

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter aims to introduce the background and the statement of the problem as well as the purpose of the study, significance, limitations, and organization of the study.

1.1 Background of the Problem

One of the most common accusations made toward victims of sexual harassment are that the rape happened because they were wearing minimal clothes. Sexual harassment can happen anywhere and at any time. One of the most common places where sexual harassment occurs are workplaces. Sexual harassment in workplaces occur not only between genders, but also varies between race or ethnicity (Equal Rights Advocates n.d.). The previous source also stated that actions that are classified as sexual harassment do not depend on how the attacker sees it to be, but depends on how the victim interprets it.

Komnas Perempuan (2021) stated in their annual note that there are more than 299 sexual assault and harassment cases towards women in 2020. This shows that sexual harassment in Indonesia is prevalent. Recently, many complaints from Indonesians who were victims of sexual harassment were reported to the Indonesian government. The Amnesty International Indonesia Foundation (2020) reported that the comments were directed at the lack of implementation of certain regulations made by the government that were supposed to protect victims of sexual harassment.

Sexual harassment towards the male population also exists and bring equally damaging effects. This can be seen in one of the research projects done by Indonesia Judicial Research Society (2021) that serves the information that 33% of 1,580 people that sexually harassed are male. One of many cases of sexual harassment towards men can be seen through a post by a news outlets account on Instagram called “@grassroot.id”. Grassroot.id revealed a case about a man that has been sexually harassed by one of his co-workers in *Komisi Penyiaran Indonesia* (KPI) or Indonesian Broadcasting Commission since 2012. After 9 years of sexual harassment, the victim finally spoke up through an open letter directed to Indonesian President, Joko Widodo. Ever since then, the case has become viral on social media as it attracts Indonesian netizen to like and comment on posts related to the case as a way to support the victim in his legal processes. As of October 12, 2021, the post itself has more than 465 thousand likes and thirty-three thousand comments.

Another case that caught the researcher’s attention, comes from another news outlets account on Instagram called @infia_fact. The account has recently updated its followers with news regarding a well-known Indonesian perpetrator by the initials “RS” convicted of multiple cases of sexual assault. It is believed that he was convicted of 159 sex offences in which more than 80 percent of it were rape cases towards young men from early 2015 to mid-2017. Not only sexually harassing young men, but RS also sexually assaulted more than 45 men. Since the news was posted on January 6, 2020, the post has gain more than 70 thousand likes and seven thousand comments.

1.2 Identification of the Problem

A communication theorist, Paul Watzlawick quoted “One cannot not communicate” therefore making us dependent beings (Watzlawick, Bavelas & Jackson, 1967, p.51). Research from the Counseling and Psychology department from South University said that humans need to be social in order to maintain health. Based on Interaction Design Foundation, our brains are made to evolve perform social tasks, most importantly to communicate. Communication is the first and foremost step to adaptation, which is required for humans to survive in a society that constantly evolves (Dam, 2017). Communication is especially important for us to adapt to new technology.

Based on Data Reportal (2021), as of January 2021, more than 202 million Indonesian actively uses the internet. Meanwhile, approximately 170 million Indonesians actively use social media (Kemp, 2021). This shows that more than 75% of people in Indonesia that use the Internet also actively use social media. Indonesian citizens frequently use social media such as Facebook and YouTube along with instant messaging apps like WhatsApp to connect and interact with each other.

Along with the development of technology, people can easily communicate with one another. One popular example of a communication technology that enhance humans’ communication is a social media called Instagram. Instagram is a social media application where users can share photos and videos of their choice and interact with other users. People aged 13 and over can create an account and use it. Instagram has a lot of features that make it more interesting than other social

media applications. These features include stories, likes, comments, sharing a post, reposting, replying, and other interactive features. Based on Clement, Instagram have reached one billion users in June 2018, making it one of the biggest and most popular social networking services across the world (Clement, 2020). As of 2021, Instagram users in Indonesia reaches 87.8 million users (Nurhayati-Wolff, 2021). There are many people of different age groups that use Instagram, the age group with the most users are those aged 13-24 years old.

Social media allows its users to do many things, including spreading information to many people with just one click away. People have been using social media such as Twitter and Instagram to voice their opinion in which they can share their thoughts, opinions, and perspectives. News outlets that have social media platforms also participate in the trend to share news and the latest updates of many social issues, including sexual harassment. Social media allow news outlets to raise more awareness of social issues in their societies.

For the purpose of this research, the researcher is inclined to investigate two posts on Instagram that explore the issue of sexual harassment towards men. These posts are from accounts of @grassroot.id and @infia_fact that has been discussed earlier. Grassroot's post regarding MS sexual harassment case has led to many Indonesian netizens engaging with the content with their opinions, thoughts and reactions toward the victim through the comment section. Although RS's sexual harassment cases were done many years ago, Indonesian netizen still draws attention to the news update posted by Infia by leaving comments on the post. Different from Grassroot's headline focusing on the victim, Infia's post focuses on

a case centered on the perpetrator of sexual harassment. Both cases show that netizens are invested and concerned about sexual harassment towards the male population as a social issue. Therefore, their responses will be investigated further through Grassroot.id and Infia's posts.

1.3 Statement of the Problem

Based on the background and problems explained above, the research question that researcher seeks to answer is as follow:

How do Indonesians respond to perpetrators and male victims of sexual harassment through Instagram comments?

1.4 Purpose of Study

The purpose of this research is to analyse and compare the responses of Indonesian netizens to perpetrators and male victims of sexual harassment through Instagram comments using thematic analysis.

1.5 Significance of the Study

1.5.1 Theoretical Significance

This study is expected to provide new findings related to the phenomenon of sexual harassment towards the male population. The researcher hopes that this study will inspire other researchers to research

further related to the phenomenon of people's responses to sexual harassment towards the male population. Moreover, this study can be used as a comparison for further research related to the phenomenon of sexual harassment towards the male population.

1.5.2 Practical Significance

The researcher hope that this thesis would raise awareness that sexual harassment not only can happen to female, but also to male population. Moreover, the researcher hopes this study can be a reminder that social media can be used as a tool for people that once muted, to voice up their thoughts.

1.6. Scope of Study

The scope of study includes looking into only one Instagram news outlets post, each from @grassroot.id and @infia_fact. This research only concerns sexual harassment towards man victims and Indonesian netizens' responses towards both the victim and perpetrator.

1.7. Organization of the Study

The organization of the study is divided into six parts of writing. The six parts of writing were explained below:

- CHAPTER I

This chapter explains the introduction to the study. The introduction includes the background, identification and statement of the problem, the purpose, significance, limitation, and the organization of the study.

- CHAPTER II

This chapter explains deeper about the research object. The chapter will provide more information about cases of sexual harassment towards men chosen as well as the Instagram posts which will be analysed.

- CHAPTER III

This chapter contains the literature review which will give further understanding of all related theories and previous findings to support the study.

- CHAPTER IV

This chapter will explain the research method used in this study. This includes the method, data source, technique, and reliability test of this study.

- CHAPTER V

This chapter explains the research findings and the discussion related to the study.

- CHAPTER VI

This chapter explains the conclusion of this study and suggestion for further research.