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The Representation of Female Sex Workers on Photo-Journalism in Sex For Sale
By Yuyung Abdi: A Semiotic Study

Abstract

This paper reports on a study aimed to reveal the representation of female sex workers through photojournalism in sex for sale by Yuyung Abdi. Barthes’ semiotics is used in order to interpret signs in photojournalism as it is the appropriate theory to examine the implicit meaning of verbal and non verbal signs including photography. The chosen photographs were analyzed into three steps of Barthesian semiotics: first level of signification (punctum), second level of signification (studium), and mythologies. The study found that prostitutions, or in this case female sex workers, are considered as having two-sided coin and dilemmatic problem in some aspects. In short, they are represented as two-sided women who act the vicious drama of dilemmatic social, moral, cultural, and economical problems.

Keyword : photography, photojournalism, denotation, punctum, connotation, studium, mythologies, prostitution, female,