

Gender in Discourse: Indian Women in the British Press

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ABSTRAKT

Tato bakalářská práce se zabývá zobrazením britských žen indického původu v britském internetovém tisku. Předpokladem je, že společnost je rozdělena do různých sociálních skupin a těmto skupinám jsou připisovány určitá jazyková schémata. Tato práce analyzuje, jestli jsou některé z těchto stereotypních předpokladů přítomny v britském internetovém tisku. Takové ideologické stereotypy souvisejí s přerozdělováním moci mezi různými sociálními skupinami. Analýza diskurzu je použita, aby poskytla celkový přehled přerozdělování moci v online tisku. Cílem této bakalářské práce je zjistit, zdali jsou ženy indického původu zobrazovány způsobem podporujícím diskriminaci.

Klíčová slova: gender, analýza diskurzu, rozdělení moci, ženy, menšiny, tisk

ABSTRACT

The bachelor thesis deals with the representation of women of Indian origin in the British online press. The initial assumption is that the society is divided into different social groups and those groups are ascribed with certain stereotypical language patterns. This work analyzes whether any of such stereotypical assumptions are presented in the British online press. The ideological stereotypes are related to the distribution of power among different social groups. The discourse analysis is used in order to provide a complex overview of power distribution in the online press media. The aim of this bachelor thesis is to find out whether women of Indian origin are portrayed in the way contributing to their discrimination.

Keywords: gender, discourse analysis, distribution of power, women, minorities, press media

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CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	10
I THEORY	12
1 GENDER	13
1.1 Sex versus gender	13
1.2 Language and gender	13
1.3 Gender stereotypes.....	14
2 DISCOURSE.....	16
2.1 Context.....	16
2.1.1 Context of situation	16
2.1.2 Language function	17
2.2 Discourse analysis.....	18
2.3 Critical discourse analysis	19
2.4 Ideology	20
2.5 Power and dominance.....	21
3 NEWSPAPER DISCOURSE ANALYSIS.....	23
3.1 Readers	23
3.2 Structure of News	24
3.3 News types.....	24
3.4 Ideological square of US versus THEM.....	25
3.5 Power of press media.....	25
3.6 Discrimination	26
3.7 Racism in Britain	27
II ANALYSIS	29
4 DISCOURSE ANALYSIS.....	30
4.1 British press	30
4.2 Corpus.....	31
5 NEWSPAPER DISCOURSE ANALYSIS.....	33
5.1 Semantic macrostructure	33
5.2 Lexical analysis.....	35
5.3 Syntactical analysis.....	38
5.3.1 The passive transformation.....	39
5.4 Pragmatics.....	42
5.4.1 Quotation marks	42

5.4.2 Question of credibility of the powerless social groups.....	43
CONCLUSION	45
BIBLIOGRAPHY	47
LIST OF FIGURES	50
APPENDIX I.	51

INTRODUCTION

Every word either spoken or written is a choice based on people's beliefs and cultural setting. The society is stereotypically divided into social groups based on gender, age, ethnicity or class. In the society there is a tendency to associate certain characteristics with a specific social group. These associations are called stereotypes, and in one form or other people are subjected to them since childhood. Moreover, stereotypes are often present in everyday talk or in mass media. Stereotypes are expressed by the language the speakers use. Every said word, every written clause is someone's choice. Those choices are done by people based on the ideology and stereotypes present in the society or culture. Therefore the stereotypes ascribed to certain social groups became a common knowledge and formed ideology of certain societies. Yet people are usually little aware of using them. Stereotypes are often objected to and members of such social groups may see their usage as discrimination.

These ideological assumptions are closely related to distribution of power. In the society there are social groups which tend to lack power thus they happened to be discriminated by those who are higher on the power ladder. This ideology is often supported by mass media. This work pays attention particularly to British press media. I chose to analyze press media because it has power to shape reader's mind and the way the world is understood.

The aim of this work is to investigate whether any discrimination stereotypes are present in the British press. I chose two different social groups which are believed to be lacking power in the society – women and minorities. My intention was to interconnect these two social groups. As a result I am analyzing articles about women of Indian origin. British Indian is one of the largest minority groups in Great Britain and people of Indian origin have been members of the British society for a long time, yet they are still not fully accepted as my work aims to prove.

This bachelor thesis is analyzing the British online broadsheet press as it considered to be less biased than for example tabloids. The analyzed articles were selected from four different newspaper brands. I intentionally chose two brands which are believed to be center-right while the other two chosen newspaper brands are considered to be centre-left oriented. The analysis investigates whether the center-right oriented newspapers are more likely to use discriminatory language patterns than the center-left oriented or vice versa.

Since the most important information and topic is generally set in the headlines or the lead, the analysis focus on those two parts of the newspaper articles.

In order to provide a complex overview the analysis consists of four different linguistic sub-analyses. Firstly, I pay attention to the semantic macrostructure of the chosen headlines and lead parts of the articles in order to find out the main subject matter of the analyzed articles. The following analysis is lexical. It focuses on the selection of words referring to the target group which were used by the journalists. The lexical analysis also pays attention to the vocabulary in the headlines and lead parts. As the third part I choose a syntactical analysis. It focuses on the analysis of transitivity patterns. The last part of analysis is pragmatics. I investigate how the reader infers the written language. Every part of the analysis provides a visual comparison of the selected newspaper brands.

The purpose of this work is to find out whether the British broadsheet press is biased and to determine whether women of Indian origin are portrayed in a certain way contributing to their discrimination.

I. THEORY

1 GENDER

The word gender has three different uses. According to Yule (2014, 274) gender can be *biological*, *grammatical* and *social*. Firstly, gender is viewed as *biological* which means differences in sex. It is the genetic information we are born with and means a division into male and female. Other usage is *grammatical*, for example pronouns he/she which is based on the person's visible signs of their biological gender. The third usage of gender is *social*, dividing society into men and women and how men and women are perceived by the society. Moreover this usage of gender classifies the social roles of a man and woman. The bachelor thesis is dealing with gender from the social view.

1.1 Sex versus gender

Anatomical sex is something all people are born with, it is the genetic information that we have and it divides people so one is either male or female. On the contrary Talbot (2010, 7–8) states that gender is learned and it is build up according to the culture people are born in and family background. Linda Brannon described the term gender as a “*social label*” (2011, 9). This label is connected to certain characteristics which people ascribe to a man or woman. Eckert (2013, 2–3) said that society is surrounded by these characteristics from the childhood when we learn from our parents or in school, how a boy or girl should behave. Those ideas about gender and proper behavior ascribed to men or women are nowadays so commonly used that people take them for granted, almost as a scientific fact. It became the background knowledge.

However gender is not a result of the sex that we are born with. Therefore Eckert thinks there may be a woman more feminine or masculine than another or vice versa. It is not in our genetic information that girls play with dolls and boys with cars. This is just a belief based on what we learn from our parents or from the culture that surrounds us.

1.2 Language and gender

The usage of certain language patterns belongs among the characteristics which are ascribed to gender whether it is the language that is used to by men or women or the language used when talking about men or women. Mary Talbot (2010, 15) wrote in her book that “*language does not just reflect gender divisions; it actually creates them*”. The language is not something we are born with. The children learn to use language and the usage is the effect of culture they live in, family background but mainly the gender. First of

all the children learn the language from their parents and when they get older they tend to become a part of a social group of the same gender. As a result they learn the language among the same gender social group (Eckert 2013, 65).

Due to this diversion there are certain language patterns used more frequent in men or women. By using the language we indicate into which social group we belong to. There are certain stereotypical features associated either with men or women. Talbot (2010, 36–38) listed some features which are stereotypically assigned to women:

- Use of affective adjectives (e.g. *adorable, charming, lovely*)
- Use of euphemisms (e.g. *passed away* instead of *died*)
- Precise colour terms (e.g. *beige, ecru*)
- Use of hedges (e.g. *you know, well, kind of, sort of*)
- Tag questions (e.g. *don't you?*)
- Hypercorrect grammar

By the term hypercorrect grammar is meant that women use Standard forms of language more frequently than men and sometimes the women even overuse it as Talbot said (2010, 37–38). Another characteristic which is stereotypically connected to women is the lack of sense of humor. Women do not tell jokes because it is believed that they cannot tell them well and they sometimes even misunderstand them.

One of the reasons why gender is reflected into the language is that language reflects the society and social roles in which women and men are presented. For instance women use more frequently politeness strategies. According to Talbot (2010, 37–38) the reason may be that women are more often subordinate in status to men at work setting. Another language patterns ascribe to women are that they do not use expletives and the intonation of speech is for them more important than for men.

