APPRAISING THE USE OF SATIRES IN POLITICAL CARTOONS IN SELECTED NIGERIA PRINT MEDIA

Egbe Egbe ILOKE
Tel: +234-8025014694
iloke4u@gmail.com
Dept of Mass Communication
University of Cross River State, Nigeria

Jude Omaka OKORO
judexokoro@yahoo.co.uk
Tel: +234-8059200309
Department of Mass Communication
University of Calabar, Calabar - Nigeria

Charles Utsu USHIE
mails4charls@gmail.com
Tel: +234-8089967000
Department of Mass Communication
University of Calabar, Calabar - Nigeria

ABSTRACT

This article appraised the use of political cartoons in communicating messages to the public using *The Guardian newspaper, The Punch newspapers and The Sun newspapers;* particularly, between June 2022 and February, 2023. The paper adopted media intrusion theory propounded by Dennis Davis in 1990. And framing theory propounded by Gregory Bateson in 1972. Comment: take the deleted details to the body of the paper. The paper adopted content analysis and in-depth interview with key informants. The units of analysis included: image of corruption, image of responsibility, image of brutality, image of cruelty, image of terrorism, and image of political failure. The findings indicate that the impact and significance of cartoons in the information age cannot be over emphasize. That cartoons are very attractive to mostly children and it influences their perception of the world and value system in their upbringing, and that people read cartoons for different reasons. Political cartoons aim to make people laugh about current political situations or issues, while at the same time enabling readers to critically think about issues in a new way. Findings also indicate that cartoons have help to expand media scope and content by

adding cartoons varieties from every field or disciplines. It is therefore, recommended among others that, the media should be granted true or practical freedom to perform it functions the public and more cartoons should be employed in articles, news or stories that are sensitive or important since it make reading more appealing thereby enhancing retention of messages.

Key Words: Political Cartoons, Communication, Symbolism, Pluralism, Satires, Newspapers, Personalities, Decisions.

BACKGROUND

Political cartoons are effective means of communication used by cartoonists to express their thoughts and ideas about political issues, events or personalities in a particular period in a playful manner but very complete and meaningful. Usman, Salisu Ogbo, (2016), (Becker, 1959; cited in Sani et al 2012). Point out that they are openly and discreetly used to make compelling statement and provide specific knowledge on contemporary socio-political issues. The goal of political cartoon is to raise public consciousness using figurative tone and graphical imageries to address crucial issues and criticize political leaders and their contemptible practices by appraising their delivery of democratic dividend using satires.

In the views of McNair (2011), the media are active in defining political 'reality'. Such definition is sieved on the altar of newsgathering and production; and in the end, the audience is presented with a 'finished' articulation of what 'really' matters in political affairs at any given time. In other words, journalists communicate the 'meaning' of politics by inserting the events of political life into narrative frameworks which allow them to be told as news stories. By extension, such articulation find their way into a caricature of major issues and actors, either implicitly or openly, with the overall goal being the exposure of some follies and the teaching of some moral (and legal) compass in politics.

In effect, just as some news stories are shaped by dominant narratives, cartoon can be used to frame leadership crisis in political parties, communication failure in government, unmitigated policy disaster, or to set alternative policy agenda, etc. In view of the fact that their contents are mostly expressed through visual illustrations, political cartoons are best understood through investigation of incorporated visual rhetoric.

Researches have shown that political cartoonists dominantly employ satire and attendant humour to draw the attention of the public. As a

consequence, the communicative functions of humor and satire and the attendant visual power have made political cartoons an interesting research field across academic disciplines. While satire offers witty criticism of societal follies by the use of irony or sarcasm, it puts the icing on the cake through deliberate injection of humour.

Hence, satire as embedded in political cartoon exposes the various societal follies of political actors (Bal et al, 2009). Therefore, the prime goal of satire is to safeguard normative boundaries of society by denouncing societal follies and promoting standard of social norms and values of a given society. When employed in political cartoons therefore, satire (and by extension, humour) raises the tempo of entertainment, critical reasoning and evaluation, but without undermining the need to get the message across to politicians, government functionaries and the entire citizenry Historically, political cartoon is recognized as one of the earliest forms of political satire (Townsend et al., 2008).

Political cartoons are format that simplifies the complex political satiations and thus help people to understand the current event. And appraising deals with assessment of the manifest cartoons, how the satires are made believable and perceived the messages as complete in content.

The basis of satire as a fundamental ingredients of political cartoon today largely depends on the criticism of the injustice and the abuse of power usually perpetrated by those in power or the dominant ruling party (Bal et al., 2009).In recent years, there has been an increasing research on political cartoons across disciplines.

This has made political cartoons a potent interdisciplinary research field crossing different research boundaries such as education, sociology, sciences, psychology, health research, pragmatics, communication etc. This growing interest demonstrates that political cartoons have become a distinct and established genre within media discourse.

