



➔ **Regular Research Paper – SS**

In the Context of Alternative Media and Right Journalism Violence Against Women in Turkey's National, Local and Representation on Social Media

Engin Caglak

Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University, Turkey

ecaglak@comu.edu.tr

Beyza Arican

Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University, Turkey

beyza.arican@hotmail.com

Abstract

Violence is one of the major problems of communal living. And, violence against women appears as one of the principal social problems in our country. With this study on violence, which is also violation of human rights, violence to women has been illustrated as statistical information. The way of portraying the news about violence against women on media is really vital. As national newspapers Sabah, Sözcü, Hürriyet, Akşam, Türkiye, and as local newspapers of Çanakkale, Gündem, Olay, İşte Çanakkale, Burası Çanakkale were chosen and by examining these chosen newspapers which comprise the dates from 1st April 2019 to 10th May 2019, statistical information was gained. Also, digital data was gained through an alternative media, Kadın Cinayetlerini Durduracağız Platform. As a result of all these examinations, aspects of violence to women were revealed.

Keywords: *Femicide, news, newspaper, media*

1. INTRODUCTION

Communication has always been the way people have been able to convey their feelings and thoughts since their emergence. Communication, which has been developed with different methods and techniques since the history of humanity, has undergone some changes in the historical process and has been particularly influenced by the Industrial Revolution. With the Industrial Revolution, a wide range of mass media has emerged. Newspapers, magazines, television, radio, internet and so





on. As a concept that covers all mass media, such as the media, is often a term that describes all communication media.

Media, which is the product of people's need for information, is constantly developing and expanding its influence in parallel with technologies. Media is used as a tool to determine the impact on the target audience. The fact that it became a tool serving such a purpose caused the media to change in terms of meaning and content. When we look at the present day, it is seen that the media has ceased to be a news-making / news-making tool and has become a force that shapes and reproduces the lives and manners of societies.

With the Industrial Revolution, new role patterns have emerged, which are decisive in the concepts of men and women. According to these role patterns, the presence of women in societies is limited to more specific areas; the male has become dominant in the public sphere. When the concepts of private and public sphere in societies and the roles of men and women in social life are examined, the concept of violence emerges as an important social problem. Violence is one of the most important human rights issues in Turkey and in the world as well as a social problem we face is the need to tackle this problem frequently and, in the world, as well as many studies are performed in Turkey.

The representation of violence against women in the media is a subject of interest in media and cultural studies. The ways in which the image of femininity is presented in the media and the representation of violence in the media are two areas of research. The basic question of this study is to examine how the national and local newspapers in Çanakkale, Turkey and the internet, which is defined as the place to examine new and alternative media format, show the violence against women, and to access the data on representation of women. In this context, news of violence against women has been evaluated as a result of the analysis.

1. Alternative Media

Today, the primary aim of the mass media, called traditional media, has become profit making. Some of the concerns that the traditional media has caused have made it the spokesperson of a certain segment. The fact that the disadvantaged





groups cannot find enough space and make their voices heard in the traditional media, also called mainstream media, reveals the necessity of alternative media.

The fact that the printing mechanisms on local newspapers are lighter than the mainstream newspapers makes it possible for local newspapers to become alternative media organs. The fact that monopolization in the mainstream media is less common in the local media makes it easier to announce the voices of disadvantaged groups from different segments in the local media. Local media have a much tighter relationship with the audience. This enables the local media to establish a healthier communication by prioritizing the primary problems of the readers.

Anyone who owns a device that can access the internet with the new media has the opportunity to convey their own ideas, tastes and opinions in this virtual medium. This has made social media an important alternative media environment.

Jan van Dijk (2004); actors of the communication process, based on the digital coding system, unlike traditional media (newspaper, radio, television, cinema), stating that the acts realized in the virtual space take the place and time occupied by traditional media in daily life and become a natural part of the flow of life. between the simultaneous and very dense capacity, high-speed mutual and multi-layered interaction of multimedia formality means that communication means (Binark, 2007: 5) is meant (Akt. Akmeşe, Deniz).

The fact that it does not require a costly process has made it easier for social media to be preferred by the masses as an alternative media. Nowadays, alternative social media channels, which have been established by individual users and turned into large corporations, tend to monopolize. They generate economic revenue from advertising revenue. In spite of all these, social media is of great importance as an alternative media environment in order to provide the ease of making the voice of many different people from different segments.

