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A Comparative Content Analysis of News Articles on Crimes Against Members of the
LGBT in Balita and Pilipino Star Ngayon from January 2009 to June 2011

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A COMPARATIVE CONTENT ANALYSIS OF NEWS ARTICLES
ON CRIMES AGAINST MEMBERS OF THE LGBT IN BALITA AND PILIPINO
STAR NGAYON FROM JANUARY 2009 TO JUNE 2011

By

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DEDICATION

To nanay and tatay:

Here it is after five years.

Delayed nga, UP naman.

ABSTRACT

Quinones, DE. (2012). *A Comparative Content Analysis of News Articles on Crimes Against Members of the LGBT in Balita and Filipino Star Ngayon from January 2009 to June 2011,* Unpublished Bachelor of Arts Thesis, University of the Philippines College of Mass Communication

This study is a comparative content analysis of two Philippine tabloids, namely *Balita* and *Pilipino Star Ngayon*, and how they report crimes against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) victims. The terms used to describe victims and suspects, types of crimes, and motives were considered as variables in this study. Interviews with reporters and editors from the said tabloids were gathered to complement the results of the data from the articles.

The primary goal of this study is to compare how these two tabloids present LGBTs in crime stories. The secondary goal is to check if these tabloids followed or violated the seventh paragraph in the Journalist Code of Ethics, which states, "I shall not in any manner ridicule, cast aspersions on or degrade any person of reason of sex, creed, religious belief, political conviction, cultural and ethnic origin." Another secondary goal is to get the reaction from the LGBT community on how these articles affect them.

By studying news articles about LGBT victims in these tabloids, the researcher hopes to add empirical data to the current field of knowledge on LGBT and gender studies in the local setting.

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CHAPTER I. INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

1. Gender Sensitive Writing

The terms "sex" and "gender" are often used interchangeably, although language and gender theorists have made distinctions between the two. *Sex* refers to the physiological, and is usually assigned based on the child's genitals as male or female. *Gender*, on the other hand, refers to the cultural or social construct, and to the traits assigned to a sex as masculine or feminine based on the norms of societies and cultures. This distinction had to be made because people's biological features do not necessarily correlate to their masculinity or femininity. (Litosseliti, 2006).

"Sexism" was patterned after "racism, wherein sex is counted as relevant in contexts where it is not. (Richards, 2003) Sexism reflects the hierarchical relationship between men and women, where one is the norm, and the other marked as "other" or inferior. Language can then reinforce or debunk sexism. For example, feminists believe that language is man-made, and men are the norm while women are the other. This can be seen by the pronouns in the English language, where "he," "him," or "his" are used to depict generally men and women.

The American Psychological Association (2008) defines sexual orientation as "an enduring pattern of emotional, romantic, and/or sexual attractions to men, women, or both sexes." This is also the term preferred by the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, or GLAAD, to "sexual

preference." The latter insinuates that "being gay, lesbian, or bisexual is a choice and therefore can and should be "cured." (GLAAD, 2010b)

A form of sexual orientation is homosexuality, which means "having emotional, romantic, or sexual attractions to members of one's own sex." (APA, 2008)

Joe Kort (2008), author of the blog "Gay's Anatomy" in the Psychology Today website, likened the stigma of the term "homosexuality" to carrying the same gravity as the term "n-word" is against African-Americans. This negative connotation may have started before the 1970s, when it was believed that sexual orientation was a choice. The American Psychological Association and American Psychiatric Association have since debunked the notion of homosexuality as a disease.

GLAAD suggested using "gay" as an adjective, as in "gay man," or "gay person/people". "Homosexual" can only be used as a direct quote. (GLAAD, 2010b)

2. *Bisexuality and Transgender*

Bisexuals are those who have "emotional, romantic, or sexual attractions to both men and women." (APA, 2008) Transgender, on the other hand, is an umbrella term for people "whose gender identity and/or gender expression differs from the sex they were assigned at birth." This may include, but is not limited to, transsexuals, cross-dressers, and other gender-variant people. (GLAAD, 2010c)

Neither should be confused with one another. Bisexuality is a form of sexual orientation, while transgender is a form of gender identity. "Transgender" should be used as an adjective, not a noun or a verb. For example, "transgender person" is preferred than "a transgender" or "transgendered person." (GLAAD, 2010c)

A transgender man is a person who transitioned from female to male, while a transgender woman is a person who transitioned from male to female. According to the Associated Press stylebook (as cited in GLAAD, 2010a), "unless a former name is newsworthy or pertinent, use the name and pronouns…preferred by the transgender person. If no preference is known, use the pronouns with the way the subject lives publicly."

3. *Definitions and Statistics of Hate Crimes*

Several institutions have given definitions of hate crimes; however, their common factors include that hate crimes are: 1) committed against a person based on bias or prejudice, and 2) they violate human rights and/or criminal laws. The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, for example, defines hate crimes as "(1) an act that constitutes an offense under criminal law; and (2) in committing the crime, the perpetrator acts on the basis of prejudice or bias." (Definitions of Hate Crime). Similarly, the Associate of Chief Police Officers in Britain defined a hate crime as "any incident, which may or may not constitute a criminal offence, which is perceived by the victim or any other person as being motivated by prejudice or hate." (Roxas-Mendoza, 2011)

The US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), for example, defined hate crimes as "incidents, offenses, victims, and offenders in reported crimes that were motivated in whole or in part by a bias against the victims' perceived race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or disability." (The Federal Bureau).

In 2009, the FBI cited 6,598 single-bias incidents[1] related to hate crime. 1,436 or 18.5% hate crime offenses were based on sexual orientation bias. More than half were motivated by anti-male homosexual bias, followed by anti-homosexual, anti-female homosexual, anti-bisexual, and anti-heterosexual.

4. Factors to Consider in Assessing Crime Rates

Even with these figures, the FBI cautioned against generalizing on the state of hate crimes in their jurisdictions based solely on the bureau's reports. As explained in their website, "these rankings lead to simplistic and/or incomplete analyses that often create misleading perceptions adversely affecting cities, counties, along with their residents."

Several factors were mentioned in assessing the crime rate in a certain area. Consider, for example, the demographics of the jurisdiction, including the racial and ethnicity, economic, industrial, age make-up, and educational levels, and prevalent family structures.

The geography of the area should also be considered, including the transportation system, climate, and proximity to military installations and correctional facilities.

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[1] According to the FBI website, a single-bias incident is "an incident in which one or more offense types are motivated by the same bias."

Lastly, the strength and the aggressiveness of the law enforcement agencies should be factored in. The attitudes of the citizen towards crime reporting are included in this as well. Some areas do not necessarily have more criminals, but their law enforcement agencies and citizens are more aggressive in pursuing and reporting crime, especially minor ones.

B.   Statement of the Problem and Objectives

Tabloids are popular because they are cheaper and smaller than broadsheets, and are often in the vernacular language. Because of their wide readership, it is important to know how they are portraying certain communities, especially marginalized groups.

1. Research Problem

How do *Balita* and *Pilipino Star Ngayon* present LGBTs through their news articles on crimes against the said community?

2. Objectives

General Objective:

To analyze how *Balita* and *Pilipino Star Ngayon* present LGBTs through their news articles on crimes against the said community.

Specific Objectives:

1. To compare and contrast how these two tabloids present LGBTs in their reports;

2. To check if these tabloids followed or violated the seventh paragraph of the PPI-NPC Journalist Code of Ethics, which states: "I shall not in any manner ridicule, cast aspersions on or degrade any person of reason of sex, creed, religious belief, political conviction, cultural and ethnic origin;"

3. To point out these violations if LGBTs are proven to be discriminated against;

4. To describe how the portrayal of LGBTs in these tabloids affects the public perception of the community;

5. To give recommendations on how to address these violations, if any;

C. Significance of the Study

Media is considered as the fourth estate, as it has as much power as the first other three. Information disseminated and values reinforced by the media can reach millions of people. It is also powerful enough to transmit and maintain values through time, such as in generations, and space, such as crossing political and geographical boundaries.

The 2005 Philippine Media Factbook showed that certain tabloids have more readers than broadsheets. *Pilipino Star Ngayon* is one of them, surpassing the average number of readers of The Philippine Star. De Guzman's study also revealed that tabloids have a significant impact in shaping the values and opinions of their readers. Unfortunately, though, they are not geared towards social issues, but on matters involving sex, gore, and violence.

It cannot speak about every subject and for every community. The media is then a powerful tool, but still a tool. It is up to its consumers, in this case the audience, to make sure that they are properly represented.

The perspective that language is used in certain ways because of the practices of the people has shifted to the view that who we are is partly influenced by language. This perspective then assumes that language does not simply reflect social realities, but has an active part in creating it. (Litosseliti, 2006, p. 9). It is then important to identify what values and identities are upheld through language. Social and power relations can then be identified as well, and how they are distributed in society.

This study then hopes to find patterns within the written codes to decipher cultural concepts and practices. An insight into these concepts and practices can give the Philippine society, particularly the media, scholars, and LGBTs, a clearer framework of what the issues actually are. They can then work on the roots of these issues, instead of addressing mere manifestations disguised as the cause.

The variables used in this study are based on the Philippine setting to add more data to the small but growing local knowledge about the power of media in affecting people's self-perception. This is especially relevant to the changing landscape of information. Radio, television, and print are no longer the only sources of information. The internet has introduced a more participative environment, where users can contribute to online content.

The LGBT community has been more visible in the local media for the past decades. However, some of these images are inaccurate, if not completely false. The media tends to fall back on stereotypes and half-truths in portraying LGBTs, such as

being sidekicks and comic reliefs. These images transcend the print, audio, and video, and become accepted as reality in the real world. These portrayals become pigeonholes, and non-conforming members of the LGBTs are not accepted.

By providing empirical data to accurately derive what the current situation is, this study can recommend ideas and methods to make improvements and ultimately acceptance of LGBTs in the Philippines.

CHAPTER II. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

A. Media, Language, and Gender

1. Inadequacy of Language-in-Use

Lia Litosseliti (2006) explained how language simultaneously reflect and create social realities in her book "Gender and Language: Theory and Practice." She mentioned that a shift occurred since the 1960s from viewing gender "bias in language as an abstract system to looking at bias in language use and at potentially sexist discourses, which may be obvious, or subtle, or even unarticulated." (p. 14)

She then enlisted several areas of bias in the English language as an abstract system. One of them is the generic problematic use of pronouns, such as the use of "he," "his," and "him" as generic pronouns, "man" and "mankind" as reference to both men and women, and "man on the street" as expressions. This reinforces that men are dominant, while women are the "other." However, this may not directly apply to Filipino, because of the lack of masculinity or femininity of the pronouns. For example, the third person "he" and "she" in English is "siya" in Filipino, or the third person possessive "his" and "hers" in English is "kanya" in Filipino.

Another area of bias is sex specification, wherein forms of nouns are changed to denote femininity. Examples are the feminization of "waiter" to "waitress," or the now outdated shift of "author" to "authoress." Another example of sex specification is the use of "she" to refer to countries, boats, and motor cars.

This may apply to Filipino nouns as well, such as a female doctor is referred to as "doktora."

Another area of bias called gratuitous modifiers may apply to the Filipino language. Gratuitous modifiers mean affixing "woman" or "lady" before a noun, such as "woman doctor" and "lady guard." This is a form of bias because it diminishes a person's prestige by drawing attention to their sex. This form also applies to men, as in the case of "male nurse." In Filipino, "babae" can affixed before a noun, such as "babaeng manunulat."

An example of lexical gaps or under-lexicalization is having more words for promiscuous women than for men. This is shown in Filipino with the word "puta," which means whore or promiscuous. *Puta* is hardly used to describe promiscuous men, and it is not a sex-specification of the word *puto*, which in Filipino is a rice cake.

Litosseliti concluded that beyond the manifest meaning of words, assumptions about men and women, girls and boys, gender roles and expectation are taken as truths. The identification of these hidden meanings and constructs is a step towards raising awareness about the impact of placing meaning in languages. (p.15)

Having more terms for gender and sex has given individuals more freedom in defining their sexuality. The words "homosexual" and "queer," for example, have changed meanings in the past century.

However, Linda Perry and Deborah Ballard (2004) said that the current terminology and language-in-use is "overwhelmingly inadequate." (p. 25) They

called to have a common language, because it wasn't just relevant and helpful, but necessary as well. They also cited that even with the current terminologies, "hostility faced by individuals who do not fit socially prescribed norms plays out in many ways." (p. 25)

Perry (Perry & Ballard, 2004) suggested the term "gendex" to represent "the dynamic interplay of a person's sexual identity, sex preferences, sexual orientation, and gender identity." (p. 31)

Gendex would have two facets: social and personal. The former defines the sex and gender identities that a person publicly enacts, while the latter defines these identities that "become more evident in private when not pressed to conform to social mandates for ways of being." (p. 31)

However, "gendex" hasn't been accepted yet into the mainstream culture. Also, the term does not provide any local counterparts. Filipino terms for gender and sexuality includes *kasarian*, which can interchangeably mean gender and sex.

