

**REINTERPRETATION OF THE USA NARRATIVE OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC
THROUGH GLOBAL TIMES CARTOONS: A STUDY OF CODES AND
METAFUNCTIONS**

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Abstract

The study is conducted to understand the reinterpretation of the USA narrative through political cartoons of Global Times. The study is conducted on the cartoons posed during 2021 in Global Times. A sample of six images is collected and analyzed under the cultural semiotics theory of Yuri Lotman. The theory is based on the reception of the text, choices (metafunctions of the codes) and the comparison of the text and codes. The stretch of the narrative is due to irritational behaviour, which had led both nations towards political rivals in the global stretches. The reception of the text describes that the leadership of the USA tries to prove that China is directly involved in COVID-19 spread while the reports of many laboratories regret it. Although the death rate is too high in the USA, it plays a discursive political role in the world. The whole world is suffering under the pandemic, but the USA plays politics. On the other hand, the metafunctions of the text describe that there are non-responsible actions of the USA and dual policies regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. At the same time, its domestic issues are neglected by its officials. Comparatively, the text and codes describe the discursive practices of the USA as it does not understand its core responsibilities rather than plays politics.

Key Words: *Political Narrative, Cartoons, COVID-19, Global Times, Narratives Strategies, Symbolic Strategies, Cultural Semiotic Theory, Codes, Text, Metafunctions*

Introduction

The United States and China are the political and economic rival countries that have built narratives of blame against each other, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has had a significant impact on the narrative of blame between China and the USA especially as the catalyst which had affected public perception, domestic politics and international relations (Global Times, 2021). The shift of responsibility about the origin of the narrative is due to the recent time, which has influenced both domestic and global standing against the perception of COVID-19.

In late 2019, the emergence of COVID-19 appears as the first case in Wuhan, China. The spread of the virus gave birth to unprecedented economic and social destruction around the world. The situation got worse, and both countries, China and the USA, started blaming each other for the origin and management of COVID-19 and its management. Both countered and started constructing narratives against each other based on geopolitical interests (Global Times, 2021).

China had been blaming the existence of the virus due to external factors in its country. Officials in China blamed the origin of the virus somewhere in the USA and considered the USA responsible for the existence of the virus (Mao, 2021; Zhao, 2021). Chinese officials have been blaming Western nations for the political narrative attack on China and the outbreak as politically motivated (Li, 2021).

China has been defending the blame while building the narrative of victimization by presenting its states as sacrificing and caring for its citizens (Zhang, 2021). The national media has been presenting strict state policies about health safety, vaccination campaigns and pandemic management actions for the purpose of portraying China as a globally responsible leader (Chen, 2021; Liu, 2021).

In the USA, the officials and the leader had been blaming China by framing the narrative as “Wuhan Virus”. The approach is intended to be built due to the lack of transparency and the origin of the virus in China (Baker & Sanger, 2020).

The narrative not only affects international relations yet, but it also affects international institutions, as the World Health Organization has faced much criticism from both perspectives. China has accused WHO of being influenced by the USA politics, while the USA has been criticizing the due to handling and differences with China (Woods, 2021; Zhao, 2021).

Statement of the Problem

Global stretches of power and economy lead towards the construction of a particular narrative in critical situations. The emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic gave birth to many challenges of control and precautions. Still, at the same time, the international powers built their narrative about the political and economic rivals. Through the use of media and its caricatures, unofficial ways are used to expand the official narratives in critical situations. Metaphorical presentations of cartoons and caricatures during COVID-19 provided in Global Times built its national narrative by encountering the USA narrative to prove the dominance of its narratives.

Research Objectives

- To investigate the constructions of text, code choices and its interpretation to encounter the narratives of the USA being presented in the Chinese newspapers
- To explore the narrative perspectives of the Chinese Newspaper Global Times after encountering the USA narrative during the COVID-19 pandemic,

Research Questions

1. How has Global Times interpreted the Chinese narrative to encounter the USA narrative through cartoons during COVID-19?
2. What are the perspectives of reception of the text, metafunctions of the text and comparison of text and codes of Global Times's cartoons to encounter the USA narrative?

Significance of the Study

The present study helps to understand the stretch of the narrative and encountering of the narrative about COVID-19 that existed between China and the USA. The study helps to recognize the construction of codes, text, and their metafunctions to present the realities with respect to the Chinese perspectives on COVID-19 perspectives. This study can lead towards the state of narrative construction and encountering of the narrative about the global pandemic in stretches of international power and relations.

Literature Review

Alkhresheh (2020) researched “Semiological Discourse Analysis of the Editorial Cartoons of International Newspapers on COVID-19”. The goal of the current study was to identify the

covert ideological strategies employed by newspaper editors in the representation of their cartoons in individual publications. The goal of this study was to compare semiotics across a wide range of international journals, including the British-based *The Economist* and the Pakistan-based *Dawn*. By splitting the investigation into two sections, the goals of the study were fulfilled. The written portions of the cartoons were examined first, and then the semiotics. The researcher combined Roland Barthes' semiological framework and Norman Fairclough's CDA model into an integrated framework of analysis. According to the survey, *Dawn* discussed the internal issues with the healthcare system. *Dawn* also discussed the serious COVID-19 and locust attacks, as well as the detrimental effects of locusts on the economy that depends heavily on agriculture. *The Economist* described racism as a cultural illness in America that had roots in the country's past. The unstable situation in Brazil and the ineffectiveness of the government in stopping the spread of COVID-19 were also mentioned by the *Economist*. The situation surrounding COVID-19 and its long-term ramifications have been addressed in the context of culture and social practice, according to the semiotics given in the press. At the conclusion of the study, a comparison of semiotics was given.

