

Constructions of resistance and their (de)legitimization: a critical analysis of media discourse on “rebels, revolutionaries, insurgents and terrorists”.

The theoretical simplicity of truth and falsity fails to find its way into any of the human realities. Rather than being a part of either of these polarities, all human realities find themselves in a continuum of truth or falsity. In media, an elaborate and intricate interplay of interests, allegiances and agendas often leads to an oversimplification of complex social realities into aforementioned poles or thereabouts. This paper endeavors to focus on one important facet of this oversimplification: the act of legitimizing or delegitimizing agents of resistance, i.e., rebels, revolutionaries, insurgents, terrorists. As the data for the study, news and feature articles dealing with related themes were selected from online sources. Approaches in critical discourse analysis were utilized to analyze data with special emphasis on the dialectic theory of discourse developed by Norman Fairclough (1992) and the tools of discourse analysis developed by James Paul Gee (2011). The analysis revealed that the constructions of resistance and their (de)legitimization are simultaneously a result and a cause of social practices which, intern, depend on the perspectives of social structure and the perspectives of social action and agency.

Key words: critical discourse analysis, media, resistance, legitimization, the dialectic theory of discourse

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