

Field : Communication

Type : Review Article

Received:01.11.2015 - Accepted:14.12.2015

A Compilation of Researches on Media and Violence¹

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“Every solution addressing violence is pregnant with new malignities.” Francis BACON

Abstract

The fact violence which found place to itself in the regularity of daily life, despite it is an undesired act model, is the expression of a situation unfortunately still having its validity in almost all communities developed or undeveloped. As that's the fact, there seen a contradiction in the process we came. Because the fact violence ever stands in front of us a sample of uncivilization in our age that civilization rapidly improved. This situation, shows up as every kind of violence's having patterns around us.

In this study, to look at the projections of the studies conducted about primarily the subject of media and violence since the second half of 2000s until today in Turkey had ben aimed. For violence, it had been aimed to survey weightedly the reflections of violence tendency against women on media and the studies having media as subject. Through these aims, with what contains the studies having violence as subject were done in newspaper, radio, television that were the main information sources of people, and social media which was a popular communication means of last days, had been mentioned and the studies reached had been introduced briefly. In this way, this study had been implemented as a literature review.

Keywords: Media, violence, woman, literature review, compilation.

¹This article had been presented as a poster assertion and issued in the proceedings book with the topic “**A Compilation about the Studies Implemented on the Matter of Media and Violence**” in “2nd International Congress of Dimensions of Violence and Social Perception” organized in PETKOM Police Education and Congress Center, Zeytinburnu-Istanbul, 3-4 September 2015.

Medya ve Şiddet Bağlamındaki Çalışmalar Üzerine Bir Derleme

“Şiddete yönelik her çözüm, yeni kötülöklere gebedir.” Francis Bacon.

Öz

Gündelik yaşamın sıradanlığı içinde kendine yer bulan şiddet olgusu, istenmeyen bir davranış modeli olmasına rağmen ister gelişmiş ister gelişmemiş olsun neredeyse tüm toplumlarda ne yazık ki hala geçerliliği sürdüren bir durumun dışı vurumu olmaktadır. Hal böyle olunca gelinen süreçte bir tezatlık olduğu görölmektedir. Çünkü şiddet olgusu, medeniyetin hızla ilerlediği çağımızda bir medeniyetsizlik örneği olarak hep karşımızda durmaktadır. Bu durum, çevremizde şiddetin her şeklinin vücuda bürünmesiyle kendisini göstermektedir.

İlkel bir olgu olan şiddet, istenmeyen bir durum olmasına rağmen hemen her alanda etkinliğini sürdürmektedir. İster aile içinde, ister çalışma veya eğitim ortamında isterse de sokakta yürürken şiddetin herhangi bir şekliyle karşılaşmak mümkündür. Zamanın değişmesine karşın şiddetin varlığını sürdürmesi pek çok araştırmacının dikkatini çekmiştir. Böylelikle öznesi şiddet olan birçok çalışmaya literatürde rastlanmıştır. Bu çalışmada Türkiye’de 2000’li yılların ikinci yarısından bugüne kadar öncelikle medya ve şiddet konusunda yapılan çalışmaların izdüşümlerine bakmak amaçlanmıştır. Şiddet söz konusu olduğunda da ağırlıklı olarak kadına yönelik şiddet eğiliminin medyaya ve medya konulu çalışmalara yansımalarını incelemek hedeflenmiştir. Bu hedefler doğrultusunda halkın bilgi alma aracı olan gazete, radyo, televizyon ve son zamanların popüler iletişim aracı olan sosyal medyada şiddet konulu çalışmaların hangi içeriklerde yapıldığına değinilmiş ve ulaşılan çalışmalar kısaca özetlenerek tanıtılmıştır. Bu yönüyle bu çalışma literatür taraması şeklinde gerçekleştirilmiştir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Medya, şiddet, kadın, literatür taraması, derleme.

Introduction

Violence is one of the greatest problems met in social life. Beside many definitions done for violence, it had been emerged in the consequence of literature review implemented that many studies were also done on this matter. It is possible to see that violence subsisted in almost every corner of the world including a wide scale from developed countries to developing ones. Researchs had showed that violence was a situation executed among the ones having different ethnical classes, groups, socio-economical levels and cultures. Moreover, as demographic features of the people implementing violence was viewed, it had been also understood that contrary to the popular belief, educated ones, too, applied violence frequently. In this context, it had been discovered that violence wasn't a situation changing according to neither educational level nor development.

