A Critical Discourse Analysis of News Headlines: The Case of Lawsuits Between Johnny Depp and Amber Heard
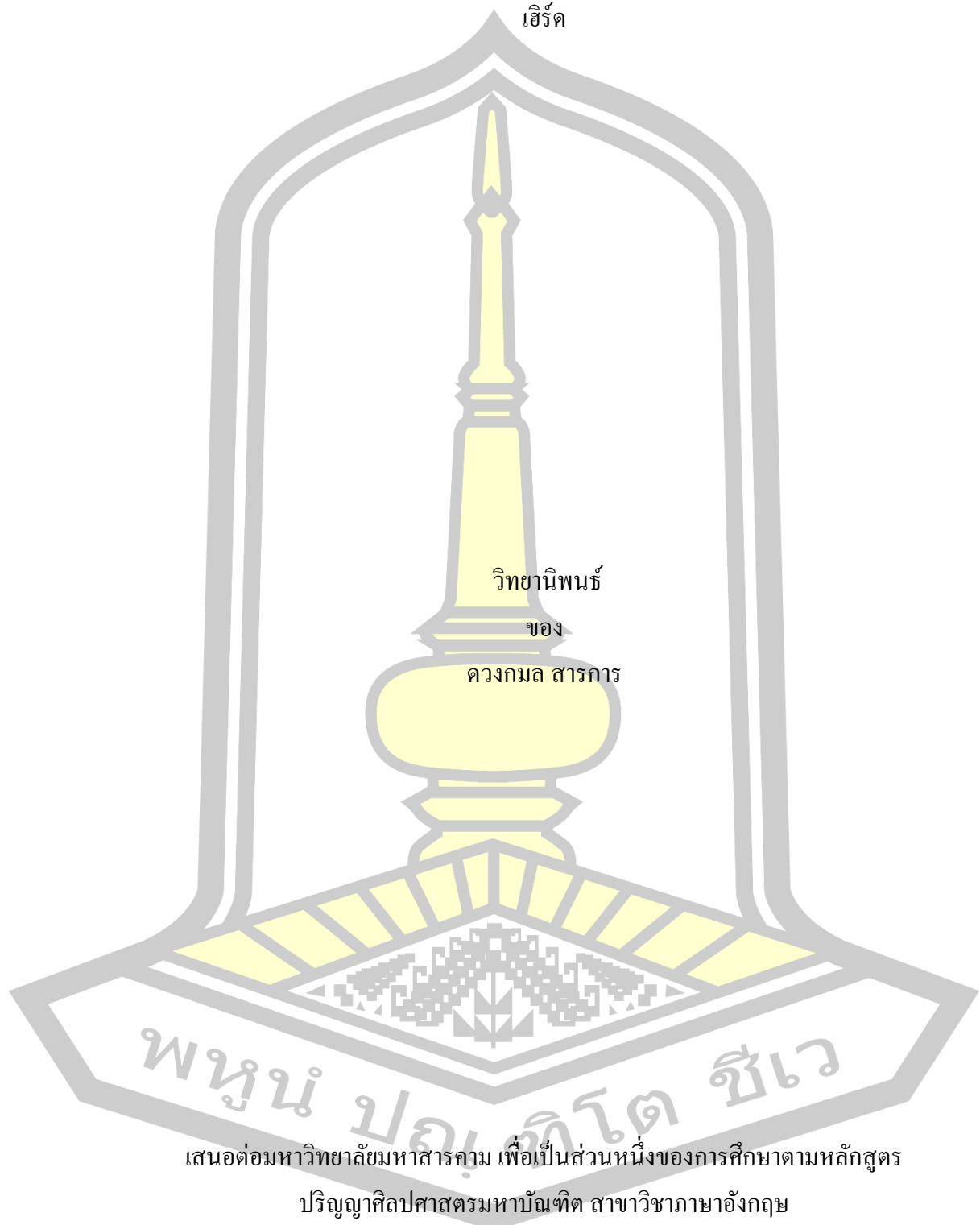
Duangkamol Sarakarn

A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of Requirements for

degree of Master of Arts in English

November 2024

การวิเคราะห์วาทกรรมเชิงวิพากษ์ในหัวข้อข่าวผ่านคดีความระหว่างจอห์นนี่ เดปป์ และแอมเบอร์
เฮิร์ด

วิทยานิพนธ์
ของ
ดวงกมล สารการ

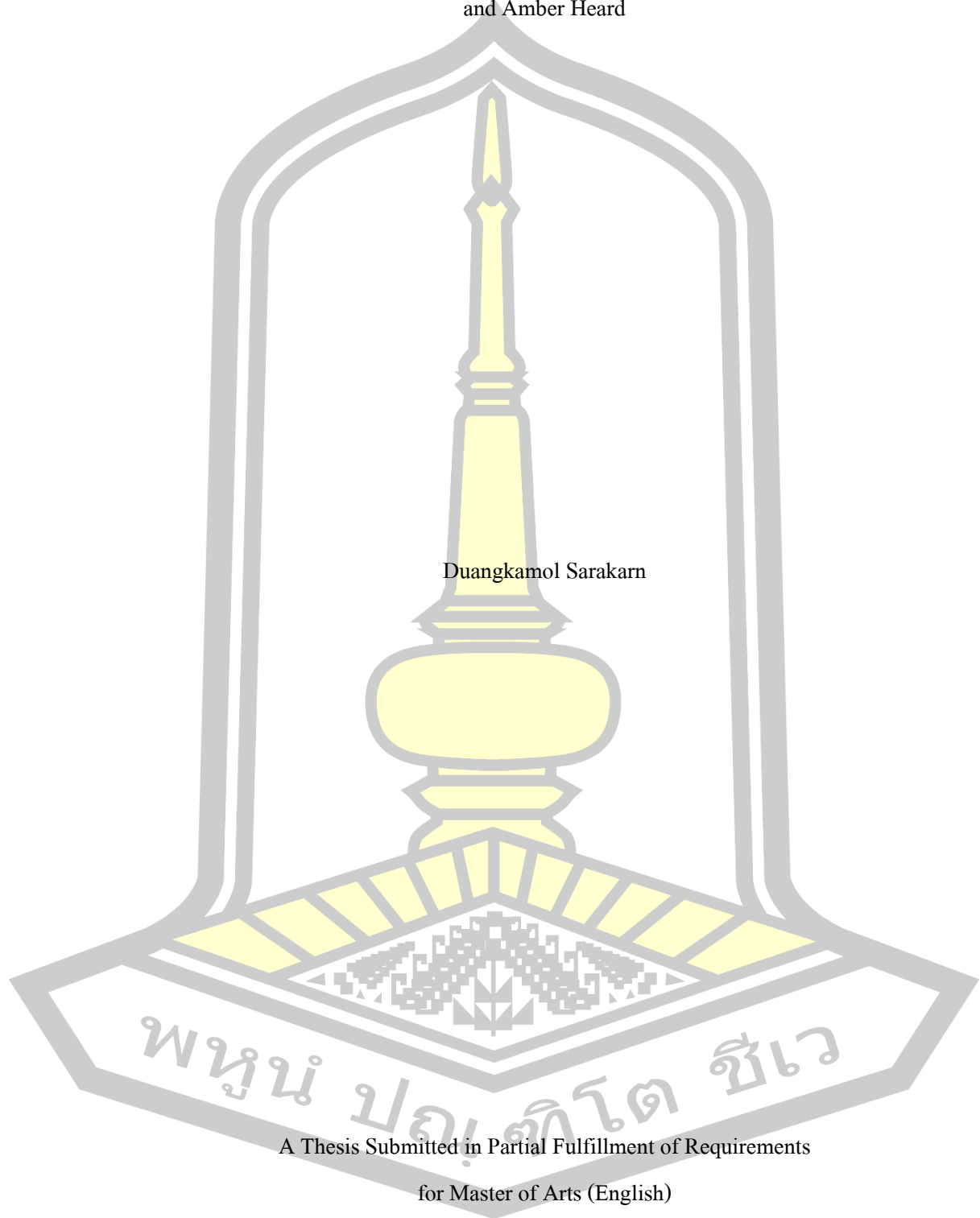เสนอต่อมหาวิทยาลัยมหาสารคาม เพื่อเป็นส่วนหนึ่งของการศึกษาตามหลักสูตร
ปริญญาศิลปศาสตรมหาบัณฑิต สาขาวิชาภาษาอังกฤษ
พฤศจิกายน 2567

A Critical Discourse Analysis of News Headlines: The Case of Lawsuits Between Johnny Depp
and Amber Heard

Duangkamol Sarakarn

A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of Requirements

for Master of Arts (English)

November 2024

The examining committee has unanimously approved this Thesis, submitted by Miss Duangkamol Sarakarn , as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master of Arts English at Mahasarakham University

Examining Committee

.... Chairman
(Asst. Prof. Piyaporn Punkasirikul , Ph.D.)

.... Advisor
(Asst. Prof. Intisarn Chaiyasuk , Ph.D.)

.... Committee
(Asst. Prof. Anyarat Nattheeraphong , Ph.D.)

.... Committee
(Pimyupa Praphan , Ph.D.)

Mahasarakham University has granted approval to accept this Thesis as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master of Arts English

....
(Assoc. Prof. Nittaya Wannakit , Ph.D.)   (Assoc. Prof. Krit Chaimoon , Ph.D.)
Dean of The Faculty of Humanities and Social   Dean of Graduate School
Sciences

TITLE   A Critical Discourse Analysis of News Headlines: The Case of Lawsuits

Between Johnny Depp and Amber Heard

AUTHOR   Duangkamol Sarakarn

ADVISORS   Assistant Professor Intisarn Chaiyasuk , Ph.D.

DEGREE   Master of Arts   **MAJOR**   English

UNIVERSITY   Mahasarakham University   **YEAR**   2024

ABSTRACT

This study examines the language used in 39 news headlines from The New York Times online platform from May 2016 to December 2023, focusing on the legal case between Johnny Depp and Amber Heard. By employing Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) and Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), the research aims to uncover underlying power relations, societal structures, and ideologies present in the media discourse. To minimize subjectivity, keyword searches using terms like "Johnny Depp," "Amber Heard," "lawsuits," and "violence" are conducted, analyzing informative, descriptive, and sensational news headlines. The SFL features examined include Lexical Choice, Framing, Transitivity, Agency, and Modality, with each aspect carefully analyzed to reveal how specific words and phrases shape meaning and potentially influence public opinion. The findings illustrate that news headlines do more than report events; they reflect and perpetuate power dynamics and societal structures. The application of SFL and CDA has shed light on the intricate ways media discourse shapes and reinforces societal views and behaviors.

Keyword : Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), Johnny Depp, Amber Heard

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my deepest and most heartfelt gratitude to Asst. Prof. Dr. Intisarn Chaiyasuk, whose unwavering guidance, patience, and invaluable expertise have been instrumental throughout the entire process of completing this research. His insightful feedback, constant encouragement, and dedication to mentoring have provided me with the direction and motivation necessary to see this project through to its successful completion. I am truly fortunate to have had the opportunity to work under his supervision, and his knowledge and support have not only improved the quality of this research but also enriched my academic journey.

I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to the entire Department of Western Languages and Linguistics, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at Mahasarakham University. The department's provision of research resources, academic facilities, and a conducive environment for study was indispensable to the progress and completion of this project. I am deeply grateful to the administrative staff for their assistance and to my professors and lecturers for their teachings, which laid the foundational knowledge I needed to pursue this research.

Additionally, I owe much to my fellow colleagues and classmates, whose intellectual camaraderie, collaboration, and moral support kept me inspired and motivated during the challenging times of research. Their willingness to engage in constructive discussions and share their insights helped me refine my ideas and approaches. It has been a privilege to work alongside such bright and driven individuals, and I am thankful for the collaborative spirit that permeated our academic journey together.

Moreover, I would like to acknowledge the secondary coder, an English lecturer from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, who contributed significantly by offering their time, expertise, and independent evaluation to ensure the credibility and reliability of the research findings. Their role was crucial in reinforcing the objectivity and accuracy of the data analysis process.

I would be remiss not to mention the unwavering love, patience, and encouragement of my family and friends. To my family, your belief in my abilities and your continuous emotional support have been my greatest source of strength. You have stood by me through every stage of this journey, and for that, I am eternally grateful. To my friends, thank you for always being there to lend an ear, provide encouragement, and help me maintain a healthy balance between work and life.

Finally, I would like to express my appreciation to all those whose names are not explicitly mentioned here but who, in one way or another, contributed to the successful completion of this research. Your support, encouragement, and belief in me have made all the difference. Thank you.

Duangkamol Sarakarn

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES

LIST OF FIGURES

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the chapter discusses the research background, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, research question, significance, and scope.

1.1 Background of the study

News headlines played a crucial role in the media landscape, extending beyond mere summaries of news stories. They significantly influenced public opinion, reflected cultural narratives, and provoked emotional responses (Tewksbury et al., 2001). Headlines, particularly in entertainment news, did more than inform; they shaped how events were perceived and discussed within society (Adams et al., 2017). This study focused on how celebrity legal conflicts were portrayed in the media, particularly through the highly publicized legal battles between Johnny Depp and Amber Heard.

In the U.S., societal hierarchies and gender roles heavily influenced media narratives. These structures, often tied to patriarchal values, positioned men in dominant roles, while women were frequently portrayed as emotionally vulnerable or dependent (Sganga, 2024). Harper et al. (2023) emphasized that in celebrity culture, these power dynamics were even more pronounced. Men like Johnny Depp were often depicted as authoritative or resilient, representing traditional masculine traits, whereas women, particularly in legal disputes, were viewed through lenses of victimhood, fragility, or manipulation, reflecting ambivalence toward female empowerment (Gee, 2021).

This study used two linguistic frameworks—Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) and Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA)—to analyze the language and structure of headlines. Halliday's (1994) SFL provided a method for examining how language choices contributed to meaning construction in social contexts. To enhance this analysis, the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA) was used to systematically examine word frequency and usage patterns in

headlines, allowing a deeper understanding of how specific lexical choices shaped societal perceptions.

Despite the extensive application of these frameworks in such other domains as political and criminal discourse (Duanprakhon, 2012; Zhang, 2014; Ulum, 2015; Chen, 2018; Hassan, 2018), few studies had explored media representation and societal ideologies in high-profile celebrity legal disputes. This study aimed to analyze the language used in headlines related to Johnny Depp and Amber Heard's legal battles, uncover the power dynamics and ideologies using CDA, and examine the impact of these linguistic choices on public opinion and societal perspectives.

This study demonstrated the significant role news headlines played in shaping public perceptions, particularly in the context of high-profile celebrity legal disputes. By examining the linguistic choices in these headlines, this study contributed to a deeper understanding of how media representation shaped public opinion and perpetuated cultural stereotypes in the coverage of celebrity disputes.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The legal disputes between Johnny Depp and Amber Heard, which involved accusations such as domestic violence, were widely covered by the media. However, there was a significant lack of academic analysis on the discursive methods and ideologies present in news headlines, especially in highly visible cases like the Johnny Depp and Amber Heard lawsuit. This study aimed to explore the narrative techniques used in news headlines, considering their ability to shape public opinion and impact broader societal conversations. Analyzing how the media represented such delicate topics revealed underlying societal beliefs in journalistic practices.

1.3 Purposes of the study

1.3.1 To investigate the discursive strategies employed in news headlines by The New York Times In framing the legal case related to the Johnny Depp vs. Amber Heard lawsuits.

1.3.2 To investigate the underlying social ideologies manifested in the news headlines.

1.4 Research Questions

1.4.1 What are the discursive strategies employed in news headlines by The New York Times In framing the legal case related to the Johnny Depp vs. Amber Heard lawsuits?

1.4.2 What are the underlying social ideologies manifested in the news headlines?

1.5 Significance of The Study

This study held significant relevance in understanding the influential role of media in shaping public perspectives on crucial social issues. Specifically, it investigated how news headlines framed the complex issue of the Johnny Depp and Amber Heard lawsuit. The research's exploration of ideologies and discursive strategies employed by media outlets provided valuable insights into the mechanisms through which information was presented to the public. By uncovering these strategies, individuals could become more discerning consumers of news, recognizing the subtle ways in which language choices impacted their understanding of events. Furthermore, the analysis delved into the ideological perspectives reflected in media representations of Johnny Depp and Amber Heard, shedding light on broader societal beliefs and biases related to gender, celebrity culture, and domestic violence. This study contributed to the academic discourse analysis field by exemplifying the application of Fairclough's Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) and Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) (Fairclough, 1995; Halliday, 1994) to news headlines, serving as a practical model for linguists and media scholars. Beyond its academic significance, this research carried social implications by informing discussions on media responsibilities in reporting sensitive legal cases and its potential influence on public opinion concerning social justice issues.

1.6 Scope of the study

This study undertook Fairclough's (1992, 1995, 2003, 2010, 2013, 2016) Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) and Halliday's (1994) Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) of news headlines concerning the Johnny Depp and Amber Heard lawsuit, spanning from May 2016 to December 2023 (Rosenblatt, 2022). It drew from *The New York Times*, a globally esteemed online platform. A systematic keyword search, including terms like "Johnny Depp," "Amber Heard," "lawsuits,"

and "violence," was conducted within the news headlines archives, focusing only on informative news headlines, descriptive news headlines, and sensational news headlines. The primary objective was to scrutinize the linguistic representations, discursive tactics, and ideological nuances prevalent in these headlines related to the duo's legal battle. For news headlines, refer to the appendix.

1.7 Definition of Term

    1.7.1 Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA): According to Fairclough, N. (1995), Critical Discourse Analysis is a research approach used to analyze language use in texts, such as news articles, speeches, or media, with a focus on understanding the power relationships, ideologies, and social structures that are reflected and reproduced in the discourse. It seeks to uncover hidden meanings, underlying assumptions, and the ways in which language can shape and maintain unequal power relations in society. In the context of this research, this tool allows me to reveal the deeper layers of meaning that influence and perpetuate unequal power dynamics within society. In essence, CDA acts as my lens to critically examine the language and rhetoric of the selected news headlines.

    1.7.2. Discursive Strategies: Halliday (1994), discursive strategies refer to the linguistic techniques and approaches used in communication to shape narratives, influence perceptions, and construct particular representations of events or individuals. These strategies can include framing, emphasis, lexical choices, metaphors, and other rhetorical devices that influence how information is presented and interpreted. In the context of the research, these strategies, such as lexical choices and metaphors, serve to decode the tactics employed in news headlines to influence reader interpretations.

    1.7.3. Johnny Depp and Amber Heard Case: This refers to the legal disputes and controversies between actors Johnny Depp and Amber Heard, particularly related to allegations of violence, which garnered significant media attention and public interest in the present research (Harper et al., 2023).

1.7.4. The New York Times: The New York Times is a reputable and influential newspaper with a significant online platform, known for its extensive coverage of news, current events, cultural affairs, and entertainment (The New York Times, 2023). In the context of this study, The New York Times serves as the primary source of news headlines related to the Johnny Depp and Amber Heard legal battle, offering valuable insights into the discursive strategies and ideological representations surrounding the case during the period from May 2016 to December 2023.

1.7.5. Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL): Systemic Functional Linguistics, as described by Halliday, M. A. K., & Matthiessen (2014), is a linguistic theory that analyzes language in terms of its function and its role in shaping social interactions and cultural practices. In the context of this research, SFL will be utilized to examine the language used in news headlines related to the Johnny Depp and Amber Heard case, particularly focusing on how linguistic choices contribute to the representation of violence, power dynamics, and gender roles within the media discourse. By exploring the relationship between language structure and social contexts, SFL will provide valuable insights into how the news headlines reflect and reinforce broader societal beliefs and attitudes during the specified period from May 2016 to December 2023.

1.7.6. Ideologies in News Headlines: According to Fairclough (1995), The term 'ideology' in the context of news headlines refers to the underlying set of beliefs, values, and assumptions that implicitly guide the creation and presentation of news content. In the study of news headlines, particularly in relation to the Johnny Depp and Amber Heard lawsuits, ideologies become central in discerning how media outlets navigate the complex terrain of celebrity culture, legal disputes, and societal expectations.

1.8 Chapter summary

To sum up, the introduction chapter served as an introduction to the research endeavor titled "A Critical Discourse Analysis in News Headlines Between Johnny Depp vs. Amber Heard Lawsuits." It began by providing an overview of the research's contextual backdrop, underscoring the limited application of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) and Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), specifically Fairclough's Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) and Halliday's Systemic

Functional Linguistics (SFL) (Fairclough, 1995; Halliday, 1994), in the domain of entertainment news, particularly within cases involving high-profile celebrities such as Johnny Depp and Amber Heard. This chapter articulated the research problem, accentuating the imperative need to scrutinize the manner in which news headlines structured discussions related to violence and the portrayal of celebrity figures. Additionally, it introduced the study's purpose and research inquiries, emphasizing the examination of language use and rhetorical strategies within news headlines. The chapter highlighted the significance of this study in demonstrating the media's influential role in shaping public perceptions and attitudes. Moreover, it briefly outlined the study's scope and theoretical framework, encompassing the realms of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) and Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) as conceptualized by Fairclough (1995) and Halliday (1994). The chapter concluded by summarizing its pivotal components, thereby setting the stage for subsequent chapters and accentuating the crucial role of language and discourse in shaping media narratives surrounding celebrity disputes.

In the introduction chapter, the researcher presented a broad overview of the research objectives and reviewed existing theories in the realm of entertainment news discourse. In the next chapter, the researcher further explored the specific techniques used in Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) and Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) (Fairclough, 1995; Halliday, 1994). This provided a foundation for an in-depth examination of news headlines, allowing the reader to thoroughly investigate the linguistic subtleties and rhetorical strategies that shaped public understanding.
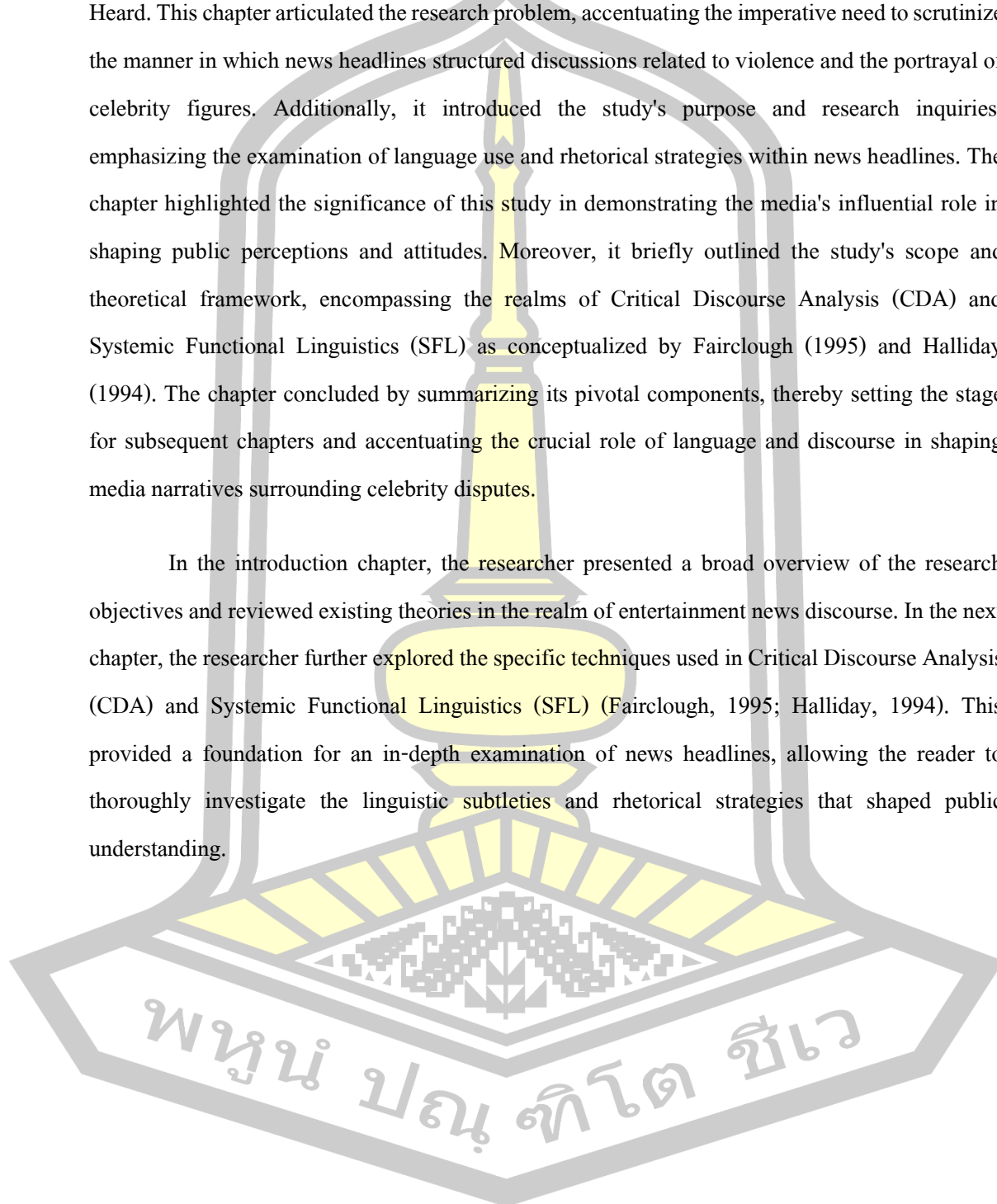
CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

In this chapter, the researcher has undertaken a thorough assessment of pertinent theories and studies from diverse academic spheres. The text has been methodically segmented into six distinct subsections:

1. The Conceptualization of News Headlines
2. The Background of The New York Times
3. The Background of Johnny Depp Vs. Amber Heard Lawsuit
4. Systemic Functional Linguistics and Its Relevance in News Headlines Analysis
5. Critical Discourse Analysis and News Headlines Analysis
6. The Interrelation Between Critical Discourse Analysis and Systemic Functional Linguistics
7. Ideologies in News Headlines
8. Review of Previous Studies
9. Chapter Summary

Each subsection explores key ideas, theories, and underscores the relevance of discourse analysis for this study. Later discussions will navigate these thematic areas, giving readers a foundational investment of the linguistic elements and underlying ideologies in news headlines, especially concerning the Johnny Depp and Amber Heard legal case. Through a critical examination of these ideas and a review of previous studies, the researcher aspires to set the groundwork for a detailed analysis in the following parts of the research.

2.1 The Conceptualization of News Headlines

In the realm of news discourse analysis, this section undertakes a comprehensive exploration of the concept of news headlines (Reah, 2002). In the contemporary media landscape, headlines, as described by Ptashchenko (2009), have transcended their traditional role as only summarizers of news stories. While their fundamental purpose remains the communication of a news article's core message, they have assumed a multifaceted role that encompasses several vital

functions (Ptashchenko, 2009). On the other hand, headlines are a broader category encompassing various forms of headings or titles used in written content across different domains (Saxena, 2006). While news headlines are a subset of headlines, the term "headlines" can also refer to headings in academic papers, magazine articles, advertising materials, or any textual content that requires organization and categorization. Its primary objective is to establish a profound comprehension of the theoretical underpinnings of news headlines, with a specific focus on their influential role in narrative construction and representation (Reah, 2002). This foundational knowledge serves as a critical framework for the present study's subsequent analysis of news headlines pertinent to the Johnny Depp and Amber Heard case.

2.1.1 Definition and Function of News Headlines:

In news journalism, news headlines are crucial and short summaries of news articles which is often the first thing readers see. The language used in news headlines is carefully chosen to grab attention, give a quick idea of the article's main topic. This section looks at the nature of news headlines and function design to share information clearly and effectively.

According to Reah (2002), news headlines serve as concise and impactful summaries of news articles, designed to capture the reader's attention and provide a glimpse into the key content of the associated story. They are a fundamental component of news journalism, playing a pivotal role in conveying information efficiently and effectively. News headlines are characterized by their brevity, typically consisting of a few words or a short sentence, and are strategically crafted to convey the most salient points of a news story (Saxena, 2006).

2.1.1.1 Definition of news headlines

News headlines, within the domain of journalism and media studies, constitute concise and meticulously crafted textual representations aimed at encapsulating the fundamental essence of a news article (Reah, 2002). They perform a pivotal role as the primary point of contact between a news narrative and its potential readership. While the overarching objective of all news headlines remains the efficient conveyance of vital information, they can be effectively classified into several

distinct categories, each distinguished by its unique attributes and functions (Adams et al., 2017). Moreover, there are seven types of news headlines such as informative news headlines, descriptive news headlines, provocative or sensational news headlines, question news headlines, teaser or clickbait news headlines, editorializing or opinion news headlines and feature news headlines (Saxena, 2006).

A. Informative news headlines

Informative news headlines, for instance, serve as succinct summaries of the principal facts or occurrences detailed in a news piece. Their primary objective lies in addressing fundamental journalistic inquiries such as who, what, when, where, and why, executed in a clear and unambiguous fashion (Reah, 2002). Consequently, informative news headlines are predominantly focused on the expeditious and unadorned delivery of essential information to the reader (Saxena, 2006). For example, *"Earthquake in Japan causes widespread damage, several deaths"* (CBC news, 2019). This news headline delivers the essential facts of the news story succinctly. It addresses the key elements of the event (an earthquake in Japan) and its impact (widespread damage), providing clear and direct information without additional commentary or analysis.

B. Descriptive news headlines

Descriptive news headlines transcend the realm of basic facts by striving to offer supplementary context or intricacies concerning a news event (Saxena, 2006). This category may encompass specific names, geographical locations, or contextual background to enrich the reader's comprehension. As such, descriptive news headlines aspire to furnish a more holistic perspective of the news incident in question (Reah, 2002). For example, *"The Gender of COVID-19 Experts in Newspaper Articles: a Descriptive Cross-Sectional Study"* (Fletcher et al., 2021). This news headline goes beyond just announcing a study about COVID-19. It provides specific details about the nature of the research, which in this case, focuses on the gender representation of experts in COVID-19-related news articles.

C.   sensational news headlines

According to Reah (2002), the sphere of headline typology, provocative or sensational news headlines are designed with the explicit intention of eliciting emotive or potent responses from the audience. These news headlines frequently employ dramatic language, sensationalism, or provocative statements to captivate attention and instigate interest (Saxena, 2006). Nonetheless, it is essential to acknowledge that their efficacy in capturing readers' attention sometimes comes under scrutiny due to concerns of prioritizing sensationalism over factual accuracy (Reah, 2002). For example, *"Look up! The Geminid meteor shower lights up the sky Wednesday night"* (Sutherland, 2023). This news headline showcases the typical features of a sensational headline. It grabs attention with dramatic language and the promise of a spectacular event, reflecting the intent to elicit an emotional response from the audience.

D.   Question news headlines

Question news headlines, conversely, adopt an inquisitive stance, posing questions to the readers and inviting them to delve further into the article to uncover the answers. This particular type of headline is adept at stimulating curiosity and fostering reader engagement, often found in feature articles and opinion pieces (Reah, 2002). For example, *"Could the most magical time of year be so full of loneliness, anger and stress?"* (Chaudhary, 2023). This news headline effectively utilizes a question format to engage readers. By asking, "Could the most magical time of year be so full of loneliness, anger, and stress?" the headline challenges a commonly held belief or assumption about a specific time of year, presumably the holiday season, which is often associated with happiness and celebration.

E.   Teaser news headlines

According to Reah (2002), teaser or clickbait news headlines, a genre frequently associated with digital and online media, are strategically designed to kindle readers' interest without prematurely revealing substantial information. Employing alluring phrases or tantalizing hints, they entice readers to click on the article, all in pursuit of the complete narrative (Smith, 2006). It is worth noting that the utilization of clickbait news headlines has been a subject of ethical deliberation within the realm of journalism (Reah, 2002). For example, *"Scientists discover why*

the human brain is so big" (Sample, 2021). This news headline mentions a significant scientific discovery about the human brain, a topic that naturally intrigues a wide audience. However, it purposely withholds the specific details or findings of the discovery. The phrase "why the human brain is so big" raises a question in the mind of the reader, a query that can only be satisfied by reading the full article. This strategy effectively entices the reader to click on the headline to seek more information.

F.   Opinion news headlines

Editorializing or opinion news headlines, as another category, serve as conduits for particular viewpoints, opinions, or stances concerning a news event (Ptashchenko, 2009). They typically convey the editorial standpoint of the news outlet and are predominantly found within opinion pieces or editorial content. The underlying objective of editorializing news headlines is to influence readers' interpretations or perceptions of the news story (Reah, 2002). For example*, "Is the #MeToo Movement Dying?"* (Lindell, 2022). This news headline is distinct in its purpose to project specific viewpoints or stances regarding a topic, in this case, the current state of the #MeToo movement.

G.   Feature news headlines

Feature news headlines are most aptly employed in the context of comprehensive, long-form articles or feature stories (Smith, 2006). Their primary emphasis rests on creativity and narrative style, with the intention of captivating the reader's interest and curiosity. These news headlines often encompass elements of storytelling and may even deploy literary devices to craft an engaging narrative (Reah, 2002). For example*, "Lethbridge Taekwondo event raises funds for Toys for Tots campaign - Lethbridge | Globalnews.ca"* (Quintin, 2023). clearly targets a narrative-driven approach. It creatively combines the elements of a community event (Taekwondo) with a charitable cause (Toys for Tots campaign). This integration not only informs the reader about the event's purpose but also evokes a sense of community spirit and philanthropy. The inclusion of specific names and locations adds to the contextual richness, making it more engaging and relatable to the audience.

In summary, news headlines are short introductions to news stories. They come in different types, each designed for a specific purpose, such as quickly sharing information, sparking interest, or presenting a certain viewpoint. Understanding these different types of news headlines is crucial to study how they shape the way news stories are presented and how they influence what people think. This is especially relevant when examining news headlines related to the Johnny Depp vs. Amber Heard lawsuits, as the choice of words and presentation can greatly impact public opinion on the matter.

2.1.1.2 Function of news headlines

In the realm of contemporary media, the role of news headlines transform simple story summarization. As posited by Ptashchenko (2009), news headlines functions have evolved considerably in response to the complex dynamics of the modern media landscape. In the consequent discussion, the researcher will expound upon the multifaceted roles that news headlines assume, significantly influencing reader engagement, perception, and the publication of information:

A. Capturing Attention

One of the primary objectives of news headlines is to grab the reader's attention and urge them to read further (Ptashchenko, 2009). For example, "Unearthing the mysteries of 'Egypt' in the dunes of the California Coast" (Jones, 2018) stirs reader curiosity.

B. Providing Context

News headlines give readers a brief insight into the story's main theme. They act as guides, helping readers catch the story's essence (Ptashchenko, 2009). The news headline "Tourism stumble risks perfect storm for reeling Thai markets" (Westbrook & Dogra, 2023) gives a quick understanding of the economic situation.

C. Framing the Narrative

News headlines have the power to shape how readers perceive events. By highlighting specific elements and devaluing others, they can influence the angle from which a story is viewed (Ptashchenko, 2009). A headline such as "Protesters clash with police in Din Daeng" (Bangkok Posts, 2021) emphasizes conflict.

D. Reflecting Editorial Perspective

The choices made in crafting a news headline can subtly hint at a media outlet's editorial stance (Ptashchenko, 2009). A headline like "What Depp vs. Heard Means for #MeToo" (Barbaro et al., 2022) might indicate the publication's perspective on the broader implications of a legal battle.

E. Aiding Information Retrieval

As the digital age advances, news headlines are now developed to help readers quickly find and remember information. They stand out in vast online databases, assisting readers in their search (Ptashchenko, 2009). For instance, "2021 - How technology has shaped the year" (BBC NEWS, 2021) is easily searchable for those looking into yearly technological trends.

In summary, news headlines today serve a much broader purpose than common story summarization. As Ptashchenko (2009) suggests, their roles have evolved significantly in response to the intricacies of the contemporary media landscape. In the critical discourse analysis (CDA) of news headlines related to the Johnny Depp vs. Amber Heard lawsuits, recognizing these roles becomes pivotal. It allows for a deeper exploration of how headlines shape the discourse surrounding this high-profile legal battle, influencing public perception, and contributing to the broader societal narrative. Therefore, comprehending the multifaceted nature of news headlines is highly relevant to this analytical enterprise.

2.2 The Background of The New York Times

According to The New York Times Company (2018), The New York Times, an esteemed institution in journalism, was founded in 1851 and has since become a hallmark of American media, renowned for its comprehensive news coverage, in-depth analysis, and a commitment to journalistic integrity. Over the years, it has evolved into a global symbol of news reporting excellence, boasting a multitude of Pulitzer Prizes that underscore its dedication to quality and investigative rigor.

The significance of The New York Times lies in its ability to influence public opinion and inform democratic discourse (NYTCO, 2018). As a trusted news source, it benefits readers by providing reliable information, fostering informed citizenship, and serving as a watchdog against malfeasance. Its extensive reach, both in print and digital formats, ensures that a diverse audience, regardless of geographical boundaries, has access to its reporting (Leopold & Bell, 2017).

Furthermore, The New York Times benefits the academic and research community by serving as a credible source for various studies, including media analysis, social sciences, and political theory. Its archives offer a rich repository of historical and contemporary data, facilitating scholarly work and contributing to the preservation of public memory (Lihua, 2012).

Moreover, the paper's extensive coverage of high-profile legal cases, such as the Johnny Depp and Amber Heard lawsuit, provides a rich repository of material for analysis. By leveraging its comprehensive archives, this study aims to draw meaningful insights into the discursive frameworks employed in shaping narratives around celebrity culture and the intricate dynamics of their public legal battles. In essence, The New York Times presents a unique platform that not only reflects the zeitgeist but also influences it, making it a focal point for this research.

2.3 The Background of Johnny Depp Vs. Amber Heard Lawsuit

The legal battle between Johnny Depp and Amber Heard is a saga that has unfolded prominently in the public eye, marked by a series of high-profile lawsuits and intense media scrutiny (Grady, 2022). Stemming from their brief marriage, which lasted from 2015 to 2017, the

aftermath has been characterized by mutual accusations of abuse and defamation, resulting in multiple legal proceedings in both the United Kingdom and the United States (Rosenblatt, 2022).

According to Rosenblatt (2022), the conflict reached a pivotal moment when Depp sued The Sun, a British tabloid, for libel after it published an article in 2018 referring to him as a "wife-beater," a case that Depp ultimately lost. Subsequently, Depp filed a defamation lawsuit against Heard in the United States, citing an op-ed she wrote for The Washington Post in 2018, which implied he was abusive, although it did not mention him by name. Heard countersued, leading to an increasingly complex legal struggle that has played out both in the courtroom and in the court of public opinion.

According to Grady (2022), Depp vs. Heard lawsuits have garnered global attention, not only for their salacious details but also for their broader implications regarding domestic abuse, celebrity, and the role of media in public discourse. The case has sparked debates over the legal system, victimhood, and the believability of allegations of abuse, contributing to a larger conversation about gender and power dynamics in society.

This backdrop forms the basis of the present study's interest in the case, as it seeks to understand how media representations, particularly through news headlines, shape and are shaped by the societal discourse surrounding such high-stakes celebrity legal battles. The extensive coverage of the Depp-Heard case by The New York Times provides a comprehensive lens through which to explore these complex interactions between media, society, and the individual narratives of those involved.

2.4 Systemic Functional Linguistics and Its Significance for Analyzing News Headlines

Language, with its exactly chosen and arranged words, serves as a potent tool that unveils the underlying views and beliefs of a society. Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), a framework developed by Michael Halliday (1994), plays a pivotal role in decoding these deeper linguistic meanings. This approach is particularly insightful in analyzing how news headlines, such as those related to the Johnny Depp and Amber Heard lawsuit, influence and shape public opinion. According to Halliday (1994), language transcends minor word construction; it is a medium for

sharing meanings and societal narratives. In the realm of news headlines, SFL enables a nuanced understanding of the subtle yet impactful choices in wording that significantly influence readers' perceptions (Marie et al., 2003). Let's inquire into the key components of SFL to gain a comprehensive understanding of its role in studying the language within societal contexts.

2.4.1 Transitivity

A salient tenet of SFL is 'transitivity', which probes the representation of processes, participants, and circumstances within clauses (Halliday, 1994). For instance, a headline reading "Protesters Storm Parliament" employs an active verb ("storm"), casting the protesters as dynamic agents, potentially signifying a confrontational or disruptive stance. Such a transitivity analysis can elucidate subtle ideological undertones embedded within news headlines (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2013).

2.4.2 Modality

Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) dimension of 'modality' scrutinizes degrees of certainty, obligation, or inclination manifested through language. Consider the headline "President Might Address the Nation"; the modal verb "might" introduces a level of uncertainty, subtly affecting the readers' perception of the president's decisiveness or the headline's own certainty (Halliday et al., 2014).

2.4.3 Lexical choice

The realm of 'lexical choice' in SFL illuminates ideologies propagated through specific terminologies within news headlines (Halliday, 1994). A headline phrasing "Migrant Swarm at Border" employs the term "swarm", typically associated with insects, thus potentially dehumanizing migrants and reflecting certain biases or stereotypes (Eggins, 2004).

2.4.4 Framing

'Framing', as conceptualized within Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), explicates how news headlines orchestrate information, steering readers' comprehension (Christian et al., 2010). For example, "Economic Downturn Continues Despite Government Efforts" frames the situation as one where government interventions fail to stem the decline, thus affecting readers' perception of the situation and the efficacy of governmental measures (Halliday et al., 2014).

Numerous scholarly endeavors leveraging Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) have dissected news discourse, unveiling the delicate linguistic choreography in news headlines that either reinforces or challenges entrenched societal ideologies (Christian et al., 2010). This academic trajectory accentuates the intricate nexus between linguistic constructs and predominant societal narratives, augmenting the reader's grasp of media-driven reality constructions (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2013).

In summation, Systemic Functional Linguistics's (SFL) application in discourse analysis amplifies reader understanding of the socio-political underpinnings in news headlines. It decodes how linguistic nuances either imitate, prevent, or reinforce dominant ideologies, providing an enhanced perspective on the complex interplay between media language and societal narratives. News headlines about Johnny Depp and Amber Heard are good examples of how Systemic Functional Linguistics's (SFL) can be used. By studying the news headlines related to their lawsuit, the researcher will see how language choices might influence public opinion about the case.

2.5 Critical Discourse Analysis and News Headlines Analysis

Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) is a well-established interdisciplinary approach that has evolved over time into a potent tool for examining language within its social context (Fairclough, 1992,1995, 2003, 2010,2013, 2016). It seeks to uncover how language practices can mirror, perpetuate, or challenge social hierarchies, power dynamics, and ideological biases (Fairclough, 2016). Applying critical discourse analysis (CDA) to analyze news headlines provides a unique

perspective for thoroughly exploring the ideological elements embedded in linguistic choices and framing techniques (Fairclough, 2010).

The origins of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) are often linked to a group of influential scholars who recognized the intricate connection between language and social phenomena. Some of these prominent scholars include Fairclough (1992), Van Dijk (2006), Wodak (2001), Mayer (2001), van Leeuwen (2008), Chilton (2011), and Kress (1990). Their collective contributions have significantly shaped the development and application of critical discourse analysis (CDA) as a multidisciplinary approach to studying the role of discourse in constructing and disseminating social realities. Norman Fairclough, in particular, has significantly influenced the methodological foundations of critical discourse analysis (CDA). He proposed that discourse is a form of social practice and emphasized its crucial role in constructing and disseminating social realities (Fairclough, 2003).