Alternative media provides awareness of the minorities that mainstream media ignores. The fact that the mainstream media often consciously ignores the voices of the groups or minorities and does not leave the follow-up until the events





subject to the news is resolved has made alternative media an important force. The ability of alternative media to maintain this power is directly proportional to their economic freedom. In this respect, social media, which is the least costly alternative media, has become the most important alternative media today.

2. News Ethics

Ethics is a philosophical discipline towards morality. If morality is the practice of an act; ethics constitutes the theory of that action (Cevizci, 2003). What changes during a process of civilization is the social patterns that the individual follows in coercing himself, and the way they are placed into individual people in what we call conscience or even reason, logic (Elias, 2000). Ethics is accepted as a way of thinking that people take as an example in civilization process. The profession of journalism has to maintain its need for ethics in order to survive. The profession of journalism is not a profession that can be considered separate from ethics. The business practices of the profession called journalism are determined by the ethical understanding of how the journalists should be in relation to the event they will report, the source of the news, the institution they work with and their colleagues.

News is known as a text claiming to convey reality as it is. From a Marxist critical point of view, it is revealed that the reality is not transmitted to us as it is, but to its distorted state. Today, it is seen that the news has become an intervention style. The person who intervenes in the news makes efforts to provide strong interpretations of the information it conveys about how people should understand relationships and events. For this reason, news has become an element that determines the relationship of people with things, the relationship of things with each other and the relations of people with each other. In this form, the news is that the person who witnesses a real event designs it in his / her own mind. The resulting scheme shapes a design that already exists in the mind of the reader. The concept called the mirror metaphor is not valid for news. In other words; a news does not reflect the reality as a mirror. One of the reasons behind the need for ethical rules is





its relation to reality. The news text is not a reflection of reality, but a reconstruction of reality.

In addition to this, the news is under the duty of supporting the sovereign powers to maintain and expand their current positions. The sectors that this news has transformed the most are the ones that are secondary to the power relations in society. In this context, it is seen that women are among the segments who suffer from the current news understanding.

3. Rights Reporting

The concept of rights reporting has become important in terms of journalism practices in recent years. According to Sevda Alankuş, rights reporting; “is a journalism that does not ignore rights violations, does not necessarily expect them to be the subject / perpetrator of a right infringement in order to make the “others” news subject, and does not lead to a violation of rights in making any news Alan” (Alankuş, 2007: 22).

From the perspective of rights reporting, it is seen that the news is not an existing reality, but a reality constructed. Rights reporting strives to turn the divide between private and public sphere into unity and thus tries to find common good. In order to make the invisible visible, it makes positive discrimination on the part of the victim. Because if the victim does not discriminate positively, the victim will continue to be the victim and not be able to express himself. Critical rights reporting is important in terms of making the discernible and discernible facts that have not previously been noticed.

The basis of the emergence of the so-called rights journalism is based on rights violations in news texts in the mainstream media. Violations of rights can occur when a news text is written in accordance with the strategies mandated by the sovereign powers. This does not indicate that the news is ethical or unethical, because even though the news text is ethically compliant, it may cause a violation of rights.

According to rights reporting, the news should not be merely reflecting what happened at the time of the incident. While reflecting the news, a language and





perspective that is sensitive to human rights and freedoms should be used. Rights reporting advocates not the impartiality of the media, but the understanding of being the party of the people who cannot make their voices heard. In other words, he says that what really matters is peace journalism. According to this understanding, journalists should be on the side of peace instead of showing a tendency to approach the war objectively.

Alternative media and rights reporting have brought a critical perspective to the mainstream media and have contributed to the creation of an environment in which voices, minorities and even individuals can be heard. When the disadvantaged groups in the society are considered, it is seen that women are the first. In the mainstream media reports on violence against disadvantaged women in society, human rights violations are frequently made and this is justified by the masculine language used.

4. Violence Against Women

Violence against women is encountered as a very important social problem both in the world and in Turkey. Violence against women is seen as a violation of human rights. The fact that this violence took place in the public or private sphere does not change the fact that human rights have been violated.

Nancy Fraser, an American political scientist and philosopher, reconsidered Habermas' Approach to the Public Sphere, a twentieth-century philosopher, taking into account the conditions of the twenty-first century. Nancy Fraser brought feminist criticism to the concept of Public Space. Feminist criticism points out that the public sphere is seen as an area of well-educated wealthy men, and that the private sphere is seen as a women's sphere. Considering the twenty-first century conditions, women, gays and lesbians, ethnic backgrounds are not accepted into the public sphere.

