

A FEMINIST STYLISTIC AND FRAMING THEORY EXPLORATION OF SELECTED  
NEWS REPORTS ON INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE IN *THE NAMIBIAN* NEWSPAPER  
(2019-2020)

A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF  
THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF

MASTER OF ARTS IN ENGLISH

OF

THE UNIVERSITY OF NAMIBIA

BY

SAARAH TALENI NAMANDJE

200211951

October 2022

MAIN SUPERVISOR: Professor Jairos Kangira (UNAM)

## **ABSTRACT**

In Namibia, ‘intimate partner violence’ remains a huge concern. A variety of sources may have presented ‘intimate partner violence’ as a phenomenon but not many seem to have touched on the writing style perpetuating and presenting the events. This study aimed at exploring, examining and analysing the language usage by *The Namibian* male and female writers when reporting on ‘intimate partner violence’. The study intended to reveal the crucial role that news media houses play in the local community. Amongst the frequently reported headlines covered in *The Namibian* newspaper and creating a captivating sensation is the topic of ‘intimate partner violence’. Although either gender can commit violence in the case of ‘intimate partnership, the spectacle creates curiosity and interest to the public especially when the violent tendency seems subjected mostly towards one specific gender. In Namibia’s case, and based on the news reports, it appears that the male gender dominates the category of perpetrators. This qualitative study analysed the discourse of news reports on ‘intimate partner violence’ published in *The Namibian* newspaper between 2019 and 2020. Data of this study was analysed using relevant scholars’ analysis as established through desktop study. The researcher examined the news texts for stylistic features at the word, phrasal and sentence levels in order to construe textual meaning, application of sexism, assigning blame and justification of the crime. The findings were interpreted through the lenses of the Framing and Feminist Stylistic Theories. The study’s major findings reveal that the intimate partner violence phenomenon was nonchalantly presented. The victims’ voices were mostly silent whereas the perpetrators were actively presented. The study concluded that most news reports seemed commercially packaged and lacked enlightenment. The study strongly recommends further research in media discourses and framing with special focus to intimate partner violence in Namibia.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I would like to thank God Almighty the Creator who created me. I pay tribute to my supervisor Prof. Jairos Kangira for his patience and wisdom, which assisted me to complete this thesis. I would also like to acknowledge all my lecturers, particularly Dr Collin Sabao and Dr Nelson Mlambo, for all the outstanding support that they rendered to me during the course of this study. I would like to thank my sister Sharon Ndjumbwa Nekwaya for being God-sent and my friends Mr Chenjerai Mabhiza, Ms Jacobina Mwiiyale, Mr Nadhipite Peter Kalili, Dr Selma Ilonga, Ms Frieda Henock and Mrs Selma N. Fortonato, for the support they gave me from the initial to the final stages of this study.

## **DEDICATION**

This thesis is dedicated to my father, Mr Ismael Nekwaya who was a school principal and a qualified English teacher for several years. He was the main foundation of my love for languages particularly the English language. I also dedicate this thesis to my mother Mrs Rachel Nekwaya who was my teacher in Health Education in primary school, a school principal and a naturally born psychologist. She taught me perseverance and was my spiritual advisor, my shield and my friend. This is a symbol of my gratitude towards my awesome A-class upbringing, culture, education, peace of mind and the love that my parents embroidered in my heart. I am grateful for the seed of independence and gratitude that they planted in me as the oldest of my siblings. I am so wealthy with wisdom and abundant skills because of my wonderful parents. May the Almighty bless their souls!

## **DECLARATIONS**

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**DATE**

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# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Introduction

News writers serve a crucial global role by providing and updating the world with latest information on a variety of spheres. In Namibia, it seems apparent that news writers not only serve the purpose of news delivery but may as well be viewed as the link between events and the community. Linking the readers to the news stories can be done through a process of narrating how the reported events unfolded, thus a careful selection of words may be essential.

Observably, news report writing is amongst the careers that the media houses in Namibia cater for. On the other hand, academic institutions in Namibia such as the University of Namibia, contribute to career developments by availing media studies as one of the courses on the university's curriculum. This may as well indicate that news writers are professionally trained to construct, edit and publish news reports. It may additionally be anticipated that news reporters, via the news packaging process, may prepare and present their reports consciously.

*The Namibian* newspaper is considered as one of the oldest newspapers in the country and is perceivably the most commonly read newspaper as well. This newspaper presents news reports on different, political, religious, educational and social events. Amongst the frequently reported headlines covered in *The Namibian* newspaper and creating a captivating sensation is the topic of 'intimate partner violence'. Although either partner, regardless of their gender, can commit violence in the case of 'intimate partnership', the spectacle creates curiosity and interest to the

public especially when the violent tendency seems to be subjected mostly towards one specific gender.

In Namibia's case, and based on the news reports, it appears that the male gender tends to dominate the category of perpetrators. Worth noting is the slogan in the Media Houses such as *The Namibian* which indicates that the newspaper intends to tell and present the news events accurately. However, when it comes to reporting on sensitive events such as 'intimate partner violence', it is the receivers of such news reports, such as the readers, whose interpretations most deserve attention. This study aimed at exploring, examining and analysing the English language usage by *The Namibian* male and female writers when reporting on 'intimate partner violence'. The study also intended to reveal the crucial role that news media houses play in the local community. This study's aims and objectives were to examine the presentation of victims and perpetrators of 'intimate partner violence' and to discover the frames and linguistic devices employed in news reports by news writers in Namibia particularly when reporting on 'intimate partner violence'.

In this introductory chapter, the researcher introduces the study by presenting the background of the study, the statement of the problem, research questions, significance of the study, limitations of the study, definition of terms used in the study and the organisation of the study.

## 1.2 Background of the study

The news and how it is reported (in our case) ‘framed’, affects and influences people and world events. To date, Namibia is amongst those countries in the world with a population of less than 3 million; thus, insinuating the notion that, particularly in the area of social ills, a low crime rate would be expected. The latter according to Alweendo *et al.* (2018) is however far from the reality as reports in Namibia on ‘intimate partner violence’ have over the years been escalating. Meanwhile, according to WHO (2013), the Namibian government has shown efforts towards curbing ‘intimate partner violence’ via intervention. However, Jewkes (2002) suggests that understanding the causes of ‘intimate partner violence’ is substantially more difficult than studying a disease. Jewkes (2002) further explicates that diseases usually have a biological basis and occur within a social context, but ‘intimate partner violence’ is entirely a product of its social context. This, therefore, seems to infer that all aspects of socialisation including certain newspaper contents could be considered by exploring and assessing the causes of ‘intimate partner violence’ and perhaps discovering help towards averting this phenomenon.

In Namibia, newspapers such as *The Namibian* newspaper remains easily accessible and reliable for daily news. This newspaper is currently available online and in print. Meanwhile, Media Houses are responsible for collecting, filtering and presenting news events such as those of intimate partner violence. The packaging process remains crucial. Framing news, which involves defining issues, may contribute to shaping of social level processes like socialisation, decision-making, and collective actions (De Vrees, 2005; Entman, 1993).

Thus, how news reports are prepared and presented to the readers may play a vital role in the reader's interpretation. Alweendo *et al.* (2018) submit that 'intimate partner violence' reports in Namibia turned the perception of violence mainly against women into a different spectacle. Ardèvol-Abreu (2015) observes that news writers are guided by the Framing theory. Furthermore, Entman's (1993) Framing Theory argues for a unified theory of framing capable of explaining how news frames are constructed. Framing news also involves word choices, gender presentation etc.

On the other hand, accounting for the way in which gender concerns are linguistically encoded in texts is the feminist stylistic theory. According to Mills (1995), the feminist stylistic theory promotes equal representation of both genders. The theory furthermore aims at drawing attention to and changing the way gender concerns are presented in texts (Mills, 1995). The two theories' contents consequently enable any news report to be analysed for embedded frames as well as for gender representations. The same can be said of news reports on intimate partner violence in *The Namibian* newspapers. This study, through the lenses of Feminist stylistics, attempted to analyse the discourse of news reports on 'intimate partner violence' published in *The Namibian* newspaper between 2019 and 2020.

### **1.3 Statement of the problem**

News writing in general presents a discourse of its own. News report writing constitutes a discourse which may constitute certain stylistic devices. Apart from the basic function of news report writing, which is to present news events, the stylistic devices may be employed to attract, draw in and captivate the reader. Subsequently, stylistics as a language discipline provides a

platform for different discourses to be analysed. News reports on ‘intimate partner violence’ have been on the trot in *The Namibian* newspaper. In Namibia, ‘intimate partner violence’ remains a huge concern. Jewkes (2002) states that although a consensus has emerged on the need to explore male and female factors and aspects of the dynamics of relationships, this has been done in very few studies.

Furthermore, Jewkes (2002) submits that many researchers have discussed ‘intimate partner violence’ as a learned social behaviour for both men and women but identifying the causes is difficult. On the other hand, Wang (2018) warns that media influence, in addition to attitude and sensitivities, is one of the prominent predictors of ‘intimate partner violence’. Considerably, Media Houses such as *The Namibian* can thus be considered as agents of information. Therefore, news reports in *The Namibian* may then be the direct connection between the reported events such as ‘intimate partner violence’ and its reading community. It appears that in the news reports, ‘intimate partner violence’ has been casually presented as a trend and not as a ‘wonder’, that requires urgent community engagement. When reading the news reports, one can easily realise that the ‘intimate partner violence’ catastrophe in Namibia is not magnified. The manner in which the news reports are written does not seem linguistically persuasive enough to motivate the reader towards engaging the tragedy, and exploring factors leading to this tragedy. A variety of sources may have presented ‘intimate partner violence’ as a phenomenon but not many seem to have touched on the writing style perpetuating and presenting the events. This study examined the discourse employed in news reports on ‘intimate partner violence’ in *The Namibian* Newspaper through the lenses of the Feminist stylistic theory.

## **1.4 Research questions**

This study sought to answer the following questions:

- 1.4.1 How are the news reports on ‘intimate partner violence’ framed and what influences these frames?
- 1.4.2 What stylistic devices do journalists use when constructing newspaper reports on ‘intimate partner violence?’
- 1.4.3 How do journalists present the different victims and perpetrators of intimate partner violence?

## **1.5 Significance of the study**

It is envisaged that the proposed study may be amongst the first (if not the first) to analyse ‘intimate partner violence’ reports in Namibia using the Feminist Stylistics and Framing Theory frameworks. This study is an exploration and examination of the instrumental role played by newspapers in framing and presenting news. The study thus contributes towards discourses on gender, especially in the area of gender representation discourse. Chitando (2011) investigated the representation of women by male authors.

Other sources such as Shah *et al.* (2014) deals with the representation of women by women through a feminist stylistics analysis. This paper attempted to analyse the representation of females that were violently victimised by their ‘male intimate partners’ authored by all genders in Namibia. Furthermore, Shah *et al.* (2014) state that Stylistics investigation combined with the Feminist

theory is proven to be extremely useful in offering a new perspective for the interpretation of underlying feminist themes in literary works.

### **1.6 Limitations of the study**

The proposed study is limited to the exploration of newspaper reports published by *The Namibian* newspaper on female victims allegedly murdered or injured by their male intimate partners during or after an intimate relationship. The research considers news reports by journalists of both genders and published between January 2019 and December 2020. It was a challenge for the researcher to find a sizable number of newspaper reports on the defined categories Online due to network issues as well as website technical errors. It was equally a challenge for researcher to ensure that all articles explored were published strictly within the stipulated time-period as most news reports were downloaded from the internet. Other natural challenges such as lack of cash also prevented the researcher from physically accessing the newspaper reports on time.

### **1.7 Delimitation of the study**

This study only targeted newspaper reports covering ‘intimate partner violence’, published in Namibia from January 2019 to December 2020 from *The Namibian* newspaper.

### **1.8. Definition of Terms**

**Intimate partner violence:** A situation where someone is attacked and hurt by their husband, wife, girlfriend or boyfriend.

**Frames:** The formats, categories and criteria acting as selective filters formal contexts and models of informational organisation in the reporting of current events.

**Framing:** The placing of events (such as those being reported within a new story) within a particular explanatory narrative or discourse.

**Gender:** A group of people in a society who shares particular qualities or ways of behaving, which that society associates with being male, female or another identity.

## **1.9 Organisation of the study**

This study is made up of five chapters. Chapter 1 is the introduction of the study which is divided into, the background of the study, statement of the problem, significance of the study, limitations of the study, delimitation of the study and definition of terms used in the study. Chapter 2 is a discussion of the theoretical framework and the selected theories which serve as the lenses through which the study was analysed. Related literature divided into subtopics is also discussed under this chapter. Chapter 3 explains the research methodology employed for the study. Thereafter, Chapter 4 analyses and discusses the news reports writing style on ‘intimate partner violence’ by Namibian male and female authors published in *The Namibian* newspaper. Finally, Chapter 5 provides the conclusion as well as the recommendations informed by the study.

### **1.9 Chapter summary**

This chapter presented the introduction, background of the study, statement of the problem, research questions, significance, delimitation and limitations of the study. The next chapter consists of a review of literature related to ‘intimate partner violence’, feminist stylistics theory,

creating frames and framing of news as well as news report writing in Namibia. Chapter Two thus helps to share a rich insight on findings from some of the literature related to the topic under study. This helped to reveal what other researchers prior to this study discovered in this area of study.

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

#### **2.1 Introduction**

This chapter reviews related literature and discusses the theoretical frameworks within which the research topic “A Feminist Stylistic and Framing Theory exploration of selected news reports on intimate partner violence in *The Namibian* newspaper (2019-2020)” is analysed.

This review of relevant literature is divided into subtopics, beginning with the introductory part, followed by the definition of the phrase “intimate partner violence” and a discussion on news framing and reporting as well as a discussion on the theoretical frameworks that justifies why the two selected theoretical frameworks are most suitable for this study.

The subtopics further discuss the major themes analysed in this study. The subtopics which include a review of related literature, Namibian culture, Gender, intimate partnership, newspaper and information delivery, creating news frames, news reports on sensitive issues, as well as ‘intimate partner violence’ are discussed in view of contributions made by selected scholars. The discussion

on these subtopics is vital for this study, as it assists in the comprehension and analysis of the news reports on ‘intimate partner violence.’

Due to the historic nature of some of the identified subtopics as well as the limited review on some literary aspects, reference to scholars such as Mills (1995), Goffman (1974) and Entman, (1993 & 2007) have been made.

## **2.2. Theoretical framework**

This study employs two theories, namely the Feminist Stylistics (Mills, 1995) and the Framing Theory (Entman, 1993; Entman, 2007). The Framing theory, first proposed by Goffman (1974) as Frame Analysis, focuses on how media draws the public’s attention to specific news topics and elaborates on the way news is presented. Entman (1993) acknowledges that various theories might be necessary to understand the power of frames in texts. The eclectic use of theory and inconsistent definitions of key terms, however, have inhibited a “general statement of framing theory” and have led to a “fractured paradigm” of framing research (Entman, 1993, p. 51). Additionally, the Framing theory defines framing as the process of discarding a few elements of perceived reality and assembling a narrative that highlights connections to promote a particular interpretation (Entman, 2007). Goffman (1974) describes a 'frame' as definitions of the situation that are constructed in accordance with the principles of organization which govern events especially social ones and our subjective involvement in them. The framing theory may then be viewed as a guideline to journalists on how to best capture their readers’ attention, pass on a message and properly communicate.

On the other hand, Feminist Stylistics (Mills, 1995) has its roots in the theories and practices of feminist criticism and derives from the larger feminist movement which advocates the social, political and economic equality between the sexes. The theory examines how language usage promotes or disparages inequalities among sexes/genders. Furthermore, Mills is of the view that Feminist stylistics focuses on the writer, reader and the text, from a word and sentence level. The model of analysis proposed by feminist stylistics takes two major aspects into account, namely the production and the reception of the text. The former is dependent upon discourse constraints, socio-historical factors, textual antecedents, literary conventions and affiliations with regards to gender, race, class, nation, including publishers and advertising.

This theory is suitable for this study since one of the objectives of the study is to explore the published news reports. Shah, et al. (2014) observe that many researchers have conducted research on the representation of women mostly from the perspective of male authors and that it is a commonly held view that male authors portray a negative and distorted image of women. A variety of other scholars has studied the presentation of the female gender. However, this study focuses on the representation of both genders in news reports by both male and female writers. According to Mills (1995), the Feminist Stylistics theory is suitable for this type of study since it places more focus on the reader and the incorporation of socio-historical constraints. This type of analysis helps to explain, for example, why it is that women's writings are read in a certain way, why some women writers use similar language and why certain features of a text produce a gendered address to the reader.

### **2.3. Review of relevant literature**

The modern world's economic, social, religious and political characteristics are built on the foundation provided by print (Finnegan, 1988). Although each reader may interpret newspaper reports uniquely, Spark and Harris (2011) emphasise that “words can capture a situation” (p. 63). Thus, words may add emphasis on the importance of diction when preparing and presenting newspaper reports. To probe the writing styles of journalists in Namibia, there are theories that deal with language analysis such as the Feminist Stylistics theory (Mills, 1995) which questions the language use and the style of writing in literary and non-literary texts. Sabao (2019) defines stylistics as the study of language specialisms in a variety of occupational, social and cultural contexts.

Furthermore, Sabao (2019) indicates that discourse analysis, which is part of stylistics, aims to study and analyse the use of discourse/language in at least one of the three following ways: language beyond the level of a sentence, language behaviours linked to social practices and language as a system of thought. This seems to indicate that all discourses, including that of the newspaper writing, can equally be studied and analysed. Shah *et al.* (2014) also report that stylistics analysis as a course of linguistic science, on the one hand, insists on its inquiry relating to styles of texts, on the other hand, it absorbs latest ideas and theories to realise its field so that it can offer a much wider means to appreciate works. Mills (1995), Simpson (1942), Kolodny (1975) and Burton (1982) are some of the important scholars in the area of Feminist Stylistics. This study however, focuses on the Feminist Stylistics theory of Mills (1995).

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO) (2013), violence against women is a global phenomenon and in Africa, South Africa tops the profile for ‘intimate partner’ related killings. Geographically located in South-West of Africa, Namibia has also witnessed a steady increase in ‘intimate partner violence’ (Mufune & Van Rooi, 2013). On the issue of gender-based violence as an umbrella for ‘intimate partner violence’, Standish (2014) maintains that since the majority of gender violence towards females occur in their homes, the challenge thus is for practitioners, advocates and activists to create and support intervention and prevention strategies that not only address individual experiences of violence but also change the social structures that permit such violence. Thus, other than using words as a mere tool for reporting events as stories, newspapers as a source of information can also be used as a weapon. According to Standish (2014), combating gender-based violence include a variety of approaches. Varieties of scholars have shared different approaches such as, creating venues where victims can flee and creating legal structures. However, what all of these approaches share in common is awareness that the experience of gender violence is not solely an isolated expression of aggression that affects individuals but, rather, a socially constructed behaviour that contributes to human insecurity in particular and results in vulnerabilities that affect all members of society (Standish, 2014). Through an application or alteration of language use, news reports can be used to educate and inform the readers about the negativity, societal disruption and threats that violence pose to the peace, stability, safety, health and growth of any society.

### 2.3.1 Namibian culture

Culture can be defined in a variety of ways depending on the geographical location of the one defining it. According to Merry (2006), culture is conceptualised in quite different and sometimes

contradictory ways in this process. Each culture may consist of different rules and regulations that stipulate what is considered acceptable and what is not. According to Lull (1995), rules are explicit and implicit codes of conduct used to make sense, make decisions, and act sometimes in accord with the prescriptions of institutional rule makers (p. 48).

These rules in some societies form the basis for what may be considered wrong and right during an intimate relationship. However, it is not evident that the same rules may be applied to the different genders equally. Lull (1995) further explains that rules help build and perpetuate the fundamental themes, trajectories, and tones of our social worlds. According to Lull (1995), human beings are socialised not simply by ideas, but ideas are structured, related to authority and pertinent to their needs and interests.

Intimate partner violence being a social issue may require social research, intervention and behavioural alteration remedies, which may differ from society to society because of the cultural differences. Merry (2006) further stipulates that essentialised ideas of culture inhibit recognition of the potential contributions of local cultural practices and provide justifications for groups to resist these changes. This insinuates that in order to prevent and reduce cultural ills such as intimate partner violence, the concerned society may need a strategy that befits its conceptual culture. Lull (1995) adds that despite the fact that rules are pervasive and influential, they are not informal, permanent or universal.