Numerous definitions are seen on violence applied in many areas from physical violence to emotional one, from gender-based violence to economic one. İlkaracan and Gülçür (1996: 25) are telling that physical violence was the first thing coming to mind when violence was mentioned, however as far as violence against women was concerned, violence wasn't limited with that, but also there were gender-based, emotional and psychological violence. Authors are emphasizing that a violence circle was formed together with obstructing woman's communication with her environment and restricting her movement.

In its definition about violence against women in 1991, United Nations had emphasized the arbitrary restriction of woman's acts emerged as a consequence of situations like all kinds of act, negligence and threat based upon gender, which emerged because of physical, sexual and psychological injury in whether public realm or private sphere (Watts ve Zimmerman 2002).

It had been a situation mentioned in many studies that media had great role for violence to become widespread. There featured the comments of American Psychiatry Association (APA) on the matter of media and violence in an article that took place on the page of Pedagogy Association which made a statement in the direction that violence was normalized in the minds of the people who were exposed to violence elements in cartoons, mini series or news shown on televisions which were widely watched and consequently there was steeling in view of violence (2015): According to this, media's effect on violence had been explained as "Argument had been over. Fort he last thirty years, informations obtained in the studies done on mass media researches are that the reason of violence in media was the result of being exposed with violence scenes shown and so there were increase in aggressiveness behaviours."

Kunczik (1994: 14) had explained the hardness to reveal a whole study including the issue in the studies that handled the matter of media and violence inside out as "My study titled Television and Violence had shown me that 131 of the 827 pages of my study had included literature." In this context, it is possible to mention that it wasn't possible to feature all the studies done on the matter of media and violence, and so primarily a compilation formed of the studies implemented in Turkey under this topic in recent years, in this study.

This study had been prepared as compilation and a literature review. Especially studies done centred violence's dimension related with media mainly including violence element in first place had been researched in the study. In the said research, studies implemented through respecting science had been taken base. Aim of the study is to give an opinion about how violence was presented in media in turkey-centered studies taking media and violence as subject and to provide a point of view concerning the matter.

Methodology

Limitations of the Study: Especially nationwide scientific studies implemented after the second half of 2000s had been surveyed and samples from the studies within the scope of the headline “media and violence” had been presented in the study.

Problem of the Study: How/which way had the presentation of violence shown in media been?

Conceptual Framework: How violence was handled in the studies about media and violence before had been surveyed in this study. Determining in this study the present situation within this scope, informations obtained through literature review had been presented sistemically.

Literature Review

Phenomenon violence which was as old as history of humanity had transformed a more complex state in consequence of interaction of individual and social elements by time. This situation is making it hard to describe the said phenomenon as Kocacık (2001: 1) pointed out. Today, we are face to face with phenomenon violence having many shapes. Phenomenon violence is actualized as pressure, intimidation, threat, killing, punishing, rebellion etc.in society. Pointing out psychological, socio-cultural ven socio-economical sides of phenomenon violence having an individual and social feature, Tutar (2011) is expressing that violence was a restrained feeling being in human nature. Except behaviours emerged as use of rude words n power, also deliberately distort of the meaning and using contemptuous behaviour or speech can be named as violence. So, it is possible to say that violence led individual to become psychologically and physically affected by applying power and pressure was both an individual and a social problem and incrementally increasing contrary to modernization

Ünsal (1996: 29) who said that violence will exist every time and in every medium, is emphasizing that violence existed in human nature or the thing that pushed men to violence was himself or social conditions. In this context, human’s main instinct to defend himself transform to violence with outrageous endeavour he showed against social or individual threat he encountered.

Violence is defined as a consequence of depression and associated with media in Fromm’s (1993: 312) statement. In this context, it is expressed that news involving phenomenons including death, accident and violence resounded in audience. In this way, media is producing excitement and becoming answer to boreness. Oskay (1996: 195) telling that violence shown on media was voluntarily consumed by ordinary people, is stating that this situation led violence legitimized. Drawing attention at media’s presentation in media was emerged as taking role model on watching mass, Yıldırım (1998: 41) is expressing that presentation of violence in media was reproducing the violence codes and there would be an emulation in this way in behaviours of the ones affected from these screenings in their daily lives.

Media is a means effective and determining over society. Mentioned effect is related with the power media had. In this context, media is using its power in shape of victimizing the weak. Violence’s presentation on media confirms this statement. As we look at violence’s presentation on media, it is known that it was presented through making it become surfeited with, showing it as it was an ordinary phenomenon, even presenting itin not only one day, but

spreading it over several days as an adventure because they obtain margin of profit over it, and fact of violence was shown as an ordinary phenomenon in general part of the society.