Social values are important in the form of violence against women, whether public or private. Violent elements such as violence, injury, mutilation, beating, rape and killing in the family can be identified concretely. There are also verbal and emotional acts of violence that are difficult to detect.





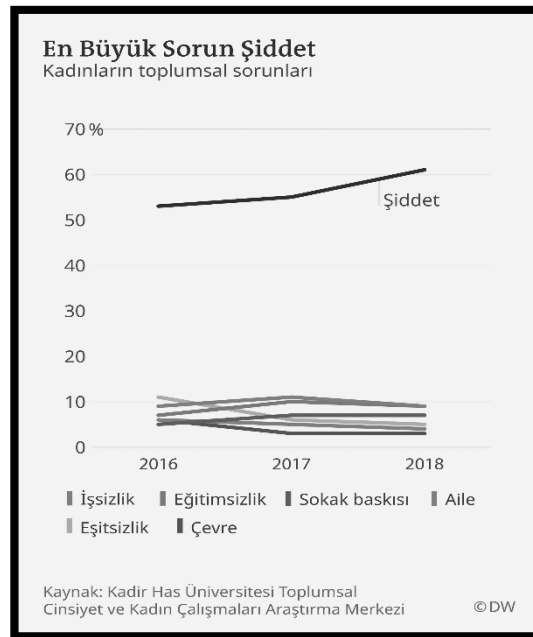
Violence in any way causes women to become insecure and cowardly individuals. Violence against women is an indicator of the unequal power relationship between men and women. The forms of violence against women in the media have led to controversy as to whether mass media can justify such violence. The extent to which violence against women is included in the mass media is important.

Mass media contain indicators and codes that constitute the cultural values of society. The impact of mass media on socialization is undeniable. Their most important function is to inform the society. News is a public space event. The fact that men are active in the public sphere causes the news to be a case designed with the male eye.

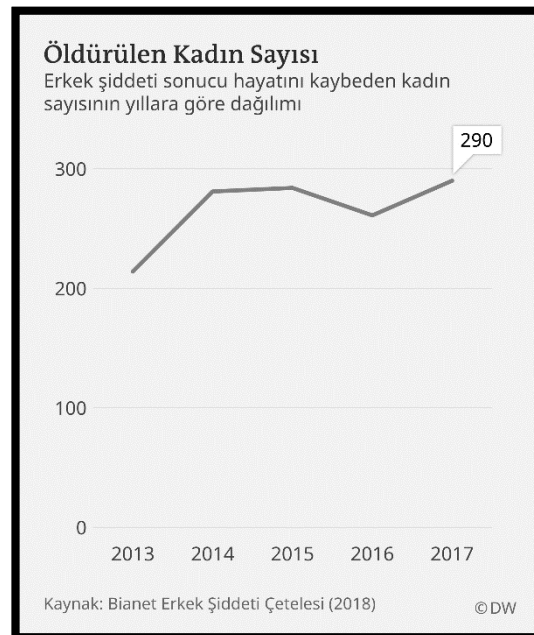
Civil society organizations in Turkey since the 1980s, universities, private and public organizations in many studies on violence against women increases even as it is observed that in contrast to the reduction of violence against women. Below, DW Turkish's report titled Anatomy of Violence Against Women with Data in Turkey has been given a section and two graphs.

“According to the Gender and Women's Perception Survey conducted at Kadir Has University, the biggest social problem of women is violence. According to the perception survey conducted with over 200 different participants every year for the last 3 years, violence is by far the first place among the biggest problems of women. In the latest survey conducted in January and February of 2018, 61 percent of the respondents identified violence as the biggest problem they experienced in the society, while this number was determined as 53 percent in 2016 (Defne Altıok, DW Türkçe).”





The following table shows the number of women who died as a result of male violence between 2013 and 2017.