However, the above statement may contribute to the notion that each individual relationship can take its own individual shape as situations may change and rules may differ as time passes. Nonetheless, pertaining to relationships that may transform into an intimate partnership, according to scholars such as (Harper *et al.*, 2004; Simon *et al.*, 1992; Coates, 1999; Cavanagh, 2007; & Milbrath *et al.*, 2009 as quoted in Laborde *et al.*, 2014), assessing how to act within and what to expect from a partnership is heavily determined by cultural and family relationship norms, as well as by interactions with peers. Furthermore, gossip and other social sanctions are also included. Consequently, while networks nurture romantic expectations and activity, structures such as gender, culture and race or ethnicity also have an important influence in defining what feelings and behaviours are appropriate.

Kelly (2013) indicates that to accommodate the culture, partnered women tend to scale back their attachment to the paid labour market in a variety of separate ways. It remains most common for couples to shadow what is termed a neo-traditional model with a wife's career and labour force participation taking a backseat to a husband's career advancement, especially when children are young. Contrary to popular belief, in Africa, and Namibia included, for married couples taking care of a family's needs such as food, safety and security is deemed a responsibility of the male gender. However, even during an intimate relationship (unmarried couples) it is mostly a societal expectation for the man to assume that role towards the female.

Meanwhile, WHO (2013) states that the Namibian government presented some intervention measures to try and curb intimate partnership violence. Merry (2006) emphasises that the impact of human rights law depends, as does all law, on changing local consciousness of rights and

relationships. This carries the notion of promoting the essence of knowing and understanding your rights as a human being so that you can accept and respect the rights and choices of others. This notion of respecting and accepting other people's choices may somehow be reflected in certain cultural norms pertaining to intimate partnerships. Namibia is made up of a variety of ethnic groups of which each ethnic group possess diverse cultural norms and practices.

Although nationally the different tribes and clans occupy the same geographical section and some, due to survival needs, may coexist within the same town or city, these different tribes may not share the same cultural views when it comes to intimate partner relationships. Nevertheless, Merry (2006) states that as a human rights violation, gender violence, since the 1990s, has become the centrepiece of women's human rights, but establishing women's rights, as 'human right' is still an uphill struggle. Merry (2006) further explains that although, like all other violations, violence against women includes abuse, physical body harm, pain and torture, it appears that in some societies this act is not considered a crime but more like any other societal challenge.

With the above stated, Standish (2014) suggests that legal structures in the Arab world widely consider 'honour killings' which are killings subjected to women, to be 'private' issues. According to Khafagy (2006) as cited in Standish (2014) combating gender violence includes a variety of approaches such as involving criminalising aggression and creating avenues where victims of gender violence can flee violence in the home. Seen as both a public-health issue and a matter of human rights, local strategies to combat dowry murder include increasing education for women which will encourage economic and emotional independence; proper implementation of existing laws along with new, stricter legislation to abolish dowry related crimes and the establishment of

voluntary associations to decrease the importance of dowries in general (Kumar & Kanth, 2007, p. 18, as cited in Standish 2014).

In the same vein, Merry (2006) is of the view that human rights ideas, embedded in cultural assumptions about the nature of the person, the community, and the state, do not translate simply from one setting to another. If human rights ideas are to have an impact, they need to become part of the consciousness of ordinary people around the world. These ordinary people form part of the individuals within our own homes, the individuals we work with in the professional settings, the people we walk past in the street, and our own people we consider special with whom we are in an intimate partner relationship. Furthermore, Merry (2006) avers that considerable research on law and everyday social life shows that the law's power to shape society depends not on punishment alone, but on becoming embedded in everyday social practices, shaping the rules people carry in their heads (p. 56). The Namibian society however view marriage a sacred union, thus legal laws pertaining to legal marriages exist. On the other hand, there seem to be no law set in place to guide the unmarried couples, intimate partnership is thus viewed a private matter.

### 2.3.2 Gender

Previous studies reflect that there seem to be an imbalance pertaining to the roles played by the different partners within most intimate partner relationships. Laborde *et al.* (2014) state that engaging in intimate relationships can offer companionship and opportunities to build interpersonal communication skills and practice in healthy partner selection. However, Laborde *et al.* (2014) appraises that urban Latino youths in San Francisco revealed that gendered stereotypes for male and female behaviour in relationships exists within their communities, with the

expectation that boys were entitled to have numerous girlfriends, while girls would get a bad reputation for doing the same.

The gender stereotyping aspect may be a contributing factor to violence within an intimate partnership relationship if the female partner does not comply with the expected roles that are attached to her gender. Tjaden and Thoennes (2000) indicate that violence perpetrated against women by intimate partners is normally accompanied by an emotionally abusive and controlling behaviour. Additionally, in other parts of the world such as the USA, Tjaden and Thoennes (2000) report that intimate partner violence is so pervasive such that nearly 25 percent of women surveyed indicated that they were raped and or physically assaulted by their current or previous spouses. Although men can also be victims of 'intimate partner violence', Tjaden and Thoennes (2000) further state that women more than men experience intimate partner violence. Furthermore, women also experience more chronic injurious and physical assaults at the hands of their male partners than men do.

Different studies reveal different findings. However, regarding journalists' reporting on gender, Howard (2009) opines that gender disparity is one of the most common sources of violence, in a cultural-structural sense, but it is rarely recognised as an essential focus point in conventional reporting on conflict causes and is marginalised. In the same vein, Chitando (2011) observes that male authors have represented women as slack, dangerous, feeble and dependent on men. Additionally, Shah *et al.* (2014) note that the representations of Pakistani women in society is negative and passive and that certain authors only highlight negative traits or only the positive image.

Analysis of choices show that women are portrayed as being materially active, but they are powerless, and their actions highlight their negative and distorted image. Their actions depict them as being dependant and subordinate to men economically and socially. Bell (1991) argues that when it comes to news reporting there are also gender components to stress: male and female reporters may respond to their stress in diverse ways. Hence, the stress factor may be considered a contributing factor to journalists' writing styles of news reports.

Bell (1991) also highlights that the emotions and violence experience of reporters is usually ignored during their training. Emotional intelligence may also be an important skill for journalists to possess in order for them to write unbiased news reports especially when reporting on issues of violence between men and women. Furthermore, Howard (2009) adds that framing, the use of language and imagery, and even the traditional male structure of news organisations need to be considered to avoid stereotypes in reporting.

Numerous scholars wrote about some of the aspects of marriage, gender and intimate relationships in general that might lead and/ or contribute to 'intimate partner violence'. Contradictory to cohabiting partners, according to Kelly (2013), in the event that intimate partners are married, spouses are deemed equal owners of marital acquisitions with vested rights during an intact marriage, at divorce and at death. However, the law's failure to recognize the breadth of interdependent sharing processes that couples often engage in, and the effects it can have on the lives of family members is unjust.

These deficiencies also contribute to inequalities between men and women, between married and cohabiting couples, and between same sex and opposite sex couples. Although the law normally serves the purpose of equal presentation and protection of all genders particularly when it comes to violence, Tjaden and Thoennes (2000) states that most victims of intimate partner violence do not report their cases to the police.

On the other side of the law, however, lays the traditional gender roles that most cultures possess. Kelly (2013) notes that looking at gender roles, in terms of who does what kind of work and how much, the traditional pattern of men as breadwinners and women as caregivers has shifted form but remains intact. Women, especially mothers, have increased their paid market work and men do more family work than their fathers did. Yet despite these shifts, labour remains divided on the basis of sex.

### 2.3.3 Intimate partnership

Romantic relationships play a vital role in young people's social development and sexual health (Laborde *et al.*, 2014). Understanding valued relationship principles and factors that facilitate and impede their attainment is critical in promoting healthy relationships. In addition, Kelly (2013) states that the binary of being 'single' versus 'partnered' misses a range of relational bonds that single people can have and can overestimate the connections between some partners. Kelly (2013) continues to indicate that it is now common for couples to describe their relationship as a 'partnership', signifying their shared lives. Other scholars such as Thompson *et al.* (2006) explain

that 'intimate partners' were defined as current or former spouses, non-marital partners, or dating partners in relationships that are longer than 1 week and partnerships could include relationships without sexual involvement.

While the ideal of intimate partnership has proven itself very appealing to couples themselves, legal decision makers have been much more difficult recruits. According to Kelly (2013), divorce law does not typically recognise joint claims to earning power that has been shaped during the relationship. For cohabitants, the law does not investigate or recognise an economic community at all, providing no entitlement to property or support. Overall, the legal regime does not fairly distribute financial benefits and burdens that have been developed by the couple collectively. The harm caused is especially acute for cohabitants, for women, and for same-sex couples (p. 262).

Furthermore, Laborde *et al.* (2014) indicate that intimate partnership can offer more than companionship as those engaged can acquire life skills needed throughout life. However, romantic or intimate relationships can also pose emotional and physical risks, including inter-partner violence. To promote healthy partnerships among young people, it is important to know what relationship characteristics young people themselves value and how the social environment may shape these expectations. Kelly (2013) contends that for many intimate partners, various life projects and decisions become collaborative, with the goal being to maximise the welfare of the family as a whole, in addition to its individual members. This sharing process shapes the financial resources of the couple and that of each person separately.

For example, coupling recurrently affects choices about having and raising children, about employment and family care work, and about investment and consumption. There is a lot of variety in the economic behaviour of unmarried cohabitants. Some couples create a joint economy and share financial resources and decisions like married couples typically do. This collaborative pattern is prevalent for cohabitants who are also co-parents. Yet other unmarried couples purposely retain separate economic lives and function more like “friends with benefits.” Still others are in between and share to an extent, but also keep some financial resources separate. Cohabitant collaborating may produce economic risks and yet, rewards. Marriage is not the only intimate partnership deserving legal recognition.

On the other hand, in one study by Laborde *et al.* (2014), the authors assert that the median length of a relationship is one year (interquartile range: four months to three years). It is common for partners to have dated or at least known each other since middle school. Many of the young people globally, initiate their current relationships through traditional courtships that begin with friendship, sometimes involving parental permission, which later evolve into dating relationships. The participants described in that study most frequently describe meeting their partners at school and through friends. Kelly (2013) adds that to an extent, family law has come to recognise and respond to the sharing practices and effects of intimate partnerships. “Partnership marriage” is a well-known legal concept and indeed community property law is established on it. Cohabiting partnership law however, is an area that needs exploration in Namibia.

Furthermore, Kelly (2013) states that a partnership model has only been partially articulated and integrated in law, and is sometimes even rejected outright in favour of a hyper-individualistic view

of the family. As a result, the law's recognition of collaborative economic behaviour has needlessly been limited to marriages only and ignores unmarried couples' sharing conduct that sometimes is quite similar. Kelly (2013) further avers that ignoring unmarried couples' needs neglects a large and rapidly growing cohabitant population. Thus, a fully developed model of partnership for cohabitants is needed.

Kelly (2013) also explains that, through common law, contract and equitable claims, existing law already includes some recognition that partnership should be the basis for legal rights and obligations. It serves the important interests of togetherness, individualism and equality. When a couple is together, the framework supports connection because the effects of a joint economy will be borne by both partners. In addition, it protects and supports individual autonomy by recognizing the sacrifices and contributions of each partner to the family economy.

Results from a study by Laborde *et al.* (2014) report that nearly all participants (27 out of 30) strongly agreed with the statement: 'Many youths in a relationship are also seeing someone on the side'. Concurrency was described by young people as 'cheating' (having a 'main girl or boy with "friends with benefits" on the side'), as resulting from initiating new relationships before ending existing ones, or as occurring between serial break-ups with a main partner. Participants' cheating ranged from sexual intercourse to kissing or hugging outside the primary relationship. Accordingly, one could then assume that being involved 'intimately' with someone else outside the primary relationship which is considered "cheating" could be viewed as a trigger or one of the contributing factors to 'intimate partner violence'.

#### 2.3.4 Newspapers and information delivery

Sharing information in the form of newspapers has for long been seen as a means of reporting incidents and transporting latest information locally and beyond the borders. Howard (2009) avers that the journalist's first responsibility to the public is to be as truthful as possible in reporting on an account of events without meddling in the event. This is part of the meaning of objectivity. Meanwhile, news may be seen as information delivery, Mills (1995) argues that language is seen as a method of delivering information as well and rendering communication but not necessarily as the transporter of ideas within that communication.

Howard (2009) further states that the news media's traditional role is often said to serve the public interest by being a reliable information provider, a forum for free speech and a watchdog of government. Howard (2009) further notes that, in their hearts, many journalists believe their work can help make the world a better place. According to Howard (2009), there is a belief that a reliable news media – meaning accurate, neutral and responsible in its reporting and methods – would contribute to achieving good governance and democratic development and be an indirect support for human development.

Hence, news reporting undergoes a news writing preparation process which is called 'framing'. It presents its own language style from which the readers can draw interpretations. Writers should therefore write with purpose, intention and from a clear angle. According to the *Newspaperlinks* website, when reading a newspaper, the experience is often, much better because of the qualitative

writing style throughout the reports and readers can be confident in the accuracy of the information. Because of the accurate information delivery prospect that many readers may have in newspaper reports, how the news reports are presented matter in the mind of the reader. It therefore becomes imperative for writers to pay extra caution to the diction, phrase and sentence construction within their writing since all the three aspects may contribute to the interpretations and meaning drawn by the reader.

In an effort to understand and explain human behaviour, Ewen (2014) suggests that prominent theorists such as Bandura indicates that the majority of human learning occurs through observational learning, (social learning, modelling) rather than performing a response and reinforcing. Bandura (1978)'s study (as cited in Cervone *et al.*, 2001) stated that one of the social-cognitive theories of personality is the principle of reciprocal interactionism, or reciprocal determinism. Persons and social settings are viewed as reciprocally interacting systems. Sociocultural environments contribute to the development of personality structures. Cervone *et al.* (2001) furthermore explains that personality factors, in turn, somewhat determine which environment people experience and how they interpret the sociocultural settings they encounter. Thus, when reading a newspaper report on 'intimate partner violence', certain conclusions and interpretation of the text may be based on the reader's upbringing, exposure, and gender and/or language competence. Newspaper reports may therefore be viewed as a tool more than storytelling and entertainment but to identify and communicate social evils as well. In consequence, it may be crucial for the writer to use words that may discourage the phenomenon. *Newspaperlinks* website states that to date, newspapers remain relevant in the digital age as many people that grew up

before the internet value physical paper over reading in digital format because for them it is easier on the eyes and for the nostalgic experience that the feel of the paper encompasses.

Sources from more than 3 decades ago such as Nelson (1989) states that before 1989 the remarkable change that took place was a move towards a more interpretive, colourful and more compelling writing in the nation's newspapers. Nelson (1989) also explains that, in journalism, where the end-result is 'writing', journalists tend to pay more attention to reporting the facts and little attention on the quality of writing itself. Changes in our society and technology require a more comprehensive, interpretive and engrossing reporting.

Captivating news reporting can be achieved through news framing. Recognisably, news writers may bear the responsibility of not only sharing 'intimate partner violence' incidents but also how such incidents are communicated to the nation. Worth noting, is that, 'intimate partner violence' takes place despite the fact that the police has a duty to take care of the people. Tjaden and Thoennes (2000) state that most 'intimate partner violence' victims do not find the police as a safe remedy for the violence they suffer as they do not find this part of the justice system an appropriate vehicle to resolving conflicts with intimate partners. Thus, journalists, by appropriately framing 'intimate partner violence' reports could serve a vital motivational role as their reports may encourage silent victims to report their incidents.

### 2.3.5 Creating news frames

News writers select their diction ensuring clarity and objectivity of news stories (Agu, 2015). In general, news serve as a platform for information sharing as well as keeping different communities up to date with the rest of the world. De Vreese (2005) states that millions of citizens turn to the news media daily and ‘the media’ is a main institution in our democracies. De Vreese elaborated on frames as follows: The potential of the framing concept lies in the focus on communicative processes. *Frame-building* refers to the factors that influence the structural qualities of news frames. *Frame-setting* refers to the interaction between media frames and individuals’ prior knowledge and predispositions. The consequences of framing can be conceived on the individual and the societal level. An individual level consequence may be altered attitudes about an issue based on exposure to certain frames (p. 51-52).

According to Howard (2009), framing is an essential part of the journalistic process of making events and information understandable by the public. Framing therefore involves journalists making choices about the significance of elements to include within the frame. Entman (1993) adds that frames diagnose, evaluate and prescribe. On the functionality of framing, Entman (1993) explains that frames *define problems*- define what a causal agent is doing and with what costs and benefits, usually measured in common cultural values; *diagnose causes*- identify the causes creating the problem; make *moral judgements*- evaluate causal agents and their effects; *suggest remedies*- offer and justify treatments for the problems and predict their effects (p.52). Framing thus plays a significant role in the contextualisation of topics when writing news reports.

Astutely, journalists that report on delicate issues that involve conflict such as gender-based violence and ‘intimate partner violence’ exercise extra caution when writing. Howard (2009) furthermore suggests that conflict-sensitive journalists need to be aware of conventional frameworks, which they use to compose their stories. Language and image use can also be part of the framing purpose. Similarly, Hänggli (2012) indicates that there has been abundant research on media framing in general and the framing of political issues in particular, yet the antecedents of media framing have been neglected. According to Wichgers *et al.* (2021), the idea that journalists make use of framing is widespread but systematic studies of the role played by frame sponsors; that is, non-media actors who advocate a certain frame package in influencing the patterns in frame-package use by journalists are limited. Nonetheless, newspapers in general form part of the media community and thus there may be more than just mere reporting factors considered by journalists when framing news reports.

However, when it comes to reporting, for example, conflict sensitivity enables a journalist to be aware of multiple frameworks that may be applicable to a story (Bell, 1991). Framing news involves defining issues and may contribute to shaping social level processes like socialisation, decision-making, and collective actions (De Vreese, 2005; Entman, 1993). De Vreese (2005) adds that the notion of framing has gained momentum in the communication discipline, giving guidance to both investigation of media content and to studies of the connection between media and public opinion.

Public opinion may vary between different communities as cultural exposure pertaining to socialisation and morality may differ as well, therefore reading interpretations may be affected.

Entman (2007) however argues that news framing is akin to all news reporters as it allows news writers to focus on certain events and creates meaning. Thus, all news report writers may pose the same knowledge pertaining to the necessary considerations involved when framing news reports.

Vliegthart and Van Zoonen (2011) report that Entman introduced a definition that says: ‘to frame is to select some aspects of a perceived reality and make them more salient in a communicating text, in such a way as to promote a particular problem definition, causal interpretation, moral evaluation, and/or treatment recommendation’ (p. 52). A writer could then also choose to select words that may promote or demote a particular idea that he or she is reporting on. Hence news writing and reporting is one of the careers amongst many other careers in Namibia, it would be sensible to espouse that news framing may be an expected process. Thus, journalists would then also be expected to report consciously.

Namibia is considered a middle-class country in terms of development and education and the reading culture is a vital aspect that is encouraged. Newspapers such as *The Namibian* is committed to providing the country with current information on a variety of events taking place nationally and internationally. Amongst the events reported in *The Namibian* newspaper, the aspect of intimate partner violence has been recurring and causing public dismay. Alweendo *et al.* (2018) state that certain news reports termed the phenomenon “passion killing”. The terminology “passion killing” is not only catchy but may be equally disturbing. A terminology with that kind of coining might be interpreted rather more as glorifying than rebuking the phenomenon. Entman (1993) notes that frames have several locations, including the communicator, the text, the receiver, and the culture.

Thus, in the instance of the Namibian community, Entman's notion of the frames locations can ideally be translated as the "incident", the "news report" and the "community" as the reader. Perceptively, 'intimate partner violence' events in Namibia are narrated to the readers after a packaging process called framing. De Vreese (2005) avers that frames in the news may affect learning, interpretation, and the evaluation of issues and events. Therefore, cautious framing of news reports, particularly when reporting on sensitive social phenomenon is vital.

A study by Entman (1993) as cited in De Vreese (2005, p. 54) suggest that frames in the news can be examined and identified by 'the presence or absence of certain keywords, stock phrases, stereotyped images, sources of information and sentences that provide thematically reinforcing clusters of facts or judgements'. To probe on the writing styles of journalists in Namibia, there is a language analysis theory called the Feminist Stylistics (Mills, 1995) which questions language use and the style of writing in literary and non-literary texts.