Some research interest focus on the role of editorial cartoon in shaping socio-political movement (Steuter, 2004), while some view it from the perspective of criticism of political leaders, politicians and political parties (Lamb, 2004). However some delve into a much more complex issue involving the overall political atmosphere as featured, the literary and cultural allusion employed, personal character traits and situational themes (DeSousa, 1981).

In view of the goals of political cartoons which are principally weaved around criticism of political leaders or political decisions, it is important to see how the genre has been adopted by the media in their

coverage of the Nigerian democratic activities, actions of politicians, government policy direction and perception of the citizenry in recent time.

This is because there are as many controversial issues as there are political development in the country under democracy. Not all decisions of government are acceptable by the populace or the opposition, just as not all criticism are taken by the government or democratic institutions or political parties in good faith. In the midst of all these, the media step in from time to time to make their position known, albeit in a caricature tone. Such depictions could heighten the tempo of empirical enquiry and widen the scope of political discourse, (Usman, Salisu & Ogbo, 2016). Using Political Cartoons as instrument of communicating their positions to the public which they aimed to influenced, educate or informed through what the published or sponsored in newspapers of which they pass through media practitioners most times.

Statement of the Problem

The use of cartoons in communicating or educating the public more on the implications of government policies is an indication that there are challenges associated with the freedom of information law or act in Nigeria and many countries of the world, mostly in Africa or Third World Countries.

This shows that, the freedom of information law, or freedom of speech is too limited to address the needs of governance or does not exist in practice but in theory. Why a country like Nigeria operates a constitution that has double standard mostly, when those who control the machinery of government have interests that are in conflicts with the public remains a puzzle. Common among the areas of conflicting interest are land boundaries, terrorism, political party crises, oil and gas conflicts, political appointments, security challenges, media practices and law, organized labour matters, etc.

Arising from this scenario, one may ask, why is it difficult for the masses to clearly and openly express their frustration about poor governance in public media, unless you are a sycophant or a supporter of the administration in place? Or why is the press not free to hold the government accountable to the people according to the provisions of the law? How can users of cartoons in communication be more protected while using their skills for more purposeful education of the masses and what future doe's cartoons hold for the media industry. Why do Nigeria as a country has a constitution for the federation which guaranteed protections

of citizens and equality before the law, and also grant immunity to some elected officials that are supposed to serve the people who elected them to serve them. But the same constitution grants them immunity, which makes them law givers and the laws the punch out is superior to the general constitution of the land? Therefore, this study is to answer the above questions by finding out how safe it is with the use of cartoons in holding government to account by educating and informing the public about the happenings in government. How does people understand or perceived cartoons messages in newspapers. What are the challenges associated with the use of cartoons in communication in newspapers and what are the approaches employed or adopted in addressing the challenges identify by the use of cartoons.

Objectives of the Study
The following were the objectives of the paper:
1. To find out why media practitioners in The Punch newspapers and The Guardian newspapers employ cartoons in most national issues.
2. To find out the significance of cartoons in The SUN newspaper and The Punch newspapers selected for this study.
3. To find out the messages of cartoons and the issues it address in The Guardian newspaper and The Punch newspapers.
4. To find out the challenges associated with the use of cartoons in the Guardian newspaper and The SUN newspapers.
5. To find out approaches employed by The Punch newspaper and The Guardian newspapers in addressing the challenges cartoon usage.

Research questions.
1. What are the types of cartoons?
2. What are the challenges associated with political cartoons?
3. How effective are political cartoons in communication?
4. Can cartoons be used to enhance education or teaching?
5. What are the common images of cartoons?

Theoretical Framework
This study is anchored on Media Intrusion Theory, propounded by Dennis Davis in 1990 and regarded as a contemporary variant of elites pluralism and assumes that political system operates best through a hierarchical relationship between the public and its elected leaders. The study is also anchored on Framing Theory propounded by Gregory Bateson

in 1972 which postulates that the media focus attention on issues or events and then place them within a field of meaning to encourage or discourage certain interpretations.

Thus, a Frame refers to the way media and media gate keepers organize and present the events and issues they cover, and the way audiences interpret what they are provided. Also, framing is a quality of communication that leads others to accept one meaning over another. Daniel Toochukwu Ezegwu, Esther George Ntegwung, Gloria Eberechukwu Nwodu & Abiye John Nengi (2022,), citing Duck & McMaham (2009), agreed that communication is presentational because it entails the ability of the communicator to use symbols to present a particular view or perspective of the facts about an event.

