



Marriage perception towards Ria Ricis divorce news on @Lambe_turah

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Abstract. This research investigates public opinion on the divorce of social media celebrity Ria Ricis, utilizing Sara Mills' Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) framework to explore the discourse surrounding this event on social media. Ria Ricis, widely recognized for her YouTube presence, and her marriage to Teuku Ryan attracted significant attention, with their subsequent divorce sparking extensive reactions on social media, particularly on the popular Instagram account @lambe_turah. The study analyzes the subject-object positions in the discourse, revealing the power dynamics and ideological content embedded within the narrative. Drawing on previous studies that employed Mills' CDA framework, this research aims to uncover how public figures' personal lives are constructed and interpreted in social media discourse, and how these representations reflect broader societal attitudes towards celebrity relationships and authenticity on social media platforms.

Keywords: Marriage perception, Ria Ricis, Divorce, Sara Mills' CDA

INTRODUCTION

Marriage, divorce, and wedding ceremonies are fundamental social institutions that have been extensively studied and debated by scholars and experts. Marriage is defined as a legally or formally recognized union between two people, often involving a ceremony and legal obligations, which can vary across cultures and jurisdictions. It represents a social contract that establishes rights and responsibilities between individuals, their

families, and society at large. These rights and responsibilities can include property ownership, inheritance, taxation, and parental responsibilities, which are all critical elements that underline the significance of marriage in social and legal frameworks (Heffernan, 2021). Brimming with cultural significance and symbolic acts, wedding ceremonies are the public rituals that frequently precede the formation of a marriage. In many cases, they serve to strengthen social ties and validate the union in the eyes of the community. The diverse cultural, religious, and social practices observed worldwide are reflected in the wide range of traditions and customs related to weddings. Certain cultures, like the Japanese *san-san-kudo* and the Hindu *saptapadi*, have their own special rituals, whereas Western cultures may place more emphasis on the exchanging of vows and rings (Jordan, 2022). In contrast, a divorce is the formal dissolution of a marriage and can be started through a number of legal processes, such as an annulment or a no-fault divorce. An annulment deems a marriage void for reasons including fraud, coercion, or incapacity, as if it never legally existed. Couples can end their marriages without putting blame on each other through a no-fault divorce, frequently citing irreconcilable differences or an irreversible breakdown of the marriage (Tach & Eads, 2020). Rearranging legal obligations and responsibilities, such as property division, child custody, alimony, and child support, can be a complicated and multidimensional part of the divorce process. Celebrity marriages and divorces have long been an integral part of popular culture, capturing the public's attention. These events are often characterized by lavish ceremonies, extravagant celebrations, and a high degree of media coverage. Unfortunately, many high-profile marriages have ended in divorce, often sparking intense media scrutiny and public debate. For instance, celebrity couples like Britney Spears and Kevin Federline, Jennifer Lopez and Marc Anthony, and even the royal couple, Prince Charles and Princess Diana, have all experienced marital breakdowns. These high-profile divorces are not just personal matters; they become public spectacles that are dissected and discussed in minute detail by both the media and the public. The widespread coverage of these divorces can significantly influence public perception of marriage and relationships. When celebrities, who are often seen as role models or symbols of success, experience marital issues, it can lead to a more cynical view of the institution of marriage. People may begin to question the feasibility of lifelong commitment, especially when they see even the seemingly perfect couples fall apart. Furthermore, the sensationalism surrounding these divorces often highlights negative aspects of relationships, such as infidelity, irreconcilable differences, and the emotional and financial toll of separation. For this research, we are going to discuss public opinion on a famous person's divorce, Ria Ricis. The social media celebrity Ria Ricis, born Ria Yunita, gained fame through her engaging presence on various social platforms, especially on YouTube, where she amassed a large following drawn in by her humor and lifestyle content. Her marriage to Teuku Ryan who is also a public figure initially drew significant attention and admiration. However, their relationship, like many public figures', became a subject of intense scrutiny. People in social media reacted strongly when they discovered the divorce of Ria Ricis and Teuku Ryan, especially on the popular Instagram account @lambe_turah, which is well-known for sharing gossip regarding celebrities and news quickly. The post garnered considerable engagement, with a mix of supportive messages and critical comments speculating on the reasons behind their separation, reflecting broader societal attitudes towards celebrity relationships and the perceived authenticity of social media personas.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Sara Mills Critical Discourse Analysis

Critical discourse Analysis (CDA) is a conceptual basis and research movement that investigates how language functions as a cultural instrument to mediate power and privilege relationships in social interactions, institutions, and bodies of knowledge (Gu & Catalano, 2022). According to Wodak and Meyer (2001), Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) is particularly concerned with the relationship between language and power. The term CDA now refers specifically to the critical linguistic approach of scholars who consider the larger discursive unit of text as the fundamental unit of communication. Fairclough (2013) describes CDA as part of a comprehensive, multidisciplinary, and interdisciplinary analysis of the connections between disharmony and other elements of social phenomena. CDA aims to reveal the social interests embedded within a text by analyzing it in the context of social phenomena.