### 2.3.6 News reports on sensitive issues

Reporting on sensitive issues may require extra care and attentiveness. This includes the reporting of events such as 'intimate partner violence' that may sometimes take the shape of murder. According to Bell (1991), the standards of journalism including objectivity or impartiality and fairness, are essential to media credibility and public support of the media. The first responsibility of the news media is to take no sides and report the truth as best ascertained. It seems therefore that objectivity may be a very crucial aspect for newspaper report writers. In general, and based on Entman (2007) the media may not be successful in telling people what to think of, but make a significant contribution towards what –to- think about. This may indicate that the media and how it presents information can guide readers towards a certain angle of thought.

Often times when readers embark on reading a newspaper report, emotions may be evoked depending on the diction and writing style used to compose the report. Apart from the journalists, the Media Houses and government may also be contributing factors to how news reports are framed. Thus, both the media houses and the government can control how whatever news reporters cover is presented. For example, based on Kuang and Wang (2020), one important way for the Chinese authorities to control the framing of a nationally sensitive issue is by ordering news organisations to use only the news articles produced by state news agencies when they want to report on an issue, which is so-called ‘trans-printing’. Kuang and Wang (2020) add that when this happens, the news media are expected to adopt the frames of the authoritative sources in the reporting of nationally sensitive issues and thereby serve as the ‘mouthpieces’ of the party-state. Similarly, the Namibian government and Media Houses could establish a determining news-reporting format particularly when reporting sensitive and phenomenon such as ‘intimate partner violence’.

An explanation by Bell (1991) stipulates that, when it comes to the roles in producing news language, the journalist in the newsroom takes the sub-role of an author who generates news language, responsible for original syntactic and discourse form. Moreover, journalists are professionals whose daily occupation is to produce daily news language. This may imply that news writers may be in control of selecting the best and suitable manner in framing a story or event in a report. Equally, the scholar’s explanation informs that, news writing is also a career.

Hence, journalism is an occupation; occupations may be intent to market and sell a product, and thus one could assume that news reporters sell knowledge via information sharing about events

such as that of 'intimate partner violence'. Bell (1991) adds that knowledge, attitude and behaviour are a hierarchy of related stages in social change, and activators of change in each of these stages include compulsion, manipulation and persuasion or a combination of these. In general, and based on Hänggli (2012), political organisations also influence the presence of frames in the media promoted by themselves, while individual political actors (i.e. ministers or presidents) influence the frequency of these frames in the news.

In addition pertaining to frame influence, Bell (1991) states that the influence on public knowledge and attitudes, which may change behaviour, can directly be influenced as events unfold by the media's presence as a witness and watchdog. Therefore, events such as 'intimate partner violence' may however often take place behind closed doors and the news reporters have to present a story based on hearsay or based on the presented evidence making it more the responsibility of the writer to decide on his or her writing style.

Another considerable aspect when it comes to news reports is objectivity, which is an ideal and essential technique for removing biasness in seeking truth. Objectivity, while not completely achievable, is a commitment by the journalist to set aside personal or other values that would shape the story differently. The pressure when it comes to reporting on sensitive issues such as 'intimate partner violence' in whatever form, may be significantly greater for those who report on violent encounters within their own community and journalists who may be survivors of violence. The personal experience that a journalist brings may add a burden to objectivity and appropriate framing when later reporting on the same issue (Bell, 1991).

Journalists also have a responsibility to not produce information or see their information being used to mislead the public or to inflame conflict. Words, sounds and images are the most fundamental tools journalists employ in their work. Conflict sensitivity enables reporters to choose words with greater understanding of their effect on the public and the public's understanding of a conflict (Bell, 1991). Conflict sensitivity gives reporters more comprehensive insight into violent conflict, including providing news in a fuller context and the possibilities of resolving the conflict.

### 2.3.7 Intimate partner violence reports

As noted above, the World Health Organisation WHO (2013) highlights that violence against women is a global phenomenon. Although that may be factual, more concerning is that, over the years, Namibia has witnessed a steady increase in intimate partner violence (Mufune & Van Rooi, 2013). According to Thompson *et al.* (2006), 'intimate partner violence' is defined as physical, sexual, or psychological violence between adults who were present and/or past sexual/intimate partners in heterosexual or homosexual relationships.

'Intimate partner violence' may adopt different terminologies in different cultures. In Namibia nonetheless, the 'intimate partner violence' phenomenon has earlier been termed "passion killing". Meanwhile, some scholars may refer to intimate partner violence as generally violence against either gender. This study focused only on news reports of violence posed particularly towards women while or after being involved in an intimate relationship with a male partner.

Looking at other parts of the world, however, Standish (2014) states that the Arab community may refer to intimate partner violence as ‘honour killing’ and similar to ‘honour killing’ is the practice of ‘dowry murder’ which is deeply embedded in cultural practices that enshrine inferior status to women in society and treat them as a form of property. According to Coomaraswamy (2005) as cited in Standish (2014), while honour crimes are practised worldwide and by a variety of cultural and religious traditions, they are most often associated with the Arab culture including Arab Christians and Muslims. In Namibia however, although other religious conviction such as the “Muslims” are accepted, Christianity plays central role.

The phrase “intimate partner violence’ often includes sexual violence and psychological abuse; both these forms of abuse could accompany physical violence (Jewkes, 2002). Mufune and Van Rooi (2013) further indicate that primarily for the female gender, Namibia became a commonplace for ‘intimate partner violence’ with some perpetrators murdering their victims.

According to (Freedman, 2002; Bennet, 2006 & Merry 2006, as quoted in Standish 2014), while the causes of gender-based violence are explored elsewhere, it can be said that women’s subordinate status in ‘honour-based’ societies has historically been exacerbated by the obstacles that women face in gaining literacy, reproductive control, health care, and both economic and political agency. The term ‘honour killings’ could possibly be translated or placed on the same weight scale with the term ‘passion killing’ which have been used in many headlines to news reports on intimate partner violence in Namibia where mostly women were victimised.

## **2.4 Chapter summary**

In this chapter the researcher reviewed the literature related to the topic under study and discussed the theoretical framework. A variety of scholars have written and discussed about news report writing in general as well as about reporting on sensitive issues such as ‘intimate partner violence’. An outline starting with the introduction, theoretical framework, review of relevant literature, Namibian culture, gender, intimate partnership, newspapers and information delivery, creating news frames, news reports on sensitive issues, and finally, intimate partner violence was presented.

## **CHAPTER 3**

### **METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

This chapter discusses the methodology used to conduct this research. The chapter provides an explanation of the reasons why the specific methods were used in this study. It is crucial to note that this study is descriptive in nature and that a qualitative design has been described. The population and sample used in this study are described. The procedure and data analysis are described as well. The ethical considerations that were adopted in this study are also outlined in this chapter.

#### **3.2 Research approach and design**

This study adopted a qualitative approach in exploring the styles used in news reporting on ‘intimate partner violence’ in *The Namibian* newspaper. The texts that were investigated were

qualitative and non-numerical. The research process in this study was performed using methods and techniques which were helpful and suitable for this kind of study.

The social sciences and literary studies, in the development of a qualitative approach to inquiry, point to the crucial need to deal with the ways in which people relate and give meaning to their social, cultural, and material environments (Given, 2008). The qualitative approach hence was best suited for this exploratory study as it offers the researcher the opportunity to use texts as his or her primary data to analyse the stylistic features employed within each news report. The study's qualitative nature enabled the researcher to adopt the content analysis approach and was restricted to a desktop strategy.

'Intimate partner violence' predicament is an existing pressing social issue and the leading causes are seemingly inconclusive. This study employed an exploratory research design. The researcher aimed at creating a scope for future researchers in the area of discourse studies, essentially when addressing social issues. According to Bechhofer & Paterson (2000), the imaginative extension and refinement of a system by continuously comparing its applicability in contrasting situations until further refinement is unnecessary, is perceived as the ideal research design. The researcher found the exploratory design suitable for addressing the main objectives and aims of this study.

### **3.3 Population and sample**

The population for the proposed study consists of newspaper reports on intimate partner violence featured in *The Namibian* newspaper between 2019 and 2020. *The Namibian* newspaper was conveniently selected, as the newspaper is distributed in all the regions in Namibia. According to

Van Wyk and Mwilima (2015), compared to other newspapers published and read in Namibia, *The Namibian* newspaper seems to be the most widely read paper.

This study therefore employed a convenience purposive sampling technique since *The Namibian* paper was deliberately selected because of its wide circulation and readership. A total amount of 35 newspaper reports constituted the population of this study. A sample of 16 news reports were analysed. It was the researcher's belief that the results of this study would be beneficial to all other newspaper Media Houses in Namibia as well. The objective of this study was to uncover the journalistic language and style used by news writers in Namibia when reporting on female victims and male perpetrators of 'intimate partner violence'.

### **3.4 Procedure**

The researcher downloaded newspaper reports from *The Namibian* newspaper website, and *The Namibian* archives, covering the chosen time period. The researcher also photocopied newspaper reports from the University of Namibia archives. The researcher then classified the news reports into different categories. Thus, the newspaper articles served as the data collection instruments. The critical reading of the selected primary texts was done through the critical lens of the approach and lenses of the Feminist Stylistic Theory. To explain and examine the use of frames within the explored texts, the Framing theory framework was employed.

### **3.5 Data analysis**

The data were analysed using relevant scholar's analysis as established through the Feminist Stylistic Theory of Sara Mills. The researcher arranged the news reports into two categories: the 'perpetrators' and the 'victims' categories. The 'victims' category was then sub-divided into the '*injured*' and the '*deceased*' categories. The researcher then examined the news texts for stylistic features at the word, phrasal and sentence levels in order to construe textual meaning, application of sexism, assigning of blame and justification of the crime.

The researcher further on analysed and identified the following features in the news reports: (a) point of view, (b) agency, (c) metaphor, and (d) transitivity. The findings were then interpreted through the lenses of the Framing and Feminist Stylistic Theories. The Framing theory was used in this study to particularly explain how journalists used frames in constructing news reports. Meanwhile, the Feminist stylistics theory was used to discover the stylistic features used within the news report texts.

### **3.6 Research ethics**

The study made use of printed materials already existing in the public domain. Thus, the study did not involve any human participants. The process of data analysis was done objectively by identifying the different features within the boundaries of the selected frameworks. The analysis and interpretation was solely based on the contents of newspaper reports.

### **3.7 Chapter summary**

In this chapter, the researcher provided an overview of the research methodology used in this study, starting with the research approach, explanation of the methodology adopted and finally the design of the study. The population of the study was defined as consisting of all news reports on intimate partner violence that covered incidents where female victims suffered at the hands of their male intimate partners. Additionally, the research sample and sampling procedures were outlined. Comprehensive data collection and data analysis procedures were also outlined in this chapter. Finally, the research ethics adopted in the course of this study were also addressed.

The following chapter presents data analysis from the news reports on intimate partner violence featured in *The Namibian* newspaper during the chosen time period. This analysis is done using the Feminist Stylistic Theory as well as the Framing Theory.

## **CHAPTER 4**

### **ANALYSIS OF NEWSPAPER REPORTS AND DISCUSSION**

#### **4.1 Introduction**

In the quest to identify the writing styles employed as well as the framing theory used, this chapter explores and examines newspaper texts for stylistic features at the word, phrasal and sentence levels. The researcher explored the styles of writing employed in the news reports in order to construe textual meaning, application of sexism, assigning of blame and justification of the crime. The chapter brings forth a presentation and interpretation of newspaper texts segmented into two main categories: the ‘perpetrators’ and the ‘victims’ categories. Moreover, the ‘victims’ category

is then sub-divided into the '*injured*' and the '*deceased*' categories. Using the Feminist stylistics theory helps identify the different stylistic features in the newspaper reports while identifying any presentation of gender biasness. On the other hand, the Framing theory aided the researcher to identify the type of framing components possibly present in the newspaper reports. The theories that were employed helped to retain the focus of this study.

The researcher furthermore analysed news reporters as authors of the stories of 'intimate partner violence' presented by identifying the news reports 'point of view, agency, metaphors and transitivity. The point of view in a story reveals the writer's perspective of the topic. Agency in a story shows the wording freedom that the writer as an author has in the story he or she writes and how the characters in the story are depicted.

On the other hand, metaphors reveal any comparisons presented in the news reports. Metaphoric expressions can be humorous, poetic and emotional; thus, a writer can use metaphors to make a text more interesting to read. A metaphor is defined as a figure of speech in which a word or phrase is applied to an object or action to which it is not applicable. Moreover, according to the Cambridge dictionary a metaphor is an expression, often found in literature, that describes a person or object by referring to something that is considered to have similar characteristics to that person or object. Conversely, a metaphor is thus a most important and widespread 'FIGURE OF SPEECH', in which one thing, idea, or action is referred to by a word or expression normally signifying another thing, idea, or action, to suggest some common quality shared by the two. In metaphor, this resemblance is assumed as an imaginary identity or similarity rather than directly stated as a comparison. Based on The Easier English Student dictionary, a metaphor is a way of

describing something by giving it the qualities of something else, as in ‘our eagle-eyed readers, soon spotted the mistake’ (Collin, 2003, p. 529).

Additionally, although at their most basic, metaphors are used to make a direct comparison between two different things, in order to ascribe a particular quality to the first. Beyond simple comparisons, metaphors can strengthen your writing by painting a picture. Metaphors are often used in descriptive writing to create vivid sight and sound images, which may be beneficial for newspaper readers. According to Krennmayr, (2011) ‘metaphor’ is hotly debated and much researched by linguists and the reason being “cognitive linguistics” which is a powerful new way of looking at both language and thought – and with them metaphor. The scholar furthermore states that it remains unknown, however, how common metaphorical language in news texts really is, and how its frequency and use compared to that in other registers. The discussion of metaphors in text comes a long way it appears as Davidson (1978) phrased that metaphor is the dream-work of language and, like all dream-work, its interpretation reflects as much on the interpreter as on the originator.

Another linguistic feature that may be a powerful tool in writing and may influence a reader’s view on a topic is “Transitivity”; a system that is concerned with how entities and action in a situation are encoded in a language. Transitivity may reveal amongst others, the representation of characters as powerful and responsible or the reverse, helpless and blamable. Language analysis dates back to the 70s when an interesting discovery regarding verbs and transitivity was documented. According to scholars, such (Rohrman, 1970 as cited in Bacharach *et al.* 1972) intransitive verbs are seen as psychologically simpler units than transitive verbs since less information need to be

retained when intransitive verbs are stored in memory. It appears that transitive verbs are more complex and may remain longer in one's memory. Transitive verbs can then also affect sentences semantically. Complex words may sound aggressive and may influence a reader's view towards the characters portrayed.

In this chapter, the researcher aimed at answering the following research questions:

1. How are the news reports on intimate partner violence framed?
2. What stylistic devices do journalists use when constructing newspaper reports on intimate partner violence?
3. How do journalists present the different victims and perpetrators of intimate partner violence?

Finally, this chapter is divided into sub-sections which discuss the emerging themes. A brief description and presentation of the newspaper texts is provided followed by a categorical analysis. It is crucial to state that the discussion to this study has been incorporated together with the analysis of text. The researcher opted to merge the two sections, as it would enable the reader to easily relate the discussion to the news report analysis. Each topic in this chapter offers a relative follow up discussion.

## **4.2 Presentation and analysis of newspaper reports**

### **4.2.1 Woman killed amid break-up, boyfriend takes own life**

News - National | 2020-10-12Page no: 1

By Hileni Nembwaya

A WOMAN died after her throat was allegedly slit by her boyfriend in a mahangu field on Friday while she tried to end their long-term relationship at Uuhongo, a village in the Omusati region.

Omusati regional police commander Titus Shikongo says the incident happened at 13h20 in the Onesi constituency.

Johannes Venick Kaluwa (31) took his own life after allegedly killing his girlfriend, Gwashiti Ndahambelela Tomas (27).

This crime was committed while a large group of protesters gathered in Windhoek to demonstrate against the surge in sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) offences against woman and girls countrywide.

Tomas allegedly wanted to end her relationship with Kaluwa as she was fed up with his behaviour.

This resulted in an argument between the couple, after which Kaluwa allegedly slit her throat with an unknown object.

Tomas also sustained deep cuts to her left wrist.

Likius Nangolo, a relative of the late Tomas, yesterday said she wanted to end the relationship because she believed it was improper to cohabit before marriage.

“They were both warned on several occasions to end their relationship or stop cohabiting before marriage. Tomas would at times leave her parents' house to live with her boyfriend at his parents' house. Both sets of parents felt it was wrong to cohabit,” Nangolo said.

He said a few weeks ago, Tomas was evicted from her boyfriend's house by his parents. Her mother is a local church elder and never supported their cohabitation.

“Tomas then decided she wanted to end the relationship, but her boyfriend was against the idea and ended her life to punish her,” he said.

Nangolo said he was not sure if the couple had major relationship issues as they always seemed happy together.

“We are shattered and traumatised . . . As elders, it's high time we sit our children down and talk to them. Sometimes a child is going through a hard time, but we as parents tend to ignore the signs. We need to get closer to our children and . . . hear their problems. We also need to be open and get to know who our children are involved in relationships with, so we may be able to curb such demonic crimes,” he said.

He described Tomas as a cheerful, kind-hearted, well-mannered, hard-working woman.

According to the police's crime report, Tomas's body was found by a passer-by coming from *cuca* shops.

The couple has two children together.

#### 4.2.1.1 Perpetrator's category

The voice of the author echoes no remorse as within the title construction lies directional words diverting the attention from the woman who in this case is victimised.

The title “Woman killed *amid break-up*, boyfriend takes own life” readdresses the attention from the perpetrator to the cause of the action, which may be viewed as a justification of the crime. It may appear as though the perpetrator committed the crime during an absent state of mind seeing that he was in the middle of a breakup when it happened. Naturally to human beings, relationship break-ups can be emotional and traumatising. Straightaway, without reading the rest of the news

report, it appears that the root initiator for sympathy towards the man has already been established. The perpetrator in this sentence is presented as “*boyfriend*” which may create a sense of belonging and unity between him and the victim. Thus, making it rather difficult for the reader to view the perpetrator as an individual who committed a crime. Defining the relationship in this stance overshadows the act performed by the man. Furthermore, the phrase “*boyfriend takes own life*” empowers the perpetrator in the sense that, the verb “*takes*” indicates that the man had a conscious choice in ending his life. Meanwhile, in comparison to the two scenarios due to the “*breakup*”, taking the prepositional word “*amid*” in consideration, it occurs he may have unconsciously killed the woman. However, in contrast to the statement “*woman killed*” the man instead takes his own life denotes an amount of power and prestige towards the man. It appears that the author by choosing the particular words to phrase the topic creates a loophole for a depiction of a non-judgemental perception towards the perpetrator.

#### 4.2.1.2 Victims Category: The deceased victims

The author’s opening sentence reads as follows: “*A WOMAN died after her throat was allegedly slit by her boyfriend in a Mahangu field on Friday while she tried to end their long-term relationship*”.

The opening sentence may place the reader in a state of mixed emotions, as it appears that something that belongs to the victim turned against her and ended her life. The perpetrator is described as the victim’s *boyfriend*. Although naturally nothing would possibly make the situation sound better, particularly when presenting a story where someone loses her life, using a pronoun “*her*” in the phrase ‘*her-boyfriend*’ instead of the perpetrator’s name however embroils rather puzzling emotions. The perpetrator and the victim shared history, shared common ground

especially in the one area that most humans consider a 'powerful' driving force in life; love! Meanwhile most readers might consider the act selfish and gruesome, some might sympathise with the perpetrator, entertaining the notion that the murder was an act of love and sacrifice. The text furthermore illuminates the relationship labelling it "long-term" thus bringing forth the issue of time investment. She tried ending a long-term love relationship thus he ended both their lives. Her choice to walk out of the relationship cost her both their lives one would assume. Thus, making her unentitled to her own life choices.

The phrase "*she was fed up*" read in the sentence: "Tomas allegedly wanted to end her relationship with Kaluwa as *she was fed up* with his behaviour" conveys a feeling of being lethargic and annoyed. The phrase may be communicating that the victim had tolerated a behaviour of the perpetrator that she considered unfavourable for a long while. The author's choice of words in this case dictates the reader's train of thought. The diction may in other words influence the reader's thinking.

