

Media Construction of Parental Authority and Teenage Autonomy: A Critical Discourse Analysis of Nikita Mirzani's Forced Pickup Controversy

Elisabeth Evelinawati¹✉, Merry Christiana²

¹English Language Studies, Universitas Sanata Dharma, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

²English Language Studies, Universitas Sanata Dharma, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

✉ email: elisabeth.evelinawati@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT

This study applies Fairclough's Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) to examine how parental authority and adolescent autonomy are represented in media coverage of Nikita Mirzani's forced pickup of her daughter Lolly. A single Batamnewsasia article was selected for its in-depth portrayal of the conflict between parental control, teenage independence, and public scrutiny of family disputes. The analysis employs both Fairclough's four-step CDA framework — identifying the social wrong, its obstacles, the sustaining social order, and possible resolutions — and his three-dimensional framework encompassing textual analysis, discursive practices, and socio-cultural practices. This approach reveals how language implicitly constructs power relations and ideologies, and how media discourse shapes public perception of the parties involved. Findings indicate that Nikita Mirzani is framed as a protective, loving parent, while Lolly is portrayed as emotionally vulnerable and lacking the capacity for independence. The incident, which became the subject of court proceedings, generated divided public reactions that reflect broader societal tensions around family authority, child protection, and adolescent rights. The media's selective reporting and framing actively shaped these reactions rather than merely reporting them. This study concludes that media discourse does not neutrally reflect social reality but actively constructs it by reinforcing particular ideological positions. The contrasting portrayals of mother and daughter illustrate how news texts navigate and reproduce contested values surrounding parental power and teenage autonomy, ultimately influencing how the public interprets family conflict within the Indonesian media landscape.

Keywords: *Fairclough; CDA; Nikita Mirzani; Lolly; Forced Pickup.*

INTRODUCTION

Social injustices often surface through media portrayals, where storylines can either support or challenge existing power structures in society. News articles as a mass communication medium have played an important role in 'framing' issues of family, authority and celebrity culture (Kourieh, 2017). In the case of Nikita Mirzani's forced pick-up of Lolly, the news was offered as a case through themes of the right to legal intervention, parental rights, and public scrutiny, and the news was not well received by many in Indonesian society and led to a debate on the issue. This case is a relevant

context to see how language in the media constructs and transmits power relations and ideologies. CDA aims to make public the hidden discourses within language that serve to hold power and continue the current state of social relations. Fairclough's framework is a rigorously tested and widely used approach for studying contemporary discourse within this larger tradition of CDA (Pešić 2022; Yayin & Yi 2023).

News media are vital to constructing social realities. Fairclough (1989) argues that news sets the agenda for listeners and provides considerable power to media. This idea is especially relevant in Indonesia, as digital media is now the main medium through which people communicate about public issues and politics. Research in Indonesia's media context shows that news coverage is not ideologically neutral. Rather, it consistently reflects the social, cultural, and political perspectives of their producing institutions (Slemon, 2025). News media reproduce power relations and ideologies, and thus can be systematically studied to uncover their ideological work through the lens of CDA.

In the Indonesian media, the intersection of celebrity culture with legal and familial issues has produced an extremely complex discursive space. Data can be examined through both Fairclough's (1995) three-level critical-discourse analysis (CDA) process: text, discourse practice, and sociocultural practice. As a result of public interest generated by these types of cases and the extensive media coverage they receive, they provide an excellent opportunity to analyze how ideology and power are produced and distributed linguistically. Editorial articles will typically use evaluative language, authority, metaphorical framing and selective representation of social actors in order to support dominant ideologies while marginalizing competing ideologies. Clausius Press To this end, CDA can be useful in assessing the ideological basis for narratives produced in news coverage of high-profile public figures.

The analysis was developed on news articles covering the events related to the news using the Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) model, specifically Fairclough's model, which provides 4 steps in analyzing: focusing on 'social irregularities' in their semiotic aspects. Second, identifying barriers to addressing the 'social disorder'. Third, considering whether the social order 'needs' the social disorder. Fourth, identify possible ways to overcome the obstacles (Fairclough, 1996; Haryatmoko, 2016).

