

THE EFFECT OF POWER ABUSE TOWARDS SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN THE FILM PHOTOCOPIER BY WREGAS BHANUTEJA

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Abstract	Article Information
<p><i>This study focuses on the effect of power abuse towards sexual harassment in the film Photocopier by Wregas Bhanuteja. There are two objectives of the research question in this study, namely 1) To find out the forms of power abuse in the film Photocopier by Wregas Bhanuteja and 2) To describe power abuse that affects sexual harassment in the film Photocopier by Wregas Bhanuteja. The theory used in this study is the analysis of the sociological-feminism approach using social theory for Michel Foucault's theory of power abuse and feminist theory for Alison Jaggar's theory of sexual harassment. The methodology used is descriptive qualitative. The results of the study showed that researcher found three forms of power abuse, namely, Biopower and Governmentality, Disciplinary Institution, and Technologies of the Self. To reveal the affects of power abuse towards sexual harassment, researcher used the theory of sexual harassment consisting of three types, namely, Gender Harassment, Unwanted Sexual Attention, and Sexual Coercion. In conclusion, this study shows that the affects of power abuse towards sexual harassment are biopower and governmentality, disciplinary institution, and technologies of the self that affects gender harassment, unwanted sexual attention, and sexual coercion.</i></p> <p>Keywords: Power Abuse, Sexual Harassment, Descriptive Qualitative, Biopower and Governmentality, Unwanted Sexual Attention</p>	<p><i>Received:</i> 07/07/2025</p> <p><i>Revised:</i> 08/07/2025</p> <p><i>Accepted:</i> 18/07/2025</p>

INTRODUCTION

Power abuse is a serious problem that has an impact on many facets of daily life in both institutional and personal contexts. Power is often abused for one's own benefit, oppressing, or unfairly controlling others. Instead, it should be used to lead, organize, and give

fair and responsible guidance. In the workplace, power abuse can take the shape of supervisors harassing, intimidating, and discriminating against their subordinates. This problem produces an uncomfortable work atmosphere in addition to harming employee morale and productivity. According to Foucault, power entails control over speech and knowledge in addition to formal authority. "Power is everywhere; not because it embraces everything, but because it comes from everywhere" (Foucault, 1978, p. 93). This demonstrates how power abuse may take many different forms and occur in a variety of settings, frequently without the victims or offenders realizing it.

Sexual harassment is a particular type of power abuse when the offender utilizes their position of authority to coerce the victim into engaging in undesired sexual activities. This harassment can be physical, verbal, or nonverbal, and it frequently happens in situations when the victim finds it difficult to defend themselves or come forward out of fear of shame or revenge. Sexual harassment, in Jaggar's opinion, can be viewed as an expression of a larger patriarchal dominance. Sexual harassment, in her opinion, is a component of a wider system that upholds men's dominance over women in addition to inappropriate individual behavior. Jaggar states that "Sexual harassment is an expression of patriarchal power that infiltrates many aspects of social life, influencing the way women are treated and viewed in society" (Jaggar, 1988, p. 145). This quote can show how sexual harassment functions in a mechanism to maintain unfair gender hierarchies.

The film *Photocopier*, directed by Wregas Bhanuteja, addresses important issues of sexual harassment and power abuse in Indonesian academic settings. An in-depth view of how unfair power structures can encourage sexual harassment and oppress victims is provided in this film. This demonstrates how the power relationships in the film *Photocopier* foster an atmosphere conducive to sexual harassment. Alison Jaggar argues that "Sexual harassment is both a consequence and a reinforcement of the larger system of gendered power relations that exist in society." (Jaggar, 1983, p. 200). This quotation serves as an example of how sexual harassment perpetuates gender inequality and highlights the need for a strategy that takes into account and addresses societal power dynamics in order to effectively address the issue. This film has illustrated how power abuse can be used to silence and marginalize victims of sexual harassment by utilizing the theoretical frameworks of Michel Foucault and Alison Jaggar. It has also shown how the film "*Photocopier*" offers a potent commentary on the current social issues of sexual harassment and power abuse.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The researcher uses several theories as the main basis for examining the object in this study. The researcher uses the sociology-feminism approach as an umbrella in this study, social theory, power abuse theory by Michel Foucault, feminism theory, and sexual harassment theory by Alison Jaggar.