2. *Media, Crime, and Sexuality*

One of the few studies about sexuality and the media in the Philippines was done by Sylvia Estrada-Claudio. Her study analyzed the link between "patriarchal constructions of rape, love, and sexuality, and the construction of individual identity." (Estrada-Claudio, 2002, p. 1) One of her methods to reaching about a conclusion about this link was to analyze news stories about rape. Her study included 70 clippings in Filipino covering 75 incidents of rape, and

excluded articles written in English, reports of attempted rape, and articles about rape that do not cover actual rape incidents.

Her study on these news stories of rape showed a dichotomy between the suspect and the victim. These stories emphasize that the male "suspect" who commits the crime of rape on a female "victim." (p. 19) There is also a disconnect between the rape "suspect" and the rape "victim." The latter confirms that the rape was committed to the person, while the former insinuates doubt on the identity of actual perpetrator. This mirrors the reality that a lot of women are raped, but a few men are confirmed to be rapists.

Also, her study revealed that "rape is form of violent sexual victimization of a woman by a man." (p. 3) Invisible to the sources of the clippings she studied are women who have committed at least one act of violence and men who have been victims of violence. The stereotype that women are not capable of violence, especially sexual violence, explains why reports including female suspects are virtually unseen in news. Another stereotype is revealed from Estrada-Claudio's study and that is men cannot be victims of violence, especially sexual violence. This explains why male victims do not report the violence to police or the media.

Estrada-Claudio's study did not reveal the gender identities and sexual orientations of the victims and suspects, rendering LGBTs more invisible than female suspects and male victims. News stories on rape follow the heteronormative assumption that everyone is straight. They must then state explicitly if the suspects or victims are LGBT.

The first two core principles of the theory of journalism are that the field's first obligation is to the truth and that its first loyalty is to citizens. (Project for Excellence in Journalism, n.d.) However, Kim Pearson (2006) said the media failed to recognize "the subtle remnants of an oppressive epistemological perspective." (p. 160).

Pearson (2006) elaborates about the hierarchy of death in news:

> Death, like all other human affairs, is subject to tests of newsworthiness, tests that are taught by professors and mentors and lived by journalists as if they arose from nature itself, not from potentially biased human design. (p. 166)

This seemingly innate decision to rank deaths according to their newsworthiness would explain the differences in news coverage given to different crimes. Pearson then tried to quantify what factors makes an incident "newsworthy," and determine the objectivity of these factors.

Her results came from interviews and e-mail exchanges with other African-American scholars, and online searches comparing the frequency and quantity of articles about Matthew Shepard, an American gay man who was killed because of his sexual orientation.

The assumption of her study was that whoever controls the message or the text has the power to change it. Traditionally, the upper-class white men control the texts that affect a lot of people, including those outside their class, race, and sex. Now, different people are taking control of these texts, because the changes in these texts then change their lives. (MacCormack, 2004, p. 250-251)

Those in power to determine what gets coverage and what doesn't act as gatekeepers and tend to air those they can relate to.

This can also apply to Philippine media. Television networks, radio station, and newspaper publications are owned by private companies, not just by government agencies. Their news agencies claim to be impartial, by having tag lines such as *24 Oras*'s "balitang walang kinikilingan," and the Philippine Daily Inquirer's "Balanced News, Fearless Views." However, the interests of these agencies as revealed by what they consider newsworthy should be studied in order to reveal their latent biases.

3.   *Power of Tabloids*

Tabloids are equated with *masa* readers, or the common people. However, Adoracion de Guzman's study on "The Relationship Among Filipino Values, the Values Reflected in Daily Tabloids, and the Values of Tabloid Readers and Non-Readers" (1984) as quoted by Maria Luz Baguioro and Silhahis Ocampo (1995) in their undergraduate thesis revealed that 70 per cent of the tabloid readers she profiled have reached at least college. (p. 55) According to the same study, professionals working in the financial district of Makati City buy tabloids that do not have any sexual contents, while students from the university belt buy different kinds of tabloids (p. 56).

De Guzman's survey results reveal that the more people spend time reading these tabloids, the more they are affected by the content of these tabloids (p. 59). Since tabloids are often associated with sensationalism and reports on sex, crime, and violence, people are becoming desensitized to sleaze and gore to a point where they do not feel outraged

or shocked by such stories. Instead of influencing their readers to espouse social goals, they contribute to deteriorating the values of Filipinos. (p. 72)

While the study of Baguioro and Ocampo is 16 years old, their study concluded with who they predict will remain or become market leaders in the next five years. Both *Pilipino Star Ngayon* and *Balita* are part of this forecast and they remain relevant even after the five-year duration. According to the 2005 Philippine Media Factbook, *Balita*'s daily circulation averages 160,000, while *Pilipino Star Ngayon*'s averages 418,282. *Balita*'s circulation is lesser than its broadsheet counterpart, Manila Bulletin, which has an average daily circulation of 272,310 during Mondays to Saturdays, and 349, 265 during Sundays. *Pilipino Star Ngayon*, however, surpassed the The Philippine Star, which has an average daily circulation of 257,000 during Mondays to Saturday, and 259,000 on Sundays.

This proves that tabloids still get thousands of readers and they remain relevant in keeping the people informed and in shaping the values of their readers.

B. Crimes Against LGBTs

1. Matthew Shepard

One of the most, if not the most, famous story about hate crime against LGBTs was about Matthew Shepard's murder on October 7, 1998.

Shepard was born on December 1, 1976 in Casper, Wyoming, USA. During his third year in high school, his family moved to Saudi Arabia. He then attended The

American School in Switzerland. He returned to the US to study in the University of Wyoming. (Matthew Shepard Foundation, n.d.)

On October 5, 1998, Russell Arthur Henderson and Aaron James McKinney saw Shepard at the Fireside Lounge. McKinney said Shepard was "too drunk to go home" and asked him for a ride home. (Vargas, 2004) Bartender Matt Galloway, however, said "he definitely wasn't drunk when he came in. He wasn't drunk when he went out." (Brooke, 1998a) The two suspects said they were gay to the openly gay Shepard.

In McKinney's pickup, Shepard allegedly placed his hand on McKinney's leg. The two suspects then started beating Shepard, including hitting him repeatedly with a pistol. (Brooke, 1998b) They then tied Shepard to a fence, and left him for dead. 18 hours later, he was found by a cyclist who initially mistook the nearly lifeless Shepard as a scarecrow. (Brooke, 1998a) Five days after his rescue, Shepard died at the Poudre Valley Hospital in Wyoming.

The incident received tremendous media coverage all over the world. It drew attention to hate crimes and equality rights. The Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act was introduced in 1997. The House of Representatives and Congress has revised it since. The final version was passed into law on October 28, 2009 by US President Barack Obama. (The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, n.d.)

While Shepard's death helped bring the fight for equal rights into the mainstream, there are still a lot of hate crimes that are barely reported, if at all. As Kim Pearson (2006) said, "When a murder gets played up in a news outlet, it is a sign that someone has decided that this story has meaning for the news outlet's core audience." (p. 167)

2.   *Status of Hate Crimes in the Philippines*

While the US has sources and statistics on hate crimes readily available and up to date), the opposite can be said about the Philippines. Searching the National Bureau of Investigation's (NBI) website for statistics on hate crimes would yield no results.

This is not surprising, according to the Philippine LGBT Hate Crime Watch, because the law enforcement agencies do not consider minority groups are not distinguished during investigations. However, "the lack of an established system in our country to prevent, identify, or resolve hate crimes does not mean they do not happen." (Definitions of Hate Crime)

Indeed, it was through the efforts of the watch group that data about hate crimes against LGBT was established. As of September 28, there were 141 LGBTs murdered because of sexual-orientation bias since 1996 (Labilles, 2011). An average number of 10 murders were recorded between 1996 to 2008, while an average of 12 was recorded in 2009 alone. This number continued to rise as 26 were murdered in 2010, while 27 were killed in the first six months of the year.

The manner of killings was also tracked by the watch group. According to the online study, 36 out of the initially 97 reported cases since 1996 involved LGBTs dying from multiple stab wounds, from 3 to 79 stab wounds. 20 out the 97 LGBTs were killed shot to death. (Roxas-Mendoza, 2011).

Because of these findings, Representatives Luzviminda Ilagan and Emmi de Jesus of the Gabriela women's party pushed for the passage of House Resolution 1460. The said resolution was said to urge the House Committee on Justice to investigate hate crimes against LGBTs. (Human Rights Online Philippines)

3. *House Bill 1483 or the Anti-Discrimination Bill of 2010*

Representative Teodoro Casino from the party list Bayan Muna filed House Bill 1483 or the Anti-Discrimination Bill of 2010 to penalize discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. The bill aims to eliminate discriminatory practices, whether implied or explicit, that severely limit the "exercise and enjoyment of basic rights and fundamental freedoms in schools, workplaces, commercial establishments, the civil service, and even the security services." (Gumawid, 2010) Violators of the bill's provisions will be penalized, if acted into law, with a fine not less than Php250,000 but no more than Php500,000, or imprisonment of not less than one year but not more than six years, or both at the discretion of the court. They could also be recommended for community service, including education of human rights and the current state of LGBTs in the country and in the world.

The Bill was supported by pro-LGBT rights group, such the Lesbians for National Democracy (Lesbond) and the Progressive Organizations of Gay (ProGay) Philippines. ProGay Philippines issued a statement for President Benigno Aquino III to push the passage of the Anti-Discrimination Bill. ProGay spokesperson Goya Candelario issued a statement that "ProGay believes it is truly shameful display for the Philippine government to display total lack of knowledge and appreciation of what the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) Filipinos need." (Gays ask, 2011)

On the other hand, several conservative religious groups believed that passing laws on anti-discrimination would hurt the morality of the Filipino society. The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines called to remove the gay rights in a similar bill

passed in the senate, or the Senate Bill 2814, known as the Anti-Ethnic, Racial or

Religious Discrimination and Profiling Act of 2011. Lawyer Ronald Reyes of the CBCP

said that including sex, gender, sexual orientation, and gender identity would open the

doors for same-sex marriage, which our current Constitution does not allow. (Calleja,

2011). Lawyer Jo Imbong, also from the CBCP, said that the LGBT should not be

considered as the same as the elderly, the handicapped, and the poor. He said they chose

to be "the third sex," implying that sexual orientation and gender identities are matters of

choice. (Calleja, 2011)

CHAPTER III. FRAMEWORK

A. Theories Used

1. Identity Negotiation Theory

Stella Ting-Toomey proposed the Identity Negotiation Theory, with the premise that "identities, or self-reflective images, are created through negotiation whenever we assert, modify, or challenge our own or others' self-identification." (Littlejohn, 90)

An individual has several forms of identity: social, personal, cultural, and ethnic.

Social identities are "group affiliations such as culture, sex, and age." (Littlejohn, 90). Families, for examples, mold the initial gender identity of an individual.

Next, personal identities are "more unique characteristics we associate with ourselves." Similar to social identities, personal ones are learned initially in family interaction.

Cultural identities are "related to some sense of attachment to a larger cultural group." (Littlejohn, 90) Examples of larger cultural groups are religious denominations, member of a certain organization, and even an age group. An individual's cultural identity is defined by the amount of affiliation he or she feels.

Ethnic identities consist of "an association with ancestry or a group history across generations." These include national origin, race, religion, or language.

This study included the Identity Negotiation Theory because it explains the importance of the environment in shaping an individual. The cultural landscape greatly affects how one sees and identifies himself.

It is important, then, to determine what the views of the Philippine society on LGBTs are to assess how this might affect gender identities.

2. *Queer Theory*

Teresa de Lauretis first coined the phrase in the 90s, but Judith Butler's "Gender Trouble" heavily influenced the theory.

Historically, "queer" held different meanings. It meant something strange or unusual, referred to negative characteristics, and "abusively and endearingly to refer to homosexuals." Recently, it became an academic subdiscipline as queer theory.

According to Butler, gender is socially constructed, and not biologically determined. It is also not a static or stable identity, but it is a fluctuating performance. (Littlejohn, 93)

Queer theory looks into what extent is 'identity' a normative ideal rather than a descriptive feature of experience." (Littlejohn, 93)

Critiques of the theory, however, question the fluidity of the label itself and its constant attempt to break the norm. The "anti" stance of the theory also reinforces the power of the other. It creates rigid categories to identify itself, which contradicts the theory's desire to break down labels and create fluidity.