Daniel (2022), citing McQuail (2010), explained framing theory to be an attractive one which is based on the principle that audience will be guided by journalistic frames in what they learn. That media text such as cartoons set the boundaries for meaning making interaction in communication between the source and the receiver. So the way media frame politicians or political actors agrees with media intrusion making the two theories the best for this research as the harmoniously complement each other. The two theories show that the media have the potentials to present what it wants the society to see and make the society see things the way it is projected by the media. Other theories aligned with this studies but was not used are Perception theory propounded by Burgoon and Ruffnew in 1978 which states that Perception is the process of making sense out of experiences. Some of the assumption is that Perception is a complex process by which people select, organized, and interpret sensory stimulation into a meaningful picture of the world. Some models that could be used in this research but was not also use is powerful-effect propounded by Elizabeth Noelle-Neumann in 1973, which suggests that, under certain circumstances, the mass media can have significance effect on a large number of people. The two theories are best suited for the research as they complement their positions as some of the best theories in political cartoons research or communication. These two theories are very relevant to the study as it helps to magnify the relevant of cartoons in the communication industry.

Review of Related Concepts

Political or Editorial Cartoons, political cartoons are created to make statement about current events, politicians, and issues in politics. Readers find political cartoons in variety of places intended to reach a wide range of audiences and have been around since the sixteenth century. Currently, political cartoons can be found in editorial sections of newspapers, news magazines or shared through online versions of social media.

Political cartoons aim to make people laugh about current political situations or issues, while at the same time making readers critically think about issues in a new way. Since the cartoon may or may not contain words and is short. Requires the audience to have a background knowledge about the political subject matter. The political cartoon also help spread information about the current event.

Historically, political cartoons have a long history and can be traced back to the visual propaganda of the 16th century. During the Protestants reformation in Germany of the 16th century, cartoonist used visual propaganda to portray religious and political figures as heroes or villains.

Comic Strips, comic strips are one of the longest forms of reading entertainment which is still to date, a favourite of a lot of readers since they can be funny, relatable, visually pleasing, and carters to both kids and adults. Usually found reading periodicals such as magazines and newspapers. Comic strips are now also compiled in books and can be read on various websites. Comic strip is made up of graphic images, often times are cartoonish in nature that is designed to be read as a narrative or chronological order. There are set of drawing that are arranged in sequence through a series of three to four panels. This display brief humor or form a narrative and either in colour or black and white. Comic strips are popularly included in magazines or newspapers which have their now dedicated section. Popular comics are now serialized in comic book, magazines with strips story sometimes continuing over three pages or more.

There are different types of comic strips which include: self-care comic strip, life comic strip, fashion comic strip, education comic strips, birthday comic strip, friends ' comic strip, enumeration comic strip, cartoon comic strip, love comic strip and office 6 panel comic strip.

Gag Panel, a gag cartoon (also panel cartoon, single-panel cartoon or gag-panel), is almost often a single-panel cartoon usually including a caption beneath the drawing. A pantomime cartoon carries no caption. In some cases, dialogue may appear in speech balloons, following the common convention of comic strips.

As the name implies, gag being a show business term for a comedic idea-these cartoons are most often intended to provoke laughter. Popular magazines that have featured gag cartoons include punch, the New Yorker and playboy. Some publications such as, humorana, used cartoons as the main focus of magazine, rather than articles and fictions.

Animation, is a series of images, each slightly different from the last, shown in sequence. When they are shown fast enough, we stop seeing the individual images and instead see an illusion of motion. There are many ways to create the individual images including hand drawings and photographs of objects. Animators bring the story to life, posing characters to act out each scene.

They start by breaking down an action into a poses called key frames that mark out important positions. Then, they use a computer program to describe how the object moves in between those key frames so that the resulting animation conveys the desired emotions.

Satires, is the art of making someone or something look ridiculous, raising laughter in order to embarrass, humble, or discredit its targets. As a literally genre, satire is one of the oldest, the term was coined by Quintilian, who used the root of latin word "ssatura" which means "full" and was familiar to Romans from the phrase lax satura, which described a medley of fruits and apparently conveyed the miscellaneous quality of early satire.

Eventually, more specific kinds of satire became associated with the works of three different Roman authors, whose names are still invoked to describe the varieties of satire the established.

Horatian satire, tend to be good natured and light-hearted, looking to raise laughter to encourage moral improvement. A famous example of **Horatian satire** is the eighteen-century poet Alexander Pope's poem the rape of the lock, which despite its serious-sounding name, was an attempt to bring back together two real-life feuding families by humorously exaggerating the severity of the cause of their rift.

Juvenalian satire, tend to be more bitter and dark, expressing anger and outrage at the state of the world. Example of it is Jonathan Swift modest prose pamphlet that initially appears to be serious, well intentioned attempt to suggest a solution to what was a major problem at the time.

Menippean satire, is reserved for prose works that still resemble the original connotation of satire as miscellany, or containing multitudes, **s** are relatively rare these days, but many so-called postmodern novels, with their encyclopedic range and fondness for esoteric digression, bear more than a

passing relation to the form. Regardless of which type of satire is being deployed, it must take aim at a target that is larger or more powerful than the author. Otherwise, instead of satire we have mere cruelty or bullying, so satire is content dependent.