Power Abuse

Power has a relationship with influence (the ability to persuade others through strong motivation to achieve something that controls the impact that is not understood by others to

satisfy desires power holder). In power, there are definitely things that are not in accordance with the norms of what the owner of power does. This is often called Power abuse. According to Foucault, the interaction between disciplinary power and knowledge is frequently the source of power abuse. Abuse is more likely when hierarchies are reinforced by knowledge and institutional power systems become inflexible. "Power is not an institution, and not a structure; neither is it a certain strength we are endowed with; it is the name that one attributes to a complex strategical situation in a particular society." (Foucault, 1978, p. 93).

Forms of Power Abuse

1. Biopower and Governmentality

Foucault explores the ways in which contemporary nations use "biopower" and "governmentality" to manipulate populations. Governmentality refers to the methods and approaches used to run societies, whereas biopower is the control of populations through welfare, healthcare, and education programs.

2. Disciplinary Institution

By standardizing behavior and punishing deviations, Foucault investigates how institutions such as hospitals, prisons, and schools exercise authority over people. When institutions have too much influence over people's lives, this disciplinary authority may be abused.

3. Technologies of the Self

Foucault examines how people absorb the standards and behaviors that are forced on them by the institutions of society, which results in self-awareness and self-control. Internalizing rigid standards and norms and imposing them on others or on oneself can be considered a kind of power abuse.

Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is a form of discrimination that involve requests for sexual favors, unwelcome and inappropriate advances, and other verbal or physical. It can happen in a variety of contexts, such as public areas, workplaces, and educational institutions. According to Alison Jaggar, sexual harassment is a type of violence against women. He defines sexual harassment as any unwelcome or prohibited sexual activity, including but not limited to lewd body language, winking, joking, sex-oriented taunting, staring, making comments about one's physique or physical appearance, delivering suggestive signals, and displaying explicit images. -pornographic pictures featuring nude anatomy, prodding, caressing, or pinching, as well as requests for sex. According to Alison Jaggar's there are three types of sexual harassment. In Alison Jaggar's opinion, there are the following types of sexual harassment:

1. Gender Harassment

Gender harassment is defined as any behavior that conveys the idea that women are not welcome, do not belong, or are inappropriate where they are. It involves insulting statements, gestures, or other kinds of communication, as well as

acts or attitudes that establish a hostile or unwelcoming environment based on gender.

2. Unwanted Sexual Attention

Any sort of unwanted sexual attention, whether expressed orally or physically, that has the potential to negatively impact someone's career or academic standing or that fosters an environment that is threatening, hostile, or unpleasant is referred to as unwanted sexual attention.

3. Sexual Coercion

Sexual coercion is the use of threats, promises, or rewards, either explicit or implicit, to get someone to comply sexually when someone thinks they have little or no other option than to submit. It usually happens when someone exerts pressure on another individual to have sex against their will or better judgment by using their influence, power dynamics, or authority.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research uses a qualitative descriptive method with a sociology-feminism approach. The data in this research were taken from the story of the main character in the film *Photocopier* by Wregas Bhanuteja. Sources Literature, papers, journals, and previous research are the sources of data in this research. In order to gain a deeper understanding of a thing, researcher may also use research on it using various ideas. Researcher analyzed the film according to the theory used. If the data has been collected, the data is classified for researcher categorized the forms of power abuse and the effect of power abuse on sexual harassment with types of sexual harassment. In this study, the data is in the form of text and images in the *Photocopier* film.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This section researcher presents the findings to address the research question. The researcher categorizes the quotes in the findings that respond to the research questions. (1) Forms of power abuse and (2) How does power abuse that affects sexual harassment in the film *Photocopier*. The first research question of this research is what are the forms of power abuse found in the film *Photocopier* by Wregas Bhanuteja. This research uses the power abuse theory by Michel Foucault. The researcher found three forms that fit Foucault's explanation. They are biopower and governmentality, disciplinary institution, and technologies of the self. And for the second research question, researcher found three types of sexual harassment, namely gender harassment, unwanted sexual attention, and sexual coercion.