As the author continues narrating the story, the author wrote, "*This resulted in an argument between the couple after which Kaluwa allegedly slit her throat with an unknown object*". The statement, "*between the couple*" creates an impression of oneness to the reader. The word *couple* indicates that two people that came together as individuals, but conjoint mutually. Seeing that they were in an intimate partnership, the usage of the word "*couple*" in this particular report neutralises the action. The argument is reported to have taken place between the victim and the perpetrator, denoting that somehow the victim partook in the dilemma, therefore perhaps the perpetrator had motives to act the way he did. This may sound like an indirect assigning of blame.

It appears that the issue leading to the death of Miss Thomas was more than just the mere murderous act. According to the author, the parents of the victim and the perpetrator disagreed with their cohabitation act. The latter may once more redirect the attention towards the cohabitation phenomenon which in the Namibian society and in most communities is normally considered a cultural taboo. Consequently, in turn may promote the ideology “cohabitation is taboo” to avoid such end-results.

Furthermore, the author by indicating that the victim’s parents were not impressed with the “cohabitation act” and thus made the relationship seem doomed from the word go. *“They were both warned on several occasions to end their relationship or stop cohabiting before marriage. Tomas would at times leave her parents' house to live with her boyfriend at his parents' house. Both sets of parents felt it was wrong to cohabitare”* According to the author, the interviewee stated that, the victim and the perpetrator were warned about the nature of their relationship. The expression ‘They were both “warned” may signal that although the victim might not have expected a murder as an end result, she was somehow informed of the toxicity of her love relationship with the perpetrator. This then may raise the question of whether the reader should feel compassion towards the victim or not. The statement may neutralise the crime.

Furthermore, the author stated, *“He said a few weeks ago, Tomas was evicted from her boyfriend's house by his parents. Her mother is a local church elder and never supported their cohabitation”*

The victim was cast-out by the perpetrator’s parents from the perpetrator’s parents’ house. The

statement may seem to direct more blame towards the victim. It may sound to a reader as though the writer implies that the victim was looking for trouble being in a relationship with the perpetrator. The sentence may also appear to paint an image that the victim might have brought it upon herself. The statement seems to be supporting the crime as it may be interpreted as counterbalancing the action, implying that the victim may have motivated the end-result. The author's usage of the statement "*church elder*" may sound like an intentional revelation of status in the community, one that may have greater influence pertaining to societal tradition, and moral issues. Individuals in leadership positions normally have big influence in the community. Seeing that elders are expected to lead, guide, teach and direct the young.

The fact that the victim's mother was also a church elder and had advised against their relationship, it may be an indication that the victim was disobedient. The religious aspect however is brought ashore in this sentence. Church in the Namibian community plays a major role pertaining to young people's intimate relationships, and moral activities. The church particularly is against a man and woman living together before marriage. The fact that the author states the mother's position elaborates on her level of authority in the community and the role she played. The author called the victim by her surname throughout the news report without the suffix. This may be a patriarchal practice as the victim had a name. The society we live in dictates that an unmarried woman carries her surname. However, one would assume that in the absence of the suffix the author would address a female individual by her first name. Although the victim was described as a kind-hearted, well-mannered and hardworking woman, she may also have been depicted as the kind-hearted woman who disobeyed her parents. That depiction could lead a reader towards victim blame.

#### 4.2.1.3 Biasness

The author presented the perpetrator and the victim in the story in a seemingly equal manner. Words that convey a message of blame have not been detected but expressions leading to assignation of blame has been detected in this news report. The researcher has a concern with the manner in which certain characters were presented, which creates a platform for judgement towards the victim and perpetrator. Statements such as; “They were both warned on several occasions to end their relationship or stop cohabiting before marriage” and “Tomas would at times leave her parents' house to live with her boyfriend at his parents' house. Both sets of parents felt it was wrong to cohabit, Nangolo said” confirm this.

#### 4.2.1.4 Metaphors

The researcher did not identify any metaphors or metaphoric expressions within this news report.

#### 4.2.1.5 Transitive verbs

The researcher discovered one transitive verb in this news report, namely, “slit”. The verb has a smooth sound when articulated yet an aggressive denotation. This may create an impression that the perpetrator acted consciously. To achieve a smooth action, one normally requires planning.

#### 4.2.1.6 Point of view

The author employed a third person point of view. Third person personal pronouns such as “his”, “her” has been employed. The author further on used the “Third Person Limited to subjective”

point of view. This may be visible because the author of the news report has communicated through some of the characters in the story and played a character of the narrator as well. The author has not used feeling words in the news report. Descriptive words such as “*slit, deep cuts*” have been employed to describe the incident.

#### **4.2.2 Man kills girlfriend at Ombili**

News - National | 2020-10-20Page no: 0

by Okeri Ngutjinazo

**A MAN allegedly shot and killed his girlfriend on Tuesday evening at Ombili informal settlement in Windhoek before turning the gun on himself.**

The man was identified as Martin Mupopiwa (39) and the woman Ndapewa Moses.

According to police spokesperson deputy commissioner Kauna Shikwambi, Moses had moved in with her family at Ombili informal settlement. Her boyfriend went to see her earlier on Tuesday, **demanding** that she returns to the shack they shared near Okahandja Park.

“When she refused, the boyfriend fatally shot her in the head and also shot himself in the head. They died instantly and their next of kin have been informed of their deaths,” Shikwambi said.

The couple had two children together.

##### 4.2.2.1 Perpetrators Category

The phrase “*turning the gun on himself*” in this news report is presented as a mock statement. The statement is usually used to express suicide by gun. The word ‘*turn*’ is used as an indication that the sole idea was to kill Ndapewa Moses but he furthermore ended up turning the gun in his direction. The action performed by the perpetrator is constitutionally illegal. It is a crime to kill and a crime to commit suicide.

Furthermore, the use of the word “*demanding*” used in the sentence “*Her boyfriend went to see her earlier on Tuesday, demanding that she returns to the shack they shared near Okahandja Park*” carries an entitlement connotation towards the perpetrator. The adjective *demanding* in this sentence operates as a noun in the form of a request. The fact that the perpetrator gets to demand and not politely ask or beg the victim to return to their home indicates that the perpetrator felt as if he had the right and or ownership of the victim. The word choice used to describe the phenomenon seem to carry a message that states that the perpetrator believed that he inherently deserved privileges over the victim ‘s life including the right to end it.

#### 4.2.2.2 Victims Category: The Deceased

The author reported the story about a female victimised by a male intimate partner with whom she lived. According to the news report, she, as the victim, decided to leave their home to return to her parents and he, the perpetrator followed her demanding that she returns to him and she refused. He then decided to go against her wishes as though he had the right to and ended her life. The news reporter presented mostly the perpetrator’s wishes and actions. The reporter over-presented the perpetrator and therefore overshadowed the victim. The catchiest statement used when presenting the victim was “*when she refused*” however short, but it is full of meaning.

#### 4.2.2.3 Biasness

The author presented a one-side story. The victim has been presented as someone who cohabitated against and was killed in the end. There is not much information about the victim presented in the news report. The news reporter presented more information about the perpetrator, painting his

character as powerful. This does not give the victim an equal representation thus making the victim's voice rather silent.

#### 4.2.2.4 Metaphors

The researcher identified a conceptual metaphor in the news report in the following words, “*turning the gun on himself*”. This metaphorical use within a news report that is aimed at reporting a very sensitive social issue brings about a rhetorical feel. Rhetorical usage of language is creative and fun and may redirect the reader's mind from taking the presented issue seriously.

#### 4.2.2.5 Transitive verbs

Two transitive verbs were identified in this news report in the following words, “*shot*” and “*refuse*”. The word ‘*shot*’ is an action verb that requires the actor to cautiously aim at the *target* before pulling the trigger. The verb may paint the perpetrator's action as intentional. Meanwhile, in the case of the word ‘*refuse*’, which is also an action verb and normally used to indicate rejection, the usage of the verb in the news report may interpret to the reader that the perpetrator was being forceful.

#### 4.2.2.6 Point of view

The author used a third person point of view as shown by the third person pronouns such as “*himself*”, “*she*” and “*her*” that are visible. The author used a third person limited to subjective point of view.

The author used words that indicates that the perpetrator felt entitled to the victim. The diction used, is “*demanding*”. The word “*demanding*” can serve as an adjective and verb. In this case, it appears the word functions as an *action verb* but consequently empowers the perpetrator. It appears as though the perpetrator felt he had the power to instruct or control the victim.

#### **4.2.3 Woman brutally killed in Omusati**

News - National | 2020-12-09Page no: 0

by Eliaser Ndeyanale

**A 27-year-old woman from Onamatanga village in the Omusati region was hacked to death with a panga by her boyfriend on Tuesday night.**

The police's regional commander in Omusati, commissioner Titus Shikongo, confirmed the incident this morning.

According to Shikongo, the killing happened at around 20h00 at Onamatanga, a village in the Ruacana constituency.

Shikongo said the woman, Niita Kandjafa, and her boyfriend, Ignatius Tumeni Nampweya (35), have been co-habiting in their own house and had a quarrel earlier in the day before going to the cuca shop.

“At around 20h00 they returned home, the deceased decided to go to the grandmother's house fearing for her safety,” Shikongo said.

It is alleged that Nampweya followed Kandjafa, dragged her out of her grandmother's homestead and attacked her with a panga.

Kanjafa suffered severe injuries to her head and arms, which were almost severed, Shikongo said.

She died on the spot.

Nampweya fled from the scene and was later found hanging from a tree in his mahangu field.

Kandjafa and Nampweya had a daughter together.

Their relatives have been informed of the incident. Police investigations continue.

#### 4.2.3.1 Perpetrators Category

The author further on narrates that, the perpetrator “*dragged*” the victim out of the grandmother’s house and killed her. The word “*dragged*” used in this sentence subjects the victim to helplessness meanwhile portraying an image of physical strength towards the perpetrator. It appears as though the victim endured, while being dragged out like a helpless powerless individual.

The perpetrator followed the victim while she sought safety, then he dragged, attached and hacked her to death. However, all that the victim did was run for her life. How helpless? One might think. On the other hand, how seriously daring, strong and determined one must be to carry out that agonising act. Perceptively, the perpetrator had chosen a fate for the victim, and still took the opportunity to decide for his own fate.

#### 4.2.3.2 Victims Category: The Deceased

The verb “*hacked*” used to present the action performed on the victim creates scary murderous visions on the mind of the reader. Meanwhile the word “*hacked*” is defined as to “cut with rough or heavy blows”. This puts emphasis on the gruesome crime committed and creates an image of the merciless bodily harm done to the victim, to the reader. This also paints the image of the aggression applied towards the victim. However, the author’s choice of using this word “*hacked*” seems remorseless towards the victim.

Reportedly, it appears that the perpetrator and the victim accompanied one another to the *Cuca*-shop. Known to the Namibian community readers are the activities that happen at the *Cuca*-shops, caused by the wanton consumption of alcohol. Although the nature of the argument was not disclosed in the report, it may appear that the return from the *Cuca*-shop might have aggravated the argument. The author who reported that the victim went and sought safety from her grandmother's house brings this up. Clearly, there must have been signs or threats towards the victim's life. What seem to be a presentation of half a story might leave the reader with unanswered questions.

#### 4.2.3.3 Biasness

It may be a question to a reader as to why, the victim's age has not been mentioned within the news report, meanwhile the age of the perpetrator was provided. This may lead to a conclusion that the writer paid more attention to the presentation of the perpetrator as opposed to attempting to strike a balance in this regard. It then may make this news report one sided and thus bias.

#### 4.2.3.4 Metaphors

The author used a metaphoric language. One conceptual metaphor that appears in the news report is; "*She died on the spot*" This phrase in this news report may indicate that the victim died immediately or died at the same place where the crime was committed. The usage of conceptual metaphors in general may be imaginative and applying them in a text may encourage the reader to continue reading.

#### 4.2.3.5 Transitive verbs

The following transitive verbs were discovered in this news report: “*hacked*”, “*attacked*”, “*injuries*”, “*suffered*”, “*fled*”, “*hanging*”, “*informed*”, and “*confirm*”. The usage of the words, ‘*hacked*’, ‘*attacked*’, in combination creates a very aggressive sound and may paint an aggressive character to the perpetrator. Meanwhile the words, ‘*injuries*’, ‘*suffered*’, and ‘*fled*’ may create a sense of empathy towards the victim. Finally, the words ‘*hanging*’, may create a sense of helplessness meanwhile, words ‘*informed*’ and ‘*confirm*’ may create a sense of inquisitiveness.

#### 4.2.3.6 Point of view

The author used a third person view because of the third person pronouns employed. The author’s writing reveals a third person limited to a subjective point of view as shown by the fact that the author had interviewed some characters to gather information as shown in some parts of the story.

The author used descriptive words such as “*dragged, hacked and attacked*”, when describing the perpetrator’s actions. The author also used ‘feeling’ words or words presenting emotions such as “*fear*” when describing the victim’s state. The author tried to report the patterns and steps that built up to the murder. Furthermore, the fact that the victim’s bodily state suffered from the murder has also been provided. It is not clear what the author’s view towards the crime was.

#### **4.2.4 Man takes own life after allegedly killing girlfriend**

News - National | 2020-10-10 Page no: 0

by Hileni Nembwaya

**Gwashiti Tomas (27) was allegedly brutally murdered by her boyfriend, Johannes Namibian (31), at Uuhongo village at Onesi in the Omusati region on Friday.**

Namibian thereafter reportedly took his own life.

Omusati regional police commander Titus Shikongo says Namibian allegedly cut Tomas' throat with an

unknown object, and she also sustained deep cuts to her left wrist.

Her body was discovered by a passer-by.

"

A further report received at about 15:04 revealed that the suspect's lifeless body was found hanging from a tree . . . about 1 000 metres from the murder scene," Shikongo says.

The deceased are said to have had two children together.

No suicide note was found.

Tomas was from the Onangombe B village at Ruacana, while Namibian was from the Uuhongo village at Onesi.

Both of their next of kin have been informed of their deaths and their bodies have been transported to the Okahao police mortuary.

Investigations are ongoing.

#### 4.2.4.1 Perpetrators Category

According to the author's report, the perpetrator murdered the victim. The author described the incident as a brutal murder, using the verb "*murdered*". The word "*murder*" is a noun and is defined as the crime of killing somebody deliberately. By so stating, the author has depicted an image, stating that the perpetrator had premeditated the act. Thus, the reader may be convinced that the crime was by no chance an accident, a temporary spare of the moment uncontrolled anger but that the perpetrator had intentions to kill the victim.

The news report does not have sufficient details about the causes of the incident. The fact that there are no more details pertaining to the cause of the dilemma leaves the reader to her or his own conclusions.

#### 4.2.4.2 Victims Category: The Deceased Victims

The report is merely a presentation. It is basically more of an incident report. There seems to be no motive to educate or caution the reader. The victim is presented simply as a victim of a seemingly famous or expected crime. The author's voice is not presented in the report. Thus, creating an impression of the author as merely perhaps presenting the story simply for the sake of having something to report for the newspaper's sake.

#### 4.2.4.3 Biasness

The news report does not reveal biasness in the author's writing.

#### 4.2.4.4 Metaphors

The researcher did not identify any metaphors or metaphoric expressions in this news report.

#### 4.2.4.5 Transitive verbs

The researcher identified three (3) transitive verbs in this news report in following words: "*Cut*", "*received*", "*Informed*". The verb '*cut*' is normally used to separate one part from another. The usage of the verb in the news report may sound like the perpetrator acted with intention. In contrast to the verbs '*receive*' and '*informed*' that has a rather neutral sound.

#### 4.2.4.6 Point of view

The author's writing indicates that the author may perceive the incident as a planned act of killing. The author used action and descriptive words such as "*brutally*", and "*murder*". The word brutal has synonyms such as ruthless, harsh, vicious, fierce, and unhuman amongst others. The word murder however indicates that the perpetrator acted with intent. The author used a third person point of view because of the third person point of view pronouns such as "*his*". In the news report, the author as a character exists outside the scene and uses third person limited to subjective point of view. When narrating how the victim's body was discovered, the author used the countable noun "*passer-by*" which refers to a random person walking by. This may be the author's way of reporting that it appears as though the victim's body was thrown away or abandoned.

#### **4.2.5 Woman killed after paying boyfriend's bail**

by Oswald Shivute

**HOURS after she paid bail to get her boyfriend released from police cells for suspected theft, a young woman was brutally murdered in the North on Tuesday evening – allegedly by the same man.**

The 26-year-old mother of two from the Oneshila informal settlement in Oshakati East, was reportedly murdered in full view of her children, one of whom is only four months old.

Oshana police liaison officer warrant officer Thomas Aiyambo, who confirmed the incident to The Namibian, said the name of the woman cannot be revealed because her next of kin have not been informed of her death.

According to the police, the suspect was arrested some time ago on charges of theft. On Tuesday, he appeared in court and was granted bail.

His girlfriend reportedly paid the bail and the two were seen leaving together for their home at the Oneshila informal settlement.

That evening, the suspect and his girlfriend quarrelled over an unknown issue, and the suspect allegedly took a panga and chopped her several times on the head, neck and body.

He allegedly also attacked and seriously injured another man who was staying with them.

The suspect allegedly carried the body to a nearby dry pool where he dumped it before running away.

Neighbours, who were alerted of the murder by children at the communal flats, rushed to the scene before calling the police.

The other victim, who was attacked while trying to intervene, was admitted to the Oshakati State Hospital where he is in the intensive care unit.

Police yesterday called on members of the community to assist them in tracing the suspect.

This is the second incident of murder in a week after a woman from Omutemo village in Oshikoto region, Auguste Pombili, was stabbed to death last Thursday, allegedly by her boyfriend who also ran away. The police are still looking for him.

#### 4.2.5.1 Perpetrators Category

The author reported the incident as a deliberate act because of the wording “*murder*”. The incident, which as appropriately described, was gruesome and performed in front of the children, was somehow frivolously presented. The author and readers are part of the same community of which the incident was carried out hence one would expect to a certain extent a penitent narrative. In the following sentences, as reported in the news report “He allegedly also attacked and *seriously injured* another man who was staying with them. The suspect allegedly *carried* the body to a nearby dry pool where he dumped it before running away”. The perpetrator’s description in the news report depicts that of a ruthless but tough individual. The perpetrator solely killed the woman,

seriously injured another man, and still had the strength to carry a deceased body to a nearby dry pool.

On the other hand, looking at the following phrase “*Police suspect that the woman was raped before she was killed*”. The author reported the victim and the perpetrator as individuals who bore children together and were seemingly in a love relationship. The seemingly probing statement within the author’s report however is “police suspected that the woman “*was raped before she was killed*”. Although the word “*suspected*” may be appropriately used, the lack of evidence and motive as to how the suspected incident happened has not been provided, thus leaving the reader to a dead-end raising a question that the rest of the news report has not clarified. It appears the perpetrator might not only be a murderer but labelled a rapist as well.

#### 4.2.5.2 Victims Category: The Deceased

It may be difficult for the reader to connect to the story as the victim is presented as an unknown individual whose name cannot be revealed. When reading the phrase “*she paid bail to get her boyfriend released*” in combination with the phrase “*a young woman was brutally murdered*” one might not easily assume that the author is reporting on the same victim. When a reader looks at the sentence’s main phrases and try to connect it to the last phrase “*allegedly by the same man*” it may still be difficult to comprehend.

The victim’s role as a supportive partner is quickly overshadowed by what is seemingly represented as the after effect of her kindness. Despite the fact that she went and paid for his bail, her attempt for his freedom had been compensated with a murderous act of violence. He was

described as a criminal who was jailed for theft. It appears as though attempting to assist him with bail money was a wrong move. The news report leaves the reader with puzzling thoughts such as; ‘why did she pay the bail? What led to the violence? What really happened?’

At the end of the report is an attachment of another incident where another victim in a different location of the country had also been stabbed to death by her boyfriend.

The incident was reported as follows: *“This is the second incident of murder in a week after a woman from Omutemo village in Oshikoto region, Auguste Pombili, was stabbed to death last Thursday, allegedly by her boyfriend who also ran away. The police are still looking for him”*.