5. Study on the Representation of the Violence against Women in Media in Turkey

This study aims to identify how violence against women takes place in social media and national and local newspapers in Turkey. In order to achieve this goal,



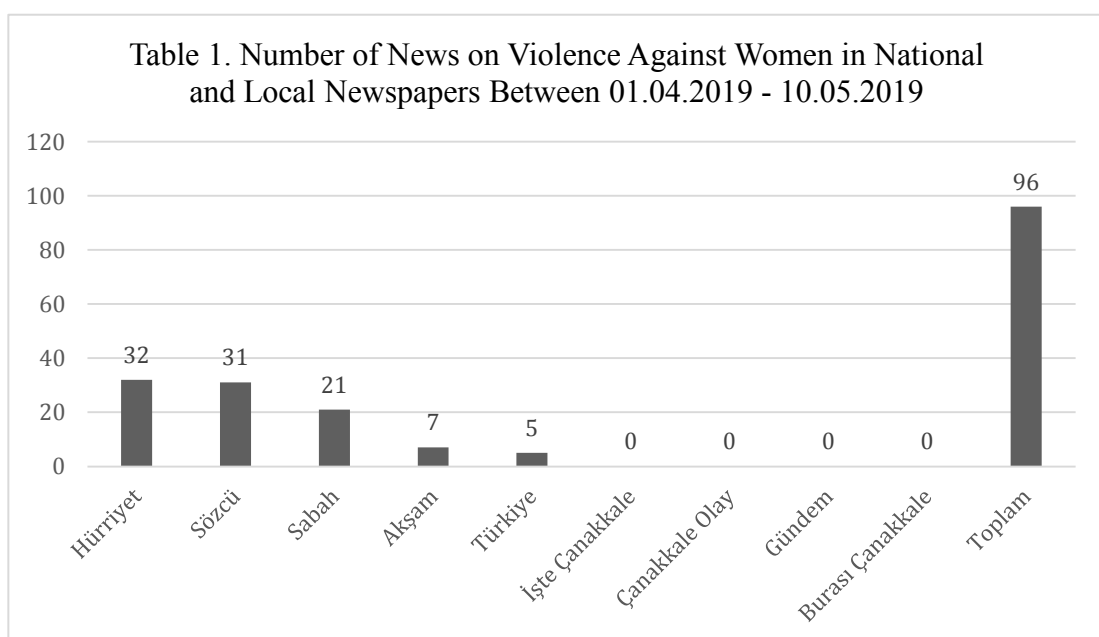


with the national distribution network Hürriyet, Sözcü, Sabah, Akşam and Türkiye, Çanakkale local newspapers with Gündem, Olay, İşte Çanakkale and Burası Çanakkale newspaper April 1, 2019 - May 10 2019 Date were analysed for a total of 40 days in the range. While selecting the newspapers to be examined, attention was paid to the selection of newspapers with different broadcasting policies and political perspectives. In terms of discourse, conservative, liberal and nationalist newspapers were included in the research and thus different perspectives were reflected.

In addition, Kadın Cinayetlerini Durduracağız Platformu website <http://kadincinayetinidurduracagiz.net/> also included in the review. Violence against women in Turkey in the news and the results of the study demonstrated the level of violence.

Findings and Comments

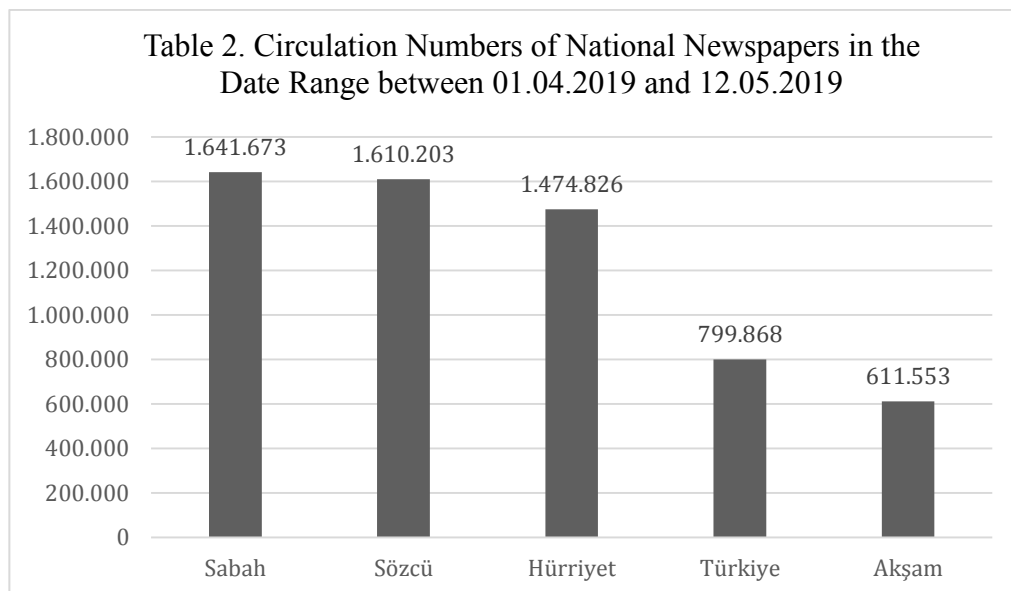
As a result of newspaper analysis conducted for 40 days, a total of 96 news items were evaluated in terms of content and discourse. It was found that these news articles about violence against women could not find a place on the first page and all of them were given on the third page. In the news research on violence against women in the newspapers included in the research, the supplements of the newspapers were not included in the evaluation.