Its contradictions and paradoxes contributed to its success and failure. Queer theory is still relevant because it challenges traditional ideas about identities. (Littlejohn, 94) It also questions the power we give to what is considered "normal," and even why they are such.

Queer theory can be applied to this study by identifying how homosexuality is constructed through the media. The theory can explain if and how media dichotomizes homosexuality and heterosexuality, and how it portrays identities and labels within homosexuality.

B. Theoretical Framework

The relationship between the society and the individual is a dynamic process, not a one-way flow from society to individual.

An individual is shaped by his constant interaction with his/her environment. One asserts or negates the values of a society's culture. These collective feedbacks then redefine societies.

The media is a reinforcing catalyst. It enables information and values to reach more individuals quicker than it otherwise could without media. Interaction with media, however, is also dynamic, especially with the emergence of new media.

This model used in this study shows the interaction of the individual, media, and the larger society. (Figure 1)

Figure 1. *Theoretical model*

| Individual | ←→ | Media | ←→ | Society |

C. Conceptual Framework

As proposed by the Identity Negotiation Theory, identities are formed by constant interaction with cultures and the affiliations they create. These cultures can be from any larger group that one feels strongly attached to. In effect, these cultures are also shaped by individual beliefs.

Media then projects and reinforces the views of the perceived majority. In turn, this is reflected back to individuals.

Traditional media is composed of television, radio, and print. Despite the emergence of new media and internet, these media are still used today. (Figure 2)

Figure 2. *Conceptual Model*

Identity	↔	Traditional media	↔	Societal perceptions as reflected in the media

D. Operational Framework

The objective of the study is to analyze how Balita and Pilipino Star Ngayon present LGBTs through their news articles on hate crimes against the said community. The model illustrates how the perceptions of LGBTs are reflected and reinforced in Balita and Pilipino Star Ngayon.

In turn, this partly forms the gender identity of Filipinos, whether directly (by reading the tabloids) or indirectly (by encountering the perception fostered by these tabloids in other forms). (Figure 3)

Figure 3. *Operational Model*
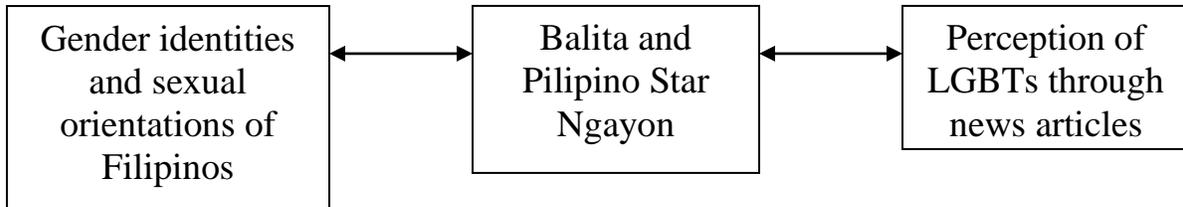
E. Definition of Terms

1. Bias:

   Particular tendency or inclination, especially one that

   prevents unprejudiced consideration of a question; prejudice

2. Bisexual:

   An individual who is physically, romantically, and/or emotionally attracted to

   men and women

3. Discrimination:

   Treatment or consideration of, or making a distinction in favor or against, a

   person or thing based on the group, class, or category to which that person or

   thing belongs rather than on individual merit

4. Gay:

   The adjective used to describe people whose enduring physical, romantic, and/or

   emotional attractions are to people of the same sex

5. Gender identity:

   One's internal, personal sense of being a man or a woman (or a boy or a girl)

6. GLAAD:

   The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (organization)

7. Hate crime:

   A crime, usually violent, motivated by prejudice or intolerance toward a member

   of a gender, racial, religious, or social group

8. Heterosexual:

   An adjective used to describe people who enduring physical, romantic, and/or emotional attraction is to people of the opposite sex; also: straight

9. Homophobia:

   Fear of lesbians and gay men

10. Homosexual:

    Outdated clinical term considered derogatory and offensive by many gay men and lesbian people

11. Lesbian:

    A woman whose enduring physical, romantic, and/or emotional attraction is to other women

12. LGBT:

    Acronym for "lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender"

13. Media:

    The means of communication, as radio and television, newspapers, and magazines, that reach or influence people widely

14. Tabloid:

    A newspaper whose pages, usually five columns wide, are about one-half the size of a standard-sized newspaper page; usually a newspaper this size concentrating on sensational and lurid news, usually heavily illustrated

15. Transgender:

    An umbrella term (adj.) for people whose gender identity and/or gender expression differs from the sex they were assigned at birth

16. Transphobia:

   Fear of transgendered people

17. Sexuality:

   Sexual character; Recognition of or emphasis upon sexual matters; Involvement

   in sexual activity

18. Sexual orientation:

   The scientifically accurate term for an individual's enduring physical, romantic,

   and/or emotional attraction to members of the same and/or opposite sex, including

   lesbian, gay, bisexual, and heterosexual (straight) orientations

19. Society:

   A highly structured system of human organization for large-scale community

   living that normally furnishes protection, continuity, security, and a national

   identity for its members

CHAPTER IV. METHODOLOGY

A. Research Design and Methods

The study focused on how Balita and Pilipino Star Ngayon present LGBTs through their news article on crimes against the said community.

This study used content analysis. Charles R. Wright (as cited in Berger, 2000, p. 173) defined content analysis as "a research technique for the systematic classification and description of communication content according to certain usually predetermined categories."

Content analysis was chosen as it is effective in determining the words and sensitivity used in the said news articles. The quantitative approach will measure the manifest content of the articles based on predetermined categories as scoring units. The categories were defined in the content analysis form.

B. Variables and Measures

Variables	Measures
Sensitivity	Use of names and descriptions accepted as gender sensitive by authorities, such as news organizations
Frequency	Number of times names and descriptions pertaining to the suspects, victims, and incidents are used

C. Units of Analysis and Sampling

The units of analysis are Balita and Pilipino Star Ngayon tabloids from January 2009 to June 2011, approximately two and half year's worth of data.

News articles about will be tabulated and analyzed. The incident reported should involve at least one LGBT victim, regardless of the sexual orientation or gender identity of the suspect, or the manner of the crime.

D. Research Instruments

A content analysis form will be used for every article relevant to this study. The form included information about the published article, such as date published, headline, and author of the article, and tabulations of the names used to describe the gender of the victims and the suspects, descriptions of the incident, and the frequency of these words.

E. Data Gathering

The researcher got copies of Balita and Pilipino Star Ngayon published from January 2009 to June 2011. Due to time restraints, the researcher could not gather data for more than the given period. The university main library kept copies of Pilipino Star Ngayon and Balita. The articles and the information therein that are relevant to the study were recorded in the content analysis form.

F. Data Analysis

This study will use simple frequencies to analyze the data. The data gathered were separated into background and primary information. Background information contained name of tabloid, and date of publication. Primary information consisted of words used to describe victims, suspects, and crime. The output for both tabloids will then be compared.

G. Scope and Limitation

This study included news articles about crimes committed against LGBTs in Balita and Pilipino Star Ngayon. The information in the content analysis form is limited by the researcher's knowledge on the issue. In addition, the tabloids to be studied depend

on the availability in the sources, such as the university archives. The researcher tried to access the archives of other tabloids, such as Bulgar and Abante-Tonite. However, due to lack of response from the editorial of the said tabloids and due to time constraints, the researcher decided to study Balita instead with the permission of the thesis adviser.

This study decided to focus on crimes that involved LGBTs. Reports that involved LGBTs as suspects or witnesses were not included, since there weren't enough of these reports to be studied. These reports may or may not explicitly indicate that the victim is indeed an LGBT. Reports about suicide were not included as well, because suicide is not considered a crime in Philippine law.

The said tabloids published only from January 1, 2009 to June 30, 2011 were considered. This is partly due to the limited time and other resources of the researcher.

H. Budget

Activity	Cost
Transportation to interviews	Php82
Food	Php150
Printing materials	Php500
TOTAL	Php732

CHAPTER V. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Content of Tabloids

The researcher went through published issues of Pilipino Star Ngayon and Balita from January 2009 to June 2011, and searched for news articles that included at least one LGBT victim. The results were discussed according to three variables: victims, suspects, and crimes. Balita had two news articles including at least one LGBT victim in the specific duration, while Pilipino Star Ngayon had 25.

1.   Victims

Among the 27 headlines, 20 used the term *bading*, while one placed the same term in quotation marks, alleging the sexual orientation of the victim. Three headlines indicated the occupation of the victim, two of which pertains to the same De La Salle University professor. One headline used the term *gay beautician* to describe the victim, indicating both his sexual orientation and occupation. One headline described its lesbian victim as *tomboy*. (Table 1)

Table 1.*Words used in headlines for LGBT victims*

Terms	Frequency
Balita	
Sexual orientation	
Bading	1
Sex	
Lalaki	1
Pilipino Star Ngayon	
Sexual orientation	
Bading	19
"Bading"	1
Tomboy	1
Occupation	

La Salle Prof	2
Gay beautician	1
Doktor	1
TOTAL	27

There were no articles that included victims who were bisexuals or transgender persons. This does not mean, however, that there are no crimes against them, as revealed by the data of the Philippine Hate Crime Watch. Instead, this shows that cases against them are underreported or the gender identities and sexual orientations of the victims are unverified. Since reporters can only write about incidents that are listed in police blotters and verified by the police and the relatives then either the relatives of the victims chose not to report them because of they do not want to carry the stigma of being LGBT, or only the gender identity and sexual orientation are not reported, and they are reported as straight.

Three out of the 25 headlines in Pilipino Star Ngayon had descriptions of the victims that did not pertain to sexual orientation, while there was none in Balita. One of them indicated that the victim was also a convicted rapist; another indicated that the victim was mute, while the third headline described the victim as *barat*. (Table 2)

Headlines must be succinct due to their limited space in publications. They should then include only important details and remain attention-grabbing. These three descriptions must have been deemed relevant and interesting to be placed in the headline.

These descriptions would reflect how and why the victims were killed as mentioned in the articles. In the story about the victim who was a convicted rapist, the motive and method for killing was not specified. It is then suggested that the victim was killed because he was a convicted rapist. In the article involving the mute gay victim, the

suspect did not pay Php20 for oral sex given by the victim. The suspect shot the victim when the latter wanted to get the payment. Similarly, the *barat* victim did not give enough for the sexual services of the "call boy." Therefore, these descriptions of the victims were included in headlines, because they are actions or properties of the victims that could be the reason why they were killed.

Table 2. *Descriptions for LGBT victims in headlines*

Descriptions	Frequency
Rapist	1
Pipi	1
Barat	1

Words used in the body of articles to refer to the victim's sexual orientation were divided into two: general and specific. General refers to any broad term for sexual orientation or gender. There was one instance when an article in Pilipino Star Ngayon referred to a victim as *sinasabing homosexual.* This term, despite being alleged, was deemed offensive and clinical by GLAAD in their Media Resource Kit.

Specific refers to any term that pertains to a specific gender identity or sexual orientation. 18 out of the 25 news articles in *Pilipino Star* Ngayon, and one out of two news articles in Balita referred to the victims as *bading.* Three articles in *Pilipino Star*

Ngayon alleged them as *umano'y* and *sinasabing bading.* One used the term *bakla.* Both *bading* and *bakla* pertains to gay men.

On the other hand, one article referred to the victim as *umano'y tomboy*, alleging the victim is a lesbian. (Table 3)

There were no articles on bisexuals or transgender people, not even alleging the possibility that the victims are so. Similar to the results of the headlines, this does not reflect the reality reported by the Philippine Hate Crime Watch. This shows that most cases with bisexual or transgender victims are either unreported by the families or the gender identity and sexual orientation of transgender and bisexual victims are not confirmed by the relatives. Another observation noted from the Philippine Hate Crime Watch is there could be low knowledge on the transgender identity. They could be reported as "gay" when in fact, they identify as females.

Table 3. *Words used to refer to the victim's sexual orientation*

Terms	Frequency
Balita	
Specific	
Bading	1
Pilipino Star Ngayon	
General	
Sinasabing homosexual	1
Specific	
Bading	18
Umano'y bading	2
Bakla	2
Umano'y tomboy	1
Sinasabing bading	1
TOTAL	26

Other descriptions of the victims were included as well. Some demographic information were mentioned, but not in all articles. The ages of the victims ranged from 25-50 years old, and the height of the victims ranged from 5'4" to 5'7". It was also indicated whether the victim was *may kapayatan* and *may katabaan.* The occupations of the victims were included as well in eight articles. Two articles were about the De La Salle University professor, while two more mentioned that the victims were beauticians. One was an owner of a talent promotion firm, another was an employee of the Department of Agriculture, while another was a supervisor of Smart credit and collection department. (Table 4)

Aside from this demographic information, physical and behavioral descriptions were also mentioned in some articles. In the article on two gay men kidnapped by the rebel group Abu Sayyaf, the report mentioned that *napagkamalang mga babae ang dalawang bading.* This suggests that the gay men involved were effeminate and probably even transgendered. The article did not provide any more descriptions to confirm if they are.