1.3 Gender stereotypes

According to Rudman and Glick (2010, 81–83) there is a tendency to associate some characteristics to a certain social groups and as said these are called stereotypes. People are surrounded with stereotypes from their childhood when they learn about appropriate clothing, toys and behavior for their gender. Stereotypes are present in everyday conversations, in the mass media, in the work or in the schools and they are a part of our cultural knowledge. Stereotypes became a common knowledge, something that we hear or read so often that we take it for granted. However, it does not mean that everyone agrees

with them. Gender stereotypes include a number of characteristics which are often associated with men or women which differs according to the religion or culture. Among these attributes Rudman and Glick (2010, 82–83) named physical characteristics, interests, preferences, social roles and occupations. For this bachelor thesis the stereotypes associated with personality will be crucial.

According to Rudman and Glick (2010, 89) the following gender stereotypes are agreed upon across many nations and cultures. Men are stereotypically believed to be for example dominant, strong, aggressive, autocratic, independent, unemotional, rude, wise and active. Whereas women are ascribed with characteristics such as sentimental, submissive, affectionate, emotional, fearful, weak, gentle, charming and sensitive.

Overall men are represented as bad, because they tend to be aggressive, and rude, but on the other hand they active and wise. On the contrary women are described as charming and gentle but weak. These stereotypes are often present in our everyday life and even in press media. Fowler (1991, 95) named some evaluations which appear in the news and are associated to the social group of women. The women are being described as irrational, powerless and sexually and physically accessible. These stereotypes are closely connected with a power distribution which will be discussed later.

2 DISCOURSE

People use language to produce texts, either written or spoken, to communicate, to explain something, to express attitude or beliefs and so on. According to Widdowson (2007, 6–7) the discourse studies the purpose of using certain language patterns, why a text producer uses them and what he/she meant by the text. The discourse is concerned with language as a social practice which includes also the construction of social relationships between the participants. The linguists who study discourse examine the language used in particular text and moreover they are taking into consideration the context of analyzed text (Talbot 2010, 118–119).

2.1 Context

By context is understood the situation in which is language being used. As Widdowson states (2007, 19–20) the important role is played by the institution setting and time because people change the language in different situations. However the place and time is not enough to understand to the context. It also involves people's background knowledge about the world. As a result some people may interpret the same situation in different ways. The context model may change during the discourse and it needs to be adapted to the changed situation. The following needs to be taken into consideration when doing discourse analysis and concerning the context: the social roles of participants, their relationships and power distribution in the given context (Wodak and Meyer 2001, 26).

Widdowson (2007, 21–25) divided context, from the point of view of discourse analysis, into four levels. The first one is immediate textual context which takes into account what precedes and follows in the given text. The second level is the relationship between the text itself, genre and discourse. Next one is related to the context of the situation and includes the time and place when and where the text was created. The last level is taking into consideration the context of the society as a whole which is based on particular culture beliefs.

2.1.1 Context of situation

According to Halliday (2005, 54) the context of situation studies the links between the language and the environment and it consists of three levels. The first level includes the institution setting in which the text occurs, the social action of which it is part and the subject matter of the discourse. This level is called *field*. The second level is *tenor* and it is

connected to the participants. It refers to their relationship and to their social role in the specific situation. The third context of situation is called *mode* and is related to the channel of communication employed in certain situation. It can be divided for example into spoken, written or face to face.

2.1.2 Language function

The context of situation, described above, is related to three basic language functions (Halliday 2005, 90–91). The first function is *ideational* also called as *experiential*. It is believed that *ideational* function is constructed on knowledge and beliefs of the writers or speakers. The text creator embodies his/her experience of the world in the language he/she uses. Overall *ideational* function constructs the language we use to represent the real world. Fowler (1991, 76–77) believes that it is realized in selection of words referring to participants and in transitivity analysis.

This analysis focuses on the syntactical structure of ideas expressed in clauses which can be transformed using passivization or nominalization. Transitivity enables the text producer to describe the same event in different way. It gives him/her the possibility of choice and it can indicate the writer's point of view. Therefore this analysis is commonly used in newspaper discourse analysis. The transitivity analysis focuses on what type of processes is used and what semantic role is allocated to participants. The processes are connected to world's changes and Fowler (1991, 73–76) distinguishes four main types of those processes:

- Material (e.g. kick, hit)
- Mental (e.g. dream, think)
- Verbal (e.g. argue, say)
- Relational (e.g. have, contain)

Transformation of active sentence into the passive one allows parts of the clause to be deleted. Due to passivization some information can be omitted and other can be foregrounded as Fowler shows in his book (1991, 76–77). Furthermore the passive voice allows the producer of the text to hide the responsibility for certain actions by deleting agent from the clause. The *ideational* function of language is related to the *field*.

The second function of language is *interpersonal* and it is used to construct social relationships and social roles (Halliday 2005, 56–57). In the institutional discourse the roles of some participants are pre-inscribed, for example doctor versus patient and the other

ones are influenced by distribution of power and dominance. In the society there are certain social groups which tend to lack power. The distribution of dominance will be discussed in more detail later. This second language function is realized in the style of language produced by the creator of the text and in modality. Modality is divided into deontic which expresses obligation or permission and epistemic that expresses degree of certainty. The *interpersonal* function is connected to the *tenor*.

In the third place, language serves with *textual* language function. This function constructs links with the text itself and with the situation in which is the text created. Through textual function language creates cohesive and coherent texts and it is concerned with the organization of clauses as well as with its semiotic meaning. Cohesion refers to formal links that give the text unity and connect textual elements. On the other hand coherence makes the text semantically meaningful and studies if the text is logically build up. It analyzed how is in the text used for example repetition, synonyms, opposites, conjunctions or ellipsis. Halliday (2005, 92) states that *textual* function is related to the *mode*.

All of the three language functions above are being used by linguists to analyze texts, either written or spoken. The analysis which pays attention to these functions in particular is called discourse analysis. Furthermore the ideational function of language is used in the analysis in this bachelor thesis when analyzing the British press media.

2.2 Discourse analysis

Alba-Juez (2010, 9–10) as well as Gee (2011, 1–2) and Van Dijk (2011, 1–2) agree that discourse analysis (DA) studies the language which is used in a particular context. As a result the DA focuses on both text and context which was discussed above. It examines the connections between text and its meaning. People use language, written or spoken, to communicate within each other and they need to make decision about what style of language is suitable for particular context while considering the structure of clauses and the choice of vocabulary. Thus discourse analysis is closely tied to the study of syntactical and lexical analysis as well as to the semantics. Yule (2014, 142) described discourse as “*language beyond the sentence*”. At the same time DA examinees also distribution of power and dominance which will be explained later in this work.

There are two characteristics related to discourse analysis. The first one is that DA is interdisciplinary, in other words cross-disciplinary. It means that it combines many

disciplines which are interrelated. Alba-Juez (2010, 10–11) named some of those linguistic disciplines, for instance:

- Text linguistic
- Pragmatics
- Cognitive linguistics
- Functional grammars
- Sociolinguistics
- Semiotics

According to Van Dijk (2011, 2–3) the second characteristic is multimodality. Since discourse analysis studies not only spoken or written text but also the use of multiple modes of communication, it is considered to be multimodal. Due to this fact DA analyze also visual effects (e.g. pictures), body language, music and sounds (Fairclough 2013, 8–9).

2.3 Critical discourse analysis

Critical discourse analysis (CDA) is one of the linguistic methods of text analysis (Wodak and Chilton 2005, 60–61). It will be used for the analysis of press media in the practical part of this thesis. CDA investigates not individuals but social relations among them which are very complex. It primarily focuses on power relationships represented in the language (Widdowson 2007, 70). Using language and producing a text is related to ideology, social belief and the way we understand the world. With every structure we create we make decisions about the grammatical structure, words that we use or even, in spoken dialect, the tone of voice we use. Critical discourse analysis pays attention to all these decisions which are made based on institutionalized modes of thinking and social practice (Fairclough 2013, 3–5).

According to Widdowson (2007, 71) the critical analysts have to take into consideration that there is a real world with cultural constructs as well as the world which is construct politically that tell us how the world should be. The way how people use language is influenced by ideology but they also construct it. CDA focuses critically on assumptions that have become common knowledge, for instance gender stereotypes ascribed to women. This common knowledge can be also called public opinion and is mostly controlled by those in power who create them to their own advantage, for example the currently leading political party. Critical discourse analysis is oriented at social problems in society, an institution or an organization (Fairclough 2013, 4). In other words,

what actions may be seen as wrong in the society. Nowadays the topic of refugees coming to Europe is the prime topic of CDA.

Norman Fairclough, being a key figure in CDA, states that CDA focuses on “*relations between semiotic and other social elements*” (2012, 9). As CDA is part of discourse analysis it is interdisciplinary so it can study other social elements. It combines different disciplines and Fairclough (2013, 8) names for example:

- Phonetics
- Phonology
- Grammar
- Semantics
- Lexicology
- Pragmatics
- Stylistics
- Sociolinguistics
- Argumentation analysis
- Literary criticism
- Anthropology
- Conversation analysis

The analysis in this bachelor thesis pays attention to analyzing relations of power and it is done by textual analysis, in particular by lexical and syntactical analysis. The pragmatics is also involved.