Methodologically, critical discourse analysis (CDA) frameworks offer a structured approach to examining news headlines. For example, Fairclough's three-dimensional model, which includes textual analysis, processing analysis, and social analysis, provides a comprehensive framework for investigating how language operates on various levels to convey ideological positions (Fairclough, 1995).
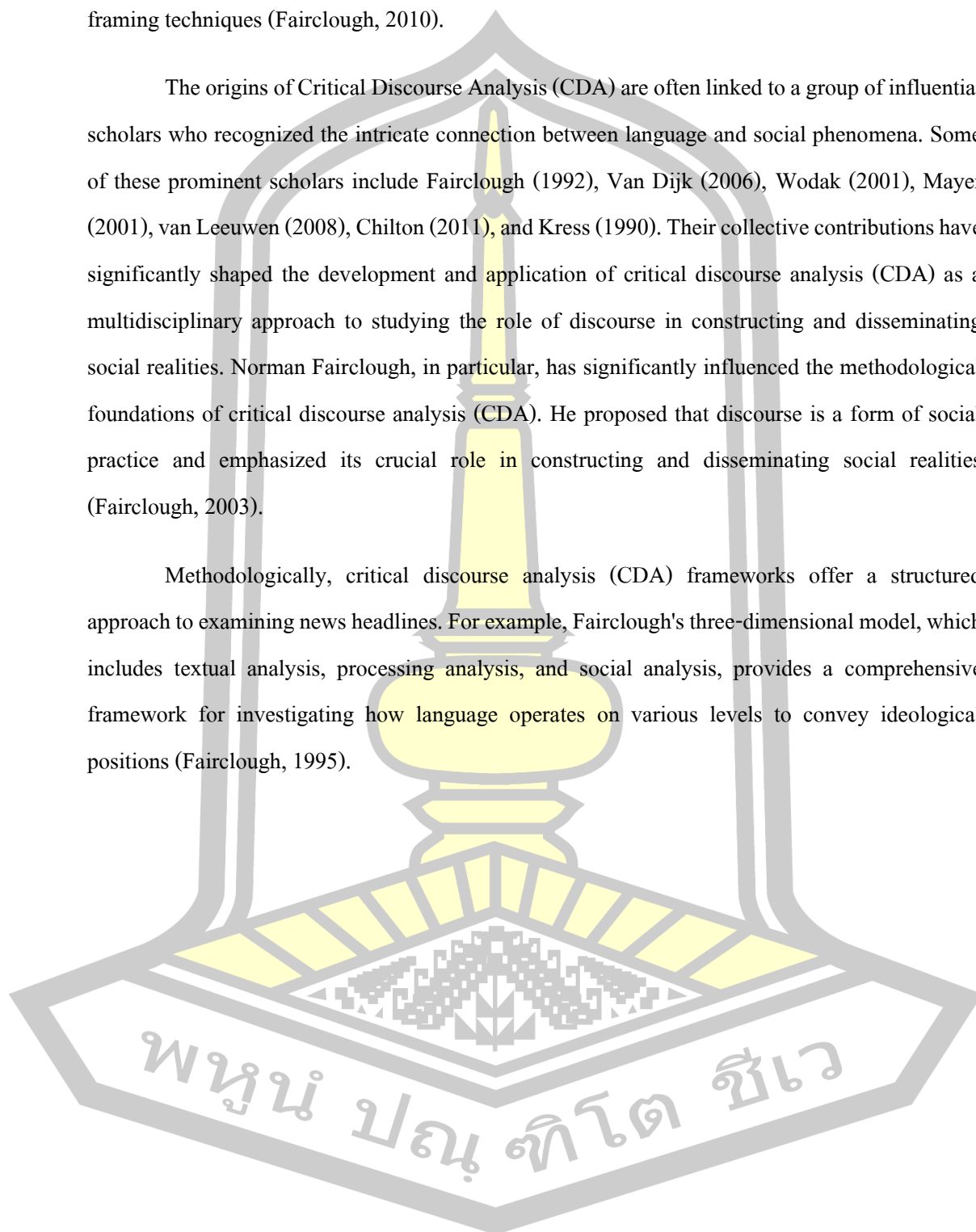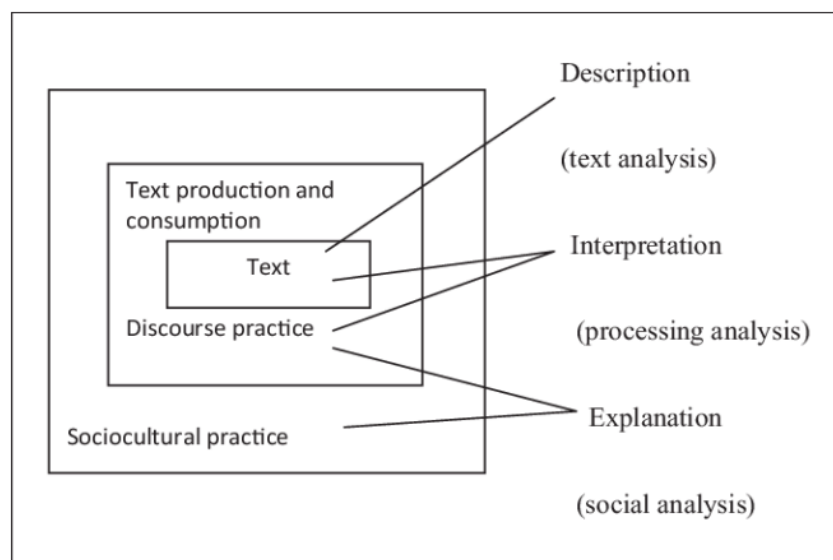
(Dahl, 2023)

Figure 1 Fairclough's three-dimensional framework for analysis of discourse.

According to Fairclough (1995), the three-dimensional model is an integral part of Critical Discourse Analysis, offering a systematic approach to studying language in relation to social context. This model intricately examines language through three distinct yet interconnected dimensions:

2.5.1 Textual Analysis

This dimension focuses on the specific language features of a text, such as word choice, sentence structure, and coherence. It aims to identify patterns, themes, and linguistic strategies that might reflect or influence certain ideologies or perspectives (Fairclough, 1995). By analyzing the text in detail, researchers can discern how particular linguistic elements can shape the message or meaning of the text.

2.5.2 Processing Analysis

Also known as discursive practice, this dimension delves into the processes of text production, distribution, and consumption. It considers how texts are constructed and interpreted by both their producers (e.g., writers, speakers) and their recipients (Fairclough, 1995). It seeks to understand the interplay between the text and its audience, exploring how certain discourses might be privileged or marginalized during these processes.

2.5.3 Social Analysis

This level addresses the broader sociocultural practices and structures in which the text is embedded. It examines how language can both reflect and shape societal norms, values, and power relations (Fairclough, 1995). By placing the text within its larger social context, researchers can gain insights into the ideological underpinnings that inform or are perpetuated by the discourse.

In summary, Fairclough's three-dimensional model allows for an integrated examination of language. It facilitates a deeper understanding of not only the content of discourse but also the manner in which it is presented, the underlying motivations for its articulation, and the potential societal implications of those discourses (Fairclough, 1995).

Other scholars, like van Dijk (2006), have also contributed to refining critical discourse analysis (CDA) methodologies, with a focus on exploring the intricate relationships between discourse and societal structures.

The application of critical discourse analysis (CDA) in the analysis of news headlines reveals how language choices, such as word selection, sentence structures, and rhetorical devices, can shape narratives in ways that either reflect or influence societal ideologies (Wodak, 2013). For instance, how actors, actions, and events are represented in news headlines can subtly approve certain perspectives while marginalizing others, thereby impacting public perceptions and attitudes (van Dijk, 2006).

According to Fairclough (1995), critical discourse analysis (CDA) exposes the ideological currents that underlie the framing of topics like gender, race, or legal disputes in news headlines.

Through a complete examination of news headlines, critical discourse analysis (CDA) can reveal how media outlets may perpetuate stereotypes or promote dominant ideological viewpoints, as evidenced in numerous studies examining gender representations in the media (Wodak, 2013).

Wodak (2013) emphasizes that the implications of critical discourse analysis (CDA) go beyond academic analysis. By shedding light on the ideological biases and framing strategies used in news headlines, critical discourse analysis (CDA) can contribute to attending a more critical readership capable of knowledgeable the subtleties of media discourse (Wodak, 2011). Moreover, it poses a challenge to journalistic practices, calling for reflection on the ethical responsibilities of media organizations in shaping and presenting news narratives (Fairclough & Fairclough, 2013).

To sum up, the research shows how useful Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) is for understanding the deeper meaning in news headlines. By looking closely and critically at how news headlines are written, Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) helps the research see the special ways language is used. This is very important for the current study on the news headlines about Johnny Depp and Amber Heard's lawsuit. Using Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) alongside Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), another way of studying language, the researcher can get a full picture of how language shapes what we think and feel about the news.

2.6 The Interrelation Between Critical Discourse Analysis and Systemic Functional Linguistics

Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) and Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) (Fairclough, 1995; Halliday, 1994) are two distinct yet interrelated frameworks that are often used in tandem to explore the complexities of language and its functions within social contexts. According to Fairclough (1995), CDA focuses on the ways in which discourse is shaped by and shapes social power relations, ideologies, and identities. It is inherently critical, aiming to uncover the power dynamics that are often hidden within the everyday use of language.

On the other hand, SFL, introduced by Halliday (1994), emphasizes the role of language as a social semiotic system that allows individuals to make meanings in different contexts. It provides a detailed analysis of the grammatical and lexical choices that shape the meaning of texts,

considering the functional aspects of language in relation to the social and cultural context (Halliday, 1994).

The interrelation between CDA and SFL is rooted in their shared understanding of language as a social practice that both reflects and influences reality (Matthiessen, 2012). While CDA provides the tools to critique and analyze the ideological underpinnings of discourse, SFL offers a nuanced approach to understanding how these ideologies are linguistically realized through choices of wording, structure, and thematic development (Koussouhon & Dossoumou, 2015).

In the context of analyzing news headlines, CDA brings attention to the broader social implications of discourse, considering the historical, cultural, and political settings in which texts are produced and received (Fairclough, 1992). SFL contributes a systematic approach to the internal analysis of texts, focusing on how language functions to construct social meanings. Meanwhile, can dissect the headlines to see how specific word choices, sentence structures, and grammatical features work to create these representations (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2013).

By combining CDA's critical approach with SFL's linguistic tools (Fairclough, 1995; Halliday, 1994), the researcher can reveal the subtle ways in which language can influence societal attitudes and reinforce or challenge existing power structures. For example, in the case of the Johnny Depp vs. Amber Heard lawsuits, a combined CDA and SFL approach (Fairclough, 1995; Halliday,1994) can uncover how media discourse may perpetuate gender biases or influence public perceptions of legal proceedings and domestic abuse.

2.7 Ideologies in News Headlines

Ideologies in news headlines, stemming from the foundational work of Norman Fairclough (1992, 1995, 2003, 2010, 2013, 2016), provides a critical framework for examining the ideological aspects embedded within language and communication practices. Fairclough's (1992, 1995, 2003, 2010, 2013, 2016) theory is based on the premise that language both mirrors and preserves the power dynamics, social structures, and dominant ideologies of a society. In the context of news headlines, Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) becomes a valuable tool for discerning how these

concise textual snippets either mirror, shape, or challenge societal beliefs and perspectives (Fairclough, 1992).

News headlines, as brief impactful conveyors of information, are carefully constructed to capture the attention of the audience (Fairclough, 2003). However, beyond their functional role, Fairclough's framework (1992) emphasizes that news headlines are also laden with ideology, often carrying societal biases, stereotypes, and prevailing worldviews. Through the discursive approach, the linguistic choices, framing strategies, and the inclusion or omission of elements within news headlines can be analyzed to unveil the societal ideologies they either endorse or contest (Fairclough, 2003).

In Fairclough's perspective, the concept of 'interdiscursivity' is pivotal. Simply put, it's like mixing ingredients from different recipes to create a unique dish. In news headlines, this means blending different types of discussions – legal talks, political debates, or cultural conversations – to present one clear story (Fairclough, 1992). By mixing these, a headline can carry several layers of meaning from different areas of society. By studying this mix, the reader can understand which topics or ideas are given more importance and which are left out (Fairclough, 2003). For example, the news headline, *"Donald Trump's 'sexist' attack on TV debate presenter sparks outrage,"* (Helmore & Jacobs, 2015) offers a quintessential example of the 'interdiscursivity' concept posited by Fairclough (1992).

At first, this news headline touches upon the political field, signifying a former U.S. President, Donald Trump, engaging in a controversial act. Yet, the mention of a "sexist" attack and its link to a TV debate presenter pulls in the discourse of gender politics and media. This interweaving of political and gender discourses is further intensified by the phrase "sparks outrage," suggesting a significant societal reaction, thereby adding a layer of public discourse to the mix.

Furthermore, Fairclough's concept (1995) of 'textual chains' highlights the intertextual connections between different media texts. In the context of news headlines, comprehending these chains is essential. A headline doesn't exist in isolation; its interpretation is often influenced by other textual or discursive instances in the broader media landscape. Therefore, understanding the

ideological leanings of a headline can be more profound when considering its larger intertextual context (Fairclough, 1995).

For example, taking the headline, *"Revealed: Credit Suisse leak unmasks criminals, fraudsters and corrupt politicians,"* (Chayka, 2022) as a point of inquiry, its depth is not merely confined to the immediate revelation about Credit Suisse. The term "Revealed" implies a preceding aura of secrecy or a period of unawareness, suggesting that this piece of news serves as a revelation in an ongoing saga. Furthermore, the usage of the term "leak" evokes memories of other significant leaks in financial sectors. Thus, for a well-informed reader, this headline might not just be about Credit Suisse, but also about a broader narrative concerning global financial misbehavior and the exposure of hidden illegal activities.

Numerous studies employing Fairclough's framework to analyze news headlines have revealed the nuances of ideological representation. These analyses often demonstrate that news headlines aren't neutral transmitters of events but are deeply embedded in the socio-cultural and political texture of their originating societies. They serve as windows into societal currents, reflecting predominant norms, biases, and power dynamics (Pan & Kosicki, 1993).

In summary, Fairclough's (1992, 1995, 2003, 2010, 2013, 2016) approach to Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) provides a detailed tool to examine the deeper meanings within news headlines. Instead of just looking at the obvious message, this method will let the researcher deep into the hidden ideas or beliefs that are suggested by the news headlines. This deeper understanding helps us see the role of media in reflecting or shaping societal views.

Taking the case of "A Critical Discourse Analysis in News Headlines Between Johnny Depp vs. Amber Heard Lawsuits," Fairclough's (1992, 1995, 2003, 2010, 2013, 2016) approach to Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) can uncover how language choice in news headlines might suggest biases, support certain views, or reach public opinion regarding the lawsuit. This kind of analysis becomes essential in high-profile cases where public perception can be significantly influenced by media portrayals.

2.8 Review of Previous Studies

   This section dives into a review of earlier studies that are relevant to the critical analysis of news headlines. The main goal is to outline the theories and methods used by researchers in the past, providing a useful reference for the current study. One notable investigation that serves as a starting point for the analysis in this study is discussed in the following text. By looking at previous studies, this section aims to better understand the language and ideological aspects found in news headlines, laying a strong groundwork for the upcoming analysis of the Johnny Depp versus Amber Heard lawsuit.

   Duanprakhon's (2012) analysis on youth crime in Thailand underscores how news headlines can subtly, or explicitly, shape societal attitudes towards certain demographic groups (Duanprakhon, 2012). The study reveals that news headlines often play a role in constructing and perpetuating certain stereotypes, especially regarding young offenders. For instance, the language employed might depict youth as inherently problematic or as victims of their socio-economic circumstances (Duanprakhon, 2012). Furthermore, Duanprakhon (2012) highlights the multifaceted nature of news headlines, emphasizing their dual role in both reflecting societal views and shaping them. The news headlines, in essence, act as a mirror, echoing prevailing societal beliefs while simultaneously guiding public discourse through specific linguistic choices and framings. By doing so, can either challenge or reinforce existing narratives surrounding youth crime (Duanprakhon, 2012).

   Drawing parallels to the Johnny Depp versus Amber Heard lawsuit, Duanprakhon's research offers invaluable insights into the potential role of news headlines in shaping public perceptions about the involved parties. Duanprakhon's methodological approach presents a blueprint for a nuanced analysis of how such discourses might be embedded within the news headlines concerning Depp and Heard, further elucidating the intricate interplay between media representation and societal ideologies (Duanprakhon, 2012).

   Zhang (2014) employs a critical discourse analysis (CDA) approach, a powerful tool in unveiling the intricacies of language and its ability to subtly, or explicitly, convey ideological positions or reflect social hierarchies. A central theme in Zhang's (2014) study is the dissection of how language choices in news headlines, from lexical selections to syntactic structures, can serve

as a vehicle to advance certain political ideologies or narratives. By meticulously analyzing the news headlines, Zhang (2014) brings to light how media outlets, knowingly or unknowingly, can become conduits for propagating specific political biases or frames. Through this analysis, it becomes apparent that news headlines are not merely innocuous strings of words but potent carriers of ideology that can significantly impact public discourse and perception. This is critical for understanding how legal and personal disputes like the Depp versus Heard lawsuit might be similarly laden with ideological narratives that reflect broader societal norms or power dynamics (Zhang, 2014).

Ulum (2015) delves into the intricacies of how discourse and ideology are interwoven in news headlines, particularly examining the Syrian Civil War coverage. The study adopts a Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) framework, illuminating the nuanced ways in which language serves as a conduit for ideological expressions (Ulum, 2015). Ulum (2015) investigates how varying linguistic constructs in news headlines can influence the discourse surrounding the Syrian conflict, subtly leading readers towards specific interpretations and attitudes. The examination reveals a layer of ideological encoding within the linguistic structures of news headlines, underlining the media's ability to mold public understanding through carefully crafted language (Ulum, 2015).

Furthermore, Ulum's (2015) work underscores the significance of adopting a critical lens in analyzing media texts, especially when investigating the interplay of discourse and ideology. By applying a similar critical discourse analysis (CDA) approach, an analysis of the Depp versus Heard lawsuit news headlines can delve into how language choices, framing, and representation within these news headlines may have contributed to shaping public opinion and reinforcing prevailing ideologies surrounding domestic violence and celebrity disputes (Ulum, 2015). This resonates with the broader goal of understanding the sociopolitical underpinnings and implications embedded within media representations and their consequent impact on societal attitudes and discourses.

Chen's (2018) research showcases the power of a multifaceted linguistic approach, particularly rooted in Halliday's SFL, to delve into the intricate layers of meaning and ideology within news headlines. SFL provides a comprehensive framework for dissecting language in use, encompassing not only grammatical structures but also the functional aspects of language, such as how language construes social roles, power dynamics, and ideology (Chen, 2018). Applying Chen's

(2018) approach to the Depp versus Heard lawsuit, the researcher can similarly explore how linguistic choices in news headlines shape the narrative and reflect deeper ideological narratives. For instance, news headlines may emphasize aspects of the case that align with societal norms or biases, such as gender roles, celebrity culture, or perceptions of domestic violence (Chen, 2018).

Hassan (2018) investigates the symbiotic relationship between language, media, and ideology within the sphere of Pakistani news bulletins. One of the key takeaways from Hassan's study is the elucidation of how news headlines serve as powerful vehicles for both reflecting and propagating specific ideological stances (Hassan, 2018). Through a detailed analysis, the study demonstrates how linguistic choices, framing techniques, and representation in news headlines can subtly guide viewers towards certain interpretations, thereby influencing public discourse and possibly reinforcing prevailing ideologies or societal norms (Hassan, 2018). The potency of news headlines in molding public opinion is laid bare, underscoring the imperative role of language and its interplay with media and ideology (Hassan, 2018).

In previous studies on the relevance of Johnny Depp and Amber Heard, Gee (2021) explored the application of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) in understanding media narratives related to their legal conflict. Gee's research specifically focused on the role of transitivity, modality, and appraisal in shaping how actions and emotions were attributed to each party. By examining verbs, adverbs, and evaluative language, the study revealed how linguistic choices subtly influenced readers' perceptions of agency and responsibility. For example, Depp was often associated with active verbs that emphasized his direct involvement in actions, while Heard was frequently linked to passive or neutral constructions, which positioned her as a recipient rather than an initiator of actions. This imbalance contributed to a narrative of power disparity and manipulation, aligning with societal ambivalence toward female empowerment. Gee's research provided a nuanced understanding of how micro-level language features could have macro-level implications for social norms and expectations in gendered legal disputes, making it highly relevant for this study's focus on the media's portrayal of celebrity legal conflicts.

Harper et al. (2023) applied Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) and Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) to the Depp vs. Heard case to examine the broader implications of media portrayals of intimate partner violence and defamation in shaping public opinion. Their study

analyzed a variety of news headlines, social media posts, and opinion articles to identify recurrent linguistic patterns and framing strategies. Harper et al. found that the media's language use often subtly reinforced traditional gender roles, presenting men as powerful or resilient and women as fragile or deceitful. The study highlighted how these depictions could perpetuate societal stereotypes, impacting not only the individuals involved in the legal conflict but also public perceptions of similar cases. By demonstrating how the media's portrayal of intimate partner violence influenced narratives of victimhood and culpability, the research emphasized the need for a more balanced and critical approach to reporting in high-profile cases.

Sganga (2024) extended the work of Harper et al. by conducting an in-depth analysis of media narratives surrounding the Depp vs. Heard defamation trial. Using a combination of SFL and CDA frameworks, Sganga focused specifically on how gendered language shaped public perceptions of credibility and power dynamics. The study uncovered how headlines and news articles employed contrasting language to describe Depp and Heard, where Depp was often portrayed as a victim of false accusations and Heard as either a manipulative figure or a misunderstood victim. These discursive constructions were linked to broader patriarchal narratives that influenced societal attitudes toward male and female behavior in legal conflicts. Sganga's findings suggested that such biased representations could sway public opinion, making it difficult for readers to objectively assess the case. This study underscored the importance of critically analyzing media narratives to reveal underlying ideologies that might otherwise remain hidden.

The reviewed studies showed how media headlines influenced public perception, each providing insights relevant to the Johnny Depp and Amber Heard lawsuit. Duanprakhon (2012) and Hassan (2018) highlighted how headlines built and reinforced stereotypes by using specific language. This was important for the Depp-Heard case, where the media might have portrayed Depp as strong and Heard as vulnerable or manipulative. Zhang (2014) and Ulum (2015) used Critical Discourse Analysis to show how headlines contained ideological biases, shaping public opinion by framing narratives around power and societal issues like domestic violence. Chen (2018) applied Systemic Functional Linguistics to examine how language structures in headlines affected perceptions of agency and responsibility between Depp and Heard. Gee (2021), Harper et al. (2023), and Sganga (2024) specifically analyzed the Depp-Heard lawsuit, demonstrating how

gendered language and power dynamics in media portrayals influenced public opinion. They found that media often presented Depp as a victim of false accusations and Heard as manipulative, reinforcing traditional gender roles. Overall, these studies provided a comprehensive understanding of how media language shaped societal attitudes towards the Depp and Heard case, emphasizing the importance of critical media analysis to uncover biases in high-profile legal disputes.

2.9 Chapter Summary

The literature review explored key ideas essential for understanding news headlines. It began by discussing what news headlines are and how they shape the readers' views. After the section, introduced Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), a method important for studying news headlines, especially when thinking about the deeper meanings and societal messages they might carry. After that, the review talked about Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) and how it helps the researcher see the small language details in news headlines that can influence the way society thinks. The researcher also looked at how news headlines can carry certain beliefs or biases that can guide readers in specific directions.

To end the review, the researcher summarized some past research studies to show where our current study fits in the larger academic conversation. From the best of the findings, despite the absence of recent research publications from the last five years in the current research review. However, the researchers see that the earlier studies which highlighted will can provide valuable insights into established patterns. These foundational studies will serve as a guide for future researchers.

However, moving to the methodology chapter, the researcher will take all of the knowledge to use it to study news headlines related to the Johnny Depp and Amber Heard lawsuit. The researcher will use the methods and ideas from the literature review to help the readers understand the stories and messages that news headlines might be telling.

CHAPTER 3

METHODOLOGY

In this chapter, the researcher outlined the methods used to critically analyze news headlines related to the legal disputes between Johnny Depp and Amber Heard. The chapter discussed the research design, how data was collected, the tools used for data collection, and the methods for data analysis. It also provided an overview of how the analysis was conducted. The chapter concluded with a brief summary of its key components, aiming to address the subsequent research questions:

1. What are the discursive strategies employed in news headlines by the New York Time in framing the legal case related to the Johnny Depp vs. Amber Heard lawsuits?
2. What are the underlying social ideologies manifested in the news headlines ?

3.1 Research design

In this study, a qualitative critical discourse analysis (CDA) approach was used to examine news headlines from The New York Times' online platform concerning the incidents of violence involving Johnny Depp and Amber Heard. The main focus was on understanding the underlying narratives related to violence, gender, and power as presented in these news headlines. The study's framework was based on Halliday's (1994) Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) theory, which allowed a detailed examination of the language used in the news headlines, such as the grammar, word choices, and context. Additionally, Fairclough's (1992, 1995, 2003, 2010, 2013, 2016) Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) methods were applied to explore the societal and cultural aspects present in the news headlines, like power dynamics, gender roles, and societal beliefs.

For data collection, both Leopold and Bell (2017) and Lihua (2012) used Microsoft Excel, a widely-used tool for organizing and managing data. The data was organized in a spreadsheet,

listed alphabetically, and covered aspects like the headline's content, words used, focus of action, the role of participants, the mood of the statement, the main topic, and any relevant notes.

No.	News headline	Lexical Choice	Framing	Transitivity	Agency	Modality	Theme	Note

Table 1 The example of spreadsheet for discursive instrument

The organized data in the spreadsheet will help pinpoint patterns and recurring themes within the news headlines. This is essential for understanding the ways in which violence, gender, and power are discussed. Drawing from the theories by Halliday (1994) and Fairclough (1992, 1995, 2003, 2010, 2013, 2016), the analysis will reveal the specific techniques and underlying beliefs present in the news headlines about the Johnny Depp and Amber Heard case.

These results will be important in understanding how media can influence the public's views on violence and how power relationships can shape the media's presentation of high-profile events. The study will highlight the relationship between news headlines, public views, and the media's role in presenting these events.

Overall, this research design is considered well-suited for achieving the research objectives and provides a comprehensive approach to analyzing the language and ideologies used in news headlines related to Johnny Depp and Amber Heard.

3.2 Data collection

This section is delineating the primary data source selected for the precent research and the tools harnessed to manage and analyze this data, shedding light on the relevance and utility in the context of current study's objectives.

3.2.1 Source of material

The study used The New York Times online platform as the sole data source for its analysis. The New York Times was globally acknowledged as a leading news source, making the selected news headlines impactful and influential in shaping societal perspectives (Bell, 2017). Its detailed reporting made it an ideal candidate for in-depth discourse analysis. Previous research, such as Leopold and Bell (2017) and Lihua (2012), also used The New York Times as their primary data source for critical discourse studies, reinforcing the choice for this study.

3.2.2 Data collection tool

For the current study, the emphasis was on the accurate gathering and structuring of data. The researcher chose The New York Times online platform as the primary source from which to extract relevant news headlines related to the legal disputes between Johnny Depp and Amber Heard, covering a timeline from May 2016 to December 2022. The decision to utilize Microsoft Excel originated from its accepted flexibility and user-centric formatting, which were regarded as suitable for the detailed process of data extraction and the subsequent stages of analysis. The organized layout facilitated by Excel enhanced the presentation of data, permitting the researcher to swiftly identify and interpret recurring themes and inherent subtleties within the news headlines. Such a systematic approach amplified the comprehension of underlying discursive components and concealed ideological overtones, especially those resonating around themes of violence, gender dynamics, and power hierarchies. Lending credence to this methodological choice, a research conducted by Smith et al. (2017) also effectively furnished Excel for gathering and systematizing online news articles, further attesting to its pragmatic applicability in scholarly pursuits.

In summary, the use of Excel in this academic effort ensured a methodical and streamlined process for gathering data from The New York Times online platform, paving the way for an extensive and informed analysis of the media's representation of the highlighted legal dispute.

3.3 Data Analysis

This section outlines a systematic approach to analyzing news headlines related to the Johnny Depp versus Amber Heard lawsuits. The process involves several key steps, each designed to uncover the underlying ideologies and discursive strategies used by media outlets.

The first step involved collecting a comprehensive set of news headlines related to the Depp-Heard case. These headlines were imported into an Excel spreadsheet for organization and initial screening. The researcher focused on selecting headlines that presented factual information rather than opinion-based or speculative content. This selection ensured that the analysis was based on objective reporting, providing a clear foundation for further examination of language and ideology.

In this section, the researcher systematically analyzed news headlines related to the Johnny Depp versus Amber Heard lawsuits to uncover underlying ideologies and discursive strategies employed by media outlets. Initially, a comprehensive set of headlines was collected and imported into an Excel spreadsheet, where only those presenting factual information were selected to ensure objective reporting. These factual headlines were then examined using discursive strategies derived from Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), focusing on linguistic elements such as lexical choices, syntax, and narrative structures. To enhance the validity of the analysis, the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA) was utilized as a reference tool. COCA provided a robust linguistic framework by offering insights into the frequency and context of specific lexical items and syntactic patterns, ensuring that the analysis was grounded in contemporary language usage.

Following the initial examination, the analysis results were reviewed by an interrater—a second analyst who assessed the findings for accuracy and consistency. This step was crucial in eliminating personal biases and ensuring that the identification of discursive strategies was both reliable and reproducible. Once validated, the researcher proceeded to analyze each news topic, identifying multiple themes such as gender roles, power dynamics, victimhood, and credibility within the headlines. These themes were then examined through the lens of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) principles to explore how they reflected or reinforced broader societal ideologies

in the United States. For example, the portrayal of Depp as resilient and Heard as manipulative was linked to traditional gender stereotypes, illustrating how media language can shape public opinion and societal norms.

After obtaining confirmation from the interrater, the researcher proceeded to analyze the results for each news topic. Each topic was examined for multiple themes that emerged from the headlines. For example, themes might include gender roles, power dynamics, victimhood, and credibility. By identifying and categorizing these themes, the researcher could systematically explore how different aspects of the lawsuit were represented in the media. This multi-theme approach allowed for a more comprehensive understanding of the various narratives present in the headlines.

The identified themes were then analyzed in the context of broader ideologies within US society using Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) principles. This step involved examining how the themes reflected or reinforced societal beliefs, values, and power structures. For instance, the portrayal of Depp as resilient and Heard as manipulative could be linked to traditional gender stereotypes. By applying CDA, the researcher could uncover the deeper ideological messages embedded in the media coverage, revealing how language in headlines contributes to shaping public opinion and societal norms.

The final step was to summarize the findings from the analysis. This involved consolidating the insights gained from examining discursive strategies, themes, and underlying ideologies. The summary provided an overview of how news headlines influenced public perception of the Depp-Heard lawsuit, highlighting the key linguistic and ideological patterns identified. This synthesis offered a clear understanding of the media's role in framing high-profile legal conflicts and the implications for societal attitudes toward gender, power, and victimhood.

By following these six steps, the research effectively decoded the complex interplay between language, ideology, and societal perceptions in news headlines. The systematic approach ensured a thorough and reliable analysis, revealing how media representations of the Johnny Depp versus Amber Heard lawsuit were constructed and how they influenced public sentiment. This

methodology underscores the importance of critical media analysis in uncovering the subtle biases and ideological messages that shape our understanding of high-profile legal disputes.

3.4 Inter-rater reliability

To reinforce the credibility and consistency of the results from "A Critical Discourse Analysis of News Headlines Between Johnny Depp vs. Amber Heard Lawsuits," accurate attention was given to inter-rater reliability. The study's data analysis depends on two main tools: an Excel spreadsheet and a qualitative review of news headlines from the primary section. Given this dual approach, there was a natural element of subjectivity. To reduce potential biases and enhance the analysis's accuracy, a structured inter-rater reliability process was implemented. In this setup, the researcher acted as the principal coder, while the secondary coder was an adept English lecturer specializing in Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Science at Mahasarakham University.

3.5 Preliminary study as an exemplification of data analysis

In the following section, the researcher elucidated the data analysis procedure aimed at addressing the core research objectives. The study's focal point was the identification and understanding of discursive techniques and ideological foundations present in news headlines concerning the legal dispute between Johnny Depp and Amber Heard, as presented on The New York Times online platform. The following examples served as representative illustrations of each topic. Therefore, one news headline revealed more than one element, which was analyzed in Chapter 4.

3.5.1 The discursive Strategies employed in news headlines by The New York Times in framing the legal case related to the Johnny Depp vs. Amber Heard lawsuits

In this section, the researcher presented an illustrative analysis aimed at addressing the research inquiry: What were the discursive strategies employed in news headlines by The New York Times in framing the legal case related to the Johnny Depp vs. Amber Heard lawsuits? The analysis encompassed elements such as lexical selection, framing, transitivity, agency, and modality, all of which were examined through the lens of Halliday's (1994) Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) framework. In this section, the reader could see all the news headlines that were analyzed in Chapter Four, located in the appendix.

3.5.1.1 Lexical Choices and Framing

No.	News headline	Lexical Choice	Framing	Transitivity	Agency	Modality	Theme	Note
1.	Amber Heard Testifies About a 'Pattern' of Violence by Johnny Depp	testifies pattern	pattern					

Table 2 The exemplification discursive analysis of lexical choices and framing.

The headline *"Amber Heard Testifies About a 'Pattern' of Violence by Johnny Depp"* (Jacobs, 2022) strategically employs lexical choices to convey a legal and formal context, emphasizing the gravity of Amber Heard's statements. Words like "testifies" suggest her remarks were made under formal circumstances, while "pattern" hints at repeated behaviors by Johnny Depp. The headline makes it clear that Depp is implicated, with the narrative focusing on him as the alleged wrongdoer. Additionally, by leading with Heard's name, the headline foregrounds her perspective.

3.5.1.2 Transitivity and Agency

No.	News headline	Lexical Choice	Framing	Transitivity	Agency	Modality	Theme	Note
1.	Johnny Depp, at Libel Trial, Denies Ever Striking 'Any Woman'			Denies	Johnny Depp			

Table 3 The exemplification discursive analysis of transitivity and agency

In the framework of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), examining the roles of actions and actors in a news headline like *"Johnny Depp, at Libel Trial, Denies Ever Striking 'Any Woman'"* (Jacobs, 2022) can be quite revealing. The main action, indicated by the verb "Denies," focuses on Johnny Depp's act of refuting a claim. As for the participants, Depp is the central figure who is actively dismissing the allegations, while the headline does not give any agency to potential

victims. This examination underscores the ways in which action descriptions and actor roles work together in this headline to stress Depp's active denial and its broad scope.

3.5.1.3 Modality

No.	News headline	Lexical Choice	Framing	Transitivity	Agency	Modality	Theme	Note
1.	Johnny Depp's Win in Court Could Embolden Others, Lawyers Say					could		

Table 4 The exemplification discursive analysis of modality.

In the headline *"Johnny Depp's Win in Court Could Embolden Others, Lawyers Say"* (Jacobs & Bednar, 2022), the use of modality, specifically the word "could," is significant. This choice of language introduces a level of speculation or possibility, rather than certainty. It suggests that Johnny Depp's court victory might have a broader impact, potentially influencing others' actions or decisions.

3.5.2 The manifestation of social ideologies in the news headlines in the case of the Johnny Depp and Amber Heard legal battle

This section serves as an illustrative exploration of our research question, which aims to unravel how news headlines construct the narrative surrounding violence within the context of the Johnny Depp and Amber Heard legal battle. Furthermore, the researcher seeks to identify the ideological perspectives inherent in the language and rhetoric employed within these news

headlines by three explication. In this section the reader can see all the news headlines that will be analyzed in chapter four at appendix.

3.5.2.1 "Amber Heard Testifies About a 'Pattern' of Violence by Johnny Depp" (Jacobs, 2022). In this news headline, the following ideologies and perspective's theme can be seen:

A. Domestic Violence

The use of the term "Pattern of Violence" in the headline is significant. It accentuates the notion of a recurring and consistent behavior rather than isolated incidents. This linguistic choice can be interpreted as a reflection of an ideology aimed at underlining the seriousness and persistent nature of the alleged actions attributed to Johnny Depp, portraying him as a repeat offender in the context of domestic violence.

B. Blaming

While the headline ostensibly presents an objective report of Amber Heard's testimony, the emphasis on the 'pattern' of violence attributed directly to Johnny Depp may imply a subtle bias against him. It suggests a predisposition to hold him accountable for the alleged acts.

C. Gender roles

The headline contributes to a larger discourse on gender dynamics and domestic violence. This representation can be analyzed in the context of broader societal ideologies regarding male perpetrators and female victims. By featuring a prominent female figure testifying against a male figure, the headline intersects with prevailing societal discourses on gender, power, and violence, warranting a closer examination of its implications.

In summary, the news headline "Amber Heard Describes 'Pattern of Violence' by Johnny Depp" holds several layers of significance when analyzed through a critical discourse lens. Firstly, the use of the term "Pattern of Violence" underscores the portrayal of Johnny Depp as a repeat

offender in the context of domestic violence, emphasizing the gravity and persistence of the alleged actions attributed to him. Secondly, while the headline appears to present an objective report of Amber Heard's testimony, the emphasis on the 'pattern' of violence linked directly to Johnny Depp might imply a subtle bias against him, suggesting a predisposition to hold him accountable for the alleged acts. Lastly, the headline's role in the larger discourse on gender dynamics and domestic violence is noteworthy, as it intersects with prevailing societal ideologies regarding male perpetrators and female victims, involving a closer examination of its implications within this broader context.

3.5.2.2 "Johnny Depp, at Libel Trial, Denies Ever Striking 'Any Woman'" (Jacobs, 2022). In this news headline, the following ideologies and perspectives theme can be seen:

A.   Denial of Violence

The news headline prominently features Johnny Depp's denial of ever striking "any woman." This framing suggests an attempt to counter the allegations of domestic violence against him. The use of the term "denies" underscores his stance, and the emphasis on "any woman" broadens the scope of the denial, positioning him as vehemently opposed to any claims of violence.

B.   Gender Roles

The headline touches upon broader societal ideologies related to gender and violence. By specifying "any woman," it addresses the allegations in the context of gender dynamics, implying that striking any woman would be a grave accusation. This perspective aligns with societal norms against violence towards women.

C.   Crisis of Reputation

The headline hints at the potential damage to Johnny Depp's reputation. His denial in a libel trial suggests that his image and career may be at stake, reflecting the societal perspective that accusations of violence, especially against women, can have severe consequences for public figures.

In summary, the news headline "Johnny Depp, at Libel Trial, Denies Ever Striking 'Any Woman'' prominently conveys several key ideologies and perspectives. Firstly, it emphasizes Johnny Depp's strong denial of any allegations of violence, positioning him as resolutely opposed to such claims. Secondly, the headline addresses broader societal ideologies concerning gender and violence, implying that complaints of striking any woman carry significant gravity and are in conflict with prevailing norms against violence towards women. Lastly, the headline alludes to the potential damage to Johnny Depp's reputation, underlying the societal perspective that allegations of violence, particularly against women, can have profound consequences for public figures, including their careers and public image.

3.5.2.3 "The jury found that both Johnny Depp and Amber Heard were defamed," (Jacobs & Bednar, 2022). In this news headline, the following ideologies and perspective's theme can be seen:

A.   Crisis of Reputation

The inclusion of the term "defamed" in the headline underscores the potential impact for the reputations of both Johnny Depp and Amber Heard. It implies that the trial's outcome could have enduring consequences for how the public perceives them. This perspective aligns with the societal belief that legal disputes involving public figures are closely observed and can substantially influence their public image.

B. Blaming

The news headline's reference to "both Johnny Depp and Amber Heard" suggests that accountability for defamation is shared by both parties involved. This perspective implies a mutual responsibility to embarrass each other's reputation, emphasizing a lack of distinct roles as solely victim or perpetrator in the defamation aspect of the case.

C. Media Influence

The mention of defamation in the headline alludes to the media's potential influence on shaping public opinion. It implies that the media's coverage of the case may have played a significant role in defaming both Johnny Depp and Amber Heard. This perspective raises questions about the media's ethical responsibilities when reporting on legal matters.

In summary, the news headline "The jury found that both Johnny Depp and Amber Heard were defamed" highlights several key perspectives and ideologies. Firstly, it emphasizes the potential impact on the reputations of both Johnny Depp and Amber Heard, suggesting that the trial's outcome may have enduring consequences for how they are perceived by the public. Secondly, it implies shared responsibility for defamation between both parties, indicating a mutual accountability in tarnishing each other's reputation. Lastly, the mention of defamation alludes to the media's role in shaping public opinion, raising questions about the ethical responsibilities of the media when reporting on legal matters. These perspectives provide valuable insights into the broader societal beliefs and dynamics surrounding high-profile legal disputes involving public figures.

Therefore, to sum it up, in examining the news headlines pertaining to the legal contention between Johnny Depp and Amber Heard, it becomes evident that these news headlines serve a purpose beyond mere recounting of events. Embedded within the surface narrative are profound undertones shaped by prevailing societal ideologies reflecting wider cultural norms and values. At a glance, news headlines might seem to offer impartial accounts; however, they are inextricably linked with deep-seated societal beliefs and are crafted using specific discursive techniques. This

intricate interplay emphasizes the media's powerful role not only in disseminating information but also in influencing and sculpting societal viewpoints, particularly in relation to high-profile cases such as the one involving Johnny Depp and Amber Heard.

3.6 Chapter summary

In conclusion, this chapter has provided a detailed description of the research methodology and data collection and analysis process utilized in "A Critical Discourse Analysis of News Headlines: Discursive and Ideology through the lens of the violence between Johnny Depp and Amber Heard." The research design employed a qualitative critical discourse analysis methodology, utilizing Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) theory and sociological theories to analyze the discursive and ideological dimensions of news headlines related to the Johnny Depp and Amber Heard case. Microsoft Excel was utilized as the data collection tool to extract news headlines from The New York Times online platform between 2016 and 2021, and the data was subsequently analyzed using inductive and deductive approaches, guided by the research questions. The analysis focused on discursive strategies and ideological representations of violence, gender, and power dynamics in the news headlines, providing valuable insights into the language and societal factors influencing public opinion on high-profile cases. The trustworthiness of the research was ensured through rigorous analytical processes, established theoretical frameworks, and adherence to ethical considerations. Overall, this chapter has provided a comprehensive overview of the research methodology employed in this study, providing a solid foundation for the subsequent findings and discussion.
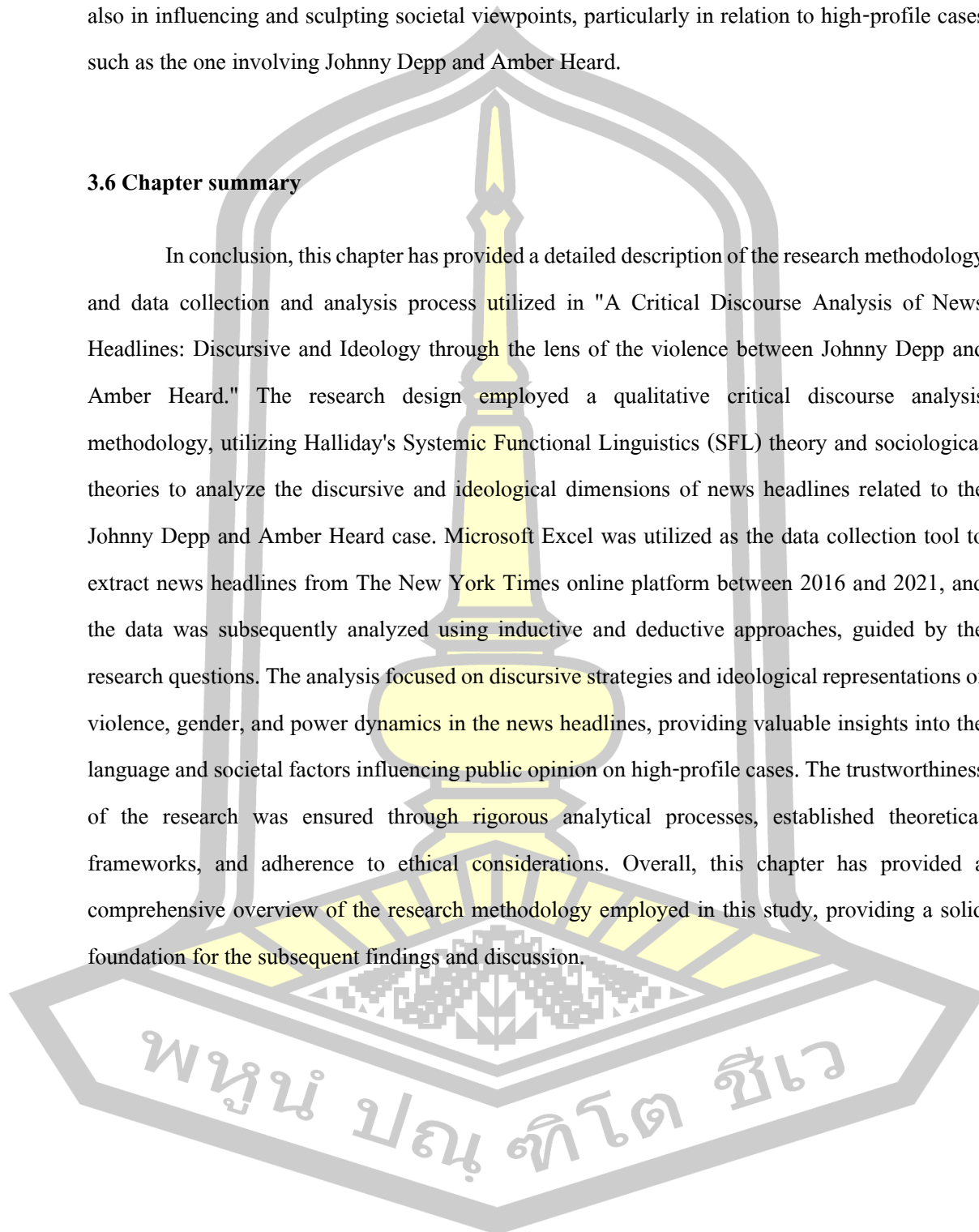
CHAPTER 4

RESEARCH FINGDINGS

In this chapter of the current study, the researcher focuses on the findings. Starting by spotting the common patterns and themes that emerged when the researcher used Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) and Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) on the data (Halliday, 1994; Fairclough, 1995). This chapter is where the findings put it all together, looking at the main points from The New York Times news headlines and figuring out the deeper stories.

