Pictures in News

Breaking news always comes out with impressive pictures which are taken in the place where it happened. If you read an item of news in a newspaper, you would naturally or unconsciously tend to see the picture at first sight before you begin to read the words. An editor or a correspondent carefully chooses a picture which he thinks that it fits the news well. Whereas, he will write the words more carefully because that is the essence of news. Consequently, a reader only just catches sight of the picture but he will read the news thoroughly. Perhaps few people read the newspaper nowadays. If you had noticed your father when he was reading a newspaper at breakfast when you were a child, you would have known it. Maybe he read words on one side of the newspaper but you see the pictures on the other side.

Is it still true for a TV program? To know which one is more important is much easier than to know which is for a newspaper. You mute the TV and just watch the screen. Then you could not hear any word. Yes, the pictures, the banners and the videos could tell you the story, but only a small part of it. If you want to dig into it, you have to turn the volume up to listen to what the reporters say. See, we even hadn’t realised how important the words are before we turn off the volume.

Colourful pictures are attractive but humans cannot communicate only with them. Human beings have written and spoken words for thousands of years. If our ancestors had found an easier way, they would not have had to use words. Words are media of information; words are the tools of expression; words are expressions of thoughts.

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Breaking news always comes with impressive pictures that are taken at the location where it happened. When you read a news article in a newspaper, you tend to look at the picture before reading the words. An editor or a correspondent carefully chooses a picture that they think fits the news well, but they are even more careful with the words they write, as that is the essence of news. Hence, readers only get a glimpse of the picture, but they read the news thoroughly. Maybe fewer people read newspapers nowadays, but if you had observed your father reading a newspaper at breakfast when you were a child, you would have noticed that he read the words carefully.

Is it still true for a TV program? It is much easier to determine which one is more important than it is for a newspaper. You can mute the TV and watch the screen, then you will not be able to hear any words. Yes, the pictures, banners, and videos could tell you the story, but only a small part of it. If you want to delve deeper into the story, you have to turn up the volume to listen to what the reporters say. You might not have realized how important words are until you turn off the volume.

Colourful pictures are attractive, but humans cannot communicate solely through them. Humans have used written and spoken words for thousands of years. If our ancestors had discovered an easier way, they would not have had to use words. Words are a medium for information, a tool for expression, and an expression of thoughts.