In summary, critical discourse analysis is not just a text analysis but it combines many other disciplines and studies the relations among them in certain institutional setting. The usage of language which is being analyzed is based on people’s beliefs, ideas and stereotypes that became common knowledge. According to Fairclough (2013, 9–10) CDA focuses primarily on “*the effect of power relations and inequalities in producing social wrongs*”.

2.4 Ideology

Ideological assumptions are ideas that tend to shape relations between social groups in a society and they are used so frequently that they became background knowledge. Due to these assumptions we are able to understand the context of a text we produce or read. Coherence, which was in more detail discussed above, pays attention to the links between

parts of the text and between the text and the world. Those connections are made by the producer of the text as a result of his/her ideological beliefs. The reader or listener has certain expectations of the links based on his/her common-sense assumptions. However, these assumptions differ among different social groups and as a result the misunderstanding may occur. Ideology is closely related to power distribution. Moreover the common-sense assumptions may support unequal power relations (Fairclough 2001, 78–83).

2.5 Power and dominance

Distribution of power relations is closely related to ideology. Ideologically is society divided into certain social groups according to gender, class, ethnicity, religion, occupation and other. Dominance of certain social group can be seen in interaction between them. According to Fairclough (2001, 46–47) some social groups tend to have more power whereas others tend to lack power. This selection of power is based on ideology which is shared by a certain society or community (Jeffries 2010, 4–5).

The power can be described as a control of minds of other people. Fairclough (2011, 43–49) names the following social groups which are typically described as the powerful ones in the society:

- Politicians
- Lawyers
- Experts
- Managers
- Education institutions
- Police
- Middle-age people
- Media

On the other hand in the society there are social groups which tend to lack power. The following groups are stereotypically considered as the powerless ones. Among those groups typically belong the ones that somehow differ from what is considered to be the standard in society. Examples of such a social groups are as follows according to Fairclough (2011, 43–49):

- People of other ethnicities
- Women

- Young people
- Sexual minorities
- Elderly
- Working class
- Disabled people
- Developing countries

Paletz (1996, 10) believes that dominance is commonly presupposed to be in hands of those social groups which have access to valued resources, for instance wealth, knowledge, force or social status. The power is also ascribed to mass media because they have the ability to control to some extent the reader's minds.

Thus the material analyzed in this bachelor thesis will be British press with the attention focused on the British society. From the view of the British society it is mainly white middle-class people who are in power and the social groups who tend to lack power are minorities of Asian, West Indian or African origin (Fairclough 2001, 43–49).

3 NEWSPAPER DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

As was discussed in the previous chapter, the mass media have an influence on their recipients in society. Newspaper discourse analysis pays attention to the press media. Examining three main elements and those are the language used by journalists, its production and the relations between journalism and social ideas (Richardson 2007, 1). The news press is analyzed from the perspective of critical discourse analysis. As a result it studies the way that text producers use the language, the power distribution and it focuses of social problem. The purpose of reading newspaper is to “*construct a particular model of the situation or event*” which is described in the article (Van Dijk 1985, 81). According to Van Dijk (1996, 11) the power of newspaper is not realized by some of its readers and they may think that they change their opinions on their free will, furthermore they tend to accept journalistic opinion as the right one.

Nevertheless the journalists are not the only ones who can control the means of press communication. The powerful groups in society, which were named above, are the ones that are generally quoted in the newspapers (Van Dijk 1996, 12). Consequently these elite groups can control the opinions of the public by setting the topics, participant and agendas or by choice of language and style. Furthermore Van Dijk (1996, 13–14) pointed out that reader’s lack of education and knowledge of the language, either vocabulary or grammar structure, may lead to serious misunderstanding. The press media targets mass audience and thus the members of different social groups. Therefore, the language used in newspaper articles is supposed to be Standard English.

3.1 Readers

Reah (2002, 35) uses the expression *audience* to describe the newspaper readers. Journalists assume that those readers are members of social groups. By sorting them to these groups, they create certain ideology which may otherwise not be shared by the society. Thus the journalists support the stereotypes in society. Taking into consideration that this thesis focuses on analyzing British newspaper, the *audience* are the citizens of the United Kingdom.

In the British society there are certain stereotypical assumptions as to who are the recipients of particular newspapers. According to Reah (2002, 35–36) The Daily Telegraph, the Times, the Independent and the Guardian suppose to have readers of middle class. The Guardian’s readers are believed to be left-wing, Labour supporters whereas the

readers of the Time are expected to be conservatives. The journalists use these assumptions when they are deciding about topics and usage of the language so they would target the right recipients.

The internet server *National Readership Survey* released data about print and digital newspapers in Great Britain (GB) for the year 2015. According to their research, 91 % of GB adults aged 15 + consume newsbrands, either in print or digitally. This means that 47.3 million British citizens read newspaper. For this thesis another research is also important. It showed that 71 % of GB adults 15 + consume quality daily newsbrands across print and online. Among the quality daily newsbrands belong the Time, the Independent, the Daily Mail and the Guardian (National Readership Survey 2016).

3.2 Structure of News

By the structure of news is understood the overall organization of topics. The newspaper articles are divided into certain parts, for example the headline, the lead, the body of the article, and every one of them has a specific function and form. For instance, headlines and leads have a fixed form and they mostly express the main topic of the news because some readers read only the headlines of articles. The first sentence of the article then provides readers with more details, for instance actors, participants or instrument. After the first paragraph generally comes a picture. This lay-out of text in newspaper articles is a “*top-to-bottom mapping of underlying semantic macrostructure*” (Van Dijk 1985, 77–78). It means that the most important information is formulated first and the less important follows.

However, it is the journalist who decides what information he/she considers as the most important one so their attitude and values may appear in the structure of presenting information in the article. The style or size of letters is commonly not the writer’s choice. According to Van Dijk (1985, 88–91) headlines and leads have a generally fixed form, for example headlines are written in capital letters or bolds. Whereas the other parts of article such as comments or summary varies in different cultures or newspapers.

3.3 News types

Lehman-Wilzig and Seletzky (2010, 38–41) assume that the news types are generally divided into *hard* and *soft* news. According to them the *hard* news commonly involve political, economical and social topics. The news are up-to-date and are newsworthy for a

limited period of time. They are accompanied by commentary and analysis. On the other hand, *soft* news can be reported at basically any time and are based on a specific event.

Lehman-Wilzig and Seletky (2010, 38–41) believe that the distinction between hard and soft news is not always clear and they may be confused in certain context.

3.4 Ideological square of US versus THEM

The ideological square is a common tool in newspapers. The journalists emphasize OUR positive actions and characteristics and THEIR negative actions and characteristics (Bell and Garrett 1998, 35–36). Those will be described in more details and will be treated as more important information, for example it will be in the headline. On the other hand OUR negative actions and THEIR positive ones will be de-emphasize and described in general, will provide less information or will not be mentioned at all (Van Dijk 2014, 29). The responsibility can be easily hidden by using passive voice which allows the text producer to omit agent of the action.

According to Van Dijk (2014, 29) this ideology of US versus THEM produced by press media creates assumptions in the society and it puts western society against East, Middle East and South. WE are ascribed with characteristics such as modern, democratic, capitalists, equal society. On the contrary, THEY are described as primitive, violent and dictatorial or even terrorists.

In the previous chapters the power of press media and how it may shape the attitude of members of society was mentioned. Above all, great number of citizens of Great Britain read quality newspaper, as was already shown, and take opinions of the text producers for granted. As a result the ideology US versus THEM may influence or even support the discrimination of minorities in the whole society.

3.5 Power of press media

Press media have the power to shape the way readers understand and evaluate the events that happened in the society. The same event can be described in different ways according to language and sentence patterns that are used by journalist. The control over public opinions is mostly in hands of the media elite such as politicians or scholars. The media in our modern society have influence on the attitudes of most people in society. There are many reasons why press media is so powerful and has the ability to shapes reader's mind. According to Van Dijk (2000, 37) some of them are:

- White readers meet with members of different ethnicities very rarely. Thus they have few experiences with minorities.
- There is limited number of alternative sources for information about minorities. People tend to trust press media so they take their view as the right one. Furthermore they usually stick to one brand of newspaper.
- Media focuses on negative information about THEM and problems and threats for US. The topics are usually about violent crimes, illegal arriving of immigrants etc.
- Minority groups lack the power to oppose negative reporting because they have less access to the media and their opinions are considered to be less credible.

Overall little information about minorities and limited sources of information as well as negative news about members of different ethnicities create negative connotations towards these social groups. Therefore a topic that may be neutral is shaped into a negative one. The discrimination language patterns are sometimes used indirectly and even the journalist may not be aware of using them because this language became a common knowledge.

However, it is the text producer who is responsible for what kind of message he/she spreads among the public. The journalist's overall aim is supposed to be objectivity. In order to be objective they should distance themselves from the truth claims in the story. Their personal view and attitude should not be present in the text because their aim is to report about certain event. Overall they are supposed to keep the distance, avoid any kind of evaluation of certain events. In other words, journalist should not be biased.