Some articles had more elaborate physical descriptions of the victims, such as by describing what the victim was wearing. One article mentioned that the victim who was a gay man found dead in a bathroom as *may hikaw sa magkabilang tenga at nakasuot ng maong shot [sic] at itim na sundo.* Another article mentioned that the victim who was a mute gay man as *nakasuot ng spaghetti strap na blouse, mahabang palda, lady's shoes, may tattoo sa kanang braso na "BJJ 432" at may taas na 5'4".* These descriptions suggest that the victims were dressed frivolously and were looking for sex when the crime was committed. These two incidents happened at night, when it is understood to be

dangerous to be outside the house. These descriptions suggest that the victims knew they

placed themselves in danger by looking for and having sex at night with strangers, and

therefore they were at fault for placing themselves in a vulnerable situation.

The behaviors of some of the victims were also mentioned in two articles. One of

the gay men was reported as *malimit umanong mang-akit ng mga obrero* and *paggala-*

gala at nang-aakit ng mga construction worker. Another was described as *madalas*

umanong may kasamang lalaki. Both refer to the sexual activities of the victims, often

leading to the reported incident. (Table 5)

Similar to describing what the victims were wearing, these suggest that the victim

constantly places himself vulnerable to danger by constantly looking for sex with

strangers. Based from these reports, it was only a matter of time before something bad

happened to the victims.

Table 4. *Demographic descriptions attributed to LGBT victims*

Description	Frequency
Balita	
Age	
40-anyos	1
Pilipino Star Ngayon	
Age	
31-anyos	2
25-26 anyos	1
25-30 anyos	1
38-40 anyos	1
50 anyos	1
53 anyos	1
Height and build	
May taas na 5'4" hanggang 5'5"	1
May taas na 5'7"	1
May kapayayan	1
May katabaan	1
Occupation	

Isang La Salle professor	2
Beautician	2
May-ari ng isang talent promotion firm	1
Nurse	1
Empleyado ng Department of Agriculture	1
Supervisor ng Smart credit and collection department	1

Table 5. *Physical and behavioral descriptions in Pilipino Star Ngayon*

Physical description	Frequency
May hikaw sa magkabilang tenga at nakasuot ng maong shot [sic] at itim na sundo	1
Napagkamalang mga babae ang dalawang bading	1
Nakasuot ng spaghetti strap na blouse, mahabang palda, lady's shoes, may tattoo sa kanang braso na "BJJ 432" at may taas na 5'4"	1
Pipi	1
Behavioral description	
Malimit umanong mang-akit ng mga obrero	1
Paggala-gala at nang-aakit ng mga construction worker	1
Madalas umanong may kasamang lalaki	1

2. Suspects

Of the two articles in Balita, none of them mentioned the suspect in the headlines. Among the 25 in Pilipino Star Ngayon, ten mentioned the suspects. Six of those described the relationship between the victim and the suspect. In particular, words such as best friend, lover, and *dyowa* showed that the suspect had a personal relationship with the victim. One mentioned *bisita,* which meant that the suspects had a relationship with the victim, although not necessarily an intimate one.

Three headlines mentioned the occupation of the suspect. Two of them indicated that the suspects were call boys (male prostitutes), while the third mentioned the rebel group Abu Sayyaf.

Lastly, one headline mentioned that the suspect was a *kelot*, a general term for a man, indicating that the suspect and the victim had no apparent relationship. (Table 6)

These details were placed in the headline because they were deemed important and attention-grabbing. The headlines then emphasized that the victims knew the perpetrator, regardless of degree, revealing either betrayal or carelessness of the victim.

The suspects in these articles are male, except the suspect who was the female best friend of the allegedly lesbian victim. In this study, 26 articles involved a male suspect. Because not all of them were mentioned in the headline, it is therefore understood that by default, suspects in crimes involving violence and sex are male.

Table 6. *Words used for suspects in headlines in Pilipino Star Ngayon*

Terms	Frequency
Call boy	2
Best friend	1
Sayyaf	1
Lover	3
Kelot	1
Dyowa	1
Bisita	1
TOTAL	10

Age and height, however, were common in the articles. The ages of the suspects ranged from 16 to 27 years old, while *bagets* and *tinedyer* were also used. The range of suspects' height was from 5'4" to 5'6". (Table 7)

This shows that the older suspects have younger partners, regardless of intimacy. The suspects also usually have paying jobs, while the victims, as students or part of the labor force, do not seem to have the same level of income.

Considering the pattern shown in the headlines that most of the crimes involve sexual acts, the younger suspects then use their older partners for economic purposes while the older partners use the younger ones for pleasure or intimate purposes.

Indeed, seven articles in *Pilipino Star Ngayon* included the relationship of the suspect and the victim. Two of them established that they were lovers or boyfriends, while four alleged that they were. On the other hand, one article mentioned that they were friends. One article indicated that they were "textmates," or they interact mostly through text messaging.

Four articles also mentioned the occupation of the suspects. One mentioned that both suspects were call boys, while two separate articles indicated that the suspects were a security guard and a baby sitter. Another mentioned the rebel group Abu Sayyaf who kidnapped the victims for ransom.

One article described that the physical appearance of the suspect, indicating that he had a tattoo on his right arm.

Table 7. *Demographic description of the suspects*

Description	Frequency
Balita	
17-anyos na lalaki na isa sa dalawang sinasabing pumatay sa biktima	1
Pilipino Star Ngayon	
Age	
22-anyos	1
27-anyos	1
25	1
18-25	1
20-22	1
18	1
18 anyos na estudyante	1
16 anyos na tinedyer	1

Bagets	1
Tinedyer	1
Height	
5'5" - 5'6"	1
May taas na 5'4" hanggang 5'6"	1
Occupation	
Security guard	1
Dalawang call boy	1
Mga bandidong Abu Sayyaf	1
Baby sitter	1

These reinforce that men are strong and capable of committing crimes, and that these men are straight. Gay men and lesbians assume the female gender role, suggesting that they are weak and vulnerable to crimes. Gay men are also not considered as "men," as they merit explicit differentiation in the articles.

Table 8. *Relationship of the suspect to the victim*

Relationship	Frequency
Lover	2
Sinasabing lover	4
Boyfriend	1
Kaibigan	1
Bagets na lover	1
Ka-textmate	1

Twelve out of the 25 article in *Pilipino Star Ngayon* and both articles in *Balita* reported the suspects as unidentified.

3. *Crime*

a. Types of crime

These reports did not indicate the specific weapon used, but they reported on the incident itself. The most number of reported incidents were about stabbing to death. There is no pattern on when it is reported where or how many times the victims were stabbed. This could be the case because sharp weapons are easier to access than guns.

In five articles, the articles indicated that the victim was killed, but they did not indicate how. These were categorized in this study as "not specified." These reports included cases where bodies were found already dead.

There were also four articles that involved theft and killing. How the victims were killed in such cases, however, were not specified. Theft in these reports includes a breaking into the victim's house and threatening the victim under gunpoint or knifepoint. There are also reports of the victim being killed first before being robbed. For this study, reports were considered under the category "theft and killing" if they have both incidents.

Two reported that the victims were shot dead. As mentioned before, these reports did not specify any detail on the weapon used, such as the type of gun used or to whom the gun was registered. One reported that the victim was shot into the head, while the other reported that the victim sustained multiple gun shots.

The following incidents were reported once. One reported that the suspect strangled the victim until the latter died. Another reported that the victim's throat was slit before the suspect ran away from their rented cottage. The other articles reported that the victims were hanged, poisoned, and burned.

The crimes reported in 25 articles involved the death of the victim, while one reported on the kidnapping of two gay men, who the rebel group Abu Sayyaf mistook as women. (Table 9)

It is difficult to establish if the crimes were premeditated or not, given that reporters cannot speculate without background from the police or the relatives.

Table 9. *Types of crimes reported*

Types	Frequency
Balita	
Kiling (not specified)	1
Stabbed to death	1
Pilipino Star Ngayon	
Pinatay sa sakal	1
Ginilitan	1
Binigti hanggang mamatay	1
Theft and killing	4
Stabbed to death	8
Saksakin at takluban ng supot na plastic sa kanyang ulo, nanloob sa kanyang tahanan	1
Kidnapping	1
Shot dead	2
Nilason	1
Sinunog	1
Killing (not specified)	4

b. Motive

Ten out of the 25 articles reported the motivation behind the crimes in the news articles in Pilipino Star Ngayon. Four of them were related to sexual acts. Three of them were about the suspects refusing to pay for sex with the victim, and one suspect reportedly killed the victim because he was dissatisfied with his sexual encounter with the latter. These articles reveal that since most LGBT victims are from crimes that involve sexual acts, they therefore engage in plenty of unsafe sex. This is contrary to the results of studies conducted by organizations such as the American Psychological

Association, who said that there is no direct correlation between sexual orientation and frequency of sexual activities.

Two were related to sexual acts including theft. One such article narrated how the suspect killed the victim after arguing about how much the former would pay for the services of the latter, and then stole the victim's jewelry, identification cards, wallets, and other personal items. The other stole the victim's belongings after having sex with him in a motel. This reinforces the other results in this study that there is an economic aspect in same-sex relationships in these articles. The suspects, usually younger than the victims, engaged in casual or more intimate relationship with the victims to gain something financial regardless of whether they get sexual favors in return.

The following motives were reported once. One article reported about a suspect killing a victim after not being able to pay his debt, while another killed the victim after having an argument with the suspect. Another reported that the suspect killed the victim to steal his belongings. Lastly, the victims were kidnapped for ransom by the suspects. (Table 10)

These show that LGBTs are vulnerable to other forms of crimes, not just those involving sexual acts. However, they are not as frequent and less likely.

Table 10. *Motives of suspects in committing crimes against LGBT victims*

Motives	Frequency
Theft	1
Sex-related	4
Kidnap for ransom	1
Debt	1
Sex-related and theft	2
Argument	1

B. Interviews

The researcher interviewed a reporter and the editor-in-chief of Pilipino Star Ngayon, a representative of Balita, the Punong Babaylan of UP Babaylan, and the University Student Council (USC) Chairperson-elect of UP Diliman. These respondents were chosen to gather insight from both the tabloid industry and the LGBT community.

1. On News Gathering and Verification

Tabloids gather their news by going through police blotters. The reports in these blotters indicate details about the incident, and usually, it indicates the gender identity and sexual orientation of the people involved. Reporters verify these details with authorities, such as the police and the relatives of the victims and suspects. Otherwise, they cannot publish a story on it.

As mentioned, these reports usually indicate the victim's sexual orientation if such information is available. According to the reporters, they feel safe to publish such information because they could refer to the blotter if questioned. The relatives also admit the victim's or suspect's sexual orientation if they are publicly out. Otherwise, reporters indicate words such as "umano," which indicated allegation.

Pat Bringas, Punong Babaylan of UP Babaylan, and Heart Dino, USC Chairperson-elect and a transgender woman, say that it is difficult to establish if someone is LGBT. Unlike determining if a person is male or female, a person's sexual orientation usually has no determined physical manifestation.

Tabloids have the same standard on which police reports of the day makes into the pages of the tabloids: human interest. They pick the ones that are unusual and not daily occurrence. These articles also appeal to public interest and importance.

2. *Choosing the Right Words*

According to all the respondents, there are no guidelines in the Philippines specifically on how the media should report on matters concerning gender and the LGBT. There is, however, the Journalist's Code of Ethics formulated by the Philippine Press Institute and National Press Club in 1972. The reporters and editors are aware of the Code, and admit to being guided by it.

However, this means there are no standard rules on what words pertaining to gender identities and sexual orientations are accepted, especially in Filipino. It is left to the editors, then, to determine if such words could be published and most unlikely to offend LGBT readers and activists.

According to Gemma Garcia, one of the reporters of Pilipino Star Ngayon, the tabloid uses *bading, bakla, homosexual, bisexual,* and others. According to Al Pedroche, the editor-in-chief of Pilipino Star Ngayon, he picks the right words based on common sense, conscience, and knowledge from the universities.

They have not received complaints regarding which words they choose that pertains to the sexual orientation of the victims and suspects. Because of this, they feel that such the current Code of Ethics is sufficient, and there is no need for gender sensitivity trainings in the newsroom.

Bringas and Dino agree that the words themselves are not offensive. They are concerned, however, that there is little knowledge about other gender identities and sexual orientations in the media. They cited an instance in Cebu, where a couple of transgender women were shot with pellet guns. News agencies, not necessarily those mentioned in this study, reported the victims as *bading* or *bakla*, which means gay men. Bringas said LGBTs do not like to be labeled, but in order for them to be visible and their rights to be acknowledged, the right terms and categories must be used by society and the media.