Symbolism in Political Cartoons. Commentary on political issues can be complicated, using symbolism accts as a visual cue for the audience to help understand the cartoons. The symbol stand for an abstract concept, like a feeling or idea. A symbol is any object, colour or sign that is used to represent something else. Some common symbols used in in political cartoons death - vulture, skeleton with shroud, skull and crossbones, grim reaper.

Donkey - Democratic Party, can also symbolize unintelligence, not as majestic as a horse. Elephant - republicans. Jester – mockery. Love – heart, cupid. Money – naira, dollar or dollar sign. Peace – dove, olive branch, victory sign, scales of justice. Pigs – dirty, unintelligent. Rail – working man, common people. Rats – dirty, filth. Snakes – sneaky, constructing. Tree – life, growth. United States – uncle Sam, Flag, Stars and stripes, shield, Columbia (woman).

Review of Related Studies
The Dilemma of Newspaper Cartoonists: Perspectives from Nigerian Practitioners

Cartooning in journalism practice is, by nature and as demonstrated in many parts of the world, an intelligent journalistic endeavor undertaken by cartoonists or cartoon journalists to put those in power to accountability and responsibility. It is a special genre of journalism profession to disseminate information graphically and illustratively to members of the public. Cartoonists strategically use cartoons and their journalistic drawings to portray social evils, corrupt practices, criticize policies and programmes.

The Indonesian Journal of Communication Studies. Misdemeanours in a satirical and comic form. Cartooning has been a very popular means of criticising political activities and politicians. Given the increased use of political cartoons, especially in Nigerian print media, and the fact that political cartoons rely on satire constructed in graphic or visual illustrations to express their meanings, political cartoons are viewed as a form of political satire (Townsend, McDonald, & Esders, 2008).

Through these verbal and visual devices, cartoonists construct meaningful and persuasive media messages reflecting current issues and

scenarios that are related to social and political happenings in a society, thereby contributing significantly to political debates and commentary.

Content Analysis of Cartoons Published in the Daily Jang and Daily Dawn: A Study of the Caricatured Expression of News

Political journalism's structure includes political cartoons as a critical element. They provide a pleasant diversion from the increasingly somber political discourse by offering a colorful alternative to conventional news reporting. Cartoons offer comprehensible and quick criticism and analysis of current events since they may condense news and viewpoints into a caricature. Cartoons have affected popular opinion on social issues throughout the years, occasionally leading to disasters in how information is delivered to the public. Political cartoons, sometimes called editorial cartoons, are one-panel cartoons that satirize political events.

They not only act as a remedial action but also as historical records and a "picture" of the political environment at a particular time Political journalism's structure includes political cartoons as a critical element. They provide a pleasant diversion from the increasingly somber political discourse by offering a colorful alternative to conventional news reporting. Cartoons offer comprehensible and quick criticism and analysis of current events since they may condense news and viewpoints into a caricature. Cartoons have affected popular opinion on social issues throughout the years, occasionally leading to disasters in how information is delivered to the public. Political cartoons, sometimes called editorial cartoons, are one-panel cartoons that satirize political events. They not only act as a remedial action but also as historical records and a "picture" of the political environment at a particular time.

Audience Perception of Newspapers' Editorial Cartoons as Communication Medium

Visual images can induce powerful feelings and distinct interpretation ns as they are used to outsource verbal activities and add to the potential social implications of these pictures being disseminated publicly.

They may also have a projective role in the sense that they can generate connections between various issues (Naghy, 2010). Not only in cartoons, but also in social life, humour is a very significant characteristic. Humour is used to differing degrees in cartoons; some cartoons give the audience a smile without being funny, while others are so ridiculous that

individuals laugh at them. There are no humour laws, but there are aspects that most individuals may agree with (Mwetulundila and Kangira, 2015). The production of images that are pictures and other illustrative materials is concerned with all visual arts.

Satire as Tool of Political Cartoons in the Nigerian National Dailies: A Critical Discourse Analysis

Political cartoons are effective means cartoonists use to express their thoughts and ideas about political issues, events or personalities in a particular period in a playful manner (Becker, 1959; cited in Sani et al 2012). They are openly and discreetly used to make compelling statement and provide specific knowledge on contemporary socio-political issues. The goal of political cartoon is to raise public consciousness using figurative tone and graphical imageries to address crucial issues and criticize political leaders and their contemptible practices. In other words, the genre serves as a medium of political reporting, articulating a particular message from a particular point of view using language and imageries as prime tools.