The researcher discovered three forms of power abuse and fifty data from this movie to address the first research question. These data consist of forms power abuse. The researcher used descriptive analysis to go into great depth about the research findings in the

second research question, using Michel Foucault's theory to Jaggar's theory. Furthermore, the researcher provides arguments to support the analysis and interpretation in this research.

Forms of Power Abuse

1. Biopower and Governmentality

There are 28 excerpts in Biopower and Governmentality. Demonstrated in the film *Photocopier* by Wregas Bhanuteja characters' use contemporary power is utilized to influence people's behavior and way of life in society through a range of regulatory and control methods in addition to direct coercion.



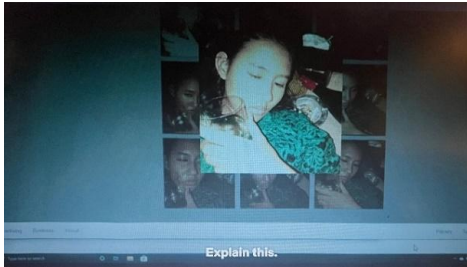
(Figures 1 Screenplay 19:54-20:18)

Head of Scholarship Board : Why did you upload them to your social media?
Suryani : I didn't upload them, sir!
Head of Scholarship Board : Then who did? Your assistant?
Scholarship Board Member 1 : But you did go to a party last night, right? I see you're still wearing the same dress.
Suryani : Let me explain...
Scholarship Board Member 2 : She told us that she needs to wear it for an event after this
Suryani : But, sir, I'm wearing this...
Head of Scholarship Board : I am appalled.

In this data, Suryani (main character) tries to explain what happened to her last night to the head of scholarship board and its members that she didn't upload anything at all while she was on the party last night. Researcher classifies this data into biopower and governmentality categories because biopower is the idea that governs and controls life itself, including social interactions, communal living, and individual behavior. The conflict between forced government and self-governing is illustrated by the allegation and denial. Denial of Suryani is as an attempt to skirt the repercussions of not living up to the standards set by society norms.

2. Disciplinary Institution

There are 12 excerpts in Disciplinary Institution. Demonstrated in the film Photocopier by Wregas Bhanuteja characters' use a type of organization that use control, monitoring, and observation techniques to shape and mold individual behavior.



(Figures 11 Screenplay 19:35-20:00)

Head of Scholarship Board : I want to ask you something. Do you often go to night clubs?

Suryani : No, sir. Not at all.

Scholarship Board Member 1 : Do you drink?

Suryani : What? No, sir.

Head of Scholarship Board : Then what's this? Explain this. Why did you upload them to your social media?

Suryani : I didn't upload them, sir!

Head of Scholarship Board : Then who did? Your assistant?

Scholarship Board Member 1 : But you did go to a party last night, right? I see you're still wearing the same dress.

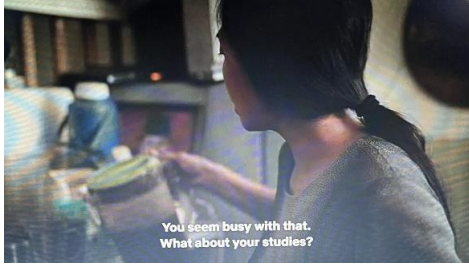
Suryani : Let me explain...