This incident was sloppily reported, as the death of Miss Auguste Pombili was presented as an addition to what seemed to have been the main story on that particular page titled: *“Woman killed after paying boyfriend’s bail”*. There is a possibility that the reporter did not try to retrieve further details of the incident but it may appear that for the sake of *“fresh news”* this incident also made it to the paper.

#### 4.2.5.3 Biasness

No biasness was discovered in this news report.

#### 4.2.5.4 Metaphors

No metaphors have been discovered in this news report.

#### 4.2.5.5 Transitive verbs

The researcher discovered the following transitive verbs in this news report: “*Murder*”, “*arrested*”, “*attacked*”, “*chopped*”, “*injured*”, “*carried*”, “*dumped*”, and “*intervene*”. The usage of these transitive verbs in the news report may create horrific images in the mind of the reader and may depict the perpetrator to be a calculated murderer.

#### 4.2.5.6 Point of view

The author used third person point of view by applying the third person pronouns such as “*his*”, “*he*”. The author used a third person limited to subjective point of view. The author used the following phrases to describe the incident; “*murdered in full view*”; this may translate as being deliberately killed in front of the children. The phrase “*Brutally murdered*” may translate as mercilessly and deliberately killed. Furthermore, in the sentence; “*the suspect allegedly took a Panga and chopped her several times on the head, neck and body*”; the author provided a full description of how the suspect killed the victim, named the weapon used, the body parts cut and narrated that the victim had been chopped several times. With this description, the author disclosed the horrific feelings he or she may have had towards the incident. The author however has not used feeling words and this may make it difficult to assume the author’s emotions towards the incident.

The author used descriptive words such as “*attacked*” to indicate the aggression used by the suspect and the adverb “*seriously*” to define the intensity and severity of the injury suffered by the victim.

The author’s voice sounds as though he or she finds the incident surreal.

Finally, the author used the word “*dumped*” to give a portrayal of how inhumanely the victim’s remains were treated.

The diction selected in the news report may provide a picture of what the victim had gone through. This may be a clear indication that the author was trying to communicate to the community and not just reporting the story. The diction used may create an imagination in the minds of the reader. The type of phrases and sentence construction used can paint an image of the type of community to whom the author was reporting.

#### **4.2.6 Woman battered to death as children watch**

News - National | 2019-09-04Page no: 1  
by Tuyeimo Haidula

**“My sister is not dead. She is waiting for me to call her and wake her up,” are the words which kept ringing in Lucina Mwoombola's head as she watched police officers removing her sister's lifeless body from a room at Okandjengedi location at Oshakati.**

Lucillia Bunita Quimbra (30) was allegedly beaten to death on Saturday by her boyfriend of three years, Edward Haiyambo (31), in full view of her four children aged 10, six, three and one. The last two children were fathered by the suspect.

At the time of the incident, Haiyambo had escaped from the Oshakati State Hospital on 24 August, where he was under police guard while on medical treatment.

He was in custody for theft.

He appeared in the Oshakati Magistrate's Court for murder on Tuesday, and had his case postponed to 29 October for further police investigations.

Inspector Thomas Aiyambo of the Namibian Police's public relations unit in the Oshana region confirmed the incident.

Aiyambo said Quimbira had two open wounds on the left side of her face, and another one on the head. She was also found with a broken right arm. The accused fled the scene and was arrested in the Omusati region's Etayi constituency on Sunday night.

A tearful and distraught Mwoombola on Monday told *The Namibian* at the family house in Evululuko, Oshakati East, that Quimbira's three-year-old son was found sleeping next to his mother, with his arms around her in a pool of blood. He was alive and unharmed.

“Her face was smashed with a brick, and although one might struggle to identify her as a result of the injuries, I knew that was my baby sister. I know her hands and feet for someone I have been changing nappies,” she narrated.

Mwoombola said she was shocked, broken and hurt, and knows it will take time for her to recover.

She recounted that when she got the call that Saturday night, and was told there was a violent incident and that her sister might be dead, she refused to accept it.

“I rushed to where the incident was reported, and when I got there, it was crowded. I hurried to the room, and she was lying on the bed. I called her name, and she did not answer. I then went outside to ask the people what had happened.

“When they told me it was [suspected to be] the boyfriend, I believed it. Their relationship has always been

violent, and I have many a times encouraged her to end it.

My nephew keeps telling us that we should go back to find his mother because she was refusing to wake up”, when he tried, she said, adding that the children are still to receive counselling.

Mwoombola said Quimbira left the house on Saturday to take her two children, aged 10 and six, back to school. This task she did not complete but ended up at Okandjengedi with her four children and Haiyambo.

Four days before her death, Mwoombola said Quimbira had a scar on her eye, and that is when she knew Haiyambo was out of jail.

“Every time she had a mark on her face, it was from that guy. But when I asked her about it, she said she was hit by a tree branch. I knew it was a lie. I have never seen my sister happy after spending a day with that man. Even before this incident, she told me she had ended the relationship.

“One year and five months ago, he beat her up badly when she was pregnant with the last-born. She reported him, opened police cases five times, but never followed through with them for him to be arrested. She said she didn't want to get the father of her children arrested,” Mwoombola continued.

She said it seems Quimbira was hiding Haiyambo inside her room at their house since his escape from hospital.

“We were not aware of this because she only stays with the children, my grandmother, and an uncle who has not been feeling well. We do not know how she managed to bring him home and hide him there,” she narrated, adding that everything surfaced on Saturday night.

Magistrate Toini Shilongo, who presided over the case, said Haiyambo can apply for legal aid.

State prosecutor Mpule Siyamunji opposed bail due to the “seriousness of the case, and high public interest”.

Quimbira is survived by four children and three sisters. Mwoombola said she only hopes justice prevails, and

that one day she and her family will find closure.

– tuyeimo@namibian.com.na

#### 4.2.6.1 The Perpetrators Category

The perpetrator is presented as a strong but ruthless individual. Henceforth, the reasons for the act were not provided neither was the perpetrator's behaviour or emotional state. The perpetrator may be viewed as someone who acted without thinking or impulsively. On the other hand, the perpetrator is presented as a father of two children mothered by the victim, as opposed to the victim whose one child is fathered by another man. The latter according to certain reader's societal perception may empower him. There is no information of whether the perpetrator fathered any other children with any other woman. Thus, the elaboration or disclosure of the paternity of some children to certain cultures may trigger a belittlement of women and empower men.

#### 4.2.6.2 Victims Category: The Deceased

The victim is portrayed as someone who somehow looked for her own death. The report reveals that the victim bailed the perpetrator out of jail. According to the news report, it appears that the victim hid the perpetrator from her family. Furthermore, the single character in the story reveals that the victim had been a victim of gender-based violence but had been hiding the truth. This may also reveal to the reader about the dangers of hiding gender-based violence. The news report further on narrated that the victim was on several occasions advised to end the relationship with the perpetrator. One character in the news report revealed that every time the victim was bruised it was the perpetrator who violet her.

The author added a time frame emphasis on the victim and perpetrator's relationship ("*Lucillia Bunita Quimbra (30) was allegedly beaten to death on Saturday by her boyfriend of **three years***"). An indication of the romantic relationship's life span may reveal the commitment towards the relationship. Depending on each reader's perception of time, the revelation may be thought provoking. A reader may for example wonder why the victim committed to a toxic relationship for that long. The perception may then result in assigning of blame towards the victim.

The author shared information by further shedding light on the progress of the deceased's children as reflected in the following sentence "*the children are still to receive counselling*". This is an indication that the author might have had an informative interest, by indirectly informing the nation about the availability of rehabilitation possibilities.

Another intriguing point was the disclosure of how many children out of the four children born of the victim were fathered by the perpetrator. Taking in consideration the different traditions, cultural behaviours and morals embraced in different communities, the victim in this case may be set up for judgement and discrimination.

#### 4.2.6.3 Biasness

It appears that to a certain extent that, the author's presentation of the story may have portrayed biasness. As the author narrated the story, it is apparent that the author seems more interested in the victim. The information provided is mostly about the victim. The character engaged by the author provided information about the victim. The perpetrator is presented more as an ungrateful

impulsive individual who murdered someone who bailed him out of jail. The perpetrator's voice in this news report is rather silent.

#### 4.2.6.4 Metaphors

The writer in the report narrated a character in the story as follows; "*My sister is not dead. She is waiting for me to call her and wake her up*". This expression reveals a state of disbelief experienced by the victim's sister. The author's choice to include this expression may not only be artistically creative and sincere but may also reveal the author's intention to bring forth the voice of those whose lives were touched by the victim's suffering. Thus, it would be relevant to state that perhaps a type of framing employed would not only captivate the reader's attention but also send a message of empathy towards the victim. Furthermore, the author narrated the following; "*I knew that was my baby sister, I know her hands and feet for someone I have been changing nappies.*" This expression may be a revelation and indication that the victim's sister still viewed her younger sister as the baby sister she once was. Thus, these metaphoric expressions could be used to bring certain emotions into perspective. Finally, another metaphoric expression narrated by the author is "*Mwoombola said she was shocked, broken and hurt.*" This expression emphasises the intensity of the pain she felt after losing her sister.

A conceptual metaphor was found in the news report; "*I know her hands and feet for someone I have been changing nappies*", *my sister is not dead. She is waiting for me to call her and wake her up*" and "*Mwoombola said she was shocked, broken and hurt*". The use of metaphors in this news

report may evoke the reader's emotion which could possibly motivate an attempt to sought intervention remedies.

#### 4.2.6.5 Transitive verbs

In this news report, the researcher discovered the following transitive verbs: “*Beaten*”, “*battered*”, “*wake*”, “*watched*”, “*remove*”, “*escaped*”, “*fled*” and “*smashed*”. The transitive verbs employed here may create a very aggressive connotation and may contribute to tainting the perpetrator vile.

#### 4.2.6.6 Point of view

The author seems to interact with the characters because the author spoke to one of the characters in the story who said, “*My sister is not dead. She is waiting for me to call her and wake her up.*” *These are the words which kept ringing in Lucina Mwoombola's head.* This reveals that the author used third person point of view because of the third person pronouns used. The author furthermore reveals the thought of one character but does not discuss the thoughts of other characters within the news report. On the other hand, it may then be apparent that the author's point of view towards the topic may be that of remorse due to certain negative and feeling words used. Words such as “*lifeless*”, “*tearful*” and “*distraught*” were used to describe the victim's state as well as the other character's emotional state. The author also used descriptive words when talking about certain characters. The author does however not share anything about his or her own feelings towards the topic. Furthermore, it appears that the author used the *limited for subjective* third person point of view as the author is also a character in the news report, and there is an interaction with the other

characters. Finally, in this news report, author has agency as the feeling-words used; “A *tearful* and *distraught* Mwoombola”, reveal an emotional reaction.

#### **4.2.7 Man kills girlfriend on Christmas day**

News - National | 2019-12-27Page no: 0

by Lugeretzia Kooper

**A 29-YEAR-OLD Zambian woman was hacked to death with an axe on Christmas day, allegedly by her boyfriend at Kwena area in the Zambezi region.**

The deceased was identified as Maria Mukela and her next of kin was informed of her death.

Zambezi regional crime investigations coordinator, deputy commissioner Evans Simasiku, confirmed the incident to *The Namibian* today, saying that the 25-year-old Zambian suspect was not happy that his girlfriend left the children at home and went to the bar.

"On Wednesday night, the suspect went to the bar with his friends to drink. After some time Mukela, accompanied by a friend also came at the same bar. He then asked her what she was doing there and where did she leave the children. She told him that the children were at home and she will not stay for long. The suspect in anger left the bar to go get the axe at home," he said.

According to Simasiku, when the suspect came back at the bar he still found Mukela sitting with her friend. He then started assaulting her with his hands.

"He later picked the axe and hit her with it on her head. She died as a result of the injury of the axe," he said.

Simasiku noted that a murder case read with the contravention of Domestic Violence Act was opened. He is expected to appear in court today.

In an unrelated incident, Simasiku noted that on the same Christmas day, a 25-year-old Namibian man was

arrested for stabbing a Zambian man over a beer at Ikaba village. The deceased was identified as Lifasi Imakando. His age is unknown.

"It is alleged that the two started arguing over a beer which belong to the suspect. During that argument, the suspect also accused the victim of having a relationship with his girlfriend and as a result took out the knife and stabbed him on his lower collarbone. This stab wound led to the death of Imakando," he said.

Simasiku added that a murder case C/R 26/12/2019 was opened at Ngoma Police Station.

#### 4.2.7.1 Perpetrators Category

“A 29-YEAR-OLD Zambian woman was *hacked* to death with an axe on *Christmas day*”. Considering the opening sentence, many in the Namibian community know Christmas day as a holy day. By adding the phrase “*on Christmas eve*” in the heading, the author sets a thought-provoking stance for the reader. Religiously, according to the Christian religion, Christmas day, which normally is celebrated with family, represents the birth of Jesus Christ the Messiah. The usage of the word “*hacked*” within the headline can be explained as follows: 1. to cut something with rough or heavy blows or, 2. to gain unauthorised access to data in a system of a computer. Firstly, to a reader, the action may benefit both definitions as the perpetrator is reported to have cut the victim to death proving the application of heavy blows, and secondly the perpetrator did hypothetically gain unauthorised access to the victim’s body and stole her life! The perpetrator is presented as the head of the house, decision maker and ruler of their relationship.

A description of the perpetrator’s feelings has been presented but narrated by another character within the news report. The emotional state of the victim has however not been presented.

According to the news report, the author was angry. The reasoning and action of the perpetrator presented reveals sexism and discriminatory behaviour, one that depicts control and patriarchy. The fact that the perpetrator left the bar and invested the time in fetching a murder weapon instead of returning home to care for the children he claims were abandoned reveals a patriarchal ideology. The act may then reveal that the perpetrator felt it was the victim's role and obligation to staying home and taking care of children. Patriarchy being a hypothetical social system denotes that a man is the overall control of the family therefore makes decisions as well and the woman should respect and abide.

#### 4.2.7.2 Victims Category: The Deceased

The victim is presented passively as someone who abandoned her children in search for a drink at a bar on Christmas day. Meanwhile the perpetrator consciously decided to go to the bar for a drink, the victim is questioned about her decision to be at the bar. The indication in the story is that the victim should be home with children. The behaviour seems patriarchal and sexist, as the perpetrator seem to believe that the decision over the victim's social engagements lie with him.

On the other hand, the author as a character has agency as the wording carries possibility to change the story presented. For example, the usage of the word *still* by the author in the sentence (*when the suspect came back at the bar he still found Mukela sitting with her friend*) seem to implicate the victim. The reader may interpret it as the victim may have been away from the children for a very long time while at the bar. Moreover, the interpretation may then lead to a conclusion that the victim has neglected the children thus; she qualifies as a bad mother. One could also conclude that despite the perpetrator's anger, the victim decided to stay at the bar. It is thus possible for

certain readers to sympathise or applaud the perpetrator as his action might be glorified as a man looking out for his children. On the other hand, the children's ages as well as the distance between the bar and the house were not disclosed and as a result, the reader may be entitled to their own conclusion.

#### 4.2.7.3 Biasness

There is no biasness identified.

#### 4.2.7.4 Metaphors

No metaphors or metaphoric expressions were identified within this news report.

#### 4.2.7.5 Transitive verbs

The researcher did not identify any transitive verbs within this news report.

#### 4.2.7.6 Point of view

The author used third person point of view because of third person pronouns such as "he", "she", "him" and "his" used. The author used third person point of view accompanied by the third person objective point of view because the author has revealed none of the character's thoughts. However, the author is a character in the story, as there is an interaction with one character. The author used third person point of view because of the third person pronouns employed. The author furthermore used the *third person objective* point of view, as the author does not seem to know the thoughts or feelings of the characters in the news report. The author however engaged one of the characters in

the news report who conveyed the thought of the perpetrator. The author thus serves as character and narrator of the story. The author's personal view of the story is not visible. There are no feeling words used.

#### **4.2.8 Man allegedly slits girlfriend's throat at Walvis**

2 Sep 2019

by Adam Hartman

**A 54-YEAR-OLD man was arrested on Sunday after he allegedly slit his girlfriend's throat at Walvis Bay.**

An incident report issued by Erongo police crime investigations coordinator Erastus Iikuyu stated that the incident took place at Kuisebmond at around 18h30.

It is alleged that the suspect cut the girlfriend's neck with a knife, instantly killing her inside her ghetto. The deceased has been identified as Hanguwo Otiilie Mwateuvi (36). She and the suspect lived together, according to the report.

"It is not yet known what caused the suspect to commit *such* a crime. The next of kin of the deceased person were informed. The deceased's body was taken to the Walvis Bay police mortuary for a post-mortem examination," said Iikuyu, adding that the suspect faces a charge of murder.

The suspect will appear in the Walvis Bay Magistrate's Court tomorrow.

##### 4.2.8.1 Perpetrators category

The perpetrator has been presented as the active character in the story. However, the same details pertaining to the perpetrator's livelihood has been provided and is similar to the victim. The author indicated that the reason that led to the perpetrator's action was not provided.

#### 4.2.8.2 Victims Category: The Deceased

The victim was presented as someone to whom the crime was committed. The details pertaining the victim's livelihood have been provided as of the perpetrator. The author indicated that the reason leading to the victim's fate had not been provided. The author used third person point of view accompanied by the third person objective point of view because the author had revealed none of the character's thoughts. However, the author is a character in the story, as there is an interaction with the other character.

#### 4.2.8.3 Biasness

There was no biasness detected in this news report.

#### 4.2.8.4 Metaphors

The researcher did not identify any metaphors or metaphoric expressions in this news report.

#### 4.2.8.5 Transitive verbs

The following transitive verbs were identified in this news report: "*Slit*", "*cut*", and "*taken*". The usage of the presented transitive verbs may make the crime sound like an abduction. It may create a rather empathetic feeling to a reader and towards the victim. The verb '*slit*' may indicate that the perpetrator carelessly slashed the victim meanwhile the verb '*cut*' may add emphasis on the precision of the act. This may create a negative image towards the perpetrator and may present the victim as helpless.

#### 4.2.8.6 Point of view

The author's point of view on the topic may be one of shock as the author used the adjective "such" when writing about the crime committed. For example, the author says, "It is not yet known what caused the suspect to commit **such** a crime." The usage of the word "such" indicates that the author considered the crime committed as being shocking, and or in a class of its own. Such expressions may also indicate to the reader what the writer thought of the crime as well as informing that the action may be perceived as abnormal. The author used a third person point of view because of the third person pronouns such as "his", "him". The author also used a third person limited to subjective point of view. The author employed descriptive words in the narrative of the incident.

#### **4.2.9 Man arrested for murder of ex-girlfriend**

News –National | 28 Dec 2019

**by Clemans Miyanicwe**

**KHORIXAS Police arrested a 45-year-old man around 23h45 last night in Khorixas for the murder of his ex-girlfriend, according to Kunene region's acting police commander, Inspector Jarron Iita.**

Iita told *The Namibian* in a telephonic interview that police have opened a case of murder.

"A murder case was opened. Investigators might add more cases," Iita told *The Namibian*.

The 45-year-old man was arrested in Donkerhoek informal settlement where he was previously chased by locals. The locals chased after the murder suspect around the mountains near New Temple Pentecostal Church around 16h00 yesterday after he had hidden at a relative's house in the informal settlement.

The suspect reportedly stabbed his ex-girlfriend several times in the neck at her house in the *location* behind Jabulani area on 24 December. He was out on bail of N\$1 000 after he was charged for raping his biological daughter last year, a few days before she turned 21.

An unnamed source said the murder suspect has been to the Khorixas district hospital. It is not known whether he was there for medical reasons or to view the body of the deceased. However, Iita said he was not aware of the hospital visit.

Some relatives of the murdered woman were at the Khorixas police station in the morning to visit the murder suspect but were told that they can only meet him after a case has been opened and with the investigators' permission.

#### 4.2.9.1 Perpetrators Category

*The Cambridge Advanced Learners Dictionary (2008)* defines “murder” as a noun, the crime of intentionally killing a person (p. 936). Murder is thus, an unlawful premeditated act of taking a life of one person by another. The perpetrator in this news report is portrayed as having thought of and planned the killing of the victim. Although the leading evidence to the conclusion has not been provided. The author furthermore explained that an interviewee told *The Namibian* that a murder case was opened and investigators might add more cases.” The report indicates that the crime had been termed a “murder” but more crimes might be added. An interesting aspect in this news report pertains to the naming of the habitat where the community lives.

