

## **You will never *be*: Exclusionary Tactics and Stance Cohorts in Transphobic Hate Speech**

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The study examines the discursive contexts surrounding the usage of the phrase “you will never be a woman” (YWNBAW) on Twitter. Transphobic hate speech can include prejudice, discrimination, erasure, and exclusion of trans people. YWNBAW is an enregistered phrase that either explicitly or implicitly indexes specific qualifiers of womanhood and the ideologies that come with them. This study defines three commonly indexed qualifiers (biology, beauty, femininity), analyzes specific examples, visually demonstrates evaluations being made and stances being taken, and identifies stance cohorts that use the YWNBAW phrase. The framework for the visual representations come from Wortham and Reyes’ (2015) narrative event graphics based on contemporary nationalist news media in Italy and the US, as well as a combination of Du Bois’ (2007) stance triangle with Bax’s (2018) definition of stance cohorts. Within the collected tweets, a point of interest lies in the overlap between indexed qualifiers in transphobic discourses, and how that causes alignment between stance cohorts. The stance cohort of the trans-exclusionary radical feminist (TERF) actively upholds patriarchal norms via their exclusion of trans women. This coincides with previous literature on transphobia and TERFs (Elliot & Lyons 2017; Blythe & McRae 2018; Derecka 2019; Upadhyay 2021; Breslow 2022). Both the TERF stance cohort and the “non-feminist transphobe” stance cohort align with one another by indexing biology and their ideologies surrounding biological sex/gender when evaluating the trans subject.

## References

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