Using the Russian-Ukrainian War as an Example, Critically Analyze the Impact of War-Type News and How It Is Produced, and Critically Reflect on the Results

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Abstract

This essay examines the effects of war journalism and its methods of production using the Russian-Ukrainian conflict as an illustration. The article looks at how war news is created and how the general public consumes it. The essay also critically evaluates how the Russian-Ukrainian War coverage performed. The analysis emphasises the significance of fair and impartial reporting in times of crisis and the necessity for journalists to uphold their neutrality and integrity. The article's conclusion emphasises news organisations' duty to inform the public with accurate and trustworthy information during times of crisis.

Keywords: picture, journalism, news, wars

1. Introduction

As an indispensable communication medium in the process of news dissemination, pictures play an important role in the evolution of communication channels. As in the four examples in this case, images have a unique position and influence compared to the other three media. For example, they are clearer and more intuitive than text, have a visual impact on the user, are more concise than video and have a lower technical threshold. So in a sense, images play a role as a bridge between the top and the bottom. I have therefore chosen images as my case study. In the case of war images, there are different aspects to the user's perception or impact compared to ordinary news images such as entertainment and finance, and this is the subject of this article's critical reflection. This article will focus on the following three aspects: the characteristics of war news pictures, the impact of war news pictures, why and how to produce these effects, reflection and summary.

2. The Characteristics of War News Pictures

At first, images can help people visualize their own life by giving the user a more vivid picture of certain events and natural phenomena like landscapes. This gives the user a more complete understanding of the world around them. An image can be used to show anything objectively because, in general, it is a reproduction of something in its original form. Images are a

significant form of expression in modern life because of this quality. In actuality, if we look past the reproductive function of images, there is more to them than just the emotions and concepts that people are trying to convey. It is for this reason that images are so socially important. The thoughts and feelings expressed in pictures sustain the relationship between human interaction and the social construction of social life, and succeed in creating a new perspective from which to view society as a whole. Press images, which seek to provide an unbiased and thorough record of societal developments and numerous historical events, are frequently how this social relevance of photos is portrayed. Both little occurrences that take place nearby and significant events that take place thousands of miles away can be eloquently described for the public through press photographs.

There is no doubt that war is highly visible and newsworthy. The outbreak of a war or local conflict not only arouses the concern of the country concerned, but also generates an international concern. Compared with other news reports, war news has a sense of reality that is unparalleled. A photograph of a news story on the subject of war provides a sense of reality that is more unique to the reader than a few lines of text news about war. Therefore, in order to satisfy the public's right to know, the media pursue public reports of major events. The military, by contrast, takes a conservative view of information disclosure. But with the development of science and technology, today's communication technology makes it more and more convenient to collect and disseminate information on the scene of war, and the direction of public opinion of mass media has influenced the development of war. Regrettably, in today's highly developed society, Russia and Ukraine are still engaged in local conflicts.

A new picture of a war first brings a sense of surprise and panic to the reader, followed by a sense of sadness and unease, because such images of painful scenes are so powerful. The news media, which want to condense a story and then publish it, have to choose powerful images to capture readers' attention. By looking at the news pictures of war coverage, we can empathize with the unbearable suffering of the people in the pictures and the cries of terror in their hearts. Studies have shown that readers generally accept shocking images that capture

the pain of others without question. Therefore, war news photos also have many aspects worth studying and reflecting.

3. The Impact of War News Pictures, Why and How to Produce These Effects

3.1 Objective and Comprehensive Reporting of Events

As we all know, news is the reporting of new facts that have recently occurred. War news is also a live report of a conflict that has just occurred or is occurring. For this type of news in particular, a single text may not be able to present a vivid image of the events in question. Therefore, in war journalism, the use of photographs can be used to provide objective coverage of the events and at the same time make the news more realistic. In fact, in terms of reporting format, there is little difference between war pictures and other types of news pictures. They are all about timeliness and objectivity and cover as much of the whole event as possible, complementing the textual content to present the user with a comprehensive and objective picture of the news event. For example, the first image presents an objective picture of the current state of war preparations on the Russian side. On the one hand, this adds a factual basis to the news content, and on the other hand, it also presents the real state of readiness for users, attracting their continued attention to the event.