Through with media's representation of violence, there had emerged intensitivity effect about violence. It had been emerged in consequence of tens of studies done that when individuals met with violence scenes shown as a part of life repeatedly, they follow them enjoying instead of responding the events including violence. As a consequence of this, violence had given birth to violence and degree of violence had increased. Ünalı (2012: 241) is explaining this situation as the one that was desensitized and showed no negative response against violence wouldn't be disturbed while thinking about violence, and would even start to make plans including violence. So, there will be lived an anomie in watching mass exposed to violence elements in media and as a consequence of that, individuals will become oblivious at violent events others encountered, they will be deprived of empathy and will tend to meet violence events increasing in society with toleration. As a matter of fact, it is possible to say mentioned steps became real during the process we came. Along with this state reflecting a common table emerged as a result of violence shown in media, it is also important as it is reflecting the state lived today.

Informations relating that all kinds of violence find place for itself in media, and especially violence against women was presented in a serious ratio had been reached in the researchs done. It had been understood that content of violence against women news frequently shown on media was basically physical, and then sexual and psychological violence. Even if it is on written, auditory or visual media, it is again an information emerged in the end of the researches done that media followed a broadcasting policy as to show woman a victim in presentation of violence against women news. Also it had been determined that right along with justifying violence through making a production out of violence, media made news presentation certifying woman's being exposed to violence.

Taking a look over the studies how violence was presented in media which was an element facilitating violence to become ordinary will be noteworthy in terms of reflecting the situation we came in 21st century. Because of this, short informations about the contents of the studies with the subject media and violence that entered literature since the second half of 2000s had been given and those studies had been introduced downwards.

Studies Entreating Violence in Media

It is known that many studies handling the matter of media and violence took place in literature. Although there met many studies on the mentioned issue till today, element of violence's still standing among serious problems of society is important in terms of showing the immensity of the matter. Despite tens, even hundreds of studies done, unfortunately, violence continues its validity in every mediums we were in. Here it is aimed to try to show in which fields studies that entered literature and issued media and violence, and which dimension of the matter they enlightened. In this way, what kind of studies were done from television to newspaper, from sports media to social media had been sampled briefly.

Accordingly, it is seen that instead of discussing social treachery wanted to be presented in the news and the photo the mentioned newspaper gave subheading with the title 'Last point in violence against women' on October the 7th, 2011 and its social reasons, matter was carried into different dimensions and criticisms done about newspaper management were placed in

the study titled “*Approach of Media on Violence Against Women and A Research on the News Haberturk Newspaper Made*” which was implemented by Bulunmaz (2012). Opinion that aforesaid news’ occupying the agenda was perceived as an extension of the power of media to create public opinion and had an effect in legislation of ‘The law for Protecting Family and Preventing Violence Against Women’ 1 TBMM Plenary Session on March the 8th, 2012. Another study taking the same newspaper as the matter is the study executed by Yıldız and Bilici (2012) with the title “*Approach to Women Murders in Media: Haberturk Newspaper Sample*”. In this study, it is seen that news on violence against women placed in the mentioned newspaper in the years 2011-2012 were presented in a wide scale.

Out of this one, in his study titled “*Violence Against Women in Paper News*”, Tufan Yeniçiftçi (2012) examined 25 violence news executed against women in 5 national newspapers. In the study asserting that great portion of the violence applied were resulted with death, it is interpreted that media, having worry of rating, gave violence against women news in a sensational way. On the other hand, a study drawing attention to media’s pursuing a goal to make profit from it by making violence popular, in other words economy-politics of the phenomenon had been realized by Özer and Saraçer Üçer (2010). In the study titled “*Ideological Representation of Honor Killings in the Sample of Güldünya Tören in Hürriyet and Sabah Newspapers*” which represented presentation of violence against women in newspapers, authors researched how the news about Güldünya Tören who was killed in Istanbul on February 2004 because of tradition was presented in the newspapers. It is told in the study that violence was presented by making it popular in the newspapers, news was given subheading and heading as great and influencing, and events turning around Güldünya were told personalized and in a taste as if it was a serie. In mentioned study, also emphasizing an ideological partiality economy-politics of the media corporations were pointed out.