3.6 Discrimination

Discrimination affects individuals by creating unequal living conditions, for instance chances of jobs, education or money. The stereotypical assumptions ascribed to certain social groups (e.g. women, minorities) also apply to the individuals. Dividing the society into categories cause unequal sorting of individuals. As Fowler states (1991, 93–95) the language provides names for these social groups which allow society to use them frequently.

However, it is not only vocabulary that reproduces discriminatory discourse. The syntactic structure needs to be taken into consideration as well, for example transitivity. The vocabulary describing a member of other social groups (e. g. black) is used so often

that it became common knowledge and we do not even realize using those discrimination language patterns.

This bachelor thesis pays attention to two social groups, which tend to be discriminated in the society – women and ethnic minorities, in particular Indian ethnicity. The stereotypes which are ascribed to women were discussed in the first chapter and will be analyzed in more details in the Analysis.

The discrimination of members of other ethnicities is called racism. Van Dijk assumes that racism is “*a social system of ethnic or racial inequality*” (2000, 35). We learn racism generally from the childhood, for example from text (e.g. newspaper) or from the talk (e.g. every day conversations or political speeches). The forms of racism have changed. Van Dijk (2000, 33) used the term “*old racism*” to describe the times of slavery or segregation. The racism in the past used to divide society according to colour of the skin. Overall it was visible and systematic discrimination.

On the contrary, racism nowadays denies that it is racism and it is typically indirect. People frequently say “I am not a racist but...”. They tend to view individual members of different social groups as the group. Many of British citizens deny that they are racists and discriminate other ethnicities. They believe that by treating for example blacks or Indian minorities differently they just protect their nation and culture.

3.7 Racism in Britain

The Guardian (Taylor and Muir 2014) posted an article that racism in Britain is rising. However numbers and statistics do not provide an accurate picture of the society. The British television channel BBC Three aired a video in which a journalist Mona Chalabi investigates whether the statistics about racism in UK are accurate or not (BBC Three 2016). The research on Britain’s streets showed that people of other ethnicities feel uncomfortable because people are usually staring at them. The journalist Mona Chalabi undertakes a medical examination of her brain and the results indicated that seeing a person who belongs to different ethnicity arouses fear in her mind. However, we are not born with this connotation. It is the view of society that can change people’s brain so they have negative view of minorities.

In summary, racism is mostly unconscious. People can have a racist attitude even though they have never been deliberately against anyone in the society. It is the society that shapes people’s brains in the racist way whether it is realized by them or not.

Unfortunately, the media press supports this social view of minorities by publishing articles that are foregrounding THEIR bad actions such as violence and terrorism.

II. ANALYSIS

4 DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

This thesis analyses British online press while focusing on articles about women of the Indian origin. In the society there are certain social groups of people which tend to lack power. The most common ones are people of other ethnicities and women. Due to this fact I chose to analyze articles about Indian women which link together the two social groups which tend to be portrayed as powerless. Fowler (1991, 95) mentions that some of the attributes related to women are irrationality, powerlessness and sexual and physical excess. Women are also less quoted than men because they are considered to be a less reliable source of information. Stereotypical representation of members of other ethnicities is also used in mass media. The most common stereotype associated with Indian minorities is under-development, ignorance and barbarism.

The purpose of this bachelor thesis is to raise awareness of these stereotypes frequently appearing in press media, as nowadays many people do not even recognize such stereotypes due to the fact that they are considered to be common usage. Based on critical discourse analysis, which investigates power relationships, I will examine if those stereotypes are presented in the British online broadsheet press and how frequently so. The main reason why readers should become aware of these stereotypes is the fact that press media have the power to shape the way readers understand the world and the events that happen in it.

4.1 British press

According to Williams (2010, 1) British citizens are one of the leading European nations in newspaper bought per capita. Reading the paper in Britain has been one of the most common leisure time activities for centuries. The leading national newspapers nowadays are *The Daily Mail* and *The Sun* which are both considered to be tabloids. However this bachelor thesis focuses on broadsheet press. The broadsheet press is also termed the quality press. I chose newspapers which are among the top ten leading national newspapers. I intentionally picked representatives of both centre-left as well as centre-right oriented newspaper brands. In the following table can be seen the reach of newspaper and websites per month.

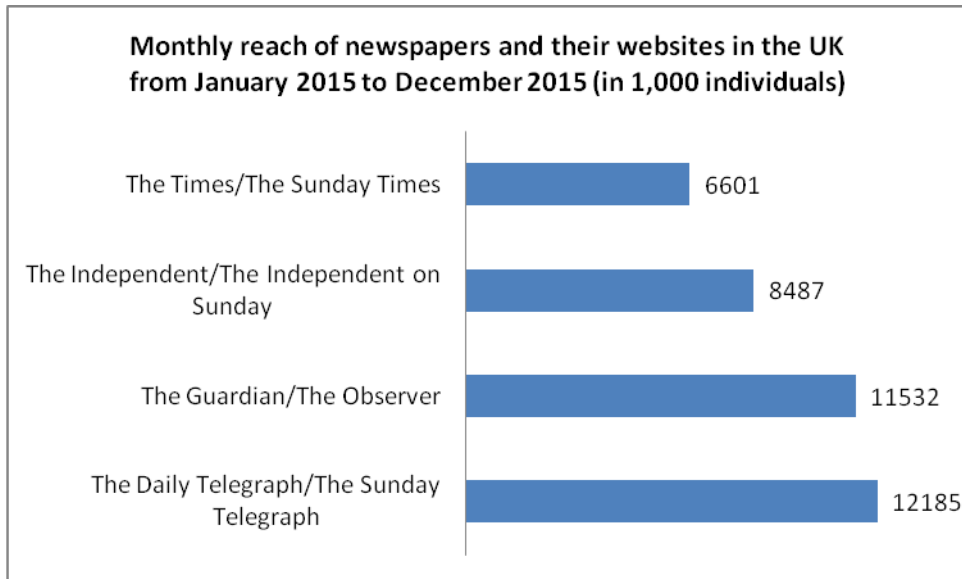


Figure 1: National leading newspapers in United Kingdom

In summary, *The Daily Telegraph* is the most popular newspaper among broadsheets and it thought to be centre-right oriented. This newspaper brand is closely followed by *The Guardian* which is believed to be more centre-left oriented. As another representative of slightly centre-left oriented newspaper brand I chose *The Independent*. The last press for analysis was the broadsheet *The Times* (centre-right orientation). All of the analyzed newspapers are described in more detail in the following chapter.

4.2 Corpus

As a corpus material I selected British online press, particularly the broadsheet. According to Temple (2008, 69) broadsheet press is supposed to be the responsible one and it should not be biased. I decided to analyze headlines and the first sentences of the articles which are called leads. In these two parts the topic of the following article is set, there are the participants and it has the purpose to inform the reader and to catch his/her attention. The headline commonly presents the information that is considered by the text producer as the most important one. The headline and the lead are essential parts of the articles because readers pay attention to them and sometimes read only this part of the newspaper article.

My intention was to balance the broadsheets which support the right wing political parties as well as the left wing parties. I chose ten articles from *The Time* and *The Telegraph* as representatives of center-right oriented press. On the other hand, I picked another ten articles from *The Independent* and *The Guardian* which are oriented towards

center-left. The analysis will also investigate if there is any tendency from one party to be more discriminatory towards Indian women than the other one. In the following paragraphs the chosen newspaper brands are described in more details.

The Times is published every day and it can also be found online. As an online paper it has more than 400 000 subscribers according to their websites. They were established in 1785 and since then they have won 31 journalist awards and 6 newspaper awards. This newspaper also publishes *The Sunday Times*. They supported the Conservative party in the elections which took place in May 2015. The evidence can be seen in the article which they published in October 2015, where they showed support for Tories (The Times 2015; The Times 2016).

The Daily Telegraph is a daily press from London and they weekly publish *The Sunday Telegraph*. They are considered to be center-right oriented due to their support of Conservative party. As an evidence of their support of Tories an article with headline: *Vote in the nation interest. Vote for Conservatives* which was published in May 2015 in the time of British parliament election can be used (The Telegraph 2015).

The Independent is a British national newspaper which is published daily. In the end of March 2016 this press stopped the print edition and it continues only as an online broadsheet. They also edit a newspaper which is called *The Independent on Sunday*. They state in their articles that they do not belong to any political party and they want the newspaper to stand for its name. Nevertheless by the time of election in Britain in 2015 they wrote an article in which they showed support of Liberal Democrats. The headline of this article stated: *In defence of liberal democracy* (Independent 2015).

The Guardian is a national daily newspaper. Its sister papers include *The Observer* which is published every Sunday. In 2015 *The Guardian* was among fifth leading newspapers in United Kingdom. This paper supported left oriented political party – the Labourists in the last elections. Few days before the elections they wrote an article: *The Guardian view: Britain needs a new direction, Britain needs Labour* (The Guardian 2015). It can be seen above, that newspapers are indeed biased and as such they tend to project their ideology into their content. The following chapters will determine whether such ideology also includes ethnical stereotypes and thus encourage discrimination.