Sara Mills developed a method to analyze how participants appear in discourse, determining who becomes the subject and who becomes the object of the narrative. This approach helps to uncover the construction and detailed meaning within the discourse. Mills also examines how writers and readers are portrayed and how readers identify and position themselves within the discourse, influencing how the discourse is interpreted (Ulfa et al, 2024). The narrative style and the positions depicted in the discourse can legitimize one group while delegitimizing another.

Mills' framework for critical discourse analysis is divided into three levels: (1) the word level, which addresses sexism in language and meaning; (2) the phrase/sentence level, which involves naming, harassment of women, mercy, stunting, and euphemism; and (3) the discourse level, which considers characters, roles, fragmentation, vocalization, and schemata. Subject-object positions carry ideological content, shaping the narrative by presenting events or discourses from the writer's perspective, thus influencing the reader's interpretation. The subject of representation can reshape facts and interpret actions to convey the author's intended meaning to the audience. Since defining an event is inherently subjective, the chosen perspective and point of view will also have a significant impact on the narrative.

Yuniarsih, et al. (2023) researched "The Multifaceted Perspectives of The Domestic Violence Case of Rizky Billar Towards Lesti Kejora: Sara Mills Critical Discourse Analysis". The study aims to highlight feminist perspectives in the coverage, focusing on subject-object positions, their implications, and reader-writer dynamics. The findings reveal ideological and legal perspectives from legal experts on domestic violence. The discourse shows a feminist stance favoring women, led by women's rights legal experts, but the writers appear to sympathize with Billar, likely leading to his release. This portrayal marginalizes Lesti, reconstructing facts to fit specific intentions and varying subject-object positions in different contexts.

Moreover, Asheva and Tasyarasita (2022) in their research, titled "Case Of Vengeful Woman in News Text: Sara Mills' Critical Discourse Analysis", aims to investigate the position of the subject, object, and reader, also identifying the ideology of the author on the news article. The data source of the research in the form of vocabularies, phrases, or sentences reflected Sara Mills' model in a news text. The findings of the research show that the subject position on the news text mostly used noun phrase to refer to the actor. Moreover, for the object position, the author positioned Nani, the actor, as the object. Based on the reader's position, the use of third person pronoun is majorly used in order to deliver the storyline objectively.

Additionally, Hartutik and Sayuti (2023) in their research, “Sexual Harassment in News Gender Violence in Tempo.co Media and Newsroom Narratives (Sara Mills Critical Discourse Analysis)”, take a qualitative approach with the critical discourse analysis method of Sara Mills’ model. The object of this study is the construction of language that gives rise to the position of women in news texts. The results of this study are the position of subject-object and writer-reader in the news of information media Tempo.co and Narasi Newsroom.

Given the explanations above, it is interesting to analyze this topic as there are not many studies in the field of online news that are comparable to this one. This research focuses on the netizens marriage perception towards Ria Ricis's divorce and how the representation of marriage is on Lambe Turah's post about Ria Ricis's divorce. Using Sara Mills CDA, this research will analyze the three levels mentioned above, and how those findings indicate the objectives of this research.

METHOD

This research uses a descriptive qualitative method through the negative comment about Ria Ricis’s divorce on social media Instagram by adapting Sara Mills’ critical discourse analysis theory. According to Sugiyono (2019), qualitative research is research used to examine the conditions of natural objects and the data obtained tends to be qualitative data with qualitative data analysis techniques. Critical discourse analysis examines the power dynamics in relationships and the ways in which speech and text are created, influenced by linguistic and cultural theories. These methods offer users more intricate models of discourse functions and effects (Hartutik, 2023 as cited in Mills, 2005). The subject-object concept examines how events are described and how the parties involved are positioned in the text. “Position” refers to identifying who are the active subjects - those who define and tell the story and who are the passive objects, those who are described and defined by others. Mills also focuses on the role of the reader, seeing the text as a product of the interaction between author and reader.