According to the author, “*The 45-year-old man was arrested in Donkerhoek informal settlement where he was previously chased away by the locals. The locals chased him away after the murder suspect was seen around the mountains near New Temple Pentecostal Church around 16h00 yesterday after he had been hidden at a relative's house in the informal settlement*” The author repeatedly referred to the habitat as “*informal settlement*” and “*location*”. Informal settlement is known as a place where people settle temporarily with poor materials for shelter and sometimes illegally also. It is thought provoking as to why the author refers to the area “*Donkerhoek*” as an

informal settlement and how a reader would relate the area to the murder. Informal settlements are known to attract crime. However according to Osrin *et al.* (2011) the communities in urban informal settlements are diverse, as are their environmental conditions.

Osrin *et al.* (2011) further stated that the conditions of such characteristics of such places include inadequate access to safe water and sanitation, poor quality of housing, overcrowding, and insecure residential status. In a research carried out in Mumbai India Osrin *et al.* (2011) established that one would assume that women and children from informal settlements would be less healthy than those from formal settlements. The research results revealed a confirmation that visible characteristics of urban slum localities indicate maternal and new-born health vulnerability (p. 930). If new-born babies and women are considered vulnerable and less healthy, it would be relevant to say that the so-called settlements can then have a mental health impact on women, children and consequently men. The author's choice of words specially to use the term "*informal settlement*" coins the crime as an expected incident.

The author also exposed the perpetrator's other criminal activities; ("He was out on bail for N\$1 000 after he was charged for raping his biological daughter last year, a few days before she turned 21"). This may be an indication that the author might have intended to direct the reader to a place of judgement towards the perpetrator. Thus, one could assume that the perpetrator was a heartless individual who intentionally caused harm on those close to him.

#### 4.2.9.2 Victims Category: The Deceased

The victim has been passively presented. The news report focused on the perpetrator instead. The victim has been presented as someone whose life was taken away helplessly. The author also does

not reveal his perception of the incident. It is visible that the author uses the third person as shown by the use of the third person pronouns such as, “*he*”, “*she*”, and “*they*”. The news report also adopts a third person limited for subjective point of view because the author interacts with one of the characters. The victim has been described as an ex-girlfriend to the perpetrator. However, no further details regarding her livelihood or the relationship between the two has been provided. Within the story, the author carries some agency because of the interaction with the character. This places the author in an authoritarian position of narrating the story. It may be worth noting that the author has a diction and presentation of story obligation to the reader. For that reason, how much information is collected and documented regarding the two main characters is crucial.

#### 4.2.9.3 Biasness

The report seems biased as the report shows that the author focused more on the perpetrator. The victim is inertly presented. Apart from the victim being an ex-girlfriend, female and deceased, there is no further details about the victim. The perpetrator seem to have dominated the entire news report. Information surrounding the livelihood of the victim may, in this case be crucial as it may offer the reader background of information on the story narrated.

#### 4.2.9.4 Metaphors

The researcher did not identify any metaphors or metaphoric expressions in this news report.

#### 4.2.9.5 Transitive verbs

The researcher discovered the following transitive verbs: “*arrested*”, “*opened*”, “*chased*”, “*hidden*”, “*stabbed*”, “*raping*” and “*meet*”. The usage of the presented transitive verbs in the

article may create an image that the perpetrator acted and became remorseful thereafter. The combination of the words may depict the perpetrator as someone who acted impulsively.

#### 4.2.9.6 Point of view

The author used a third person point of view because of the third person personal pronouns such as “*his*” and “*he*”. The author also used a third person limited to a subjective point of view. Furthermore, the author used descriptive words when describing the incident. The author’s voice does not reveal his or her view on the phenomenon. The report is rather descriptive nature.

#### **4.2.10 Police constable arrested over shooting of ex-girlfriend at Walvis Bay**

News - National | 2019-09-19 Page no: 0  
by Tuyeimo Haidula

**A POLICE constable allegedly shot his ex-girlfriend in Walvis Bay's Kuisebmond residential area on Thursday afternoon.**

The woman, identified as Selma Uupindi (22), was rushed to the Walvis Bay State Hospital in a critical condition.

The suspect, a constable in the Namibian Police, was arrested after he handed himself over at his duty station at the Walvis Bay harbour.

Police inspector general Sebastian Ndeitunga confirmed the incident, which happened at around 16h20 at Kuisebmond, to *The Namibian*.

According to a police report, the suspect – who cannot be named as he is yet to appear in court on a charge of attempted murder – shot Uupindi, an ex-girlfriend of his, in the chest with a police service pistol.

The victim registered a complaint of assault by threat, read with the provisions of the Combating of Domestic Violence Act, against the suspect on Thursday morning, the police reported.

It is not clear what transpired immediately before the shooting, and police investigations into the matter continue.

#### 4.2.10.1 Perpetrators Category

*“A POLICE constable allegedly shot his ex-girlfriend at Walvis Bay's Kuisebmond residential area on Thursday afternoon”*

The suspected perpetrator reflected in the sentence above, is reported to have handed himself over to the police. (*“The suspect, a constable in the Namibian Police, was arrested after he handed himself over at his duty station.”*) The action could then be concluded as an admission of guilt. According to the author *“the suspect – who cannot be named as he is yet to appear in court on a charge of attempted murder.”* On the other hand, the word “POLICE” has been capitalised, it appears as though the profession has been singled out as one from which crime is unexpected. Meanwhile the victim’s identity, location and state of health was exposed, the suspected perpetrator’s information was hidden. It would then be crucial to assume that the reason for not exposing the perpetrator’s identity was that he was a member of the police force. There was an essence of biasness in this news report.

The author used a third person point of view, third person limited to subjective point of view and the view of the author regarding the incident is not clear as the author did not reveal his feelings towards the incident.

#### 4.2.10.2 Victims Category: The Deceased

The victim's information was revealed although the perpetrator's identity had been hidden. Although the perpetrator was at the time of reporting still a suspect, the victim equally deserved the same respect with regards to exposing her health status and location. Exposing the victim's location and health status may be a compromise to her safety. An attempted murder normally indicates that the perpetrator had intentions to harm and kill the victim. The framing of the news report is seemingly aimed at merely reporting news.

#### 4.2.10.3 Biasness

The news report was biased as information regarding the perpetrator and the victim was not equally presented. The victim's personal details were revealed but the perpetrator's information was hidden.

#### 4.2.10.4 Metaphors

In this news report, the researcher did not identify any metaphors or metaphoric expressions.

#### 4.2.10.5 Transitive verbs

The news report investigated contained the following transitive verbs: "*rushed*", "*arrested*", "*confirmed*", and "*appear*". The transitive verbs here may create an impression that the crime was attended to swiftly and urgently. The transitive verbs used may also create the impression that the crime might not have been gruesome.

#### 4.2.10.6 Point of view

The author used third person point of view because of third person personal pronouns such as ‘*he*’, ‘*himself*’, ‘*him*’ and ‘*his*’ used. In narrating the story, the author used third person point of view accompanied by the third person objective point of view because the author had revealed none of the character’s thoughts. However, the author interacts with the one character who confirmed the incident. Despite the author’s engagement with a character within the story, the author does not seem to know the thoughts or feelings of the characters within the news report. Thus, the author used the *third person objective* point of view. The author’s personal view of the story is not visible. There were no feeling words used in this news report.

#### **4.2.11 Pregnant woman strangled, boyfriend takes own life**

News -National | 2020 .11 .22

by Okeri Ngutjinazo

##### **A man (43) from Outjo allegedly strangled his pregnant girlfriend (39) on Thursday.**

According to a police report the suspect then hid the woman's body under a bed before taking his own life.

A suicide note was found in the room.

The deceased's next of kin have been informed of their deaths.

The man is allegedly out on bail in two separate cases, one of robbery with aggravated circumstances where a victim was killed, and the other the attempted murder of the same victim.

#### 4.2.11.1 Perpetrators Category

The news report lacks content depth. It appears the author is merely reporting an incident without any depth on the lives of the characters in the story. The news writer reported this incident rather briefly, using short and precise sentences. The news report however reveals that the perpetrator had committed a similar crime to the victim for which he was out of jail on bail but did not share

more details that may be of information to the reader. The revelation of the other crimes may be an indication to the reader that the perpetrator had motives and intentions of harming the victim.

#### 4.2.11.2 Victims Category: The Deceased

The victim is presented as a helpless individual, and one can easily presume that to be true especially because she was reportedly pregnant when she was killed. The news report lacks depth and insightfulness. It appears the author was merely reporting an incident without any depth on the lives of the characters in the story.

#### 4.2.11.3 Biasness

In this news report, the victim and perpetrator are equally presented. The researcher did not detect any biasness.

#### 4.2.11.4 Metaphors

There are no metaphors or metaphoric expressions found in this news report.

#### 4.2.11.5 Transitive words

The researcher discovered the following words: "*hid*", "*taking*", and "*Informed*". The transitive verbs identified here may create a rather subtle impression. It may create an impression that the crime reported was not that serious.

#### 4.2.11.6 Point of view

The author adopted a third person point of view and there are no third person personal pronouns such as “*his*” or “*her*” employed. The news report although seemingly objectively written has an academic appearance in nature making it seem like it was written for persuasion. In this news report it is rather difficult to depict the author’s view as the author used limited words. It appears as though the author aimed at merely telling the story. The news report adopts a third person objective point of view. The author did not reveal his or her view towards the incident. It appears there are no feeling words used in the news report either.

#### **4.2.12 Man said to turn gun on himself after shooting girlfriend**

News-National | 22 Sep 2020

by Okeri Ngutjinazo

**A 42-year-old man allegedly shot and killed his girlfriend on Sunday at Goreangab in the capital after a reported quarrel between the two.**

The girlfriend was 35 years old.

According to national police spokesperson deputy commissioner Kauna Shikwambi, the couple was quarrelling inside their locked shack around 19h00.

The man reportedly shot his girlfriend in the head and then turned the 9 mm pistol on himself.

His girlfriend died at the scene.

The man was transported to hospital in a critical condition and died shortly after arriving.

#### 4.2.12.1 The Perpetrators category

The perpetrator is presented as the active individual in the phenomenon. The victim is passively presented as someone to whom the action was performed. The news report is more like a presentation of the event. The author used rather short sentences.

#### 4.2.12.2 The Victims Category: The Deceased

The captivating word in the newspaper report was the usage of the word “*shack*”, which is used when describing the home or habitat of the perpetrator and victim. A shack is defined as a type of small, often primitive shelter or dwelling.

#### 4.2.12.3 Biased

The victim and perpetrator are presented equally. There is no biasness discovered in the news report.

#### 4.2.12.4 Metaphors

There are no metaphors or metaphoric expressions found in this news report.

#### 4.2.12.5 Transitive verbs

Two (2) transitive verbs were identified in this news report namely, “*shot*”, and “*turned*”. These transitive verbs when read together may sound as though the reported crime was a calculated act.

#### 4.2.12.6 Point of view

The author used third person point of view because the third person pronouns such as “*his*”, “*himself*” that were applied. The author also interacted with one of the characters in the story, which makes the report take a limited to subjective point of view. However, the author did not

reveal his or her feelings or view towards the topic. The descriptive words used in the news report are only describing how the event unfolded; what is reported to have happened before and during the event and the end-results.

#### **4.2.13 Hammer, axe, kitchen knife used to murder woman**

News - National | 2020-11-11 Page no: 0

by Eliaser Ndeyanale

**A 29-year-old woman was murdered with a hammer, axe and kitchen knife - allegedly by her boyfriend - in the early hours this morning.**

According to Omusati crime investigations coordinator, deputy commissioner Moses Malakiya, the incident happened at around 01h30 this morning at Oshimpangwa village in the Elim constituency.

Malakiya said the suspect used a hammer and an axe to hit the deceased on the head.

"He further used a kitchen knife to slit the deceased's throat," Malakiya added.

He said the deceased and suspect had been co-habiting, and only the two of them were in the house at the time of incident.

The deceased has been identified as Mwakondjanale Amuulo.

The suspect is a 37-year-old man from Etope village in the Ohangwena region.

He was arrested, but has not yet been formally charged.

#### 4.2.13.1 Perpetrators Category

The perpetrator is presented as the active character in the incident. The type and number of weapons reportedly used by the perpetrator have been distinctively identified. This may lead a reader to the conclusion that the perpetrator was someone who committed the crime with the intention to kill. Unlike the victim, the perpetrator's name however has not been provided. Although the perpetrator is still a suspect, one would assume that the perpetrator's name has been omitted intentionally to protect his reputation.

#### 4.2.13.2 Victims Category: The Deceased

The victim has been presented as someone to whom the crime had been committed. The description of the weapons used on her, indicates the depth of the harm exposed to her. The victim's details such as her name and age have been provided. It is reported that the victim was cohabitating with the perpetrator.

#### 4.2.13.3 Biasness

It appears that the victim and perpetrator were not presented equally in the news report. The victim's identity was provided however, the perpetrator remained unidentified.

#### 4.2.13.4 Metaphors

The researcher did not identify any metaphors or metaphoric expressions in this news report.

#### 4.2.13.5 Transitive verbs

In this news report, the researcher identified the following transitive verbs: “*hit*”, “*slit*”, “*cohabitating*”, and “*identified*”. These transitive verbs when read together, may create a rather antagonistic impression towards the perpetrator and may arouse sympathy towards the victim.

#### 4.2.13.6 Point of view

The author used third person point of view and the limited for subjective third person point of view. The author interacted with one character who had been narrating the unfolding of the incident. The author clearly described the incident, the description seems rather pictorial. The news report is too descriptive; it would possibly be difficult for the reader not to imagine the scene.

#### **4.2.14 Man bludgeons wife to death**

News - National | 2020-11-03 Page no: 0  
by Puyeipawa Nakashole

**A 30-YEAR-OLD man surrendered to police on Tuesday morning after beating his wife with a hammer on the back of her head, killing her instantly at Okahandja Park on Saturday.**

Police spokesperson deputy commissioner Kauna Shikwambi told The Namibian on Tuesday that **the man turned himself in** at Wanaheda police station. He is set to appear in court on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, a woman (28) was hacked to death with a panga allegedly by her 37-year-old boyfriend on Saturday at Oohamba DaNehale Informal Settlement in Windhoek.

According to the weekly crime report released on Sunday, the suspect was arrested and the next of kin for the deceased were informed. Police investigations continue.

An 18-year-old woman was allegedly hit on the head with a brick by a 36-year-old man at Ohangwena on Wednesday morning, the suspect was arrested and police investigations continue.

A 43-year-old man allegedly stabbed his 30-year-old ex-girlfriend in Kap en Bou in Etoshaport, several times in the head with a knife.

The suspect was arrested and is expected to appear in court soon.

On Saturday afternoon, a 19-year-old student nurse was assaulted with a wine bottle by her boyfriend at the house where she stays at Grootfontein. The suspect was arrested and the woman was rushed to Grootfontein State Hospital for treatment.

In a freak accident at farm Stink Water, Albertus Hoxobeb (10) died on the spot after allegedly swinging on a hammer mill and fell on him.

Hoxobeb was reportedly playing with eight other children. His next of kin have been informed of his death

#### 4.2.14.1 The perpetrator's category

The author used the word "*bludgeon*" to describe the intensity of the violence applied by the perpetrator on the victim. The word "*bludgeon*" can be defined as a *noun* referring to a thick stick with a round end, and as a *verb*; referring to the action of beating 'someone' repeatedly with a bludgeon or a heavy object. *The Cambridge Advanced Learners Dictionary* (2008, p. 147) describes the word '*bludgeon*' as to hit someone several times repeatedly with a heavy object. In the author's words: "A 30-YEAR-OLD man surrendered to police on Tuesday morning after beating his wife with a hammer on the back of her head, killing her instantly". A 'hammer' according to *The Cambridge Advanced Learners Dictionary* (2008, p. 650) is a piece of metal with

a flat end, which is mounted onto the end of a long thin usually wooden handle, used for hitting things. A hammer is normally used for jobs such as breaking things and driving in nails.

By using the word “*bludgeon*”, the author seems to create images in the mind of the reader that describe the event that took place when the perpetrator attacked the victim. The word choice, especially using this diction is an indication that the author intended to explicate the intensity of the violence used, and by so writing, evoke the reader’s emotions. One can then assume that the newspaper writer was not merely presenting stories but also informing the reader about the intensity of the event and equally exposing certain characteristics contained within the community reported. It is evident in the news report that the perpetrator may have been of a sober conscience after committing the crime as the perpetrator reportedly handed himself over to the police. It is however thought provoking as to whether the perpetrator committed the crime with a sober conscience or not.

In addition to the above headline, the author reported on a variety of ‘intimate partner violence’ incidences in the same news report in the following manner:

Meanwhile, a woman (28) was hacked to death with a panga allegedly by her 37-year-old boyfriend on Saturday at Oohamba DaNehale Informal Settlement in Windhoek. According to the weekly crime report released on Sunday, the suspect was arrested and the next of kin for the deceased were informed. Police investigations continue.

A 43-year-old man allegedly stabbed his 30-year-old ex-girlfriend in Kap en Bou in

Etoshaport, several times in the head with a knife. The suspect was arrested and is expected to appear in court soon.

On Saturday afternoon, a 19-year-old student nurse was assaulted with a wine bottle by her boyfriend at the house where she stays at Grootfontein. The suspect was arrested and the woman was rushed to Grootfontein State Hospital for treatment.

The perpetrators in the above reports are presented as murderers. The events are presented shallowly as mere news coverage. There is not extensive details pertaining to the reported incidents. The victims are reported as individuals to whom the crime is committed. The voice for the victims and the perpetrators are silent. The lack of details in the news report leaves the readers to their own imagination.

#### 4.2.14.2 Victims Category: The Deceased

The author presented the incident briefly and to the point. No further details regarding the incident were provided. None of the victims' names were mentioned. The victim's voice is also silent. In addition, the author's voice reveals no emotions reporting the "headline" incident as alongside this incident the other incidents were reported in one paragraph just like short stories.

##### 4.2.14.2.1 The injured

The author narrated the incident as follows: *"On Saturday afternoon, a 19-year-old student nurse was assaulted with a wine bottle by her boyfriend at the house where she stays at Grootfontein. The suspect was arrested and the woman was rushed to Grootfontein State Hospital for treatment"*.

In this particular incident, the victim was not reported as being deceased. Thus, the author had an opportunity to seek further information pertaining to the events leading to the assault. The incident was reported as just another addition to the intimate partner violence statistics. Although the victim survived the assault, her voice was still silent which was similar to the deceased victim.

#### 4.2.14.3 Metaphors

There were no metaphors or metaphoric expressions found in this news report.

#### 4.2.14.4 Transitive verbs

This news report consisted of a number of transitive verbs. The transitive verbs identified are as follows: “*bludgeons*”, “*killing*”, “*turned*”, “*hacked*”, “*arrested*”, “*stabbed*”, “*assaulted*”, and “*rushed*”. The transitive verbs here may depict the perpetrator as a calculative murderer who intentionally exposed the victim to torture and maliciously killed her.

#### 4.2.14.5 Point of view

The author used a third person point of view because of third person pronouns such as “*he*”, “*himself*” that were used. Other phrases in third person such as “*the man turned himself in*” were also used. Reading however and understanding is a subjective field. Writing on the other hand particularly news report writing must be objective. The author used limited to subjective third person point of view because in the report it appears that the author interacted with one of the

characters who narrated the incident. The author did not use feeling words but rather descriptive words when reporting the event. The author's emotions were not disclosed.

#### **4.2.15 Man takes his life after girlfriend's murder**

**TAATI NILENGE and ESTER MBATHERA**

**A 35-YEAR-OLD man took his own life at Walvis Bay after he allegedly slit his girlfriend's throat with a knife in his shack over the weekend.**

The deceased has been identified as 33-year-old Hertha Ndakula Daniel. Her next of kin have been informed.

According to regional crime investigations coordinator, deputy commissioner Erastus Iikuyu, Fillemon Nghatanga contacted one of his friends on his cell phone, asking him to come to their house at around 06:55 on Saturday.

The friend arrived at 08:00 and notified the police of the crime scene he discovered.

The deceased were allegedly last seen alive on Friday at around 23:00 at home.

Nghatanga left a suicide note indicating he was unhappy with his girlfriend's decision to end their relationship.