5 NEWSPAPER DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

The work aims to analyze the selected British broadsheet newspapers on several levels in order to provide a complex overview. Firstly, I am to pay attention to the content of the articles. Secondly, I analyze the ideational function of language which consists of lexical and syntactical analysis. This function is described in the theoretical part of this thesis and it constructs people's experience of the world. Press media, particularly quality press, have the power to shape the readers' beliefs and attitudes. Therefore, the journalist should be careful what language patterns he/she uses. I analyzed the headlines and lead parts in order to establish whether women of Indian origin are portrayed in a way that may be considered biased.

5.1 Semantic macrostructure

Halliday (2005, 90–91) describes the ideational function as an expression of content. In other word it means how we construct the language according to our knowledge, beliefs and experiences. Ideational function tends to be shaped by a field. As a field is understood an institutional setting, social action and it also includes the subject matter of the discourse. It basically represents what the text is about and what the topic is.

The analysis of corpus material, where the participants were women of Indian origin, shows that in British press the field is mostly connected to the crime. In the following examples it can be seen that from the twenty analyzed articles nineteen were connected to some violent acts:

- [1] *...girl hangs herself...* (The Times)
- [2] *Maid's arm was chopped off...* (The Times)
- [3] *"Boyfriend held...* (The Times)
- [4] *...sisters to be raped...* (The Telegraph)
- [6] *...girls aged two and five 'gang-raped'...* (The Telegraph)
- [7] *Man arrested after girl raped...* (The Telegraph)
- [8] *victim 'sexually assaulted...* (The Telegraph)
- [9] *...daughter witnessed gang-rape...* (The Telegraph)
- [10] *The 'revenge rape' shows...* (The Telegraph)
- [11] *...rape survivor 'sexually assaulted...* (The Independent)
- [12] *...girl dies in hospital after being raped...* (The Independent)
- [13] *...woman 'burned alive...* (The Independent)

- [14] *Woman killed in Sydney park...* (The Guardian)
- [15] *Girl, 15, raped...* (The Guardian)
- [16] *...sisters 'gang-raped', killed...* (The Guardian)
- [17] *...police 'gang-rape woman...* (The Guardian)
- [18] *...girl dies after being raped...* (The Guardian)
- [19] *...women killed in India ...* (The Guardian)
- [20] *...victim of gang rape dies...* (The Guardian)

The analysis shows that the main subject is connected to the topic of crime especially to violence done on women of Indian origin. Most of the headlines engage with sexually motivated crimes. The articles for analysis were picked randomly and there was no intention from my side to choose topics related to the violence. Unfortunately, if the participants are women of Indian origin, the topic is mostly connected to negative topics and the articles are also mostly displayed in the *Crime* section. The reader is presented with an idea that women in India are often being sexually assaulted and from this comes a presupposition that male citizen of India are violent and dangerous. In the following table the total disbalance among the topics chosen by the British quality press is demonstrated.

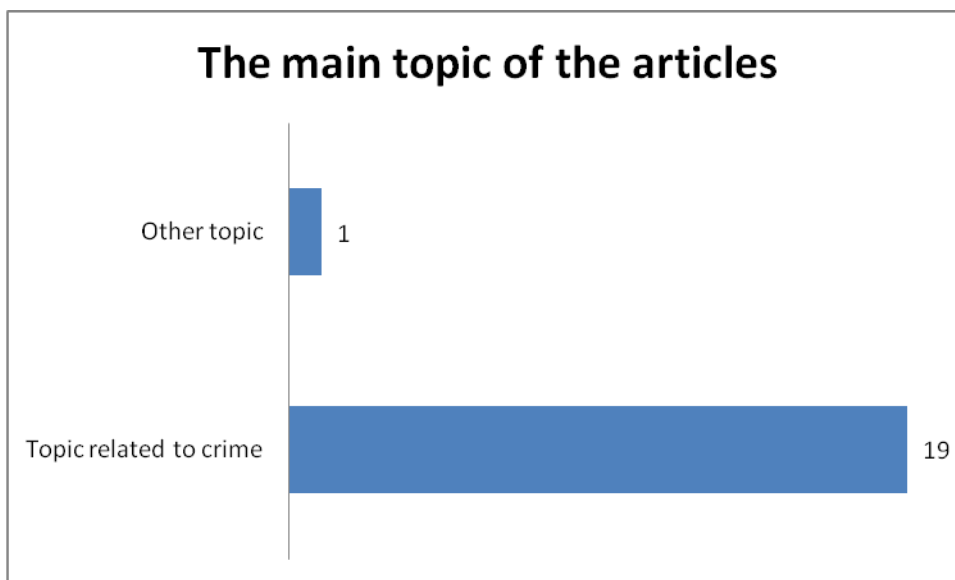


Figure 2: Frequency of the main topics of the articles

At this point the discourse analysis proves that the stereotypes, which are connected to other social ethnicities, are present in the British broadsheet press. These topics chosen by journalists are a clear example of a stereotype. The subject of these nineteen articles may evoke negative connotation towards Indian ethnicity. Also the representation of women of

Indian origin shows stereotypical assumptions and portrays them as victims and powerless. Unfortunately, particularly those connotations can cause misunderstanding and discrimination.

5.2 Lexical analysis

Language is considered to be a system of options and every one of them has an ideological effect. The ideational function of language is closely connected to the selection of words which refer to participants. Stereotypically women are being described in the press with the reference to their marital status (e.g. mother, daughter and wife). However the analyzed articles indicate that when writing about women who belong to the minority group the reference is mainly represented by their ethnicity as showed below:

- [1] *Indian girl*... (The Times)
- [2] *An Indian housemaid*... (The Times)
- [4] *Indian sisters*...; *Two Indian sisters*... (The Telegraph)
- [5] *Indian girl*... (The Telegraph)
- [6] *Indian girls*... (The Telegraph)
- [8] *India rape victim*... (The Telegraph)
- [9] ... *Indian daughter* ... (The Telegraph)
- [10] ... *India's women*... (The Telegraph)
- [11] *Indian rape survivor*... (The Independent)
- [12] *Indian girl*... (The Independent)
- [13] *Indian woman*... (The Independent)
- [16] *Two Indian sisters*... (The Guardian)
- [18] *Indian girl* ... (The Guardian)
- [20] *Indian victim*... (The Guardian)

The analysis shows that fourteen headlines out of twenty refer to the ethnicity of the women and the journalists even used this type of reference as the first one. Ten of the headlines or lead parts used the word *Indian* as the very first word of the article. It is generally the first information which is considered to be the most important one and is remembered by the recipients. From those articles it can be seen that the British press considers ethnicity of those women as the most relevant piece of information and they foregrounded it by placing it at the beginning of the sentences. This type of reference is considered to be discriminatory mainly because if the articles were about female citizens of

Britain who are of English, Welsh, Scottish or Irish origin it would unlikely say so in the headline or lead part.

Another type of reference, which was frequently present in the analyzed headlines and the first sentences of the articles, was a reference to the age of the news participants. The examples below show how many times this reference was used by British journalists:

- [1] *Indian girl, 14...; An Indian teenager...* (The Times)
- [3] *...girl, 15, is raped...; ...the life of a 15-year-old girl...* (The Times)
- [6] *...girls aged two and five...; A toddler and a five-year-old girl...* (The Telegraph)
- [7] *15-year-old dies...* (The Telegraph)
- [8] *The 15-year-old said she was...* (The Telegraph)
- [9] *Three-year-old Indian daughter...* (The Telegraph)
- [11] *Teenager allegedly raped...* (The Independent)
- [12] *...burning of the 15-year-old girl...* (The Independent)
- [15] *Girl, 15, raped...* (The Guardian)
- [20] *23-year-old's death...* (The Guardian)

In ten articles out of twenty the information about age of the female participants was found. The reference to age is in five articles the very first information. The reason for exaggerating the youth may be to shock the readers and to catch their attention because in nine examples the girls were under-aged. In one example even the word *toddler* was used as age reference. The purpose is probably to evoke emotions in the readers. However, the analyzed articles are from broadsheet newspapers and emotiveness should not appear in this type of paper because it could mean that the journalist is expressing their point of view and that the quality press is indeed biased. The frequency of references to age or ethnicity is showed in the following figure.