In this data, Suryani was asked to provide an explanation of her whereabouts at the time of the incident after being called by the university to answer for the images that were circulated. Researcher classifies this data into disciplinary institution categories because disciplinary institution is not just about overt punishment but also about creating a self-regulating society where individuals internalize these norms and monitor their own behavior to avoid negative consequences. This incident illustrates how people are subjected to moral standards and societal expectations, particularly when their behavior deviates from the norm. The inquiry regarding Suryani's attendance at nightclubs can be interpreted as a moral assessment, wherein Suryani's compliance with conventional social norms is being assessed.

3. Technologies of the Self

There are 10 excerpts in Technologies of the Self. Demonstrated in the film Photocopier by Wregas Bhanuteja characters' use the different ways that people mold, adjust, or control their own identities, bodies, minds, or behaviors. To put it another

way, these are the methods or approaches people use to develop a specific kind of subjectivity or selfhood.



(Figures 17 Screenplay 04:55-05:10)

Suryani's Mother : You seem busy with that. What about your studies?
Suryani : It's going well, mom. It's actually good for my CV. It shows that I can make a proper website. It's also good for my scholarship reports.

In this data, family customs compel Suryani to fit in in order to preserve their reputation. Researcher classifies this data into technologies of the self categories because a sort of self-technology is Suryani's reflection on how her activities enhance their CV and scholarship. Similar to how Suryani absorbs society norms and disciplines herself to achieve these standards, her parents are keeping an eye on her behavior and guiding it to conform to external expectations. To shape their identity in a way that is valued in their social context, Suryani deliberately manages her activities and self-presentation to line with external expectations. This is an example of how Suryani is using technologies of the self.

Power Abuse that affects Sexual Harassment

1. Biopower and Governmentality that affects Gender Harassment, Unwanted Sexual Attention, and Sexual Coercion

According to Michel Foucault's biopower and governmentality, power works subtly through social regulation and bodily control to uphold gender norms that hinder inequality. In the context of gender harassment, unwanted sexual attention, and sexual coercion, biopower plays a role in normalizing dominance masks and transforming a woman's body into a controllable object. Conversely, governmentality enables individuals to unwittingly accept social structures that hinder sexual activity, including in institutions like workplaces, schools, and the media. These two concepts help to explain how sexual violence is not only experienced individually but is also influenced by larger, more collective power systems.

a. Biopower and Governmentality that affects Gender Harassment



(Figures 3 Screenplay 31:25-31:50)

Amin : Sur. Learn your lesson. The next time you drink, be careful!

Suryani : What lesson, jerk? Here, look at this. They did this to the new members. I knew it was part of their initiation, but they wouldn't admit that they did this to me.

In this data, Suryani finds out at what time her friends upload photos to social media. When Suryani finds out, Amin advises Suryani to take this problem as a lesson. Researcher classifies this data into gender harassment categories because this conversation illustrates the intricate relationships between power and social control, where gender greatly influences how people are regulated and expected to act, particularly in situations where social and cultural norms are strongly present. Observed in the way Suryani feels pressured to follow gender standards that put the onus on her to stay out of dangerous situations, despite the fact that it is those who misuse this power that should be changing their conduct. This is a reflection of how power is employed in the film to uphold unequal and discriminatory gender-based social institutions.

b. Biopower and Governmentality that affects Unwanted Sexual Attention



(Figures 2 Screenplay 25:00-25:18)

Suryani's Father : Since this morning, everyone has been coming, asking questions. "What was wrong with Sur?", "Who was the guy carrying her?". Your mom and I had to answer all of them. Said you had a job interview, you were partying instead!

Suryani : But I wanted to celebrate my achievement, Dad...
Suryani's Father : Achievement? You lost your scholarship because of your bad behavior. You call that an achievement? Who's going pay for your tuition now? Don't you feel bad for your mother?

