Respon Komunitas Waria Surabaya terhadap Konstruksi Subyek Transgender di Media Indonesia

Abstrak:

Transgender images have long become the minority figures in the media. They are represented predominantly in unchallenged roles, particularly in the urban society. Previous television reception studies have shown the relationship of audiences' social identities to their interpretation of media texts, including the place of these interpretations in the process of identification. Taking my cue from this media cultural studies theory, this study explored how transgender subjects (waria) have used their socio-cultural identities to respond to the portrayals of transgender figures; and how transgender subjects have negotiated their own identities to those constructed figures. This research interviewed 20 warias or transgendered individuals in Surabaya. This qualitative study selected informants from different social backgrounds like occupation and social status. This study looked at not only the use of media of waria in everyday life and the media role in their coming-out processes, but it also sought to understand the dynamics of the interplay between media and self-awareness that may have played a part in the development of those transgendered subjects' identifications. Sourced from the interviews, this study found that informants were upset toward the stereotype images created on the media in Indonesia for the images have never been supporting the positive role models of the transgender people. The media constructions, thus, would resist the unchallenged positions of waria in the public life. Informants argued that the transgender identities constructed in the media have been underprivileged to the position of waria. Those deprived media figures of waria represented in the media are believed by the informant will help to shape the unfavorable images of waria in the society.

Keyword:

identity formation, social identities, transgender subjects, media audiences response

Daftar Pustaka:

Barker, C Television, Globalization, and Cultural Identities. Open University Press. 1999
Buckingham-Philadephia
Davies, SG Challenging Gender Norms: Five Genders among Bugis in Indonesia (case study in cultural anthropology). Thonson Wadsworth. 2007 Belmont, California