Drg Romi has attracted the sympathy of many parties. This became the capital to garner protest support for the government so that the rights of Drg Romi, as a disabled woman, could be recovered legally.

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