Aesthetics and Design in Three Dimensional Animation Process

Art does not teach. Rather, art presents the full and concrete reality of the end target. What art does is presents things "as they should be or could have been, which helps people attain such things in real life. However, this is just a secondary benefit of art. The main benefit of art is that it provides people with a taste of what "things would be like if they were the way they were supposed to be" in real life. Such an experience is essential to human life (Beúe, 2006).

Surely, people cannot watch a movie with the schematic or aesthetic quality of it in mind. However, as the movie progresses, a visual language settles into the spectator's subconsciousness, creating a sense of pleasure. Walter Benjamin claims that a spectator analysing a picture is able to abandon himself to his associations. However, this is not the case for people watching a movie at the cinema. Rather, the cinema audience can only build associations after they have watched the movie, therefore the process of perception is delayed. (Benjamin, 1993).

Since then, they have been striving to share their experiences, achievements, wishes and dreams with other people, societies or masses. For the same purpose, people have been painting, acting, writing plays, or producing movies. Incessant desire to convey a message through visual

communication brought about the invention of the cinema, and since the 18th century, it has become an essential means of presenting ideas, thoughts or feelings to masses.

Analysis of Select Nigerian Newspapers Framing of Cartoons an end SARS Protest

According to Ahuja & Cuhabra (2002), said cartoons are one of the light materials used by newspaper houses to lighten the mood of their readers as they (cartoons), have become an integral and common feature of most newspapers, if not all. On the other hand, newspapers cartoons are drawings usually in the form of caricature with satirical, humours or witty comments, published in newspapers to discuss or project topical issues that are often political. Newspaper cartoons are of different types. Pocket cartoons, gag cartoon, editorial cartoon, cartoon documentaries and cartoon illustrations.

The EndSARS cartoon falls under the editorial cartoon category. The information and entertainment values of newspaper cartoon are enshrined in the manner in which cartoonist employ verbal and non-verbal cues to present their messages. One manner in which news media shape perceptions of key events is through the act of framing. Framing refers to the way events and issues are organised and made sense of, especially by media, media professional and their audiences. Tiung (2009, as cited in Ezegwu, Uduak & Obichili, 2021), described framing as part of a skill used in producing effects or understanding a certain issue. In cartooning, framing is performed using verbal and visual devices through which cues are selected, emphasesd, excluded and or elaborated in the presentation of issues.

Methodology

The research design is a mixture of content analysis and in-depth interview, content analysis is chosen base on it result oriented nature when use in research as it focused on its manifest communication content is essential in producing scientifically valid result, by analyzing the obvious meaning. The in-depth interview is to complement the content analysis where some selected journalists and public servants on the subject matter.

This study was of two classes of population, the first was selected newspapers, and the second was journalists and public servants selected for interview. This research work is aim at Appraising the use of Satires in Political Cartoons in Select Nigeria Print Media from June 2022 to

February 2023 Therefore, three newspapers were analyzed and constitute the population of study.

The newspapers use for this study were The Punch newspaper, The Guardian newspaper and The Sun newspapers. The newspapers were chosen base on their coverage, credibility, patronage and frequency. The population of study was generated by a number of days in nine months and multiply by number of the newspapers being study. Therefore, 50 X 3 = 150. The second population of study were journalists from the Nigeria Union of Journalists, Cross River State Council and some public servants in the state. The population of journalists interviewed were 21 and public servants from grade level 8 and above were also 21, making a total of 42 public servants interviewed.

The units of analysis for this study were: news, editorials, features, opinions about Appraising the use of Satires in Political Cartoons in Selected Nigerian Print Media from June 2022 to February 2023 There were classified by actions, whether directly or indirectly, negative or positive, and neutral. Actions were measure in this research to indicate the overall of indications.

The content categories were into 4 types of accountabilities, such as internal accountability, external accountability, social accountability and horizontal accountability. While coding parameters show that newspapers carry news, features, editorials and opinions about appraising the use of Satires in Political Cartoons in Select Nigeria Print Media from June 2022 to February 2023.

The nominal level measurement was used to enable the researcher to simply count the frequency of occurrence of the units of analysis in each content category. The element used in the study were analyzed according to their frequency of occurrence and the units of analysis of each element were carefully examine and sum up for the final result which was to know and appraised the use of Satires in Political Cartoons in Selected Nigerian Print Media from June 2022 to February 2023, the tone and sources that contributed.

To ensure accuracy and reliability in the study, code sheets were used to gather information on appraising the use of Satires in Political Cartoons in Select Nigeria Print Media from June 2022 to February 2023. Also, the code serves as instructional or training resource material for the coders. Coders were asked not only to code from the categories present or absent, but also to act (positive, negative, and neutral), given to each involves the tone of a particular report which takes analysis of language

used. Quantitative design for the content of the newspapers was chosen as the method of data analysis due to its ease of measurement nature and its agreement with quantitative content analysis.

