CRITICAL ANALYSIS: JOURNALISM AFTER SEPTEMBER 11

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Course

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Critical Analysis: Journalism after September 11

There are several questions which arise concerning immediate coverage by the journalists after the terror attacks. The events after September 11 brought significant changes to prompt conventions about journalism which included the degree of attachment that the journalists were able to utilise during their coverage. Thus, the terrorist attacks resulted in destroying of normal boundaries which separated the journalists' professional position from person position of the average citizens. This paper will explain how the events of journalism after September 11 led to destroying of the boundaries between the personal status of United States citizens and professional position of the journalists. The paper will also discuss whether a Journalist should always appear objective.

**Destruction of the Boundaries between the Personal Position of Citizens and Profession Position of the Journalists**

The journalism activities following the events on September 11 were mainly aimed to offer reassurance and comfort instead of analysis or information. The much reporting that was done by the professional journalists after events of September 11 were turned toward the prose of supporting solidarity instead of offering prose about information (Zelizer and Allan, 2011, p.14). Several questions may be developed when questioning the relevant roles of the photographs taken during the period of trauma. This photography frequently represented the emerging debate that was over how the terrorist attacks started resonating in news media.

The news and the contexts of the presented news after the terrorist attacks of September 11 were meant to contextualise the post-September 11 events coverage. As a result, there was a destruction of the relationship between the professional position of journalists and the personal status of the ordinary citizens. All the post events coverage by the journalists may be connected to its broader political and economic surroundings. The coverage by the journalists in the United States never conducted a debate regarding if America required going to war or about how they would best respond to the terrorist attacks if they would occur again (Cali, 2002, p. 290). There was the significant impact of the choice of the sources made by the journalists during the covering of the events after the September 11 which further led to wiping out of the relation between the personal position of the ordinary citizen and the professional position of the journalists.

The events of terrorism were mainly framed before and after the occurrence of terrorism on September 11, 2001. Both the coverage of the standard coverage and the event peaks were mostly higher after the occurrence of the terrorist attacks. The journalist coverage in the news magazines explored on special relations that featured the sobering and heartwarming photographs meant for the ordinary individuals who assisted others using carnage. The range of the professional journalist analysis was mainly limited to the intelligence communities and military as well as all the individuals who supported them. Even though it can be deduced that all the events of the September 11 may be considered as being extraordinary, all reporting of the professional journalists that followed the first period of disorientation was mainly shaped by the frames which had already been put in place in efforts to cover such kind of issues like Islam terrorism activities, terrorism, and violence. Thus, the covering of the events of the September 11 may be viewed as being a form of presentation which provided an extended-term opportunity that would provide more insightful and authentic coverage of the actual terror events in the world. The events following the September 11 terrorist attacks could provide a connection of journalism to the political, social, cultural, and economic worlds.

There were some practices which existed at the margins instead at the centres of journalism which help in explaining the destruction of boundaries that existed between professional journalists’ position and the personal position of the ordinary citizens. The kind of reportage by the journalists that was on-line about the terrorist attacks represents the journalism’s changing boundaries. The idea speculating that the world normally exists different from people's interpretation usually depends on the core of structuralism which offers a theoretical paradigm that posits that elements of the social system in a particular system of relations. The discourses of the journalists' coverage in the United States led to the framing of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, in a manner that it whipped up a war hysteria failing to offer a coherent account about what had happened and the reasons that contributed to the occurrence of the terrorist attack. The dominant discourses which informed the journalists in the United States resulted in privileging of the model on the clash of civilisation as the journalists established binary dualism that existed between culture and Islamic terrorism. These terrorist attacks resulted in production of the most significant decline in the availability of the primary news sites that were yet to be witnessed. The kind of ramifications in certain websites that led to eliminating of much of their advertising done on the days when the terrorist attacks took place were experienced which raised a lot of concerns because there already existed false information about the terrorist events on September 11 (Borden, 2005, p. 36). There lived ample evidence while the hours wore on the excess amount of the false information available on the set websites which were usually combined with the apocalyptic speculation that was found proliferating on the internet at a rate that was seen as being exponential.

The coverage of the events on September 11 significantly demonstrated the similarities that existed between the tabloid and mainstream reportage about their mode of patriotic inclination (McChesney, 2003, p. 111). Tabloid and mainstream reportage both displayed a form of adulation by the American President and the subjective and personal sentiments that were related to the terrorist events on September 11.