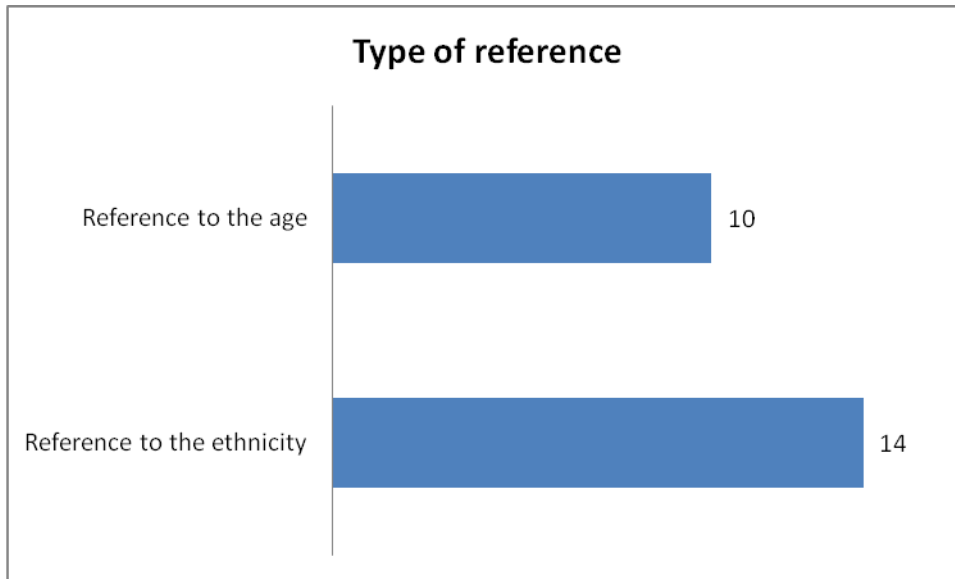


Figure 3: Frequency of reference to age/ethnicity

The choice of the subject in the corpus material was already discussed. However the selection of words which refer to the topics need to be mentioned as well. People make decisions with every word they say or write based on their background knowledge or experiences. The journalists need to be careful how they describe certain actions because the press media have the ability to shape the readers mind and the way how they perceive the world. Overall the words should be neutral and not biased.

Nevertheless in the analyzed articles words such as *rape*, which was used twenty-five times, *chopped off* or *set alight* were used. Those words were used to describe the violent crimes done to women. The reason why these words occur in the broadsheet papers mostly in the headlines may be to shock the readers. Another example of an inappropriate word used in headline is *wandered* which appears in the fifth example. It may refer to one of the stereotypes which are connected to women. The choice of this word evokes irrationality of the woman.

Overall the lexical analysis of the corpus material indicates the presence of some stereotypes which are often connected to women or to other ethnicities. The stereotypical irrationality of the women appears in the articles as well as sexual excess which was evoked by the repeated word *rape*. This word also leads us to the stereotype connected to other ethnicities which is violence and barbarism. The type of reference used in the articles showed the importance of the ethnicity when speaking about a person who is part of non-British social group. In the following figure the difference between centre-right and centre-

left papers can be seen. The count includes all words from previous examples that were somehow connected to discrimination and stereotypes which were discussed in this chapter. *The Times* and *The Telegraph* which are considered to be centre-right oriented tend to be slightly more discriminating than *The Independent* and *The Guardian* (centre-left orientation).

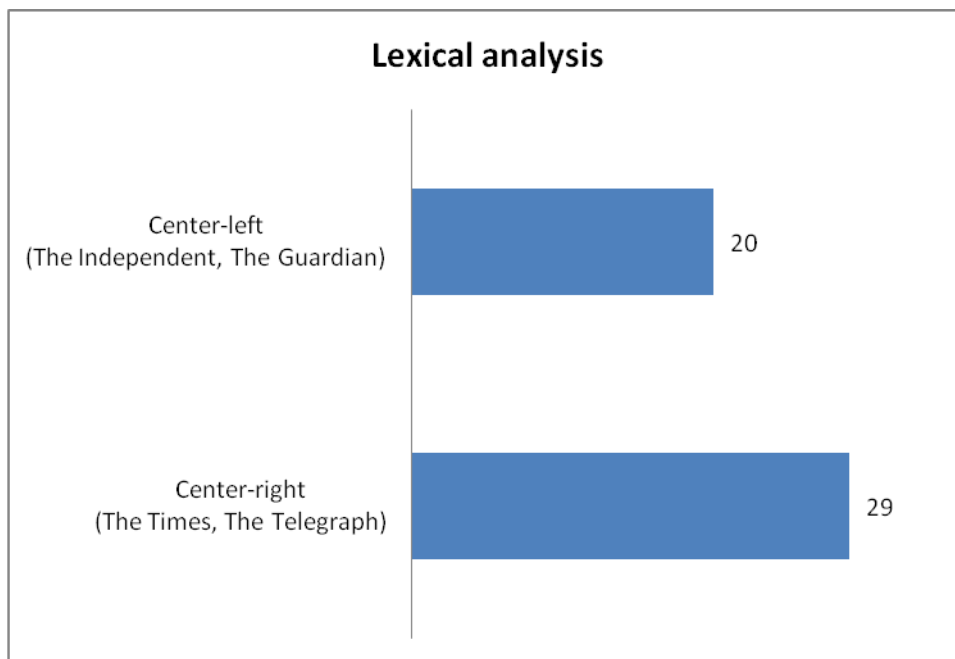


Figure 4: Frequency of stereotypical discrimination patterns presented in the articles

The choices of the words play an important role when writing an article for quality newspapers which have the power to shape the readers view of the world. Due to this lexical analysis the British broadsheet press seems to be biased when writing about social groups who tend to lack power.

5.3 Syntactical analysis

This part of the bachelor thesis deals with the analysis of transitivity pattern of clauses. The term transitivity is connected to the ideational function of language. According to Gee (2005, 25) this function of language focuses mainly on the semantics of clauses and on the language which is used to represent the world. Due to transitivity the same events can be described in different ways and it gives the journalist the possibility of choice. Transformation of clauses can be done by passivization or nominalization. This analysis will pay attention to the passive and to the reasons why it is used in the broadsheet press.

5.3.1 The passive transformation

Fowler (1991, 78) states that the passive voice is frequently used in broadsheet headlines because it saves space and clearly sets the topic of a following article. The other reason why passive is used is that it allows for the agent to be deleted from the clause. There are two occasions in which the agent does not have to be used. The first one is that the agent can be left out because it is known or predictable due to people's background knowledge. Thus the agent becomes unnecessary as in the following examples:

- [7] *Man arrested after...* (The Telegraph)
- [12] *A man has been arrested for...* (The Independent)
- [16] *Three men arrested...* (The Guardian)
- [18] *Man charged with rape...* (The Guardian)
- [19] *Around 50 villagers arrested over...* (The Guardian)

The readers assume from their background knowledge that if someone is being *arrested* or *charged*, it is done by police officers. It means that the journalists are probably not hiding any information but they are just behaving economically. This type of passive voice gives the journalist the possibility to make the headline and the first sentence of the article shorter in order to catch reader's attention easily.

However, in the analyzed articles the passive voice in order to delete the agent from the clause is more frequently used. The effect of this type of passive is hiding responsibility for the action. If the journalist is hiding the responsibility intentionally or not the readers do not know. The passive also foregrounded the already mentioned lack of power of the patients who are in these cases women of the Indian origin.

- [1] *...teenager who was gang raped...* (The Times)
- [2] *Maid's arm was chopped off...* (The Times)
- [3] *...girl, 15, is raped and set alight...* (The Times)
- [4] *Indian sisters to be raped...; Two Indian sisters 'sentenced' to be raped and then paraded...* (The Telegraph)
- [6] *Indian girls aged two and five 'gang-raped'...; ...five-year-old girl raped in...* (The Telegraph)
- [7] *...girl raped and set alight...* (The Telegraph)
- [8] *Indian rape victim 'sexually assaulted in hospital...* (The Telegraph)
- [11] *Indian rape survivor 'sexually assaulted...* (The Independent)
- [12] *...after being raped and set on fire.* (The Independent)

[14] *Woman killed in...; ...after being stabbed in the neck...* (The Guardian)

[15] *“Boyfriend” held...; Girl, 15, raped and set on fire...* (The Guardian)

[16] *Two Indian sisters ‘gang-raped’, killed and hanged...; ...bodies are discovered...* (The Guardian)

In these examples the agent is hidden and the readers do not know who is responsible for those crimes and the women are portrayed as powerless victims. The reader is missing an important piece of information and based on his/her background knowledge he/she would ascribe the responsibility to different people. Since the topic is a crime and women of Indian origin are the victims, the association would be unlikely a white British man even though he may well be the hidden agent. This can even lead to an image that Indian women are being sexually assaulted by some unknown strangers who would not be punished for their crimes because their identity is unknown. In some articles the agent is revealed in the body of the article or in the lead part. Nevertheless few readers go through the whole article and most of them stick only to the headlines.

The passive voice has another function in English language apart from changing semantic roles in the clauses. The agent can become the new information in the sentence which is called rheme. This new information is considered to be the more important one. In the following examples this function of passivization where the agent is present and has more importance because it becomes the rheme of the clause can be seen:

[8] *...she was attacked again after being raped by a teenager...* (The Telegraph)

[10] *Two sisters in rural India have been ‘sentenced to rape’ by village elders...* (The Telegraph)

[11] *Teenager allegedly raped by security guard...* (The Independent)

[13] *Indian woman ‘burned alive by relatives...* (The Independent)

[19] *Five women killed in India by villagers...* (The Guardian)

The women of Indian origin are foregrounded in those articles and the one who is responsible for the crimes is backgrounded. Therefore the assumption here may again be that women of other ethnicities are lacking power and are victims. On the other hand the agent seems to be less important.

