

A CONTENT ANALYSIS OF PORT HARCOURT-BASED RADIO STATIONS' NEWS FRAMES ON RIVERS STATE GOVERNMENT'S URBAN RENEWAL PROGRAMME

Kasarachi Hayford*

*Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies,
Faculty of Humanities
University of Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria

DOI: 10.5958/2249-7137.2023.00007.1

ABSTRACT

The power of narratives to shape public policy is supported in a variety of academic literature. In the mass media, the angles to these narratives are called frames. By framing issues in specific ways, an entity can identify underlying patterns and shape public opinion in a certain direction. Using four research objectives as a template, this study analysed Port Harcourt radio news frames (Nigeria Info 92.3 FM and Rhythm 93.7 FM) on the Rivers State government's Urban Renewal Programme. While the theoretical foundation of the study hinged on agenda setting, gatekeeping, and framing theories, the study relied on secondary data from the news bulletins of the selected radio stations. The population of the study consisted of 255 news items, which also served as the sample size, following the census sampling technique. The findings of the study revealed that though Nigeria Info 92.3FM covered the programme more than Rhythm 93.7 FM, a significant percentage of the time (114 times, or 52.5%), the programme was framed positively in the bulletins of the two radio stations, using two major frames, "development" and "politics," and given prominence (49.8% of headlines and 80% of story length, measuring 16 seconds and above). In addition to the above, the quality of coverage was significantly high (72.1%), ranging from the mode of coverage to varying aspects of the programme reported. The study recommended that privately owned radio stations should do more coverage of government policies and programmes beyond the news platform and, at the same time, frame their stories in such a way to offer interpretation and context to the citizenry while holding the government and policy actors accountable.

KEYWORDS: *News Frames, Urban Renewal, Framing Theory, Rivers State Government, Governor Wike, News Slant.*

REFERENCES

1. Adekola, O.&Lamond, J. (2018). A media framing analysis of urban flooding in Nigeria: Current narratives and implications for policy. *Regional Environmental Change Journal*. 18:1145-1159
 2. Alonge, S.K. &Wadinga, A. (2020). Rethinking urban renewal programmes for pandemic control in Nigeria. *African Journal of Health, Safety and Environment*AJHSE 2(1), 14-24,
 3. Amadi, O. &Sowoolu, L. (2010, October 30). [The Ben Bruce story](#). *Vanguard*.
-

4. Apolola, A. (2016). Urban Renewal Strategies in Makoko, Lagos State. An unpublished B.Tech.Thesis submitted to the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Federal University of Technology, Akure
5. Bohensky, E.L. & Leitch, A.M. (2014). Framing the flood: A media analysis of themes of resilience in the 2011 Brisbane flood. *Regional Environment Change Journal*. 14(2):475–488
6. Campbell, J. (2019). Africa in transition, home to over half the population: Nigeria's cities continue to boom. Retrieved on September 9, 2020 from: <https://www.cfr.org/blog/home-over-half-population-nigerias-citiescontinue-boom>
7. Carmin, J., Tierney, K., Chu, E., Hunter, L., Roberts, T. & Shi, L. (2015). Adaptation to climate change. In: Dunlap, R.E. & Brulle, R. (eds.). *Sociological perspectives on climate change*. Oxford University Press
8. Chigbu, U.E. (2012). Village renewal as an instrument of rural development: Evidence from Weyarn, Germany. *Community Development* 43(2), 234-248
9. Chinedu, A.L. (2011). Port Harcourt PDP rally stampede: Irregular or deregulated police action?Nigerians in America speak. Retrieved 15 October, 2021
10. Crow, D.A. & Lawlor, A. (2016) Media in the policy process: Using framing and narratives to understand policy influences. *Revised Policy Research* 33(5):472–491.
11. Defleur, M.I. (2010). *Mass communication theories: Explaining origins, processes and effects*. Ally and Bacon
12. De Vreese, C. (2007). The effects of strategic news on political cynicism, issue evaluations, and policy support: A two-wave experiment. *Mass Communication and Society*, 7(2), 191-214.
13. Devereux, E. (2013). *Understanding the media*. 3rd edition. Sage Publications.
14. Devitt, C. & O'Neill, E. (2017). The framing of two major flood episodes in the Irish print news media: Implications for societal adaptation to living with flood risk. *Public Understanding Science*, 26(7):872–888
15. Dimuna, K.O. & Omatsone, M.E.O. (2010). Regeneration in Nigeria urban built environment. *Human Ecology*, 29(2), 141- 149.
16. Ebereuche, S.O. (2021). Covid-19 awareness and information sources among undergraduate students of Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, Rivers State. An unpublished M.A thesis submitted to Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, Rivers State
17. Eghosa, A. (2013). Press and national integration: Analysis of the role of the Nigerian press in the promotion of Nigerian national identity. Ph.D thesis submitted to Cardiff University.
18. Esterson, S. (2004). Kit of parts. In: Berry, J.D. *Contemporary newspaper design*. (pp. 3-24). Mark Batty Publisher LLC
19. Gever, V.C. & Ezeah, G. (2020). *The media and health education: Did Nigerian media provide sufficient warning messages on corona virus disease*. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7454664/>