In this data, Suryani just wants to explain everything to her father and mother that she only went to a party last night and she lost her scholarship not because of her actions. Researcher classifies this data into biopower and governmentality of unwanted sexual attention categories because this data demonstrates the nuanced power relations, as victims of sexual abuse are subjected to control and discipline. It emphasizes how Suryani's sexual harassment was coerced into a way that would undermine her authority and reputation. Suryani was blamed for losing her scholarship and it was emphasized that her "bad" behaviors were the reason for everything, rather than receiving assistance or protection. In this instance of unwanted sexual attention, the victim endures the negative effects of both the initial conduct and the social backlash that holds them accountable for the harassment's outcomes.

c. Biopower and Governmentality that affects Sexual Coercion



(Figures 10 Screenplay 1:53:16-1:53:47)

Farah : You call every victim in the video and tell them to come here. We'll go to the police. And don't forget Burhan's car. We'll bring it along as evidence.
Thariq : The police? Our videos would just go viral! Sur, haven't you learned anything? Didn't you see how rich Rama's dad is? You stole data from people, Sur. You hacked them. We beat up and abducted that driver! We'd all go to jail!
Farah : Then why didn't you follow the plan? Beating him up like that.

In this data, Suryani, Farah, and Thariq have found evidence from Mr. Burhan's cellphone, and they do not dare to report it to the police because Rama's father is a powerful person. Researcher classifies this data into biopower and governmentality of sexual coercion categories because this conversation demonstrates how the interplay of power, social control, and sexual coercion results in the oppressive and unfair circumstances that victims endure. Victims sometimes find it difficult to break free from the cycle of oppression and coercion that perpetrators and institutions create by using economic power and threats of punishment to influence and impose their will on weaker individuals. This demonstrates

how crimes, such as sexual coercion, can be concealed by the use of economic power.

2. Disciplinary Institution that affects Gender Harassment, Unwanted Sexual Attention, and Sexual Coercion

Through explicit and implicit regulations, monitoring, and punishment systems, disciplinary institutions like the military, businesses, and schools significantly contribute to the formation and upkeep of gender norms. These organizations frequently perpetuate male-dominated power structures and stifle victims' or women's voices, fostering conditions that allow for and normalize sexual coercion, unwanted sexual attention, and gender harassment. Sexual harassment perpetrators are frequently shielded by institutional cultures that normalize power and inequality, while behavior that deviates from standards is labeled abnormal through disciplinary systems.

a. Disciplinary Institution that affects Gender Harassment



(Figures 15 Screenplay 1:31:38)

The Dean : I don't want the university to get dragged into this case if this goes to court.

In this data, the dean and the dean of cultural sciences tell Suryani that the campus does not want to be involved in this problem if it goes to court. Researcher classifies this data into disciplinary institution of gender harassment categories because disciplinary institution in this instance would rather preserve their reputation than handle complaints of gender harassment or discrimination against women fairly. Victims experience a hostile environment as a result, feeling abandoned and their worries not being heard or seriously considered. "I don't want the university to get dragged into this case if this goes to court." Shows an effort to hide and escape accountability for a situation that might involve gender harassment. It demonstrates how organizations care more about maintaining their prestige than giving victims justice. Atory mindset that shapes how an individual should behave.

b. Disciplinary Institution that affects Unwanted Sexual Attention



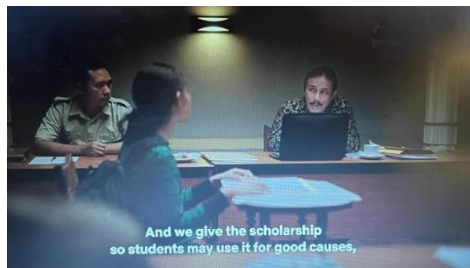
(Figures 16 Screenplay 2:02:21-2:02:34)

Suryani : This is all the evidence we have left. The rest is nothing but stories.

Farah : Do you think they're going to believe us?