As seen in Table 1, between 01/04/2019 and 10/05/2019 date Hürriyet newspaper 32, Sözcü newspaper in 31 pieces, Sabah newspaper on 21, Akşam newspaper 7 and in Türkiye newspaper 5 Total has been involved in violent news for women. In Çanakkale local newspapers, İşte Çanakkale, Çanakkale Olay, Gündem and Burası Çanakkale, there were no reports of violence against women within the 40-day history.

In order to determine the circulation status of newspapers, a table of circulating numbers, which corresponds approximately to the calendar interval being studied, may be used.



Source: <http://gazetetirajlari.com>

When the newspaper circulation in Table 2 is taken into consideration, it is seen that the newspaper with the highest circulation is Sabah newspaper. If the circulation evening newspaper in Turkey and appeared to be less than the three other newspapers.

It is seen in the news examined during the research that the statements of the perpetrator are frequently mentioned.





Picture 1. Sözcü newspaper news dated 06 April 2019



Picture 2. Hürriyet newspaper dated April 19, 2019





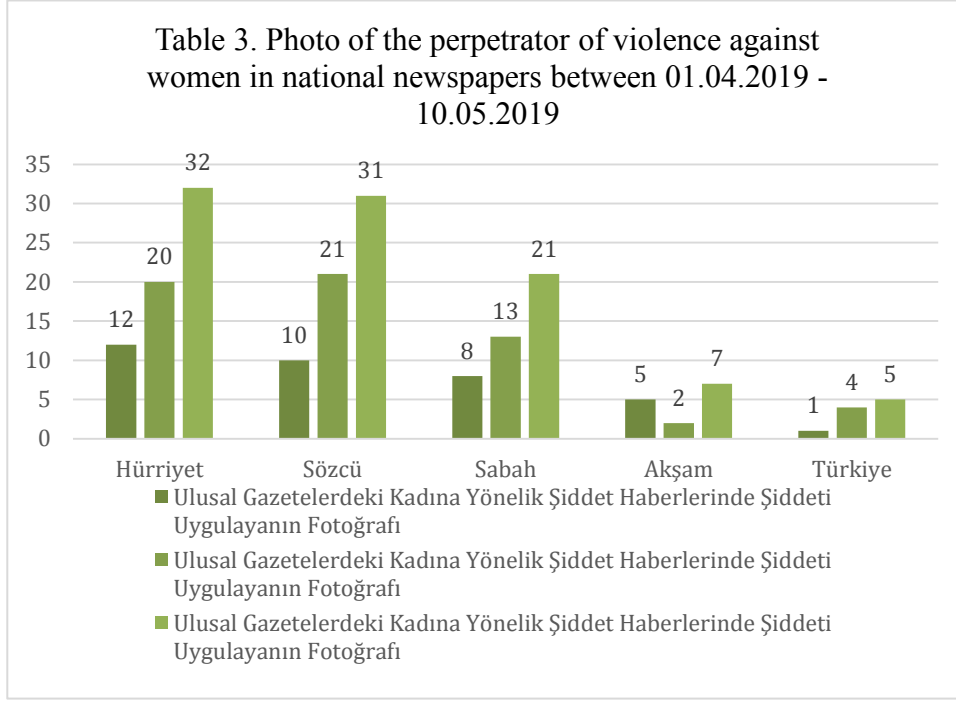
Picture 3. Sözcü newspaper, news dated 02 May 2019