4.1 The discursive strategies employed in news headlines

In this part, the researcher delves into the linguistic intricacies of our selected news headlines through Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL)(Halliday, 1994). This analysis is sectioned into distinct categories, each spotlighting a different aspect of the language used in the media to portray the legal tussle between Johnny Depp and Amber Heard. This will demonstrate the importance of understanding the language used in news headlines to gain a better understanding of the legal issues at stake. The researcher will also discuss the implications of the language used and how it can be used to influence public opinion. Finally, the researchers will explore the potential implications of the language used and how it can be used to shape the legal outcome.
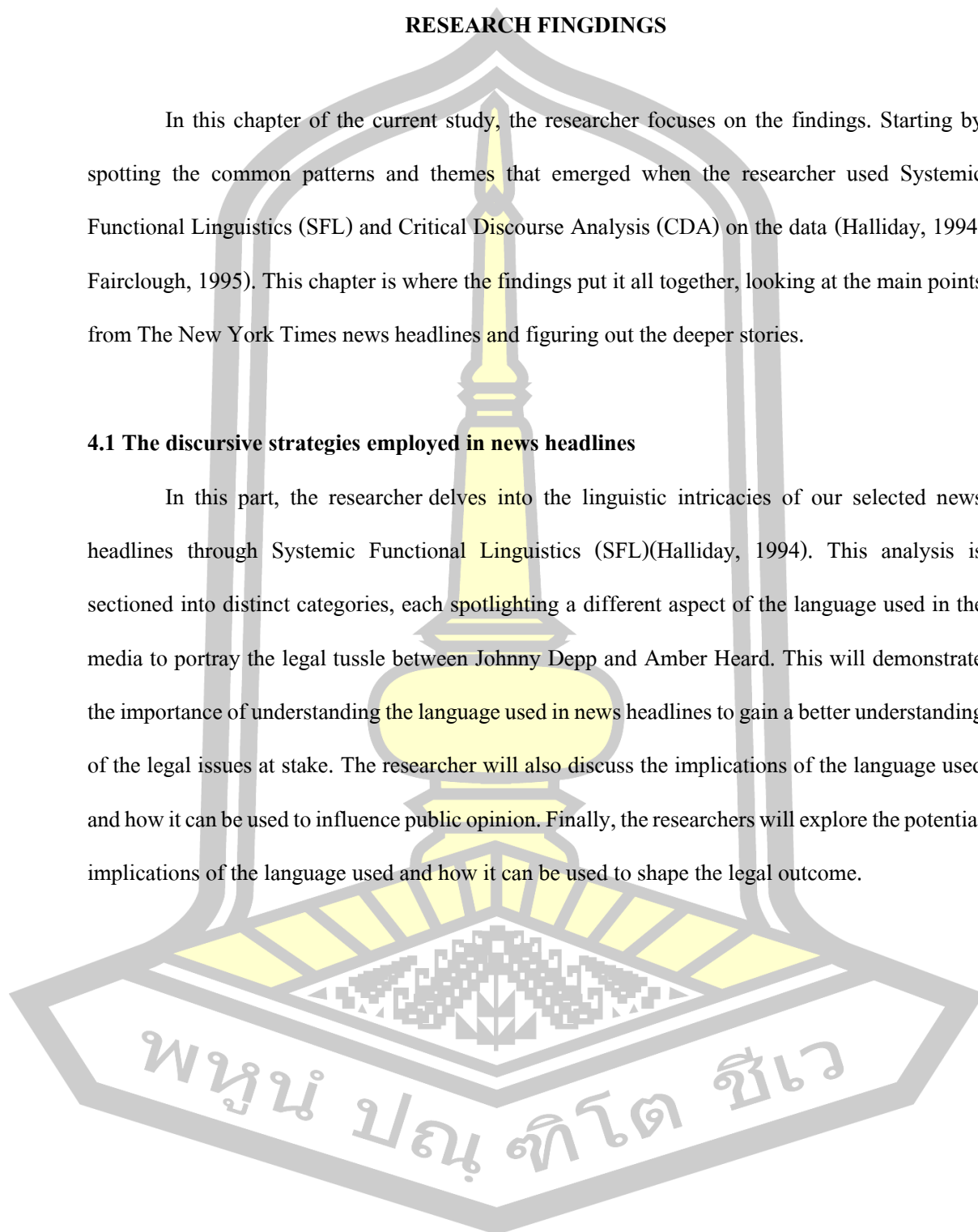
4.1.1 Lexical Choice

No.	News headline	Lexical Choice	Reason	• Frequency
1.	What Depp v. Heard Means for #MeToo	• MeToo	#MeToo movement, which centers on sexual misconduct and abuse.	• 4
2	After #MeToo Reckoning, a Fear Hollywood Is Regressing	• Reckoning • Regressing	Suggesting a period of judgment and possible progress due to the #MeToo movement.	• 331 • 16
3	Why We Love to Watch a Woman Brought Low	• brought low	Indicates a narrative where a woman is experiencing a downfall or defeat.	• 12
4	Johnny and Amber: Trouble in Paradise	• Paradise	Symbolizes an ideal relationship.	• 1272

No.	News headline	Lexical Choice	Reason	• Frequency
5	The Depp Conundrum: Who Should Keep Tabs on the Money?	• Conundrum	Presents the issue as a complex problem.	• 224
8	Amber Heard and the Death of #MeToo	• The Death	Uses a strong metaphor as a result of the trial.	• 5561
9	The Amber Heard Verdict Was a Travesty. Others Will Follow.	• Travesty • Verdict	Express a strong opinion about the trial's outcome.	• 165 • 2071
10	TikTok's Amber Heard Hate Machine	• Hate Machine	Suggests a systematic spread of negativity or hate.	• 2
12	#MeToo Cases' New Legal Battleground: Defamation Lawsuits	• Battleground	Implies a conflict or struggle	• 593

No.	News headline	Lexical Choice	Reason	• Frequency
13	Johnny Depp and Amber Heard to Face Off in Defamation Trial	• Face Off	Suggests a direct confrontation	• 156
14	Johnny Depp, at Libel Trial, Denies Ever Striking 'Any Woman'	• Any Woman	Denialing of the accusations against of Depp.	• 114
16	Jury Reaches Verdict in Johnny Depp-Amber Heard Trial: What to Know	• Verdict	Signals the conclusion of the trial and the jury's decision.	• 2071
18	Amber Heard Testifies About a 'Pattern' of Violence by Johnny Depp	• Pattern	Implies a repeated and systematic occurrence of violence.	• 2974

No.	News headline	Lexical Choice	Reason	● Frequency
19	Amber Heard Accuses 'Belligerent' Johnny Depp of Sexual Assault	● Belligerent ● Accuses	Describe Heard's allegations against Depp of aggression.	● 134 ● 561
20	Amber Heard Recounts Unraveling of Marriage to Johnny Depp	● Recounts	Suggests a detailed narration of the events leading to the breakdown of their marriage.	● 632
22	The Johnny Depp vs. Amber Heard Libel Case Is in the Jury's Hands	● vs.	Stands for versus.	
23	A judge in Britain found in 2020 that Mr. Depp had assaulted Ms. Heard and put her 'in fear of her life.'	● Assaulted	Committed an act of violence against Heard.	● 1045

No.	News headline	Lexical Choice	Reason	• Frequency
25	The two sides clashed over what caused the damage to Mr. Depp's career.The two sides clashed over what caused the damage to Mr. Depp's career.	• Clashed over	Direct confrontation or conflict.	• 115
26	Johnny Depp's Win in Court Could Embolden Others, Lawyers Say	• Embolden	The word suggests that the outcome of Depp's case might inspire confidence in others in similar situations.	• 384
28	Amber Heard Says She Has Decided to 'Settle' Johnny Depp Defamation Case	• Sattle	Implies a resolution or an agreement to conclude the legal dispute.	• 3

No.	News headline	Lexical Choice	Reason	• Frequency
29	Here's what has happened in some other prominent #MeToo court cases.	• Prominent	Highlights the significance or high profile of the #MeToo-related court cases.	• 3985
30	Amber Heard says she is 'heartbroken' by the verdict.	• Heartbroken	Conveys a deep emotional response from Amber Heard to the outcome of the trial.	• 195
31	Johnny Depp Jury Finds That Amber Heard Defamed Him in Op-Ed	• Defamed	Indicating that the jury found Heard's statements to be damaging to Depp's reputation.	• 49
33	Key Moments From the Johnny Depp-Amber Heard Verdict	• Key moments	Refers to the most important parts of the verdict	• 61
34	The jury found that both Johnny	• Defamed	Indicating that the jury recognized	• 49

No.	News headline	Lexical Choice	Reason	• Frequency
	Depp and Amber Heard were defamed, but awarded more money to him.		harm to both individuals' reputations.	
35	Johnny Depp, Accused of Spousal Abuse, Says Ex-Wife Was the Aggressor	• Ex-Wife • Aggressor	"Ex-Wife" identifies the subject of the statement, Amber Heard. "Aggressor" challenges the usual portrayal of Depp as the perpetrator.	• 621
37	Johnny Depp Loses Court Case Against Newspaper That Called Him a 'Wife Beater'	• Wife Beater	Uses a charged term that was central to the libel case.	• 142
38	The Actual Malice of the	• Actual Malice	Suggests that there was genuine ill-intent to deeper	• 8

No.	News headline	Lexical Choice	Reason	● Frequency
	Johnny Depp Trial		motivations beyond the surface legal proceedings.	
39	A Wider Lens on the MeToo Backlash: Who Pays for Societal Change?	● Societal Change	Reflects the broader implications and consequences of the MeToo movement beyond individual cases.	● 7

The analysis of Lexical Choice within the Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) (Halliday, 1994) framework, applied to these news headlines, uncovers key words and phrases that significantly shape the reader's understanding of the news. Terms like "MeToo," "reckoning," and "regressing" reflect ongoing discourse about MeToo's societal impact. "Woman brought low" and "suggest" hint at gender dynamics and public perception. "Conundrum," "battle-ground," and "embattled" underscore the complexity of legal disputes and their broad implications. "Embolden" implies societal implications from legal decisions, "verdict" and "defamed" reference legal consequences and impact on reputations. The Depp-Heard case, described as "Societal change", implies the wide-ranging societal implications of its verdict.

In conclusion, the Lexical Choice analysis provides insight into the strategic use of language in news headlines to frame narratives, invoke specific connotations, and guide the reader's interpretation to certain perspectives or considerations about the Johnny Depp and Amber Heard case as a whole.

4.1.2 Framing

No.	News headline	Framing	Reason
1.	What Depp v. Heard Means for #MeToo	• Means	Frames the legal battle within the context of the #MeToo movement.
2	After #MeToo Reckoning, a Fear Hollywood Is Regressing	• After #MeToo Reckoning	A continuation or aftermath of the #MeToo movement.
3	Why We Love to Watch a Woman Brought Low	• Love to Watch	Frames the public's interest as a form of entertainment.
4	Johnny and Amber: Trouble in Paradise	• Trouble	Frames the story as one of discord and conflict
5	The Depp Conundrum: Who Should Keep Tabs on the Money?	• Conundrum Money	frames the issue as a complex financial case.
6	In Court, Johnny Depp and Amber Heard Dress to Suggest	• In Court	Frames the news headline in a legal setting.

No.	News headline	Framing	Reason
7	Through Weeks of Depp v. Heard, Dior Stood By	• Dior Stood By	Suggests a narrative of loyalty or support.
8	Amber Heard and the Death of #MeToo	• #MeToo	Frames the news headline within the context of the #MeToo movement.
9	The Amber Heard Verdict Was a Travesty. Others Will Follow.	• Travesty • Verdict	Frames the news headline as a critical commentary on the trial's outcome.
10	TikTok's Amber Heard Hate Machine	• Hate	Frames the news headline to highlight the negative sentiment.
12	#MeToo Cases' New Legal Battleground: Defamation Lawsuits	• Defamation • Lawsuits	Frames the news headline as an exploration of a new trend in legal strategies within the #MeToo movement.
13	Johnny Depp and Amber Heard to Face Off in Defamation Trial	• Defamation Trial	Frames the news headline to set up the

No.	News headline	Framing	Reason
			adversarial nature of the trial.
14	Johnny Depp, at Libel Trial, Denies Ever Striking 'Any Woman'	• Denies	Frames the news headline around Johnny Depp's act of denial.
15	Johnny Depp v. Amber Heard: What We Know	• What We Know	Frames the news headline summarizing the known facts about the case.
16	Jury Reaches Verdict in Johnny Depp-Amber Heard Trial: What to Know	• Reaches Verdict	Frames the news headline with a decision has been made.
18	Amber Heard Testifies About a 'Pattern' of Violence by Johnny Depp	• Testifies • Violence	Frames the news headline as a formal declaration in court of indicating recurring behavior.
19	Amber Heard Accuses 'Belligerent' Johnny Depp of Sexual Assault	• Sexual Assault • Accuses	Frames the news headline to spotlight serious allegations of

No.	News headline	Framing	Reason
			Depp's alleged behavior as aggressive.
20	Amber Heard Recounts Unraveling of Marriage to Johnny Depp	• Unraveling of Marriage	Frames the news headline to depict a breakdown or deterioration of the relationship.
21	Amber Heard Describes Impact of Online Attacks: 'I'm a Human Being	• Online Attacks	Frames the news headline to highlight the personal distress caused by public harassment
22	The Johnny Depp vs. Amber Heard Libel Case Is in the Jury's Hands	• Libel Case	Frames the news headline with legal terminology.
23	A judge in Britain found in 2020 that Mr. Depp had assaulted Ms. Heard and put her 'in fear of her life.'	• Assaulted	Frames the news headline as a legal conclusion.
24	Early drafts of the op-ed Ms. Heard was sued for were prepared by the American Civil Liberties Union.	• early drafts	Frames the news headline by focusing on the origin and

No.	News headline	Framing	Reason
			preparation process of the controversial op-ed.
25	The two sides clashed over what caused the damage to Mr. Depp's career.The two sides clashed over what caused the damage to Mr. Depp's career.	• Caused the damage	Frames the news headline debate over the source of harm to Depp's career and reputation.
26	Johnny Depp's Win in Court Could Embolden Others, Lawyers Say	• Win	Frames the news headline with the outcome of a legal victory.
27	Amber Heard Seeks New Defamation Trial After Losing to Johnny Depp	• Losing	Frames the news headline as a continuation of legal battles following a loss.
28	Amber Heard Says She Has Decided to 'Settle' Johnny Depp Defamation Case	• Defamation Case	Frames the news headline around the legal context of the dispute which carries connotations of a

No.	News headline	Framing	Reason
			conclusion outside of court.
29	Here's what has happened in some other prominent #MeToo court cases.	• #MeToo court cases	Frames the news headline within the larger context of the #MeToo movement.
30	Amber Heard says she is 'heartbroken' by the verdict.	• The verdict.	Frames the news headline with the focus on the outcome of the trial.
31	Johnny Depp Jury Finds That Amber Heard Defamed Him in Op-Ed	• Defamed	Frames the news headline with the legal finding against Heard.
32	Johnny Depp says Virginia jury 'gave me my life back.'	• Says	Frames the news headline as a direct quote from Depp.
33	Key Moments From the Johnny Depp-Amber Heard Verdict	• Key moments • Verdict	Frame the news headline as a highlight reel of pivotal points from the trial's conclusion.

No.	News headline	Framing	Reason
34	The jury found that both Johnny Depp and Amber Heard were defamed, but awarded more money to him.	• Defamed	Frames the news headline as a nuanced outcome favoring Depp in the form of a greater monetary award.
35	Johnny Depp, Accused of Spousal Abuse, Says Ex-Wife Was the Aggressor	• Spousal Abuse	Frames the news headline by highlighting Depp's context of domestic violence.
36	Johnny Depp and Amber Heard's Courtroom Face-Off: An Explainer	• Courtroom Face-Off	Frames the news headline as a confrontation of the legal proceedings and analysis of the events in court.
37	Johnny Depp Loses Court Case Against Newspaper That Called Him a 'Wife Beater'	• Loses	Frames the news headline with a sense of defeat.
38	The Actual Malice of the Johnny Depp Trial	• Actual Malice	Frames the news headline by pointing

No.	News headline	Framing	Reason
			to the concept of 'actual malice'.
39	A Wider Lens on the MeToo Backlash: Who Pays for Societal Change?	• MeToo Backlash	Frames the news headline within the context of a societal reaction against the #MeToo movement.

Utilizing Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) (Halliday, 1994), the analysis of news headline framing reveals a purposeful use of language to establish context and shape the reader's perception. Terms like "Spousal Abuse," "Courtroom Face-Off," "Loses," "Actual Malice," and "MeToo Backlash" are carefully chosen to guide the reader towards a specific viewpoint on the conflict, tension, or controversy within the reported events. Moreover, these framing words, such as "Loses," "Actual Malice," and "MeToo Backlash," hold significant weight in shaping the news narrative and shaping the reader's understanding of the events. "Loses" highlights the failure or loss in a legal battle, while "Actual Malice" signifies intentional harm, possibly influencing thoughts on motivations. "MeToo Backlash" situates the discussion in the broader social context, hinting at resistance and social change's cost. In conclusion, these framing terms powerfully shape the news narrative and influence the reader's perspective.

4.1.3 Transitivity

No.	News headline	Transitivity	Reason
3	Why We Love to Watch a Woman Brought Low	watching	Placing the reader in a position of evaluating the woman's situation.
5	The Depp Conundrum: Who Should Keep Tabs on the Money?	Keep	Control or responsibility over financial matters.
6	In Court, Johnny Depp and Amber Heard Dress to Suggest	Dress	Imply something non-verbally in a court setting.
7	Through Weeks of Depp v. Heard, Dior Stood By	Stood By	Emphasizing Dior's consistent backing.
11	'S.N.L.' Takes on the Trial of Johnny Depp and Amber Heard	Takes on	Emphasizing active engagement in the trial by 'S.N.L.'.
13	Johnny Depp and Amber Heard to Face Off in Defamation Trial	Face Off	A direct and possibly confrontational encounter in the defamation trial.
14	Johnny Depp, at Libel Trial, Denies Ever Striking 'Any Woman'	Denies	A rejection of the allegations
15	Johnny Depp v. Amber Heard: What We Know	V.	Versus

No.	News headline	Transitivity	Reason
16	Jury Reaches Verdict in Johnny Depp-Amber Heard Trial: What to Know	Reaches	Implying that the jury has come to a conclusion in their verdict.
17	Johnny Depp Lost $22.5 Million 'Pirates' Role After Op-Ed, Manager Says	Lost	Suggests a past event with a negative outcome for Johnny Depp.
18	Amber Heard Testifies About a 'Pattern' of Violence by Johnny Depp	Testifies	Shows a verbal action process in a legal process to provide evidence.
19	Amber Heard Accuses 'Belligerent' Johnny Depp of Sexual Assault	Accuses	Indicates an action where Amber Heard is actively attributing blame to Johnny Depp.
20	Amber Heard Recounts Unraveling of Marriage to Johnny Depp	Recounts	Implies a retelling or narrative process.
21	Amber Heard Describes Impact of Online Attacks: 'I'm a Human Being	Describes	Conveys a process of representation, where Amber Heard is characterizing the impacts of online attacks.
23	A judge in Britain found in 2020 that Mr. Depp had assaulted Ms. Heard and put her 'in fear of her life.'	Found	Indicates a mental process that the judge made a

No.	News headline	Transitivity	Reason
			determination regarding Mr. Depp's actions.
24	Early drafts of the op-ed Ms. Heard was sued for were prepared by the American Civil Liberties Union.	Prepared	Describes a material process of creation.
25	The two sides clashed over what caused the damage to Mr. Depp's career.The two sides clashed over what caused the damage to Mr. Depp's career.	Clashed	Communicates a material conflict process the cause of damage to Mr. Depp's career.
27	Amber Heard Seeks New Defamation Trial After Losing to Johnny Depp	Seeks	Indicates a mental process of desire.
31	Johnny Depp Jury Finds That Amber Heard Defamed Him in Op-Ed	Finds	Signifies a mental process of judgment.
32	Johnny Depp says Virginia jury 'gave me my life back.'	Gave	Represents a material reflecting Johnny Depp's personal sentiment that the jury's decision restored something to him.
37	Johnny Depp Loses Court Case Against Newspaper That Called Him a 'Wife Beater'	Loses	Indicates a material process that results in a negative outcome.

No.	News headline	Transitivity	Reason
39	A Wider Lens on the MeToo Backlash: Who Pays for Societal Change?	Pays	Refers to a material process with financial or metaphorical implications.

Applying Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) (Halliday, 1994) to transitivity in selected news headlines reveals the critical role of verbs in shaping the narrative. The verbs, carrying the narrative's weight, indicate legal judgments' culmination ("finds"), consequences ("gives"), losses ("loses"), and societal costs of movements like MeToo ("pays"). These transitive choices frame events, highlighting individuals' actions or significant occurrences' outcomes, and focusing the reader's understanding,
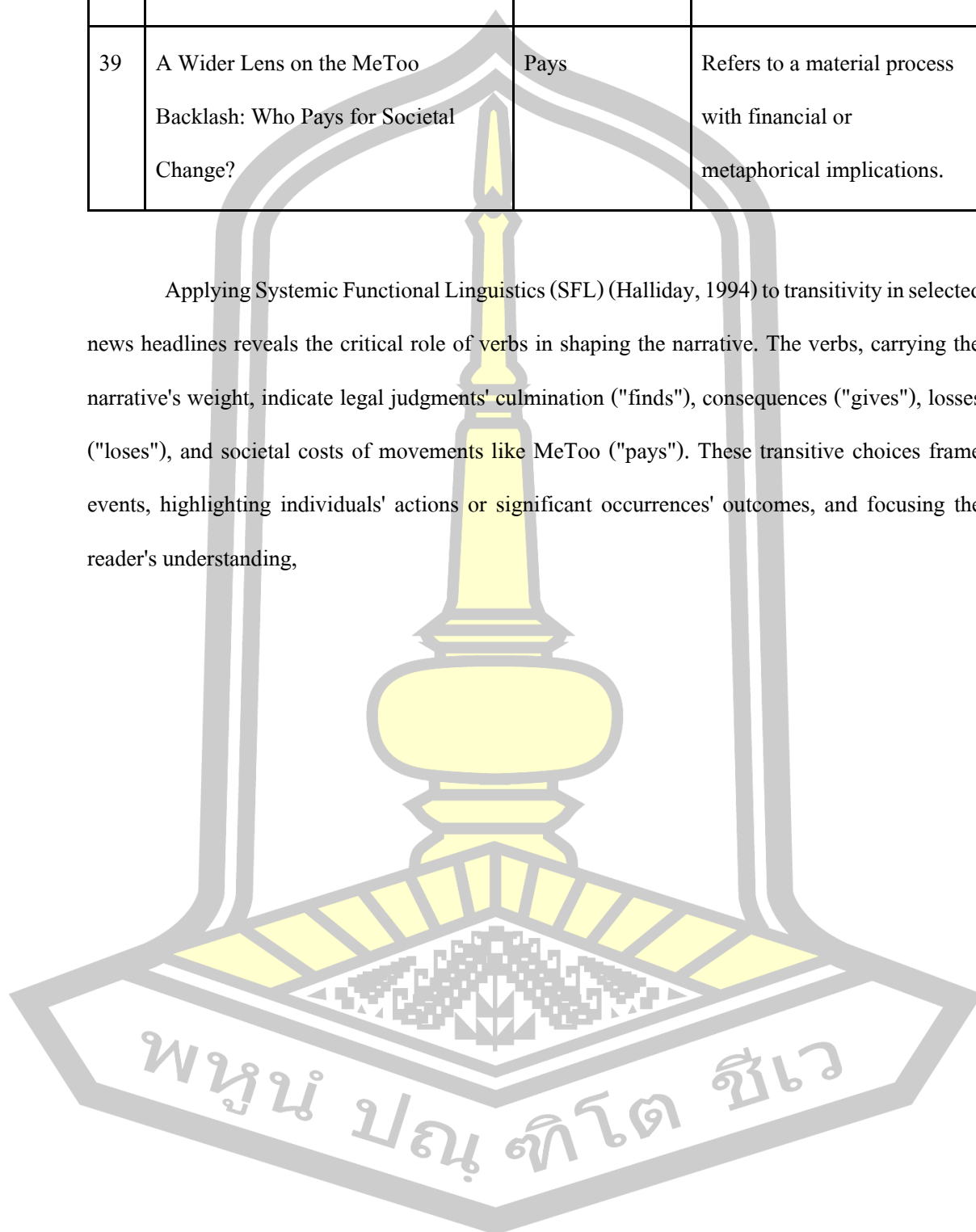
4.1.4 Agency

No.	News headline	Agency
1.	What Depp v. Heard Means for #MeToo	• Depp • Heard
2	After #MeToo Reckoning, a Fear Hollywood Is Regressing	• Hollywood
4	Johnny and Amber: Trouble in Paradise	• Johnny • Amber
5	The Depp Conundrum: Who Should Keep Tabs on the Money?	• Depp
6	In Court, Johnny Depp and Amber Heard Dress to Suggest	• Johnny Depp and Amber Heard
7	Through Weeks of Depp v. Heard, Dior Stood By	• Dior • Depp • Heard
8	Amber Heard and the Death of #MeToo	• Amber Heard
9	The Amber Heard Verdict Was a Travesty. Others Will Follow.	• Amber Heard

No.	News headline	Agency
10	TikTok's Amber Heard Hate Machine	• Amber Heard
11	'S.N.L.' Takes on the Trial of Johnny Depp and Amber Heard	• S.N.L.
12	#MeToo Cases' New Legal Battleground: Defamation Lawsuits	• #MeToo Cases
13	Johnny Depp and Amber Heard to Face Off in Defamation Trial	• Johnny Depp Amber Heard
14	Johnny Depp, at Libel Trial, Denies Ever Striking 'Any Woman'	• Johnny Depp
15	Johnny Depp v. Amber Heard: What We Know	• Johnny Depp Amber Heard
16	Jury Reaches Verdict in Johnny Depp-Amber Heard Trial: What to Know	• Jury
17	Johnny Depp Lost $22.5 Million 'Pirates' Role After Op-Ed, Manager Says	• Johnny Depp
18	Amber Heard Testifies About a 'Pattern' of Violence by Johnny Depp	• Amber Heard

No.	News headline	Agency
19	Amber Heard Accuses 'Belligerent' Johnny Depp of Sexual Assault	• Amber Heard
20	Amber Heard Recounts Unraveling of Marriage to Johnny Depp	• Amber Heard
21	Amber Heard Describes Impact of Online Attacks: 'I'm a Human Being	• Amber Heard
22	The Johnny Depp vs. Amber Heard Libel Case Is in the Jury's Hands	• Jury's
23	A judge in Britain found in 2020 that Mr. Depp had assaulted Ms. Heard and put her 'in fear of her life.'	• Judge
24	Early drafts of the op-ed Ms. Heard was sued for were prepared by the American Civil Liberties Union.	• ACLU
26	Johnny Depp's Win in Court Could Embolden Others, Lawyers Say	• Johnny Depp
27	Amber Heard Seeks New Defamation Trial After Losing to Johnny Depp	• Amber Heard
28	Amber Heard Says She Has Decided to 'Settle' Johnny Depp Defamation Case	• Amber Heard
30	Amber Heard says she is 'heartbroken' by the verdict.	• Amber Heard

No.	News headline	Agency
31	Johnny Depp Jury Finds That Amber Heard Defamed Him in Op-Ed	• Johnny Depp Jury
32	Johnny Depp says Virginia jury 'gave me my life back.'	• Johnny Depp
33	Key Moments From the Johnny Depp-Amber Heard Verdict	• Johnny Depp • Amber Heard
34	The jury found that both Johnny Depp and Amber Heard were defamed, but awarded more money to him.	• The jury
35	Johnny Depp, Accused of Spousal Abuse, Says Ex-Wife Was the Aggressor	• Johnny Depp
37	Johnny Depp Loses Court Case Against Newspaper That Called Him a 'Wife Beater'	• Johnny Depp

SFL analysis (Halliday, 1994) of news headlines identifies actors and their various roles, revealing their agency, or active role, in events. These news headlines, mentioning Johnny Depp and Amber Heard directly, position them as central figures in the legal disputes and public discourse. In others, entities like 'Dior' or abstract concepts such as the 'MeToo movements' are personified as agents, indicating support or the impact of larger societal issues. The choice of agency in news headlines such as "The Amber Heard Verdict Was a Travesty" underscores the focus on Amber Heard, while "TikTok's Amber Heard Hate Machine" spotlights the social platform's role in spreading sentiment. News headlines referencing "S.N.L.", with cultural

commentary on the trial, underscore the power dynamics and influence hierarchy within the narratives.

4.1.5 Modality

No.	News headline	Modality	
5	The Depp Conundrum: Who Should Keep Tabs on the Money?	• Should	Modal verb expresses an obligation or recommendation.
9	The Amber Heard Verdict Was a Travesty. Others Will Follow.	• Will	Modal verb expresses a future prediction that the verdict in Amber Heard's case is the beginning of a trend or sequence.
29	Here's what has happened in some other prominent #MeToo court cases.	• Happened	A statement of events that have occurred.
31	Johnny Depp Jury Finds That Amber Heard Defamed Him in Op-Ed	• Finds	Indicates a conclusion or a determination made by the jury.
34	The jury found that both Johnny Depp and Amber Heard were defamed, but awarded more money to him.	• Found	Indicate a past judicial determination and a legal conclusion regarding the defamation claims.

Within SFL's (Halliday, 1994) framework, modality expresses a speaker's certainty about statements. The provided news headlines showcase various modalities. Verbs such as "should," and "will" can express certainty, from accusations to simple statements of fact. Modal verbs like "could" indicate possibility, suggesting a potential outcome rather than a definite oneThis strategic deployment of modality in language illuminates the viewpoints and stances present within media narratives, underscoring the layers of meaning that extend beyond the obvious content.

Summary through the lens of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) (Halliday, 1994), news headlines can be deconstructed to uncover a complex construction of meaning, going beyond the surface level of presenting facts. Lexical choices within the news headlines are essential, often conveying deeper meanings and links with social movements, such as MeToo, or highlighting the legal issues surrounding Depp and Heard which testify by the frequency from COCA corpus. The framing of each news headline goes beyond the surface, playing a critical role in setting the tone and perspective from which readers will approach the underlying story. Transitivity points to the actions and processes, highlighting the dynamic nature of the events reported and the actors involved. Agency is crucial, as it assigns roles and responsibilities, revealing power dynamics. Modality introduces degrees of certainty or subjectivity, affecting how the news headlines are perceived based on their reliability or bias. These categories reveal the complicated interplay between language and social perception, shedding light on how media narrative can influence public discourse on high-profile legal matters.

4.2 The underlying social ideologies manifested in the news headlines

Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) was an essential tool for understanding how language shaped and influenced society (Fairclough, 1995). This analysis examined themes of contemporary public importance, influenced by social movements, counter-movements, and existing societal structures. Utilizing Fairclough's CDA framework, the study explored how language reflected and reinforced power dynamics, societal norms, and the interaction between public and private spheres.

It investigated how discourses helped construct reality and continuously shaped what was considered acceptable within society.

Through the analysis of news headlines using Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), the researcher identified five key social ideologies present in the media's portrayal of the Johnny Depp vs. Amber Heard legal dispute: victimhood, masculinity, femininity, hierarchy, and patriarchy. These ideologies were embedded in the language and structure of the headlines, subtly reinforcing societal norms and power dynamics. By examining these elements, the study highlighted how media language not only reflected but also perpetuated existing social beliefs and power relations.

4.2.1. Victimhood

The theme of victimhood was frequently highlighted in the headlines, often positioning one party as the victim. For example, the headline "Amber Heard Testified About a 'Pattern' of Violence by Johnny Depp" emphasized Heard's experiences of abuse, framing her as someone who endured ongoing harm. The theme of victimhood in the headline is emphasized through specific word choices, each playing a distinct role in shaping the reader's perception of Amber Heard as a victim. By analyzing these choices through the lens of Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), we can better understand how language constructs meaning in context.

The word "testified" is particularly significant. It suggests a formal, authoritative declaration, often associated with legal settings, implying that Heard's account carries weight and credibility. In SFL terms, this aligns with the ideational function, which represents processes and experiences in the world. The verb "testified" functions as a material process, describing an action with real-world consequences (i.e., Heard's formal presentation of evidence). This linguistic choice portrays her as an active participant in a serious legal process, contributing to the framing of her victimhood within a formal, justice-seeking context.

Similarly, the word "pattern" plays a crucial role in highlighting the repeated nature of the abuse Heard experienced. In SFL, this also connects to the ideational function, shaping how the circumstances surrounding the material process (violence) are represented. "Pattern" emphasizes

the continuity and repetition of harm, which reinforces the notion of ongoing victimhood rather than a singular incident. This choice contributes to the portrayal of Heard as someone who endured systemic or habitual abuse, deepening the reader's understanding of the victim-perpetrator dynamic.

The term "violence" is another powerful linguistic element that invokes a strong emotional response. From an SFL perspective, this fits within the interpersonal function, which enacts social roles and relationships through language. The word "violence" is charged and direct, evoking an image of severe harm and aggression. Its use in the headline shapes the audience's relationship with Heard, positioning her as a victim of significant abuse. The emotional tone established by this word not only draws sympathy but also emphasizes the gravity of her victimization.

Finally, the phrase "by Johnny Depp" is crucial in constructing the textual function of the headline, which deals with how information is organized and presented. This phrase, placed at the end of the sentence, creates thematic prominence, directly linking the harm to a specific individual, Johnny Depp. This positioning highlights the relational dynamic between the victim (Heard) and the aggressor (Depp), making the victim-perpetrator relationship explicit. The specific mention of Depp personalizes the abuse, solidifying the contrast between the roles of the victim and the perpetrator.

Taken together, these word choices support the theme of victimhood by establishing a clear victim-perpetrator dynamic through transitivity choices. Heard is portrayed as the passive recipient of "violence" (material process), while Depp is positioned as the agent of this harm. The repetition implied by "pattern" and the severity conveyed by "violence" further reinforce the ongoing and serious nature of the abuse, framing Heard's victimhood as prolonged and profound.

In summary, SFL provides a framework for understanding how word choices like "testified," "pattern," "violence," and "by Johnny Depp" work together to construct and reinforce the theme of victimhood. Through the ideational, interpersonal, and textual functions of language, these choices emphasize the processes, relational roles, and repetition of harm, ensuring the reader's focus remains on the victim's experience and the power dynamics involved.

Similarly, the word choices in the headline "Amber Heard Accused 'Belligerent' Johnny Depp of Sexual Assault" align closely with Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) framework, particularly in how they contribute to the theme of victimhood. In SFL, language is viewed as a system for expressing meaning and reflecting social structures, with lexical choices, transitivity, and modality playing critical roles in shaping narratives. The verb "accused" serves as a key element of transitivity in this headline, positioning Amber Heard in an active role as the "Sayer" and Johnny Depp in a passive role as the "Receiver." However, within this narrative structure, the word "accused" carries a sense of passive victimhood, as it indicates that Heard has experienced wrongdoing and is reacting by seeking recognition for the harm done to her. This dynamic connects directly to the theme of victimhood, as it frames Heard as someone responding to an injustice, which immediately shifts public perception toward her victim status.

Furthermore, the adjective "belligerent" used to describe Johnny Depp contributes significantly to the ideational function of the language, which expresses content and builds the field of discourse. This word choice paints Depp as aggressive and hostile, reinforcing the perception of him as a perpetrator of violence. In this way, the headline constructs a narrative that positions Depp as a threat, while simultaneously enhancing Heard's portrayal as a victim. "Belligerent" evokes a sense of danger, which intensifies the victimhood attributed to Heard by underscoring the severity of the threat she allegedly faced. This choice reflects Halliday's notion that language mirrors social relations and roles, casting Depp in the role of the perpetrator and Heard as the victim, thus supporting the overall theme of victimhood.

Additionally, the phrase "sexual assault" carries heavy legal and moral weight, reflecting a high degree of modality in Halliday's framework. This term presents the accusation as a clear, serious, and unambiguous crime, leaving little room for speculation or doubt. The use of such a definitive term solidifies Heard's position as a victim of a grave wrongdoing, thus elevating her victimhood status and making it indisputable. Modality, in this context, affects the interpersonal function of language by establishing a strong emotional response from the audience. The choice of

"sexual assault" signals a level of certainty and severity that draws readers' attention to the seriousness of the offense, further reinforcing Heard's portrayal as a victim and shaping public perception of the case.

In conclusion, these word choices—"accused," "belligerent," and "sexual assault"—work together within the SFL framework to construct a narrative that frames Heard as a victim and Depp as the aggressor. "Accused" places Heard in a reactive role, "belligerent" characterizes Depp as a threatening figure, and "sexual assault" establishes the gravity of the offense with high modality. Together, these choices illustrate how language is used to reinforce societal ideologies, particularly those related to victimhood, and underscore the role of media in shaping public understanding through carefully constructed headlines.

Another headline, "Amber Heard Recounted Unraveling of Marriage to Johnny Depp" strategically uses specific word choices that suggest the theme of victimhood and emotional vulnerability, which can be effectively analyzed through Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) framework. Each of these words plays a crucial role in shaping the narrative, guiding the reader's perception, and constructing the portrayal of Amber Heard as a victim. The verb "recounted" carries significant ideational and interpersonal meaning. From an ideational perspective, it suggests the process of narrating or telling a personal story, often involving a reflective recounting of past experiences. This choice indicates that Heard is sharing her experiences, which implies a reliving of painful or traumatic events. Unlike more assertive verbs like "claimed" or "stated," "recounted" conveys a sense of vulnerability, positioning Heard as someone reflecting on a difficult situation. This aligns with the theme of victimhood by evoking empathy and framing her as someone who has endured hardship. Interpersonally, "recounted" suggests trust and openness, fostering a connection between Heard and the audience, which encourages readers to see her as a vulnerable figure opening up about her struggles.

The term "unraveling" also plays a critical role through its ideational function, as it conveys a gradual, painful process of deterioration. The word evokes an image of something falling apart

slowly and piece by piece, implying complexity and difficulty. This choice of language emphasizes the slow disintegration of the marriage, suggesting that the breakdown was not a sudden event but rather a painful, drawn-out process. This reinforces the portrayal of Heard's experience as emotionally taxing, filled with turmoil, and beyond her control. The emphasis on the process rather than the outcome subtly reduces Heard's agency, presenting her as a passive participant in a situation that was slipping out of control, which is a key aspect of the theme of victimhood. This aligns with Halliday's concept of transitivity, where the choice of verbs and processes reveals who holds power and agency within a narrative, in this case framing Heard as someone affected by circumstances rather than as an active agent.

Furthermore, the specific use of the word "marriage" instead of a broader term like "relationship" adds a layer of gravity to the situation. In the ideational sense, "marriage" implies a formal, committed partnership, making its breakdown seem more significant and emotionally impactful. This word choice highlights the serious nature of the relationship's disintegration, signaling a deep personal loss and reinforcing the portrayal of Heard as a victim of a profound emotional struggle. Interpersonally, "marriage" can evoke feelings of sympathy from readers, as the breakdown of a marriage is often viewed as tragic and painful. This aligns the audience with Heard's perspective, encouraging them to empathize with her hardship. This reflects Halliday's interpersonal function, which examines how language can create empathy and emotional responses from readers.

In conclusion, the word choices in the headline—"recounted," "unraveling," and "marriage"—are closely linked to the theme of victimhood through the lens of SFL. Each term plays a strategic role in shaping the narrative and guiding the reader's perception. "Recounted" suggests vulnerability and openness, encouraging empathy, while "unraveling" emphasizes the gradual and complex nature of the marriage's breakdown, subtly reducing Heard's agency and reinforcing her victim status. "Marriage" adds seriousness and depth to the portrayal, highlighting the significant emotional toll of the relationship's disintegration. Together, these linguistic choices

construct a narrative that aligns with traditional notions of victimhood, subtly guiding readers to sympathize with Heard's perspective. By applying SFL to analyze these choices, it becomes evident how language not only conveys information but also reflects and reinforces societal attitudes and power dynamics, particularly in the context of gender and intimate relationships.

Additionally, In the headline "Amber Heard Described Impact of Online Attacks: 'I'm a Human Being'," specific word choices effectively convey the theme of victimhood. Each selected word plays a crucial role in shaping the reader's perception of Amber Heard as a victim and the nature of the online attacks she faced. The verb "described" implies that Heard is providing a personal account or testimony about her experiences, positioning her as the narrator of her own story and emphasizing her role in conveying the emotional and psychological impact of the online attacks. This word carries a neutral to slightly positive connotation, suggesting a thoughtful and deliberate sharing of information, which enhances Heard's credibility and evokes empathy from the reader. The noun "impact" signifies the significant effects or consequences of the online attacks on Heard, highlighting the severity and seriousness of the attacks by framing them as profound emotional and psychological repercussions rather than minor incidents. This word has a strong connotation, implying substantial and noteworthy consequences that underscore the gravity of Heard's experiences and reinforce her victim status.

The phrase "online attacks" specifies the nature of the wrongdoing, indicating that Heard was subjected to harassment, bullying, or defamatory actions in a digital context. This frames the attacks as pervasive and relentless, occurring in a public and accessible medium, thereby amplifying the sense of vulnerability and victimization. "Online attacks" carries negative connotations, evoking images of cyberbullying, harassment, and widespread public scrutiny, which elicit sympathy and highlight Heard's victimhood. Additionally, the direct statement "I'm a Human Being" serves as a powerful personal affirmation from Heard, emphasizing her humanity and emotional capacity. This declaration humanizes Heard, countering any dehumanizing narratives and reinforcing her vulnerability and emotional fragility. The phrase carries a powerful emotional

weight, evoking empathy and underscoring the emotional toll of the online attacks. It asserts her inherent worth and the right to dignity, further emphasizing her victim status.