In this data, despite knowing the repercussions from the institution, Suryani chooses to take action and reveal the injustice she was subjected to. Researcher classifies this data into disciplinary institution of unwanted sexual attention categories because this demonstrates how institutions can perpetuate injustice by establishing extremely high standards for proof, which victims of sexual assault frequently are unable. Suryani experiences unwanted sexual attention without tangible proof, it could be judged as “not important enough” or “not proven enough.” Since it is frequently impossible to show unwanted sexual attention objectively, this demonstrates how institutions worsen victim suffering and justify the conduct of perpetrators by rejecting or discounting testimony in the absence of tangible evidence.

c. **Disciplinary Institution that affects Sexual Coercion**



(Figures 12 Screenplay 20:40-21:25)

Scholarship Board Member 2 : However... Your academic performance and your behavior are both important, Suryani.

Scholarship Board Member 1 : And we give the scholarship so students may use it for good causes, not for this kind of rubbish.

Suryani : But, sir, I've always joined positive activities. The website that I made helped the theater department to win, sir.

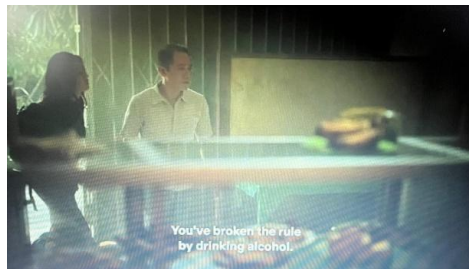
Head of Scholarship Board : Wait a second. As far as I know, this faculty doesn't have any theater group. Are you really a Cultural Science major? Let's go to the point. We have to deliberate. Whatever the result, we'll let you know. Your session is over, anyway. Look at yourself. I don't think you're fully sober.

In this data, Suryani spoke with her lecturer regarding the withdrawal of her scholarship. Researcher classifies this data into disciplinary institution of sexual coercion categories because this conversation illustrates how educational institutions utilize their authority to control and punish student behavior while subtly placing the blame for incidents on the victims. Scholarships, which were once an institutional form of support, are now used as a social control tool to make students follow particular moral guidelines. It demonstrates how institutional authority can compound victims' pain by pressing them through unjust moral and societal norms when it comes to sexual coercion. This despite having experienced violence, Suryani, a victim of sexual harassment, felt pressured by the university to demonstrate her worthiness for the scholarship.

3. Technologies of the Self that affects Gender Harassment, Unwanted Sexual Attention, and Sexual Coercion

Technologies of the self describes how people mold their identities and actions in accordance with deeply rooted social conventions, such as gender norms. The idea explains how people especially women are frequently urged to place the blame on themselves, modify the way they look, or curtail their conduct in order to prevent violence, rather than calling for systemic change in the context of gender harassment, unwanted sexual attention, and sexual coercion. In addition to implicitly reinforcing a society that defends dominance and control over women's bodies, this internalization process makes victims feel accountable for the abuse they endure.

a. Technologies of the Self that affects Gender Harassment



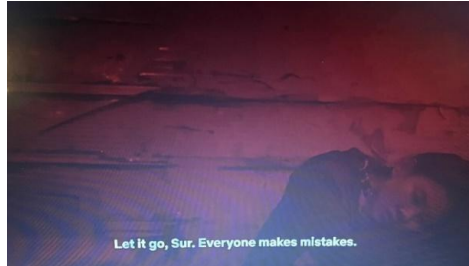
(Figures 19 Screenplay 24:10-24:23)

- Suryani : Dad. What are you doing, dad? Dad!
- Suryani's Father : You've broken the rule by drinking alcohol. You are no longer a member of this family.
- Suryani : Dad, let me explain. Please stop. I haven't explained anything!
- Suryani's Father : I don't need any explanation.

In this data, Suryani's father is carrying a bag containing Suryani's clothes and wants Suryani to leave the house because her father thinks Suryani has embarrassed the family. Researcher classifies this data into technologies of the self of gender harassment categories because this conversation demonstrates how people utilize their own technologies of the self to absorb and adhere to rigid familial and social norms.

