

Analysis of Verbal Sexual Harassment Cases on The Host of The Kinderflix YouTube Channel

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ABSTRACT

The increasingly widespread development of information technology, media and computers has had both positive and negative impacts. One of the negative impacts arising from its coverage is the emergence of forms of crime that are very detrimental, one of which is online disclosure against women. The crimes experienced by the YouTube host started from receiving joking comments but ended in verbal sexual understanding. The aim of this research is to reveal the sexism experienced by the Kinderflix YouTube channel hosts on social media. The research method uses a qualitative approach by analyzing the contents of the comments column on the Kinderflix YouTube account to identify patterns of verbal sexual disclosure behavior. The results of the analysis illustrate the existence of a series of comments that show verbal, assertive and unethical behavior towards the presenter. Patterns of verbal behavior that reflect sexuality in comments directed at the presenter have a negative impact with the language used. These conditions reinforce the importance of protection and more proactive action in maintaining security and comfort for event organizers and spectators. Verbal sexual harassment on digital platforms such as YouTube reinforces the importance of enforcing strict policies towards opening up the digital realm, as well as the need for awareness and collective action to create safe and inclusive online interactions for all users. Finally, there are big challenges in efforts to protect victims legally, such as a lack of legal awareness, weak existing regulations, and the unpreparedness of the victims themselves.

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INTRODUCTION

High interaction on social media often has a negative impact on its users. One of them is verbal sexual harassment as a new type of crime where social media is a new space to shine (Kurniasih, 2022). Catcalling or sexual disclosure in public spaces by using indecent words towards the victim, includes behavior such as sexual remarks, indecent comments, disturbing conversations. Catcalling is a form of sexual verbal disclosure and has a negative impact on the victim's life (Qila et al., 2021). While it doesn't leave as obvious physical evidence as a physical grasp, its impact can be just as damaging to the victim. According to data from the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Kemen-PPPA), in the period 1 January-27 September 2023 there were 19,593 cases of violence recorded throughout Indonesia. The type of violence most often experienced by victims was sexual violence, namely 8,585 cases, followed by physical violence with 6,621 cases, and psychological violence with 6,068 cases (Muhamad, 2023). Verbal sexual harassment is often taken lightly or ignored by society due to a lack of understanding of the serious psychological impact that the victim can experience. The impact on victims of verbal understanding will be severe and sexual abuse can become a mental disorder that has an impact on themselves if it is suppressed (Saputra & Gusnita, 2021).

Many individuals are not fully aware of what constitutes verbal sexual harassment and how to identify it. The forms of verbal violence received by the five trans women were bodyshaming, sexual harassment, insults and defamation (Adelia & Pratiwi, 2021). These conditions, sexual harassment on social media and violence against women are problems that need to continue to be identified and receive serious attention (Utama & Majid, 2024). Often sexual harassment occurs involving comments, advances, unwanted compliments or flirtatious comments and insults, derogatory comments, or harsh words of a sexual nature. This behavior can have serious consequences for the victim, including emotional distress, decreased productivity, and loss of self-confidence.

There are no laws and regulations that explicitly regulate catcalling. However, catcalling can be classified as a criminal act because it meets the elements, principles of criminal law and values contained in Article 218 of the Criminal Code and Article 9 in conjunction with Article 35 of Law Number 44 of 2008 concerning pornography (Puja et al., 2022). To achieve legal certainty, legal policies are needed regarding regulations specifically related to catcalling as well as social sanctions for catcalling perpetrators (Kartika & Najemi, 2020). In reality, not many women report the treatment they receive to the authorities because the legal framework regarding catcalling is still weak (Liyani & Hanum, 2020).

Often there are various views about catcalling, namely catcalling is interpreted as harassment and violence, catcalling is interpreted as harassment but not violence, and catcalling is interpreted as neither harassment nor violence. However, the impact is very diverse (Pitaloka & Putri, 2021).

This condition encourages us to know how to analyze the forms of verbal sexual harassment that influence it, its impact on individuals and society, as well as effective prevention and intervention strategies. Thus, it is hoped that this research can make a meaningful contribution to efforts to overcome verbal sexual harassment and create a safer and more respectful environment for all individuals.

THEORETICAL OVERVIEW

Catcalling is a type of harassment carried out by unknown people. The potential consequences of behaviours such as sexual objectification, and physical abuse. Catcalls occur in a limited and short time, most often only a few seconds (Eastwood, 2015). Another view calls catcalls a distorted compliment, and a dangerous reminder of women's inequality (Gennaro & Ritschel, 2019). Practices such as commenting on a woman's body in public, whistling, or unwanted sexual advances. catcalling in particular is widely present on Social Media, causing controversy (Helgert et al., 2021). Catcalling is a verbal form in the form of comments or whistles directed at a particular person to create attention but by paying special attention to certain sexual characteristics that lead to sexual harassment (Ervinda et al., 2021).

