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In Search of Discourses on Woman Abuse in Hong Kong

This study depicts a dominant social discourse on woman abuse in mass media reporting and how the mass media shapes the understanding of the public on the problem. A discourse is a framework of thought, meaning and action which does not necessarily reflect the reality or truth. The current dominant discourse on the abuse of women consists of a set of assumptions that is perpetuated by the mass media and shapes the understanding of the public on the problem. To achieve the objective of this study, textual analysis of news reporting has been adopted in this study. The textual analyses focus on the newspaper discourse on the problems and needs of abused women within the past ten years. The two local newspapers, *Apple Daily* and *Mingpao*, are chosen because of their popularity among the public. Findings of this study show that, media reporting can be very influential in society in the way that it very often perpetuates myths about violence against women and promotes gender stereotypes.