Picture 4. Akşam newspaper, news dated April 25, 2019

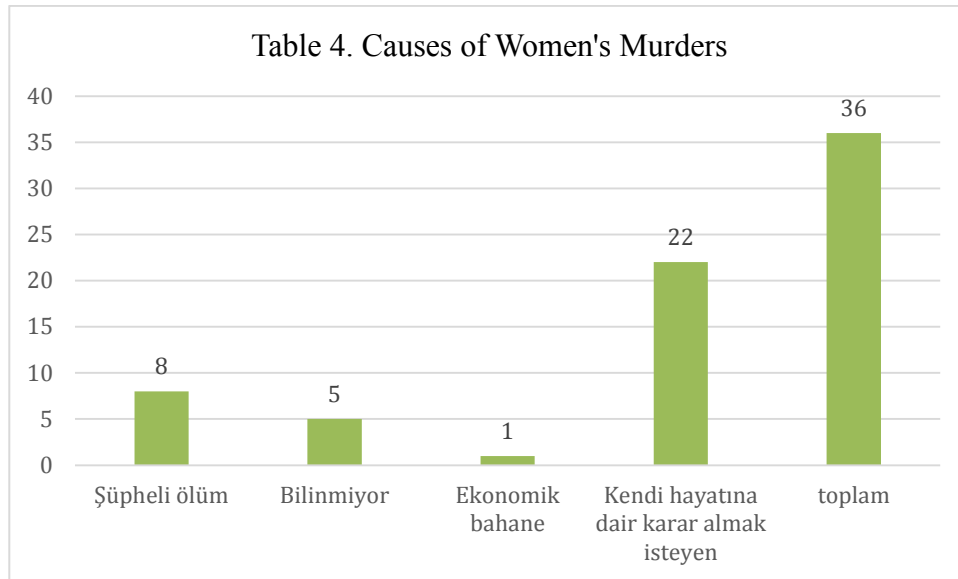


In the news reports on violence against women in the national newspapers between 01.04.2019 and 10.05.2019, the number of the photo of the perpetrator of the violence is given or not is shown in Table 3.



As can be seen in Table 3, 12 of the 32 news stories published in the Hürriyet newspaper included photographs of the perpetrators of violence. 20 news reports did not use the photo of the perpetrator. 10 of the 31 articles in the Sözcü newspaper contained photographs of the perpetrators of violence, and 21 did not. Sabah newspaper used the photo of the perpetrator of violence in 8 of the 21 articles published and 13 of them did not. In Akşam newspaper, 5 out of a total of 7 news articles contained the photo of the perpetrator of violence, while 2 news articles did not include the photo of the perpetrator. 5 Situated in Türkiye newspaper photograph when applying violence has taken place only in one of them, the other four reports do not provide a photo of the person who used violence.

When the information on <http://kadincinayetininidurduracagiz.net/> , which is the Platform for Kadın Cinayetlerini Durduracağız, is examined, it is found out that a total of 36 women were killed in April.



As can be seen in Table 4, based on the data obtained from the Platform to Stop Women's Murders, 8 of 36 women's murders in April were recorded as suspicious deaths. For economic reasons, 1 woman's life ends and 5 women are killed. 22 women were killed because they wanted to make decisions about their own lives.

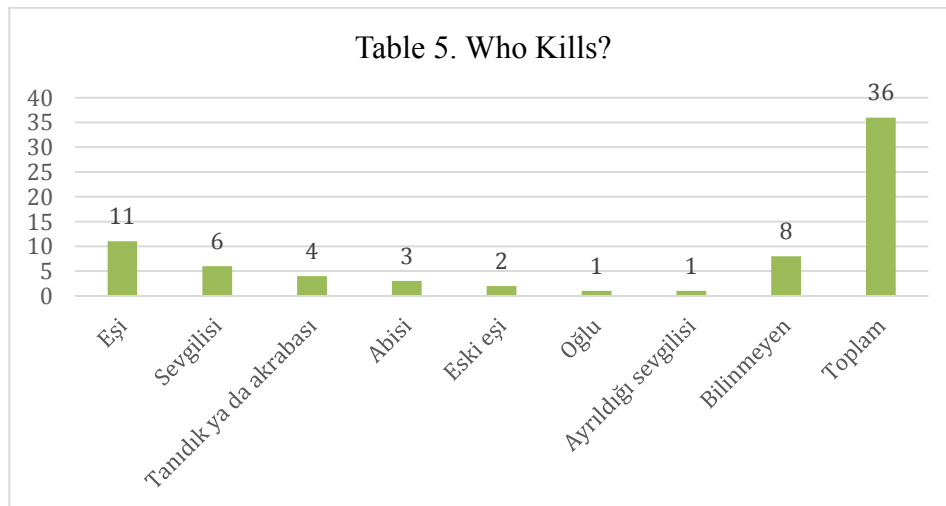


Table 5 shows the degree of closeness of the perpetrators of female murders. 11 women were killed by their husbands. 2 women were killed by their ex-husbands and 1 woman by her ex-lover. 4 women were killed by acquaintances or relatives, 3 by their older brothers and 1 by her son. It is not known why 8 women were killed.