Through the lens of Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), these word choices are intricately linked to the ideational, interpersonal, and textual functions of language. The verb "described" operates within the ideational function as a mental process, positioning Heard as an active agent conveying her experiences. The noun "impact" functions as the goal of her description, highlighting the severe consequences of the harassment. The phrase "online attacks" delineates the event of wrongdoing, emphasizing the persistent and public nature of the harassment. In the interpersonal function, the declarative mood of "described" and the high modality of "I'm a Human Being" convey certainty and authority in Heard's account, reinforcing her credibility as a victim. The absence of modal verbs suggests a definitive stance on her experiences, further legitimizing her victimhood. In terms of textual function, "Amber Heard" serves as the Theme, establishing her as the focal point, while the rheme "Described Impact of Online Attacks: 'I'm a Human Being'" provides new information that emphasizes the severity and personal affirmation of the attacks.

Overall, the strategic selection of verbs, nouns, and phrases in this headline collectively reinforces Amber Heard's portrayal as a victim within the media narrative. Words like "described," "impact," and "online attacks" work in tandem to frame Heard as someone who has suffered significant emotional and psychological harm, while the personal affirmation "I'm a Human Being" humanizes her and underscores her vulnerability. Analyzed through Halliday's SFL framework, these word choices not only reflect but also shape societal perceptions, reinforcing existing social ideologies that view women in high-profile legal disputes as passive victims subject to severe and relentless harassment. This detailed linguistic analysis demonstrates how media language strategically frames narratives to evoke particular emotional responses and shape public discourse, thereby influencing societal attitudes toward gender roles and victimhood in legal conflicts.

In conclusion, through the lens of Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics, the word choices in the headline "Amber Heard Described Impact of Online Attacks: 'I'm a Human Being'"

significantly contributed to the theme of victimhood. The strategic selection of verbs, nouns, and phrases, analyzed through the ideational, interpersonal, and textual functions of SFL, underscored Heard's portrayal as a victim of severe online harassment and Depp as the aggressor. This detailed linguistic analysis demonstrated how language in media headlines not only reflected but also shaped societal perceptions, reinforcing existing social ideologies and influencing public opinion on high-profile legal disputes. By understanding the extent to which specific word choices align with Halliday's SFL framework, it becomes evident how the media strategically frames narratives to evoke particular emotional responses and shape public discourse. This underscores the critical role of language analysis in uncovering the underlying ideologies that influence societal attitudes and power dynamics in legal conflicts.

However, some headlines also introduced complexity to this portrayal. For instance, in the headline "The Amber Heard Verdict Was a Travesty. Others Will Follow," specific word choices effectively convey the theme of victimhood and suggest a broader narrative of injustice and potential systemic bias. The noun "verdict" serves as the central focus, establishing the legal outcome as a significant and impactful event. Within Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), "verdict" operates under the ideational function as a relational process, linking the subject to its description and carrying a formal and authoritative connotation that underscores the seriousness and finality of the legal decision. The adjective "travesty" is pivotal in conveying victimhood and injustice; in SFL terms, it functions as an attribute within the relational process, assigning a highly negative and critical evaluation to the verdict. This word choice implies that the decision was not only wrong but disgracefully unjust, evoking strong emotional responses such as outrage and sympathy for Heard.

Furthermore, the phrase "Others Will Follow" extends the critique beyond Heard's individual case, suggesting that the travesty is indicative of a broader systemic issue within the legal framework. In SFL, this phrase operates within the ideational function as a material process forecasting future events, with the modal verb "will" conveying a high degree of certainty and

reinforcing the perception of systemic injustice. Analyzing these word choices through SFL's interpersonal function, the declarative mood asserts a strong opinion, positioning the media as a critic of the verdict with authority and certainty, while the absence of modal verbs in the first clause conveys unwavering condemnation. From the textual function perspective, the headline is structured to first present Heard's verdict as the Theme, establishing it as the focal point, and then to provide the evaluative judgment and future implications as the Rheme, thereby directing the reader's attention initially to Heard's case and subsequently broadening the narrative to suggest wider societal implications. Additionally, the lexicalization and connotation of "travesty" and "others will follow" carry significant emotional and ideological weight, with "travesty" connoting extreme injustice and "others will follow" suggesting a continuation of unfair practices. Collectively, these strategic word choices not only emphasize Heard's victimhood by highlighting the perceived unfairness of the verdict but also imply that her experience is emblematic of systemic issues within the legal system. This combination evokes empathy for Heard and skepticism towards the legal process, reinforcing the victimhood theme and shaping public perception to view Heard as a wronged party deserving of support and advocacy. Through Halliday's SFL framework, it becomes evident how the media strategically frames narratives to evoke particular emotional responses and shape public discourse, thereby reinforcing existing social ideologies and influencing societal attitudes toward gender roles and victimhood in legal conflicts.

In conclusion, through the lens of Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics, the word choices in the headline "The Amber Heard Verdict Was a Travesty. Others Will Follow." significantly contributed to the theme of victimhood and systemic injustice. The strategic selection of nouns, adjectives, and phrases—such as "verdict," "travesty," and "others will follow"—was meticulously crafted to frame Amber Heard as a victim of an unjust legal system. Analyzed through the ideational, interpersonal, and textual functions of SFL, these word choices underscored the portrayal of Heard's verdict as not only a personal injustice but also indicative of broader systemic issues. This detailed linguistic analysis demonstrated how language in media headlines not only

reflected but also shaped societal perceptions, reinforcing existing social ideologies and influencing public opinion on high-profile legal disputes. Understanding the extent to which specific word choices align with Halliday's SFL framework illuminates the critical role of language in shaping societal attitudes and power dynamics within legal conflicts.

To sum up, the analysis of news headlines surrounding the Johnny Depp versus Amber Heard lawsuit revealed a predominant theme of victimhood, emphasizing Amber Heard's portrayal as vulnerable and emotionally fragile. The linguistic choices in these headlines consistently framed Heard as the aggrieved party, aligning with societal tendencies to view women involved in legal disputes over intimate partner violence as victims. This portrayal leveraged language that underscored her suffering and the negative repercussions she faced, thereby reinforcing traditional gender stereotypes. However, the narrative was not entirely one-dimensional; certain headlines introduced elements of skepticism and implied that Heard may have been subject to manipulation or biased treatment. This duality complicated the straightforward victim narrative, suggesting a more nuanced media representation that both supported and questioned her victim status. Overall, the media's linguistic strategies in these headlines played a significant role in shaping public perception, reflecting and perpetuating broader societal ideologies regarding gender, power dynamics, and victimhood in high-profile legal conflicts.

4.2.2. Masculinity

Masculinity was another significant ideology evident in the portrayal of Johnny Depp within the news headlines. Headlines focusing on Depp often highlighted traits traditionally associated with masculinity, such as power, control, and resilience. For example, in the headline "Johnny Depp, at Libel Trial, Denied Ever Striking 'Any Woman'," specific word choices effectively convey the theme of masculinity by portraying Johnny Depp as embodying traditional masculine traits and defending his honor and reputation. The verb "denied" is pivotal, indicating a firm rejection of an accusation and emphasizing Depp's stance of innocence. Within Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), "denied" operates under the ideational function as a mental

process, highlighting Depp's active role in defending his reputation. This verb carries a strong, assertive connotation, suggesting confidence and authority, which aligns with traditional masculine ideals of strength and resilience. The phrase "ever striking" adds depth to the theme by suggesting a consistent or habitual action. In SFL terms, this phrase functions as a material process within the ideational function, emphasizing the completeness of Depp's denial. By denying "ever striking," Depp asserts that he has never engaged in aggressive or violent behavior, reinforcing his image as a controlled and respectable individual. The term "striking" implies physical aggression, a trait traditionally associated with masculinity, and denying such actions portrays Depp as a man who does not succumb to violent impulses, aligning with the ideal of the composed and honorable male figure. Additionally, the noun phrase "any woman" broadens the scope of the denial, indicating that Depp has never acted violently towards any female.

This universal denial not only defends Depp's character but also subtly positions him as a protector of women, reinforcing a patriarchal notion of men safeguarding women. In SFL, "any woman" functions as the target of the alleged action, which Depp denies, thereby emphasizing his role as a respectful and honorable man who upholds the dignity and safety of women. This aligns with traditional masculine roles that emphasize men's responsibilities in protecting and respecting women. Furthermore, the context provided by "at Libel Trial" underscores Depp's proactive defense of his reputation. The term "libel trial" situates the headline within a formal legal setting, highlighting Depp's involvement in a serious and high-stakes environment. In SFL, this operates within the register's field, indicating a focus on legal processes and personal misconduct. The formal nature of a libel trial reinforces Depp's portrayal as a strong and resilient individual, traits often associated with traditional masculinity, and emphasizes his proactive effort to maintain his integrity and honor, further aligning with societal expectations of men as authoritative and dominant figures who defend their reputation in challenging circumstances.

Through the lens of Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics, the word choices in the headline "Johnny Depp, at Libel Trial, Denied Ever Striking 'Any Woman'" significantly

contributed to the theme of masculinity. The strategic selection of verbs, adjectives, and phrases—such as "denied," "ever striking," and "any woman"—was meticulously crafted to frame Johnny Depp as a strong, honorable, and protective male figure. Analyzed through the ideational, interpersonal, and textual functions of SFL, these word choices underscored Depp's portrayal as a man defending his honor and integrity against allegations of aggression. This detailed linguistic analysis demonstrated how language in media headlines not only reflected but also shaped societal perceptions, reinforcing existing social ideologies that associate masculinity with strength, resilience, and protectiveness. Understanding the extent to which specific word choices align with Halliday's SFL framework illuminates the critical role of language in shaping societal attitudes and power dynamics within high-profile legal disputes.

Another instance can be seen in the headline "Johnny Depp's Win in Court Could Embolden Others, Lawyers Said," in which specific word choices effectively convey the theme of masculinity by portraying Johnny Depp as embodying traditional masculine traits such as strength, resilience, and influence. The noun "win" serves as a central focus, representing a successful outcome in a competitive or adversarial situation. Within Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), "win" operates as a material process within the ideational function, highlighting Depp's triumph and resilience in the legal battle. This term carries positive and assertive connotations, aligning with traditional masculine ideals of competitiveness and dominance, thereby reinforcing Depp's portrayal as a victorious and strong individual who overcomes challenges. The phrase "could embolden" introduces a potential influence, suggesting that Depp's victory has the capacity to inspire and strengthen others. In SFL terms, this phrase functions as a mental process within the ideational function, indicating possibility and future impact. The verb "embolden" conveys empowerment and courage, traits traditionally associated with masculinity, suggesting that Depp's success serves as a role model and reinforcing masculine qualities of bravery and leadership. The pronoun "others" broadens the scope of Depp's influence, implying that his win has repercussions beyond his individual case. Within the ideational function, "others" functions as

the target of the potential emboldenment, positioning Depp as an influential figure whose actions can lead to broader societal or communal changes. This reinforces the masculine trait of being a leader or exemplar within a group, highlighting Depp's role in shaping behaviors and attitudes among his peers.

Additionally, the attribution "Lawyers Said" adds credibility and authority to the statement, positioning the analysis within a formal and professional context. In SFL's interpersonal function, this attribution establishes a formal relationship between the media, legal professionals, and the public, enhancing the legitimacy of the statement about Depp's influence and aligning with masculine associations of authority and expertise. From the textual function perspective, the headline is structured to first present Depp's victory as the Theme, establishing it as the focal point, and then to provide the evaluative judgment and potential implications as the Rheme. This organization directs the reader's attention initially to Depp's success and subsequently to its broader impact, reinforcing his portrayal as a strong and influential male figure. Additionally, the lexical choices of "win," "embolden," and "others" carry significant connotations that reinforce the theme of masculinity. "Win" connotes success and competence, "embolden" suggests courage and leadership, and "others" implies influence and authority. Together, these words create a narrative of Depp as a triumphant and inspiring man who not only defends his honor but also empowers others, embodying traditional masculine virtues. Through Halliday's SFL framework, it becomes evident how the media strategically frames narratives to evoke particular emotional responses and shape public discourse, thereby reinforcing existing social ideologies and influencing societal attitudes toward masculinity in high-profile legal disputes.

Through the lens of Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics, the word choices in the headline "Johnny Depp's Win in Court Could Embolden Others, Lawyers Said" significantly contributed to the theme of masculinity. The strategic selection of nouns, verbs, and phrases—such as "win," "could embolden," and "others"—was meticulously crafted to frame Johnny Depp as a strong, honorable, and influential male figure. Analyzed through the ideational, interpersonal, and

textual functions of SFL, these word choices underscored Depp's portrayal as a man defending his honor and integrity against allegations while also serving as a role model who can inspire and empower others. This detailed linguistic analysis demonstrates how media language not only reflects but also shapes societal perceptions, reinforcing existing social ideologies that associate masculinity with strength, resilience, and protectiveness. Understanding the extent to which specific word choices align with Halliday's SFL framework illuminates the critical role of language in shaping societal attitudes and power dynamics within high-profile legal disputes.

The headline "Johnny Depp, Accused of Spousal Abuse, Said Ex-Wife Was the Aggressor," the specific word choices intricately align with Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) framework, effectively reinforcing the theme of masculinity. The noun "Accused" serves as a material process within the ideational function, positioning Johnny Depp as the target of a serious allegation. This term carries a formal and negative connotation, highlighting Depp's vulnerability and the societal expectation for men to defend their honor and integrity when faced with such accusations. The phrase "Spousal Abuse" intensifies the gravity of the allegation, invoking strong negative emotions and societal condemnation.

Within SFL, this noun phrase functions as the goal of the accusation, emphasizing the seriousness of the claim and necessitating a robust defense to preserve Depp's masculine image. The verb "Said" operates as a mental process in the ideational function, indicating Depp's active role in asserting his perspective. This verb conveys agency and authority, traits traditionally associated with masculinity, as Depp takes a definitive stance to counter the allegations. The noun phrase "Ex-Wife" personalizes the conflict, adding an intimate dimension that underscores traditional masculine roles where men are expected to uphold respect and protection within familial relationships. Finally, the term "Aggressor" assigns the role of the perpetrator to Depp's ex-wife, shifting the blame away from him and portraying him as a victim rather than an aggressor. This strategic lexical choice serves to restore his honorable and resilient masculine image by framing

him as someone wrongfully accused, aligning with societal ideals of men as protectors and upholders of honor.

Through the ideational function, the interpersonal function by utilizing a declarative mood that asserts Depp's defense with certainty and authority, and the textual function by organizing the information to first present the accusation and then Depp's counterclaim, the headline effectively uses language to shape public perception of masculinity. The lexical choices not only reflect but also actively construct Depp's image as a strong, honorable, and resilient male figure navigating and defending against serious allegations. This analysis demonstrates how media language, analyzed through Halliday's SFL framework, strategically employs specific word choices to reinforce social ideologies and influence societal attitudes toward masculinity in high-profile legal disputes, ultimately shaping public perceptions by emphasizing traditional masculine virtues of strength, resilience, and the protection of one's honor.

Through the lens of Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics, the headline "Johnny Depp, Accused of Spousal Abuse, Said Ex-Wife Was the Aggressor" meticulously employs specific word choices to reinforce the theme of masculinity. Words like "Accused" and "Spousal Abuse" introduce serious allegations that challenge traditional masculine roles, necessitating a strong defensive response. The verb "Said" positions Depp as an assertive and authoritative figure actively shaping his narrative, while the noun phrase "Ex-Wife" personalizes the conflict, highlighting intimate relational dynamics. Crucially, labeling the ex-wife as the "Aggressor" strategically shifts blame away from Depp, portraying him as a victim and protector, thus aligning with societal ideals of masculinity that emphasize honor, resilience, and the safeguarding of one's reputation. This deliberate lexical selection not only constructs Depp's image as a strong and honorable man but also reflects and perpetuates broader social ideologies associating masculinity with strength, authority, and moral integrity. Ultimately, this analysis demonstrates how media language, analyzed through Halliday's SFL framework, plays a pivotal role in shaping public

perceptions by reinforcing traditional masculine virtues and influencing societal attitudes toward gender roles in high-profile legal disputes.

In the headline "Johnny Depp, Accused of Spousal Abuse, Said Ex-Wife Was the Aggressor," the specific word choices are meticulously aligned with Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) framework to reinforce the theme of masculinity. The verb "Accused" functions within the ideational function as a material process, positioning Johnny Depp as the target of a serious allegation. This term carries a formal and negative connotation, highlighting Depp's vulnerability and the societal expectation for men to defend their honor and integrity when faced with such accusations. The phrase "Spousal Abuse" intensifies the gravity of the allegation, invoking strong negative emotions and societal condemnation. Within SFL, this noun phrase serves as the goal of the accusation, emphasizing the seriousness of the claim and necessitating a robust defense to maintain Depp's masculine image. The verb "Said" operates within the interpersonal function, presenting Depp as an assertive and authoritative speaker, traits traditionally associated with masculinity. This positioning emphasizes Depp's agency and decisiveness in communicating his experience, aligning with societal expectations for men to be strong and vocal defenders of their honor. The noun phrase "Ex-Wife" personalizes the conflict, adding an intimate dimension that underscores traditional masculine roles where men are expected to uphold respect and protection within familial relationships. Finally, the term "Aggressor" assigns the role of the perpetrator to Depp's ex-wife, strategically shifting the blame away from him and portraying him as a victim rather than an aggressor. This lexical choice serves to restore his honorable and resilient masculine image by framing him as someone wrongfully accused, aligning with societal ideals of men as protectors and upholders of honor. From the textual function perspective, the headline is structured to first present Depp's accusation and then his counterclaim, thereby organizing the information to highlight his role as an active agent in defending his reputation. Additionally, the formal register associated with legal discourse reinforces masculine traits of authority, competence, and respectability. Collectively, these word choices create a narrative that portrays Johnny Depp as a

strong, honorable, and resilient male figure actively defending his reputation against serious allegations. Through Halliday's SFL framework, it becomes evident how the strategic selection of words in the headline not only reflects but also constructs Depp's masculine image, shaping public perception by emphasizing qualities traditionally associated with masculinity such as strength, resilience, and the protection of one's honor.

Through the lens of Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics, the word choices in the headline "Johnny Depp, Accused of Spousal Abuse, Said Ex-Wife Was the Aggressor" significantly contribute to the theme of masculinity. The strategic selection of nouns, verbs, and phrases—such as "accused," "spousal abuse," "said," "ex-wife," and "aggressor"—was meticulously crafted to frame Johnny Depp as a strong, honorable, and resilient male figure defending his reputation against serious allegations. Analyzed through the ideational, interpersonal, and textual functions of SFL, these word choices underscore Depp's portrayal as a man striving to maintain his traditional masculine virtues amidst challenging accusations. This detailed linguistic analysis demonstrates how media language not only reflects but also shapes societal perceptions, reinforcing existing social ideologies that associate masculinity with strength, resilience, and the protection of one's honor. Understanding the extent to which specific word choices align with Halliday's SFL framework illuminates the critical role of language in shaping societal attitudes and power dynamics within high-profile legal disputes.

Lastly, In the headline "The Depp Conundrum: Who Should Keep Tabs on the Money?", the specific word choices are meticulously aligned with Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) framework to reinforce the theme of masculinity. The noun "Conundrum" functions within the ideational function as a relational process, denoting a complex and difficult problem that emphasizes the intricacy and challenges of Johnny Depp's financial situation. This framing suggests that resolving the issue requires strength and strategic thinking—traits traditionally associated with masculinity—while the connotation of "Conundrum" implies a puzzle that demands intelligence and resilience, thereby reinforcing Depp's image as a capable and determined

individual. The phrase "Keep Tabs" operates as a material process within the ideational function, implying ongoing monitoring and control, which underscores the need for vigilance and authority in managing financial matters. This aligns with masculine ideals of being in control and responsible for overseeing important aspects, as the connotation of "Keep Tabs" conveys active management and oversight, traits culturally linked to masculine roles in financial and organizational contexts. The noun "Money" serves as a material process object, directly referencing financial assets and wealth, and by focusing on "Money," the headline underscores the importance of financial management and responsibility. This reinforces traditional masculine roles of being the provider and overseer of financial resources, as "Money" is associated with power, control, and success, further cementing Depp's portrayal within a masculine framework where financial acumen is a valued trait. Additionally, the declarative mood of the headline imparts an authoritative and confident tone, suggesting that the issue at hand is significant and worthy of serious consideration. The modal verb "Should" indicates necessity and obligation, implying a responsibility to determine who is best suited to oversee Depp's finances, thereby highlighting themes of duty and accountability—key aspects of traditional masculinity. From the textual function perspective, the headline is structured to first present Depp's financial dilemma with "Conundrum," followed by the specific question of oversight, thereby organizing the information to emphasize his role as an active agent in managing his financial affairs. The formal register associated with financial and legal discourse further reinforces masculine traits of authority, competence, and respectability. Collectively, these word choices create a narrative that portrays Johnny Depp as a strong, responsible, and authoritative male figure facing and managing a complex financial issue. Through Halliday's SFL framework, it becomes evident how the strategic selection of words in the headline not only reflects but also constructs and reinforces societal ideologies related to masculinity, shaping public perceptions by emphasizing qualities traditionally associated with masculinity such as decisiveness, authority, and competence in managing significant matters.

Through the lens of Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics, the word choices in the headline "The Depp Conundrum: Who Should Keep Tabs on the Money?" significantly reinforce the theme of masculinity. The strategic selection of nouns, verbs, and phrases—such as "Conundrum," "Keep Tabs," and "Money"—is meticulously crafted to frame Johnny Depp's financial situation as a complex and serious issue requiring responsible and authoritative oversight. Analyzed through the ideational, interpersonal, and textual functions of SFL, these word choices emphasize traditional masculine virtues of control, responsibility, and strength. The term "Conundrum" highlights Depp's challenge, "Keep Tabs" underscores the need for vigilant management, and "Money" centers the discussion on financial accountability—all aligning with societal expectations of masculinity that value decisiveness, authority, and competence in managing significant matters. This detailed linguistic analysis demonstrates how media language, through strategic word selection and alignment with SFL functions, not only reflects but also constructs and reinforces societal ideologies related to masculinity, shaping public perceptions and expectations of male responsibility and authority in high-profile financial and legal contexts.

In conclusion, the analysis of news headlines surrounding the Johnny Depp versus Amber Heard lawsuit revealed a prominent theme of masculinity in the portrayal of Johnny Depp. Headlines consistently emphasized traits traditionally associated with masculinity, such as power, control, resilience, and authority. This linguistic focus reinforced societal expectations of men as strong, dominant figures who defended their honor and integrity, especially in high-stakes legal settings. By highlighting Depp's assertiveness and ability to overcome adversity, the media shaped his image as a resilient and influential individual. Additionally, the portrayal of Depp managing his finances and defending his reputation aligned with conventional views of men as responsible and authoritative leaders. These representations not only influenced public perception of Depp as embodying traditional masculine ideals but also perpetuated broader societal ideologies that linked masculinity with control, strength, and endurance in the face of conflict. Overall, the media's

linguistic strategies in framing Depp reinforced dominant masculine stereotypes, shaping societal attitudes toward gender roles and power dynamics in legal disputes.

4.2.3. Femininity

The analysis of news headlines surrounding the Johnny Depp versus Amber Heard lawsuit revealed a significant theme of femininity in the portrayal of Amber Heard. Headlines consistently associated Heard with traits traditionally linked to femininity, such as emotionality, vulnerability, and manipulation. This was evident in the language that framed her actions as reactive rather than proactive, reinforcing societal stereotypes that depicted women as emotionally driven and less credible in high-stakes legal contexts. Terms like "accused" and "claimed" were frequently used, carrying weaker modalities and suggesting a sense of fragility or instability. Additionally, headlines such as the headline "Amber Heard and the Death of #MeToo" illustrate a clear theme of femininity, particularly by framing Amber Heard through language that aligns with traditional perceptions of women as fragile, emotional, and less assertive. These word choices play a strategic role in subtly reinforcing societal stereotypes about femininity, which often depict women as less credible or stable, especially in high-stakes conflicts. The verbs "accused" and "claimed" are significant in how they frame Heard's actions, carrying a sense of uncertainty and implying a degree of distance from absolute truth, subtly casting doubt on her assertions. Unlike stronger verbs like "testified" or "stated," which imply a more confident or definitive stance, "accused" and "claimed" suggest that the speaker's statements may be questioned or viewed as less reliable. This linguistic choice contributes to a portrayal of Heard that aligns with the stereotype of women as less rational or assertive, framing her as someone whose statements are not fully trusted. These words carry weaker modalities, which means they express a lower degree of certainty, reinforcing the perception of fragility or instability, thus positioning Heard as a figure whose credibility is open to challenge, subtly aligning her with traditional notions of femininity that emphasize emotionality and vulnerability over strength and assertiveness.

Similarly, the phrase "the death of #MeToo" is a powerful and evocative choice that underscores the fragility of progress associated with the movement. It suggests that the movement, which has been primarily championed by women to address issues of sexual harassment and assault, is losing momentum or being undermined. This framing subtly implies that Amber Heard, as a prominent figure associated with the #MeToo narrative, is at the center of a perceived decline or failure, which aligns her with themes of fragility and emotional upheaval. The term "death" conveys a sense of finality and loss, intensifying the portrayal of vulnerability and signaling a failure to sustain the strength and resilience typically associated with the movement's earlier days. The use of such strong, evocative language aligns closely with Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) framework, particularly in how it contributes to the ideational, interpersonal, and textual functions of language. In the ideational sense, "death" represents an end or a complete cessation, suggesting the demise of the #MeToo movement. By choosing this word, the headline creates a sense of finality and loss, signaling that something has irreparably failed or ended. This aligns with the theme of femininity by implying fragility and vulnerability, not just of Amber Heard as an individual, but of the broader movement itself, which has been closely associated with women's voices and empowerment. The term "death" evokes imagery of defeat and collapse, which subtly suggests that the movement, much like the stereotype of women, is susceptible to being overwhelmed or unable to sustain itself under pressure.

Furthermore, the interpersonal function of SFL involves how language establishes relationships between the speaker, subject, and audience, influencing how the message is received. The headline places Amber Heard's name directly alongside the concept of "the death of #MeToo," implying a direct association between her actions and the perceived decline of the movement. This strategic placement frames Heard as a figure of central importance but also suggests that she bears responsibility for a negative outcome. By doing this, the headline subtly undermines her authority and credibility, reinforcing the societal stereotype that women, particularly when in positions of visibility or controversy, are less stable or reliable. The use of the phrase "the death of #MeToo"

carries a high degree of modality, expressing a definitive and irreversible outcome. This adds a level of certainty to the headline, presenting the idea that the movement's decline is an accepted fact rather than a speculative statement. The firm, authoritative tone subtly contrasts with the perceived fragility and emotionality often associated with femininity, thereby framing the movement's failure in a way that highlights its vulnerability, further connecting to traditional stereotypes.

Moreover, the textual function, which deals with how language organizes information to create a cohesive message, is evident in how the headline's structure places Amber Heard first, suggesting she is the subject or agent, while "the death of #MeToo" follows as the consequence or result. This syntactic arrangement positions her as a cause or catalyst, subtly implying that her actions or presence have led to the decline of the movement. This echoes traditional narratives where women, despite being central figures, are often framed as causes of instability or conflict, reinforcing gendered stereotypes of emotional volatility. By using this structure, the headline draws a clear link between Heard and the downfall of a significant social movement, reflecting the media's power to shape narratives that connect individual actions to broader societal issues. This aligns with Halliday's emphasis on the importance of cohesion in language, where the arrangement of words and phrases can guide the reader's interpretation and understanding of events.

Overall, the word choices in this headline—especially "accused," "claimed," and "death"—and the way it is structured reflect and reinforce the theme of femininity by portraying Amber Heard and the #MeToo movement as fragile, vulnerable, and susceptible to decline. Through the lens of SFL, it becomes clear that language does not merely describe events but actively constructs social realities, perpetuating existing ideologies about gender roles, credibility, and authority. The narrative constructed through these linguistic choices subtly guides readers to perceive Amber Heard in ways that reinforce traditional feminine stereotypes, thereby influencing public discourse and shaping the broader narrative surrounding high-profile legal disputes involving women. The deliberate framing and word choice highlight how gendered ideologies continue to play a role in

media representations, subtly maintaining existing social structures that can undermine movements like #MeToo by associating them with fragility and failure.

Another example is the headline "Why We Loved to Watch a Woman Brought Low" which strategically employs specific word choices that convey a theme of femininity, particularly by emphasizing vulnerability, passivity, and societal fascination with female struggle. Each word in the headline plays a crucial role in constructing a narrative that subtly reinforces traditional gender stereotypes, positioning women as subjects of scrutiny and objects of societal judgment. The word "loved" is significant because it implies a collective sense of enjoyment or satisfaction, suggesting that there is a voyeuristic pleasure derived from witnessing a woman's decline. This choice indicates a deeper, unsettling cultural attitude toward female vulnerability, where the struggles of women become a source of gratification, reinforcing stereotypes of women as dramatic or inherently fragile figures prone to emotional turmoil. The verb "watch" further emphasizes the passive but engaged observation of a spectacle, suggesting that the audience is detached yet attentive, turning the woman's struggles into a form of entertainment. This language positions the female experience as a public display, reinforcing the objectification of women and connecting to broader gendered expectations that place them under constant societal scrutiny.

The use of the generic term "woman," rather than a specific name, generalizes the experience, making the subject a representation of all women. This word choice suggests that the narrative is not about a particular individual but reflects a broader cultural pattern where women's experiences, especially their struggles, are sensationalized and objectified. It ties into traditional ideas of femininity, where women are seen as more emotionally expressive and, therefore, more vulnerable to societal judgment and ridicule. Meanwhile, the phrase "brought low" is particularly evocative, as it conveys a sense of being reduced, defeated, or humiliated. The use of "brought" implies that the woman was overpowered by external forces, suggesting a lack of agency, which reinforces the narrative of women as passive subjects susceptible to being overwhelmed. This

language evokes imagery of subjugation and defeat, subtly reinforcing the stereotype of women as weaker and more prone to emotional or social downfall.

Analyzing these word choices through Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) framework helps to further uncover how the headline constructs the theme of femininity. The ideational function in SFL is reflected in phrases like "brought low" and "watch," which emphasize the woman's passivity and the external forces acting upon her. This aligns with traditional depictions of femininity as vulnerable and submissive. The interpersonal function is evident in the use of "we loved," which establishes a shared connection with the audience, subtly implicating society in the act of deriving pleasure from observing a woman's struggles. This phrase normalizes and even validates the act of enjoying a woman's downfall, reinforcing stereotypes of women as emotional beings whose difficulties are objects of fascination. Finally, the textual function is seen in the way the headline is structured, leading with "Why We Loved," which sets up a rationale and invites the reader to engage with the idea of enjoying female suffering. The placement of "brought low" at the end of the headline leaves the reader with a final, lasting impression of vulnerability and defeat, subtly guiding them to internalize this perception of femininity.

In conclusion, the headline "Why We Loved to Watch a Woman Brought Low" is a carefully constructed narrative that reinforces traditional stereotypes of femininity by emphasizing passivity, vulnerability, and societal judgment. Through Halliday's SFL framework, it becomes clear that the language used in the headline is not merely descriptive but strategically designed to perpetuate societal attitudes that view women as inherently fragile and subject to public scrutiny. The word choices effectively construct a specific social reality, reflecting and sustaining traditional gender norms, which ultimately influences how women are perceived and treated in society. This analysis underscores the power of language in shaping perceptions and reinforces the need to critically examine how femininity is portrayed in media narratives.

All in all, the analysis of news headlines surrounding the Johnny Depp versus Amber Heard lawsuit revealed a prominent theme of femininity in the portrayal of Amber Heard. The

media consistently associated Heard with traits traditionally linked to femininity, such as emotionality, vulnerability, and manipulation. This linguistic framing aligned with societal stereotypes that depicted women as emotionally driven and less credible, especially in high-stakes legal disputes. By emphasizing Heard's reactive behavior and perceived fragility, the headlines contributed to a narrative that portrayed her as a vulnerable figure subject to societal judgment and potential deceit. This portrayal not only underscored her emotional struggles but also subtly questioned her credibility and intentions, thereby complicating the straightforward victim narrative. Overall, the media's use of language reinforced traditional feminine stereotypes, shaping public perception to view Heard through a lens of emotional weakness and possible manipulation. This perpetuated broader societal ideologies regarding gender roles and credibility, influencing how audiences interpreted and responded to high-profile legal conflicts involving women.

4.2.4. Hierarchy

The analysis of news headlines surrounding the Johnny Depp versus Amber Heard lawsuit revealed a significant theme of hierarchy, highlighting the constructed power dynamics between the two parties. Johnny Depp, as a male celebrity, was consistently positioned higher within this hierarchy, with his statements and actions portrayed as authoritative and credible. For example, headlines like "Johnny Depp's Win in Court Could Embolden Others, Lawyers Say" uses specific word choices that convey a theme of hierarchy, emphasizing power, influence, and authority. Each of these words plays a strategic role in constructing a narrative that subtly reinforces societal structures where individuals in positions of visibility or authority, like Johnny Depp, hold more power and inspire action among others. The term "win" is a powerful word that immediately suggests victory, success, and dominance. It carries a connotation of superiority and achievement, positioning Johnny Depp at the top of a competitive hierarchy. The choice of "win" not only frames Depp as the successful party in the legal battle but also implies that he has overcome significant challenges, solidifying his position of power and control. This word choice reinforces the idea that those who win legal battles are at the top of a social hierarchy, suggesting a sense of control,

influence, and strength. The term "win" also implies a clear, decisive outcome, further elevating Depp's status as a dominant figure who has triumphed over opposition. The verb "embolden" is particularly significant in conveying the theme of hierarchy. To "embolden" someone means to inspire them to take action or to give them the courage to act confidently. This choice of word implies that Depp's victory has a broader impact beyond his personal case; it suggests that his success could empower others to feel stronger, more assured, or more willing to take similar actions. The use of "embolden" reflects a hierarchical influence where Depp's position at the top allows him to set a precedent that others might follow. This term reinforces the notion of a trickle-down effect in a power structure, where the actions of a dominant figure can inspire or influence those lower in the hierarchy. Essentially, Depp's "win" has a cascading impact, encouraging others to pursue their own legal battles or assert their rights, positioning him as a figure of leadership and authority.

The word "others" is a broad, general term that implies a collective group of people who might be inspired or influenced by Depp's actions. This choice of word emphasizes a hierarchical structure where Depp's victory does not just affect him; it has implications for a wider audience. By referring to "others," the headline suggests that Depp's actions set an example, reinforcing his status at the top of a social or legal hierarchy. The use of "others" positions Depp as a leading figure whose actions resonate beyond his personal sphere, indicating that his influence extends across a wider community, potentially affecting societal norms or behaviors. This reinforces a hierarchical system where figures like Depp, who are seen as successful or authoritative, can impact the actions and decisions of people further down the social ladder. The phrase "lawyers say" adds an authoritative dimension to the headline, as it suggests that legal professionals are weighing in on the matter. The mention of lawyers, who are seen as figures of authority in legal contexts, lends credibility to the interpretation of Depp's victory. This phrase acts as a reinforcement of the hierarchical structure, where the opinions of those in positions of expertise and authority are considered reliable and influential. It emphasizes that Depp's "win" is not just a personal

achievement but a legally significant event, validated by experts. This reinforces the idea that legal victories hold a place of importance within societal structures, further solidifying Depp's position at the top of the hierarchy.

Overall, the headline uses these word choices—"win," "embolden," "others," and "lawyers say"—to construct a narrative that highlights a hierarchical structure, where Johnny Depp's success positions him as a figure of power and influence. Through these linguistic choices, the headline suggests that Depp's victory is not just a personal triumph but a moment that resonates across a broader social context, setting a precedent and inspiring others. This language emphasizes the theme of hierarchy, reinforcing the idea that figures of authority or those who achieve success can shape and influence the actions of those lower in the social structure.

The headline "Johnny Depp's Win in Court Could Embolden Others, Lawyers Say" can be effectively analyzed through Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) framework, particularly in how its word choices contribute to the theme of hierarchy. Halliday's SFL emphasizes three core functions of language: ideational, interpersonal, and textual. Each of these functions reveals how the headline constructs meaning and shapes the reader's perception, reinforcing ideas about power, influence, and authority within a social structure.

In terms of the ideational function, which concerns how language represents actions, events, and participants, the word "win" is significant because it portrays Johnny Depp's success as a clear, definitive action. It implies dominance, victory, and superiority, which aligns with the theme of hierarchy by positioning Depp as someone who has triumphed over an opponent. The term "win" suggests not just the outcome of the legal case but also conveys a sense of control and authority, reinforcing Depp's position within a social hierarchy. By framing Depp as the "winner," the headline suggests he holds power, which echoes societal norms that associate legal victories with authority and respect. Additionally, the verb "embolden" plays a key role in depicting an action that extends beyond Depp's individual case. It implies that his success has broader implications, inspiring or giving courage to "others." This choice of word suggests a chain of influence, where

Depp's position at the top empowers those who might otherwise feel less confident. The notion that his actions could "embolden others" extends his influence, reinforcing his power and suggesting a trickle-down effect where those lower in the hierarchy look up to him as a source of inspiration.

The interpersonal function, which deals with how language establishes relationships and engages the reader, is evident in the phrase "lawyers say." This adds an authoritative perspective, implying that the information is validated by legal professionals, thus elevating the credibility of the statement. It reinforces the idea that Depp's victory has broader social and legal implications, solidifying his influence within a hierarchy where legal experts recognize and affirm his actions. Additionally, the use of "others" addresses an implied audience, positioning Depp's success as significant beyond his personal circumstances. This term implies a group of people who look to Depp's success as inspiration, framing him as a leader whose actions have the potential to guide or affect those lower in the social or legal hierarchy. This connection enhances the reader's understanding of Depp's influence while subtly inviting the audience to align themselves with those who might feel "emboldened" by his win.

The textual function, which involves how information is structured to create cohesion, is also evident in this headline. It begins with "Johnny Depp's Win in Court," immediately centering on Depp's success and establishing his position of power and control. By opening with this phrase, the headline sets a tone that emphasizes the importance of his legal victory, framing it as the central point of the story and reinforcing Depp's top position in a hierarchical social order. The placement of "could embolden others" following the initial phrase extends the impact of his win, suggesting that its effects ripple outward, implying that his influence can inspire action among others. The structure of the sentence concludes with "lawyers say," adding an authoritative voice that validates the preceding claim, further reinforcing the credibility of the information. This arrangement presents Depp's victory not just as a personal achievement but as a socially recognized and validated event.

In summary, the word choices in the headline "Johnny Depp's Win in Court Could Embolden Others, Lawyers Say" reflect and reinforce the theme of hierarchy by highlighting power, influence, and authority. Through the SFL framework, it becomes evident that the language constructs a narrative positioning Depp as a dominant figure whose actions have a ripple effect, influencing those lower in the social or legal hierarchy. The strategic use of language shapes the reader's understanding, reinforcing traditional structures of power and authority within society.

In Halliday's SFL framework, language choices are seen as deliberate tools used to construct and convey complex meanings, and the headline "Johnny Depp's Win in Court Could Embolden Others, Lawyers Say" is a clear example of this. The word "win" aligns with the ideational function by establishing Depp's dominance and authority, placing him at the top of a social hierarchy. "Embolden" suggests that his influence extends to "others," reinforcing the idea that his actions have broader implications within a hierarchical structure. The phrase "lawyers say" provides an authoritative perspective, solidifying Depp's status and validating the importance of his success. Through the textual arrangement, the headline emphasizes Depp's victory as a central, impactful event, guiding the reader to understand the significance of his position within a larger social framework.

Overall, the word choices in this headline reflect and reinforce the theme of hierarchy by highlighting power, influence, and authority. By applying SFL, it becomes evident that the language does more than merely describe Depp's legal outcome; it constructs a narrative that positions him as a dominant figure whose actions have a ripple effect, influencing those lower in the social or legal hierarchy. The headline strategically uses language to shape the reader's understanding, reinforcing traditional structures of power and authority within society.

 In the headline "Johnny Depp says Virginia jury 'gave me my life back'" effectively conveys the theme of hierarchy through its specific word choices, which emphasize power dynamics, authority, and the restoration of control. Each word contributes to framing Johnny

Depp's position within both the legal and social hierarchy, highlighting how the jury's decision has reinstated his status and autonomy.

The phrase "Johnny Depp says" immediately positions Depp as the central figure in the narrative, emphasizing his importance and authority. By placing Depp's name at the beginning, the headline underscores his prominence, suggesting that his perspective is significant. The word "says" assigns agency to Depp, giving him an active role in the narrative and indicating that his voice carries weight. This choice implies that Depp, as a figure who has regained credibility and control, now holds a position of power within the hierarchy, both legally and socially.

The mention of the "Virginia jury" reinforces the authority of the legal system. The jury is portrayed as the deciding body with the power to influence Depp's life, emphasizing its role as a key player in the hierarchical structure of the courtroom. The word "gave" is particularly important because it implies a transfer of something valuable—Depp's autonomy or reputation—from the jury to Depp. This dynamic highlights the jury's superior position within the hierarchy, as they possess the authority to determine Depp's fate. Despite Depp's fame, the headline suggests that he was previously in a vulnerable position, dependent on the jury's decision to restore his standing. The verb "gave" further illustrates the jury's control over Depp's life, emphasizing that his personal freedom or reputation had been taken from him and was only returned through the legal process.

The phrase "my life back" underscores the gravity of what Depp had lost and what the legal decision has restored. It implies that Depp's reputation, autonomy, or control over his own narrative had been taken from him, and through the jury's ruling, he regained these essential aspects of his identity. This word choice emphasizes the significance of the jury's authority in determining Depp's place within the hierarchy, suggesting that the court holds the ultimate power to either diminish or restore an individual's status. It also frames Depp as a figure who has overcome adversity and regained his rightful place, positioning his legal victory as a moment of restored control and influence.

Through the lens of Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) framework, this headline's word choices are deeply connected to the theme of hierarchy. In SFL's ideational function, the verb "gave" represents an action of restoration, where the jury holds the power to return something vital to Depp. This constructs a hierarchical relationship, with the jury positioned as an authoritative entity capable of making significant decisions. The mention of "Virginia jury" reinforces this by highlighting their role as the arbiter of justice. The interpersonal function is evident in the phrase "Johnny Depp says," which establishes Depp as an authoritative voice. This positions him as a figure who, through the legal decision, has regained his agency and credibility, signaling a restored place within the social and legal hierarchy. The textual function of the headline emphasizes Depp's perspective first, followed by the jury's authoritative role, and then concludes with the personal relief of having his "life" returned. This structure reinforces the power dynamic and the causal relationship between the jury's authority and Depp's regained autonomy.

In conclusion, the headline "Johnny Depp says Virginia jury 'gave me my life back'" uses its language to construct a narrative centered on hierarchy, power, and control. The ideational, interpersonal, and textual functions work together to emphasize the authority of the legal system and the restoration of Depp's position within the social and legal structure. By applying SFL, it becomes evident that these word choices actively reinforce societal perceptions of hierarchy, where institutions like the legal system hold the power to determine and restore an individual's status. Depp's position is reaffirmed, and the jury's authority is underscored, showing how language shapes and reflects broader societal dynamics of power and influence.

However, The headline "The Depp Conundrum: Who Should Keep Tabs on the Money?" employs specific word choices that effectively convey the theme of hierarchy by emphasizing issues of control, authority, and oversight. Each term strategically contributes to a narrative that raises questions about who holds the power to manage and monitor financial matters, implicitly highlighting a structured system of control and responsibility. Through the lens of Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) framework, these word choices reveal how language

constructs meaning by engaging the ideational, interpersonal, and textual functions, thus reinforcing themes of power dynamics and hierarchy.