Fairclough's Critical Discourse Analysis Model

Fairclough shows that there are 4 stages of methodology in CDA. First, focusing on 'social disorder' in its semiotic aspect. Second, identifying obstacles to addressing the 'social disorder'. Third, identifying whether the social order "requires" social disorder. Fourth, identify possible ways to overcome obstacles (Fairclough in Haryatmoko, 2016).

1. First, focusing on 'social disorder' in its semiotic aspect. This is about seeing a form and order that is detrimental and damaging to common welfare. This social disorder includes poverty, inequality, discrimination, lack of freedom or racism. There are two steps in this focus on social disorder:
 - Choosing a research topic about social disorder

- Constructing the object of research by theorizing the topic
- 2. Second, identifying obstacles to addressing 'social disorder'. This is done by analyzing how social structures hinder the resolution of such problems, by looking at the dialectical relationship between semiosis and other social elements, discourse settings and social practices, as well as selecting concrete texts and focusing on analyzing the texts and grouping them according to their purpose to form research objects.
- 3. Third, identifying whether the social order “requires” social disorder. Whether social disorder is inherent to the social order, whether it can be dealt with within the system, or can only be dealt with if it is changed. This is a way of linking the 'factual' and the 'ought': if a social order can be shown to produce great social disorder, then it becomes a reason to think about changing it.
- 4. The fourth stage is to identify possible ways to overcome obstacles. Analysis at this stage seeks to identify possibilities in existing social processes to overcome obstacles to dealing with social disorder. This involves developing research so that these obstacles are tested, challenged and rejected, through social groups, politics, or other forms of non-institutionalized everyday activity.

Fairclough's (1995) Critical Discourse Analysis operates through a three-dimensional framework that examines any communicative event at three interrelated levels: text, discourse practice, and sociocultural practice. The first dimension of this model refers to text. The analysis of text looks at language features (vocabulary, grammar, semantics, cohesion; e.g., how language is formed) in regard to written and/or spoken discourse (communication) so that language becomes a concrete object to analyse. The second dimension of the Fairclough model is discourse practice. At this level, the analysis focuses on the processes related to text when communicating (producing, disseminating and processing text). In producing text, the ideologies and ideas have been encoded by writers and then when texts are read (in terms of processing), they will be decoded based on the reader's beliefs, knowledge and experience. Therefore, texts can construct (or reconstruct) viewpoints of individuals or groups. Sociocultural practice is the third dimension of CDA and provides the sociocultural context of the communicative event. This dimension looks at how discourse functions in various parts of society and how discourse interacts with structures of power and control. Together with the two previous dimensions, these three dimensions correspond to Fairclough's (1989) three components of CDA, description (is examining formal properties of texts), interpretation (is examining how a text is related to the interaction(s) surrounding it), and explanation (is relating discourse to its broader social conditions and effects). This three-dimensional structure allows CDA to provide both micro-level linguistic analysis and macro-level social critique in one methodology; CDA is therefore a very effective method for examining the ideological aspects of discourse. This multi-layered analytical approach is what distinguishes Fairclough's model from purely linguistic analyses, as it bridges the micro-level of language with the macro-level of social structure (dah, 2024; Dahlborg et al., 2024).