Both reporters and members of the LGBT communities recognize that it is difficult to establish if a person is lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender through police reports. According to Bringas, the person should identify his or her own sexual orientation themselves. However, because most of the victims are dead, then the next best thing would be to ask the people these victims have interacted with.

3. *Victimization of the Victim*

While Bringas and Dino said they did not have any problems with what words were used to describe LGBT victims, they commented that victims were often victimized once more in reports by making it seem like the victim was asking for the crime to happen. Dino mentioned another incident where a gay director was killed by a man he met in Facebook. Dino said such reports make it seem like the victim was waiting to be harassed or killed because he was looking for strangers online.

Some of the crimes included a sexual act. Bringas said such stories were easily picked up by authorities, because it reinforces the stereotype of LGBTs of being

promiscuous. Bringas said the sex aspect in these crimes was often emphasized. For example, articles emphasized that a victim was found half-naked in a motel room, or that the victim was out late at night, instead of emphasizing on why he was killed.

Bringas and Dino said they understood that cases of LGBT victims killed in motels were common. However, she cautioned on how victims are portrayed in these reports, lest the victims are victimized once more.

On the other hand, the editors and reporters maintained that they are fair in their writing while keeping their audience interested. After all, their articles have to be of human interest.

The reporters said that unusual or sensational crime stories keep their readers interested, and even increase their readership. However, they avoid using words that pass judgment on victims or suspects. As an example given by Pedroche, there was one report about a grandfather raping his granddaughter. Words like *manyakis* were avoided to maintain the neutrality of the reporter and the publication. This is also to maintain the presumption of the suspect's innocence, especially in cases where a court has not confirmed the suspect's guilt. These reporters and editors attempt to strick a balance between being fair and keeping the articles interesting.

4.   *Frequency of Crimes Against LGBT*

According to Garcia, she rarely encountered reports involving LGBT victims when she was assigned to the Metro beat ten years ago. However, she finds that there are more of these reports now, but not as frequent as having heterosexual victims. She attributed their infrequency to the LGBTs' fear of being out. She said they might feel

protective of their reputation, so they or their families are not quick to admit if someone is LGBT. She also thinks that there are more gay men and lesbians now, and there are more people who are in dire financial situations. The latter assumed that men, regardless of sexual orientation, preyed on more well-off gay men by seducing them and later stealing their money and property.

Pedroche said he encounters articles involving LGBT victims three to five times a month, if there were any at all. He said there were months where not a single case involving LGBT victims were submitted by his reporters. The only times that they encounter such cases is if they involve public figures or are sensational, such as the shooting in SM Pampanga involving two gay teenagers. Unless the other crime articles fulfill either criteria, then these articles is unlikely to become banner stories.

Dong Aguinaldo, a former reporter and now a deskman for Balita, said the tabloid rarely publishes crime stories because "these do not help the country in any way." Therefore, the lack of published articles in their tabloid involving LGBT victims can be attributed to their infrequency of occurrence. Otherwise, if there are crimes committed against LGBTs, the victim "forgives" or do not let the police record the case in the blotter. As mentioned before, reporters cannot write about a crime story that is not recorded in the police blotter. Therefore, news about LGBT victims does not get published.

On the other hand, Bringas and Dino said there were plenty of cases of hate crime and violence against LGBTs, but indeed, most of them remained unreported. One possible reason is that the families of the victims refuse to admit to the police or include in their official report that the victim was LGBT. These families are either ashamed of the

victim's sexual orientation, or they were afraid of the stigma and ridicule such information would bring to the reputation of the victim and the family. Because of this, there are LGBT victims that were misreported as straight.

Another reason may be that the media is misinformed about differentiating sexual orientations, such as labeling someone as *bakla* or *bading* when he is actually a transgendered person. The media tends to cluster all LGBTs as either gay men if they're assigned sex at birth is male, or lesbians if they're assigned sex at birth is female. Therefore, the count for hate crimes and violence against LGBT may be inaccurate.

5. *Invisibility of LGBT Suspects*

This study limited its scope to reports on crimes with LGBT victims. However, results have shown that none of the suspects had a definite label on their sexual orientation. For example, while a victim may be described as *bakla* or *tomboy*, the suspect was described as *lalaki*, or by their relationship with the victim, such as best friend or *dyowa.*

According to the reporters, the suspects, who are often men, would not admit to being gay if they're gay. Instead, they would rather admit that they used the suspect for money. Also, these crimes are usually associated with a sexual act, such as finding the dead body in a motel, or killing the victim after having sex. The suspect's "sexual preference" then becomes common knowledge. These are based on the assumption that in every gay couple, one partner is the *bakla*, while the other is the *lalaki*.

Dino said this assumption undermines the fluidity of sexuality, as it does not recognize how complex human sexuality actually is. Bringas said it justifies violence

against LGBTs as manly and something straight men should do. It then becomes natural for straight, or presumably straight, people to mistreat and not show respect for LGBTs, while the victims accept this violence as part of their experiences.

CHAPTER VI. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

A.   Summary

The main objective of this study is to analyze how *Balita* and *Pilipino Star Ngayon* present LGBTs through their news articles on crimes involving LGBT victims. To measure this, the researcher tabulated crimes involving LGBT victims published in these tabloids, and summarized them according to victims, suspects, and crimes.

In the duration of two years and a half, there were 25 articles in *Pilipino Star Ngayon*, while there were two in *Balita*. The lack of articles in *Balita* can be attributed to the reputation of its sister publication, Manila Bulletin, which presents positive news articles. This is reflected in their tagline "There's good news here." According to Dong Aguinaldo, a deskman and former reporter of *Balita*, they do not publish many crime stories because they do not add value to the Philippine society. They focus on articles on politics, economy, and other articles they deem to be significant to the public. Aguinaldo described the demographic of *Balita* as "45% working class, 25% youth, 20% academe, and 10% others." Another reason would be that *Balita* treats the LGBT as "normal people." "If the gravity or their offense or the crime committed today is worth telling the people, then we publish it," Aguinaldo said. (personal communication, March 24, 2012) Indeed, *Balita* has published news stories involving LGBTs, especially about laws on gay marriages inside and outside the country.

There were more articles in *Pilipino Star Ngayon*, but that's a small percentage in relation to the number of crime stories in the tabloid. There is an average of 15 crime stories in *Pilipino Star Ngayon*, which means there could have been at least 12,600 crime stories in two and a half years. According to the study by Baguioro and Ocampo (1995),

Pilipino Star Ngayon experimented with a "sexy" image for two months in 1993 to entice more readers. However, the new format repelled readers and even its own columnists, and the tabloid was forced to revert to its old format. (p. 28)

The language both tabloids used were not necessarily offensive, although how they present the LGBT could be measured beyond words.

The seventh paragraph in the Journalist Code of Ethics states, "I shall not in any manner ridicule, cast aspersions on, or degrade any person of reason of sex, creed, religious belief, political conviction, cultural and ethnic origin." None of the published articles include bisexual and transgender victims. Both the reporters and editors, and members of the LGBT agree that it is difficult to establish gender identities and sexual orientations. There should be confirmation by the police and the relatives.

However, there are also misconceptions about gender identities and sexual orientations. Bisexuals could be clustered as either straight or gay, but not as bisexual. In 2005, psychologists in Chicago and Toronto attempted to confirm if bisexuals, or at least bisexual men, exist. (Carey, 2005) They gathered participants who identified as bisexuals and measured their genital arousal patterns. The result of the 2005 study was that those who self-reported as bisexuals were in fact exclusively aroused by either the same or opposite sex. However, a recent study debunked the controversial results. Researchers from Northwestern University had the same methodology as the 2005 study, but they chose to be stricter on who qualified as participants. They gathered subjects from online venues for bisexuals, and have had "sexual experiences with at least two people of each sex and a romantic relationship of at least three months with a least one person of each

sex." (Tuller, 2011) This study then validates bisexuality as an existing sexual orientation, and that bisexuals are not closeted homosexuals.

Transgender persons are not distinguished because they are often categorized as "gay," according to Dino and Bringas. They cited an incident in Cebu on October 2011, where a group of transgender women were shot with pellet guns by unidentified men. The incident hit the news, and it was revealed that there have been previously unreported similar incidents. However, the victims were reported as "gays" and "gay men," and not as transgender women. The lead of an article in the Philippine Daily Inquirer, for example, states, "Cebu City police are investigating a series of drive-by shootings that target homosexuals on the street." (Asutilla, 2011) The headline of the said article was "Police probe 'attack' on gays," which alleged if the incident should be considered an attack. The same incident was reported by ABS-CBNnews.com, and it had the headline, "Pellet gun attacks target gays in Cebu." (abs-cbnNEWS.com, 2011) It at least took out the quotation marks on the word "attack," but it still identified the victims as "gays."

Crimes against bisexuals and transgender are both unreported and undistinguished. They are unreported, because the relatives and even the victims themselves do not feel that reporting these crimes will benefit them, and instead add stigma to the reputation of the victim and his or her family. They are also undistinguished, because reporters and editors still have misconceptions about gender identities and sexual orientations.

Aside from underreporting of bisexuals and transgender persons, the kinds of words in headlines and bodies of the articles reveal how these tabloids portray LGBTs.

Headlines are supposed to be succinct and attention-grabbing. In less than ten words, the headline must provide the reader with significant and interesting details.

Placing that the victim is not straight indicates that being LGBT is interesting and of human interest. This is supplemented by how news articles do not explicitly indicate if the victims are straight. There are no headlines, such as "Straight Woman Raped by Straight Man." With the hypothetical headline "Woman Raped by Man," the heterosexuality of the victim and the suspect are understood. Another result of this study is implied heterosexuality of the suspects, despite having romantic and/or sexual relations with the victim. None of the articles described the suspects as "gay" or "lesbian," but they did describe the suspects' degree of intimacy with the victim. As revealed by Estrada-Claudio's study (2002), tabloids then assume that men are the suspects in crime stories, while women are victims. (p.3) In particular to this study, straight men are perceived as strong and capable of being violence, while gay men and lesbians are victims. Gay men and lesbians then assume the gender role of women.

The researcher encountered two stories in *Pilipino Star Ngayon* involving gay suspects, and none in *Balita*. Gay men, for example, are portrayed as highly unlikely to be violent or commit crimes. There is then a dichotomy between "men" and "gay men," implying that gay men are "less" of a man than straight men. This reinforces the stereotype that gay men are effeminate and cannot be masculine.

The words and language chosen by tabloids frame the perception of LGBTs in news reports, not just because of what they publish but what they do not. As mentioned, none of the reports mentioned when the victims or suspects are straight. They do so if the people involved in the crime are not. Unless stated otherwise, people are by default

straight. Heterosexuality is the primary sexual orientation. Being LGBT, then, is deviancy from the norm. That is why crime stories involving them are interesting and newsworthy.

B. Conclusion

The research problem posed by this study was on how *Balita* and *Pilipino Star Ngayon* present LGBTs through their news article on crimes against the said community.

Interviews with the reports and editors show that they practice what they believe is fair to everyone. This includes LGBTs, despite having no official guidelines in the Philippines on how the media should report cases involving gender identities and sexual orientations.

However, results of the study show that despite differences in quantity, *Balita* and *Pilipino Star Ngayon* present LGBTs as deviating from the normal heterosexuality. They often get involved in crimes involving sexual acts because they are more sexually active and promiscuous. A same-sex relationship involves two people, where one acts as the "male" and the other as "female."

In line with this, men are perceived as masculine if they are suspects, because only straight men are capable of being violent. Gay men and lesbians assume the feminine gender role, as they are portrayed as weak and more vulnerable to being attacked.

Lastly, they portray LGBT as a dichotomy between gay or lesbian. Bisexuals and transgender persons were categorized as gay, lesbian, or straight.

While tabloids try to be gender sensitive, such as including words that are commonly used, these portrayals are revealed by the patterns of what they have and have not published in their crime reports.

CHAPTER VII. IMPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The study revealed how two tabloids in the Philippines report news on crimes against LGBT victims, including the terms used for victims and suspects, types of crimes, and motives. Interviews with reporters, editors, and members of the LGBT complemented the results gathered from the tabloids. The quantitative and qualitative data then provided analyses of what the status quo is on reporting news on crimes against LGBT victims, and what could be done to improve on the current situation.

A. Theoretical Issues

This study incorporated identity negotiation theory and queer theory to create a modified framework. The theoretical framework was that the media acted as a medium between the individual and the society. The three variables have a dynamic relationship, wherein the individual and the media, and the media and the society affected each other.