The word "conundrum" suggests a complex and challenging problem that needs careful resolution. By labeling the situation involving Johnny Depp's finances as a "conundrum," the headline frames it as a matter of significance, requiring a nuanced and authoritative approach. This term implies that the issue is not straightforward and involves layers of intricacy, which elevate its importance within a hierarchical structure. It suggests that such a dilemma necessitates the involvement of individuals with expertise and control, reinforcing the idea that those in higher positions within this structure are essential to manage or resolve the problem. The use of "conundrum" therefore constructs a narrative where Depp's financial situation is perceived as a serious issue, meriting attention from figures with authority.

The phrase "keep tabs" plays a crucial role in the ideational sense, as it implies continuous monitoring and oversight. This phrase suggests that there is a need for someone to assume a supervisory role, highlighting the importance of vigilance and control. In the context of hierarchy, "keeping tabs" involves someone overseeing and managing Depp's financial affairs, indicating that this responsibility requires a level of authority and trust. The act of monitoring inherently suggests that those who perform it are in a position of power, reinforcing the hierarchical dynamics between those who supervise and those being supervised. By choosing this phrase, the headline emphasizes the need for a structured system where specific individuals or entities are responsible for ongoing oversight, underscoring the theme of control.

The use of "who" introduces a sense of uncertainty and decision-making, directly addressing the issue of authority. This word choice implies that there is a gap in control that needs to be filled by a designated figure, emphasizing the need for clear leadership within the hierarchical structure. By raising the question of "who" should oversee Depp's finances, the headline subtly encourages readers to consider figures who might possess the necessary power or expertise, reinforcing the idea that such roles should be occupied by authoritative, responsible entities. This

dynamic highlights the need for decision-making and the allocation of control, key elements in maintaining a structured system of governance.

The mention of "money" brings the issue of financial control to the forefront, symbolizing power, resources, and the necessity of effective management. In hierarchical terms, managing significant assets typically falls under the purview of those with expertise and authority, such as financial managers, legal advisors, or trusted institutions. By explicitly mentioning "money," the headline underscores the importance of determining who has the authority to oversee these resources, thus reinforcing the need for structured, hierarchical management. This word choice implies that Depp's financial affairs are not just personal matters but significant enough to require organized and professional oversight, emphasizing the role of control and authority in handling such issues.

The headline can be further analyzed using Halliday's SFL framework to understand how these word choices contribute to the theme of hierarchy. The ideational function of language in SFL concerns how actions, events, and participants are represented. In this headline, "conundrum" and "keep tabs" suggest complexity and the need for supervision, emphasizing that resolving such issues requires those with higher authority. The term "conundrum" highlights the situation's intricacy, suggesting that it is not something just anyone can address but rather a matter requiring careful consideration and control by those positioned at the top of a hierarchical structure. The phrase "keep tabs" conveys an ongoing need for surveillance, implying that the act of monitoring is vital for ensuring proper management, which reinforces the power dynamics within the hierarchy.

The interpersonal function of SFL examines how language establishes relationships of authority and control between participants. The phrase "The Depp Conundrum" immediately places Johnny Depp at the center of the issue, implying that his financial matters are significant enough to warrant attention. This choice highlights the importance of Depp's situation, suggesting that it is a matter of concern that requires oversight by those in authority. The question "who should keep tabs on the money?" further introduces an element of decision-making, emphasizing the need for

someone to assume responsibility. By posing this question, the headline subtly frames the issue as one requiring a clear answer from figures in control, thereby reinforcing the structured nature of the hierarchy.

The textual function of SFL focuses on how information is structured to create a cohesive message. The headline begins with "The Depp Conundrum," setting the stage for a complex issue that centers on Depp, capturing the reader's attention and emphasizing the problem's significance. This is followed by the question "Who should keep tabs on the money?" which opens up an inquiry that encourages consideration of authority and oversight. By structuring the headline this way, the text emphasizes the need for control and management, guiding the reader to understand Depp's financial situation as one requiring intervention from authoritative figures. This arrangement underscores the hierarchical concerns by highlighting the necessity of decision-making and governance at higher levels to address a complex issue effectively.

Overall, the word choices in the headline "The Depp Conundrum: Who Should Keep Tabs on the Money?" work together to build a narrative that emphasizes the theme of hierarchy. The use of "conundrum" frames the situation as complex and significant, requiring expert resolution, while "who" raises the issue of decision-making and authority. The phrase "keep tabs" suggests a need for ongoing supervision, highlighting the role of oversight within a structured system of control, and "money" underscores the importance of financial governance, implying that managing resources effectively is a matter for those in power. Through Halliday's SFL, it becomes clear that these linguistic elements are not merely descriptive but actively construct a narrative that underscores the importance of hierarchy, authority, and control. The language choices reflect broader societal attitudes towards power dynamics, emphasizing the necessity of structured oversight and the delegation of responsibility within a hierarchical framework.

The headline "Amber Heard Describes Impact of Online Attacks: 'I'm a Human Being'" uses specific word choices that effectively convey a theme of hierarchy by highlighting power dynamics, vulnerability, and the struggle for recognition within a social structure. Each term

strategically shapes the narrative, suggesting a power imbalance where Amber Heard is portrayed as a figure responding to the hostile actions of others, while also attempting to assert her dignity and agency.

The verb "describes" plays a crucial role in positioning Heard. It suggests that she is providing an account of her experiences, which places her in a reactive and passive role. By using this word, the headline frames Heard as someone narrating the effects of external forces, specifically the "online attacks," rather than as an initiator of action. This subtly indicates a hierarchical dynamic where Heard is responding to something that has been imposed upon her, emphasizing her vulnerability. The word "describes" thus reinforces a power imbalance, suggesting that she is compelled to explain or justify her situation, highlighting the external pressures she faces.

The term "impact" underscores the effects of these external forces, focusing on the consequences rather than the actions themselves. By choosing this word, the headline implies that Heard has been significantly affected by something beyond her control, reinforcing the idea of a power hierarchy where she is on the receiving end of aggressive or harmful actions. The emphasis on "impact" further portrays her as vulnerable, responding to the repercussions of more powerful, external forces, thus accentuating her subordinate position within the hierarchy.

The phrase "online attacks" adds a critical dimension to the headline by explicitly naming the actions directed against Heard. The use of "attacks" suggests deliberate, hostile behavior, highlighting the aggressive nature of these actions. This language choice reinforces the power imbalance, as it depicts Heard as a target of these concerted efforts, portraying a scenario where the aggressors exercise power over her. By framing these actions as "attacks," the headline highlights a dynamic of conflict, where Heard is placed in a defensive and vulnerable position within the social hierarchy, responding to a faceless, collective force that has the upper hand.

The inclusion of the quote "I'm a Human Being" at the end of the headline is particularly significant. This statement is a direct appeal to Heard's humanity, serving as an attempt to reclaim

her dignity and identity in the face of dehumanizing treatment. The phrase suggests that she is trying to remind the audience of her inherent worth, challenging the impersonal and hostile nature of the online attacks. This assertion implies that she feels objectified or reduced by the actions of others, and her statement is an effort to reposition herself within the hierarchy, not as a mere target of aggression but as an individual deserving of empathy and respect. The placement of this quote at the end of the headline emphasizes its importance, making it a powerful counter to the earlier parts of the message that suggest vulnerability and victimization. It serves as an attempt to shift the power dynamic by asserting her agency and humanity, striving to regain control over how she is perceived within the social structure.

From the perspective of Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), these word choices can be analyzed through three key functions: ideational, interpersonal, and textual. The ideational function deals with how language represents actions, events, and experiences. In this headline, "describes" and "impact" are central to depicting Heard as someone responding to external pressures, emphasizing a dynamic where she is affected by external forces beyond her control. The phrase "online attacks" further reinforces this, portraying her as a target of deliberate, hostile actions. Together, these words construct a narrative that focuses on the consequences she faces, highlighting her vulnerability and the power exerted over her, thereby reinforcing a hierarchical relationship where the aggressors are in a dominant position.

The interpersonal function examines how language establishes relationships, authority, and roles between participants and the audience. In this headline, the phrase "Amber Heard Describes" gives her a voice but also subtly emphasizes her reactive stance, framing her as someone who is explaining or clarifying her experiences in response to external aggression. This dynamic reinforces her position lower in the hierarchy, where she must address the effects of actions taken against her. Meanwhile, the term "online attacks" underscores the aggressors' dominance, highlighting a power imbalance where these anonymous forces hold power over her.

The textual function focuses on how language is structured to create a cohesive message. The structure of the headline starts by focusing on Heard, emphasizing her role as the speaker, but quickly shifts to highlight the "impact of online attacks," framing the rest of the message around the effects she has faced. This arrangement emphasizes the power dynamics by foregrounding the consequences of the aggression directed at her rather than her own actions. Ending with the quote "I'm a Human Being" gives prominence to her assertion of dignity, challenging the earlier narrative of vulnerability. This strategic placement serves to counterbalance the power dynamics, highlighting her struggle to reclaim her humanity and agency within the hierarchical structure.

In conclusion, the word choices in the headline "Amber Heard Describes Impact of Online Attacks: 'I'm a Human Being'" effectively convey a theme of hierarchy by emphasizing power dynamics and the struggle for recognition. Through the lens of Halliday's SFL, the ideational function highlights how "describes," "impact," and "online attacks" frame Heard as someone reacting to external pressures, reflecting a power imbalance where she is vulnerable to more dominant forces. The interpersonal function reveals how these terms position her as a figure responding to aggression, emphasizing her vulnerability, while the textual function structures the message to highlight her struggle against the dehumanizing effects of these attacks. Together, these word choices construct a narrative where power, control, and vulnerability are central themes, illustrating how language can shape the reader's understanding of social dynamics and reinforce or challenge existing hierarchies.

The headline "TikTok's Amber Heard Hate Machine" employs specific word choices that underscore the theme of hierarchy by highlighting power dynamics, control, and the systemic influence wielded by social media platforms. Each term strategically contributes to constructing a narrative that positions TikTok as a powerful entity capable of shaping public perception and placing Amber Heard in a vulnerable position within this hierarchical structure.

The word "TikTok's" establishes ownership and control, immediately positioning the social media platform as the dominant force driving the narrative. The possessive form suggests that TikTok has

authority over the discourse about Amber Heard, emphasizing its role as a key player at the top of the hierarchy of information dissemination. This framing implies that the platform not only enables but orchestrates the spread of content, thus placing it in a position of power over how narratives are shaped and received by the public. By leading the headline with TikTok, the structure ensures that readers focus on the platform's dominance, setting up a power dynamic where it holds significant control.

Amber Heard's name appears next in the headline, directly linking her to the subject of the "hate machine." This placement emphasizes her role as the target of the narrative but frames her as a passive recipient rather than an active participant. By placing Heard in this position, the headline suggests that she is subject to the mechanisms of the social media platform, highlighting a power imbalance where she is acted upon rather than controlling the situation. This reinforces the idea of a hierarchy where public figures can be subjected to the overwhelming influence of platforms like TikTok, positioning Heard as vulnerable within this power structure.

The phrase "hate machine" is particularly evocative, implying a systematic, organized process of generating hostility. Describing the phenomenon as a "machine" conveys an image of relentless, impersonal efficiency, suggesting that the spread of negativity toward Amber Heard is not random but is a coordinated mechanism facilitated by the platform. This term captures the scale and intensity of the process, indicating that it operates on a large scale, efficiently producing and amplifying hate. The word "machine" underscores the systemic nature of this process, highlighting a hierarchy where the platform has the tools and reach to direct public sentiment, reinforcing its control and influence over social narratives.

Applying Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) framework further elucidates how these word choices construct a theme of hierarchy. The ideational function, which focuses on how language represents actions and processes, is evident in how "TikTok's" frames the platform as the subject controlling the narrative. The phrase "hate machine" underscores this by suggesting a structured, organized force that systematically directs negativity, highlighting the platform's role

in facilitating a powerful, coordinated system. This setup positions TikTok at the top of a social hierarchy, exerting significant influence over how narratives are shaped and disseminated.

The interpersonal function of SFL, which examines how language establishes relationships and power dynamics, can be seen in how the headline frames Amber Heard as the direct object of the "hate machine." This placement emphasizes her vulnerability and lack of control, reinforcing the power imbalance where TikTok acts as the agent of influence. By attributing ownership to TikTok, the headline suggests that the platform is not just passively hosting content but actively controlling the spread of specific narratives, thereby dictating public perception and solidifying its authoritative position within the hierarchy.

The textual function, which deals with how information is structured to create a coherent message, is evident in the headline's composition. Beginning with "TikTok's" ensures that the reader's attention is drawn first to the platform, emphasizing its role as the entity with control. Following this with "Amber Heard Hate Machine" links her directly to the effects of this system, reinforcing the connection between the platform's actions and her position as the target. This arrangement creates a narrative that highlights the power dynamic, portraying TikTok as a dominant force and Heard as a passive figure caught within its influence.

In conclusion, the headline "TikTok's Amber Heard Hate Machine" effectively uses word choices and structure to convey a theme of hierarchy, emphasizing control, power dynamics, and the systemic influence of social media platforms. Through Halliday's SFL framework, it becomes clear how the ideational, interpersonal, and textual functions work together to highlight TikTok's authority and ability to orchestrate a coordinated "hate machine," while positioning Amber Heard as a vulnerable target within this system. The language actively constructs a narrative that underscores the platform's dominance, reflecting broader societal issues around control, influence, and the manipulation of public perception in the digital age.

The headline "Amber Heard Seeks New Defamation Trial After Losing to Johnny Depp" uses specific word choices that effectively convey the theme of hierarchy by emphasizing power

dynamics, legal struggle, and the status of the individuals involved. Each term contributes strategically to constructing a narrative where Amber Heard's actions are framed within a context of hierarchy, reflecting her position relative to Johnny Depp following the legal outcome.

The verb "seeks" suggests a request or an attempt to obtain something, indicating that Amber Heard is looking for recourse or permission. This word choice implies a lack of power or authority, positioning Heard as someone who must petition or strive to achieve a goal rather than being in control. By using "seeks," the headline highlights a power dynamic where Heard is in a subordinate position, needing to appeal to the legal system for another opportunity to address her grievances. This verb underscores the idea of hierarchy, where she is not making decisive actions but is instead trying to initiate a new course of action from a less authoritative stance.

The phrase "new defamation trial" emphasizes the legal context in which this hierarchy is situated. By specifying that Heard is seeking a "new" trial, the headline points to the continuation of a legal battle, suggesting that the earlier trial's outcome was not in her favor. This implies that she remains in a contested and disadvantageous position within the legal hierarchy, where Johnny Depp currently holds the upper hand. The need for a "new" trial indicates that the initial decision was definitive and authoritative, further solidifying the idea that Heard is challenging a judgment made within a structured, hierarchical system. It conveys a sense of ongoing struggle to regain ground, emphasizing her lower position within the legal and social dynamics established by the earlier verdict.

The phrase "after losing" explicitly states the outcome of the previous trial, positioning Amber Heard as the party who did not succeed. The word "losing" implies a defeat and suggests a lower status within the legal hierarchy, where she has been overpowered or outmaneuvered by Johnny Depp. This term emphasizes the power imbalance between the two individuals, highlighting Depp's superiority as the "winner" of the earlier legal battle. By framing Heard as the one who has "lost," the language reinforces her subordinate position, suggesting that she is attempting to change the status quo where Depp currently holds an advantage.

The direct mention of "Johnny Depp" at the end of the headline reinforces his role as the victor and powerful figure within this legal context. By naming Depp explicitly, the headline underscores the hierarchy by directly linking Heard's actions to her previous loss to him. This placement at the end ensures that the reader is reminded of the legal dynamic where Depp was successful, thus reinforcing the perception of his dominance within this narrative. It suggests that the previous ruling elevated Depp's status while reducing Heard's, reflecting a hierarchy where his legal victory has strengthened his position and left Heard at a disadvantage.

Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) framework, which emphasizes how language constructs meaning through three main functions—ideational, interpersonal, and textual—can effectively analyze this headline. Each of these functions helps to reveal how the word choices contribute to the theme of hierarchy, particularly by highlighting power dynamics, control, and status within a legal and social structure.

The ideational function in SFL focuses on how language represents actions, events, and the relationships between participants. The verb "seeks" is significant because it positions Amber Heard as someone who is actively trying to change her situation, but it also implies that she does not currently have the authority or control to make it happen without a request. By using "seeks," the headline frames her as someone in a less powerful position, needing to appeal to a higher authority (the court) for a new opportunity. This word choice reflects a hierarchical structure where Heard is subordinate to the legal system, suggesting that she must petition for another chance to challenge the previous decision. It positions her as someone striving against an established outcome, indicating her lower status within this power dynamic.

The phrase "new defamation trial" reinforces this hierarchy by emphasizing that the existing legal decision was not in her favor, and she is seeking to alter that. The need for a "new" trial implies that the earlier decision was definitive and authoritative, reinforcing the idea that the legal system, represented by the previous trial's outcome, currently holds power over her. This

choice of language highlights that the existing legal ruling stands unless she can successfully appeal for a different outcome, reflecting her lower position within the legal hierarchy.

The interpersonal function of SFL examines how language establishes relationships, authority, and roles between participants and the audience. In this headline, the phrase "after losing" is particularly powerful because it explicitly states that Amber Heard was the unsuccessful party in the previous trial. The use of "losing" positions her as the one who was defeated, reinforcing her lower status within the legal context. This word choice makes it clear that she is not in a position of power but is attempting to regain ground after a setback, underscoring a power imbalance where Johnny Depp was the winner, and she is now on the defensive. By framing the situation with "after losing," the headline also emphasizes the finality of the previous verdict, suggesting that Depp has been successful in asserting his position while Heard is left to seek an alternative path. This reflects a hierarchical dynamic where Depp's victory places him at a higher level, while Heard's actions are portrayed as an attempt to climb back up the hierarchy.

The direct mention of "Johnny Depp" at the end of the headline adds to this interpersonal function by emphasizing his role as the dominant figure in the legal battle. The structure implicitly contrasts Heard's effort to change her situation with Depp's established victory, reinforcing a dynamic where his legal win has solidified his upper hand in the hierarchy. The use of Depp's name serves as a reminder of who currently holds the advantage, enhancing the perception of his status and control.

The textual function in SFL deals with how language is structured to create a coherent message, guiding the reader's understanding of the relationship between the elements presented. The headline begins with "Amber Heard Seeks," which immediately positions her as the subject who is actively trying to change her circumstances. However, this choice of structure also subtly underscores her lack of control, as the action she is taking is one of seeking or requesting, rather than directly initiating or achieving. This starting point sets the tone of vulnerability and effort, emphasizing her subordinate position within the current hierarchy.

The phrase "new defamation trial" follows, which specifies what she is trying to obtain, highlighting the legal framework within which this hierarchy operates. The inclusion of the word "new" signals that this is a continuation of a previous issue, reminding readers that the existing status quo (where she has lost) is something she is attempting to challenge. This structure reinforces the idea that the previous ruling stands as the authoritative decision unless she can succeed in changing it, thus maintaining the emphasis on the hierarchical power of the court's judgment. The latter part of the headline, "after losing to Johnny Depp," serves as the culmination of the message, emphasizing the current power dynamic. By stating that Heard is acting "after losing," the headline frames her as someone reacting to a prior defeat, thus highlighting her lower position within the hierarchy. The explicit mention of "Johnny Depp" at the end reinforces his role as the victor and solidifies the power imbalance, subtly reminding readers that he currently holds the upper hand as a result of his previous success. The structure of the headline ensures that the reader's final impression is of Depp's victory, which maintains the hierarchical framing where Heard is positioned as the one who must strive to change her disadvantaged status.

Overall, the language used in this headline strategically constructs a narrative that reflects and reinforces the theme of hierarchy. By applying SFL, it becomes clear that the language choices frame Heard as someone reacting to a position of disadvantage, highlighting her struggle against a legal and social structure where Depp has gained the upper hand. This narrative emphasizes broader societal perceptions of power, control, and the struggle for status within the context of legal disputes.

The headline "Amber Heard Says She Has Decided to 'Settle' Johnny Depp Defamation Case" uses specific word choices that convey the theme of hierarchy by highlighting power dynamics, decision-making authority, and the implications of resolving a legal dispute. Each term strategically contributes to constructing a narrative where Amber Heard's actions are framed within a context of hierarchy, reflecting her position relative to Johnny Depp and the legal system.

"Says" indicates that Amber Heard is speaking out, making a statement about her actions, but it also implies that she is reacting to circumstances, which hints at a power dynamic where she is responding to external pressures. While she has a voice, the use of "says" indicates she may be providing an explanation or justifying her decision, suggesting that she is not fully in control but rather responding to the aftermath of the legal proceedings. This highlights her position in a hierarchical structure where she is reacting to an already dominant narrative shaped by her legal loss to Johnny Depp.

The verb "decided" conveys that Heard is exercising her agency by choosing to settle the case. However, in the context of a legal settlement, "decided" implies that the choice may be influenced by necessity or external pressures, rather than being a wholly autonomous decision. This reflects a power hierarchy in which Heard is seeking to resolve the dispute under conditions that may not entirely favor her, indicating that her decision is shaped by the broader legal and social landscape. The implication that she is seeking a conclusion reflects her lower standing in this dynamic, particularly after her prior legal defeat.

"Settle" is a crucial word that suggests a compromise to avoid further litigation, implying that Heard is opting for a resolution that might not fully satisfy her but will bring closure. The decision to "settle" highlights her position within a legal hierarchy where continuing the battle may not be a viable option, potentially due to the power and influence Johnny Depp holds after the initial trial. Settling suggests a concession, reinforcing the idea that Heard is choosing a less confrontational path, acknowledging the dominance Depp has in this situation following his earlier legal victory.

The phrase "Johnny Depp Defamation Case" places Depp at the center of the narrative, framing the legal battle around him. By naming Depp explicitly, the headline underscores his prominence in the legal conflict, emphasizing his position as the dominant figure. This word choice reinforces the hierarchy by associating the case with Depp, suggesting that he remains central to the resolution, and that the defamation case's identity is tied to him. Depp's continued presence in

the narrative reflects his control and power in the aftermath of the trial, further solidifying his higher status in the legal and social hierarchy.

Analyzed through Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) framework, the word choices in this headline demonstrate the theme of hierarchy by showing how power, agency, and control are distributed between Amber Heard, Johnny Depp, and the legal system. In the ideational function, the use of "decided" and "settle" represents Heard's actions within a process shaped by external forces, particularly the legal system. Heard is presented as an active participant, but her decision to settle suggests that her agency is constrained by the circumstances, reflecting her lower position within the legal hierarchy after her previous defeat. The word "settle" suggests that the resolution is not fully in her favor, emphasizing the power Depp holds in the situation.

In the interpersonal function, the phrase "Amber Heard Says" sets up a relationship where Heard is explaining or justifying her actions, positioning her in a reactive stance. The choice of "says" implies that she is addressing the situation after the fact, rather than initiating new actions, which reflects a power dynamic where she is reacting to a dominant narrative shaped by Depp's earlier legal victory. Additionally, the explicit mention of Depp's name in "Johnny Depp Defamation Case" places him at the center of the narrative, emphasizing his dominant role in the legal conflict and maintaining his higher status in the public eye.

The textual function of the headline structures the narrative to highlight the power imbalance. Beginning with "Amber Heard Says" places her as the subject, but the structure quickly moves to "decided to settle," framing her actions within the context of compromise and response rather than autonomy. The final placement of "Johnny Depp Defamation Case" ensures that Depp remains central to the narrative, reinforcing the hierarchical structure where Depp holds the upper hand after his legal victory, and Heard is seeking to resolve the matter within that framework.

In conclusion, through Halliday's SFL framework, the word choices and structure of the headline "Amber Heard Says She Has Decided to 'Settle' Johnny Depp Defamation Case" effectively convey a theme of hierarchy by emphasizing power dynamics, control, and authority.

Heard's actions are framed as responses to a legal system and social context where Depp holds significant influence. The ideational function shows her decision-making process as shaped by external pressures, the interpersonal function emphasizes the power imbalance between the two, and the textual function structures the headline to highlight Depp's dominance. This narrative reinforces the broader societal perception of hierarchy within legal and social conflicts, where figures like Depp maintain power and control over the outcome, while Heard navigates a less advantageous position.

This hierarchical portrayal mirrored broader societal structures where men were often seen as dominant and authoritative, while women's voices were marginalized or questioned, particularly in public and legal conflicts. By consistently framing Depp as the powerful, resilient figure and Heard as the vulnerable, scrutinized individual, the media reinforced existing gender power imbalances. This dynamic not only influenced public perception of the lawsuit but also perpetuated societal ideologies that positioned men in roles of authority and women in subordinate or emotionally driven roles. Consequently, the media's linguistic strategies in these headlines shaped societal attitudes, favoring the male party in the dispute and maintaining traditional gender hierarchies.

In conclusion, the analysis of news headlines surrounding the Johnny Depp versus Amber Heard lawsuit revealed a significant theme of hierarchy, illustrating the constructed power dynamics between the two individuals. Johnny Depp was consistently portrayed in a position of higher authority and credibility, reinforcing his status as a powerful and dominant figure. In contrast, Amber Heard was often depicted as vulnerable, and her claims were subjected to doubt and scrutiny, positioning her lower within the hierarchical structure. This portrayal reflected broader societal norms where men were typically seen as authoritative and women's voices were marginalized or questioned, especially in public and legal disputes. The media's use of language in these headlines reinforced existing gender power imbalances, shaping public perception to favor the male party and maintain traditional gender hierarchies. Consequently, these linguistic strategies

contributed to the perpetuation of societal ideologies that positioned men in roles of dominance and women in subordinate or emotionally driven roles.

4.2.5. Patriarchy

The analysis of news headlines surrounding the Johnny Depp versus Amber Heard lawsuit highlighted the pervasive influence of patriarchy in shaping media narratives. Patriarchal norms were deeply embedded in the portrayal of both parties, with Johnny Depp depicted as the authoritative and rational male figure, while Amber Heard was often framed as emotionally driven and vulnerable. This dichotomy reflected traditional gender roles where men were seen as protectors and figures of strength, whereas women were portrayed as emotionally fragile or manipulative. Headlines frequently emphasized Depp's resilience, control, and authority, reinforcing his position as a dominant figure in the legal dispute. For instance, headlines like "Johnny Depp, at Libel Trial, Denies Ever Striking 'Any Woman'" employs specific word choices that convey the theme of patriarchy by emphasizing traditional gender dynamics, authority, and a defensive assertion of masculinity. Each term strategically contributes to constructing a narrative where Depp's actions are framed within a context of power and control, reflecting broader patriarchal structures where male authority, defense of one's actions, and perceptions of women play key roles.

The verb "denies" is central to the headline, as it suggests that Depp is actively refuting allegations against him. This word choice conveys a defensive stance, where he is asserting his authority to reject claims, positioning himself as someone who must protect his integrity. In a patriarchal context, this aligns with traditional notions of male authority, where men are seen as protectors of their honor and are expected to assert dominance over accusations, especially those that could threaten their social standing. The act of denial here can be interpreted as an effort to maintain control over the narrative, reinforcing Depp's role as a figure of authority who seeks to manage how he is perceived by the public.

The term "striking" is also crucial, as it directly addresses the nature of the allegations—physical violence. The use of this word highlights the seriousness of the accusations, drawing attention to acts traditionally associated with aggression and dominance. In a patriarchal framework, physical strength and control can be seen as aspects of male authority. By denying such behavior, Depp's statement serves to distance him from any association with aggression towards women, which is critical in maintaining a socially acceptable image within a patriarchal system. The term "striking" implies a physical act of dominance, and denying it reinforces the effort to project a respectable, controlled image that aligns with societal expectations of how men should act, particularly in their interactions with women.

The use of "ever" in "denies ever striking" adds a sense of absolute rejection, emphasizing a complete and categorical denial. This word choice suggests Depp's intent to clear his name without leaving any room for ambiguity. Such a definitive stance reflects traditional views of masculinity where men are expected to be decisive, confident, and assertive, especially when defending themselves against allegations that could undermine their authority or reputation. In a patriarchal context, this kind of categorical denial can be seen as a means to protect one's status and credibility, reinforcing the need to maintain control and reject any behavior that would contradict these attributes.

The phrase "any woman" broadens the denial, extending it beyond a specific incident to a general statement about Depp's behavior. This choice of words emphasizes the universality of his defense, suggesting that he is refuting any possibility of violence towards all women, not just in the context of the specific allegations. This generalization reinforces the traditional role of men as protectors rather than aggressors, aligning with societal expectations that men should not harm women. In the context of patriarchy, this can be interpreted as Depp's attempt to assert his adherence to conventional male behavior, distancing himself from any actions that would contradict traditional gender norms. By using "any woman," the headline invokes a societal expectation that

reinforces Depp's desire to maintain his image as someone who upholds the standards of male conduct, thus reaffirming his position within a patriarchal structure.

The headline can be effectively analyzed through Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) framework, which emphasizes how language constructs meaning through three core functions: ideational, interpersonal, and textual. The ideational function focuses on how language represents actions, events, and the relationships between participants. The verb "denies" plays a significant role by depicting Depp as actively refuting the allegations, which positions him as someone asserting authority and control over the narrative. This aligns with traditional masculine roles within patriarchy, where men are expected to protect their integrity against challenges. The term "striking" adds to this by highlighting the nature of the accusations—violence against women—and Depp's effort to distance himself from such behavior can be seen as an attempt to maintain an image of respectability and control, which is essential for preserving authority within a patriarchal framework.

The interpersonal function examines how language establishes relationships and power dynamics between participants and the audience. The phrase "Johnny Depp, at Libel Trial, Denies" sets Depp as an active subject, giving him a platform to assert his narrative. This positioning emphasizes his agency and authority, suggesting he is in control of the message, which reflects traditional patriarchal norms where men often dominate the narrative and have the power to assert their side of the story. The inclusion of "ever" adds a sense of absoluteness to his denial, reinforcing a need to protect his status by making a definitive rejection. Such a strong, categorical stance aligns with traditional views of masculinity, where decisiveness and confidence are seen as attributes of male authority.

The textual function deals with how information is structured to create a coherent and cohesive message. The headline begins with "Johnny Depp, at Libel Trial," placing Depp as the central figure and emphasizing his prominence in the situation. By starting with his name, the headline draws attention to his role, suggesting his active engagement in defending himself, which

reinforces his agency and authority. The structure then follows with "denies ever striking 'any woman,'" emphasizing the denial as the key message. This arrangement ensures that Depp's rejection of the accusations is the most prominent takeaway, guiding the reader to understand that he is actively refuting the claims and reinforcing his control over the narrative. The final phrase "any woman" generalizes the denial, subtly reinforcing traditional gender norms and aligning Depp's stance with patriarchal values where men are expected to uphold certain standards of behavior towards women.

In conclusion, the word choices and structure of the headline "Johnny Depp, at Libel Trial, Denies Ever Striking 'Any Woman'" effectively convey a theme of patriarchy by emphasizing control, authority, and traditional gender dynamics. Through Halliday's SFL framework, the ideational function captures how "denies" and "striking" reflect Depp's effort to assert authority and distance himself from accusations, aligning with masculine ideals of control and respectability. The interpersonal function highlights his agency and authoritative stance, while the textual structure prioritizes Depp's perspective, guiding the reader to focus on his rejection of the accusations and reinforcing his position of control within the narrative.

Overall, the language in this headline is not merely descriptive but actively constructs a narrative that reflects and reinforces the theme of patriarchy. The word choices and structure emphasize Depp's effort to maintain his status and control over the narrative, while subtly reinforcing traditional expectations of male behavior within a patriarchal context. By applying SFL, it becomes clear that these elements shape the reader's perception, highlighting Depp's attempt to assert his authority and align himself with traditional gender norms, thus protecting his position within the social hierarchy.

Another, "Johnny Depp says Virginia jury 'gave me my life back'" uses specific word choices that convey the theme of patriarchy by highlighting authority, control, and the narrative of male restoration. Each term plays a strategic role in reinforcing ideas associated with patriarchal structures, where male identity, power, and social standing are crucial elements. Through

Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) framework, these word choices can be analyzed across three main functions: ideational, interpersonal, and textual. Each of these functions helps explain how the headline constructs meaning related to authority, control, and the restoration of male identity, aligning with patriarchal structures where power and status are central.

The ideational function in SFL focuses on how language represents actions, events, and relationships between participants. The verb "gave" is significant because it suggests a transactional process, where something valuable was returned to Johnny Depp by the jury. This word choice positions Depp as the recipient of an action performed by an authoritative body, highlighting a process of restoration. In a patriarchal context, this aligns with the idea that a man's status and power can be reinstated through institutional validation. The phrase "gave me my life back" implies that what Depp received was not just a legal victory but a return of his identity, autonomy, and social standing. This reflects traditional patriarchal values where male control and identity are prioritized, and losing them can be seen as a loss of power that must be reclaimed. The word "jury" represents a formal, legal entity that holds the authority to make judgments and decisions. By positioning the jury as the entity that "gave" Depp something essential, the headline emphasizes the role of institutional authority within a hierarchical structure. It reinforces the notion that systems of power, often dominated by patriarchal structures, have the capability to validate or restore a man's place within society.

The interpersonal function in SFL examines how language establishes relationships, authority, and roles between the participants and the audience. The phrase "Johnny Depp says" immediately positions Depp as an active subject who is asserting his narrative, emphasizing his agency and control over how his story is being told. This word choice gives Depp a platform to express his relief and satisfaction, suggesting that he is reclaiming his voice and authority. In a patriarchal framework, this aligns with the traditional expectation that men assert control over their circumstances, especially when their reputation or status has been challenged. By starting the headline with Depp's name and making him the speaker, the structure underscores his prominence

and the importance of his perspective, reflecting the patriarchal value of male authority. The inclusion of the phrase "my life back" in Depp's quote further enhances this interpersonal function by emphasizing his ownership over his identity and narrative. The possessive "my" reinforces the idea that what was restored to him was not just a legal win but something deeply personal and integral to his sense of self. This aligns with traditional patriarchal values that prioritize male autonomy and control, suggesting that his life, in all its aspects, was disrupted and has now been returned to its rightful state. This assertion of ownership and control reflects the importance placed on male identity and dominance in patriarchal structures, where losing control is seen as a significant threat that must be overcome.

The textual function in SFL deals with how information is structured to create a coherent and cohesive message, guiding the reader's understanding. The headline begins with "Johnny Depp says," which immediately draws attention to Depp as the central figure and positions him as someone asserting his narrative. This structure places emphasis on his perspective, guiding the reader to see the situation through his eyes. By giving Depp the first position in the sentence, the headline reinforces his agency, suggesting that he has the authority to define the outcome of the situation. This structural choice reflects a hierarchy where Depp's voice is prioritized, aligning with the traditional patriarchal emphasis on male authority. The phrase "Virginia jury 'gave me my life back'" follows, structuring the narrative to highlight the role of the jury as the entity with the power to restore Depp's status. By placing the jury in the position of the agent who performed the action, the headline underscores the importance of institutional power in validating or restoring a man's control over his life. This reinforces a hierarchical dynamic where the jury's decision is portrayed as authoritative and final, suggesting that institutional structures play a key role in maintaining or challenging individual status within a patriarchal framework. The headline concludes with Depp's quote, "gave me my life back," which serves as a powerful summation of the outcome. This phrase emphasizes the idea of restoration, suggesting that what was lost has now been fully returned. In the context of patriarchy, this reflects the narrative of male resilience and the reclamation of power.

The structure ensures that this message is the reader's final takeaway, reinforcing the idea that male identity and authority can be restored through the validation of institutional power, a common theme within patriarchal systems.

Through Halliday's SFL framework, the word choices and structure of the headline "Johnny Depp says Virginia jury 'gave me my life back'" effectively convey a theme of patriarchy by emphasizing authority, control, and the restoration of male identity. The ideational function highlights the transactional process where the jury, an authoritative body, restores Depp's status, reflecting patriarchal values where male power and autonomy are prioritized. The interpersonal function emphasizes Depp's agency and ownership over his narrative, reinforcing traditional notions of male authority and control. The textual structure guides the reader to prioritize Depp's perspective, framing the jury's decision as a validation of his identity and positioning him as a central figure who has reclaimed control. Overall, the language used in this headline strategically reflects the theme of patriarchy by constructing a narrative where power, authority, and control are central elements. By applying SFL, it becomes clear that the word choices and structure are designed to emphasize Depp's reclamation of his status and identity, while also highlighting the role of institutional authority in restoring male power. This narrative underscores broader societal perceptions of masculinity, power, and the importance of maintaining control and status within a patriarchal context.

Conversely, headlines about Heard often focused on her emotional experiences and the impact of public scrutiny, such as "Amber Heard Describes Impact of Online Attacks: 'I'm a Human Being'" uses specific word choices that convey the theme of patriarchy by highlighting vulnerability, dehumanization, and the struggle for recognition within a power structure where patriarchal norms can dictate public perceptions and treatment of women. Each of these words plays a strategic role in reinforcing ideas associated with patriarchal structures, where women's voices and identities are often marginalized or subjected to scrutiny. The verb "describes" suggests that Amber Heard is giving an account of her experiences, positioning her in a reactive rather than

proactive role. It indicates that she is responding to something done to her, suggesting a lack of control or authority over the situation. In the context of patriarchy, this reinforces traditional gender norms where women are often expected to explain or justify themselves, rather than assert dominance or agency. Heard's role as someone who "describes" instead of commanding emphasizes her vulnerability within a system where women must speak out to be heard, reflecting a power imbalance inherent in patriarchal structures. The word "impact" conveys a sense of force being exerted upon Heard, emphasizing that she has been affected by external forces beyond her control. This choice highlights the consequences of the online attacks she has faced, suggesting that they have had a significant, perhaps damaging, effect on her.

In a patriarchal context, this reflects a dynamic where women are often the subjects of external pressures and judgments, reinforcing the idea of female vulnerability and the need to defend or explain oneself against harmful external forces. The term "impact" subtly indicates that Heard is at the receiving end of a negative power dynamic, aligning with the theme of patriarchy, where women are often seen as targets rather than empowered agents. The phrase "online attacks" emphasizes the nature of the aggression directed at Heard, suggesting a deliberate, hostile effort to harm or undermine her. The use of "attacks" implies intentional and coordinated hostility, highlighting a power dynamic where Heard is the target of a broader force. In a patriarchal context, this reflects the systemic nature of hostility often directed at women, particularly those who are visible or outspoken in public. This phrase suggests a form of harassment that seeks to control, silence, or demean, aligning with patriarchal norms where women's voices are often marginalized or attacked to maintain male dominance in public discourse. The term "attacks" also emphasizes the severity and aggression of the treatment, underscoring a system where women are subjected to disproportionate levels of scrutiny and hostility. The quote "I'm a human being" is a powerful assertion of Heard's identity and dignity. It suggests that she feels the need to remind others of her humanity, indicating that the online attacks have dehumanized her, reducing her to an object or target rather than a person. In a patriarchal context, this reflects the struggle against

dehumanization, where women often have to assert their worth and humanity in the face of objectification and aggression. By stating "I'm a human being," Heard is reclaiming her identity against forces that have sought to strip her of her dignity and reduce her to a mere object of ridicule or disdain. This appeal to humanity challenges the impersonal and hostile treatment she has received, emphasizing the struggle for recognition and respect within a patriarchal system that often marginalizes or diminishes women's voices.

The headline can be effectively analyzed using Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) framework to understand how specific word choices convey the theme of patriarchy. SFL emphasizes three main functions of language: ideational, interpersonal, and textual. Each of these functions helps to explain how the headline constructs meaning, highlighting power dynamics, vulnerability, and the struggle for recognition within a patriarchal structure where women's voices are often marginalized or subjected to scrutiny. The verb "describes" in the headline frames Amber Heard as reacting to external circumstances, positioning her in a defensive role where she is explaining her experiences rather than controlling the narrative. This reflects the broader societal pattern, particularly within patriarchy, where women often have to justify their actions or defend themselves against external judgments. The word "impact" further emphasizes the effects of the "online attacks" Heard has faced, portraying her as vulnerable to these aggressive external forces. This aligns with patriarchal norms where women are often positioned as passive recipients of hostility rather than empowered agents with control over their own narratives. The phrase "Amber Heard Describes" gives Heard a voice but also positions her as someone responding to hostility. It implies a power imbalance where Heard, as a woman, must explain or defend herself against aggression, reflecting traditional gender roles where women's voices are often reactive rather than assertive. The phrase "online attacks" reinforces this power dynamic by highlighting the coordinated, hostile actions taken against her. The use of the term "attacks" suggests that she is being targeted in a way that diminishes her authority, reinforcing the notion that women, especially in public spaces, are often subjected to scrutiny and hostility to maintain male dominance in societal

discourse. The structure of the headline, which begins with "Amber Heard Describes," positions her as someone reacting to the external forces of "online attacks." This highlights her lack of control, suggesting that she is responding to rather than controlling the narrative. By ending with the quote "I'm a Human Being," the headline emphasizes Heard's struggle to assert her identity and humanity in the face of dehumanization. The structure highlights the power imbalance between Heard and the forces targeting her, emphasizing her effort to reclaim her dignity within a patriarchal system that seeks to marginalize or objectify her.

Through Halliday's SFL framework, the word choices and structure of the headline effectively convey a theme of patriarchy by emphasizing power dynamics, vulnerability, and the struggle for recognition. The ideational function captures how "describes" and "impact" represent actions and consequences that highlight Heard's lack of control and the external pressures she faces, reflecting broader societal issues where women are often targeted by systemic aggression. The interpersonal function reveals how phrases like "online attacks" and the framing of Heard's narrative create a dynamic where she is portrayed as vulnerable and reactive, rather than assertive and authoritative. The textual function strategically organizes the message to foreground the effects of these attacks and concludes with Heard's assertion of her humanity, emphasizing her struggle to reclaim her identity within a patriarchal context that often dehumanizes and marginalizes women. Overall, the language used in this headline constructs a narrative where power, vulnerability, and recognition are central themes, underscoring the ongoing struggle of women within patriarchal systems to assert their identity and dignity against forces that seek to diminish them.

Another is the headline "Amber Heard Testifies About a 'Pattern' of Violence by Johnny Depp" employs specific word choices that convey the theme of patriarchy, emphasizing issues of power, control, and traditional gender dynamics. Each term strategically shapes the narrative to reflect patriarchal structures, where male dominance and female vulnerability are often highlighted, and the challenge of confronting such dynamics becomes a struggle for accountability. This analysis can be further understood through Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL)

framework, which focuses on how language constructs meaning via ideational, interpersonal, and textual functions.

From the ideational perspective, which deals with how language represents actions, events, and relationships, the verb "testifies" is crucial as it positions Amber Heard as someone providing a formal account of her experiences. The word choice suggests that she is under scrutiny, needing to offer proof, thereby implying that she must validate her claims. In a patriarchal context, this aligns with traditional dynamics where women often have to defend or justify their accounts of abuse, reflecting a system that challenges their credibility. By using "testifies," the headline positions Heard as needing to establish her truth in a setting that demands validation, which is a common issue women face when addressing male aggression in patriarchal structures. Furthermore, the word "pattern" implies a recurring, systematic behavior rather than isolated incidents. This suggests that the actions being described are not random but consistent, reflecting control or dominance. Within a patriarchal framework, the idea of a "pattern" of violence aligns with how male aggression can be used as a tool to assert power over women, reinforcing traditional gender hierarchies.

The term "violence" directly addresses the nature of the allegations, highlighting the severity of the behavior being discussed. It implies physical aggression, force, and harm, all of which are associated with traditional notions of masculinity that equate power with physical strength. In the context of patriarchy, "violence" can be seen as an extreme manifestation of male dominance, where physical power is employed to control or suppress women. This word choice draws attention to how violence serves as a tool for enforcing control, reinforcing the idea that within patriarchal structures, men may resort to aggression to assert authority and maintain power over women.