The overall usage of the passive voice in the analyzed articles picked from British quality press is demonstrated in the following figure:

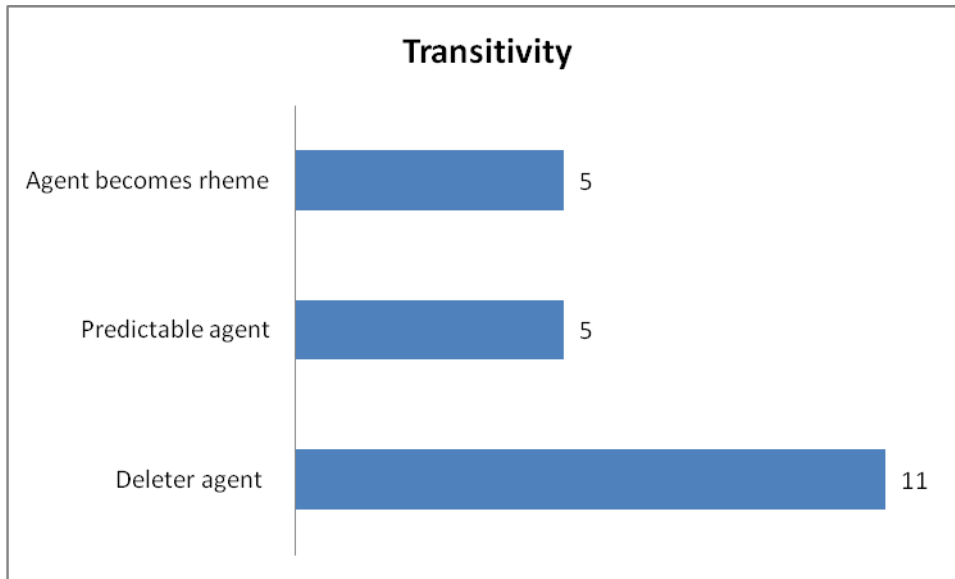


Figure 5: Frequency of transitivity of clauses

To sum t up, the analysis of the corpus material shows that passive voice is frequently used in the headlines and in the first sentence of broadsheets, the lead. As was said before, the reason might be to safe space and clearly set the topic of the article. This is the case of predictable agent where it is not necessary to state who is behind the action because the readers are able to guess this information from their background knowledge. Nevertheless in the majority of the analyzed articles, particularly in twelve of them, passive voice was used with the purpose to delete the agent and to hide their responsibility. The differences between the analyzed newspapers are depicted in the following table:

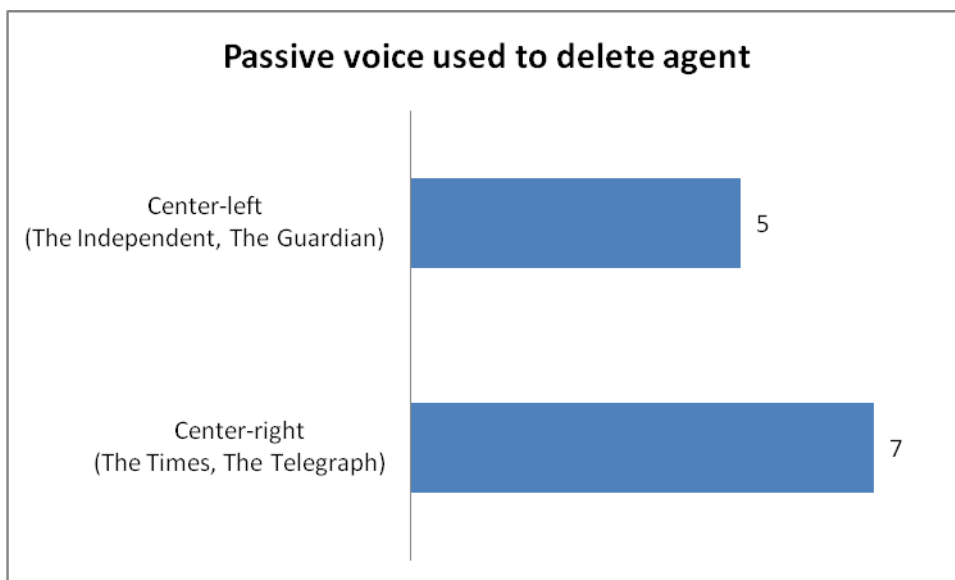


Figure 6: Frequency of passive voice that was used to delete the agent

For the analysis of the differences between the right-centred and left-centred oriented newspaper I chose to compare the usage of passive voice. In most cases the agent was deleted from the clause serving as an example of discrimination and stereotypes connected to women. Due to the choice of the sentence pattern women of Indian origin were portrayed as powerless victims. This appears more often in the centre-right oriented newspaper, *The Times* and *The Telegraph*.

5.4 Pragmatics

According to Levinson (1983, 9) the linguistic field called pragmatics studies relations between language and context. Basically pragmatics focus on the meaning and more precisely what is meant by the text. This linguistic field studies how the readers infer the written language. Among pragmatic phenomena also belongs quotation which appears in the analyzed articles.

5.4.1 Quotation marks

Another feature which was very often present in the analyzed corpus material, were quotation marks. There are many reasons why quotation marks are used in the text. The first and the most common one is to quote someone's words literally. However this is not the case of the analyzed articles because as was said previously the women and other ethnicities are quoted very rarely.

The purposes of quotation marks in the corpus material were different. Gutzmann and Stei believe that quotation marks "*indicate the need for further pragmatic inferences*". In other words, when putting expression in quotation marks, the text producer is highlighting those words. It can also mean that the quoted expression requires non-standard interpretation. According to Wodak and Meyer (2001, 94) journalists use quotation marks in newspaper articles because they want to position their point of view or to keep a distance. Paltridge (2012, 32) stated in his book that quotation marks can suggest that according to the newspaper the word in quotation marks is somehow problematic. Another reason may be, as Van Dijk explained in his article (1993, 185) that the journalists are presupposing certain doubts. In the following examples it can be seen how often quotation marks were used in the analyzed headlines and lead parts:

[3] "Boyfriend" held after... (The Times)

- [4] ...to be raped as 'punishment' for...; ...sister 'sentenced' to be...; ...scandalous 'village justice'... (The Telegraph)
- [6] ...girls aged two and five 'gang-raped'... (The Telegraph)
- [8] ...victim 'sexually assaulted in hospital while receiving treatment for first attack' (The Telegraph)
- [9] ...has been declared "ghastlier" than ever... (The Telegraph)
- [10] The 'revenge rape' scandal...; ...have been 'sentenced to rape'... (The Telegraph)
- [11] ...survivor 'sexually assaulted again in hospital after going for treatment' (The Independent)
- [13] ...woman 'burned alive by relatives in honour killing'... (The Independent)
- [16] ...sisters 'gang-raped', killed... (The Guardian)
- [17] ...police 'gang-rape woman after she fails to pay bribe' (The Guardian)

The words or phrases that are quoted most often are connected to the sexual crimes done to Indian women, for instance *gang-rape* or *revenge rape*. The reason may be that the writer wants to keep certain distance from the expressions that they used. Nevertheless, in the headlines [8] and [11] where the whole clause is in quotation marks may be an example of expressing doubts on the writer's side.

5.4.2 Question of credibility of the powerless social groups

The reliability is closely connected to the power. The less power the participant has the less credible he/she seems to be. It was previously discussed that women and members of other ethnicity groups tend to lack of power. In the following examples, which were chosen from corpus material, it can be seen that statements of certain social group seem to be unreliable:

- [2] *An Indian housemaid working in Saudi Arabia* has claimed... (The Times)
- [8] *The 15-year-old* said... (The Telegraph)
- [11] *Teenager* allegedly raped... (The Independent)
- [17] *Woman* says ... (The Guardian)

The analysis shows that the writer expresses doubts whether the information is trustworthy or not. Furthermore, according to Fowler (1991, 106) young people, especially under-aged women, are at the bottom of the ladder of power. So in the example [8] and [11] the statement seems to be unreliable. The question of credibility is the type of stereotype which became almost common knowledge. With regards to this the readers are not sure if those women are telling the truth or if they just made that up.

In summary, the analysis of the frequency of the quotation marks and the question of credibility indicate that the headlines and lead parts of the analyzed articles are in some cases biased. The journalists tend to use quotation marks quite often when speaking about violent crimes done to women of Indian origin and the purpose may be to keep the distance or even to express certain doubts. With expression of doubts the analysis of credibility of the women who are members of other ethnicities is connected. The following table shows that centre-right oriented newspapers use again more of this discriminating feature than the centre-left oriented, as could be seen in the previous lexical and syntactical analyses.