This model was localized for this study. The gender identities and sexual orientations of Filipinos have a dynamic relationship with *Balita* and *Pilipino Star Ngayon*, while the tabloids have a similar relationship with society.

Further research can be done on the same topic, but different theories may be used. One potential theory is to study the structural-functional theory, which posits that society is "best understood as a complex system with various interdependent parts that work together to increase stability." (Lucas, 2007) Future studies can focus on how portrayal of the LGBT in the media affects society, and reveal if these portrayals stabilize or deteriorate the values and other components of society.

B. Methodological Issues

The researcher browsed through all published tabloids of *Balita* and *Pilipino Star Ngayon* from January 2009 to June 2011. The content analysis form was filled up every time a news article involving at least one LGBT victim.

For studies that involve content analysis, this method seems sound. The advantages for this method is that it is cost-efficient and readily available, and it can combine both quantitative and qualitative sources of information. The disadvantages include that the researcher might miss data, for example, a news article.

Other texts can be used by further studies. Different tabloids can be compared, such as *Abante-Tonite* and *Bulgar.* Broadsheets can also be studied, compared either to one another or to tabloids. Alternatively, a study can focus on one tabloid, and develop a historical content analysis instead. Radio programs, podcasts, or television shows can also be studied through content analysis. Further studies can include news reports on suicides, or crimes involving LGBT suspects.

If there will be studies concerning perception of the audience, surveys and focus group discussions could strengthen the arguments. Interviewing the police can also fortify the results, as the reporters base their stories on police reports.
These different approaches can garner more information on studying the portrayal of LGBTs in the Philippine media.

C. Practical Issues

The researcher recommends that national guidelines for journalists on how to report on gender identities and sexual orientations should be drafted. This can be similar

to the GLAAD media resource kit, but localized to reflect the culture and realities of the Philippines.

Media groups should undergo gender sensitivity seminars. This is not just for the language used, but also to educate them on the issues and struggles of the LGBT. For example, Dino was interviewed by major networks and publications after she won as the first transgender University Student Council chairperson. However, she said she was asked inappropriate questions, like if she got sex reassignment surgery. They should also be educated on how they frame news about LGBTs. It is true, however, that the issues faced LGBTs are rooted deeper in our society, and media is not the only institution that oppresses and can therefore free the community from that oppression. However, the media is such a powerful tool to shape the public's values and opinions. They should then be careful not to reinforce stereotypes and misconceptions. This study revealed how powerful language and the media is; therefore, they should use this knowledge to give voice to those who are marginalized in our society.

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APPENDIX A
Content Analysis Form

Article No:
Name of tabloid:
Date of issue:
Title of article:
Author of article:
Date coded:

I.   Names called to LGBT victims referring to gender

Category	Item	Frequency of appearance in article
General		
Specific		

II.   Other descriptions used referring to LGBT victims

Description	Frequency of appearance in article
n/a	

III.   Names called to suspects referring to gender

Item	Frequency of appearance in article

IV.   Other descriptions used referring to suspects

Description	Frequency of appearance in article

V.   Type of incident

Classified as	Motive

VI.   Descriptions and narrations used referring to the incident

Descriptions	Frequency of appearance in article

APPENDIX B

Content Analysis Form

Article No: 1
Name of tabloid: Pilipino Star Ngayon
Date of issue: March 26, 2009
Title of article: 2 call boy tugis sa pagpatay sa La Salle prof
Author of article: Ricky Tulipat
Date coded: January 5, 2012

I.   Names called to LGBT victims referring to gender

Category	Item	Frequency of appearance in article
General	n/a	
Specific	n/a	

II.   Other descriptions used referring to LGBT victims

Description	Frequency of appearance in article
Isang La Salle Professor	1

III. Names called to suspects referring to gender

Item	Frequency of appearance in article
n/a	1

IV.   Other descriptions used referring to suspects

Description	Frequency of appearance in article
Dalawang call boy	

V.   Type of incident

Classified as	Motive
Killing (not specified)	(not stated in the article)

VI.   Descriptions and narrations used referring to the incident

Descriptions	Frequency of appearance in article
Ang dalawang call boy ang sinasabing pinik-up ng biktima sa bisinidad ng Marikina City	1

Content Analysis Form

Article No: 2
Name of tabloid: Pilipino Star Ngayon
Date of issue: March 25, 2009
Title of article: La Salle Prof natagpuang patay
Author of article: Ricky Tulipat
Date coded: January 5, 2012

I.   Names called to LGBT victims referring to gender

Category	Item	Frequency of appearance in article
General	n/a	
Specific	n/a	

II.   Other descriptions used referring to LGBT victims

Description	Frequency of appearance in article
Isang professor ng La Salle University	1

III.   Names called to suspects referring to gender

Item	Frequency of appearance in article
n/a	

IV.   Other descriptions used referring to suspects

Description	Frequency of appearance in article
Di pa kilalang kalalakihan	1

V.   Type of incident

Classified as	Motive
Pinatay sa sakal	(not stated in the article)

VI.   Descriptions and narrations used referring to the incident

Descriptions	Frequency of appearance in article
Pinatay sa sakal ng dalawang 'di pa kilalang kalalakihan makaraang matagpuan ang bangkay nito sa madamong bahagi	1

Content Analysis Form

Article No: 3
Name of tabloid: Pilipino Star Ngayon
Date of issue: March 11, 2009
Title of article: Bading binoga, patay
Author of article: Ludy Bermudo
Date coded: January 5, 2012

I.   Names called to LGBT victims referring to gender

Category	Item	Frequency of appearance in article
General	n/a	
Specific	Bading	2

II.   Other descriptions used referring to LGBT victims

Description	Frequency of appearance in article
Beautician	1

III.   Names called to suspects referring to gender

Item	Frequency of appearance in article
n/a	

IV.   Other descriptions used referring to suspects

Description	Frequency of appearance in article
n/a	

V.   Type of incident

Classified as	Motive
Killing (not specified)	Possibly "pagnanakaw o may ka-relasyon ang biktima na posibleng may kagagawan ng krimen"

VI.   Descriptions and narrations used referring to the incident

Descriptions	Frequency of appearance in article
Natagpuang naliligo sa sariling dugo at wala nang buhay	1
Sanhi ng tama ng bala sa kanang kili-kili na tumagos sa kanyang dibdib	1

Content Analysis Form

Article No: 4
Name of tabloid: Pilipino Star Ngayon
Date of issue: March 11, 2009
Title of article: Pumatay sa bading, arestado
Author of article: Boy Cruz
Date coded: January 5, 2012

I.   Names called to LGBT victims referring to gender

Category	Item	Frequency of appearance in article
General	n/a	-
Specific	Bading	2

II.   Other descriptions used referring to LGBT victims

Description	Frequency of appearance in article
n/a	-

III.   Names called to suspects referring to gender

Item	Frequency of appearance in article
n/a	1

IV.   Other descriptions used referring to suspects

Description	Frequency of appearance in article
18-anyos na estudyante	1

V.   Type of incident

Classified as	Motive
Killing (not specified)	(not stated in the article)

VI.   Descriptions and narrations used referring to the incident

Descriptions	Frequency of appearance in article
Matapos maaresto kaugnay sa pagpatay sa isang bading noon nakalipas na taon	

Content Analysis Form

Article No: 5
Name of tabloid: Pilipino Star Ngayon
Date of issue: January 24, 2009
Title of article: Bading, binoga
Author of article: Ludy Bermudo
Date coded: January 5, 2012

I.   Names called to LGBT victims referring to gender

Category	Item	Frequency of appearance in article
General	n/a	-
Specific	Umano'y bading	1

II.   Other descriptions used referring to LGBT victims

Description	Frequency of appearance in article
n/a	-

III.   Names called to suspects referring to gender

Item	Frequency of appearance in article
n/a	-

IV.   Other descriptions used referring to suspects

Description	Frequency of appearance in article
Di pa nakikilalang suspek	1

V.   Type of incident

Classified as	Motive
Theft and killing	

VI.   Descriptions and narrations used referring to the incident

Descriptions	Frequency of appearance in article

Content Analysis Form

Article No: 6
Name of tabloid: Pilipino Star Ngayon
Date of issue: February 8, 2009
Title of article: Rapist na bading tiklo
Author of article: Lordeth Bonilla
Date coded: January 5, 2012

VII.   Names called to LGBT victims referring to gender

Category	Item	Frequency of appearance in article
General		
Specific	Bading	1

VIII.   Other descriptions used referring to LGBT victims

Description	Frequency of appearance in article
n/a	

IX.   Names called to suspects referring to gender

Item	Frequency of appearance in article

X.   Other descriptions used referring to suspects

Description	Frequency of appearance in article
Binata	1

XI.   Type of incident

Classified as	Motive
Killing (not specified)	n/a

XII.   Descriptions and narrations used referring to the incident

Descriptions	Frequency of appearance in article

Content Analysis Form

Article No: 7
Name of tabloid: Pilipino Star Ngayon
Date of issue: April 5, 2009
Title of article: Bading, itinumba
Author of article: Dino Balabo
Date coded: January 6, 2012

I. Names called to LGBT victims referring to gender

Category	Item	Frequency of appearance in article
General		
Specific	Bakla	1

II. Other descriptions used referring to LGBT victims

Description	Frequency of appearance in article
n/a	

III. Names called to suspects referring to gender

Item	Frequency of appearance in article
n/a	

IV. Other descriptions used referring to suspects

Description	Frequency of appearance in article
16-anyos na tinedyer	

V. Type of incident

Classified as	Motive
Nanaksak at nakapatay sa biktima	n/a

VI. Descriptions and narrations used referring to the incident

Descriptions	Frequency of appearance in article

Content Analysis Form

Article No: 8
Name of tabloid: Pilipino Star Ngayon
Date of issue: May 7, 2009
Title of article: Tomboy todas sa best friend
Author of article: Ricky Tulipat at Angie dela Cruz
Date coded: January 6, 2012

I.   Names called to LGBT victims referring to gender

Category	Item	Frequency of appearance in article
General		
Specific	Umano'y tomboy	1

II.   Other descriptions used referring to LGBT victims

Description	Frequency of appearance in article
n/a	

III.   Names called to suspects referring to gender

Item	Frequency of appearance in article
n/a	

IV.   Other descriptions used referring to suspects

Description	Frequency of appearance in article
Kaibigan	1
Baby sitter	1

V.   Type of incident

Classified as	Motive
Killing (isang malalim na tama ng saksak sa leeg)	Utang na hindi nabayaran

VI.   Descriptions and narrations used referring to the incident

Descriptions	Frequency of appearance in article
Isang malalim na tama ng saksak na lang	1
Komprontasyon ay nauwi sa pagtatalo hanggang sa magsuntukan ang mga ito	1

Content Analysis Form

Article No: 9
Name of tabloid: Pilipino Star Ngayon
Date of issue: May 8, 2009
Title of article: 'Bading' ginilitan sa cottage
Author of article: Freeman News Service
Date coded: January 11, 2012

I. Names called to LGBT victims referring to gender

Category	Item	Frequency of appearance in article
General	Sinasabing homosexual	1
Specific		

II. Other descriptions used referring to LGBT victims

Description	Frequency of appearance in article
n/a	

III. Names called to suspects referring to gender

Item	Frequency of appearance in article
n/a	

IV. Other descriptions used referring to suspects

Description	Frequency of appearance in article
Tinedyer	1

V. Type of incident

Classified as	Motive
Ginilitan	n/a

VI. Descriptions and narrations used referring to the incident

Descriptions	Frequency of appearance in article
Madugo	1

Content Analysis Form

Article No: 10
Name of tabloid: Pilipino Star Ngayon
Date of issue: May 30, 2009
Title of article: Bading tinarakan ng lover
Author of article: Rose Tamayo-Tesoro
Date coded: January 11, 2012

I.   Names called to LGBT victims referring to gender

Category	Item	Frequency of appearance in article
General		
Specific	Bading	1

II.   Other descriptions used referring to LGBT victims

Description	Frequency of appearance in article
n/a	

III. Names called to suspects referring to gender

Item	Frequency of appearance in article
n/a	

IV.   Other descriptions used referring to suspects

Description	Frequency of appearance in article
"Bagets" na lover	1

V.   Type of incident

Classified as	Motive
Stabbed to death	Hindi umano nasiyahan ang suspect (niyaya umano ng suspect ang biktima na magtalik sila)

VI.   Descriptions and narrations used referring to the incident

Descriptions	Frequency of appearance in article
Nagawa namang maaresto ng mga rumerespondeng pulis ang pagpatakas na suspek	1

Content Analysis Form

Article No: 11
Name of tabloid: Pilipino Star Ngayon
Date of issue: June 8, 2009
Title of article: Bading, binigti
Author of article: Lordeth Bonilla
Date coded: January 11, 2012

