

PRESS COVERAGE OF THE BOKO HARAM TERRORISM AND ITS IMPLICATIONS ON CONFLICT-SENSITIVE JOURNALISM IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

This study analyses the coverage of the Boko Haram insurgency by Daily Trust and Vanguard newspapers and its implications on conflict-sensitive journalism in Nigeria. Many research suggest that media is capable of inflaming or mitigating conflicts depending on the way they report it. For this reason, there is a shifting interest towards conflict-sensitive journalism, whereby the media is expected to be giving voice to all parties, focus on invisible effects of conflicts, truth oriented, people oriented as well as solution oriented. The objectives are to examine the adoption of peace approaches in the newspapers' reportage of Boko Haram; to determine the usage of war approaches in the newspapers' report of Boko Haram and to compare the prominence of peace and war approaches in the newspapers' report of Boko Haram. The study adopts content analysis and framing theory. Findings from the study reveal that Nigerian journalists are not fully adopting conflict-sensitive journalism in their reportage. It concludes that notwithstanding the poor application of conflict-sensitive journalism, the approach becomes important in making the peace of the country achievable. The study recommends that Nigerian journalists should increase their knowledge of the conflict-sensitive journalism so that they can make important contributions in finding solutions to the problem of Boko Haram insurgency.

Keywords: Press, Boko Haram, insurgency, implications, Nigeria.