In the study that prints of violence applied against women and children in local press were discussed executed by Barut et al. (2012) titled “*Approach on Violence Against Women and Children in Local Press: Samsun Province Sample*” regard of 4 local papers in Samsun at that matter had been examined. In the data of the said study it had been determined that violence was justified through being given sensationally, privacy principle was ignored, and photographs of victims were shown in the organ although they shouldn’t be given.

As we say mass medium, it is possible to see how violence was presented in radio in Birsen’s (2010) study titled “*Power of Voice: Presentation of Violence in Radio News and Perception of This by Audiences*”. It is emphasized in the study that violence elements were given place less in radio among mass mediums. Amongst the findings of the study, it had been mostly accentuated that media was effective in perception of the world. In this context, it is explained that radio presented violence more conspicuous, together with its having a side activating imagination. It had been also told in the study that violence news presented in the radio had a negative effect on audiences.

In respect to its showing the situation on television, the results obtained in the study titled “*TV Watching Behaviours of Children Aged 0-6 and Parent Comments on the Effects of TV Programmes on Children*” which Kabadayı (2012) wrote are drawing attention. Information that parents weren’t enough educated about watching television and how to let their children watch television, in the findings of the study. In the study, it had been stated that it would be convenient to let children watch more selective and educative television programmes because of the opinion that children would believe everything shown on television.

Tümkan (2015) is stating that television's state to effect children was related with age, the programme watched and daily hours of watching television in his study he examined "*Effect of Violence on Television over Children*". Author also stated that programmes shown on television were prepared with worry of rating instead of being educative, and because of that families had duty in getting their children away from violence.

Another study taking television as its matter is the study with the title "*Breeding Theory: Research Done in Turkey and Russia on Television's Role of Breeding*" prepared by Özer and Gerasimova (2010). It had been handled in mentioned study if television had a role (breeding) on people's conceptualisation of social realism and world perceptions in terms of violence with the examples of Turkey and Russia. In the findings of the study that breeding analysis was done through message system analysis, there had determined that there were similarities between the two countries in terms of number of violence presented in the news given on television and number of the news processing the concept of violence. Although there are differences as far as duration left to the news about violence and placement of this in total news time are concerned, it had been determined that presentation of violence was featured in news in both the two countries.

Alem (2008) had analyzed the tv series "Valley of Volves" after theoretical explanations regarding the effects of television programmes having contents including violence in his study titled "*Media and Violence*". According to the findings from the analyze, every kind of violence are exhibited in the series and presentation of violence without questioning as if it was an indispensable part of life is the case. In those series that murder phenomenon was presented as a routine metaphore in almost all episodes, state that violence was shown as a means of power and people were encouraged for violence is involved. It also had been determined in a study done by Family Researches Association on the television channels atv and Show TV that 78,3 % of violence contended broadcasts were fictional. It had been also determined in the study that the hours the programmes including violence were broadcasted was prime-time by 38,3 % and night-time was following this by 36,7 % (Indorser: Adak, 2004). On the basis of prime-time's being between the hours 19.00-23.00 which audiences mostly watch television, it is possible to say that everyone without noticing age and sex were exposed to these kind of violence contended programmes.

It had been also determined that violence was a matter seriously processed in cinema, too. In Özer and Saraçer Üçer's (2010) study titled "*Violence in Cinema Sampled with Godfather 1 and Valley of Volves: Iraq*", authors had indicated that violence was populously used in cinema through the movies they analysed. Moreover violence had had a kind of a dimension that an idea had born telling movies will be emptied if no element of violence is used in them. Because information that violence used in movies counteracted the message given in them and violence was legitimized through editing the message over violence had been reached.

İlhan and Çimen (2011) had emphasized that sports columnists were encouraged violence add to promoting it in their study titled "*Violence in Sports Areas and Effecs of Sports Media: Perceptions of Sports Columnists*". They had expressed that 32 of the sports columnists which corresponded to 76,2 % were taking part in that theme, in the findings of their study. They had determined that effect of club managers was 57 % in subthemes of encouraging and promoting violence. Authors also had determined that together with the worry of circulation and rating, total effect of proponent authorship was 35,7 %. Ayan (2006), too, had expressed that ignoring the connective side of sports in live broadcasts, media followed a broadcasting

policy as increasing the aggressiveness in his study which he gave the title “*Violence and Fanaticism*”. Ayan also had mentioned that this situation solicited violence, too.