The objectives of the research are to investigate the position of the object, subject and reader on the Instagram comment, also to analyze how the divorce of a public figure affects people’s views on marriage. The data collection technique involved several steps. First, the researcher searched for Ria Ricis’ divorce content on Lambe Turah's Instagram account and the associated comments. Second, these comments were classified based on the subject-object position. Third, the writer-reader positions were identified. Finally, the collected data was analyzed using an adaptation of Sara Mills’ critical discourse theory model to examine how the divorce of a public figure influences public perceptions of marriage. The position of the subject is the Lambe Turah Instagram account. The position of the object is the post. The position of the reader would be the netizen who posted comments under the post, and the interpreters are the researchers. The research data comprises the comments extracted from Lambe Turah’s Instagram posts discussing the divorce of Ria Ricis and Teuku Ryan. Each comment will be analyzed by the researcher, focusing on individual words, phrases, and overall discourse. These comments will then be categorized based on the specific discourse criteria they align with.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Based on search results, throughout the range of comments, raw data for initial reduction was found on Lambe Turah’s Instagram post about Ria Ricis’ divorce news. Furthermore, remarkable reduction and grouping are carried out to narrow down the findings to find

comments under marriage discourse. Data are located in the comments under the post. This research only focuses on marriage perceptions. The data is reviewed through the following discussions:

A. About Lambe Turah

Lambe Turah can be considered as the pioneering gossip account on Instagram, gaining widespread popularity since 2015. The Instagram profile associated with 'Lambe Turah' has amassed a substantial following, currently standing at 12.1 million users, underscoring its significant influence. This surge in popularity can be attributed to its rapid dissemination of the latest celebrity news and societal issues in Indonesia, always accompanied by substantiating evidence. With such a considerable audience, 'Lambe Turah' stands out as Indonesia's foremost platform for gossip. The profile picture featuring vivid red lips and the moniker 'Lambe Turah,' loosely translated as someone who engages in extensive or indiscreet gossip, clearly delineates its role as a dedicated outlet for sharing timely updates on prominent personalities. Furthermore, with its tagline that states that gossips are delayed facts, it only reinforces the accounts image as a frightening gossip account for the people they talk about. In one of its posts detailing the divorce proceedings involving YouTubers Ria Ricis and Teuku Ryan, *Lambe Turah* highlighted a case that has garnered considerable public attention due to the reasons cited for their separation. The post unequivocally confirmed Ria Ricis' definitive split from Teuku Ryan, substantiating this assertion with a video interview sourced from the court, thus affirming the accuracy of the reported news. Since the post was uploaded, it has garnered 144,978 likes and received 3,503 comments. The account owner found it necessary to restrict comments on the post due to the strong engagement from both followers and haters of the two couples involved.



Figure 1 *Lambe Turah's* Instagram Post about the divorce news of Ria Ricis.

In one of its recent posts, *Lambe Turah* reported on the high-profile divorce case involving YouTubers Ria Ricis and Teuku Ryan, a topic that has sparked widespread discussion due to the reasons cited for their separation. The headline of the post unequivocally confirms Ria Ricis' official separation from Teuku Ryan, a fact substantiated further by *Lambe Turah* through the inclusion of a video interview from the court validating the authenticity of the news. This coverage has significantly contributed to the public's understanding and interest in the circumstances surrounding their divorce. In writing captions about hot gossip, *lambe turah* avoids writing something bad to convey to the public, he prefers to be neutral but leads the readers' wild opinions. But sometimes it does not convey the true meaning, making readers have to think for themselves what the sentence means. In this case, the user is just saying *sudah ketok palu* which literally

translates “has already knocked” or in interpretation, “has already officially approved by law authority”. This is related to the headline described in the post stating *tok! Ria Ricis dan Teuku Ryan resmi bercerai*, which means their marital status has been legalized as a divorced couple.

B. The Representation of Marriage toward Ria Ricis Divorce News

The comments mainly focused on two main themes regarding representations of marriage: the superficiality of publicized marriages and the importance of genuine commitment and maturity. Many commenters criticized marriages that seem to be driven by external factors such as social media fame, content creation, or showing off wealth. They argue that such marriages, which lack genuine commitment and depth, are prone to failure, as is shown by Ria Ricis' highly publicized divorce. This critique reflects a broader skepticism towards idealized and lavish portrayals of marriage and relationships in the public eye, suggesting that these superficial aspects do not guarantee long-term happiness or success in marriage. Here is some data collected:

Data 1

@emburayayu85 said in their comment:

“Berarti nikahnya kontenn doank 😏😏😏”

(That means the marriage was just for content)

The interpretation of the comment suggests that the couple’s marriage appeared to be prioritized primarily for the purpose of generating content. The commenter used the word *nikah* (marriage) as a noun that refers to the couple’s wedding. The comment expressed that the couple looks like they created the lavish wedding just to create content as a content creator and get media attention.