METHOD

As stated in the previous section, Fairclough's Critical Discourse Analysis model is used in this study. It is believed that this model is the best fit for this research. This is done by adopting CDA's three-dimensional model and the four-stage critical explanatory framework. The three-dimensional model is used as the primary analytical framework to examine the text in news articles, the discursive practices surrounding the text, and the sociocultural practices that support the text. The four-stage critical explanatory framework serves as an analytical procedure that guides the researcher through four stages by first focusing on the social wrong in its semiotic aspects, second identifying obstacles to addressing the social wrong, third considering whether the social order sustains the social wrong, and finally identifying possible ways past the obstacles. The purpose of this integration is to analyze how media discourse constructs parental authority and teenage autonomy in relation to the controversy between Nikita Mirzani and her daughter, Lolly.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The following section contains the results of the research as well as a discussion using Fairclough's (1995) Critical Discourse Analysis. The analysis has been conducted according to Fairclough's four stages of CDA which focusing on 'social disorder' in its semiotic aspect, Second, identifying obstacles to addressing 'social disorder', Third, identifying whether the social order "requires" social disorder, The fourth stage is to identify possible ways to overcome obstacles. Building upon these four stages, the analysis is then carried out through Fairclough's (1995) three-dimensional framework - text, discursive practice, and sociocultural practice, then utilized to unravel the layers of meaning, ideology, and power contained within the text. The first-dimension deals with the features of the text itself; the second dimension is concerned with the production and consumption of the text; and the third dimension relates to the broader social and cultural context of the discourse. This analysis will reveal that language does not serve just as a method of communication; instead, through the reproduction or challenge of dominant ideologies and social structures, it plays an important role in shaping our society and culture.

A. Fairclough's Critical Discourse Analysis Model

Critical Discourse Analysis focuses on examining various social problem areas, including how language functions in those areas. CDA aims to provide researchers with theoretical frameworks and methodological approaches for examining how different discourse forms relate to social and cultural change.

1. The focus on a social wrong in its semiotic aspects

The social wrong depicted in this text is the disharmony between parents and children. From the news text, there was an underage girl who had to be forcibly picked up by her mother to go home, back to where she should be. The child lives separately

from her parents. Why did she have to be picked up by force? Normally, a child would feel comfortable when they have to meet their parents or be picked up from somewhere and go home together. However, from the headline, there are the words “forcibly picked up”, which sounds abnormal. It is also strange why the pick-up of children should be done internally in the family but instead involves outside parties, namely the police and also other people who cause private matters to become public consumption.

2. The identification of obstacles to addressing the social wrong

In this case, the obstacles that occurred in overcoming the problem came from various factors. According to our analysis, there are two main factors that influence it. The first factor is the disharmonious relationship between parents and children. In the text, it is mentioned that the conflict started when Lolly expressed her desire to live independently and Nikita as a mother did not approve of it, which is normal for parents to do because the child is still underage. The text says that *The conflict began when Lolly expressed her desire to live independently, triggering a public falling out with her mother. Known for her bold and often polarizing persona, Nikita Mirzani reportedly disapproved of Lolly's decision to move out.* The child's desire to live independently at a very young age and the mother's disapproval of this raises the suspicion that there is poor communication between mother and child so that the forced pick-up is considered a parent's attempt to control the child without considering the child's individual rights. The second obstacle is social pressure and external media exposure that makes private problems public. The media often sensationalizes personal conflicts, which can exacerbate the situation and add stress to the parties involved. The emergence of this case on social media is due to the fact that some people recorded the forced pick-up procession and created various public perceptions that even made individuals feel depressed. Negative comments and even information of unknown accuracy can make the situation worse and hinder the process of peaceful conflict resolution as the involvement of outside parties often diverts the focus and makes the situation more complex.

3. The consideration of whether the social order ‘needs’ the social wrong

The fact that there was a forced pick-up in this case shows that there was an irregularity that occurred that required coercion. In the context of coercion, there are certainly two parties forcing and being forced. The party being coerced tends not to be in favor of the coercion, but because there are certain things happening, the coercion must be carried out to bring order to the situation. In this case, we see that the parents have full authority over the child, especially since the child is still a minor. In the cultural context of society, the role of parents in controlling children is considered legitimate. This causes social irregularities to be seen as necessary to maintain social order. Although in this case, the goal of keeping the child in order was also seen as neglecting the child's individual rights. Therefore, this social order often reinforces inequalities in parent-child relationships, where children's freedom is often compromised in order to maintain parental authority.

4. The identification of possible ways past the obstacles

The problem solving done by the mother or Nikita Mirzani's side is too excessive, a family problem or personal problem should be done under the authority of the family directly (preventive and repressive) without the need for the involvement of the authorities, namely the police for repressive handling and the involvement of the reportage crew, namely journalists for direct coverage. The involvement of external parties in this family matter proves that Nikita Mirzani indirectly declares her inability to build a family, because in the end the urgency of the family is transformed into public consumption by involving news viewers to comment, devote thoughts to unnecessary things, or even become a debate among viewers. In other words, the absence of urgency in the actions of these external parties has led us to the conclusion that seeking sensation or engagement is Nikita Mirzani's main point.