Many researchers that choose content analysis used this method. The uses of information were analyzed to determine how they contributed to coder categories. The data collected were presented in tabular form, and simple statistical method was used to calculate the frequency of occurrence of the content categories.

Data Presentation and Discussion
Image of Corruption

Image of corruption is often being displayed with money's being exchanged by some people in authority. Those who are supposed to protect the common wealth or institution they preside over. Corruption is being seen in almost every aspect of social life. There is corruption in the judiciary through delay in the dispensation of justice, also in education, health and the political environment. There are different images that depict corruption with the commonest amongst them being brown envelop, the gift of money etc. and there are used by cartoonist to demonstrate the degree of such menace in the society.

Image of Responsibility

Image of responsibility is seen in the way people dress in public or the way cartoonist portray them through the cartoons they present for the public image or assessment. But it is not very true that people are responsible due to the way they dress. Some of the most dangerous people dressed very responsible. People who work in places like banks, lawyers, journalists, Civil Servants, pastors etc. they dressed well or officially, while most of them are surprisingly involved in series of criminalities like organised crime in the society.

Image of Brutality

Image of brutality takes different dimensions in the society, mostly among some officials in some instances, it led to protest or civil unrest. Some forms of brutality are forced labour or oppression by people that are connected to the corridors of powers. Intimidation's by security agents like the police, special taskforce by government officials or agencies, illegal arrest and detentions, racism, delay and denial of justice and in some cases

killings of innocent people. Brutality are of degrees, some are very serious while some are not and it occurs mostly at minimal scale.

Image of Suffering

Image of suffering commonly describe people who are malnourish and is seen mostly among children of growing age and victims of brutal accidents that are in some cases half dead. Image of suffering has much to do with people who found themselves in conditions that they least expected in their lives without help at the time of their suffering.

Image of Cruelty

Image of cruelty has to do with the characters of some humans or persons of advantage position against the other persons that are of less advantage, and in some time it happens or occurred between persons that are not of the same or equal status with others in the society. It also extend to how humans relate with animals in the society. There are different types of cruelty, common amongst them is animal cruelty by some human beings. However, most humans demonstrate love and care for animals and fellow human beings.

Image of Terrorism

If there is any challenge the world is facing today is the ugly empire of terrorism that is sponsored by enemies of the state and progress. The image or symbol of terrorism are persons in police or military uniforms with mask face and high capacity guns or bombs. Another image of terrorism are the scenes of destructions of public properties which are well captured by cartoonist.

Image of political failure

The failure of governance in Nigeria manifests in the declining capacity of political leaders to recognize systemic risks such as election fraud, terrorist attacks, herder-farmer conflict, armed banditry, and police brutality and put in place the necessary measures to navigate these challenges. In contrast with the current system in which leadership is attained through bribery, intimidation, and violence, Nigeria needs an epistocratic system of governance that is founded on the pedigree of its political leaders and the education of its voters.

At the end of the Cold War, African civil society movements striving for more democratic governance began to challenge authoritarian

regimes on the continent. Declining living conditions within African countries and the failure of authoritarian African leaders to deliver the promises of economic prosperity they made to encourage the acceptance of development aid fueled the push for change. International donors' insistence on democratic reform as a precondition for aid gave impetus for Nigerian civil society to push for domestic accountability. Thus, domestic pressure for political pluralism and external pressure for representative governance have both played a role in the calls for democratic reform in Nigeria.

But despite some successes, corruption and socioeconomic disparities within Nigerian democracy continue to run rampant. Since 1999, the democratic space has been dominated by political elites who consistently violate fundamental principles associated with a liberal democratic system, such as competitive elections, the rule of law, political freedom, and respect for human rights. The outcome of the 2019 presidential election further eroded public trust in the ability of the independent national electoral commission to organize competitive elections unfettered by the authoritarian influences of the ruling class.

This challenge is an indicator of the systemic failure in Nigeria's governance system. A continuation of the current system will only accelerate the erosion of public trust and democratic institutions. In contrast with the current system in which votes are attained through empty promises, bribery, voter intimidation, and violence, Nigeria needs a governance system that will enhance the education of its voters and the capability of its leaders.

Statistically speaking, Nigeria has consistently ranked low in the World Governance Index in areas such as government effectiveness, political stability and the presence of violence and terrorism, rule of law, and control of corruption. Nigeria is perceived in the 2020 Transparency International Corruption Perception Index as a highly corrupt country with a score of 25/100 while its corruption ranking increased from 146 in 2019 to 149 in 2020 out of 180 countries surveyed.

At the core of Nigeria's systemic failure is the crisis of governance, which manifests in the declining capacity of the state to cope with a range of internal political and social upheavals. There is an expectation for political leaders to recognize systemic risks such as terrorist attacks, herder-farmer conflict, and police brutality and put in place the necessary infrastructure to gather relevant data for problem solving. But the insufficiency of political savvy required to navigate the challenges that

Nigeria faces has unleashed unrest across the nation and exacerbated existing tensions. The #ENDSARS Protests against police brutality in 2020 is one of the manifestations of bad governance.