The reporting of the events following the terrorist attack on September 11 proved that there existed ongoing tensions which the journalists would face in the future that would further destroy the boundary between the personal position of ordinary citizens and the professional position of the professional journalists. Agenda setting has been expanded, developed and applied in the “Journalism after September 11" story as being an analytical tool which provides an understanding about not only how the political reality may be emulated but also it explains how facts may become manufactured. From the rhetorical view, it would be argued that the Bush administration had successfully managed to keep the entire state in a mode of crisis for approximately five years. Terrorism justified the preponderance of the foreign policy of the administration. Thus, terrorism should be seen as dominating the agenda of the administration since September 11.

From the case experienced on September 11, the administration greatly helped in solidifying of its role as being the primary source of information that could be accessible by the media. Through grafting of media systems and agenda-setting dependency approach, there are two distinct traditions that are witnessed in the theory of mass communication: there is high possibility for accounting for the changes in the process of agenda setting due to the changes in power relationships between the involved actors more so when under conditions resulting to increased threats which are similar to that of American public after terrorist attacks of September 11. According to the study by Protess and McCombs, (2016, p. 21), it is crucial to develop an understanding of all dynamics involved in creation of the mediated realities which would result to alerting the readers of the significance of furthering critical literacy skills that are essential for the involved public to make a distinction between facts and facades.

The lack of raising a debate regarding questions of why the terrorist attacks took place in the first place demonstrates that the today's journalists with their sensationalism penchant and the inability to start reporting having no adherence to the official sources are not adequately equipped in a way that they could serve the democracy needs in the times of trauma (Carey, 2003, p. 97). Some of the narratives by the eyewitness about the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, were found to be running daily long although there were some which consisted of having little more informational posting. The eyewitness narratives mostly were seen on the personal blogs even if they appeared on the websites which had very distinct purposes. The democratisation of the journalistic sources while having no given contacts of the developed journalists offered new opportunities for people to explore the space of information ad mews more extensively. Despite the institutional and personal expressions, the journalism that was experienced following the terrorist events of September 11 would foster the uncritical patriotism via endless coverage that would consider the particular position of the ordinary citizens.

The events of journalism after September 11 led to destroying of the boundaries between the personal position of United States citizens and professional position of the journalists in that the concept involving national public sphere had changed following the terrorist events on September 11. The news media was expected that it would pay a new duty in the federal public area which would help in wiping out the boundary between the professional journalist position and the personal position of the ordinary citizens. This would bring about a significant decisive change in the journalistic culture that would specifically include the physical and emotional safety of the journalists involved in reporting the terrorist event whereby the news practitioners would participate by targeting themselves.

**Journalists’ Objectivity**

The terrorist attacks on September 11 showed that the journalists were mainly politically biased. Before the attacks, the United States had experienced several awful events having terrorist incidents taking place on an almost regular basis. However, the reactions that were from the journalists were shown that they were characterised by defiant partisanship which was an indication of lack of unity. Following of terrorist attacks witnessed on September 11, 2001, some changes were observed in American journalism. The journalistic norms that entailed distance and objectivity are opened to the participatory way of reporting (Aday, Livingston, and Hebert, 2005, p. 14). There was an emergence of communitarian journalism through which the journalists became united with all their subjects while they lived all stories which they were reported. Given the occurrence of terrorist attacks faced on September 11, the notion of attaining humanity solidarity or the global community as well as communitarian ethic by journalists seemed to be utopian. However, provided that the attention of the media to unity, ordinary heroes, and community, it could have been perceived as being a cry for assistance in the manner journalists practice all their skills, Therefore, in this process, the journalists will require broadening of the range of the sources that are beyond the official and political elites who were the primary definers of the agendas of the media. The expectation, the hope is that following such kind of practices, the journalists would both provide more accurate and complete accounts of the conflicts and assisting in the creation of an environment which is more conducive in transforming and resolving of battles that were away from the war.

In conclusion, all the post events coverage by the journalists may be connected to its broader political and economic surroundings. This destroyed the relationship between the professional position of journalists and the personal status of ordinary citizens. The journalists covering the story regarding the terrorists attacks on September 11, 2001 required to establish a distinguish of the stated demands which were gotten from the underlying objectives and needs to help in accessing the voices working for the non-violent and creative solutions and keeping their eyes open for the ways of transcending and transforming the conflict's hardened lines.

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