The interpersonal function of SFL examines how language establishes relationships, authority, and roles between participants and the audience. The phrase "Amber Heard Testifies" gives her a voice, but it subtly suggests that she is in a position where she must defend or clarify

her experiences. This reflects a traditional gender dynamic where women need to justify or prove their claims, especially in the face of public scrutiny. The choice of the word "testifies" implies that Heard is seeking to be heard in a context that may inherently challenge or doubt her credibility, reflecting how patriarchal systems often place women in positions where they must work harder to validate their experiences, particularly when speaking against male figures. Additionally, the explicit mention of "Johnny Depp" at the end of the headline highlights the role of a prominent male figure in the narrative. By naming him, the headline emphasizes that the accusations are against a well-known, powerful man, bringing attention to how power and status intersect with the issue of violence. In a patriarchal context, this serves to challenge the protection often afforded to powerful men while also reinforcing the need for accountability within a system where such figures might be shielded from scrutiny. The structure of the headline subtly indicates a power dynamic where Heard's testimony stands against Depp's prominence, reflecting the complex interplay between gender, power, and societal perceptions within patriarchal norms.

The textual function in SFL deals with how language is structured to create a cohesive and coherent message, guiding the reader's understanding. The headline begins with "Amber Heard Testifies," placing her in the role of the speaker, but one who is responding to a situation that demands her to explain or clarify. This structure highlights her as a figure reacting to external events, suggesting a reactive stance rather than one of control. By framing her narrative in this way, the headline subtly reinforces a hierarchical structure where women are often positioned as needing to assert their voices in response to challenges, rather than initiating actions from a place of authority. The phrase "Pattern of Violence" follows, framing the rest of the headline around the behavior being described. This arrangement emphasizes that the issue is not about isolated incidents but a recurring, systemic problem. By structuring the headline this way, it ensures that the focus remains on the seriousness and continuity of the behavior, reinforcing the idea of control and dominance, which are key elements of patriarchal systems where male power is asserted through repetitive and controlling behaviors. The concluding mention of "by Johnny Depp" brings attention

back to the male figure, ensuring that the reader understands the specific dynamic being described—one where a well-known man's actions are being called into question, challenging the traditional norms that often protect male authority figures from scrutiny.

Through Halliday's SFL framework, the word choices and structure of the headline "Amber Heard Testifies About a 'Pattern' of Violence by Johnny Depp" effectively convey a theme of patriarchy by emphasizing control, dominance, and the struggle for accountability. The ideational function highlights how "testifies," "pattern," and "violence" represent actions and relationships that underscore traditional power imbalances where male dominance is maintained through repeated actions. The interpersonal function reveals how Heard's role as someone providing testimony positions her as needing to defend or justify her experiences, reflecting a broader societal tendency to scrutinize women's voices when they challenge male authority. The textual function structures the message to emphasize the continuity and seriousness of the issue while drawing attention to the male figure whose actions are being called into question, reinforcing the power dynamics at play.

Overall, the language used in this headline constructs a narrative where power, control, and gender dynamics are central themes. By applying SFL, it becomes clear that these word choices and structures are not merely descriptive but actively shape the reader's understanding of the situation, highlighting how issues of male dominance, female vulnerability, and the challenge of holding powerful men accountable are intertwined within a patriarchal context.

Moreover, the language used in these headlines perpetuated patriarchal ideologies by casting Depp as the figure of power and Heard as the emotionally dependent party. This was evident in headlines like "Why We Love to Watch a Woman Brought Low" employs specific word choices that convey the theme of patriarchy by emphasizing traditional gender dynamics, objectification, and the societal fascination with female vulnerability and downfall. Each term plays a role in reinforcing ideas linked to patriarchal structures where women's struggles or failures are often treated as spectacles for consumption. Through Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) framework,

which emphasizes how language constructs meaning through ideational, interpersonal, and textual functions, the headline reflects and reinforces patriarchal norms by focusing on the objectification of women, the power dynamics at play, and societal attitudes toward female vulnerability.

The ideational function deals with how language represents actions, events, and participants. The verb "watch" is significant because it positions the audience as passive observers, suggesting that the act of witnessing a woman's downfall is akin to viewing a spectacle. This word choice implies that the woman's struggles are something to be consumed visually, turning her experiences into a form of entertainment. In the context of patriarchy, this aligns with the objectification of women, where their hardships are not seen as serious personal issues but as spectacles, stripped of empathy and deeper understanding. The verb "watch" suggests detachment, reinforcing a dynamic where women's lives are treated as public displays for scrutiny, a hallmark of patriarchal control. The word "love" amplifies this dynamic by indicating a kind of pleasure or fascination that society derives from observing a woman's struggles. This word choice suggests that there is something satisfying or gratifying about seeing a woman "brought low," implying a perverse enjoyment rooted in power and control. In a patriarchal context, this reflects the tendency to take pleasure in female vulnerability or downfall, as it reinforces traditional gender roles where women are expected to be submissive or weak. The term "love" underscores societal complicity in the objectification and exploitation of women's struggles, revealing an ingrained power imbalance where patriarchal norms dictate that women's pain can be consumed for entertainment.

The phrase "a woman" plays a critical role in the interpersonal function of SFL, which focuses on how language establishes relationships, authority, and roles. By using "a woman" rather than naming a specific person, the headline generalizes the subject, making her an archetype rather than an individual. This choice reflects a common patriarchal practice of reducing women to their gender identity, stripping away personal characteristics and individual agency. It suggests that any woman can be placed in this situation, reinforcing stereotypes that align with traditional notions of femininity, where women are perceived as more susceptible to failure, humiliation, or weakness.

This generalization supports the objectification of women, implying they are interchangeable and can be easily subjected to societal judgment, a clear feature of patriarchal structures.

The phrase "brought low" is particularly powerful within the ideational and textual functions, as it emphasizes a reduction in status, dignity, or power. The use of the passive voice suggests that this action is done to the woman, not by her, implying a loss of agency. This choice of phrasing reinforces the idea that women's lives and fates are controlled by external forces, aligning with traditional patriarchal narratives where women are often seen as passive recipients of actions rather than active participants. The phrase "brought low" carries connotations of humiliation and subjugation, suggesting a forced lowering of status. This reflects the patriarchal view that positions women as inherently weaker or more vulnerable, and society's fascination with their struggles serves to reinforce these traditional gender norms.

The textual function, which deals with how language is structured to create a cohesive message, is evident in how the headline guides the reader's understanding of the dynamic it describes. The structure of "Why We Love to Watch a Woman Brought Low" starts with "why we love," which immediately positions the audience as complicit, framing the act of observing a woman's downfall as a collective pleasure. This structural choice ensures that the focus is on the societal reaction rather than the woman's experiences, subtly reinforcing the idea that women's struggles are public spectacles rather than private matters. By emphasizing this collective "love" of watching, the headline normalizes and even validates the act of consuming female vulnerability, reflecting how patriarchal norms are maintained and perpetuated.

Through Halliday's SFL framework, the word choices and structure of the headline effectively convey a theme of patriarchy by emphasizing control, objectification, and societal fascination with female vulnerability. The ideational function highlights how actions like "watching" are detached and impersonal, turning women's experiences into spectacles. The interpersonal function reveals the generalized and passive way women are framed, stripping them of individuality and agency, while the textual function ensures that the message normalizes this

consumption of women's struggles, guiding readers to accept this dynamic as a societal norm. The language in this headline is not merely descriptive; it actively constructs a narrative that reflects and reinforces patriarchal attitudes, where women are objectified, their struggles are exploited for entertainment, and their agency is diminished. This narrative underscores broader societal perceptions of femininity, power, and control, revealing the ways in which patriarchal structures continue to shape and influence how women are viewed and treated.

Lastly is The headline "TikTok's Amber Heard Hate Machine" employs specific word choices that convey the theme of patriarchy by emphasizing the organized, systemic hostility directed at a woman, reflecting broader societal attitudes toward female figures who challenge traditional norms. Each term in this headline reinforces ideas linked to patriarchal structures, where women, especially those in the public eye, are subjected to criticism, hostility, and control. Analyzing this through Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) framework helps reveal how language constructs meaning through three core functions: ideational, interpersonal, and textual, emphasizing issues of control, organized aggression, and the dehumanization of women.

The ideational function in SFL focuses on how language represents actions, events, and participants. The phrase "TikTok's" suggests ownership, implying that the platform has a controlling role in the phenomenon being described. This word choice positions TikTok as a powerful, influential entity capable of driving a particular narrative. In a patriarchal context, this reflects how platforms can be used to reinforce and amplify patriarchal views, particularly when targeting women who are seen as challenging norms. By attributing the "hate machine" to TikTok, the headline hints at a systematic process enabled by the platform's reach and influence, portraying it as an extension of a society that often harshly judges and polices women's behavior. The use of "TikTok's" underscores the platform's role as a powerful agent capable of magnifying negativity, which can contribute to reinforcing societal norms that support the vilification of women.

The term "Amber Heard" is central because it names the specific individual subjected to this systematic hostility. By specifying her name, the headline draws attention to how she has

become the focal point of widespread negativity, reflecting a broader societal pattern where women, especially those involved in public controversies, often become targets for criticism and hostility. In a patriarchal system, this is particularly prevalent when women are seen as defying or challenging male authority. By centering her name, the headline emphasizes how patriarchal norms subject women to harsh judgment and scrutiny, especially when they step outside traditional gender roles. Heard's name becomes more than just an identifier; it symbolizes how women, especially those who speak out or are visible in the media, become emblematic of wider societal attitudes toward controlling and critiquing female behavior.

The phrase "hate machine" is especially powerful in the ideational function because it implies a systematic, industrial process of generating and spreading hostility. The term "machine" evokes an image of a relentless, impersonal mechanism that continuously churns out negativity, reflecting how patriarchal structures sustain and reinforce negative stereotypes about women. This word choice emphasizes the persistence and pervasiveness of societal mechanisms that seek to control, discredit, or dehumanize women. The word "hate" underscores the aggression and intensity of the negativity, suggesting that it is driven by deep-seated biases and cultural norms that perpetuate hostility toward women who do not conform to expected behaviors. This reflects the broader context of patriarchy, where aggression against women, especially those seen as controversial or defiant, can be relentless and systematic.

The interpersonal function of SFL examines how language establishes relationships, authority, and roles between participants and the audience. The use of "TikTok's" at the beginning emphasizes the platform's authority and control over the situation, positioning it as a powerful entity capable of driving the narrative. This highlights a broader pattern within patriarchal systems, where structures of power determine how women are perceived and treated. By attributing the "hate machine" to TikTok, the headline suggests that the platform has a role in perpetuating the criticism and vilification of Amber Heard, highlighting how social and cultural platforms can be complicit in reinforcing patriarchal norms that attack or diminish women.

Explicitly naming "Amber Heard" positions her as the passive subject of this hostility, reinforcing a traditional gender dynamic where women are often subjected to external scrutiny and aggression. In the context of patriarchy, this reflects how women are reduced to targets of criticism, especially when they are seen as defiant or outspoken. Naming her directly emphasizes her lack of control over the situation, suggesting she is at the mercy of a larger, more powerful system. This aligns with patriarchal practices that objectify women, turning their experiences and identities into subjects of public debate and attack, often without regard for their agency or humanity.

The phrase "hate machine" in the interpersonal function further emphasizes the aggressive, systematic nature of the attacks. It suggests that the hostility is not just a series of isolated events but part of a larger, coordinated effort. This choice of words implies that the attacks on Heard are relentless and organized, reflecting broader societal mechanisms that work to control or silence women perceived as problematic. The term "machine" evokes a sense of dehumanization, where the process of spreading hate becomes mechanical and unfeeling, mirroring how patriarchal systems often depersonalize and objectify women, reducing them to objects of criticism or ridicule.

The textual function in SFL deals with how language is structured to create a cohesive and coherent message. The structure of the headline "TikTok's Amber Heard Hate Machine" is arranged to emphasize the role of the platform as the source of the negativity, immediately guiding the reader to see TikTok as a central player in this narrative. By starting with "TikTok's," the headline ensures that the focus is on the platform's involvement, suggesting a sense of authority and control over the situation. This reflects how patriarchal systems often use structures of power, like media platforms, to disseminate and reinforce certain narratives about women, highlighting the mechanisms that sustain these power dynamics.

The arrangement of "Amber Heard Hate Machine" ensures that the reader understands the nature of the hostility as a systematic, ongoing process. The phrase draws attention to the relentless nature of the attacks, emphasizing how Amber Heard has become the focal point of an organized effort to spread negativity. This structure underscores the idea that her experiences are not isolated

incidents but part of a broader pattern of behavior that reflects societal tendencies to police and control women, especially those who are seen as defying traditional gender roles. The choice to describe the hostility as a "machine" suggests a lack of empathy or consideration, emphasizing how patriarchal systems can dehumanize women, reducing them to targets rather than individuals with agency.

Through Halliday's SFL framework, the word choices and structure of the headline "TikTok's Amber Heard Hate Machine" effectively convey a theme of patriarchy by emphasizing control, organized aggression, and the dehumanization of women. The ideational function highlights how "TikTok's" suggests authority and influence, "Amber Heard" centers a woman as the subject of hostility, and "hate machine" underscores the systematic, relentless nature of the attacks. The interpersonal function reveals how the positioning of TikTok as the driving force and Heard as the passive subject reflects traditional power dynamics, while the textual function ensures that the message guides the reader to understand the systematic nature of the hostility. The language used in this headline is not merely descriptive; it actively constructs a narrative that reflects and reinforces patriarchal attitudes, where platforms of power are used to sustain and amplify negative stereotypes and aggression towards women, revealing the broader societal mechanisms that control and objectify female figures.

In conclusion, the portrayal of Amber Heard emphasized victimhood and femininity, consistently depicting her as vulnerable and emotionally driven. This reinforced traditional gender stereotypes that viewed women in legal disputes, especially those involving intimate partner violence, as passive victims. Conversely, Johnny Depp was depicted through the lens of masculinity and hierarchy, highlighting traits such as power, control, and resilience. This reinforced the societal expectation of men as authoritative and dominant figures, particularly in high-stakes environments like legal battles.

Moreover, the hierarchical portrayal positioned Depp higher within the social structure, granting his statements and actions greater credibility and authority. In contrast, Heard's claims

were often subjected to doubt and scrutiny, reflecting broader patriarchal norms that marginalized women's voices and questioned their credibility. This dynamic not only influenced public opinion to favor Depp but also maintained traditional gender hierarchies, underscoring the pervasive impact of patriarchal ideologies in media representations.

Overall, the media's linguistic strategies in these headlines played a significant role in shaping societal attitudes toward gender roles and power dynamics in legal conflicts. By embedding these ideologies within the language and structure of news headlines, the media not only reflected but also perpetuated existing social beliefs and power relations. This analysis underscored the importance of critically examining media language to understand and challenge the underlying biases that influenced public discourse and societal norms.

4.3 Chapter Summary

Chapter 4 presents a detailed analysis of how The New York Times headlines about the legal conflict between Johnny Depp and Amber Heard use language to shape public perception. The researcher applied Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) and Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) to examine the headlines, identifying key patterns and themes that reveal deeper narratives. These patterns include lexical choices, framing, transitivity (how actions are depicted), agency (who is portrayed as acting or being acted upon), and modality (expressions of certainty or doubt).

The findings showed that specific words and linguistic structures played a significant role in framing the case, influencing how readers perceived the dispute. For example, certain verbs and adjectives were used to subtly convey bias, portraying one party as more authoritative or credible. Additionally, the study highlighted how headlines could shape broader societal discussions, connecting the case to movements like #MeToo and wider themes such as victimhood, masculinity, and femininity.

The chapter underscores how media language reinforces societal norms and power dynamics. By analyzing these headlines, the research reveals that media portrayal can subtly

perpetuate stereotypes and existing social ideologies, including patriarchal views. It shows that headlines are not just informative but can also shape the narrative, affecting how issues of gender and power are understood by the public.
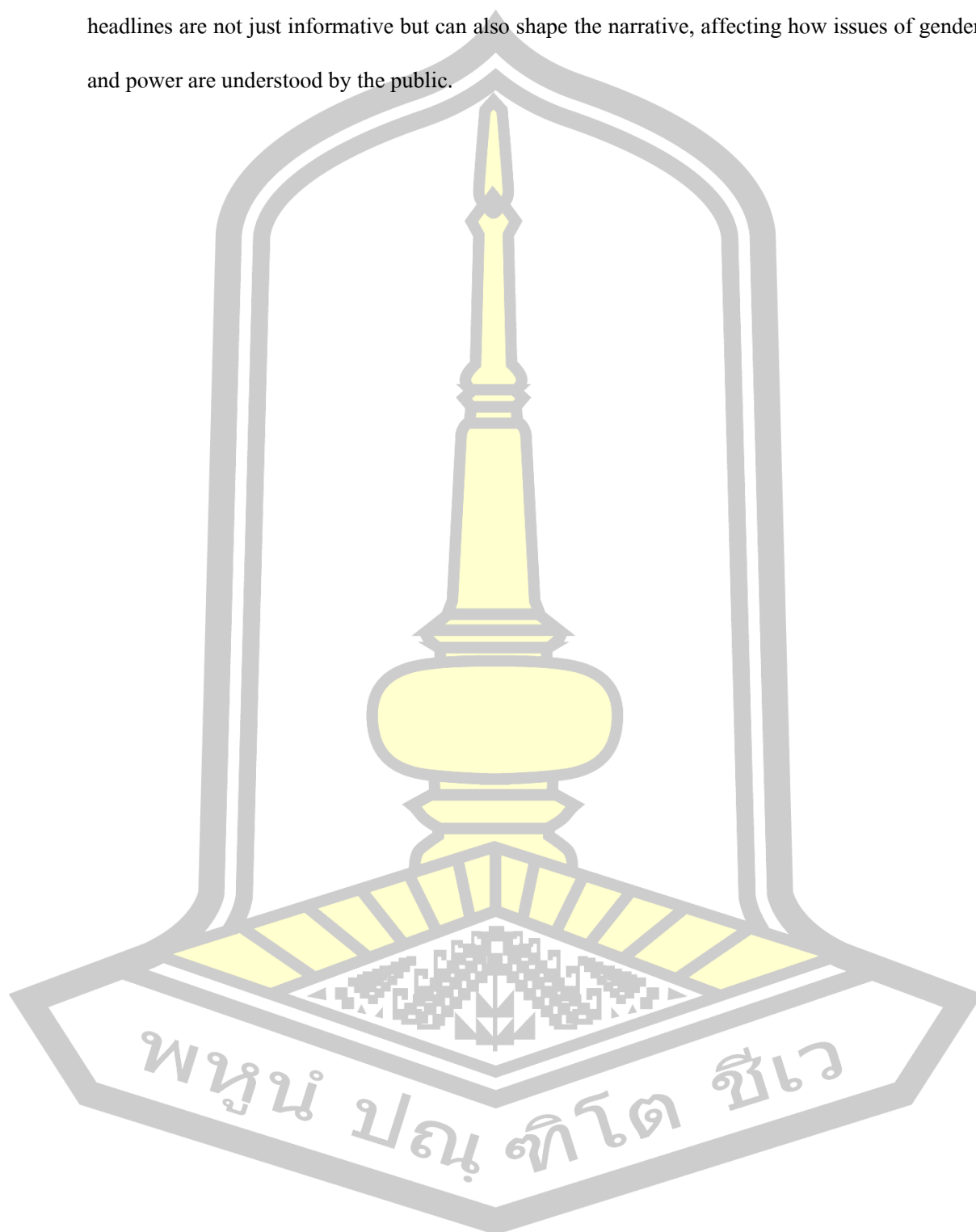
CHAPTER 5

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

In this chapter of the study, the researcher delved into the findings obtained through the application of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) and Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) to the selected data (Halliday, 1994; Fairclough, 1995). The focus was on identifying common patterns and themes that emerged from the analysis of news headlines published by *The New York Times.*

5.1 Discussing the Discursive Strategies Employed in News Headlines

The findings inspected from chapter 4 build upon the existing literature in several meaningful ways, further illuminating the relationship between media language and public perception in high-profile legal cases like that of Johnny Depp and Amber Heard.

5.1.1 They Significance of Key Lexical Choices Employed in News Headlines

The analysis emphasized the strategic use of lexical choices in news headlines, particularly in the context of the #MeToo movement and gender dynamics. The frequent use of terms like "MeToo," "reckoning," "regressing," and "brought low" was consistent with the findings in the existing literature, which highlighted how specific word choices could evoke strong connotations and reinforce societal ideologies (Halliday, 1994; Fairclough, 1995). These choices not only framed the narrative but also served to either support or challenge broader social movements like #MeToo, aligning with Zhang's (2014) and Ulum's (2015) studies on media portrayal of gender roles.

The strategic use of discursive strategies in news headlines plays a crucial role in shaping public perception, particularly when dealing with sensitive social movements like #MeToo and issues related to gender dynamics. The current study highlights key lexical choices such as "MeToo," "reckoning," "regressing," and "brought low," which are frequently used in the headlines under investigation. Each of these words carries strong connotations and serves specific functions

in constructing meaning, influencing how readers interpret the events being reported. Drawing from Halliday's (1994) Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) and Fairclough's (1995) Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), these choices not only reflect underlying ideologies but also work to either reinforce or challenge prevailing social narratives.

A. "MeToo": A Symbol of Social Movement and Solidarity

The word "MeToo" has become synonymous with a global movement focused on highlighting and addressing sexual harassment and gender-based violence. Its frequent use in headlines functions as a symbolic reference to a wider collective experience of victims, particularly women, who have faced abuse or discrimination. In SFL terms, "MeToo" can be understood through its ideational function, representing not just an individual's story but a broader social process of revealing systemic injustices. By including "MeToo" in headlines, news outlets tap into a cultural moment that carries emotional weight and significance, framing the narrative within a larger struggle for justice and equality.

Fairclough (1995) emphasizes that discourse constructs social identities and relationships, and "MeToo" positions individuals within this discourse as part of a victim-perpetrator dynamic. Zhang's (2014) study on media portrayal of gender roles further illustrates how the use of "MeToo" as a keyword reinforces gendered experiences, aligning with broader societal efforts to bring attention to women's rights. Thus, "MeToo" becomes a powerful discursive strategy that not only frames the subject matter but also invites readers to align with the movement's goals.

B. "Reckoning": A Moment of Accountability

The term "reckoning" often appears in headlines to signal a critical moment of confrontation or judgment, particularly in the wake of social movements like #MeToo. This word is imbued with notions of justice, accountability, and moral evaluation, suggesting that individuals or institutions are being called to account for their past actions. In SFL, the word "reckoning" functions within the interpersonal and ideational dimensions. It reflects the relationship between the speaker (news outlet) and the audience, evoking a sense of urgency and ethical responsibility.

The term suggests a point of no return, where society must address long-standing issues of abuse or inequality.

Fairclough (1995) also discusses how media discourse can contribute to shaping social consciousness. The use of "reckoning" signals that those implicated in the #MeToo movement are undergoing a moment of moral evaluation, which aligns with studies like Ulum's (2015), which highlight how media coverage often frames issues related to gender dynamics as moral or ethical crises. This discursive choice reinforces the idea that society is in the process of correcting its wrongs, and that this "reckoning" is both necessary and inevitable.

C. "Regressing": Reversing Progress and Threatening Social Change

The term "regressing" in news headlines carries negative connotations, suggesting a backward movement or the undoing of progress. When used in the context of gender equality or social movements like #MeToo, it indicates a failure or setback in societal advancement. In terms of SFL's ideational function, "regressing" positions society as moving in a negative direction, counteracting the efforts of movements aimed at progress and change. It evokes fear and frustration, portraying the situation as a deterioration of the gains made in gender equality.

This word choice can be analyzed through Fairclough's (1995) concept of intertextuality, where the media connects current events to past discourses of progress and regression. Headlines featuring "regressing" frame the narrative as a warning, reminding readers of past struggles and the potential loss of hard-won rights. Zhang's (2014) research on media framing suggests that such language can shift the audience's perception, making them more critical of those perceived to be causing this regression, whether individuals, institutions, or societal structures. The implication of "regressing" also serves as a rallying cry, urging readers to resist the forces that threaten progress.

D. "Brought Low": Power Dynamics and the Fall from Grace

The phrase "brought low" suggests a dramatic fall from power or status, often used to describe individuals who have been publicly disgraced or disempowered. In headlines, this phrase underscores the idea of a significant reversal of fortune, often directed at powerful figures who have been accused of misconduct during the #MeToo movement. According to SFL's textual function, "brought low" works to organize information in a way that highlights the downfall of an individual, thereby framing the narrative as a story of comeuppance or retribution.

Fairclough (1995) notes that media discourse often reinforces social hierarchies and power dynamics, and "brought low" emphasizes the shift in power from the perpetrator to the victim. The phrase reflects a moral judgment, suggesting that those who were once in positions of power have been rightfully diminished due to their actions. This aligns with Ulum's (2015) findings, which indicate that media discourse often seeks to reinforce societal norms by portraying perpetrators of gender-based violence as deserving of their downfall. The use of "brought low" in headlines serves to heighten this sense of moral justice, suggesting that abusers are being held accountable for their actions.

E. Relating to the Literature: Reinforcing or Challenging Social Movements

The use of these lexical choices—"MeToo," "reckoning," "regressing," and "brought low"—reflects broader discursive strategies that either reinforce or challenge social movements. As Halliday (1994) and Fairclough (1995) have shown, language functions not just to convey information but to construct reality and shape social relations. By choosing words with strong emotional and ideological connotations, news headlines can guide public perception, often aligning with or resisting the goals of movements like #MeToo.

For instance, the frequent appearance of "MeToo" and "reckoning" in headlines aligns with the movement's goals by framing the narrative as one of justice, accountability, and progress. Conversely, words like "regressing" signal a challenge to the movement, warning of the dangers of societal backsliding. Finally, "brought low" serves as a powerful reminder of the shifting power

dynamics in the wake of public scandals, reinforcing the idea that perpetrators of abuse are being held accountable for their actions.

In conclusion, the strategic use of these lexical choices in news headlines reflects discursive strategies aimed at influencing public perception of gender dynamics and social movements like #MeToo. By employing words that evoke strong emotional responses and moral judgments, the media plays a crucial role in shaping societal narratives, either supporting the advancement of gender equality or warning of potential setbacks. Through the lens of SFL and CDA, we can see how these word choices construct meaning, reinforce social ideologies, and contribute to the broader discourse on justice and gender.

5.1.2 Framing and its Implications

The current study highlighted the deliberate use of vocabulary selection in news headlines, particularly within the framework of the #MeToo movement and gender dynamics. Consistent with the findings of previous research by Zhang (2014) and Ulum (2015), the frequent usage of terms such as "MeToo," "reckoning," "regressing," and "brought low" underscored how certain word choices could evoke strong connotations and promote societal ideals (Halliday, 1994; Fairclough, 1995). These decisions not only shaped the storyline but also factored in either endorsing or questioning wider social movements such as #MeToo, in line with Zhang's (2014) and Ulum's (2015) research on how gender roles were depicted in the media.

The discursive strategies employed in news headlines are often grounded in specific lexical choices that work to shape public understanding and perception of the issues being covered. In the current study, terms such as "MeToo," "reckoning," "regressing," and "brought low" serve as key indicators of framing, reflecting how news outlets position stories within larger societal narratives. These terms, which are frequently used in headlines concerning the #MeToo movement and gender dynamics are not merely neutral descriptors; they carry powerful connotations that evoke emotions, reinforce ideologies, and influence the audience's interpretation of events.

A. "MeToo": A Framing Device for Collective Action and Victimhood

The term "MeToo" has transcended its original social media origins to become a discursive tool that frames stories within the context of a broader movement aimed at exposing and combating sexual harassment and abuse. Its use in headlines signals to the reader that the subject of the article is not an isolated incident but part of a systemic issue that affects many individuals, particularly women. In this sense, "MeToo" functions as a **metonym** for the collective experiences of victims, framing the narrative around themes of solidarity, justice, and resistance to abuse.

According to Halliday's (1994) ideational function in Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), the term "MeToo" represents more than just a label—it conveys the experience of countless individuals who have been victimized. Its repeated use in headlines works to associate personal stories with a broader social cause, suggesting that each individual case contributes to a collective movement for change. Zhang's (2014) study on gender roles in the media supports this view, highlighting how the use of terms like "MeToo" reinforces societal ideals of gender equality and justice by framing women as part of a larger, empowering movement.

B. "Reckoning": Framing Moments of Accountability

The term "reckoning" is often used to describe moments of public accountability, especially in the context of individuals or institutions facing the consequences of past actions. In headlines, this term frames the narrative around themes of justice and moral correction. The choice of "reckoning" suggests that those involved are undergoing a process of evaluation or judgment, with implications of guilt or culpability. From the perspective of SFL's interpersonal function, "reckoning" works to create a relationship between the news outlet and its audience, framing the story in a way that encourages readers to view the events as a necessary and just outcome of past wrongs.

Fairclough's (1995) concept of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) further supports this framing, as "reckoning" reflects the discourse of social justice that often surrounds discussions of the #MeToo movement. The term signals a turning point where society is forced to confront its

failures, particularly in terms of how power and gender dynamics have been misused or ignored. In this sense, "reckoning" serves as both a moral and rhetorical strategy, inviting readers to align themselves with the perspective that justice is being served.

C. "Regressing": Framing a Backward Movement in Gender Equality

In contrast to the positive connotations of "MeToo" and "reckoning," the term "regressing" evokes a sense of failure or reversal. Headlines that employ "regressing" often frame stories as setbacks in the fight for gender equality, suggesting that progress is being undone. From an SFL standpoint, "regressing" contributes to the ideational function by representing the decline or reversal of positive developments, particularly in relation to social justice or gender rights. The term constructs a narrative of loss, where the advances made by movements like #MeToo are threatened by external forces or internal failures.

Ulum's (2015) research on media portrayal of gender roles highlights how such framing can shift public perception, making readers more aware of the fragility of social progress. The use of "regressing" in headlines alerts readers to the potential erosion of rights and advancements, creating a sense of urgency and concern. This aligns with Fairclough's (1995) observation that discourse can both reflect and shape societal structures, as the term "regressing" suggests that without continued vigilance, society risks falling back into old patterns of inequality and injustice.

D. "Brought Low": Framing the Fall of the Powerful

The phrase "brought low" is often used in headlines to describe the downfall of powerful individuals, particularly those who have been accused of wrongdoing. This phrase frames the narrative as one of justice served, where those who once held significant power are now facing the consequences of their actions. From a discursive perspective, "brought low" functions within the textual function of SFL, which organizes the information in the headline to highlight the dramatic reversal of fortune for the individual involved.

Fairclough (1995) discusses how media discourse can contribute to the construction of social hierarchies, and the use of "brought low" reinforces the idea that those in power who abuse

their positions will ultimately face accountability. The phrase not only highlights the individual's fall from grace but also serves as a moral lesson for readers, emphasizing that no one is above the law or immune to the consequences of their actions. This framing aligns with Zhang's (2014) findings on media depictions of gender and power, as it often portrays powerful men brought down by the very systems they once dominated.

E. Relating to the Literature: Framing Gender Dynamics and Social Movements

The strategic use of these terms—"MeToo," "reckoning," "regressing," and "brought low"—reflects broader discursive strategies that frame news stories within the context of gender dynamics and social movements. Halliday's (1994) SFL and Fairclough's (1995) CDA provide valuable frameworks for understanding how these lexical choices construct meaning and influence public perception. In the case of "MeToo," the framing reinforces the collective power of individuals speaking out against abuse, while "reckoning" signals moments of accountability that align with societal ideals of justice.

On the other hand, terms like "regressing" introduce a note of caution, framing certain stories as warnings of the fragility of progress, particularly in relation to gender equality. Finally, "brought low" serves as a powerful discursive tool to frame the fall of the powerful, reinforcing the idea that justice is being served in a way that aligns with societal expectations.

In conclusion, the discursive strategies employed in news headlines—through terms such as "MeToo," "reckoning," "regressing," and "brought low"—reflect deliberate framing choices that shape how readers perceive issues of gender and power. These lexical choices not only convey information but also guide the reader's emotional and moral engagement with the story, reinforcing or challenging broader societal narratives in line with the literature on media discourse and gender representation.

5.1.3 Transitivity and Agency

An examination of transitivity and agency in the headlines exposed the power hierarchies involved in how the media depicted Depp and Heard. By allocating active roles to specific characters while depicting others as passive or reactive, the media discreetly shaped the public's perception of the individuals implicated in the case. The usage of verbs such as "accused," "denied," "testified," and "recounted" clearly emphasized the acts and agency of the persons involved. This observation was consistent with the conclusions drawn by Halliday (1994) and Fairclough (1995), who emphasized the significance of transitivity in exposing the fundamental power dynamics within communication.

The discursive strategies employed in news headlines are crucial in shaping public perception, particularly through the use of transitivity and agency. Transitivity, as outlined by Halliday (1994), focuses on the representation of actions, processes, and participants in a sentence, while agency highlights who is performing the action and who is receiving it. In the headlines under investigation, the use of verbs such as "accused," "denied," "testified," and "recounted" reveals the media's role in constructing power hierarchies, subtly influencing how the figures involved—such as Johnny Depp and Amber Heard—are perceived. These choices reflect broader discursive strategies that reveal power dynamics and control public narratives, as explored in the work of Fairclough (1995).

A. "Accused": Assigning Agency and Implied Guilt

The verb "accused" frequently appears in headlines, often used to assign agency to one individual while casting the other as a passive recipient of the action. In the case of Depp and Heard, headlines such as "Depp Accused of Violence by Heard" place Depp in the position of the accused and Heard in the role of the accuser. According to Halliday's (1994) analysis of transitivity, material processes like "accused" are actions that involve doing something to someone. This construction assigns active agency to Heard while casting Depp as the passive participant, or the object of the accusation.

This subtle framing has significant implications for how the public perceives each individual. The verb "accused" implies wrongdoing, positioning Depp defensively, and creating a narrative where the action (the accusation) is being done to him. Fairclough (1995) emphasizes how these discursive choices reflect and reinforce societal power structures, subtly guiding the reader to view the accused as potentially guilty even before any legal conclusion has been drawn. Thus, the use of "accused" in headlines not only frames the narrative but also creates a sense of moral judgment and power imbalance.

B. "Denied": Defensive Agency and Resistance

The verb "denied" operates in a very different way, often appearing in headlines when the subject is resisting or rejecting accusations. In transitivity terms, "denied" is also a material process, but in this case, the action is one of negation or resistance. When a headline reads "Depp Denied Allegations of Abuse," the agency is placed on Depp as the active denier, positioning him as someone defending himself against claims of wrongdoing.

This verb choice shifts the power dynamic subtly but importantly. While "accused" positions the subject as passive and potentially guilty, "denied" allows the subject to reclaim agency, portraying them as actively rejecting the accusation. In the context of gender dynamics, Zhang's (2014) study on media representations of men and women suggests that the use of "denied" can reinforce traditional gender roles, where men are portrayed as strong, defensive agents. This supports Fairclough's (1995) argument that discourse can subtly maintain power hierarchies by portraying certain individuals as more active or authoritative in their own defense, thereby influencing the reader's perception of their credibility and power.

C. "Testified": Institutional Agency and Credibility

The verb "testified" is another key lexical choice, often used in legal contexts to denote formal, institutional action. Headlines such as "Heard Testified About Depp's Violence" assign active agency to Heard, positioning her as a credible and authoritative figure who is providing formal evidence within a legal framework. In terms of transitivity, "testified" is a verbal process,

which involves the exchange of information or dialogue, but it also carries a weight of authority and seriousness.

From a discursive perspective, "testified" signals that Heard's statements are not merely personal accusations but are part of an official legal process, lending her claims greater legitimacy. Halliday (1994) highlights how transitivity choices like this reflect underlying power dynamics, as the person testifying is not only active but is positioned within an institutional structure that validates their statements. This framing aligns with Fairclough's (1995) view that media discourse often reinforces institutional power, suggesting that those who "testify" are not just active participants but are also backed by the authority of the legal system.

D. "Recounted": Reconstructing Experience and Shaping Narrative

The verb "recounted" is often used to describe personal stories or experiences, as in the headline "Heard Recounted Her Experience of Abuse." In this context, "recounted" functions as a verbal process, focusing on the act of narrating or telling a story. Unlike "accused" or "denied," which involve direct conflict or defense, "recounted" is more reflective, emphasizing the subject's role in sharing their personal perspective.

The choice of "recounted" assigns agency to Heard, portraying her as an active narrator of her own experiences. This verb implies a detailed, emotional retelling, framing her as a victim who is courageously sharing her story. Zhang's (2014) research on media framing of gender roles suggests that such verbs are often used to create empathy for female subjects, particularly in cases of abuse or victimization. Fairclough (1995) also argues that media discourse plays a role in constructing the identities of individuals involved in such cases, and by choosing "recounted," the media positions Heard as both a victim and an active participant in reconstructing the narrative of what happened to her.

E. Relating to the Literature: Exposing Power Dynamics Through Language

The use of verbs such as "accused," "denied," "testified," and "recounted" in news headlines reflects broader discursive strategies that manipulate transitivity and agency to construct

power dynamics between the individuals involved. As Halliday (1994) notes, transitivity choices reveal who is doing what to whom, and in this case, these verbs frame the actions of Depp and Heard in ways that shape public perception of their roles in the case.

Fairclough's (1995) Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) further emphasizes that language is not neutral; it reflects and reinforces societal power structures. In the case of these headlines, the choice of verbs determines who is portrayed as active or passive, guilty or defensive, credible or vulnerable. These discursive choices not only shape the narrative but also influence how the audience perceives the power dynamics between the two individuals.

In conclusion, the discursive strategies employed in news headlines through the use of verbs like "accused," "denied," "testified," and "recounted" reveal the underlying power hierarchies in media representations of the Depp-Heard case. By assigning agency and transitivity in specific ways, the media subtly constructs a narrative that influences how the public interprets the events and the individuals involved. Through the lens of Halliday's SFL and Fairclough's CDA, we can see how these word choices are more than just descriptions—they are strategic tools that shape the discourse surrounding power, credibility, and victimhood.

5.1.4 Modality and Certainty

Modality within headlines, exemplified by the use of "should" or "could," provided different levels of certainty, thereby influencing the reader's assessment of the credibility and consequences of the information being conveyed. The strategic use of modality was extensively documented in the literature as a crucial instrument in media narratives, capable of subtly influencing the reader's trust in the reported events (Halliday, 1994). The study offered additional proof of how modality was employed to either solidify or weaken specific perspectives, thereby contributing to the wider discussion on media impact and public opinion.

The use of modality in news headlines plays a critical role in shaping the level of certainty, possibility, and obligation perceived by readers. Terms such as "should" and "could" reflect different degrees of modality, influencing how readers assess the credibility, likelihood, and

urgency of the information being presented. These modal verbs allow media outlets to strategically modulate the force of their claims, leaving space for interpretation while still guiding public opinion. The current study examines how these modal choices in headlines subtly affect readers' perceptions of the news, building on Halliday's (1994) work on modality within Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) and its role in shaping media narratives.

A. "Should": Obligation and Expectation

The term "should" indicates a level of obligation or expectation, suggesting that a particular action or outcome is desirable or recommended. In headlines, "should" functions as a high modality term that implies a certain degree of certainty or authority, though it leaves room for some ambiguity. For example, in a headline like "Depp Should Face Further Legal Consequences," the use of "should" communicates an expectation that Depp is obligated to face additional repercussions, but it stops short of stating this as an absolute fact. This subtle distinction influences how readers interpret the situation, suggesting that there is a normative or moral expectation for what should happen, without asserting that it is inevitable.

In the context of Halliday's (1994) ideational function, "should" expresses not only a recommendation but also an alignment with social norms or values, as the word is often employed to convey what is considered just or appropriate within a given context. By using "should" in a headline, the media frames the narrative in a way that implies a course of action that is morally or socially expected, subtly shaping public opinion. Fairclough's (1995) Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) also highlights how modality serves to reinforce power dynamics, as the use of "should" positions the subject in a passive role, expected to comply with societal or legal expectations.

B. "Could": Possibility and Uncertainty

In contrast, "could" signals low modality, indicating possibility rather than certainty. Headlines featuring "could" often introduce an element of speculation or potentiality, leaving the outcome more open-ended. For example, "Heard Could Face Defamation Lawsuit" implies that there is a possibility of legal action, but it is not guaranteed. The use of "could" serves to soften the

headline, making it less definitive and allowing room for alternative outcomes. This strategic choice influences how readers perceive the information—while it suggests that an event is within the realm of possibility, it also signals that it is not yet confirmed.

From a transitivity perspective in SFL, "could" reflects a probabilistic process, where the likelihood of an event occurring is presented as one potential outcome among others. This low-modality choice can function to mitigate the media's stance, making the claim seem less authoritative and more speculative. Fairclough's (1995) analysis of media discourse underscores how such choices can position the reader in a state of uncertainty, thereby leaving room for doubt or alternative interpretations. This softening of certainty can either protect the media from over-asserting a claim or can be used to strategically downplay certain outcomes, depending on the narrative goal.

C. Modality and Shaping Reader Perception

The strategic use of modality—particularly with terms like "should" and "could"—plays a significant role in how news headlines influence reader perception. "Should" creates a sense of obligation or inevitability, subtly steering the reader toward a particular conclusion, while "could" introduces uncertainty, allowing the reader to entertain multiple possibilities. By adjusting the level of certainty or obligation in their headlines, media outlets control the tone and direction of the narrative, whether to suggest urgency, recommend action, or create room for doubt.

Halliday's (1994) work on modality illustrates how such linguistic choices function to encode attitudes and judgments within communication, aligning with broader societal expectations or cautioning against overcommitment to a particular outcome. Fairclough's (1995) CDA further highlights how modality serves as a tool for media outlets to manage their relationship with the audience, presenting themselves as authoritative or cautious depending on the level of certainty they wish to project.

For example, when a headline reads "Heard Should Be Held Accountable," the use of "should" reflects an authoritative stance, suggesting a moral or social obligation. In contrast, "Heard Could

Be Held Accountable" introduces a speculative element, signaling that while accountability is possible, it is not assured. This small shift in modality changes the tone of the headline, guiding the reader's interpretation of the events without making an absolute claim.

D. Modality as a Media Strategy

The use of modality in headlines aligns with broader discursive strategies documented in media studies. Halliday (1994) emphasizes that modality is not just a linguistic feature but a tool for shaping interpersonal relationships and power dynamics in communication. When media outlets use "should" or "could," they are not merely reporting facts; they are subtly guiding the reader's interpretation by adjusting the level of certainty or obligation attached to the information.

Fairclough's (1995) CDA explores how media outlets use modality to balance authority and caution, presenting certain events as likely or expected while allowing for alternative outcomes. This strategic use of language reflects the media's role in constructing social realities, influencing how the public perceives events and their likely consequences. Modality serves as a tool for either strengthening or weakening specific perspectives, as noted in Zhang (2014) and Ulum's (2015) studies on media portrayal and public opinion. By modulating the degree of certainty in their reporting, media outlets shape the public's understanding of unfolding events, guiding the discourse in ways that align with their editorial goals.

E. Modality as a Discursive Tool

The strategic use of modality in news headlines—exemplified by terms like "should" and "could"—plays a pivotal role in shaping reader perception. By modulating the level of certainty, media outlets subtly influence how the public interprets the likelihood, obligation, or potential consequences of the events being reported. These discursive choices align with Halliday's (1994) framework of modality in SFL, highlighting how language is used to encode attitudes and judgments, and with Fairclough's (1995) insights into how media discourse constructs power dynamics. Through the careful use of modality, news headlines guide the reader's engagement with

the narrative, either reinforcing or challenging particular perspectives within the broader public discourse.

In conclusion, the findings from the analysis provided a detailed examination that not only supported but also extended the current understanding of how language in media headlines could shape public perception, particularly in high-profile legal cases. The study used Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) and Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) to demonstrate how word choice, framing, transitivity, agency, and modality all worked together to create narratives that shaped how people understood the world and made moral decisions. These insights contributed to the ongoing scholarly discussion about media responsibility and the ethical implications of how legal controversies were portrayed, as highlighted in the works of Zhang (2014), Ulum (2015).

