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Psychological and Emotional Dynamics in Sri Lankan Journalism (With Special Reference to Newspaper Content)

Thambawita N¹, Bandara YGSI²

¹*Faculty of FGS, University of the Visual and Performing Arts*

²*Department of Mass Communication, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Kelaniya*

Background: In contemporary society, the purpose of communication is questionable, as the contents of newspaper articles can cause personal distress, foster negative attitudes, and spread false information that is defamatory and injurious to human dignity. They ultimately lead to detrimental effects, including miscommunication, conflicts, and disappointment.

Objective: The Prime objective of this research is to study the psychological differences and natures of journalists. Latent emotions in the unconscious can surface into conscious awareness, often through sublimation. Whereas the unconscious of a human is structured as a language, and such unconscious emotions may activate during the compilation of newspaper reports.

Methods: The study involves twenty (20) reports related to complaints heard by the Sri Lanka Press Council, which are controversial and widely debated within the media arena, as well as ten (10) newspapers reporting incidents of crime and abuse, which were revealed by the Council as violation of ethics, analysed through Psychological Textual Analysis namely, Psycholinguistics and Narrative Analysis.

Results: The analysis of feature articles reveals unconscious psychological differences among journalists, which are reflected in their reports. It is observed that the words, meanings, narrations, perspectives, metaphors, creative writing styles, and phrases, as well as the information categories and compositions, and the overall page layouts, including corresponding photographs, colour combinations, and computer effects, parallel the research hypotheses. Examination of reports relating to complaints on the other hand reveals that the portrayal of aforesaid conclusions are minimal, however, it is concluded that one or more of the following three segments may affect in compilation of newspaper reports; namely, socio-political, economic, cultural and other reasons, the influence of a third party and the psychological differences of persons contributed to the report.

Conclusion: The unconscious psychological differences in journalists are reflected in their reports.

Keywords: Psychoanalysis, unconscious, latent, emotions, sublimation