20. Ifejika, P. & Ayanda, M.N. (2007). *Content analysis of Radio Niger programme on promotion of fisheries around Kainji Lake Basin, Nigeria*
21. Innocent, K.H. & Okezie, W.I. (2022). Radio advocacy and justice for victims of police brutality in the *Ikoku5* case in Port Harcourt, Rivers State. *South-South Journal of Humanities and International Studies*. 5(1): 329-346
22. Innocent, K.H. (2022). Radio coverage of conditions in Nigerian correctional centres and Port Harcourt residents' perception of treatment of inmates by authorities. *Icheke: Journal of the Faculty of Humanities*, Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, Rivers State. 20(1):317-225
23. Innocent, K.H. (2017). Nigerian newspaper editorials on voter education for the 2019 Nigerian general elections: A mid-term analysis. *Journal of Media Practice and Research*, 3(1): 293-306
24. Innocent, K.H, Udoudo, A.J. & Okon, G.B. (2018). Nigerian newspapers' use of discursive strategies as tools to enhance message credibility in editorials on the Same-Sex Marriage (Prohibition) Act, 2013. *International Journal of Social Science and Humanities Research* 6(3): 455-464, Available at: www.researchpublish.com
25. Jiboye, A.D. (2011). Sustainable urbanization: Issues and challenges for effective urban governance in Nigeria. *Journal of Sustainable Development*, 4(6), 211-224.
26. Lawrence, J.J. (2012). Health programming and community-based radio stations in Sub-Saharan Africa: An example from Zambia. *Journal of Reproductive Contraceptive, Obstetrics/Gynaecology*, 5(7):57-61.
27. McCombs & Shaw, 1972 as cited in THEORIES BOOK IN THE OFFICE.
28. Michael, O., Olamiju, I.O. & Popoola, O. (2017). Urban renewal strategies in developing nations: A focus on Makoko, Lagos State, Nigeria. *Journal of Geography and Regional Planning* 10(8): 229-241
29. Müller, M. (2017). *The world according to Israeli newspapers: Representations of international involvement in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict*. Frank & Timme GmbH,
30. Ndimele, O.M. & Innocent, K.H. (2016). *Fundamentals of mass communication*. M&J Grand Orbit Communications
31. Nisbet, M.C. (2009). Communicating climate change: Why frames matter for public engagement. *Environ Sci. Policy Sustain Dev*. 51(2):12-23.
32. Njoku, C. & Okoro, G.C. (2014). Urban renewal in Nigeria: A case study of Lagos State. *Journal of Environmental Science and Water Resources*. 3(7):145-148
33. Nwagbara, U. (2010). The Nigerian press, the public sphere and sustainable development: Engaging the post amnesty deal in the Niger Delta. *Journal of sustainable development*, 12(3), 14-27.
34. Nyong, A., Adesina, F. & Elasha, B.O. (2007). The value of indigenous knowledge in climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies in the African Sahel. *Mitig Adapt Strateg Glob Chang* 12(5):787-797.

35. Odoemelam, C.C., Okorom, E.M. & Okwudiogor, D.N. (2016). Political advertising and voters' knowledge of candidates' political message and persuasive indicators in the 2015 general elections in Nigeria. In: Des Wilson (ed). *Mass media and the electoral process in Nigeria*. (pp. 103-112). African Council for Communication Education.
36. Ogbonna, D.N., Amangabara, G. T. & Ekere, T.O. (2007). [Urban solid waste generation in Port Harcourt metropolis and its implications for waste management](#). *Management of Environmental Quality: An International Journal*, 18 (1).
37. Okpara, A.M. (2022). An analysis of social media posts on the teachings of Pastor Chris Oyakhilome on 5G/Covid-19 Conspiracy theory. An unpublished M.A thesis submitted to Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, Rivers State, Nigeria
38. Olaoluwa, P.A. (2018). Urban slums in Nigeria: Ensuring healthy living conditions. Retrieved on September 7, 2020 from: <https://www.urbanet.info/nigeria-urban-slums-health/>
39. Olukoya, Y. (2012, December 30). Rage of bulldozers: South-West's year of demolition. *Tribune*. <http://www.tribune.com.ng/news/>
40. Owen, S.T. (2020). *News values*. <https://owenspencer-thomas.com/journalism/newsvalues/>
41. Owuamalam, E. (2017). *Radio-TV production*. Top Class Agencies Ltd.
42. Sugunadevi, G. & Divya, B.V. (2018). Health education programmes about post-menopausal changes to perimenopausal women in an urban slum area, Coimbatore: *International Journal of Medical Science and Public Health*, 7(3):195-197.
43. Udoakah, N. (2014). *Government and the media in Nigeria* (3rd edition). Stirling-Horden Publishers Ltd.
44. Ukonu, M.O., Akpan, C.S. & Anorue, L.I. (2012). Nigerian newspaper coverage of climate change, 2009–2010. *New Media Mass Commun* 5:22–30.
45. UNDESA (2015). United Nations Development of Economics and Social Affairs: www.undesa.com/English/background.htm: retrieved 21/5/2016
46. UNDP (2020). Upgrading the Slums in Abuja, Nigeria. Available online: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/?p=8993>
47. Uwakwe, O. (2010). *Media writing and reporting*. CECTA Nigeria Ltd.
48. World Bank (2020). COVID-19 Turns Spotlight on Slums: Available online: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2020/06/10/covid-19-turns-spotlight-on-slums>