Political elites in Nigeria also exploit poverty and illiteracy to mobilize voters with food items such as rice, seasoning, and money. The rice is usually packaged strategically with the image of political candidates and the parties they represent. The assumption is that people are more likely to vote for a politician who influences them with food than one who only brings messages of hope.

The practice of using food to mobilize voters is commonly described as "stomach infrastructure" politics. The term "stomach infrastructure" arose from the 2015 election in Ekiti state when gubernatorial candidate Ayodele Fayosi mobilized voters with food items and defeated his opponent Kayode Fayemi. It is undeniable that Nigerian political culture rewards incompetent leaders over reform-minded leaders who demonstrate the intellectualism and problem-solving capabilities needed to adequately address systemic issues of poverty and inequality.

Findings

The impact and significance of cartoons in the information age can't be over emphasize, hence, Cartoons has multiple uses and appears in many platforms or medium in different formats. In the television, cartoons are used for the education of children, it's also use for entertainment and games development, etc. cartoons are also referred to as animation in television, while television cartoons are used by parents to educate their children at home.

According to Onakpa (2014), cartoons are more attractive for children, they influence child's perception of the world, the formation of values and the upbringings process of children.
Among the audiences of cartoons children are the more vulnerable segment when exposed to cartoons as it has been established that children pattern their life's according to the nature of cartoons there are exposed to.

According to Tatev Derz Yan (2019), quoting from professor sharmin from Michigan University, that children are more attracted to cartoons than learning from traditional and academic sources. The main reason lying in cartoons scenarios, audiovisual effects and colours solutions. That scientist has proved that children not only learn from cartoons, but also memorize and imitate the behaviours of cartoon characters due to their cognitive abilities.

Cartoons also teachers' children the rules of behaviours in society, respect for elders, teamwork, beliefs and languages, etc. A lot of people like reading cartoons for different reasons, some don't even understand it, like in Nigeria, there is so much stress due to economic meltdown and poor leadership styles and structures which include failed and wrong policies.

These brings about a lot of depression and anxiety on people. People are bored with a lot of questions without answers, so cartoons pictures have the ability to set audience off-balance with rude shocks that makes one forget about the worried state of mind.

According to Elizabeth Sherman (2017), there is a medical term for taken part in any activity that distract you from the feeling of stressed, anxious, angry or sad and it's called opposite action. He pointed out that, you engage in action that is exactly the opposite of the way you feel in order to regulate your emotions. If you are feeling really anxious, then to do something very bold. If you are feeling socially anxious, get dressed or anxious person, then the answer might be to just watch something that makes you laugh.

Laughter can be very therapeutic. According to Tatev Derz Yan (2019), quoting Dr. Julia Sampton, a psychiatrist who specializes in treating mood disorder, explained, conceptualization defense mechanisms, a mental process that is used to avoid anxiety or conflict. Mature defense mechanisms are used by healthier people, and humor is categorized in that way. He further quoted the mayor Clinic recommended laughter as a stress relief, explaining that not only can its sooth tension but even improve your immune system.

While informing that a study from the university of Maryland medical centre showed that may help prevent heart attacks. And concluded that, of course, a cartoon won't magically cure depression, but if it makes you laugh, then it has done it job. Like in the Television station programmes, cartoons are given proper place in the schedule of activities for the station and people follow up the programmes as so scheduled.

Some television stations have also operated solely for the airing of cartoons as their content for the public. Cartoons are also used for the development of programmes and games to test the efficiency of concepts, and ideas like artificial intelligence, robots.

Cartoons also have some negative effect on children, according to Bharat Dhima, cartoon characters have negative impact on children. Children's try to play the role of cartoons characters in real world, so

violent behaviour and aggression viewed on cartoons channels will appear in children attitude, behavious and his/her life.

Shazia Akbar Ghilzai, Rabia Alam, Zubir Ahmad & Amina Shaukat (2017), also pointed that the act like a negative way in an environment. The children's Brain has a big storage of accepting everything they experience even from exposing to television programmes. He further states that, children don't know what is right and wrong, they are just accepting everything that is telecasted on cartoons channels and they react the same way in school, at home and in a society.

Conclusion

This research on appraising the use of satires in political cartoons in selected Nigerian print media has revealed that cartoons are very useful in instrument of political communication as a way of informing and educating the public about government activities. The background of the study established the fact that Political cartoons are effective means of communication used by cartoonists to express their thoughts and ideas about political issues, events or personalities in a particular period in a playful manner but very complete and meaningful.

Comment: take the deleted line to conclusion; statement of problem is not a finding, but your own assumption.