5.2 Discussing the Underlying Social Ideologies Manifested in the News Headlines

Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), as outlined by Fairclough (1995), provided a crucial framework for analyzing how language in news headlines not only reflected but also reinforced societal ideologies during the Johnny Depp versus Amber Heard legal dispute. By focusing on the interplay between language and social structures, the analysis revealed five dominant ideologies—victimhood, masculinity, femininity, hierarchy, and patriarchy—that were intricately woven into the media's portrayal of the case. These ideologies were not merely descriptive but functioned as discursive tools that shaped public perception by aligning with pre-existing societal norms and power relations. By critically examining each theme, the analysis also engaged with prior research to contextualize how these ideologies were constructed and perpetuated through headline language.

5.2.1 Victimhood

The theme of victimhood emerged as a central ideological construct in the news headlines, particularly in relation to Amber Heard's portrayal throughout the legal proceedings. CDA's focus on power dynamics in discourse (Fairclough, 1995) is key to understanding how victimhood is socially constructed through language. Headlines such as "Amber Heard Testified About a 'Pattern'

of Violence by Johnny Depp" and "Amber Heard Accused 'Belligerent' Johnny Depp of Sexual Assault" position Heard as the victim by highlighting her experiences of abuse. These linguistic choices serve to elevate Heard's narrative within the legal discourse, framing her as someone who endured ongoing harm. The use of the verbs "testified" and "accused" suggests a formal, credible recounting of events, reinforcing her role as a legitimate victim in the eyes of the public.

This framing aligns with Duanprakhon's (2012) study on youth crime in Thailand, which demonstrated how news media constructs victimhood by selectively framing certain demographics as inherently vulnerable or at risk. In Heard's case, the language choices evoke empathy and invite readers to view her through the lens of victimization, similar to how Duanprakhon found that youth in media reports were framed as products of circumstance, subject to forces beyond their control. Both cases exemplify how media headlines can subtly perpetuate stereotypes of victimhood, positioning individuals within specific narratives that resonate with broader social ideologies.

Further, Zhang (2014) highlights how headlines can perpetuate ideological narratives through selective language choices, particularly in cases involving gender. The portrayal of Heard as a vulnerable victim fits into a broader societal pattern of framing women, particularly in high-profile legal conflicts, as passive recipients of male aggression. The choice of words like "testified" and "accused" not only reflect Heard's active participation in legal proceedings but also situate her within a social narrative that aligns femininity with vulnerability. This reinforces traditional gender roles, where women are often depicted as defenseless, while men—such as Johnny Depp in these headlines—are cast in aggressive or dominant roles.

However, this construction of victimhood is not unidimensional. The complexity of Heard's portrayal in the media is underscored by headlines like "The Amber Heard Verdict Was a Travesty. Others Will Follow." and "TikTok's Amber Heard Hate Machine," which hint at skepticism regarding her victimhood. These headlines reflect a shift from positioning Heard solely as a victim to suggesting that the legal system—and, by extension, societal attitudes—may have been biased against her. The use of the word "travesty" signals a deep moral and legal injustice,

while "hate machine" evokes imagery of a concerted, almost mechanical effort to discredit her. This aligns with Fairclough's (1995) argument that discourse can simultaneously reflect and shape social realities, as these headlines invite readers to question the fairness of the legal outcome and consider how media representation and public opinion may have contributed to Heard's negative portrayal.

This duality of Heard's representation—the simultaneous positioning as a victim and a target of animosity—complicates the straightforward narrative of victimhood. It reflects broader ideological tensions in society regarding the portrayal of women in high-profile conflicts, where they may be both pitied and vilified depending on the media's framing. Such a portrayal is not just a reflection of the specific legal case but is indicative of deeper societal beliefs about gender and power. Fairclough's (1995) CDA framework explains that the media, through these complex and sometimes contradictory representations, can reinforce hierarchical power dynamics while also subtly challenging them by introducing skepticism or critique.

5.2.2 Masculinity

Masculinity emerged as a dominant social ideology in the portrayal of Johnny Depp, reflecting broader cultural ideals of men as resilient, authoritative, and assertive figures. Duanprakhon (2012) highlights how media headlines often reinforce societal norms by emphasizing traits traditionally associated with masculinity, such as power, control, and resilience. In the case of Depp, headlines such as "Johnny Depp, at Libel Trial, Denied Ever Striking 'Any Woman'" and "Johnny Depp Said Virginia Jury 'Gave Me My Life Back'" underscore his assertiveness and authority, aligning with entrenched societal expectations of men as strong, dominant individuals who are able to defend their honor and integrity. The language in these headlines constructs Depp as an active agent in the legal process, framing him not only as a man defending himself but also as a figure whose masculinity is reinforced through the act of contesting accusations and reclaiming his status.

In analyzing these headlines through Fairclough's (1995) CDA lens, it becomes evident that the portrayal of Depp aligns with hegemonic masculinity—a concept that defines the culturally idealized form of masculine behavior, which often emphasizes authority, control, and emotional restraint. The headline "Johnny Depp Denied Ever Striking 'Any Woman'" serves as a clear example of this, where the focus is on Depp's defense of his innocence through a public denial. The verb "denied" is significant as it positions Depp as an active subject, one who asserts control over the narrative by directly addressing the accusations. This reinforces the ideology that men, particularly those in positions of power, are expected to be in control of their situations, especially when their honor is questioned.

Similarly, the headline "Johnny Depp Said Virginia Jury 'Gave Me My Life Back'" further supports this construction of masculinity by presenting Depp as a figure who has triumphed over adversity. The phrase "gave me my life back" suggests a narrative of restoration and victory, where Depp's sense of self—closely tied to his masculine identity—was under threat but ultimately reaffirmed through legal vindication. This portrayal is consistent with Zhang (2014) and Ulum's (2015) findings, which demonstrate how language in headlines often reflects and reinforces power dynamics, particularly in relation to gender. By emphasizing Depp's resilience and his ability to overcome adversity, these headlines perpetuate the masculine ideal of endurance and control, qualities that are highly valued in patriarchal societies.

Moreover, the media's framing of Depp as a resilient figure whose legal victories symbolize personal triumph fits within the broader social narrative of masculinity tied to public validation and success. Harper et al. (2023) and Sganga (2024) specifically explore how gendered language in media portrayals influences public opinion, noting that Depp was often depicted as a powerful figure whose legal battles could inspire or embolden others. This language functions to construct Depp as a model of masculine perseverance, suggesting that his ability to navigate the legal system and emerge victorious is emblematic of broader societal ideals about what it means to be a successful man. In this sense, Depp's portrayal is not only personal but also representative of

a wider cultural ideal that links masculinity with strength, control, and success in the face of conflict.

Through this discursive framing, Depp is positioned as embodying the traits of traditional masculinity, particularly in the context of legal disputes and public challenges. Fairclough (1995) notes that discourse both reflects and shapes social realities, and in this case, the language used to describe Depp reinforces a societal ideology that ties masculinity to dominance and resilience. The emphasis on Depp's ability to reclaim his status through legal victory, as seen in the phrase "gave me my life back," further perpetuates the idea that masculinity is intertwined with personal agency and the capacity to overcome challenges, particularly those that threaten a man's honor or reputation.

Additionally, the portrayal of Depp as a figure who fights back against allegations fits into the broader societal expectation that men must assert themselves in the face of adversity. This aligns with Connell's (2005) theory of hegemonic masculinity, which emphasizes how men are socially expected to exhibit traits such as toughness, self-reliance, and control over their own narratives. Depp's portrayal in the media as a resilient and assertive figure reinforces these ideals, suggesting that his ability to navigate and ultimately succeed in the legal system is a testament to his masculinity.

However, it is also important to recognize that this portrayal of Depp as embodying traditional masculinity may obscure the complexities of his public image. While headlines emphasize his strength and resilience, they may simultaneously downplay the vulnerabilities and nuances of his situation. This selective representation of masculinity aligns with Zhang's (2014) findings that media headlines often simplify complex gender dynamics to fit within culturally accepted narratives, thereby reinforcing existing societal norms rather than challenging them.

In conclusion, the portrayal of Johnny Depp in the headlines analyzed in this study reveals a deep entrenchment of traditional masculine ideals in media discourse. By emphasizing his resilience, control, and eventual legal victory, the headlines not only construct Depp as a powerful

figure but also perpetuate broader societal ideologies that link masculinity with strength, dominance, and endurance. These representations reflect and reinforce existing power dynamics, as demonstrated in the work of Fairclough (1995) and Zhang (2014), showing how language choices in media can subtly shape public perception. Ultimately, the discursive strategies employed in these headlines underscore the role of media in both reflecting and perpetuating hegemonic masculinity, contributing to the ongoing cultural idealization of men as resilient and powerful figures in times of conflict.

5.2.3 Femininity

The ideology of femininity is deeply embedded in the portrayal of Amber Heard, as seen in the media coverage of the Depp-Heard case. The representation of Heard aligns with historical and cultural stereotypes of women as emotional, vulnerable, and often less credible, perpetuating gendered norms that have long shaped public perceptions of women, particularly in legal disputes. Headlines such as "Amber Heard Testified About a 'Pattern' of Violence by Johnny Depp" and "Amber Heard Described Impact of Online Attacks: 'I'm a Human Being'" emphasize Heard's emotional experiences, positioning her as a figure of vulnerability and emotional distress. This portrayal is consistent with Duanprakhon's (2012) research, which shows how media coverage often associates women with emotionality, reinforcing the stereotype that women are driven more by feelings than by logic or credibility.

From the perspective of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), Chen (2018) highlights how the structure of headlines often places women in reactive roles, portraying them as subjects who respond to external pressures rather than as agents who actively shape their own narratives. In the Depp-Heard case, the focus on Heard's emotional responses—her testimony about violence and her description of the emotional toll of online attacks—reinforces the stereotype of women as passive and emotionally fragile. The verbs "testified" and "described" reflect a reactive stance, where Heard is positioned as responding to the actions of others, particularly Depp, rather than as an assertive figure in control of her situation. This linguistic framing mirrors Chen's (2018)

findings, which suggest that media outlets frequently emphasize women's emotionality in ways that diminish their agency and credibility, further aligning with gendered expectations of femininity.

This emotional framing is not just a product of the individual case but reflects broader societal ideologies that link femininity with vulnerability and fragility. Zhang (2014) argues that media language often reinforces these stereotypes, perpetuating traditional gender roles that depict women as emotionally weaker than men. In this case, Heard's emotional portrayal serves as a discursive strategy to align her with these preconceived notions of femininity, where women are seen as the emotional subjects of public and legal scrutiny, often at the expense of their credibility.

Moreover, headlines such as "Why We Love to Watch a Woman Brought Low" and "Amber Heard and the Death of #MeToo" introduce a different but complementary dimension to the ideology of femininity. These headlines shift the focus from Heard's personal struggles to the broader societal enjoyment of watching powerful women fall, a theme that resonates with Harper et al. (2023) and Sganga (2024). Both scholars argue that the media often revels in the downfall of women, reflecting a cultural fascination with their perceived vulnerability or failure. The phrase "brought low" specifically evokes imagery of humiliation and defeat, emphasizing the public spectacle of Heard's emotional struggles and aligning with a societal narrative that sees women's vulnerability as entertainment.

In these headlines, femininity is constructed not only as emotional but also as inherently vulnerable to public judgment and degradation. This narrative fits within the patriarchal frameworks identified by Fairclough (1995), where power dynamics between genders are maintained through language that reinforces women's lower social standing. Sganga (2024) particularly focuses on how public discourses around women in high-profile conflicts, such as Heard, often highlight their emotional breakdowns or public struggles as key aspects of their identity, which in turn diminishes their credibility and reinforces patriarchal hierarchies that equate femininity with weakness.

Furthermore, the headline "Amber Heard and the Death of #MeToo" connects Heard's personal narrative to the broader cultural movement of #MeToo, suggesting that her emotional struggles and the public backlash against her symbolize a failure of the movement itself. This connection between femininity and the perceived failure of a feminist movement reveals a deeper societal discomfort with women who step out of traditional gender roles to accuse powerful men. Harper et al. (2023) argue that such media portrayals often cast doubt on the credibility of women who challenge patriarchal systems, implying that their emotional responses undermine the legitimacy of their claims. In this case, Heard is framed not just as an emotional and vulnerable woman but as a symbol of the fragility of female-led movements like #MeToo, further perpetuating the stereotype that women are unreliable or deceitful when it comes to matters of gendered violence.

Overall, the media's linguistic strategies in portraying Amber Heard reinforce traditional gender ideologies that align femininity with emotional weakness, vulnerability, and a lack of credibility. Fairclough's (1995) CDA framework reveals that these narratives are not merely reflections of individual cases but are deeply embedded in the wider societal norms that govern how women are perceived in public and legal disputes. The focus on Heard's emotional struggles and public vulnerability serves to reinforce patriarchal power structures, positioning women as passive, reactive subjects whose credibility is always in question.

In conclusion, the media's portrayal of femininity in the Depp-Heard case serves to perpetuate broader societal ideologies that link women with emotional fragility and vulnerability. Through the use of language that emphasizes Heard's emotional struggles and public humiliation, the headlines construct a narrative that reinforces traditional gender roles and questions women's credibility in legal disputes. This analysis, grounded in Fairclough's (1995) CDA and supported by Duanprakhon (2012), Zhang (2014), Chen (2018), and Harper et al. (2023), demonstrates how the media plays a crucial role in shaping and perpetuating these societal ideologies through strategic linguistic choices, ultimately influencing public perception of gender roles and power dynamics.

5.2.4 Hierarchy

The theme of hierarchy plays a central role in the discursive strategies used by the media to position Johnny Depp and Amber Heard within specific power relations. The coverage of the case reflects a broader societal tendency to grant more authority and credibility to men, particularly in high-profile legal disputes, while questioning or marginalizing women's voices. This power imbalance is evident in the headlines, where Depp is consistently portrayed as a figure of resilience, control, and authority, while Heard is frequently depicted as reactive and less credible. This hierarchical dynamic mirrors and reinforces the traditional gender structures embedded in patriarchal societies.

Duanprakhon (2012) and Hassan (2018) highlight how headlines can construct and reinforce social hierarchies by granting or withholding authority from particular individuals. In the Depp-Heard case, this is clearly observed in the disparity between how Depp and Heard are represented in the media. Headlines like "Johnny Depp's Win in Court Could Embolden Others, Lawyers Said" and "The Depp Conundrum: Who Should Keep Tabs on the Money?" depict Depp as a powerful, authoritative figure who has not only regained control of his narrative but is also positioned as an example for others. The phrase "embolden others" suggests that Depp's victory is not just personal but symbolic, elevating him within the societal hierarchy and implying that his legal win has broader implications for others in similar positions. This aligns with Zhang's (2014) findings on how language in media headlines often amplifies the power of male figures by depicting them as role models or figures of influence.

In contrast, Amber Heard is consistently portrayed lower within the social hierarchy, her actions framed as defensive, uncertain, or even desperate. Headlines such as "Amber Heard Sought New Defamation Trial After Losing to Johnny Depp" and "Amber Heard Said She Decided to 'Settle' Johnny Depp Defamation Case" place Heard in a reactive position, emphasizing her loss and her subsequent efforts to regain control. The verbs "sought" and "settled" suggest a lack of agency, framing Heard as someone who is acting out of necessity rather than power. Chen's (2018)

application of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) provides insight into this dynamic, showing how the language used in headlines can position individuals in passive or reactive roles, thereby diminishing their perceived authority. In this case, Heard's portrayal as someone who "settled" the case implies that she had little choice, reinforcing her lower status in the media-constructed hierarchy.

The disparity in the portrayal of Depp and Heard reflects a broader societal structure where men are typically granted more authority and credibility in public and legal arenas. Hassan (2018) emphasizes that media coverage often mirrors societal hierarchies by positioning men as dominant and authoritative, while women's voices are frequently marginalized or questioned. This dynamic is evident in the way the headlines construct Depp as a resilient figure who triumphs over adversity, while Heard is portrayed as someone whose claims and actions are consistently subject to doubt and scrutiny. The headline "Amber Heard Sought New Defamation Trial After Losing to Johnny Depp" places the focus on her loss and subsequent reaction, subtly reinforcing the idea that her position within the hierarchy is contingent on Depp's actions and decisions.

This hierarchical portrayal not only mirrors societal power structures but also serves to reinforce them. Fairclough's (1995) CDA framework reveals how language both reflects and perpetuates existing power relations. In this case, the media's emphasis on Depp's authority and Heard's lack of agency mirrors the traditional gender hierarchy, where men are seen as dominant and women are positioned as secondary or reactive. Zhang (2014) and Ulum (2015) further support this analysis, showing how language in headlines often reflects and reinforces societal power dynamics, with men portrayed as proactive and influential, while women are depicted as lacking control or credibility.

The emphasis on hierarchy is also evident in the portrayal of Depp's legal victory. The headline "Johnny Depp's Win in Court Could Embolden Others, Lawyers Said" suggests that Depp's success is not only a personal achievement but also a triumph within the larger social structure. The idea that his win could "embolden others" positions Depp as a figure of influence,

someone whose actions have broader social and legal implications. This framing elevates Depp within the societal hierarchy, positioning him as a powerful figure whose actions have the potential to shape the behavior of others.

In contrast, headlines about Heard emphasize her struggle and loss, further entrenching her lower position in the hierarchy. The headline "Amber Heard Sought New Defamation Trial After Losing to Johnny Depp" focuses on her reaction to defeat, positioning her as someone who is trying to regain control after a significant loss. This portrayal reinforces the idea that Heard is not in a position of power but is instead reacting to the actions of someone more dominant—Depp. Ulum (2015) notes that such portrayals in media headlines often reflect broader societal norms that position men as authoritative figures and women as secondary or reactive, further entrenching traditional power dynamics.

The media's portrayal of the Depp-Heard legal dispute reveals the deep-seated hierarchical structures that exist within societal ideologies. By positioning Johnny Depp as a figure of resilience, authority, and influence, while portraying Amber Heard as reactive and less credible, the headlines reflect and reinforce the traditional gender hierarchy. Fairclough's (1995) CDA framework shows how these portrayals are not neutral but are deeply embedded in societal norms and power structures. The consistent depiction of Depp as proactive and authoritative, contrasted with Heard's reactive and uncertain portrayal, mirrors the broader patriarchal system in which men are granted more credibility and control, while women's voices are marginalized or questioned.

Drawing on the work of Duanprakhon (2012), Hassan (2018), Zhang (2014), and Ulum (2015), this analysis demonstrates how language in headlines serves to construct and maintain hierarchical power dynamics, influencing public perception and reinforcing societal ideologies. The hierarchical portrayal of Depp and Heard not only influenced the public's understanding of the case but also perpetuated broader societal ideologies that link masculinity with dominance and femininity with subordination. Through these linguistic strategies, the media plays a critical role in

shaping and sustaining the hierarchical power structures that define gender relations in both the public and private spheres.

5.2.5 Patriarchy

Among the ideologies revealed through the analysis, patriarchy stands as the overarching framework underpinning all other social constructs discussed, deeply embedding traditional gender roles into the media narratives of the Depp-Heard case. Patriarchy, as a system of male dominance, operates through a series of discursive strategies that privilege men's voices, actions, and authority while marginalizing or undermining women's credibility. The headlines examined in this study reflect this patriarchal structure by consistently positioning Johnny Depp as the rational, authoritative figure and Amber Heard as emotionally vulnerable or manipulative. This dichotomy is crucial to understanding how media language reinforces societal norms about gender and power.

Duanprakhon (2012) and Zhang (2014) explore how patriarchal norms are sustained through language, with men frequently depicted as protectors or figures of strength, while women are often portrayed as emotionally fragile or untrustworthy. In the Depp-Heard case, this pattern is clearly evident. Headlines such as "Johnny Depp, at Libel Trial, Denied Ever Striking 'Any Woman'" and "Johnny Depp Said Virginia Jury 'Gave Me My Life Back'" reinforce Depp's role as an authoritative and rational male figure, consistent with societal expectations of masculinity under patriarchy. The verb "denied" in these headlines presents Depp as an active agent who asserts control over his narrative, effectively restoring his honor and authority. Furthermore, the phrase "gave me my life back" positions Depp not only as a victim of false accusations but also as someone who has regained his rightful place within the social hierarchy. This framing is reflective of Ulum's (2015) assertion that language in media headlines often supports patriarchal ideologies by upholding the credibility and authority of men, particularly in legal and public disputes.

Conversely, headlines concerning Amber Heard tend to emphasize her emotional vulnerability, positioning her within a subordinate role that aligns with patriarchal gender norms. For example, headlines such as "Amber Heard Described Impact of Online Attacks: 'I'm a Human

Being'" and "TikTok's Amber Heard Hate Machine" depict Heard as the subject of intense public scrutiny and emotional distress. This portrayal mirrors Zhang's (2014) findings, which suggest that women are often depicted as reactive and emotionally driven in media narratives, thus reinforcing their perceived fragility and lack of agency. In these headlines, Heard's emotional appeal to being "a human being" highlights her vulnerability, while the reference to the "hate machine" emphasizes her victimization by societal forces. However, by focusing predominantly on her emotional state, these headlines downplay her agency and shift the discourse away from the substance of her claims, thus aligning with the broader patriarchal ideology that questions women's credibility, particularly when they challenge male authority.

The gendered dichotomy between Depp and Heard is emblematic of Harper et al.'s (2023) and Sganga's (2024) findings, which demonstrate that media narratives often uphold patriarchal values by depicting men as dominant and women as subordinate. In the Depp-Heard case, the media's linguistic strategies consistently reinforce these gender hierarchies. Depp's portrayal as a figure of resilience and control is contrasted with Heard's portrayal as emotionally fragile and potentially deceitful. This framing perpetuates patriarchal structures by maintaining traditional gender roles: men are granted authority and rationality, while women's voices are marginalized and their intentions questioned.

The patriarchal underpinnings of these media portrayals also manifest in the hierarchical structures embedded within the headlines. Depp is consistently placed higher in the social hierarchy, with his statements and actions granted greater credibility and public validation. The headline "Johnny Depp's Win in Court Could Embolden Others, Lawyers Said" illustrates this dynamic. By suggesting that Depp's legal victory has broader implications for others, the headline positions him as a figure of influence whose actions extend beyond his personal dispute, reinforcing his elevated status in the social hierarchy. This language not only reflects Depp's position within the patriarchal structure but also perpetuates the idea that men's victories in legal battles are more consequential and culturally significant than those of women. This dynamic aligns with Ulum's

(2015) exploration of how media language reinforces traditional gender hierarchies, with men's actions portrayed as having a greater impact on societal structures.

In contrast, Heard is consistently portrayed lower in the hierarchy, with her actions framed as reactive and her credibility subjected to doubt. Headlines like "Amber Heard Sought New Defamation Trial After Losing to Johnny Depp" and "Amber Heard Said She Decided to 'Settle' Johnny Depp Defamation Case" reinforce her subordinate position. The use of verbs like "sought" and "settled" suggests a lack of agency, framing Heard as someone reacting to circumstances beyond her control rather than actively shaping the narrative. This portrayal reflects broader patriarchal norms that position women as passive, reactive figures whose actions are driven by necessity rather than choice. Fairclough's (1995) CDA framework reveals that these linguistic strategies not only reflect but actively perpetuate patriarchal ideologies by consistently positioning men in roles of authority and women in roles of subordination.

In summary, the media's portrayal of Johnny Depp and Amber Heard in the context of their legal dispute reveals deep-seated patriarchal ideologies that shape societal perceptions of gender and power. Through the strategic use of language, the headlines consistently position Depp as a figure of authority, resilience, and influence, reinforcing traditional masculine ideals and elevating his status within the social hierarchy. In contrast, Heard is depicted as emotionally vulnerable, reactive, and less credible, reflecting and perpetuating the patriarchal norm that marginalizes women's voices in public and legal disputes.

The critical examination of these headlines, grounded in Fairclough's (1995) CDA framework and supported by the findings of Duanprakhon (2012), Zhang (2014), Ulum (2015), Harper et al. (2023), and Sganga (2024), demonstrates how media language not only reflects but also sustains patriarchal power structures. By reinforcing traditional gender roles and maintaining hierarchical dynamics, the media plays a crucial role in shaping public perceptions of gender and power, particularly in high-profile legal conflicts. This analysis underscores the importance of

critically engaging with media language to challenge the underlying biases that perpetuate patriarchal ideologies and influence societal attitudes toward gender roles and authority.

5.3 Implications

This section critically discusses the implications of the research findings, particularly focusing on how the application of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) and Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) offers crucial insights into the construction and impact of news headlines. By employing these frameworks, the study reveals the ideological underpinnings of media language and exposes the discursive strategies that shape public perception. The implications extend beyond academic understanding, offering practical value for media practitioners, fostering critical media literacy, and promoting more ethical journalism practices.

5.3.1 Understanding Patterns in News Headlines

The research underscores the importance of recognizing recurring patterns and discursive strategies in news headlines, which are often used to frame stories and influence public perception. Through the lens of SFL and CDA, the systematic analysis of language revealed how headlines in the Johnny Depp versus Amber Heard legal dispute were not neutral but were loaded with ideological biases. For instance, headlines that emphasized Depp's resilience and control, juxtaposed with those that framed Heard as emotional and reactive, demonstrated how media outlets can subtly reinforce gendered power dynamics and patriarchal ideologies.

These findings have significant implications for media literacy. Understanding how language constructs meaning enables readers to become more critical consumers of news, recognizing when certain discursive strategies are being employed to shape public discourse in particular ways. This critical engagement is essential in an era where media representations can deeply influence societal narratives. For example, headlines like "Johnny Depp's Win in Court Could Embolden Others" serve to position Depp as a symbol of strength, reinforcing traditional masculine ideals, while headlines about Heard such as "Amber Heard Described Impact of Online

Attacks" frame her within the context of emotional vulnerability, thereby perpetuating gender stereotypes.

By identifying such patterns, the study promotes a deeper understanding of how media frames issues and individuals, empowering the public to question the narratives they encounter. This kind of critical awareness is crucial for fostering an informed and active citizenry that can navigate the complexities of modern media environments. Moreover, this insight highlights the need for more nuanced and balanced reporting that moves beyond reductive portrayals and stereotypes, offering a more comprehensive view of the subjects being reported on.

5.3.2 Reducing Bias through SFL and CDA

One of the key implications of this study is the potential for SFL and CDA to serve as powerful tools in reducing bias in media representations. The structured analysis provided by these frameworks allows researchers, journalists, and media analysts to deconstruct how language and discourse are used to reinforce existing power structures or perpetuate biased portrayals. This deconstruction is essential for promoting ethical journalism practices that aim to provide balanced and fair coverage.

For example, headlines in the Depp-Heard case often positioned Depp as the active, rational agent and Heard as the emotional, reactive figure. By critically analyzing these portrayals, SFL and CDA allow for the identification of framing techniques that may perpetuate patriarchal ideologies or undermine the credibility of one party, in this case, Heard. These frameworks offer a method for identifying biased language choices and power-laden discourses, which in turn can encourage journalists to reflect on their own practices and strive for greater balance in their reporting.

By providing a means to challenge the ideological biases inherent in news discourse, SFL and CDA contribute to fostering more ethical journalism. This shift is particularly important in high-stakes legal disputes or public conflicts, where the media plays a significant role in shaping public opinion. Encouraging media outlets to critically assess their language choices could lead to

more nuanced and less polarized representations, ultimately enhancing public trust in journalism. Moreover, as Harper et al. (2023) and Sganga (2024) suggest, such balanced reporting can mitigate the reinforcement of harmful societal narratives, such as those that uphold patriarchal values by positioning men as dominant and women as subordinate.

5.3.3 Broader Implications for Media Literacy and Ethical Journalism

The implications of this research extend beyond the realm of academic inquiry, offering practical tools for improving media literacy and promoting ethical journalism. For the general public, understanding the constructed nature of news narratives is essential for navigating the media landscape. As the study demonstrates, headlines are not objective or neutral but are strategically crafted to convey particular ideologies and reinforce societal norms. This recognition empowers readers to critically engage with the news they consume, challenging surface-level interpretations and exploring the deeper ideological forces at play.

For journalists and media practitioners, the research serves as a reminder of the powerful role language plays in shaping public discourse. Headlines, as the most visible and often most consumed aspect of news, have a profound impact on how individuals and events are understood by the public. The tendency to reinforce traditional gender roles, as seen in the portrayal of Depp and Heard, reflects the broader influence that journalistic practices have on maintaining or challenging societal power dynamics. Ethical journalism must therefore involve a critical awareness of how language can perpetuate bias or inequality and an ongoing commitment to promoting fairness and balance in media coverage.

Moreover, this research points to the need for media professionals to actively engage with frameworks like SFL and CDA to uncover unconscious biases in their reporting. By doing so, they can move toward more inclusive and responsible journalism that challenges rather than reinforces harmful societal narratives. This shift would not only benefit the subjects of media coverage but also contribute to a more equitable and informed public discourse.

In conclusion, the study's application of SFL and CDA offers critical insights into the construction of news headlines, revealing how language shapes societal ideologies, particularly in high-profile cases such as the Depp-Heard dispute. The implications of these findings are far-reaching, from enhancing media literacy among the public to promoting more balanced and ethical journalism practices. By understanding the power of language in constructing public narratives, both media consumers and producers are better equipped to engage critically with news content, challenging biases and working toward a more informed and equitable media landscape.

This research not only illuminates the ideological underpinnings of the media's portrayal of Depp and Heard but also encourages a broader reflection on the role of language in shaping societal attitudes toward gender, power, and credibility. For readers, this means becoming more discerning consumers of news. For journalists, it highlights the need for ethical reflection on how their language choices influence public perception, potentially perpetuating or challenging existing power structures. The study ultimately advocates for a media environment that is more inclusive, responsible, and aware of its profound impact on public discourse.

5.4 Limitations of the Study

This section critically examines the limitations of the current study, offering a balanced reflection on the constraints that may have influenced the research findings. While the study provided valuable insights into the use of language and the construction of social ideologies in news headlines, it also faced challenges related to its limited scope, subjectivity, potential for overinterpretation, and reliance on a singular news source. These limitations are important to acknowledge in order to contextualize the conclusions and suggest avenues for future research.

5.4.1 Limited Scope

One of the primary limitations of this study is its narrow scope. The research focused exclusively on headlines from *The New York Times* covering the period from May 2016 to December 2023. While *The New York Times* is a highly reputable source, its perspective represents

only one dimension of media coverage regarding the Johnny Depp versus Amber Heard legal dispute. This narrow focus may have constrained the diversity of the media representations analyzed, as the study did not account for variations in how other news outlets, both within the United States and internationally, may have framed the case.

The limited scope raises concerns about the generalizability of the findings. By focusing on a single news source, the study may have missed broader discursive trends or alternative ideological framings that could emerge from a more diverse media landscape. For example, tabloids or other media outlets with different editorial policies or political leanings may have employed different discursive strategies when covering the same events. Therefore, the study's findings, while insightful, may not fully represent the spectrum of media discourse surrounding the Depp-Heard case. Expanding the scope to include multiple news sources across different platforms could provide a more comprehensive view of the ideological constructions in media discourse.

5.4.2 Subjectivity in Analysis

Another limitation lies in the subjectivity inherent in the analysis of language and discourse. While Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) and Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) offer robust frameworks for examining linguistic patterns and their ideological implications, the interpretation of these patterns is inevitably influenced by the researcher's perspective. Although the study took measures to maintain objectivity, such as adhering to established analytical frameworks, the interpretation of linguistic choices—particularly when identifying underlying ideologies—remains somewhat subjective.

Different researchers might approach the same headlines with different interpretive lenses, leading to varying conclusions. For instance, the portrayal of Amber Heard's emotional appeals in headlines could be seen by one researcher as reinforcing gender stereotypes, while another might interpret it as highlighting her victimhood. This subjectivity could affect the consistency and reproducibility of the findings. However, the study attempted to mitigate these risks by grounding

interpretations in well-established theories and methodologies, yet it is important to recognize that complete objectivity in discourse analysis is difficult to achieve. Future research could benefit from triangulation—using multiple researchers or analytical frameworks—to minimize the impact of subjectivity and ensure a more nuanced and balanced interpretation.

5.4.3 Potential for Overinterpretation

A further limitation of the study is the potential for overinterpretation of linguistic patterns or discursive strategies identified in the headlines. While SFL and CDA provide powerful tools for uncovering ideological themes in media discourse, there is always a risk of attributing too much significance to certain language choices without adequately considering the broader context in which these headlines were produced.

For example, certain word choices in headlines might reflect editorial constraints, such as space limitations, rather than deliberate ideological framing. Similarly, some discursive strategies identified in the study may have been incidental rather than reflective of deeper ideological intentions. The risk of overinterpretation is especially pronounced in studies that analyze relatively small datasets, such as the headlines from a single news source over a specific period. Although the study took care to balance its interpretations with broader contextual factors, future research could strengthen this by incorporating additional methodological approaches—such as interviews with journalists or content producers—to gain deeper insights into the editorial decision-making processes behind headline construction.

5.4.4 Reliance on a Singular News Source

A significant limitation of this study is its reliance on headlines from a single news source—*The New York Times*. While *The New York Times* is respected for its journalism, its particular editorial stance and audience may have shaped the framing of the Depp-Heard case in ways that differ from other outlets. This reliance on one media source limits the study's ability to

account for diverse perspectives or alternative narratives that might have been present in other publications, such as tabloid press, conservative media, or international news outlets.

Different news sources, depending on their ideological leanings or target audiences, may frame the same events differently, employing various discursive strategies that could lead to alternative interpretations of the case. For example, more sensationalist outlets might emphasize personal drama or scandal, while conservative sources might focus on issues of legal integrity or celebrity culture. By focusing solely on *The New York Times*, the study may have overlooked these variations, thereby limiting its ability to capture the full complexity of the media landscape. Future research should address this limitation by examining a broader array of news outlets, both national and international, to provide a more holistic understanding of how the Depp-Heard legal dispute was framed across different contexts.

In conclusion, while this study offered valuable insights into the ideological underpinnings of news headlines through the application of SFL and CDA, several limitations must be acknowledged to ensure a balanced interpretation of the findings. The study's narrow scope, reliance on a single news source, inherent subjectivity in analysis, and potential for overinterpretation highlight areas where future research could expand and refine the current understanding of media discourse.

Addressing these limitations would involve broadening the scope to include more diverse news outlets, employing multiple analytical perspectives to mitigate subjectivity, and exploring the editorial decision-making processes behind headline construction to prevent overinterpretation. By doing so, future studies could offer a more comprehensive and nuanced understanding of how media representations influence public perception and reinforce societal ideologies, particularly in high-profile legal disputes like the Depp-Heard case. Ultimately, this study underscores the need for ongoing critical examination of media language to uncover the biases and power dynamics embedded in news discourse and to promote a more balanced and ethical media landscape.

5.5 Recommendations for Future Research

To build upon the findings of the current study, future research should address its limitations by expanding the scope and refining the methodologies employed. The following recommendations outline key areas for improvement in future studies, ensuring a more comprehensive and balanced analysis of media discourse.

5.5.1 Expanding the Dataset and Comparative Analysis

One of the primary recommendations is to include a broader dataset that encompasses headlines from multiple news sources across different geographical and cultural contexts. The current study focused solely on *The New York Times*, which limited the analysis to a singular editorial perspective. Future research should incorporate a variety of news outlets—ranging from mainstream to alternative media, both national and international—allowing for a comparative analysis of how different cultural, political, and social environments influence discursive practices. This broader dataset would provide valuable insights into the ways in which cultural contexts shape media representations, particularly in high-profile legal disputes.

By including a diverse range of media sources, researchers could analyze how editorial criteria and audience demographics influence the framing of events. For example, conservative-leaning versus liberal-leaning publications, or sensationalist versus broadsheet outlets, might use different discursive strategies that impact public perception. This comparative approach would also offer a more nuanced understanding of media bias and agenda-setting—how media outlets shape the public's understanding of events based on their editorial priorities and audience expectations.

5.5.2 Incorporating Mixed Methodologies

Future studies should aim to incorporate both quantitative and qualitative methodologies to offer a more balanced and objective perspective. While the current study relied heavily on qualitative analysis using Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) and Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), incorporating quantitative methods such as content analysis or corpus linguistics could provide a more data-driven approach. For instance, researchers could quantify the frequency of

specific linguistic patterns, such as verbs or adjectives used to describe individuals in legal disputes, across multiple media outlets.

Combining quantitative data with qualitative interpretations would not only strengthen the robustness of the findings but also help mitigate the inherent subjectivity associated with speech analysis. A mixed-method approach would allow for deeper insights into the correlation between language choices and ideological framing while ensuring that the conclusions are grounded in both empirical evidence and nuanced interpretations. This would make it possible to measure trends and biases more systematically, offering a comprehensive picture of how media discourse functions across different contexts.

5.5.3 Triangulating Findings with Audience Reception Studies

To prevent overinterpretation of the data, future researchers should consider triangulating their findings by incorporating audience reception studies. While the present study focused on the production of news headlines and the discursive strategies embedded within them, it did not account for how these headlines are received and interpreted by the public. Audience reception studies would offer a valuable perspective on how different demographic groups perceive and respond to media representations, adding another layer of analysis to the study of media discourse. Understanding how audiences decode headlines—whether they accept, negotiate, or resist the ideological messages embedded in them—would help researchers gauge the effectiveness of these discursive strategies in shaping public opinion. Triangulating headline analysis with audience perceptions would provide a more holistic understanding of how media representations influence societal attitudes and beliefs, particularly regarding gender, power, and credibility in high-profile cases. This approach would also offer insights into the differential impacts of media framing across various audience groups, accounting for factors such as gender, age, political affiliation, and media literacy.

5.5.4 Examining Editorial Criteria and Agenda-Setting

In addition to broadening the dataset, future research should investigate the editorial criteria and decision-making processes behind news headline construction. Understanding how and why certain events are framed in particular ways would offer insights into the agenda-setting function of media outlets—how they prioritize certain narratives, individuals, or issues over others. Interviews with journalists, editors, and media content producers could provide deeper context into the editorial constraints (e.g., space limitations, political pressures) that shape headline language.

Furthermore, by analyzing the internal criteria that guide headline writing, researchers could uncover how news organizations construct narratives that align with their broader editorial agendas. For example, examining how various outlets frame issues like gender roles, victimhood, and authority in legal conflicts could reveal important differences in how media outlets negotiate between commercial interests and ethical journalism practices. This focus on agenda-setting would allow future studies to explore not only what gets reported but also why certain stories are told in particular ways, offering a more comprehensive understanding of media power and influence.

5.5.5 Analyzing Diverse Coverage of the Same Event

Another key recommendation is to examine how different media outlets cover the same events, particularly in the context of high-profile legal disputes like the Depp-Heard case. A comparative study of media coverage from different sources would provide important insights into the subtleties of media bias and the divergent ways in which the same story can be framed. For example, one outlet might focus on legal facts and proceedings, while another might sensationalize the personal drama between the parties involved, highlighting how journalistic practices can vary significantly even when reporting on the same event.

This comparative analysis would contribute to a more detailed understanding of media framing, showing how language choices—such as the verbs, metaphors, or adjectives used—can shift the narrative focus and influence public opinion. By comparing coverage from different news outlets, researchers could uncover the discursive strategies that shape public perceptions of truth,

fairness, and justice, particularly when gender dynamics are at play. Such research would also provide insights into the role of cultural bias in shaping media narratives, revealing how societal values influence the ways in which events are interpreted and reported.

In summary, future research should aim to broaden the scope, integrate mixed methodologies, and triangulate findings to enhance the robustness and depth of media discourse analysis. By expanding the dataset to include diverse news sources, employing both quantitative and qualitative approaches, incorporating audience reception studies, and examining editorial decision-making processes, researchers can gain a more comprehensive understanding of how media representations shape public discourse. Additionally, exploring how different outlets frame the same events could offer valuable insights into the nuances of media bias and the ideological forces that guide journalistic practices. Ultimately, these recommendations will contribute to a more inclusive, balanced, and critical analysis of media discourse, advancing both academic research and ethical journalism practices.

5.6 Chapter Summary

Chapter 5 provides a deeper interpretation of the findings from Chapter 4, focusing on how the language used in headlines contributes to constructing and reinforcing social ideologies. It discusses the implications of the linguistic strategies identified, explaining how they influence perceptions of gender, power, and identity in the context of the high-profile legal battle between Depp and Heard.

The researcher explores how these linguistic elements reflect traditional gender norms, such as portraying men as authoritative and women as vulnerable, or vice versa. It is shown that the media's portrayal aligns with broader societal attitudes towards masculinity and femininity, reinforcing existing stereotypes. The use of particular verbs, nouns, and framing tactics demonstrates how the media subtly influences readers' understanding of the dispute, shaping opinions and reinforcing traditional views of gender roles.

By applying theories from SFL and CDA, Chapter 5 highlights how the media's choice of words and narrative strategies are not neutral; they are tools that can sustain or challenge power structures. The analysis reveals that the portrayal of events can influence public attitudes towards issues of gender, justice, and social dynamics. The chapter concludes by stressing the importance of being aware of the constructed nature of media narratives, as this awareness can help readers critically assess how legal and social issues are represented, thus fostering a more nuanced understanding of public discourse.
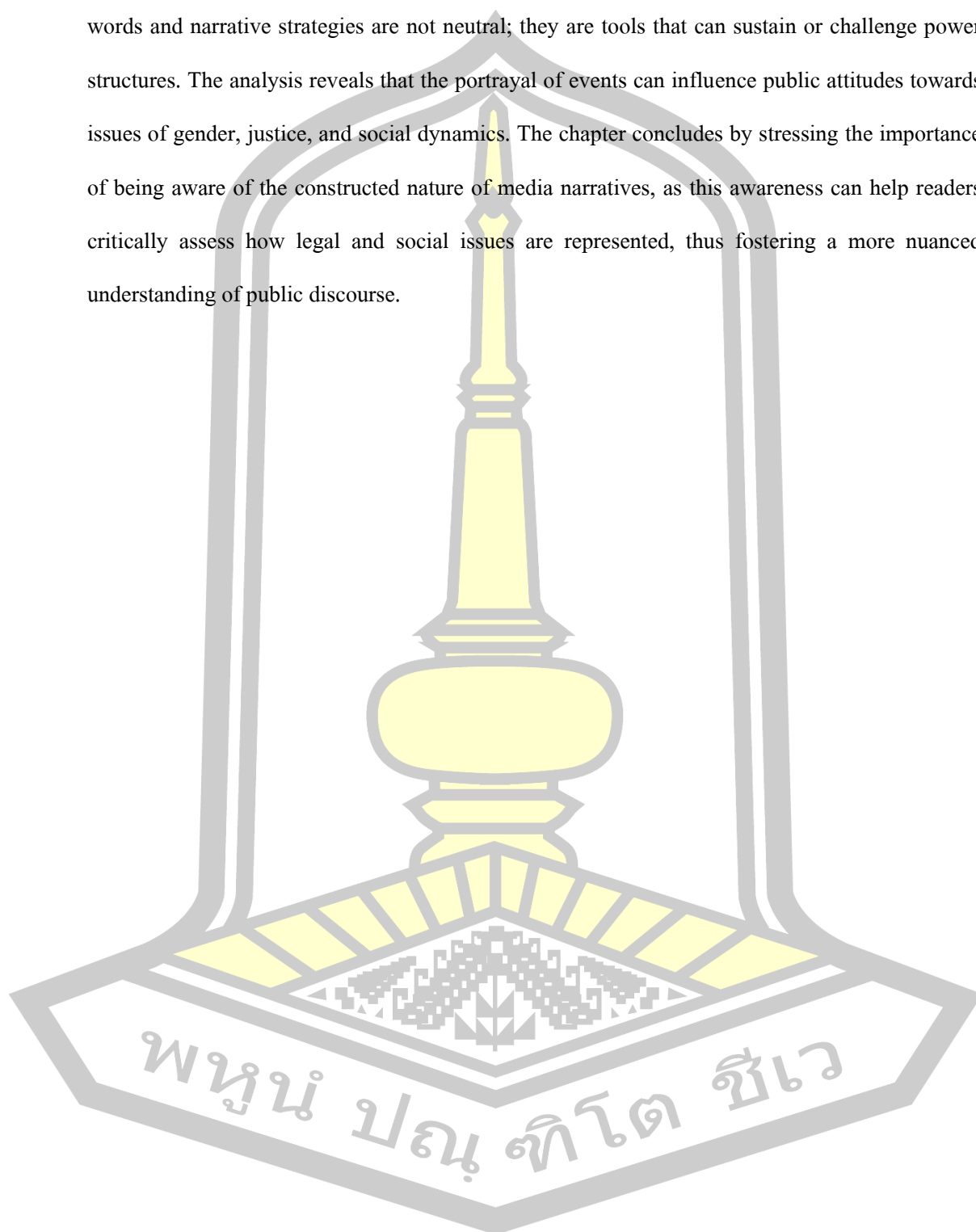
REFERENCES

Adams, R. C., Sumner, P., Vivian-Griffiths, S., Barrington, A., Williams, A., Boivin, J., Chambers, C. D., & Bott, L. (2017). How readers understand causal and correlational expressions used in news headlines. *Journal of Experimental Psychology Applied, 23*(1), 1-14.