Catcalling causes psychological losses such as fear, shame, helplessness, and feelings of fear and trauma that tend to avoid people when meeting (Qila et al., 2021;Faradicha & Permanasari, 2024). The most frequently reported motivation for catcalling behaviour is to tease and express sexual interest in the target, and the most desired reaction from the recipient is friendliness. Furthermore, men who report having experienced catcalling show higher levels of hostile sexism, self-ascribed masculinity, social dominance orientation, and tolerance for sexual harassment (Walton & Pedersen, 2022). Causes of catcalling include how women dress to trigger catcalling. and patriarchal culture causes this behavior (Ramadhan & Sihaloho, 2021).

METHODOLOGY

This research uses a qualitative content analysis method which focuses on the interaction of comments on social media which discuss children's content, but the comments give rise to verbal sexual harassment behaviour, especially cases of verbal sexual harassment against Kinderflix channel hosts. This channel was chosen because it has its own interests and consistently provides content about children. This encourages curiosity to analyse the form of catcalling language. The author uses a descriptive method, which aims to explain and explain the conditions or circumstances in the use of social media and identify forms of verbal sexual harassment. The first research step is to create a recording and analysis model using qualitative content analysis methods by collecting data from

comments that are openly harassing or comments that are joking but lead to sexual harassment which can be used as samples on social media in the form of TikTok. and Instagram. Second, analyze the relevance of each content to determine the dominance of forms of harassment language. Third, conduct comment content analysis.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

Media Privacy Awareness

Harassment includes the meaning of degrading or insulting behaviour. Verbal sexual harassment can cause anger or discomfort in the victim. In general, sexual harassment refers to every form of unwanted sexual behavior, requests for sexual favor, and other verbal or physical harassment of a sexual nature (EEOC, 2023). It will cause the victim to experience trauma, depression, physical injuries, and increase sleep disturbances and the risk of hypertension (Teniwut, 2023). Social media is an online platform where users can easily participate. From another point of view, social media is explained as an online platform created by society for interaction, using web-based technology in the interaction process.

Based on analysis through social media observations of this case, comments responding to Kinderflix content show significant participation from social media users, who generally come from men. These comments tend to be joking but have a context that leads to sexual content, mainly directed at Nisa, host of the Kinderflix YouTube channel. This phenomenon can be categorized as Online-Based Sexual Crime (KSBO), which spreads through a domino pattern. In this pattern, the social media account owner, who happens to be male, responds to content with joking comments that have overtones of sexual harassment. As a result, other individuals feel compelled to join in by making similar comments without realizing that this is an inappropriate form of verbal sexual harassment.

The use of social media that is not by the norms of decency and decency by several individuals often creates deviant behavior, especially sexual harassment. This phenomenon can occur on various media platforms social media like Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, Whatsapp, Line, TikTok, and so on. Sexual harassment may appear in the form of irresponsible comments or private messages, including mentioning inappropriate details like privacy violations by disseminating personal data (photos or videos) and personal information and content without knowledge and consent (Rosyidah et al., 2022). The individual carrying out the harassment may be someone known and thought to be joking in the context of friendship. However, they often pay little attention to the impact of feelings that can be felt by the victim, considering their words or actions as a joke, but without understanding that this is

considered sexual harassment. Generally, sexual harassment consists of 10% harsh words, 10% intonations that indicate harassment, and 80% nonverbal (Choirunnisa, 2021; Nursyafia et al., 2023). Sexual harassment itself can be divided into two types, namely physical or non-verbal harassment and non-physical harassment or verbal.

Forms of sexual harassment can include a variety of actions, from inappropriate verbal expressions, sexual jokes, suggestive gazes in body parts (looking at the breast, hips, or other body parts), to physical behaviour such as poking, touching, include pinching, squeezing, tickling, cuddling, and kissing (Choirunnisa, 2021). Despite Sexual harassment often occurs and is experienced increases every year, there are no strict regulations governing this behaviour. Abuse Sexual behaviour can start from light actions such as verbal comments or sexual jokes, to non-verbal actions such as facial expressions, body movements, or other behaviour that attracts sexual attention undesirable, demeaning or insulting nature victim.

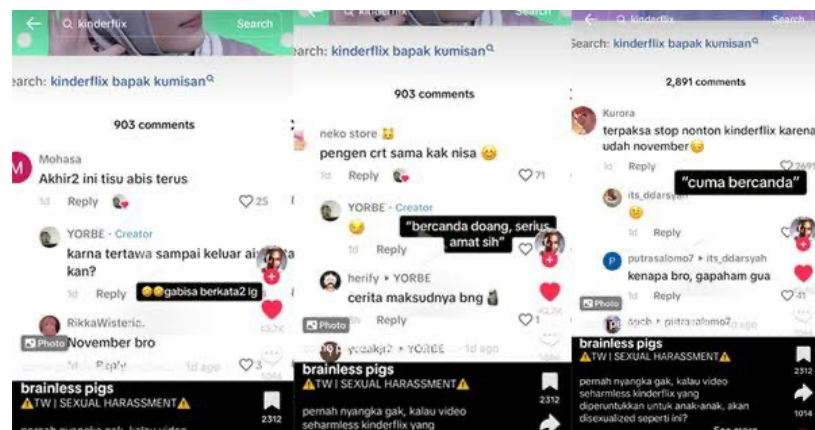


Figure 1. Screenshoot evidence from netizen comments

(Source: Popmama.com, 2023)