Data 2

@suwasriiskandar said in their comment:

“Pesta pernikahan besar-besaran dengan biaya begitu besar. Pesta di Jakarta juga di Aceh menghabiskan beratus-beratus juta... Ternyata hanya bertahan beberapa tahun saja. Pelajaran bagi yg belum nikah, pesta sederhana saja, tapi perkawinan bisa bertahan seumur hidup, langgeng Dunia wal akhirat. Perlu perjuangan dan pengorbanan untuk mempertahankan. 🙏❤️”

(Massive wedding parties with huge expenses. The party in Jakarta and also in Aceh spent hundreds of millions... It turned out to last only a few years. Lessons for those who are not yet married, just have a simple party, and the marriage can last a lifetime, lasting the world and the hereafter. It takes struggle and sacrifice to maintain.)

The direct interpretation from this comment is leading a discourse about how a lavish wedding won’t last a lifetime and you will feel the struggle and sacrifice with a simple wedding. In the sentence, the commenter uses the word *nikah* (get married) with *belum*-not yet as an adverbial phrase. This comment not only expressed their condemnation of the public figures in the post but also gave a piece of advice to the reader to get married with a simple but meaningful wedding that could last a lifetime.

Data 3

@sopyan_muchamad said in their comment:

“Perkawinan demi konten ...pernikahan pake mainan”

(Marriage for the sake of content... messing around with marriage)

This comment is leading a discourse on the trivialization of marriage when it is done for the purpose of creating content, criticizing the superficial treatment of marriage, suggesting that it is being treated as a mere game or toy. In the sentence, the commenter

uses the word *mainan* (plaything) that refers to the lack of seriousness in their marriage. The comment expresses disapproval of treating marriage as a means to make content for social media or other public platforms. By using phrases like *perkawinan demi konten* (marriage for the sake of content) and *pernikahan pake mainan* (messing around with marriage), the commenter highlights a critical view of how some people may prioritize public perception and entertainment value over the sanctity and seriousness of the marital relationship.

Data 4

@dian.temie said in their comment :

“Wk wk wk padahal modal nikahnya banyak dan terkenal ke pelosok Indonesia.

Ternyata nyarii sensasi saja wk wk wk.”

(LOL even though it has a lot of marriage capital and is famous throughout Indonesia. It turns out just looking for a sensation LOL)

The commenter uses “*wkwk*” (Laughing Out Loud) as an expression of amusement or disbelief. The comment mocks or expresses amusement at someone who, despite having social status and fame, is perceived to be seeking sensation or attention. The comment engages with themes of fame and social status in Indonesia

Instead, another important theme was the emphasis on genuine commitment, maturity, and careful consideration before entering into marriage. Observers advised against rushing into marriage and highlighted the need for couples to prioritize each other and maintain a balanced and resilient relationship. They advocate simple and meaningful marriages rather than lavish ones and emphasize that marriage requires effort, sacrifice and resilience. This perspective underscores the belief that true and lasting marriages are built on a foundation of mutual respect, understanding, and a realistic approach to the challenges of married life, rather than on the superficial trappings often showcased in publicized weddings.

CONCLUSION

This study aimed to analyze public perceptions of the divorce of social media celebrities Ria Ricis and Teuku Ryan using Sara Mills' Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) framework. By examining negative comments on the popular Instagram account Lambe Turah, the research explored the subject-object and writer-reader positions to understand how public discourse shapes views on marriage and divorce.

Lambe Turah, a significant player in Indonesian social media, has a substantial influence with its 12.1 million followers and timely dissemination of celebrity news. The account's neutral yet provocative style encourages diverse interpretations from its audience. In the case of Ria Ricis and Teuku Ryan's divorce, Lambe Turah's post garnered significant engagement, with 144,978 likes and 3,503 comments, necessitating comment restrictions due to intense interaction.

The analysis revealed that Lambe Turah, as the subject, presents divorce news in a manner that incites active reader engagement. The post about the divorce, serving as the object, triggered a range of reactions from netizens, who became readers and interpreters of the content. The comments reflected various perspectives, from supportive to critical, highlighting societal attitudes towards celebrity relationships and the authenticity of social media personas.

The findings underscore the power dynamics in online discourse, where influential platforms like Lambe Turah shape public perception and discourse on personal matters

of public figures. The study concludes that the representation of celebrity divorces in social media discourse can significantly influence public views on marriage, often portraying it in a more cynical light due to the sensationalism and scrutiny surrounding high-profile separations.

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