The threat of family distancing as a form of retribution illustrates how gender norms are employed to uphold oppression and inequality, fostering an environment that is hostile to abuse victims. A form of control that might perpetuate gender inequality is the threat of family exclusion for breaking rules. This represents intense social pressure for Suryani.

b. Technologies of the Self that affects Unwanted Sexual Attention

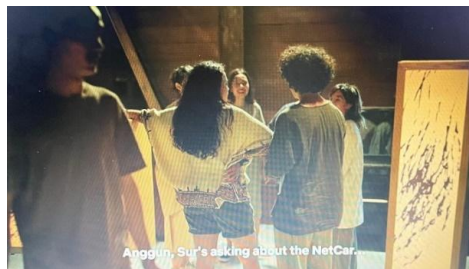


(Figures 20 Screenplay 1:07:15-1:07:21)

Amin : Let it go, Sur. Everyone makes mistakes. Don't overthink it. You've got money from Rama's dad to pay your tuition. You can relax now.

In this data, Suryani's friend reminds him that, in line with the idea of Technologies of the Self, technology may be an empowering tool if handled sensibly. Researcher classifies this data into technologies of the self of unwanted sexual attention categories because this conversation illustrates how societal pressure can be utilized to mold a person's reaction to trauma and direct them toward remedies that might help people in positions of authority, like Rama's family. This is an illustration of how self-serving technologies function in society to lessen the effects of sexual assault and how victims are frequently made to accept an unjust world. The advice to "let it go" and take money in exchange for compensation subtly implies that Suryani's ordeal was not regarded as a grave violation of her rights and dignity, but rather as a "mistake" that could be rectified with money. This demonstrates how unwanted sexual attention are frequently handled ineffectively, encouraging victims to go on and accept their circumstances rather than being acknowledged as legitimate victims deserving of justice.

c. Technologies of the Self that affects Sexual Coercion



(Figures 18 Screenplay 27:45-28:16)

Rama : Anggun, Sur's asking about the NetCar...

Anggun : Okay, Sur. So... Everyone left in their own cars, so I ordered a NetCar for you. Did you lose anything?

Suryani : No, but what time was that?

Anggun : Let me check the order history.

Suryani : Was i.... Was I asleep or...

Anggun : Last night you were really drunk. I try to wake you up, but you were out cold. So I'm really sorry. I had to find your ID to get your address.

Suryani : Can you send it to me?

In this data, Suryani asks Anggun a question with the aim of understanding and validating her identity. Researcher classifies this data into technologies of the self of sexual coercion categories because this conversation demonstrates how social control and technology can be used to restrict and regulate an individual's freedom through the prism of technologies of the self, particularly when victims are not conscious that they are being controlled. There is an implicit sexual coercion element to this exchange, as Suryani is not offered the option to decline the circumstance. It appears that there is an effort to conceal or mask the fact that she has been put in a highly precarious situation by ordering a NetCar without her authorization and then asking if she is "did you lose anything?" This illustrates how sexual coercion can take place in situations when the victim is not overtly coerced but is instead subjugated through actions that alter their circumstances and beliefs.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the research and discussion the researcher concludes, there are 3 forms of power abuse identified in the Photocopier film, with the most common forms of biopower and governmentality. The data reveals that biopower and governmentality are documented in 28 data, often resulting in gender harassment, unwanted sexual attention and sexual coercion, which are recorded in 11, 11 and 8 data respectively. This shows a strong relationship between repeated biopower and governmentality with the development of the tendency to commit sexual harassment. These three principles were analyzed using Jaggar sexual harassment types are Gender Harassment, Unwanted Sexual Attention, and Sexual Coercion, which yielded nine types of data. The Gender Harassment revealed the following percentages: Biopower and Governmentality (36%), Disciplinary Institution (36%), and Technologies of the Self (26%). The Unwanted Sexual Attention yielded: Biopower and Governmentality (52%), Disciplinary Institution (23%), and Technologies of the Self (23%). The Sexual Coercion showed: Biopower and Governmentality (40%), Disciplinary Institution (25%), and Technologies of the Self (35%). In total, the study identified eighty-eight data points derived from the nine categories analyzed.

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