The last point, the case of using a team of reporters for coverage in this family matter, has harmed the effort in point 2 which is already legal and certainly good. The involvement of the reportage team has clearly stated Nikita Mirzani's urgency related to social engagement. As we know, Nikita Mirzani is a fairly controversial Indonesian celebrity, not only once or twice Nikita Mirzani has shocked the public with her controversies, so it is also possible that Nikita Mirzani is riding this family problem for her own popularity and social circle. So, in our opinion, the resolution of this family problem is sufficient to involve the police without the need to involve the reportage team. In our opinion, with the obstacles mentioned above, a more comprehensive approach is needed to resolve this conflict by improving internal communication within the family and managing interactions with the media wisely.

B. Fairclough's Three Dimensions

Fairclough proposes a framework for analysing discourse. This framework combines three areas of analysis: the textual, the discursive practice and the sociocultural. This allows researchers to look at how language interacts with ideology and power in more detail than if they would be investigating language through the lens of only one area. For this reason, Fairclough's "three-dimensional" approach to analysis will be of particular relevance to this study; that is, researchers will find it useful to understand how discourse functions, not only as a linguistic phenomenon but also as a social practice, a way of reflecting and perpetuating wider ideological and cultural structures.

1. Text Dimension (Word Level)

At this level, the researchers analyze the language, structure, and choice of words used in the text.

a. Lexical Choices:

The lexical choice in the article constructs a certain power dynamic between Nikita Mirzani, Lolly, and the authorities. Phrases such as *forced picked up* and *authorities forcibly picked up Lolly* portray Lolly as a passive recipient of these actions, while Nikita Mirzani and the authorities are depicted as active agents or controllers of Lolly's situation, thereby highlighting the authority of the institution or parents while diminishing Lolly's

role in the story. Furthermore, the article legitimizes coercive actions through protective discourse. The use of language such as *to protect Lolly*, *concerns for her daughter's safety*, and *under undue influence* makes the intervention appear necessary and justifiable, rather than an act of oppression.

Linking parental authority to concepts of safety and protection helps to frame coercive parental authority as socially acceptable behavior. At the same time, it can be seen that Lolly is portrayed as an emotionally vulnerable figure through the use of language such as *distressed* and *highly emotional*, which creates the perception that she requires adult supervision and intervention. The title phrase sparks controversy further establishes a framework for this issue to be evaluated within the realm of public morality, encouraging readers to examine the legitimacy of parental authority and teenage autonomy in relation to Indonesia's sociocultural constructs.

b. Grammar and Modality:

The article uses modal verbs like *may*, *could*, and *reportedly*, which introduce uncertainty and distance the author from definitive claims. This suggests an attempt to avoid overt bias while still raising critical questions about the actions of the individuals involved.

c. Themes and Framing:

The themes of parental authority, teenage independence, and mental health dominate the discourse. The framing often juxtaposes Nikita Mirzani's intentions as protective with the potentially harmful effects of her actions on Lolly's autonomy and emotional well-being.

2. Discursive Practice (Text Generation and Consumption)

The article is written to appeal to a wide audience, especially people who enjoy celebrity gossip and dramatic stories. The headline is designed to catch attention and make people curious. The article includes ideas about the law (police involvement), mental health (therapy for Lolly), and family relationships. By using these ideas, the writer makes the story seem more serious and important. People might read the article differently based on their own beliefs. Some might support Nikita as a mother trying to protect her child, while others might see her actions as controlling and harmful. The article reflects these mixed reactions.