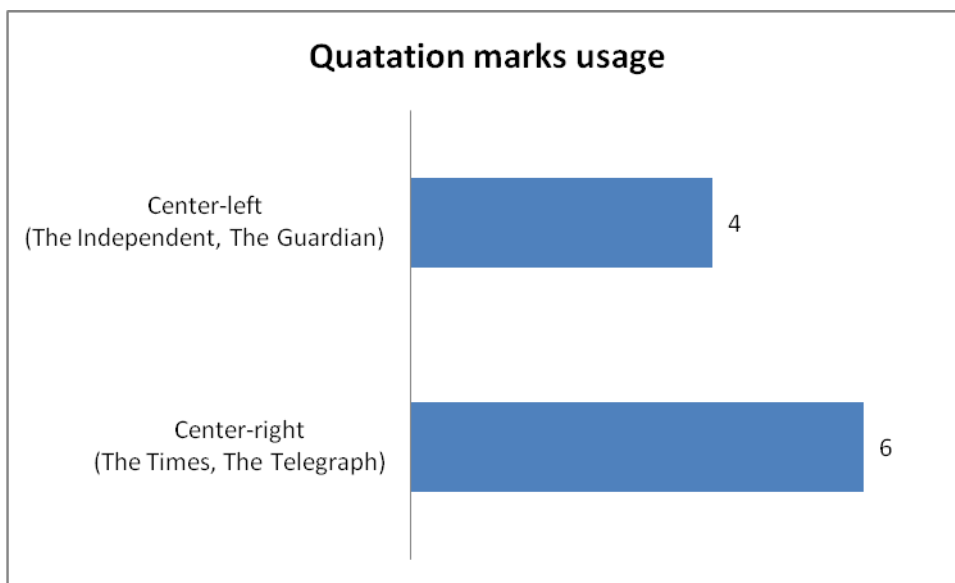


Figure 7: Frequency of quotation marks

To sum it up, it cannot be said that women of Indian origin are not trustworthy but the stereotypical knowledge spread among people is that especially young women are not a very credible source of information because they are almost at the bottom of the ladder of power as indicated by the research of this thesis and lexical and syntactical analysis of the British broadsheet headlines.

CONCLUSION

People tend to use certain language patterns based on their beliefs and ideology shared by the society. Different social groups are associated with different usage of vocabulary or sentence structures. Those stereotypical assumptions may be viewed as a tool of discrimination. The ideology is influenced by social groups which tend to be higher on the power ladder. On the other hand, in the society there are social groups which lack power and as a result they tend to be discriminated. One of the most powerful institutions in the society is the mass media. This work focused on press media as they also have a significant power to shape reader's view of the world and support various stereotypical assumptions.

In order to provide a complex overview, I chose to use critical discourse analysis which studies the power relations presented in the language. The analysis focused on headlines and lead parts of articles which were selected from four different British broadsheets.

The first analysis focused on the topics of the chosen articles. The result is disconcerting. 95 % of articles are about violent crimes and the most common topics are sexual attacks on women of Indian origin. After reading such articles, the ideological assumptions created by readers toward Indian minority must be negative ones.

The second part of analysis paid attention to of the choice of vocabulary in the headlines and lead parts. I also analyzed types of reference used to describe women of Indian origin. The analysis showed that in most articles the most important piece of information was the ethnicity of the women as it was fronted by the journalists by appearing in the headlines. The ethnicity obviously plays an important role for the British journalists and the British public. The analysis also shows foregrounding of youth of the women. The lexical analysis includes the study of used vocabulary. The result indicates that the choice of vocabulary is inappropriate especially due to the repetition of the word *rape*. The comparison of centre-right oriented newspaper and centre-left shows that The Times and The Telegraph (centre-right orientation) use inappropriate language and discriminatory patterns more frequently.

The syntactical part concerned with transitivity analysis. It proved that British newspapers usually use the passive voice in order to delete the agent. As a result the responsibility is hidden and the reader is left to blame whoever they want for the action based on his/her ideological beliefs. Due to the usage of this kind of passive voice women

of Indian origin are portrayed as powerless victims. The analysis indicates that centre-right oriented newspaper use this type of passivization more often than centre-left oriented one.

The last part of the analysis focused on pragmatics. Frequent use of quotation marks indicates that British journalists are aim to keep their distance from certain expressions or they are expressing doubts. They also express certain doubts about the trustworthiness of the women of Indian origin. Overall the pragmatic part determined that by expressing doubts the journalists are also expressing their view, therefore the newspapers depicts certain bias. This analysis proved that centre-right oriented newspaper brands tend to be more biased, when reporting on women of Indian origin, than centre-left oriented newspaper.

To conclude, the topics of the selected articles supported the stereotypical negative connotations toward ethnical and gender minorities. The structure of sentences supported the ideology that women are powerless. The pragmatics part also indicated certain journalistic bias. As a result the discourse analysis of the chosen headlines and lead parts proved that women of Indian origin are portrayed in the way which contributes to their discrimination.

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LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: National leading newspapers in United Kingdom.....	31
Figure 2: Frequency of the main topics of the articles.....	34
Figure 3: Frequency of reference to age/ethnicity.....	37
Figure 4: Frequency of stereotypical discrimination patterns presented in the articles	38
Figure 5: Frequency of transitivity of clauses.....	41
Figure 6: Frequency of passive voice that was used to delete the agent.....	41
Figure 7: Frequency of quotation marks	44

APPENDIX I.

The Times

- [1] Indian girl, 14, hangs herself after police ignore gang rape. An Indian teenager who was gang raped to avenge her mother's victory in a local election has killed herself after police failed to take action.
- [2] Maid's arm was chopped off after she complained. An Indian housemaid working in Saudi Arabia has claimed that her employer chopped off her arm after she complained to the authorities following weeks of abuse in the ultra-conservative Gulf kingdom.
- [3] "Boyfriend" held after girl, 15 is raped and set alight. Doctors in Delhi are fighting to save the life of a 15-year-old girl who was raped, doused in petrol and set alight.

The Telegraph

- [4] Indian sisters to be raped as 'punishment' for brother eloping. Two Indian sisters 'sentenced' to be raped and then paraded naked around the streets with their faces blackened in another example of Indian's scandalous 'village justice'.
- [5] Indian girl who wandered into Pakistan arrives home after 13 years. Deaf-mute woman apparently stranded in Pakistan for 13 years flown back to Indian – only to insist that family she identified in a photograph was not hers.
- [6] Indian girls aged two and five 'gang-raped' in New Delhi. A toddler and a five-year-old girl raped in separate attacks in New Delhi as activists warned of an "epidemic" of sexual violence.
- [7] Man arrested after girl raped and set alight in India. 15-year-old dies in a New Delhi hospital after telling police the suspect was stalking her for months.
- [8] Indian rape victim 'sexually assaulted in hospital while receiving treatment for first attack'. The 15-year-old said she was attacked again after being raped by a teenager in the impoverished state of Jharkhand.

[9] Three-year-old Indian daughter witnessed gang-raped of mother. India's latest shocking gang rape case has been declared "ghastlier" than ever the infamous 2012 Nirbhava case.

[10] The 'revenge rape' scandal shows that India's women are worse off than ever. Two sisters in rural India have been 'sentenced to rape' by unelected village elders, as punishment for their brother's 'dishonourable' marriage. Shahla Khan says it shines a light on how little has really changed for women there.

The Independent

[11] Indian rape survivor 'sexually assaulted again in hospital after going for treatment'. Teenager allegedly raped by security guard at the Mahatma Gandhi Medical College and Hospital in Jamshedpur City.

[12] Indian girl dies in hospital after being raped and set on fire. A man has been arrested for the rape and burning of the 15-year-old girl in the village of Tigri, a suburb of New Delhi.

[13] Indian woman 'burned alive by relatives in honour killing' eight years after eloping with lover. Rama Kunwar's homecoming proved fatal as she returned to her family after marrying a man from a different caste.

The Guardian

[14] Woman killed in Sydney park while on phone to husband in India. Prabha Arun Kumar, who was planning to move back to India from Australia within weeks, died after being stabbed in the neck in Parramatta Park.

[15] Girl, 15, raped and set on fire in India. Police arrest 20-year-old man after attack at girl's home near Delhi that left her in critical condition with severe burns.

[16] Two Indian sisters 'gang-raped', killed and hanged from a tree. Three men arrested, including two police officers, after teenagers' bodies are discovered in Uttar Pradesh.

- [17] Indian police 'gang-rape woman after she fails to pay bribe'. Woman says she was attacked at a police station in Uttar Pradesh after going there to seek her husband's release.
- [18] Indian girl dies after being raped and set on fire. Man charged with rape and murder as teenager, who sustained more than 90% burns in Monday's attack, dies in hospital.
- [19] Five women killed in India by villagers suspecting witchcraft. Around 50 villagers arrested over killing in Jharkhand where there are frequent attacks on women believed to cast curses.
- [20] Indian victim of gang rape dies in hospital in Singapore. 23-year-old's death follows mass protests in India calling for better policing and harsher punishments for rapists.