I.   Names called to LGBT victims referring to gender

Category	Item	Frequency of appearance in article
General		
Specific	Bakla	1

II.   Other descriptions used referring to LGBT victims

Description	Frequency of appearance in article
Malimit umanong mang-akit ng mga obrero	1
Paggala-gala at nang-aakit ng mga construction worker	1

III.   Names called to suspects referring to gender

Item	Frequency of appearance in article
n/a	

IV.   Other descriptions used referring to suspects

Description	Frequency of appearance in article
n/a	

V.   Type of incident

Classified as	Motive
Binigti hanggang mamatay	Nagkaroon ng onsehan sa pakikipagkasundo ang biktima sa kanyang pinakahuling customer kaya pinatay ito; kawalan ng anumang alahas, ID, personal na gamit at wallet

VI.   Descriptions and narrations used referring to the incident

Descriptions	Frequency of appearance in article
Basag ang bungo	1
Hinataw ng matigas na bagay ng kanyang ulo	1

Content Analysis Form

Article No: 12
Name of tabloid: Pilipino Star Ngayon
Date of issue: July 22, 2009
Title of article: Bading todas sa 3 bisita
Author of article: Ludy Bermudo
Date coded: January 11, 2012

I. Names called to LGBT victims referring to gender

Category	Item	Frequency of appearance in article
General		
Specific	Bading	1

II. Other descriptions used referring to LGBT victims

Description	Frequency of appearance in article
53-anyos	1
May-ari ng isang talent promotion firm	1
Madalas umanong may kasamang lalaki	1

III. Names called to suspects referring to gender

Item	Frequency of appearance in article
n/a	

IV. Other descriptions used referring to suspects

Description	Frequency of appearance in article
Tatlong lalaki – isang 22-anyos, 5'5" – 5'6"	1

V. Type of incident

Classified as	Motive
5 saksak sa katawan	Pagnanakaw

VI. Descriptions and narrations used referring to the incident

Descriptions	Frequency of appearance in article
Hubo't hubad nang matagpuang patay sa loob ng kanyang banyo	1

Content Analysis Form

Article No: 13
Name of tabloid: Pilipino Star Ngayon
Date of issue: September 19, 2009
Title of article: Bading tinigok sa comfort room
Author of article: Ludy Bermudo
Date coded: January 11, 2012

I.   Names called to LGBT victims referring to gender

Category	Item	Frequency of appearance in article
General		
Specific	Bading	1

II.   Other descriptions used referring to LGBT victims

Description	Frequency of appearance in article
25-26 anyos	1
May taas na 5'4" hanggang 5'5"	1
May kapayatan	1
May hikaw sa magkabilang tenga at nakasuot ng maong shot [sic] at itim na sundo	1

III.   Names called to suspects referring to gender

Item	Frequency of appearance in article
n/a	

IV.   Other descriptions used referring to suspects

Description	Frequency of appearance in article
n/a	

V.   Type of incident

Classified as	Motive
Killing (not specified)	n/a

VI.   Descriptions and narrations used referring to the incident

Descriptions	Frequency of appearance in article
Natagpuang naliligo sa sariling dugo at wala nang buhay	

Content Analysis Form

Article No: 14
Name of tabloid: Pilipino Star Ngayon
Date of issue: February 17, 2010
Title of article: Bading nilooban na, pinatay pa
Author of article: Ricky Tulipat
Date coded: January 25, 2012

I.   Names called to LGBT victims referring to gender

Category	Item	Frequency of appearance in article
General		
Specific	Bading	1

II.   Other descriptions used referring to LGBT victims

Description	Frequency of appearance in article
50-anyos	1

III.   Names called to suspects referring to gender

Item	Frequency of appearance in article
n/a	

IV.   Other descriptions used referring to suspects

Description	Frequency of appearance in article
Hindi pa nakikilalang suspect	1

V.   Type of incident

Classified as	Motive
Saksakin at takluban ng supot na plastic sa kanyang ulo	Nawawalan umano ang mga kagamitan ng biktima, tulad ng laptop, computer, printer, DVD player, at cellphone
Nanloob sa kanyang tahanan	

VI.   Descriptions and narrations used referring to the incident

Descriptions	Frequency of appearance in article
Nakadapa sa sala ng bahay nito kung saan ito natutulog	1

Content Analysis Form

Article No: 15
Name of tabloid: Pilipino Star Ngayon
Date of issue: May 30, 2010
Title of article: 2 Bading Kinidnap ng Sayyaf
Author of article: Joy Cantos
Date coded: January 25, 2012

I. Names called to LGBT victims referring to gender

Category	Item	Frequency of appearance in article
General		
Specific	Bading	3

II. Other descriptions used referring to LGBT victims

Description	Frequency of appearance in article
Napagkamalang mga babae ang dalawang bading	1
Beautician	1

III. Names called to suspects referring to gender

Item	Frequency of appearance in article
n/a	

IV. Other descriptions used referring to suspects

Description	Frequency of appearance in article
Mga bandidong Abu Sayyaf	1

V. Type of incident

Classified as	Motive
Kidnapping	Kidnap for ransom

VI. Descriptions and narrations used referring to the incident

Descriptions	Frequency of appearance in article
n/a	

Content Analysis Form

Article No: 16
Name of tabloid: Pilipino Star Ngayon
Date of issue: July 2, 2010
Title of article: Bangkay ng gay beautician, natagpuan
Author of article: Ricky Tulipat
Date coded: January 25, 2012

I.   Names called to LGBT victims referring to gender

Category	Item	Frequency of appearance in article
General		
Specific	Bading	1

II.   Other descriptions used referring to LGBT victims

Description	Frequency of appearance in article
51	

III. Names called to suspects referring to gender

Item	Frequency of appearance in article
n/a	

IV.   Other descriptions used referring to suspects

Description	Frequency of appearance in article
n/a	

V.   Type of incident

Classified as	Motive
n/a	n/a

VI.   Descriptions and narrations used referring to the incident

Descriptions	Frequency of appearance in article
Halos naaagnas na katawan ng biktima	
Walang sugat sa katawan maliban sa mga dugo sa katawan na galing sa bibig nito	

Content Analysis Form

Article No: 17
Name of tabloid: Pilipino Star Ngayon
Date of issue: July 15, 2010
Title of article: Bading nakipagtalik, dinedo
Author of article: Freeman News Service
Date coded: January 26, 2012

I. Names called to LGBT victims referring to gender

Category	Item	Frequency of appearance in article
General		
Specific	Bading	2

II. Other descriptions used referring to LGBT victims

Description	Frequency of appearance in article
n/a	

III. Names called to suspects referring to gender

Item	Frequency of appearance in article
n/a	

IV. Other descriptions used referring to suspects

Description	Frequency of appearance in article
27-anyos	

V. Type of incident

Classified as	Motive
Shot dead	Tumangging magbayad makaraang pagbabarilin ng kanyang nakatalik na lalaki

VI. Descriptions and narrations used referring to the incident

Descriptions	Frequency of appearance in article

Content Analysis Form

Article No: 18
Name of tabloid: Pilipino Star Ngayon
Date of issue: August 20, 2010
Title of article: Bading nilason ng lover
Author of article: Ricky Tulipat
Date coded: January 26, 2012

I. Names called to LGBT victims referring to gender

Category	Item	Frequency of appearance in article
General		
Specific	Bading	1

II. Other descriptions used referring to LGBT victims

Description	Frequency of appearance in article
24	
Nurse	

III. Names called to suspects referring to gender

Item	Frequency of appearance in article
n/a	

IV. Other descriptions used referring to suspects

Description	Frequency of appearance in article
Lover	
25	

V. Type of incident

Classified as	Motive
Nilason	n/a

VI. Descriptions and narrations used referring to the incident

Descriptions	Frequency of appearance in article
Nag-check in sa MacArthur Suite kung saan tumuloy sa Room 11	

Content Analysis Form

Article No: 19
Name of tabloid: Pilipino Star Ngayon
Date of issue: August 29, 2010
Title of article: Bading tinodas ng 16-anyos na lover
Author of article: Cristina Go-Timbang
Date coded: January 27, 2012

I.   Names called to LGBT victims referring to gender

Category	Item	Frequency of appearance in article
General		
Specific	Bading	1

II.   Other descriptions used referring to LGBT victims

Description	Frequency of appearance in article
Empleyado ng Department of Agriculture	1

III.   Names called to suspects referring to gender

Item	Frequency of appearance in article
n/a	

IV.   Other descriptions used referring to suspects

Description	Frequency of appearance in article
Boyfriend	
Umano'y lover ng nasawi	
Bagets	

V.   Type of incident

Classified as	Motive
Stabbed to death	Pag-aaway

VI.   Descriptions and narrations used referring to the incident

Descriptions	Frequency of appearance in article
Pagsasaksakin ng gunting at kutsilyo	
Naliligo sa sariling dugo	

Content Analysis Form
Article No: 20
Name of tabloid: Pilipino Star Ngayon
Date of issue: September 1, 2010
Title of article: Pipi na bading todas sa P20 na oral sex
Author of article: Ludy Bermudo
Date coded: January 26, 2010

I. Names called to LGBT victims referring to gender

Category	Item	Frequency of appearance in article
General		
Specific	Bading	4

II. Other descriptions used referring to LGBT victims

Description	Frequency of appearance in article
Pipi	1
25-30 anyos	1
Nakasuot ng spaghetti strap na blouse, mahabang palda, lady's shoes, may tattoo sa kanang braso na "BJJ 432" at may taas na 5'4"	1

III. Names called to suspects referring to gender

Item	Frequency of appearance in article
n/a	

IV. Other descriptions used referring to suspects

Description	Frequency of appearance in article
Security guard	

V. Type of incident

Classified as	Motive
Binaril at napatay	Nakulitan ang [suspect] sa paniningil sa kanya ng halagang P20 bayad sa "oral sex" na ginawa ng biktima sa suspect

VI. Descriptions and narrations used referring to the incident

Descriptions	Frequency of appearance in article
n/a	

Content Analysis Form

Article No: 21
Name of tabloid: Pilipino Star Ngayon
Date of issue: September 21, 2010
Title of article: Doktor sinunog ng lover
Author of article: Ed Casulla
Date coded: January 26, 2010

I.   Names called to LGBT victims referring to gender

Category	Item	Frequency of appearance in article
General		
Specific	Sinasabing bading	1

II.   Other descriptions used referring to LGBT victims

Description	Frequency of appearance in article
44-anyos na doctor	1

III.   Names called to suspects referring to gender

Item	Frequency of appearance in article
n/a	

IV.   Other descriptions used referring to suspects

Description	Frequency of appearance in article
Lover	2
Sinasabing lover	1
18	1

V.   Type of incident

Classified as	Motive
Sinunog (killing)	n/a

VI.   Descriptions and narrations used referring to the incident

Descriptions	Frequency of appearance in article
Sunog na katawan	1

Content Analysis Form

Article No: 22
Name of tabloid: Pilipino Star Ngayon
Date of issue: November 30, 2010
Title of article: Barat na bading, todas sa callboy
Author of article: Danila Garcia
Date coded: January 26, 2012

I.   Names called to LGBT victims referring to gender

Category	Item	Frequency of appearance in article
General		
Specific	Bading	1

II.   Other descriptions used referring to LGBT victims

Description	Frequency of appearance in article
n/a	

III.   Names called to suspects referring to gender

Item	Frequency of appearance in article
n/a	

IV.   Other descriptions used referring to suspects

Description	Frequency of appearance in article
Lalaki	1
Ka-textmate	1
25	1

V.   Type of incident

Classified as	Motive
Pagsasaksakin (killing)	Baratin sa bayad matapos ang kanilang pagtatalik sa loob ng isang motel

VI.   Descriptions and narrations used referring to the incident

Descriptions	Frequency of appearance in article
Duguan	

Content Analysis Form

Article No: 23
Name of tabloid: Pilipino Star Ngayon
Date of issue: December 19, 2010
Title of article: Bading natigok sa motel
Author of article: Ludy Bermudo
Date coded: January 27, 2012

I.   Names called to LGBT victims referring to gender

Category	Item	Frequency of appearance in article
General		
Specific	Umano'y bading	1

II.   Other descriptions used referring to LGBT victims

Description	Frequency of appearance in article
38-40 anyos	1
May taas na 5'7"	1
May katabaan	1

III.   Names called to suspects referring to gender

Item	Frequency of appearance in article
n/a	

IV.   Other descriptions used referring to suspects

Description	Frequency of appearance in article
Lalaki	

V.   Type of incident

Classified as	Motive
Killing (nadiskubreng patay)	n/a

VI.   Descriptions and narrations used referring to the incident

Descriptions	Frequency of appearance in article
Nakasuot lamang ito ng itim na brief habang nasa kama	1