3.2 Stimulates Empathy and Guides Public Opinion

Emotion is the motivation that evokes mental activity and behaviour. People will change their behaviour or opinions due to changes in emotions. The emotional arousal of war news images plays a scaling and guiding role in influencing public attitudes towards the news, stimulating public emotions and thus influencing public opinion. Users viewing war news images create emotional resonance, which in turn stimulates empathy in the public. Out of compassion for the cruelty of war and the victims, public opinion in favour of peace gradually becomes mainstream. At the same time, emotional arousal is extremely powerful in war and anti-war propaganda, making the construction of emotion a crucial part of the production of news images. For example, the famous photographer Ferdous' documentation of the suffering of the Salva workers not only supported the Salva workers, but also contributed to widespread criticism of global

inequality, the reality of dead capitalism and the 'disaster created by the regime' (Holert, T., 2019). In the case of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, it is always the people of both countries who suffer. This includes the loss of family members, the loss of property, the fear of living in fear, etc. Psychological trauma is also inevitable. Therefore, this type of news picture guides the course of public opinion by stimulating the people's ability to empathize. This may bring public pressure to bear on the two countries at war, and the people's voices and hopes for peace will be heard.

3.3 May Bring About Panic, Fear and, in Part, Ethical Problems for Some People, Causing Indelible Psychological Shadows

"There are a thousand Hamlets for a thousand people". Everyone interprets news pictures differently. Obviously, pictures of war are often filled with violence, destruction, injury and even death, and the intense visual stimuli often stimulate a rich emotional experience in the reader. And these emotions are complex. These include the positive emotions mentioned in the previous paragraph, as well as the inevitable negative ones. These negative emotions include the fear of gory scenes and the shadow of violent images that can stay with them for the rest of their lives, causing secondary or even multiple injuries. This may not be the intention of the filmmaker, but it does indirectly have such effects. And many readers are exposed to such images in the belief that they cannot have a negative impact on them, but the results are often counterproductive. As the classic "third person effect" theory of communication states, people often perceive media content as having a greater impact on others than they do on themselves. (Jang & Kim, 2018). The "third person effect" theory was developed by the American scholar Davidson in 1983.

In addition, another important issue is the ethical problem posed by images of war-related news. Ethical issues have always been an important part of journalism. The vast majority of the time, high-quality journalism is often accompanied by unavoidable ethical issues. This is because many realistic news images are likely to cause secondary harm to the victims or to "misrepresent" some groups, such as religious groups, while giving users a realistic picture. This is something we should reflect on. For example, the forth image, should the journalist film or save the victim first? As a journalist, the

professional requirement is obviously to film and record the situation first. But in conflict situations, the subjects are often soldiers and wounded in the middle of a battle, innocent civilians or grieving people who have lost their homes. Filming or interviewing activities inevitably cause secondary damage, often psychological. This is therefore a paradox. It also requires us to choose a better way of reporting, to improve our techniques, and to do so without secondary damage.

4. Reflection and Summary

Throughout the history of the world in the last hundred years, some local conflicts and even wars have never ceased. The harm that war brings to the population cannot be overstated. The hardships of being uprooted and losing loved ones have made everyone in the world ache for them. And war news is there to keep us up to date. Especially when it comes to war news images.

After the dialectical discussion above, it is clear that war pictures have their own positive impact, but also have an inevitable negative impact. On the one hand, news values require the media to report on war photography and interviews in a way that satisfies the information needs of the audience as a starting point. This psychological need is mainly reflected in the strong psychological cognitive demand in the hands for superficial and deep information related to the war. The audience is able to use this type of information to remove inner uncertainty. And journalistic values inherently dictate the need for journalists to record the scene as authentically as possible. On the other hand, grief as an element of journalistic communication is also a "pain" that is difficult to heal. This includes not only the victims in the pictures, but also the readers who are less able to cope with the situation and who have a strong sense of compassion. This may not have been the intention of the photographer, but it is the result. There are also the inevitable ethical issues. These are the ones we face. How do we find the balance between these two points? In my opinion, the central principle is "People oriented." "People oriented" simply means always putting people first. In the case of war images, this requires not only paying attention to the psychological feelings of the people being photographed or the local victims during the shooting process, but also considering the psychological trauma of the reader after viewing

images that are too bloody or violent. (Gordon & John, 2009). From the perspective of the news media, they should not be obsessed with financial gain at the expense of the civilians who suffer as a result of war. Filming should be done in appropriate circumstances, for example with the permission of the victims or the public. Secondly, a comprehensive content review mechanism should be established to minimize all types of harm caused by war-related news images. A content rating system should be used to screen the audience for images, and users should be alerted to the fact that the image is too gory or violent and should be viewed with caution before clicking on it.

To sum up, as technology and culture evolve, modern society will only get more and more advanced, but the motto "People oriented" should always be kept. The same applies to pictures of battle. This is due to the fact that we should eventually arrive at both the steadfast coast of reason and the abundant sea of freedom.

I'll close by wishing for a quick resolution to the conflict and expressing my sorrow for all those who have perished. Everyone should be entitled to peace.

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Appendix