The deceased's bodies were taken to the Walvis Bay State Hospital mortuary.

The incident took place at Sea Point at Kuisebmond.

Police investigations continue.

##### 4.2.15.1 Perpetrators Category

The perpetrator in the news report appears to be an orchestrator of the incident. This is portrayed in the report as the perpetrator is reported to have received news that he considered unfavourable. Based on the report, it appears that the perpetrator then decided to murder the victim and thereafter ended his own life. It is apparent that, the perpetrator pre-planned the murder as shown by the story, which informs that he had requested his friend to come by his home prior to the incident. This may reveal that the perpetrator had motives and intentions to murder the victim as reflected in the reported suicide note that stated: "*Nghatanga left a suicide note indicating he was unhappy with his girlfriend's decision to end their relationship.*" The suicide note may as well serve as a confession in this analysis as the perpetrator indicated his reasons for committing the crime. It appears as though the perpetrator opted to end his life for love but also forcefully ending the victim's life.

#### 4.2.15.2 Victims Category: The Deceased

The victim is represented as someone who has been set up by the perpetrator. Meanwhile, as revealed by the suicide note, the victim felt the need to express her feelings to end the relationship between herself and the perpetrator, the perpetrator however in response to that had other unexpected reactions. It appears that the victim was silenced and robbed off the opportunity to make an independent choice towards her own life. Although the author of this news report basically carried out the journalistic duty of covering the incident, the author's voice is not present as the author used rather short precise sentences in a reportage format.

#### 4.2.15.3 Biasness

The author's news report may be biased as the author presented the manner in which the victim was murdered meanwhile the perpetrator was described as someone who "*took*" his own life. The action enlightening what the verb "*took*" entails has been omitted. Thus, making the presentation one sided as it appears as though more respect is given to the perpetrator. How did he take his life and why have such information been withheld from the report? One could ask.

#### 4.2.15.4 Metaphors

The researcher did not identify any metaphors or metaphoric expressions in this news report.

#### 4.2.15.5 Transitive

The researcher identified the following transitive verbs in this news report: "*identified*", "*notified*", "*arrived*", "*discovered*", "*indicating*", "*taken*", and "*took*". These transitive verbs may raise curiosity in the mind of the reader. It may also create the impression that the writer needed to include substantial informative details on the report. However, the combination of the verbs may create a subtle presentation of the crime.

#### 4.2.15.6 Point of view

The author used a third person point of view, because of the third person personal pronouns employed, such as "*his*". The author also used the third person, limited to subjected point of view as the author has communicated to one of the characters in the story and plays a character of the narrator. The author has not used feeling words in the news report but has used rather few

descriptive words as firstly read in the news report headline; “A 35-YEAR-OLD man took his own life at Walvis Bay after he allegedly *slit* his girlfriend's throat *with a knife*” when reporting the incident. Thus, it is rather difficult to assess the author’s own view towards the incident or topic at hand. The author presented the story as a descriptive coverage.

#### **4.2.16 Two sisters hacked to death**

News - National | 2019-09-23Page no: 1

by Tuyeimo Haidula

**TWO sisters were brutally hacked to death at Oshaango in the Ohangwena region by the estranged partner of one of them on Friday afternoon.**

Ndamononghenda Nafuka (23) and Martha Nafuka (32) met their fate after Samuele Enkono (29), the father of two of Ndamononghenda's three children, allegedly hacked them with a panga before slitting their throats, and then proceeding to hang himself. Both women died on the spot, a few metres from their homestead.

Ohangwena police spokesperson warrant officer Abner Kaume Itumba confirmed the incident and said Ndamononghenda and Martha were found dead with several injuries, while Enkono's body was found hanging from a tree nearby. Enkono's homestead is about a kilometre from that of the Nafukas.

“He hanged himself with a piece of wire. Martha was slashed on one cheek, and on the back. She had several wounds on her arms, and her throat was slit. Her sister was also badly hurt, a sign that she was trying to block the panga attacks, but to no avail,” Itumba said.

At the time of the incident, *The Namibian* learnt that villagers were attending a memorial service in the area, and therefore no one could come to the two women's rescue.

#### **A MOTHER'S GRIEF**

The distressed mother of the two siblings, Ndamononghenda Andreas (58), told *The Namibian* through sobs at

her homestead on Saturday that she was unemployed, and that she will need money for coffins and other funeral arrangements. The date of the funeral is still to be decided after the police complete their investigations and give the bodies back to the families.

She added that Enkono's family had not indicated whether they will contribute towards the burial of his victims.

Andreas is a single mother whose husband died in 2007, and she had been depending on her two daughters for support. She had eight children in total, of whom three died years ago and the two who were murdered on Friday, leaving her with three.

She said Ndamononghenda was in a relationship with Enkono years back, and they have two children, aged six and five. Their relationship, Andreas said, ended when Ndamononghenda fell pregnant with her third child from another man three years ago.

“Just when her last-born turned two, he [Enkono] came back into my daughter's life. She told me they had gotten back together, and he had forgiven her. Little did she know he had been holding a grudge against her,” Andreas narrated.

She said the two have always had a violent relationship, and Enkono was obsessive as Ndamononghenda was not allowed to let her phone battery go low, or to switch the phone off.

The abuse, she said, escalated when they reunited.

Andreas said Ndamononghenda never reported the abuse she suffered at the hands of Enkono to the police.

“As a mother, I tried to intervene many times to spare her life,” she continued.

Andreas said a week before the killings, on 15 September, Enkono assaulted Ndamononghenda at a cattle water point with a knobkierie in broad daylight while people looked on.

The assault left her with a broken arm and bruised body.

Andreas said she phoned the Eenhana Police Station on Sunday, but was told that the police do not deal with assault cases, and they must go to hospital.

“I did not have money to take her to hospital, so I tried the women's network for help, but they too did not come. This was not the first time that the police have let me down. Last month, the two were fighting on their way from the cuca shops, and I called the police at Eenhana. They said they were coming, but never showed up. So, do police only come when there are dead bodies, but not when one needs help?” she asked.

Ndamonoghenda went to the Onandjokwe Intermediate Hospital on Wednesday, and received treatment. She was instructed to return on Friday for her arm to be put in a cast of plaster.

“Thursday [19 September], he came to ask her if she had gone to the hospital, and whether she had opened a case against him. He also demanded to know how she had received treatment without a police report. Their conversation did not end well because Ndamonoghenda told him she did not want him anymore as he had really hurt her,” Andreas said.

On the fateful day, Andreas said Ndamonoghenda was in the company of her two sisters, who had offered to escort her to hospital. The oldest had gone ahead of the two and was waiting for them to catch up with her. This sister has hearing impairments, and could not have heard any screams from her siblings.

What Andreas did not know was that it was the last time she would ever see her two daughters again, because they never made it to hospital, nor back home.

Andreas said the inhuman and violent manner in which the two were murdered haunts her the most, imagining the pain her children went through in their last hours on earth.

“I feel bad because I did not expect it. The person who killed my daughters did a terrible thing. If he had at

least allowed one to live . . . but taking both of them is painful,” she lamented.

Andreas said Ndamononghenda had also indicated that once she gets help at the hospital, she was going to Omuthiya to live with an aunt to recover.

Ndamononghenda ended school in Grade 6, while Enkono left school in Grade 2. Martha's level of education could not be established. They were all unemployed and did odd jobs in their village.

Martha is survived by her mother, three sisters and four children. Ndamononghenda is survived by her three children.

### **NO SIGNS OF RESTLESSNESS**

Enkono's mother, Nuule Muupika (61), said she did not notice any changes in her son's behaviour, and the news of the murders and suicide had come as a shock to her.

“He was a very quiet person, and I did not expect him to do something like this. He woke up on Friday very early as usual to go and collect water. He did that and told us to give the cow and calf water.

“When I asked him where he was going, he said he was going to get his phone cover, which he forgot at the animal watering point. He promised to be back for lunch. This did not happen, until the news reached us later in the evening of what he had done,” Muupika said.

She added that Enkono told her on Sunday evening that he had beaten Ndamononghenda but did not say why.

“I questioned him why he did it. He did not answer, and that is where our conversation ended. I am so hurt; I have no words for the tragedy he caused. I have never heard such merciless killing in my time on earth,” Muupika stated. Enkono is survived by nine siblings and two children.

## ESCALATING VIOLENCE

Itumba said the police are concerned about escalating cases of gender-based violence. “People are not reporting issues on time for them to be helped. They look at GBV as a police issue. This needs a collective responsibility from the community, churches, politicians and traditional leaders”.

On Andreas' claims of a non-responsive police force, Itumba said they have an internal investigation unit where members of the public can lodge complaints if they feel they have not been given a response faster.

“We are not waiting for people to die. The police need to respond swiftly. This is an unfortunate event,” he asserted, adding that members of the community should start attending public meetings called by the police to advise the public on how to handle or respond to violent situations.

– tuyeimo@namibian.com.na

### 4.2.16.1 Perpetrator's category

Through the author's words when reporting the incident, an image of what the perpetrator's character might have been like during the time of the incident comes out. The usage of the word “*protrudes*” here befits the description of the action (*the father of two of Ndamononghenda's three children, allegedly hacked them with a panga before slitting their throats*). The perpetrator's action has been described by two action verbs “*hacking* and *slitting*.” To hack someone requires an amount of energy and aggression, and when reading the above sentence one can imagine a butcher chopping meat. It may be difficult to imagine another human being experiencing that kind of torture. The perpetrator's decision to slit the victim's throat may be an indication that the perpetrator intended not to only harm but to kill as well. It is known that slitting of a throat, whether of an animal or human being may automatically mean killing that animal or person. On

the other hand, the author revealed the emotions of the mother of the perpetrator, this reveals the author's commitment to attempt to find out the contributing factors to the phenomenon as well as establish how it affected the close relatives. The author's effort in this regard may captivate the reader's attention and may motivate the community as a reader to engage the reported incident as a catastrophe that needs addressing.

#### 4.2.16.2 Victim's category: The Deceased

The author's opening sentence reads as follows: "*Ndamononghenda Nafuka (23) and Martha Nafuka (32) met their fate after Samuele Enkono (29), the father of two of Ndamononghenda's three children, allegedly hacked them with a panga before slitting their throats.*"

The author's voice in the opening sentence may arouse a variety of interpretations. In the author's statement; "Ndamononghenda Nafuka (23) and Martha Nafuka (32) met their fate" the phrase "*met their fate*" may be interpreted as though it implies that the perpetrator may have carried out his task as an executor of the victim's already predestined doom.

On the other hand, the author's description of the paternity of the victim's children may also be interpreted separately but individually. The sentence read as follows, Samuele Enkono (29), the *father of two of Ndamononghenda's three children*. On one hand, a reader may assume that the author's intention may have been merely to provide further information of the perpetrator's relation to the victim. On the other hand, however, another reader may assume that the author's intention was to inform the reader that the victim had another child with a different father. In

certain communities and cultures, being unmarried with children and or having borne children with multiple men may be considered promiscuous or immoral.

The author's decision to include such forensic investigative information is also presented in the following sentence "*Her sister was also badly hurt, a sign that she was trying to block the panga attacks, but to no avail, Itumba said.*" The author's writing may reflect an interest not only presenting a mere incident report but a revelation of a woman who fought for her life and that of her sister.

Furthermore, the author included the whole community in the news report as reflected in the following sentence: "*The Namibian learnt that villagers were attending a memorial service in the area, and therefore no one could come to the two women's rescue*". By so stating, the author invokes the spirit of solidarity amongst the readers. Readers may see the need to step in and help one another should they witness similar situations in the future. One may also interpret this type of reporting as an indication that the community does care and would have intervened.

#### 4.2.16.3 Biasness

It seems that the author presented the victim and the perpetrator equally. The author tried to provide background information of the love relationship between the perpetrator and the victim. Furthermore, the author also narrated information and views from the mothers of the victim and the perpetrator.

#### 4.2.16.4 Metaphors

There were no metaphors or metaphoric expressions found in this news report.

#### 4.2.16.5 Transitive verbs

The researcher discovered the following transitive verbs: “*hacked*”, “*slit*”, and “*confirmed*”. These transitive verbs may indicate to the reader that the victim was mercilessly killed. The combination of the verbs such as ‘*slitting*’ and ‘*hacked*’ may taint the perpetrator ‘*aggressive*’. Despite the fact that the act was of a criminal nature, the usage of transitive verbs portrays applied action of a ruthless nature. Thus, the reader may view the perpetrator as a cruel murderer.

#### 4.2.16.6 Point of view

The author used a third person point of view because of the third person pronouns used. The author interacted with the characters as well thus, a third person limited to subjective point of view was employed. The author used both descriptive and feeling words such as “*distressed, sobs and slit*”. Although the author’s view may not be obvious, a sense of care and concern may be depicted from the manner in which the article has been arranged. The news report comprises of differently arranged subtopics, all related to the main topic. It appears that the author tried to highlight specific details about the incident.

For example, a description of the weapons used, and the manner in which they were utilised was categorically provided. Furthermore, the harm incurred by the victims was narrated; this may be

an indication that the author felt personally responsible and found it suitable to narrate the story in its rawest form possible. Thus, revealing to the reader, the reality, horror and seriousness of the crime. A reflection of feeling words appear in this sentence “The *distressed* mother of the two siblings, Ndamononghenda Andreas (58), told *The Namibian* through sobs”. The author’s writing is inclusive of the emotions of the mother of the victim as well as those of the mother of the perpetrator. The author sharing the mother of the victim’s feelings towards her loss may reveal the author’s empathy towards the situation. Meanwhile, when the author shared the expressions of the perpetrator’s mother; “*I have never heard such merciless killing in my time on earth*”, may lead the reader to taint the incident as a phenomenon. The author’s choice to include the accusation made by the victim’s mother towards the police as “unresponsive” may also serve as an indication that the author intended to leave no stone unturned especially pertaining to the departments involved in protecting the nation and maintaining the law. The author’s writing in this news report may have offered the readers more than just a story. The details shared may evoke sympathy and may naturally task the readers with an emotional and social responsibility and obligation towards their own children and community at large.

Apart from the diction used, it may be visible that the themes that the author applied in narrating this incident such as level of education, relationship background, police involvement, and parental roles may have been intentionally included. The framing in this news report may thus be interpreted as an author’s attempt to raise a concern and an indirect plea to the reader for an intervention. The author appears to have viewed this incident as a phenomenon that required thorough reporting. This news report may thus promote the reader to research into the indication of prominent predictors of intimate partner violence.

### **4.3 Newspapers and information delivery**

It is crucial to note that newspapers in Namibia play a vital role in sharing information. Moreover, despite the technological innovations of the 21st century, which the whole world is embracing, the newspaper media houses are still running the show when it comes to news exposition. What's more, not only does the nation read the news on the websites of Media Houses but most people still opt to buy the physical paper; the newspaper. This observation however reveals how much power the news writers pose in the society. Certain universities such as The University of Namibia (UNAM) provides daily newspapers to the students and researchers. This also adds emphasis on the crucial notion of the news writers being the agents of change in the nation.

There seem to be a lack of background information within most of the explored news reports that may have triggered, activated or led to the 'intimate partner violence' incidents. In certain but very few news reports explored, the effort of the author protrudes. Certain writers included information pertaining to the couple before, during and after their relationship that may have led or contributed to the phenomenon. Thus, offering the reader an opportunity to interact mentally with the news report and perhaps motivate the reader to react. Needless to mention, that the Namibian reporters are fully aware of the type of society to whom they are communicating, some of them continue to write as if they do not care about the impact of their news reports. The authors have an opportunity to utilise the platform to engage the community. As mentioned in this research and by many other scholars, news writers are educated individuals and news writing, which is a career, should be regarded much more than just a presentation of an event.

#### **4.4 Creating news frames**

Unlike the movies of different genres, there is no age restriction on the newspapers. This means that all children of different ages can read the paper as well. That being a good factor consequently comes with the writing and framing responsibility of its own. Based on Ardèvol-Abreu (2015) frames draw attention to some aspects of reality at the expense of others, so in order to define them we must take into account what is described and what is left out. Framing is, thus, present in the mind of the journalist who writes the news report, but also in the news report that he or she builds, reaching the reader through a decoding process that is necessary to understand the news report and the reality to which it refers. In the case of Namibian news writers, whether the news writer aim at selling the paper, informing the nation or educating the nation, is debateable. However, when it comes to the field of stylistics alone, the diction selected by the writer creates a personality of its own in the mind of the reader. Thus, the realisation of cautious writing should be the cornerstone of framing, particularly news framing. It is an observation through the analysis of these news reports covered in this study that the presentation of the ‘intimate partner violence’ news is rather straightforward. The framing in most of the explored news reports are similar to a basic incident report. Thus deducing the phenomenon to a meagre incident like any other.

The stories narrated lack further explanations and post phenomenon updates. The narrators do not seem to have tried inquiring about the characters of the phenomenon before and thereafter. There appears to be a lack of explanation as well in most of the news stories reported. There appears to be biasness in most of the stories where the perpetrator plays the central role in the story. The victims of the phenomenon would be as good as forgotten soon after their gender has been revealed. The victim’s name is mostly left out but sometimes provided. Information provided

about the victim is mostly pertaining to the victim's childbearing. The narrators added information such as how many children the victim had and whether it was by one father, normally the perpetrator or another man.

Furthermore, the age of the victim and the relationship with the perpetrator and finally the declaration and confirmation of her death is included as well. The rest of the article would then be covering the perpetrator. A description of the perpetrator's action and lifestyle including his criminal history is also provided. The ideology of providing the perpetrator's criminal history would also fall in the category of biasness as the victim's history was excluded. The perpetrator would then be presented as an offender whose fate was probably already sealed in waiting. It would be easy to pass harsh judgement on the perpetrator as history reveals that 'intimate partner violence' is not the only crime.

Let us look at a story that I have just made up as follows:

*April and Paula are sisters. April threw a stone and hit Paula on the toe. The grandmother took Paula to the hospital. Meanwhile Paula's grandfather scolded April over the throwing of the stone. April then ran away and the other children chased her and caught up with her. April cried, apologised to Paulus's grandfather and promised never to throw stones towards their house again. Paulus's grandparents stepped in and assisted both children. April at home has been characterised as a very active child who loves climbing trees and throwing stones. She also has a tendency of ignoring instructions at times but she truly loves her sister.*

Let us assume that the accident above was a crime. In the above story, the narrator speaks of two main characters, April (perpetrator) and Paula (victim). April quickly became the main character of the story. It appears the story is focusing on April, her character and the stone she threw but apart from Paula being the person that April hit, she (Paula) quickly became a forgotten case. A child reading this story will learn about throwing stones towards another person being dangerous and that apologising afterwards would be ideal. However, the other child sympathising with Paula will only learn about Paula being victimised as Paula's voice has been silenced.

The readers will not understand why April threw the stone, as it is not clear whether the two children were playing or arguing. That background information is missing. Furthermore, the readers will also not know how Paula felt, how she dealt with the situation, or whether she was angry, cried or wanted to fight or throw the stone back to April or whether she ran away and called for help. What happened to Paula after the hospital is also not clear? What do you, as a reader feel after reading the story and the analysis that followed?

It is thus vital for news report writers to assume societal responsibility when providing information to the community. Writing and narrating real life situations should be done with a notion of not just news sharing but information delivery and enlightenment as well. The framing of the news within the explored news reports covered in this study has been carried out mostly as follows: short sentences, straightforward, usage of transitive verbs, a third person and mostly limited to subjective point of view. Apart from the framing, an application of biasness has been applied as

well as the unequal presentation of victims and perpetrators. Most of the news reports leaves the reader in question.

Although providing information, newspapers are also commercial. This means that to a certain extent that news writer not only write to tell a story but to make profit. Because of how certain stories are narrated, it may seem that the narrator simply wrote something in order to publish. Certain phenomenon were reported as a concluding paragraph to the phenomenon bearing the headline. Thus, making the one victim's situation seemingly trivial in comparison to the headliner. This kind of news reporting style invites a reader's scrutiny.

#### **4.5 News reports on sensitive issues**

It is worth noting that reporting on sensitive issues can be traumatising and challenging for the journalists. However, it is an assumption of this study that news reporters are possibly aware and prepared for the challenge as they are supposed to be academically qualified to write the news. This study has observed, analysed and discovered that most news reports on "intimate partner violence" have not been covered using empathising diction. The suggestion of empathy and sympathy should however not be confused with the application of biasness towards the victim but to utilise it as a tool to evoke a reaction from the society. Authors of sensitive news reports can indirectly without diverting from the "news headlines" 'motivate community outreach that may help curb the 'intimate partner violence phenomenon'.