The consequences of immoral behaviour can be considered similar to the consequences of abusive behavior sexually. This behaviour has the potential to harm the victim both physically and mentally. In Indonesia, especially in the realm of criminal law, there are regulations governing sexually harassing behaviour via social media. This happened in response to comments that tended to lead to verbal sexual harassment on the Kinderflix YouTube account, so the comments column on the account was finally closed. Apart from that, Kinderflix also stated a statement via the official Kinderflix Instagram account: "Hi Hello KinderParents and KinderFriends, Nisa & Friends are very grateful to everyone who has always been positive and supported Nisa & Friends. We are very happy with the

enthusiasm of KinderParents who interact while watching our videos, but we are very sad about the negative comments (such as sexualization) for Nisa & Friends, while they are positive we are definitely very happy. Hopefully the KinderFlix videos will always be useful for playing and learning with KinderFriends!"

Reporting from the CNN Indonesia news portal, Nisa who is the host of the Kinderflix YouTube channel and as a victim who received verbal sexual harassment in this case, gave her response: "I'm definitely sad to feel down. "I just don't want to be stuck in sadness and I'm also thinking about why I should be sad," said Nisa (CNN Indonesia, 2023). The response given by Kinderflix and Nisa as a victim who was the object of sexuality shows how comments containing sexual harassment are disturbing and cause feelings of discomfort and safe for victims.

The rise of the phenomenon of verbal harassment via social media, which can even be normalized by some people, does not rule out the fact that this action is wrong behavior and can be prosecuted legally. In Indonesia itself, this act can be criminalized based on Article 5 of the TPKS Law concerning non-physical sexual harassment which reads:

"Everyone who commits non-physical sexual acts directed at the body, sexual desires and/or reproductive organs with the intention of degrading a person's dignity based on sexuality and/or morality, shall be punished for non-physical sexual harassment, with a maximum imprisonment of 9 (nine) month and/or a maximum fine of IDR 10,000,000.00 (ten million rupiah)." Non-physical forms of sexual acts in this case are statements, gestures or activities that are inappropriate and lead to sexuality with a purpose humiliate or embarrass.

Other regulations governing Non-physical or in this case non-verbal sexual harassment is also regulated in the criminal act of electronic-based sexual violence in article 14 paragraph (1) of the TPKS Law which states "that every person without the right:

- a. Recording and/or taking images or screenshots that are sexually charged against the will or without the consent of the person who is the object of the recording or image or screenshot;
- b. Transmitting electronic information and/or electronic documents that contain sexual content against the recipient's will, aimed at sexual desires; and/or
- c. Carrying out stalking and/or tracking using an electronic system against people who are the objects of electronic information/documents for sexual purposes, shall be punished with imprisonment for a maximum of 4 years and/or a fine of a maximum of IDR 200 million."

The implementation of the TPKE Law is a complaint offense, where actions for violations of the law can only be processed if the person who feels disadvantaged or in this case is called a victim reports it and wants to proceed through legal action, unless the victim is a minor and a person with a disability.

Based on the results of interviews with sources as social media users regarding cases of verbal sexual harassment against Kinderflix YouTube Channel Hosts, the results showed that the sources opposed this action through several opinions given as follows:

"The interviewee believes that verbal sexual harassment is an unacceptable form of violence. Verbal sexual harassment can have a negative impact on the victim, both physically and mentally. Victims can feel depressed, afraid, and even traumatized. The interviewee believes that verbal sexual harassment must stop. This can be done by increasing public awareness about the dangers of verbal sexual harassment, as well as by providing strict punishments for perpetrators of verbal sexual harassment. Another interviewee believes that victims of verbal sexual harassment must be supported. Victims need to get emotional and social support in order to recover from the trauma they have experienced."

The resource person hopes that the case of verbal sexual harassment against the Kinderflix YouTube Channel Host can be a momentum to increase public awareness about the dangers of verbal sexual harassment, as well as to encourage the government to make strict regulations to prevent and handle verbal sexual harassment.

CONCLUSIONS

Verbal sexual harassment that occurred through comments in the YouTube comments column directed at the host of the Kinderflix Channel shows sexually inappropriate language and comments conveyed to the host in the comments column. A form of harassment that occurs through user interactions on the platform. This indicates the importance of reviewing and enforcing policies regarding inappropriate behavior on social media platforms. The existence of this kind of behavior shows the need for vigilance for presenters to avoid negative responses from the audience, especially in terms of shaping the views, appearance and responsibility of Kinderflix Channel organizers in monitoring and enforcing appropriate content standards. It is important to provide preventative measures from platforms like YouTube to protect hosts and other users from verbal sexual harassment in any form in the online environment.

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