Ideología, violencia de género y prensa en Facebook: cómo comunican los diarios las noticias sobre la violencia contra las mujeres a través de las redes sociales

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The Ph.D. thesis Ideología, violencia de género y prensa en Facebook: cómo comunican los diarios las noticias sobre la violencia contra las mujeres a través de las redes sociales, related to the Ph.D. program of Translation and Language Sciences of the Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Barcelona, Spain), investigates the journalistic discourses about gender violence of three Spanish newspapers and three Italian ones, on their Facebook official pages. We analyze, so, the ideology, as a press aspect and as a cognitive aspect, to investigate if this kind of news refers to an ideological social perspective about gender violence or a patriarchal one. Taking into account two central aspects of social networks, multimodality and users’ interaction, we analyze the verbal discourses and the pictures that go

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with them. We consider also the users’ comments, looking at them as a manifestation of citizen journalism and as texts that can reflect the newspapers’ ideology.

We adopt the perspective of the Critical Discourse Analysis, through a linguistic-discursive perspective and a journalistic one, giving centrality to the cognitive aspect. The analysis develops through a methodological perspective on one hand with linguistic-cognitive and semiotic aspects, on the other hand with analytic journalistic aspects, focused on the framing theory. Furthermore, we adopt an analytical approach through a feminist epistemology, talking about the epistemological privilege of the oppressed. And, so, talking about victims and aggressors. We adopt, moreover, a definition of ideology based especially on two theoretical perspectives: the one of Thompson (1990), talking about ideology as a mass media aspect of power. And the one of van Dijk (2008; 2010; 2015), talking about ideology as a socio-discursive-cognitive aspect, again related to the power.

We analyze six news, between September 2014 and June 2015, considering gender violence following the definition of the ONU, talking so of gender violence as “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life” (Zurbano Berenguer 2010). First of all, we develop the investigation through the analysis of all the “articles”1 of every news: firstly, focusing on the verbal and visual discourses of the newspapers, secondly on the verbal ones of the users’ comments. Next, we compare all the “articles”, to obtain a great comparison of the six news.

The results show that the Spanish and the Italian press still reveal a representation of gender violence through a patriarchal ideology, even though they also have discursive elements from which we can infer a social perspective. Also, it is demonstrated that the ideology of newspapers discourses has effects on the users’ comments. Finally, taking into account the newspapers discourses and the users’ ones, we see that there are differences between Spanish discourses and Italian ones in the representation of victims and aggressors.

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1 We talk about “articles” because we are not in a situation of the classic articles of the press but in front of their version on Facebook