#### **4.6 Intimate partnership**

It is the researcher's observation that most intimate partner violence reported in the explored news reports within this study, indicated that the victims and perpetrators were cohabitating. Cohabitation is normally deliberated as two people involved in a love relationship and living together as a couple by virtue of whatever agreement reached by the two individuals. In the Namibian society however and contrary to popular belief, permission should firstly be sought from the parents of both parties before the cohabitation takes effect. Despite this action, it is also understood that most parents would encourage marriage instead.

In Namibia consequently, despite the different cultures, the perception towards cohabitation is that it is similar but secondary to marriage. Thus, cohabitation is viewed as taboo, cursed and doomed to fail when it takes place without following the traditional route. Most of the news reports however did not mention whether the reported cohabitation took place following the traditional route or whether it was done informally without the consent of the parents. Nonetheless, in some news reports, the authors narrated that both families of the victim and those of the perpetrator were not in support of the idea of cohabitation. An indication that in the society, cohabitation and without marriage may still be viewed as a negative ideology.

In Namibia, and considering the different cultures, the marriage process traditionally follows this route: A man scouts for a suitable lady, after courting her and her agreeing to be her girlfriend he arranges for a meeting with her family to introduce himself and vice versa. The man then makes his intentions towards his girlfriend clear (to marry her). He then arranges for a different date with his own family where he will introduce the girlfriend. Once both families agree, the wedding preparations begin. The process usually requires a legal magistrate wedding followed by a

religious church wedding, but at times certain couples may opt for a magistrate wedding only. The church wedding in any case always requires the legal aspect. Depending on whatever wedding method a couple opt for, the two are thereafter pronounced married and their marriage life begins.

Our ancestors have set the traditional processes in place with the notion of unifying the two families (the man and the woman) and in the view that whatever challenges the couple may face they could approach either families and seek assistance. The assistance may be financial, settling grievances and misunderstandings, or even resolving challenges brought about by some marital misdemeanours such as adultery. The practice was seen as a working mechanism back in the days. The lack of certain information regarding the cohabitation arrangements between the victims of intimate partner violence and their perpetrators creates a gap in the analysis for this study.

#### **4.7 Intimate partner violence**

Violence between intimate partners can be caused by a variety of reasons. In the exploration of news reports on 'intimate partner violence', violence towards an intimate partner may indicate a lack of emotional control because an 'intimate partner' is typically considered as someone special. Contrary to popular belief in Namibia, both partners are expected to attend to one another's needs and to protect each other. In the news reports, the stories reviewed revealed that the victims of intimate partner violence either left or wanted to leave and end their relationships with the perpetrators. It appears according to the news reports that most perpetrators did not want to accept the idea of the victim leaving and ending the relationship and resorted to violence.

In the description of most news reports, the perpetrator's action revealed that they aimed at harming and killing the victims. This seems evident as most perpetrators used deadly weapons such as guns, panga, knives or unknown sharp objects and actually slit their partner's throats, shot or smashed their heads. The usage of the transitive verbs when describing the perpetrator's action may paint and taint the perpetrator as a monster but may also help present the seriousness of the crime to the community.

It appears that most reported 'intimate partner violence' crimes in the explored news reports were reported to have happened in some of the poorest areas in Namibia. Thus, raising the question of whether the conditions surrounding the livelihoods of those people had any contribution to the phenomenon. In the news most reports the educational backgrounds of the victims and of the perpetrators were omitted. The level of education may have made it easier to assess the level of exposure for both the victims and perpetrators that may help reveal to a certain extent the role that education and exposure may or may not play in an individual's rationality.

It is not a deduction of this study that education or the lack thereof may or may not create criminals but it is a suggestion that the exploration of the criteria may be beneficial. Furthermore, the news reports revealed that according to the other characters in the story such as the family of the victims, the relationship between some of the victims and perpetrators of 'intimate partner violence' were considered "toxic". In fact, certain characters revealed that some of family members had attempted to intervene but to no avail. It therefore appears that one of the main causes of intimate partner violence and that may have resulted in murder was the termination of the intimate relationship by the victim. It also seems that with the victims ending the relationship, the perpetrators refused to

accept the decision and reacted with violence. The involvement of the police as protectors of the nation have not been elaborated clearly in most of the news reports. The majority of the news reports indicated that the police always appeared after the incident had occurred. In one news report the author narrated that the victim's mother accused the police as "unresponsive" and complained that they should not only show up to collect dead bodies!. Few other news reports also indicated that some perpetrators of 'intimate partner violence' had criminal records. This revelation also encourages further scrutiny into the characters of the perpetrators of 'intimate partner violence'. Based on the explored news reports, it appears that the perpetrators of all the 'intimate partner violence' revealed a lack of emotional intelligence and control.

#### **4.8 Agency**

Authors serve a purpose through framing as narrators to the readers. According to Mills (2005), authors can be either external or internal to the story. External focalisation 'is felt to be close to the narrating agent' and is termed 'narrator-focalizer' where the position of the narrator-focalizer is 'the bird's-eye view' which has 'omniscient access to all characters, wherever they occur within the universe of the narrative'. On the other hand, internal focalize, is applied in texts wherein the narrator and the focalizer are the same character "but operate independently to disclose the story" (Mills, 2005p.139).

The explored news reports revealed that the authors had the freedom of writing. The news reports presentation styles demonstrated freedom of speech, expression, articulation and narration. It is an assumption of the researcher that each author has an individual choice of presenting his or her news report concerning the diction, phrasing, length and style. Each news report carried agency

in the sense that each news report title told a story, which included or excluded characters where the author had a choice to or not to interview and narrate the characters in the story. Furthermore, each news report carried a sense of agency because the authors had a choice to reveal their views towards the topic through their presentation style and or to hide their feelings and views through the diction employed in their reports.

For example, in the news report presented at 4.2.13 it is visible that the author had a sense of agency because through the news report framing, the author could select the diction based on what the appropriate agenda was. In this case, the author presented a rather descriptive news report.

The beauty of being a reader lies in the assumption that one is entitled to his or her own understanding, interpretation of the story. It is also up to the reader to decide what lesson the news report present to him or herself. In so saying, it is up to the author to select carefully objective terminology and perhaps unambiguous words as that may be steering the readers in different directions. The author in news report presented at 4.2.14 seems to have a sense of agency in this news report and that, in my view, is the ability to evoke the author's emotions by creating visions of how horrific the incidents were, considering the choice of diction such as, "*bludgeon*" "*hammer*" and descriptive phrases such as "*back-of-the-head*", and "*killing-her-instantly*".

The news reports explored revealed that the perpetrators and victims were presented unequally but also according to the different authors. There was no uniformity employed in terms of the diction, framing, narration and storytelling. It is an assumption of this study that each author independently presented his or her story according to his or her chosen style in all aspects. The authors in their writing appeared to be agents of storytelling and information providers of the current events in the

country. However, it is an assumption of this study that the authors did not reveal a sense of agency in enlightening the reader.

## **4.9 Arising themes**

This section covers themes that arose from this study.

### 4.9.1 Education through literary reporting

The stories presented in the news reports sounded to the researcher as more of a presentation or a mere story-telling episode. The different incidents were at times reported on the same page casually presented in one paragraph. It appears as though the author intended to report the incident as a statistic or to fill the requirement of being a news-reporting journalist.

It is apparent that the authors did not consider the youth and the community as readers. Newspapers are some of the oldest forms of communication still fashionable today. News when reported in the newspapers appears to be more authentic as the public is aware of the verification and investigative process involved. According to Ardèvol-Abreu (2015), any communicative text, either informative or persuasive, requires narrative structures to organise its discourse. In the case of the media, news stories appear to be systematised, based on narrative conventions that offer an explanation about who is doing what, and with what purpose.

The discourse involved in most of the examined news reports in this study did not prove to serve the profession (news writing and reporting) justice. Most news reports seem presented scantily and

without an educational agenda. The news reports seem rather more descriptive than enlightening. It is an assumption of the researcher that a writer is a creator of a stance and with each diction selected reveals motive. Furthermore, the discourse employed in any text may help a reader create meaning and interpretation. Hence, every writer sits in a position of discourse power, it is thus clear to state that employing certain persuasive terminologies could be viewed ideal in order to motivate a movement towards change.

When it comes to the society, readers no matter their age but particularly the young generation learn from existing examples. It is thus empirical to select the diction cautiously when narrating sensitive incidents. The newspaper presents a variety of life events such as sports and entertainment. Thus, to some people may view newspaper reading as a moment of reflection where an individual can be alone and play catch up with the societal events.

Conversely, scholars such as Claes and Quintelier (2009) suggest that more than 52 countries worldwide make use of the 'Newspapers in Education' programmes. Consequently, in Namibia, children as young as nine (9) years of age who have completed grade 3 can normally already read full sentences. Known to most be that parents encourage their children to read in order to improve their vocabularies. Primary schools in Namibia often require the learners especially in lower primary to use newspapers or magazines to complete certain portions of their homework. Thus, from as early as lower primary school, most young children are exposed to newspapers; at that state used as a tool of reading instruction. Claes and Quintelier (2009) further elaborate that 'Newspapers in Education' have become a well-known approach of stimulating adolescents to explore the political realm and challenge the way they think about and participate in democracies. Newspapers reporting on such pressing social issues such as 'intimate partner violence' should

consider the educational aspect of news report writing since through newspapers, journalists can motivate the youth to engage and address these predicaments and pursue behavioural change practices.

#### 4.9.2 Repeated behavioural patterns reported in the news reports

This topic presents a pattern of words and or sentences repeatedly used in the presented and examined news reports. The aim of presenting these similar or repeated descriptive words, sentences or phrases aims at creating awareness of some of the ignored tendencies that feature in the relationships prior to the violation or murders of the victims. The researcher hopes to create a platform for sympathisers, social workers, psychologists, community leaders and anyone who has the will and power by virtue of whatever legal capacity to intervene.

The statements are presented in the same order as the news reports presented them in chapter 4 and according to their headlines.

##### **a) Woman battered to death as children watch**

“When they told me it was the boyfriend, I believed it. Their relationship has always been violent, and I have many a times encouraged her to end it”.

At the time of the incident, Haiyambo (perpetrator) had escaped from the Oshakati State Hospital on 24 August, where he was under police guard while on medical treatment.

**b) Man arrested for murder of ex-girlfriend**

He was out on bail of N\$1 000 after he was charged for raping his biological daughter last year, a few days before she turned 21.

**c) Pregnant woman strangled, Boyfriend takes own life**

The man is allegedly out on bail in two separate cases, one of robbery with aggravated circumstances where a victim was killed, and the other the attempted murder of the same victim.

**d) Two sisters hacked to death**

She said the two have always had a violent relationship

**e) Woman brutally killed in Omusati**

They have been cohabiting

**f) Hammer, axe, kitchen knife used to murder woman**

It is reported that the victim was cohabiting with the perpetrator.

**g) Woman killed amid break-up, boyfriend takes own life**

“They were both warned on several occasions to end their relationship or stop cohabiting before marriage”.

**h) Man kills girlfriend at Ombili**

Her boyfriend went to see her earlier on Tuesday, demanding that she returns to the shack they shared near Okahandja Park.

**i) Woman killed after paying boyfriend 's bail**

His girlfriend reportedly paid the bail and the two were seen leaving together for their home at the Oneshila informal settlement.

**j) Man said to turn gun on himself after shooting girlfriend**

The couple was quarrelling inside their locked shack around 19h00.

It may be apparent when reading sentence (a) up to sentence (j) that most victims of 'intimate partner violence' appear to have been in violent relationships with their perpetrators some who have been in and out of jail. Reportedly, in these cases, the victims and perpetrators were warned and advised by family members to end what was termed their 'toxic-relationships'. One can also draw attention to one more repetition of a word, "*cohabitating*" in the news reports. It may raise a concern to a reader as to whether the notion of co-habitation is an aspect of romantic relationships that should be discussed, investigated and explored as one of the prominent leading factors to 'intimate partner violence'.

**4.9 Chapter summary**

The area of news reporting in Namibia has not been excessively researched. News report writers play a vital role in information sharing sphere in Namibia. This chapter presented the different news reports written in the year 2019 and 2020 and all covering incidents of ‘intimate partner violence’. This chapter also presented a stylistic analysis of the presented news reports written by different authors and of different genders. The researcher analysed the perpetrators and victim’s categories using the following stylistic features: metaphors, transitive verbs and point of view in order to establish any biasness and sexism employed in the news reports. The researcher analysed and discussed author agency in news reports. This chapter also present themes that arose from the study such as ‘education through literacy’ and ‘repeated behavioural patterns reported’.

## **CHAPTER 5**

### **CONCLUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **5.1 Introduction**

This chapter concludes the study that was carried out to explore, examine and analyse the language usage by *The Namibian* male and female writers when reporting on ‘intimate partner violence’. The researcher aimed at exploring the stylistic features and framing used in the production and presentation of the stories told in the news reports. It was the researcher’s aim to explore and analyse the presentation of the different genders, the perpetrators and victims of ‘intimate partner violence’ by the different authors. Hence, the authors have a sole responsibility of their verbal usage. It was also a major interest of the researcher to explore the different writing styles employed by different news reporters. This study was driven by the observed ever-rising phenomenon called

‘intimate partner violence’ in Namibia that has been traumatising the Namibian nation. This worrisome phenomenon has been on the increase especially amongst the youth and it has puzzled the elderly in the community and the lawmakers.

According to Mills (2005), a feminist analysis aims to draw attention to and change the way that gender is represented. Although violence may be a global concern, the issue of ‘intimate partner violence’ has been characterised as one of the serious concerns of intimate partnership within the Namibian sphere. Despite the many different ‘intimate partner violence’ reports within the country, the phenomenon has been on the rise.

It was an objective of this study to address the phenomenon from the angle of literature by exploring newspaper reports and analysing how those that bring the news to the nation present the phenomenon itself. The study also aimed at discovering how the different genders as victims and perpetrators of intimate partner violence have been presented. Mills (2005) avers that feminist practices are not in the interests of either women or men thus feminist stylistic analysis is concerned not only to describe sexism in a text, but also to analyse the way that the point of view, agency, metaphor or transitivity are unexpectedly closely related to matters of gender.

The study concludes that as agents of information distribution, news writers have a social responsibility towards their readers in the sense that what they write about is not the main issue but how they present the news to their readers play a bigger role. The study reveals in full the crucial role, played by the news reporters when narrating incidents of ‘intimate partner violence’. The concept of news framing is one that has not been commonly explored in Namibia. It was an

objective of this study to analyse how the news reports of 'intimate partner violence' have been framed. It was the researcher's interest to establish whether the news framing itself, informs, and educates the readers about the existence and effects of the phenomenon that was under study.

## **5.2 Research findings and conclusion**

The findings and conclusions of this study are presented in this section. It is the researcher's observation that the authors when reporting on 'intimate partner violence' did not present the two genders equally. The victims presented in the explored news reports were all female and the perpetrators were male. The analysis revealed that the news reports focused mostly on the perpetrator. The perpetrator played a key role in the news reports whereas the victims were mentioned passively. Most authors provided a descriptive presentation of the perpetrator's action including the equipment used to murder or harm the victim. Furthermore, in some but not most news reports, certain details pertaining to the victim's lifestyle were also included. The criminal history of the victim was also biasedly provided because none of the victim's criminal history was mentioned in any of the news reports. It is the researcher's assumption that presentation of information of one gender in a biased way may cause negative judgement towards that particular gender.

The victims of 'intimate partner violence' were presented passively in most of the news reports. The names of the victims were in certain cases withheld as well. When describing the victims, the news writers indicated how many children the victims had and whether or not the perpetrator fathered those children. In contrast to the perpetrator's parenthood, how many children the perpetrators have and with how many mothers, was not provided. It is the conclusion of this study

that this biased reporting would subject the women to societal criticism. The analysis also revealed that the perpetrators as intimate partners subjected most victims of ‘intimate partner violence’ to violence because the victims wanted to end the intimate relationship. This discovery led to the conclusion that the perpetrators of ‘intimate partner violence’ lacked the emotional control when exposed to disappointments and resorted to violence as a solution to their heartbreaks.

Certain victims of stories of ‘intimate partner violence’ were disrespectfully presented as a single line or paragraph at the bottom of another story. This type of presentation may lead the readers into thinking that the phenomenon under study might have become commonly accepted, as the presentation thereof is no longer of importance.

Another interesting discovery in the study was the concept of ‘cohabitating.’ This study established that most victims of ‘intimate partner violence’ were cohabitating with their perpetrators. Furthermore, their families also considered the nature of the relationships between the victims and the perpetrators as being toxic. The researcher therefore concludes that the concept of cohabitation and toxicity of an intimate relationship may be leading contributions to the ‘intimate partner violence’ phenomenon.

One more aspect protruding through the analysis is that of a patriarchal society where the male gender is believed to have certain control over the female gender. The mentioned aspect protrudes through the manner in which the news writers opt to present one sided parenthood information in which case such information of the perpetrators have been omitted. Thus indicating that such information pertaining to the perpetrator is not worth mentioning. The fact that the majority of the

victims were murdered because they tried to end the relationship with the perpetrators also reveals a control and power perspective from the perpetrators.

The police as the protectors of the nation and law enforcers made an interesting twist in the explored news reports. Perceptively, it seems like the police played a role of reporting the incidents to the news reporters but not presented as playing any other role. Thus, this raises questions as to whether or not the victims of intimate partner violence have been subjected to intimate partner violence earlier during the intimate relationship and whether or not these incidents were ever reported to the police. It is thus a deduction of this researcher that there is a need for 'Investigative journalism' in Namibia.

Stylistically, the authors used a descriptive report writing style. Most authors used many descriptive words accompanied by transitive verbs. It appears as though perpetrators were presented as murderers and victims as helpless prey. Most authors used very short sentences and very concise phrases. The stories mostly lacked further explanation and background information. Not many news reports employed metaphors. Consequently, most authors used the limited to subjective point of view where the author views from the outside and narrates the story as a third person in the story. The framing of the news reports was rather simple. The researcher also concludes that the framing did not reveal that the authors acknowledge author agency as a vital tool for community growth or outreach. The news reports were presented as mere stories in an everyday life and lacked the educational content. The analysis into the framing revealed that the news reports preparation seemed rushed as the stories lacked professionalism. The researcher also

concludes that most news reports were quickly compiled and packaged particularly for publishing and commercial purposes.

### **5.3 Contribution to knowledge**

The researcher observed that the field of news report writing has been seemingly undermined. The researcher offered an opportunity for news reporters to analyse their own profession from the diverse areas especially when reporting sensitive issues. The study also offers the community an opportunity to read with purpose and view sensitive news reports as more than just another story that made it to the newspaper. Considering the findings of this study, the researcher advises that headline-news reports should be prepared with caution and should be viewed by readers as an encouragement for community engagement, intervention and outreach.

Secondly, the researcher also offers an opportunity for authors to invest more effort in research about the stories they present. Background information and further explanations could be vital to the readers. Writers should thus aim at being more than storytellers and informers but embrace the umbrella of education providers as well. Finally, it would be beneficial to the nation if news writers include an aspect of being agents and contributors of social change. Considering the findings of this study, the researcher maintains that news report writers maintain the power to shape the community. It is not a deduction of this study that education or the lack thereof may or may not create criminals but it is a suggestion that the exploration of the criteria may be beneficial for further studies. This study contributes to the field of language and literature, rhetoric, media studies, journalism, information, psychology and sociology.

#### **5.4 Recommendations**

This study revealed various stylistic features employed in the news reports on ‘intimate partner violence’ using the feminist stylistic theories and the framing theory. Given the above, the researcher finds it crucial to further analyse news reports of the same nature. Therefore, further research in the following areas is recommended:

- To analyse the news writing style of authors when writing about topics related to intimate partnership.
- To use different theories to analyse the styles employed by authors when writing about ‘intimate partner violence’.
- To compose news reports on sensitive topics with agency and caution.
- To use news report writing as a tool to educate the youth on current challenges faced and how to seek help.
- To carry out comparison studies between the Namibian writers or ‘intimate partner violence’ and those of other countries in Africa and elsewhere.

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