The study has five objectives and two theories, Media Intrusion Theory, a theory propounded by Dennis Davis in 1990 and regarded as a contemporary variant of elites pluralism and assumes that political system operates best through a hierarchical relationship between the public and its elected leaders. The study also make use of Framing Theory propounded by Gregory Bateson in 1972 which postulates that the media focuses attention on issues or events and then place them within a field of meaning to encourage or discourage certain interpretations.

Studies like, the dilemma of newspaper cartoonists: perspectives from Nigerian practitioners, Content Analysis of Cartoons Published in the Daily Jang and Daily Dawn: a Study of the Caricatured Expression of News, Audience Perception of Newspapers' Editorial Cartoons as Communication Medium, Satire as Tool of Political Cartoons in the Nigerian National Dailies: A Critical Discourse Analysis, and Aesthetics and design in three dimensional animation process. Also reviewed are Analysis of select Nigerian Newspapers framing of cartoons an end SARS protest. While concepts like: Political or Editorial cartoons, Comic strips,

Gag panel, Animation, satire, horatian satire, juvenalian satire, menippean satire and symbolism in political cartoons.

The research methodology is a mixture of content analysis and in-depth interview. The discussion focused on image of corruption, image of responsibility, image of brutality, image of suffering and cruelty. Also in the discussion is image of terrorism and image of political failure.

The findings shows that, **t**he impact and significance of cartoons in the information age can't be over emphasize, hence, Cartoons has multiple uses and appears in many platforms or medium in different formats. In the television, cartoons are used for the education of children, it's also use for entertainment and games development, etc. cartoons are also referred to as animation in television, while television cartoons are used by parents to educate their children at home.

Recommendations

1. The media should be granted true or practicable freedom to perform it functions to the public.
2. More cartoons should be employed in articles, news or stories sensitive or important since it makes reading appealing and enhances retention of messages.
3. Cartoons communication should become a major department or a specialty in the field of communication.
4. The Nigeria Union of Journalists should change from union to association, example, Nigeria Media Practitioners Association or Nigeria Association of Media Professionals, (NAMP).
5. Nigeria Union of Journalists should have a strong regulatory board with powers to discipline and reward members by promotion.

REFERENCES

What is Satire || Definition & Examples - College of Liberal Arts
Oregon State University https://liberalarts.oregonstate.edu › wlf › what-satire
        https://www.merriam-webster.com › dictionary › politi...
Cartoon definition and meaning | Collins English Dictionary
Collins Dictionary https://www.collinsdictionary.com › dictionary › cart
 Semiu, B., & Biodun, A. (2021). The dilemma of newspaper cartoonists: perspectives from Nigerian practitioners. *The Indonesian Journal of Communication Studies,* Volume 14/ Nomor: 2/ 2021 Page: 75.

Adetola, S., Adesegun, O., and Isaac A.s {2020}. Content Analysis of Cartoons Published in the Daily Jang and Daily Dawn: A Study of the Caricatured Expression of News.

Audience Perception of Newspapers' Editorial Cartoons as Communication Medium. *International Journal of Media, Journalism and Mass Communications (IJMJMC)* Volume 6, Issue 3, 2020, PP 40-54 ISSN 2454-9479 https://doi.org/10.20431/2454-9479.0603004 www.arcjournals.org.

Usman, S. O. (2016). Satire as Tool of Political Cartoons in the Nigerian National Dailies: A Critical Discourse Analysis. *European Scientific Journal* October 2016 edition Vol.12, No. 29 ISSN: 1857 – 7881 (Print) e - ISSN 1857- 7431.

Social Behavioural Science (2012 vol. 51) Aesthetics and design in three dimensional animation process, www.sciencedirect.com.

Analysis of select Nigerian newspapers framing of cartoons on endSARS Protest. GVU Journal of communication studies, vol. 5, September

The science behind Pixar. https://sciencebehindpixar.org.

Oregon State University. https//liberalarts.oregonstate.edu

Common symbolism used in political cartoons. Historical Society of Pennsylvania https://hsp.org Political cartoons as a vehicle of setting social agenda: the newspaper example. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/272691530.
The Failure of Governance in Nigeria: An Epistocratic Georgetown University https://gjia.georgetown.edu › 2021/04/12 › the-failure.

Political_Cartoons_as_a_Vehicle_of_Setting_Social_Agenda_The_Newspaper_Example https://www.researchgate.net./publication/272691530.

How to Analyze Political Cartoons: 12 Steps (with Pictures) www.wikihow.com
Cartoon Analysis Sample | PDF | Angela Merkel | European Union – Scribed Sample 1. Student Sample English 102 Cartoon Analysis Commented [SL1]: www.scribd.com

Political cartoons as a vehicle of setting social agenda: the newspaper example. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/272691530