Ünaldı (2012) had emphasized in his study titled “*Media Language on Violence Against Women*” that violence against women news were given with a male-dominant point of view. Ünaldı also had stated that only men’s working at the management staff of media was the cause of that and he mentioned that this dominant language had to change. With spread of use of social media recently, it is seen that violence against women issues were carried onto these canals. In his study titled “*Proof of Power in Androcentric Society: Violence Against Women and its Visions on Media*”, Yaktıl Oğuz (2010) had stated that sexist expression about violence developed in media was compacting factor for power-competence men had. Author had emphasized that media was taking its food from violence and did that mostly out of women. Yaktıl Oğuz is also stating that violence against women would always have a agenda creating place in media as long as male-dominant structure in media didn’t change.

Evinç, Akdemir and Foto Özdemir (2010) researched the effect of violence in media on children in their study called “*Violence, Child and Media*”. Authors had expressed that violence shown in media was especially effective in children’s having offensive behaviour models. In the study, it had been noticed that childhood period was a period which mental, spiritual and physical changes were lived. Authors also had emphasized media’s obligation to have editorial poliies appropriate to development features of children in the said period, and to make necessary engagements and controls.

It is possible to see the state of use of violence in social media which recently became a popularly used communication means in Şimşek’s (2012) study titled “*Expressions on Violence in Social Media: itiraf.com*”. In the said study, it is quoted that although the dominant idea accepting violence against women was sustaining its validity largely, ideas criticising that were increasing by time.

As it will be undestood also from the studies sampled above, news about violence had always found place in every kind of media means. Such news actually represent media’s nourishment source. Because, feding iself with these nws, media is gaining money and generating profit in addition to having rating. It is possible to say that sustainability of the profit medya had like that was related to its representation to the audience by reproducing it through violence.

Conclusion

Reviewing media’s point of view at violence, photographs of the studies done about this matter were taken in this study in which titles of the studies conducted in recent years baout the matters of media and violence and their brief abstracts were given.

Quentin Tarantino’s expression “*Violence is one of the most amusement things to watch.*” , actually summarizing why violence maternalised in media gets such an attention. In this context, result telling that common point of all of them was violence and media used violence deliberately is emerging as we look at the studies we gave as samples above. It had been determined that violence elements presented leaded aggressive behaviour model to spread over spectator, audience or reader; however media showed no effort to prevent this. Because, actually media’s feding itself from violence is the case. Media’s reproducing vionce again and again had become an extension of their effort to have profit in addition to their rating

worries. Media's presenting violence also means that it approves violence and leads violence give birth to violence.

As media's widespread effect on watching masses was considered, it is possible to Express that violence had an incentive role through the programmes and broadcasts it presented including violence. Especially in the contents produced for children, it is shown in many studies that had place in literature that violence was becoming prevalent among children and situations like copying aggressive behaviours, imitation and impersonation were lived.

As we look at the presentation of violence against women on media, too, presence of domination of male-nominant structure stands out. In this way, as women's presentation on media as part of power-potency is the case, it is observed that woman was given mostly as the side exposed to violence. It is being watched that power and potency were flattened and consolidated through woman and again there was an exploit through woman. On the other side, as Yıldız's (2008: 137) expression stated, media's presenting violence against women contents without questioning is leading woman to lose her self-esteem and building a sample of irresponsibility in the matter of her searching legal processes like seeking her own rights. For instance, irrespective of physical, sexual etc. kind of violence done against woman exposed to violence, media made if she deserved it or not, her clothes or things she said, contentions. So, in a sense, state showing that woman who was victim became guilty, and man in guilty position became victim had been emerged. This, too, had appeared as a consequence of broadcasting policy of dominant media. Herewith, conventional prejudices and sexism become legitimized as the solution to violence by broadcasting comprehension materialized.

As a conclusion; as presentation of violence on written, auidial or visual media is observed; it is understood that an aim to gain circulation and rating through violence. It is seen that news or visuals with the content of violence were shown in the said media by tabloidizing them, and even violence was legitimized through continueing this presentation for days and a capital was gained through this, for this reason. Media should be aware of its responsibilities fort he society it was in like raising awareness and educating, and survey its broadcasting policy again. Also a solution proposal can be brought forward this problem by offering broadcasts showing that violence was undesired, disapproved and wrong to be legitimized. On the other hand, in the way of Wittgenstein's "*Whereof one cannot speak, thereof one must be silent.*" expression, opinion that much more time should be allowed fort he studies oriented at what kind of behaviour media was in for the matter of violence is borning. Otherwise, as untalked and unsearched matters and unmentioned feelings can mean an approval, it is emerging that it was necessary to work on the matters in question more and more.

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