Bangkok Posts. (2021). *Protesters clash with police in Din Daeng.* Accessed date Retrieved from https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/politics/2163199/protesters-clash-with-police-in-din-daeng

Barbaro, M., Bonja, R., Krupke, E., Harper, S., Prieto, C., Georges, M., Chow, L., Lozano, M., Powell, D., & Wood, C. (2022). *What Depp v. Heard Means for #MeToo.* Accessed date Retrieved from https://www.nytimes.com/2022/06/06/podcasts/the-daily/depp-heard-me-too.html?searchResultPosition=40

BBC NEWS. (2021). *BBC News - 5 Minutes On, 2021 - How technology has shaped the year.* Accessed date Retrieved from https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0bbpbcn

CBC news. (2019). *Earthquake in Japan causes widespread damage, several deaths.* Accessed date Retrieved from https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/1258276419602

Chaudhary, D. N. (2023). *Could the most magical time of year be so full of loneliness, anger and stress?* Accessed date Retrieved from https://edition.cnn.com/2023/12/09/health/holiday-loneliness-wellness/index.html

Chayka, D. (2022). *Revealed: Credit Suisse leak unmasks criminals, fraudsters and corrupt politicians.* Accessed date Retrieved from https://www.theguardian.com/news/2022/feb/20/credit-suisse-secrets-leak-unmasks-criminals-fraudsters-corrupt-politicians

Chen, M. Y. (2018). A systemic functional analysis of news headlines: Exploring the construction of meaning and ideology in news discourse. *Applied Linguistics, 39*(4), 577-602.

Chilton, P. (2011). Still something missing in CDA. *Discourse Studies, 13*(6), 769-781.

Christian, M., Lam, M., & Teruya, K. (2010). *Key terms in systemic functional linguistics.* NY: Bloomsbury Publishing.

Cindoglu, D., & Unal, D. (2016). Gender and sexuality in the authoritarian discursive strategies of "New Turkey". *European Journal of Women's Studies, 24*(1), 39-54.

Coffin, C., Lillis, T. M., & O'halloran, K. (2010). *Applied linguistics methods : a reader: systemic functional linguistics, critical discourse analysis and ethnography.* Milton Keynes, U.K.: Routledge.

Collins, G., & Stephens, B. (2022). *The Depp-Heard Trial Isn't Even the Weirdest Thing About America Right Now.* Accessed date Retrieved from https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/23/opinion/heard-depp-trial.html

Dahl, B. (2023). *Fairclough's three-dimensional framework for analysis of discourse.* Accessed date Retrieved from https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Faircloughs-three-dimensional-framework-for-analysis-of-discourse_fig1_256188966

Duanprakhon, P. (2012). The role of news headlines in shaping public perceptions of youth crime: A critical discourse analysis. *Journal of Language and Social Psychology, 31*(2), 161-180.

Dyer, M. (1989). *News analysis: A practical guide.* London: Routledge.

Eggins, S. (2004). *An introduction to systemic functional linguistics.* NY: Bloomsbury Publishing.

Fairclough, I., & Fairclough, N. (2013). Argument, Deliberation, Dialectic and the Nature of the Political: A CDA Perspective. *Political Studies Review, 11*(3), 336-344.

Fairclough, N. (1992). *Discourse and social change.* UK: Polity Press.

_____. (1995). *Critical Discourse Analysis: the Critical Study of Language.* London: Longman.

_____. (2003). *Analysing discourse: textual analysis for social research.* London: Routledge.

_____. (2010). *Critical Discourse Analysis : the Critical Study of Language.* London: Routledge.

_____. (2010). *Critical Discourse Analysis: The Critical Study of Language.* London: Routledge.

_____. (2013). Critical discourse analysis and critical policy studies. *Critical Policy Studie, 7*(2), 177-197.

_____. (2016). *Critical language awareness.* London: Routledge.

Fletcher, S., Joe, M. B., Hernandez, S., Toman, I., Harrison, T. G., & Ruzycki, S. M. (2021). The Gender of COVID-19 Experts in Newspaper Articles: a Descriptive Cross-Sectional Study. *Journal of General Internal Medicine, 36*(4), 1011-1016.

Giddens, A. (2017). *The constitution of society outline of the Theory of Structuration.* Cambridge: Polity Press.

Grady, C. (2022). *Johnny Depp, Amber Heard, and their $50 million defamation suit, explained.* Accessed date Retrieved from https://www.vox.com/culture/23043519/johnny-depp-amber-heard-defamation-trial-fairfax-county-domestic-abuse-violence-me-too

Halliday, M. A. K. (1994). *An introduction to functional grammar.* New York: Arnold.

Halliday, M. A. K., & Matthiessen, C. (2013). *Halliday's Introduction to Functional Grammar.* London: Routledge.

_____. (2014). *An Introduction to Functional Grammar.* London: Routledge.

Harper, E. I., Gibbons, D., & Bates, E. A. (2023). The Johnny Depp and Amber Heard Case in News Media: A Critical Discourse Analysis. *Partner Abuse, 14*(3), 291-316.

Hassan, R. (2018). Language, media, and ideology: A critical discourse analysis of news bulletins in Pakistan. *Discourse & Communication, 12*(2), 197-214.

Helmore, E., & Jacobs, B. (2015). *Donald Trump's "sexist" attack on TV debate presenter sparks outrage.* Accessed date Retrieved from https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/aug/09/megyn-kelly-donald-trump-winner-republican-debate

Howe, P. D., & Parker, A. (2012). Celebrating imperfection: sport, disability and celebrity culture. *Celebrity Studies, 3*(3), 270-282.

Jacobs, J. (2022). *Amber Heard Testifies About a "Pattern" of Violence by Johnny Depp.*

_____. (2022). *Johnny Depp, at Libel Trial, Denies Ever Striking "Any Woman.* Accessed date Retrieved from https://www.nytimes.com/2022/04/19/arts/johnny-depp-amber-heard-trial.html

Jacobs, J., & Bednar, A. (2022). *Verdict in the Johnny Depp and Amber Heard trial: Key Moments From the Johnny Depp-Amber Heard Verdict.* Accessed date Retrieved from https://www.nytimes.com/live/2022/06/01/arts/johnny-depp-amber-heard-verdict#:~:text=The%20jury%20found%20that%20Mr

Jacobs, J., & Moynihan, C. (2022). *Johnny Depp, Accused of Spousal Abuse, Says Ex-Wife Was the Aggressor.* Accessed date Retrieved from https://www.nytimes.com/2022/04/20/arts/johnny-depp-amber-heard-trial.html

Jerslev, A., & Petersen, L. N. (2018). Introduction: ageing celebrities, ageing fans, and ageing narratives in popular media culture. *Celebrity Studies, 9*(2), 157-165.

Jones, J. (2018). *Unearthing the mysteries of "Egypt" in the dunes of the California Coast.* Accessed date Retrieved from https://www.latimes.com/travel/la-tr-california-guadalupe-dunes-ten-commandments-movie-artifacts-20180726-story.html

Koussouhon, L. A., & Dossoumou, A. M. (2015). Political and Ideological Commitments: A Systemic Functional Linguistic and Critical Discourse Analysis of President Buhari's Inaugural Speech. *International Journal of Linguistics and Communication, 3*(2), 1-10.

Kress, G. (1990). Critical Discourse Analysis. *Annual Review of Applied Linguistics, 11*(84-99).

Leopold, J., & Bell, M. P. (2017). News media and the racialization of protest: an analysis of Black Lives Matter articles. *Equality, Diversity and Inclusion: An International Journal, 36*(8), 720-735.

Lihua, L. (2012). Discourse and manipulation: Stories about China in the New York Times. *Language & Communication, 32*(3), 249-256.

Lindell, S. (2022). *Is the #MeToo Movement Dying?* Accessed date Retrieved from https://www.nytimes.com/2022/06/08/opinion/depp-heard-me-too.html?searchResultPosition=9

Marie , A., Taverniers, M., & Ravelli, L. J. (2003). *Grammatical metaphor : views from systemic functional linguistics.* The Netherlands: John Benjamins Publishing Company.

Marshall, A. (2020). *Johnny Depp Loses Court Case Against Newspaper That Called Him a "Wife Beater.".* Accessed date Retrieved from https://www.nytimes.com/2020/11/02/arts/johnny-depp-libel-case.html#:~:text=LONDON%20%E2%80%94%20Johnny%20Depp%20on%20Monday

Matthiessen, C. (2012). Systemic Functional Linguistics as appliable linguistics: social accountability and critical approaches. *DELTA: Documentação de Estudos Em Lingüística Teórica E Aplicada, 28*(spe.), 435-471.

Matthiessen, C., & Halliday, M. A. K. (1989). Introduction to Functional Grammar. *Language, 65*(4), 862.

Nuttall, L. (2019). Transitivity, agency, mind style: What's the lowest common denominator? *Language and Literature: International Journal of Stylistics, 28*(2), 159-179.

NYTCO. (2018). *The New York Times Company.* Accessed date Retrieved from

> https://www.nytco.com/

Pan, Z., & Kosicki, G. (1993). Framing analysis: An approach to news discourse. *Political*

> *Communication, 10*(1), 55-75.

Ptashchenko, N. (2009). *Headline as a Persuasive Tool in Publicistic Discourse.* Germany: GRIN

> Verlag.

Quintin, M. (2023). *Lethbridge Taekwondo event raises funds for Toys for Tots campaign -*

> *Lethbridge.* Accessed date Retrieved from https://globalnews.ca/news/10159085/lethbridge-

> taekwondo-toys-for-tots-fundraiser/

Reah, D. (2002). *The language of newspapers.* London: Routledge.

Rosenblatt, K. (2022). *Johnny Depp and Amber Heard defamation trial: Summary and timeline.*

> Accessed date Retrieved from https://www.nbcnews.com/pop-culture/pop-culture-

> news/johnny-depp-amber-heard-defamation-trial-summary-timeline-rcna26136

Sample, I. (2021). *Scientists discover why the human brain is so big.* Accessed date Retrieved from

> https://www.theguardian.com/science/2021/mar/24/scientists-discover-why-the-human-

> brain-is-so-big

Saxena, S. (2006). *Headline writing.* London: Sage Publications.

Smith, K. (2006). Rhetorical figures and the translation of advertising headlines. *Language and*

> *Literature, 15*(2), 159-182.

Sutherland, S. (2023). *Look up! The Geminid meteor shower lights up the sky Wednesday night.*

> Accessed date Retrieved from https://c.newsnow.co.uk/A/1208619237?-29501:17144

Tewksbury, D., Weaver, A. J., & Maddex, B. D. (2001). Accidentally Informed: Incidental News

> Exposure on the World Wide Web. *Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly, 78*(3),

> 533-554.

The New York Times. (2023). *Terms of Service.* Accessed date Retrieved from

> https://help.nytimes.com/hc/en-us/articles/115014893428-Terms-of-service

Ulum, H. T. (2015). Ideological framing in news headlines: A critical discourse analysis of Syrian

> Civil War coverage in Turkish media. *Journal of Intercultural Communication, 20*(2), 191-

> 210.

Van Dijk, T. A. (2006). Discourse and manipulation. *Discourse & Society, 17*(3), 359-383.

Van Leeuwen, T. (2008). Discourse and Practice. *Discourse and Practice: New Tools for Critical Discourse Analysis, 39*(1).

Westbrook , T., & Dogra, G. (2023). *Tourism stumble risks perfect storm for reeling Thai markets.* Accessed date Retrieved from https://www.reuters.com/markets/asia/tourism-stumble-risks-perfect-storm-reeling-thai-markets-2023-10-04/

Wodak, R. (2011). Language, power and identity. *Language Teaching, 45*(2), 215-233.

_____. (2013). *Critical discourse analysis.* London: Sage Publications.

Wodak, R., & Meyer, M. (2001). *Methods of critical discourse analysis.* London: Sage Publications.

Zhang, L. (2014). Unveiling the hidden politics of news headlines: A critical discourse analysis of media coverage of the 2011 Syrian uprising. *Discourse & Communication, 8*(2), 157-176.
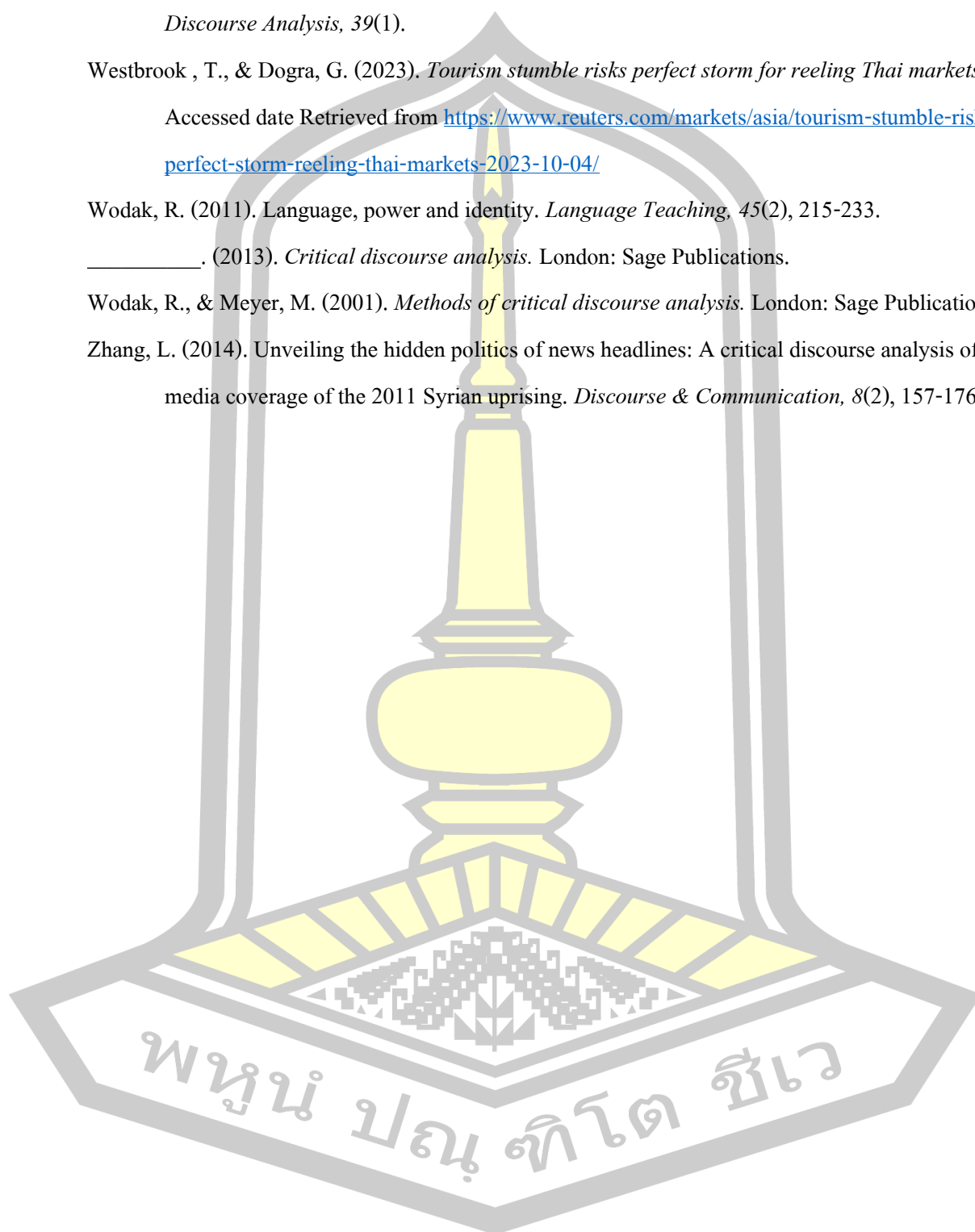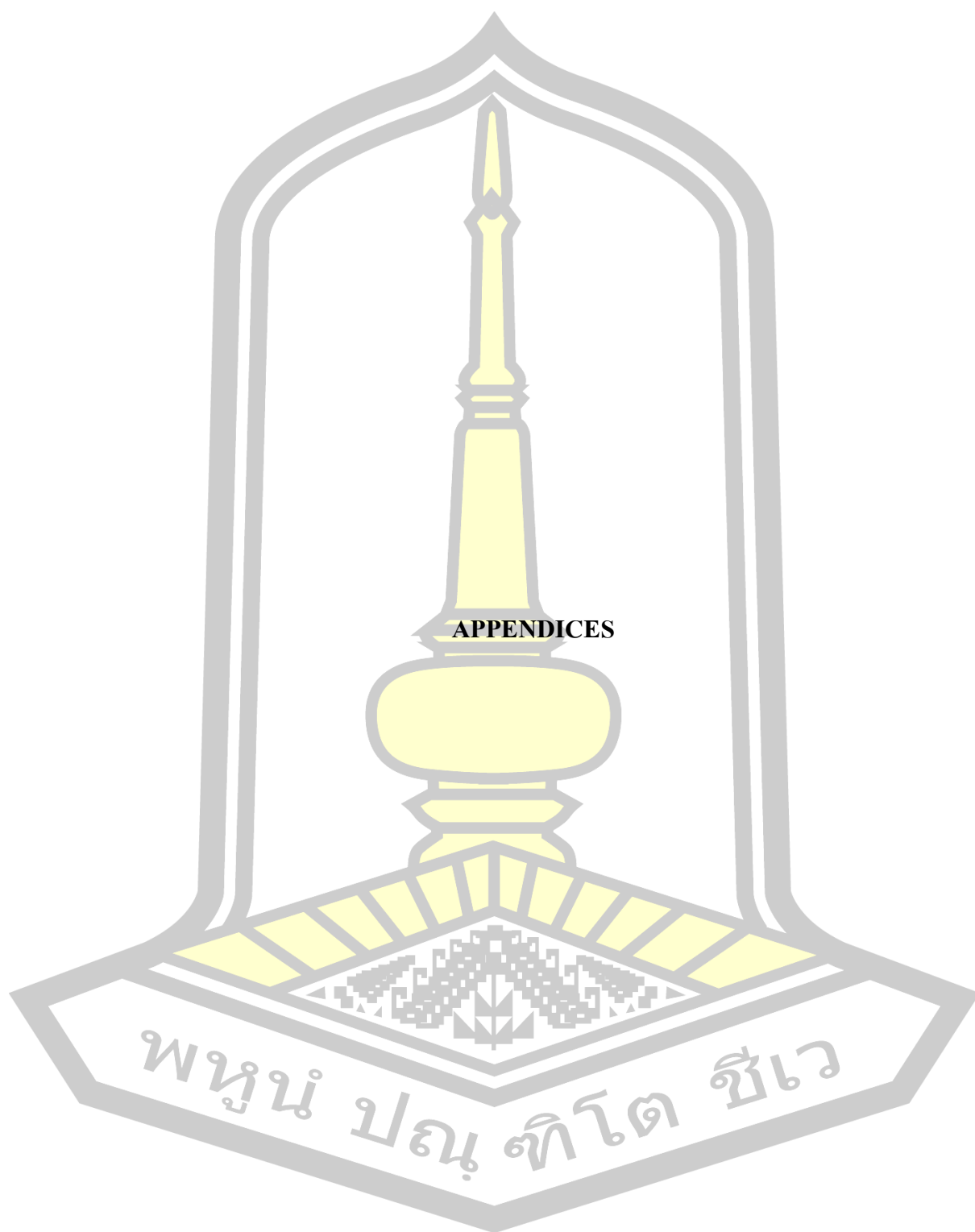
APPENDICES

Appendix A

The news headlines of Johnny Depp and Amber Heard Lawsuit from

The New York Times online platform.

1. What Depp v. Heard Means for #MeToo

2. After #MeToo Reckoning, a Fear Hollywood Is Regressing

3. Why We Love to Watch a Woman Brought Low

4. Johnny and Amber: Trouble in Paradise
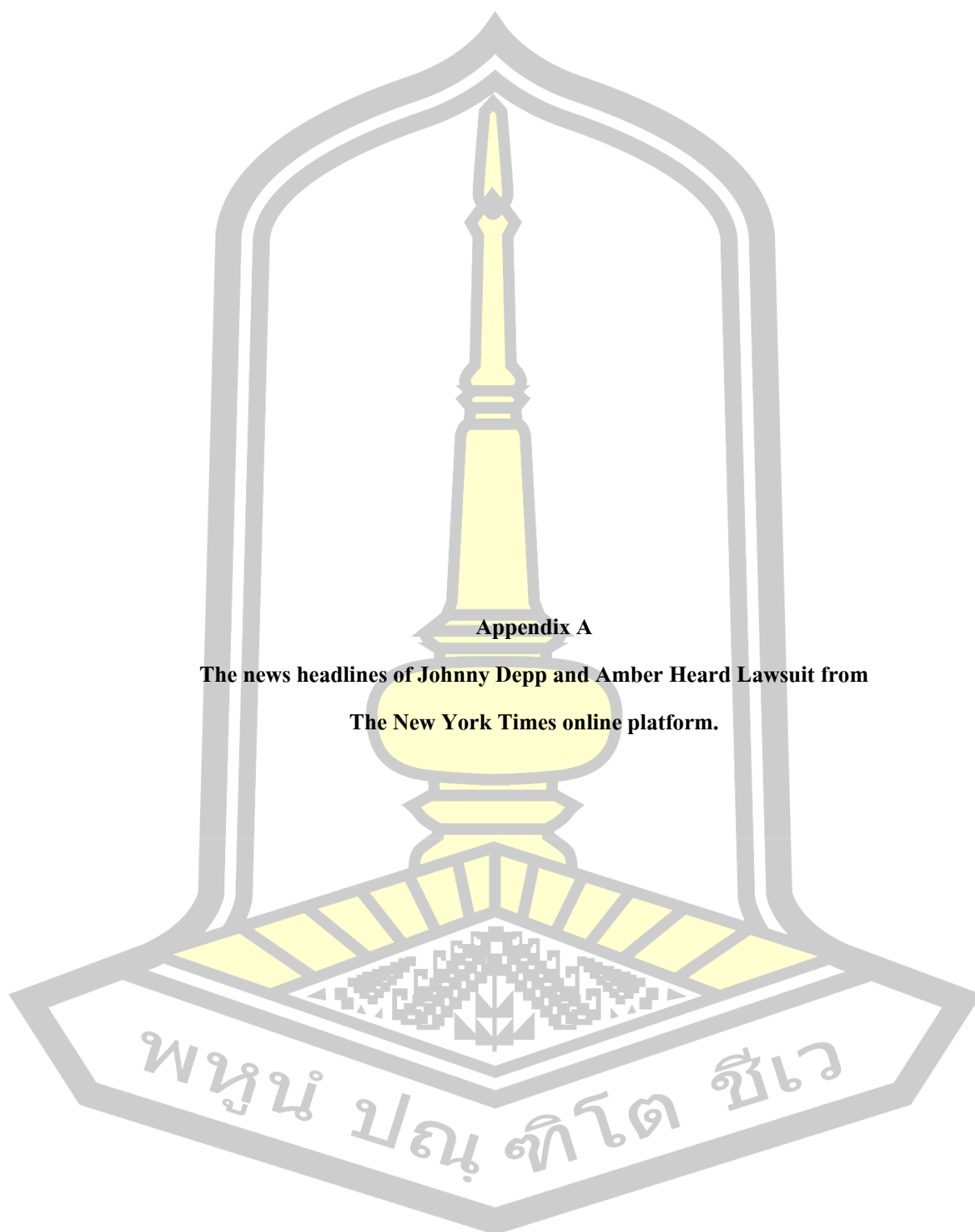
5. The Depp Conundrum: Who Should Keep Tabs on the Money?

6. In Court, Johnny Depp and Amber Heard Dress to Suggest

7. Through Weeks of Depp v. Heard, Dior Stood By

8. Amber Heard and the Death of #MeToo

9. The Amber Heard Verdict Was a Travesty. Others Will Follow.

10. TikTok's Amber Heard Hate Machine

11. 'S.N.L.' Takes on the Trial of Johnny Depp and Amber Heard

12. #MeToo Cases' New Legal Battleground: Defamation Lawsuits

13. Johnny Depp and Amber Heard to Face Off in Defamation Trial

14. Johnny Depp, at Libel Trial, Denies Ever Striking 'Any Woman'

15. Johnny Depp v. Amber Heard: What We Know

16. Jury Reaches Verdict in Johnny Depp-Amber Heard Trial: What to Know

17. Johnny Depp Lost $22.5 Million 'Pirates' Role After Op-Ed, Manager Says

18. Amber Heard Testifies About a 'Pattern' of Violence by Johnny Depp

19. Amber Heard Accuses 'Belligerent' Johnny Depp of Sexual Assault

20. Amber Heard Recounts Unraveling of Marriage to Johnny Depp

21. Amber Heard Describes Impact of Online Attacks: 'I'm a Human Being'

22. A judge in Britain found in 2020 that Mr. Depp had assaulted Ms. Heard and put her 'in fear of her life.'

23. The Johnny Depp vs. Amber Heard Libel Case Is in the Jury's Hands

24. Early drafts of the op-ed Ms. Heard was sued for were prepared by the American Civil Liberties Union.

25. The two sides clashed over what caused the damage to Mr. Depp's career.The two sides clashed over what caused the damage to Mr. Depp's career.

26. Johnny Depp's Win in Court Could Embolden Others, Lawyers Say

27. Amber Heard Seeks New Defamation Trial After Losing to Johnny Depp

28. Amber Heard Says She Has Decided to 'Settle' Johnny Depp Defamation Case

29. Here's what has happened in some other prominent #MeToo court cases.

30. The Johnny Depp vs. Amber Heard Libel Case Is in the Jury's Hands

31. Amber Heard says she is 'heartbroken' by the verdict.

32. Johnny Depp Jury Finds That Amber Heard Defamed Him in Op-Ed

33. Johnny Depp says Virginia jury 'gave me my life back.'

34. Key Moments From the Johnny Depp-Amber Heard Verdict

35. The jury found that both Johnny Depp and Amber Heard were defamed, but awarded more money to him.

36. Johnny Depp, Accused of Spousal Abuse, Says Ex-Wife Was the Aggressor

37. Johnny Depp and Amber Heard's Courtroom Face-Off: An Explainer

38. Johnny Depp Loses Court Case Against Newspaper That Called Him a 'Wife Beater'

39. The Actual Malice of the Johnny Depp Trial

40. A Wider Lens on the MeToo Backlash: Who Pays for Societal Change?
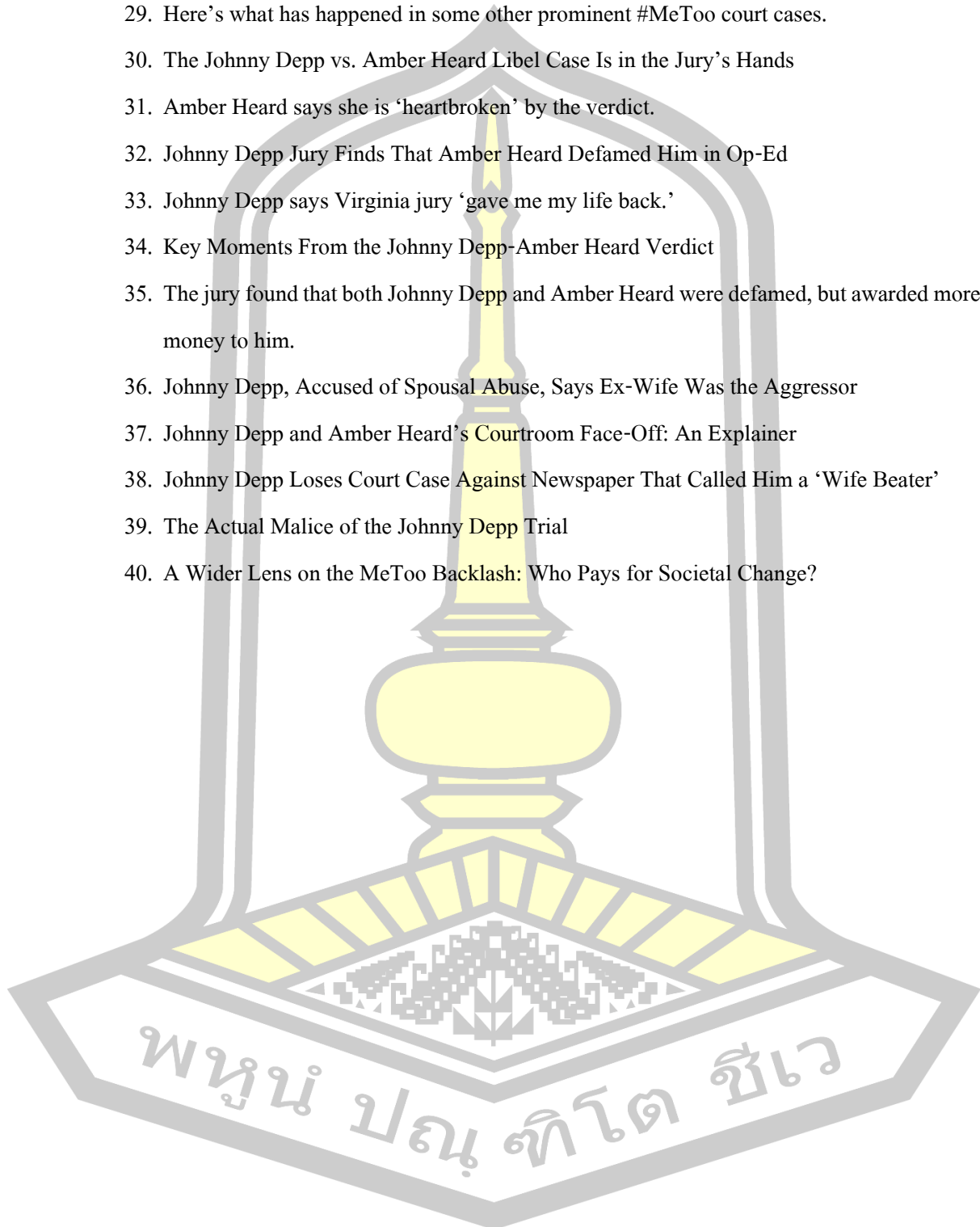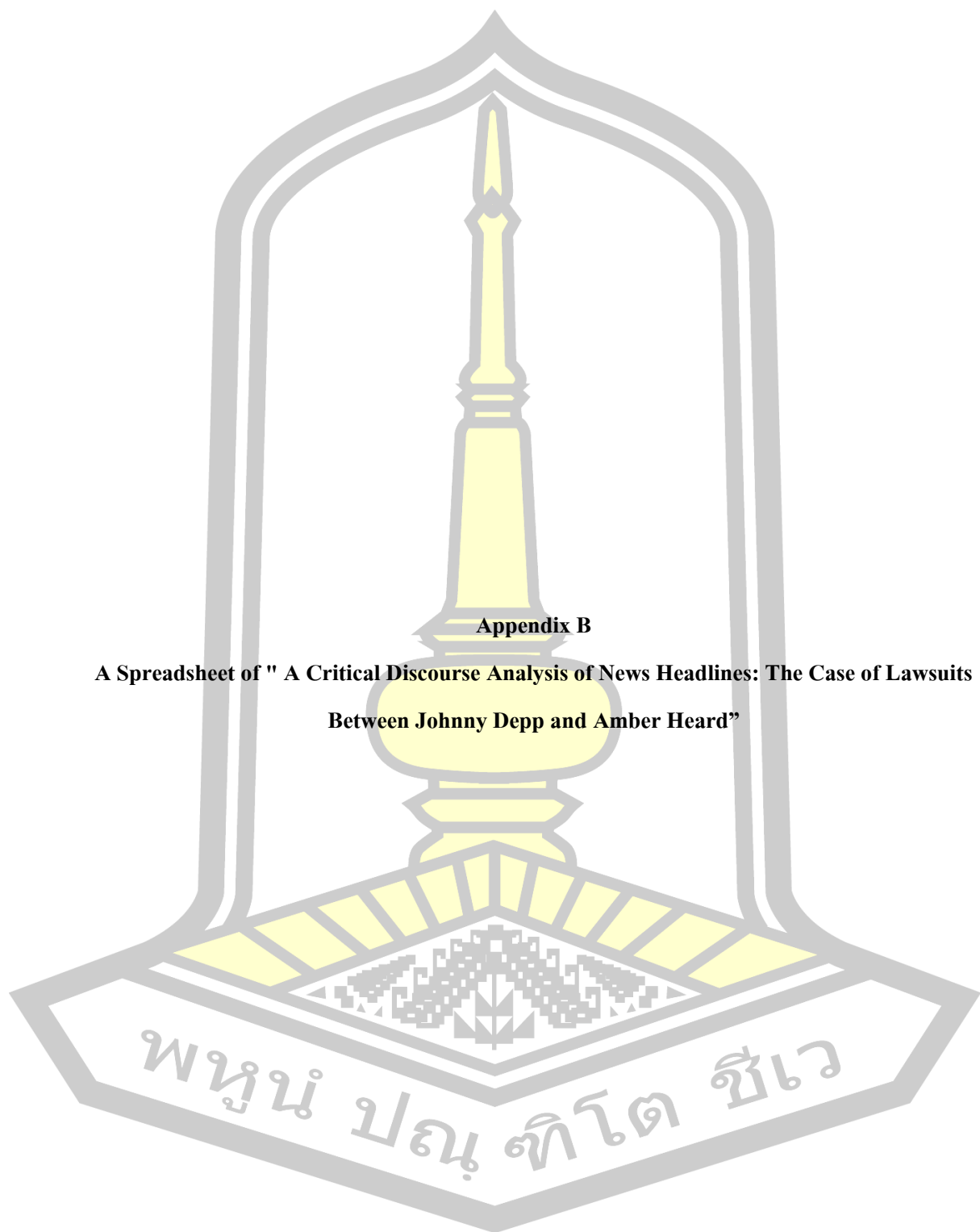
Appendix B

A Spreadsheet of " A Critical Discourse Analysis of News Headlines: The Case of Lawsuits

Between Johnny Depp and Amber Heard"

No.	News headline	Lexical Choice		Framing	Transitivity	Agency	Modality	Theme
		frequency	word					
1.	What Depp v. Heard Means for #MeToo	4	MeToo	Means		Depp v. Heard		- #MeToo Movement - Public Perception - Masculinity - Femininity
2	After #MeToo Reckoning, a Fear Hollywood Is Regressing	-331 -16	Reckoning Regressing	After #MeToo Reckoning		Hollywood		- #MeToo Movement - Public Perception - Masculinity - Femininity
3	Why We Love to Watch a Woman Brought Low	12	woman brought low	Love to Watch	watching			- Public Perception - Gender Role - Media Influence - Femininity
4	Johnny and Amber: Trouble in Paradise	1272	Paradise	Trouble		Johnny and Amber		- Public Image - Celebrity Relationships - Media Influence

No.	News headline	Lexical Choice		Framing	Transitivity	Agency	Modality	Theme
		frequency	word					
5	The Depp Conundrum: Who Should Keep Tabs on the Money?	224	Conundrum	Conun-drum Money	Keep	Depp	Should	- Financial Consequences - Legal events - Media Influence
6	In Court, Johnny Depp and Amber Heard Dress to Suggest			In Court	Dress	Johnny Depp and Amber Heard		- Gender Role - Public perception - Legal events - Media Influence
7	Through Weeks of Depp v. Heard, Dior Stood By			Dior Stood By	Stood By	Dior Depp Heard		- Celebrity endorsements
8	Amber Heard and the Death of #MeToo	5561	The Death	#MeToo		Amber Heard		- Gender Role - #MeToo Move-ment - Public Perception - Femininity

194

No.	News headline	Lexical Choice		Framing	Transitivity	Agency	Modality	Theme
		frequency	word					
9	The Amber Heard Verdict Was a Travesty. Others Will Follow.	-165 -2071	Travesty	Travesty Verdict		Amber Heard	Will	- Public Perception Legal events
10	TikTok's Amber Heard Hate Machine	2	Hate Machine	Hate		Amber Heard		- Gender Role - Cyberbullying - Public Perception - Media Influence
11	'S.N.L.' Takes on the Trial of Johnny Depp and Amber Heard				Takes on	S.N.L.		- Legal events
12	#MeToo Cases' New Legal Battleground: Defamation Lawsuits	593	Battle-ground	Defamation Lawsuits		#MeToo Cases		- Domestic Violence - Public Perception - #MeToo Movement
13	Johnny Depp and Amber Heard to Face Off in Defamation Trial	156	Face Off	Defamation Trial	Face Off	Johnny Depp Amber Heard		- Legal events

No.	News headline	Lexical Choice		Framing	Transitivity	Agency	Modality	Theme
		frequency	word					
14	Johnny Depp, at Libel Trial, Denies Ever Striking 'Any Woman'	114	Any Woman	Denies	Denies	Johnny Depp		- Gender roles - Public Image - Blaming - Legal events - Masculinity
15	Johnny Depp v. Amber Heard: What We Know			What We Know	V.	Johnny Depp Amber Heard		- Public Perception - Public Image
16	Jury Reaches Verdict in Johnny Depp-Amber Heard Trial: What to Know	2071	Verdict	Reaches Verdict	Reaches	Jury		- Public Perception - Legal events
17	Johnny Depp Lost $22.5 Million 'Pirates' Role After Op-Ed, Manager Says			Lost $22.5 Million	Lost	Johnny Depp		- Public Image - Financial Consequences - Media influence - Legal events - Masculinity

196

No.	News headline	Lexical Choice		Framing	Transitivity	Agency	Modality	Theme
		frequency	word					
18	Amber Heard Testifies About a 'Pattern' of Violence by Johnny Depp	2974	Pattern	Testifies Violence	Testifies	Amber Heard		- Blaming - Gender Role - Domestic Violence - Legal events - Femininity
19	Amber Heard Accuses 'Belligerent' Johnny Depp of Sexual Assault	-134 -561	Belligerent Accuses	Sexual Assault Accuses	Accuses	Amber Heard		- Gender Role - Domestic Violence - Legal events - Blaming - Femininity
20	Amber Heard Recounts Unraveling of Marriage to Johnny Depp	632	Recounts	Unraveling of Marriage	Recounts	Amber Heard		- Celebrity Relationships - Relationship Unraveling - Femininity

No.	News headline	Lexical Choice		Framing	Transitivity	Agency	Modality	Theme
		frequency	word					
21	Amber Heard Describes Impact of Online Attacks: 'I'm a Human Being'			Online Attacks	Describes	Amber Heard		- Cyberbullying - Media Influence - Gender Role - Public Perception - Femininity
22	The Johnny Depp vs. Amber Heard Libel Case Is in the Jury's Hands			Libel Case		Jury's		- Legal events - Blaming - Public Perception
23	A judge in Britain found in 2020 that Mr. Depp had assaulted Ms. Heard and put her 'in fear of her life.'	1045	Assaulted	Assaulted	Found	Judge		- Domestic Violence - Public Perception - Gender Role - Legal events - Masculinity - Femininity

No.	News headline	Lexical Choice		Framing	Transitivity	Agency	Modality	Theme
		frequency	word					
24	Early drafts of the op-ed Ms. Heard was sued for were prepared by the American Civil Liberties Union.			early drafts	Prepare-d	ACLU		- Legal events
25	The two sides clashed over what caused the damage to Mr. Depp's career. The two sides clashed over what caused the damage to Mr. Depp's career.	115	Clashed	Caused the damage	Clashed			- Legal events - Public Image - Public Perception
26	Johnny Depp's Win in Court Could Embolden Others, Lawyers Say	384	Embolden	Win		Johnny Depp	Could	- Public Perception - Legal events

No.	News headline	Lexical Choice		Framing	Transitivity	Agency	Modality	Theme
		frequency	word					
27	Amber Heard Seeks New Defamation Trial After Losing to Johnny Depp			Losing	Seeks	Amber Heard		- Gender Role - Legal events
28	Amber Heard Says She Has Decided to 'Settle' Johnny Depp Defamation Case	3	Sattle	Defamation Case		Amber Heard		- Legal events - Gender Role
29	Here's what has happened in some other prominent #MeToo court cases.	3985	Prominent	#MeToo court cases				- #MeToo Movement
30	Amber Heard says she is 'heartbroken' by the verdict.	195	Heartbroken	The verdict.		Amber Heard		- Gender Role - Femininity

No.	News headline	Lexical Choice		Framing	Transitivity	Agency	Modality	Theme
		frequency	word					
31	Johnny Depp Jury Finds That Amber Heard Defamed Him in Op-Ed	49	Defamed	Defamed	Finds	Johnny Depp Jury		- Legal events - Public Perception
32	Johnny Depp says Virginia jury 'gave me my life back.'			Says	Gave	Johnny Depp		- Legal events - Gender Role - Masculinity
33	Key Moments From the Johnny Depp-Amber Heard Verdict	61	Key moments	Key moments Verdict		Johnny Depp Amber Heard		- Public Perception
34	The jury found that both Johnny Depp and Amber Heard were defamed, but awarded more money to him.	49	Defamed	Defamed	Were	The jury		- Legal events - Financial Consequences - Public Perception
35	Johnny Depp, Accused of Spousal Abuse, Says Ex-Wife Was the Aggressor	621	Ex-Wife Aggressor	Spousal Abuse		Johnny Depp		- Gender Role - Domestic Violence - Masculinity

No.	News headline	Lexical Choice		Framing	Transitivity	Agency	Modality	Theme
		frequency	word					
36	Johnny Depp and Amber Heard's Courtroom Face-Off: An Explainer			Courtroom Face-Off				- Legal events - Masculinity - Femininity
37	Johnny Depp Loses Court Case Against Newspaper That Called Him a 'Wife Beater'	142	Wife Beater	Loses	Loses	Johnny Depp		- Gender Role - Domestic Violence - Legal events - Blaming - Masculinity
38	The Actual Malice of the Johnny Depp Trial	8	Actual Malice	Actual Malice				- Gender Role - Masculinity - Femininity - Public Perception - Legal events
39	A Wider Lens on the MeToo Backlash: Who Pays for Societal Change?	7	Societal Change	MeToo Backlash	Pays			- #MeToo Movement - Media Influence - Gender Role - Public Perception

BIOGRAPHY

NAME   Miss Duangkamol Sarakarn

DATE OF BIRTH   15 March 2000

PLACE OF BIRTH   Thailand

ADDRESS   17/79 Lasalle 7, Sukhumvit 105, Bangna, Bangkok 10260

EDUCATION   - 2017 Nakhon Phanom Wittayakhom School, Nakhon Phanom province

- 2022 Undergraduate: Faculty of Liberal Arts and Science (English Major) Nakhon Phanom University, Nakhon Phanom province

- 2024 Graduate: Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (English Major) Mahasarakham University, Maha sarakham province