3. Social Practice (Norm Level)

The article highlights the struggle between traditional parenting (where parents have a lot of control) and modern ideas (where teenagers are given more independence). It questions whether Nikita's actions fit with today's expectations about respecting a teenager's freedom and mental health. The story shows how much power parents can have over their children and questions whether Nikita's use of authority was fair. It also mentions how the law is involved with Lolly's boyfriend, adding another layer of control and power. The media has turned this private family issue into a public drama. This not only affects how people see Nikita and Lolly but also sparks debates about parenting, independence, and mental health in society.

CONCLUSION

This paper analyzed how the media used language and shaped public opinions in the case of Nikita Mirzani's forced pickup of her daughter, Lolly, using Fairclough's Critical Discourse Analysis model. The study showed that emotional words and framing in the news created strong reactions, making people see the story in different ways. The media also turned a private family problem into a public issue, which added more pressure and made the conflict harder to solve. At a deeper level, the case highlighted the struggle between traditional parenting, where parents have more control, and modern ideas, where teenagers are given more freedom. This shows how news stories can reflect and shape society's views on important issues like family, mental health, and independence.

Additionally, this research shows the power of the media to influence how people think and feel about social issues. It also reminds us to handle private matters carefully and think critically about how stories are presented in the news. Using Fairclough's model, this analysis shows how the article doesn't just tell a story but also adds to bigger conversations about family and society. At the word level, the language is emotional and engaging. At the text creation level, it is written to stir interest and debate. At the norm level, it reflects and challenges ideas about parenting, teenage independence, and how private issues are treated in public. The article highlights how personal conflicts can spark discussions about broader societal issues.

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APPENDIX

Nikita Mirzani's Forced Pickup of Daughter Lolly Sparks Controversy

The forced pickup of Nikita Mirzani's daughter, Lolly, has sparked heated debates on parental rights, mental health, and public scrutiny in family matters. Discover the unfolding drama and its legal implications. The recent controversy surrounding Indonesian actress Nikita Mirzani and her 17-year-old daughter, Lolly (Laura Meizani Nasseru Asry), has captivated public attention, with a forced pickup drawing intense media scrutiny. This unfolding drama raises important questions about parental rights, mental health, and the consequences of handling family matters in the public eye.

The Background of the Dispute

The conflict began when Lolly expressed her desire to live independently, triggering a public falling out with her mother. Known for her bold and often polarizing persona, Nikita Mirzani reportedly disapproved of Lolly's decision to move out. This disagreement eventually escalated into a serious situation when Mirzani requested authorities to intervene, citing concerns for her daughter's safety and well-being.

The Dramatic Forced Pickup

On September 19, 2024, authorities forcibly picked up Lolly from her boyfriend's home after her mother reported her missing. Mirzani alleged that her daughter was under undue influence and that her safety was compromised. The police emphasized that the intervention was carried out to protect Lolly. Witnesses described the scene as highly emotional, with Lolly visibly distressed. In the aftermath, Lolly underwent psychological therapy to help her cope with the emotional toll of the ordeal.

Family and Public Reaction

Lolly's father criticized Nikita Mirzani's actions, stating that her decision to forcibly retrieve Lolly disregarded their daughter's feelings and autonomy. This sentiment echoes among many observers, who question whether a parent's authority should extend to such coercive measures, especially when they risk exacerbating the child's emotional trauma.

Public reactions have been divided. Some sympathize with Mirzani's intentions as a protective mother, while others see her actions as an overreach that undermines Lolly's rights. Social media has exploded with debates over parenting styles, the limits of parental control, and the delicate balance between authority and independence in teenage lives.

Potential Legal Consequences

The case may also have legal ramifications for Lolly's boyfriend, Vadel Badjideh, who now faces multiple charges related to his relationship with the minor. Authorities are investigating whether he exerted undue influence over Lolly, which could lead to serious legal consequences. This adds another layer of complexity to an already fraught situation, with potential long-term impacts on all parties involved.

The forced pickup of Lolly has illuminated the challenges of modern parenting, especially when personal conflicts become public spectacles. As Nikita Mirzani and her

daughter navigate this turbulent period, the controversy continues to raise critical questions about mental health, autonomy, and the role of family dynamics in a highly scrutinized society. How this saga unfolds may have lasting implications for their relationship and broader conversations about parental boundaries and children's rights.

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