Content Analysis Form

Article No: 24
Name of tabloid: Pilipino Star Ngayon
Date of issue: January 31, 2011
Title of article: Bading kinatay ng 2 kelot
Author of article: Ludy Bermudo
Date coded: January 27, 2012

I.   Names called to LGBT victims referring to gender

Category	Item	Frequency of appearance in article
General		
Specific	Bading	1

II.   Other descriptions used referring to LGBT victims

Description	Frequency of appearance in article
31	1
Supervisor ng Smart credit and collection department	1

III.   Names called to suspects referring to gender

Item	Frequency of appearance in article
n/a	

IV.   Other descriptions used referring to suspects

Description	Frequency of appearance in article
Dalawang lalaki	
18-25	

V.   Type of incident

Classified as	Motive
Killing (kinatay)	n/a

VI.   Descriptions and narrations used referring to the incident

Descriptions	Frequency of appearance in article
Pitong saksak sa ulo at katawan	

Content Analysis Form

Article No: 25
Name of tabloid: Pilipino Star Ngayon
Date of issue: Jun 3, 2011
Title of article: Bading pinagnakawan, kinatay ng dyowa
Author of article: Ludy Bermudo
Date coded: January 27, 2012

I.   Names called to LGBT victims referring to gender

Category	Item	Frequency of appearance in article
General		
Specific	Bading	1

II.   Other descriptions used referring to LGBT victims

Description	Frequency of appearance in article
31-anyos	

III.   Names called to suspects referring to gender

Item	Frequency of appearance in article
n/a	

IV.   Other descriptions used referring to suspects

Description	Frequency of appearance in article
Hinihinalang nobyo	1
Lalaki	1
Karelasyon umano ng biktima	1
20-22	1
Tattoo sa kanang braso	1
May taas na 5'4" hanggang 5'6"	1

V.   Type of incident

Classified as	Motive
Pinagnakawan at saka pinatay	n/a

VI.   Descriptions and narrations used referring to the incident

Descriptions	Frequency of appearance in article
Nabubulok na bangkay ng biktima	

APPENDIX C

SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW WITH GEMMA GARCIA OF PILIPINO STAR

NGAYON

Objective of the interview: To get the reporter's perspective on the results of my study and on how the print media portrays crimes against LGBT victims

Background:
　　　　She has been a reporter for PSN since 1997. She covered the Metro beat ten years ago, specifically the Central and Northern Police Districts. She is now assigned to the Congress beat.

1. How do you select the news?
   　　　Human interest. Yung kakaiba, may dating na istorya. Kung ano yung interesting sa tao, usually crime.

2. When you were assigned to the Metro beat, how often did you encounter reports of crimes against LGBT victims?
   　　　Bihira.

3. Bakit po kaya?
   　　　Siguro dati, hindi pa showy. Ingat na ingat. Maraming closet queen and king.

4. Sa tingin niyo po, mas dumami ngayon kaysa noon?
   　　　Oo, mas marami ngayon. Kasi siguro mas maraming gay o mas maraming kalalakihan na nangangailangan ng pera, kasi nga sa hirap ng buhay.

5. Paano niyo po naeestablish kung ang isang biktima ay gay o lesbian?
   　　　Nakasulat sa blotter ng pulis, at interview sa kamag-anak sa mga nakakakilala sa kanila. Minsan nilalagyan naming ng "umano" kasi naka-rely kami sa sinasabi ng authority, either pulis, kaibigan, o relatives. Authorities nagbibigay ng terms, hindi pwedeng mag-conclude ang mga reporters. Pero mahirap talaga siya patunayan ng manunulat.

6. Ano ang mga tanggap na salita regarding sa sexuality or sexual orientation?
   　　　Ayun, mga tipong bading, bakla, homosexual, bisexual. Editors ang nagdedetermine kung alin ang tama, pero mga tanggap na naman ang mga salitang ito.

7. Sa results ko po, walang crime involving mga bisexuals at transgenders. Bakit po kaya?
   　　　Mas iniingatan siguro ng mga bi at trans ang kanilang mga reputasyon.

8. Sa results ko po, hindi po nakasulat ang sexual orientation ng suspect. Usually ang mga suspect ay dini-describe as "lover," "dyowa," o "boyfriend." Bakit kaya?

   Hindi kasi sila umaamin usually kung bading sila. Usually inaamin nila kung pera ang motibo, pero sexual preference hindi. Usually din kasi involved sila sa sexual act, kaya common sense na lover sila ng bading.

9. Bakit po kaya karamihan sa mga nababalita ay involved sa sexual act?

   Kasi private moments, at doon nangyayari yung crime sa private moments nila.

10. Nasabi niyo po na ang pinipili pong newsworthy ay may human interest. Bakit po kaya nababalita ang mga tungkol sa LGBT?

    Kasi kakaiba siya, hindi pang-karaniwan. Natural kasi sa mga babae't lalaki yung mga ganung pangyayari, pero bihira sa iba. Hindi siya pang-karaniwan sa araw-araw.

11. Meron po bang mga gender sensitivity training o kaya education sa PSN?

    Wala naman, kasi lately lang nagkaroon ng maraming ganitong istorya eh. Mga last year.

Ayun lang po. Maraming salamat po!

APPENDIX D

SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW WITH AL PEDROCHE OF PILIPINO STAR NGAYON

Objective: To get the Editor-In-Chief's perspective on the results of my study and on how the media, in particular Pilipino Star Ngayon, portrays crimes against LGBT

Background:

Al G. Pedroche has been the EIC of PSN since 1996. He holds a bachelor's degree in Fine Arts from the University of Santo Tomas. After graduation, he worked at the government-owned National Media Production Center, now the Philippine Information Agency. The Center opened a radio station, where he worked as a news reader and a DJ. He also shifted to becoming a news writer covering Malacanang. After EDSA, he worked at the Voice of the Philippines, now Radyo ng Bayan. He then shifted to the newspaper industry. By that time, PSN was newly-opened. He became a regular news correspondent, and worked his up to Managing Editor and later EIC.

Nature of the tabloid:

PSN has been in operations for 10 years. Pedroche described the news content of PSN as a "balance of political and police." The tabloid covers major stories, such as the impeachment of Chief Justice Renato Corona. He described the kind of readers of PSN as the borderline between broadsheet and tabloid. PSN caters to the "young professionals, teachers, employees, jeepney and tricycle drivers, and students," while its sister publication, PM (Pang-Masa) caters to the "grassroots" readers.

1. How often do you encounter reports on crimes against LGBT victims?

   Hindi napapadalas yung tungkol sa members of the third sex. Hindi kasi siya madalas mangyari. Ang pinaka-major siguro yung nangyari sa SM Pampanga. Ang madalas na meron ay yung mga tungkol sa love triangle na involved ang heterosexual. Yun, halos araw-araw. Yung mga tipong mag-asawa, anak. Kaya siguro nagkakaroon ng mga ganitong insidente due to poverty. It shows the economic situation of the country.

2. Gaano kayo kadalas nakaka-encounter ng mga reports on crimes against LGBT victims?

   Sa loob ng buwan, 3-5 siguro. Minsan wala. Unless known persons ang involved. Hindi na pinag-uukulan ng pansin kasi nagiging very common. It shows the deterioration of the moral. Like rape na naging minor issue kasi naging common, dumalas.

3. How do you determine ang newsworthiness ng isang istorya?

   Kung may human interest. Yung mga unusual, sensational, tulad ng crime stories at public figures. If it has impact on the lives of people, like pay hike, radical increase in the price of fuel.

4. Base po sa study ko, hindi po sinasabi yung sexual orientation ng suspect, kundi binabanggit na "lover," "dyowa," o "boyfriend." Bakit po kaya?

> Kasi di ba, usually magkasama ang bakla at lalaki. Yung lalaki, not necessarily bakla, although sabi nila bakla rin daw siya.

5. Paano nadedetermine ang sexual orientation sa news reports?

> Nakasulat sa police blotters. Hindi kami sumusulat nang hindi pa nirereport. Less vulnerable to libel kung may pagbabasehan. Minsan common sense na lang. Kunwari, pumasok sa motel ang dalawang lalaki.

6. Anong measures ang ginagawa ninyo para siguraduhing walang discrimination?

> Iniiwasang makasakit sa isang sector o individual. Avoid being judgmental to retain the presumption of innocence of the suspect. Minsan nakakalusot, ang mga reporter ang naging judge. Kunwari, nasasama ang mga salitang tulad ng "manyakis." O kaya "grupo ng Muslim," kung wala namang kinalaman ang pagiging Muslim nila.

7. Do you follow certain guidelines on writing about gender and sexuality?

> None that I know of. I rely on my conscience, my heart. We have conscientious practices. We don't get naman yung mga walang common sense. Yung may urbanidad. Walang need for gender sensitivity training kasi ang mga kinukuha lang naming ay ang mga professional, graduate ng universities na pina-practice ang mga natutunan sa eskwela.

8. Paano niyo po nalalaman kung aling terms ang pwedeng gamitin para i-publish?

> Yung mga generally accepted terms. At siguradong accurate. Kung lalaki tinawag na bakla, magagalit yun.

Ayun lang po. Maraming salamat po!

APPENDIX E

SURVEY WITH DONG AGUINALDO OF BALITA

I. Basic information

a.   Name of the respondent: DONG AGUINALDO

b.   Position in the organization: DESKMAN (FORMER REPORTER)

c.   How would you describe the demographic of Balita readers?

45% WORKING CLASS, 25% YOUTH, 20% ACADEME, 10 OTHERS

d.   How would you describe the kind of content published in Balita? CLEAN AND

BALANCED NEWS

II.   On news gathering and evaluation

a.   How are news selected for the day? What are the criteria in selecting which news

items will be published?

DEPENDS ON THE ISSUE WHETHER IT WILL APPEAL TO PUBLIC INTEREST

AND IMPORTANCE

b.   How often do you encounter crime reports involving LGBTs? What kinds of

crimes are they usually about?

ONCE IN A BLUE MOON. JEALOUSY AND/OR SEX RESULTING TO MURDER

OR SUICIDE; THEFT, AND ESTAFA.

III.   Discussion of results

My study focused on finding crime stories involving LGBT victims from January 2009 to

June 2011. In that duration, I found that there is an average of 5 crime stories per day,

and none of them involve LGBT victims. Most of them were about rape on female victims.

 a.   What is Balita's view on publishing crime stories, as there seems to be few of those in the tabloid?

IF THE CRIME STORY IS WORTH TELLING THE PEOPLE OR IF THERE IS A LESSON LEARNED FROM IT OR HOW THE POLICE RESOLVED IT, THEN WE PUBLISH IT. WE SELDOM RELEASE CRIME STORIES BECAUSE THESE DO NOT HELP THE COUNTRY IN ANY WAY.

 b.   In those stories, why do you think there are only two published crime stories involving LGBT victims?

SIMPLY BECAUSE THERE IS NO OCCURENCE. OR IF THE CRIME WAS COMMITTED, THOSE LGBTS "FORGIVE" THE PERPS/SUSPECTS SO THAT THE POLICE WOULDN'T REPORT IT IN THEIR BLOTTERS THEREBY PROTECTING THE VICTIMS' IDENTITIES. THIS IS ONE REASON THAT THE NEWS ABOUT LGBTS VICTIMS TO DO NOT HIT THE PAPERS.

 c.   How often do you think crimes against LGBTs occur in the Philippines? If they're frequent, why so and why are they not being reported as often? If they're not frequent, why do you think so?

     IN THE CASE OF BALITA, LGBTS DO NOT MATTER. THEY ARE TREATED AS NORMAL PEOPLE. IF THE GRAVITY OF THEIR OFFENSE OR THE CRIME COMMITTED TODAY IS WORTH TELLING THE PEOPLE, THEN WE PUBLISH IT.

d.   What is the LGBTs image in the media, including print?

MOST GAYS ARE FUNNY AND LOVABLE. THIS YOU SHOULD AGREE. AS FAR AS MEDIA IS CONCERNED, THEY REFLECT THAT HUMANITY IS BEAUTIFUL.

IV.   Recommendation

Do you believe that practitioners in the media need to be trained on being gender sensitive? Why or why not?

YES. SINCE THE FILIPINOS' ACCEPTANCE OF LGBTS IS HALF-BAKED, MEDIA PRACTITIONERS SHOULD BE SENSITIVE IN WRITING ABOUT THEM SO THAT THEY WON'T FEEL MARGINALIZED, REJECTED BY SOCIETY, OR PUT AT THE STAKE SO PEOPLE CAN THROW STONES AT THEM FOR BEING LGBTS. MEDIA PRACTITIONERS SHOULD REGARD THEM LIKE ANY OTHER HUMAN BEING, WORTHY OF RESPECT.

 Thank you for your time!