RESULT AND ASSESSMENT

The representation of news of violence against women in the mass media is one of the main fields of study in the context of media and cultural studies. In this study, national newspapers, local newspapers in Çanakkale and an internet portal were examined and the news about violence against women were reached in the context of numerical data and content and it was aimed to evaluate these news and data. Accordingly, nationwide, Sabah, Sözcü, Hürriyet, Akşam, Türkiye newspapers, local newspapers in Çanakkale province such as Gündem, Olay, İşte Çanakkale and Burası Çanakkale newspapers between April 1, 2019, May 10, 2019 are subject to inspection for 40 days. The website of Kadın Cinayetlerini Durduracağız Platform was examined and the numerical data were obtained.

According to the information obtained in this context;

- There were no reports of women's murders in Çanakkale local newspapers.
- According to the controlled data from the website of Kadın Cinayetlerini Durduracağız, there was no information that there was a woman's murder in Çanakkale on the day intervals included in the study.
- 96 news stories were found during the day intervals included in the study.
- When the distribution of the news by newspapers is examined, it is seen that the newspaper with the highest number of news about women murders is Hürriyet.
- When the circulation rankings in the specified date ranges are examined, it is seen that the newspaper with the highest circulation is Sabah newspaper. The Sabah newspaper ranked third in publishing news on violence against women.

In the 96 articles examined, it was seen that the dominant position of the male dominated in the representation of women in the media and it was concluded that the positioning of the woman as a second degree was constantly being reproduced. The





increase in the number of women working in mass media will bring about an important development in terms of changing the masculine language used and eliminating gender discrimination.

As a result, the creation of a database on violence against women is important in terms of revealing the dimensions of this violence. The statistical information given in the tables is of great importance for the development of methods to combat this type of violence and the applicability of these methods.

REFERENCES

- CEVİZCİ, A. (2003). *Felsefe Terimleri Sözlüğü*. İstanbul: Paradigma.
- ELIAS, N. (2000). *Zaman Üzerine*, İstanbul: Ayrıntı Yayınları.
- ALANKUŞ, S. (2007). *Kadın Odaklı Habercilik*. İstanbul: IPS İletişim Vakfı Yayınları.
- AKMEŞE Z., DENİZ K., *Kadına Yönelik Cinsiyetçi Söylemin İnternet Haber Portallarında Yer Alma Biçimleri*, Uşak Üniversitesi Sosyal Bilimler Dergisi 2015, 8/1.
- BINARK, M. (2007). *Yeni Medya Çalışmaları*, Ankara: Dipnot Yayınları.
- Sabah Gazetesi (01.04.2019-10.05.2019)
- Sözcü Gazetesi (01.04.2019-10.05.2019)
- Hürriyet Gazetesi (01.04.2019-10.05.2019)
- Akşam Gazetesi (01.04.2019-10.05.2019)
- Türkiye Gazetesi (01.04.2019-10.05.2019)
- Çanakkale Gündem Gazetesi (01.04.2019-10.05.2019)
- Çanakkale Olay Gazetesi (01.04.2019-10.05.2019)
- İşte Çanakkale Gazetesi (01.04.2019-10.05.2019)
- Burası Çanakkale Gazetesi (01.04.2019-10.05.2019)
- Kadın Cinayetlerini Durduracağız Platformu
- <http://kadincinayetlerininidurduracagiz.net/> (Date of access:15.05.2019)





Kadın Cinayetlerini Durduracağız Platformu Nisan 2019 Raporu

<http://kadincinayetlerininidurduracagiz.net/veriler/2876/kadin-cinayetlerini-durduracagiz-platformu-nisan-2019-raporu> (Date of access:15.05.2019)

Gazete Tirajları <http://gazetetirajlari.com/> (Date of access:15.05.2019)



JOMUDE

<http://www.jomude.com>