Ayson (2022) researched "Visual Propaganda In The Time Of Covid-19: China's Image Repair In State Media Political Cartoons". The study elaborated that the scholarly interest in political cartoons is growing as they represent a significant tool for political communication. Their main purpose is to comment on particular events and figures in order to reflect, influence, or reinforce popular opinion. Political cartoons have historically been employed by governments as a visual propaganda technique to bolster public support for their war initiatives. However, in the era of immediate and digital media, governments have fresh motivation to use political cartoons' rhetorical qualities to further their communication objectives regarding divisive peacetime issues—as China did during the COVID-19 outbreak. The prevalence and frequent release of cartoons with a pandemic subject on Chinese state media's internet platforms demonstrate their usefulness in the CCP's extensive propaganda effort to sway public perceptions of the world health issue. In order to address China's pandemic image issue, this study expanded on the image repair theory (IRT) [1] on visual texts by looking at political cartoons produced by four Chinese state media outlets with a worldwide audience: Xinhua, China Daily, Global Times, and CGTN. It was discovered that Chinese state media cartoons employed three main image repair strategies: (1) attacking the accuser, (2) differentiating, and (3) transferring blame. These findings were supported by an interpretative approach to political cartoon analysis [2]. It was also found that these cartoons were used as a visual counteroffensive against the United States, China's strategic adversary. This study provides new insights into the image restoration literature in crisis communication, which has mostly concentrated on oral and written texts, by focusing on a rather unusual communication channel.

Chu (2023) did a study on "Cartooning COVID-19 in China". This study presents a discourse analysis of the visuality of COVID-19 cartoons that were published in three Chinese media outlets: China Daily, which targeted a worldwide anglophone readership; Satire and Humour, which circulated in the home market; and an alternative, critical voice on social media. The paper's methodology makes use of three theoretical concepts: Foucault's concept of institutional, enunciative modality; Peirce's concept of hypotonicity; O'Toole's adaptation of Hallidayan linguistics to visual discourse; and two triadic approaches to visual discourse. Official Chinese cartoons are displayed domestically to commemorate total government control over the pandemic. Globally, the focus is on the geopolitical rivalry between the United States and China. In COVID-19, political considerations are discovered to take precedence over public health issues because of their ideologically committed aesthetics. The

paper's findings highlight the conflict between political cartooning's lighthearted appearance and its serious political objective, which is a common occurrence in the genre.

Labbe et al. (2022) studied “Stigma and blame related to COVID-19 pandemic: A case study of editorial cartoons in Canada”. The study highlighted that in addition to the spread of a highly contagious and potentially lethal virus, the COVID-19 pandemic also symbolizes an explosion of hypotheses, rumors, discourses, and representations that attempt to make sense of a catastrophe. In light of the COVID-19 outbreak in Canada, we examine the topic of blame and stigma in this piece. To do this, we examine editorial cartoons regarding COVID-19 that appeared in ten major Canadian newspapers between January 2020 and March 2021. We found 203 editorial cartoons that expose prevalent narratives that stigmatize or assign responsibility to particular groups of people for the start of COVID-19, its spread, or their actions during the pandemic. Four groups were the focus of the cartoons: 1) People of Chinese descent and other national/geographic origin (Americans, Canadians from particular provinces, urban dwellers); 2) Travelers abroad; 3) Disregarders of the preventive measures taken to contain the pandemic; and 4) Skeptics or critics of the scientific discourses surrounding COVID-19. Our investigation uncovered an “othering process” typical during pandemics. We also discovered a moralization of the observance of the countermeasures against COVID-19 in our examination of editorial cartoons published in Canada. The public is essentially split into two factions by these editorial cartoons: 1) “Courageous” individuals who uphold public health preventive measures and are “smart,” “selfless,” and “smart”; 2) “Immoral,” “self-centered,” “silly,” and even “dumb,” who disregard the advised precautions to stop the spread of COVID-19. Derogatory portrayals of these people can worsen polarization even while they can encourage adherence to the suggested actions. Examining editorial cartoons can be a helpful method for quickly learning about popular opinions and sentiments at a particular location and time.

Venkatesan & Joshi (2023) did a study, “I AM NOT A VIRUS”: COVID-19, Anti-Asian Hate, and Comics as Counternarratives”. The study found that following the global spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, East Asians have experienced a great deal of social distancing, othering, pathologization, and anti-Asian hate crimes worldwide. Even though China is modernizing quickly, people still view it as a primitive, Oriental place. Utilizing these indicators, the current work examines Sinophobic sentiments following COVID-19 via an in-depth examination of cartoons and sequential comics by East Asian-American artists, including Laura Gao and Lisa Wool-Rim Sjöblom. Using first-person storytelling and theoretical ideas from Priscilla Wald's “medicalized nativism” and Alexandre White's “Epidemic Orientalism,” this essay explores how these selected comics serve as counternarratives. By doing this, these comics both uphold the dignity of East Asians and oppose and reject the accepted ways of thinking that normalize brutality and dehumanization. The paper goes on to contend that the political, economic, and technological factors that have built modern China are just as much of a driving force behind anti-Asian hate crimes and Sinophobia as the COVID-19 virus's Chinese roots.

Wu (2023) studied “The Image of China in Political Cartoons of Foreign Media”. The goal of this work was to perform a multimodal discourse analysis on a corpus of ten animal-themed political cartoons concerning China that were published in international media. Multimodal discourse analysis from the perspective of function and cognition was guided by the qualitative research design using discourse analysis as an approach, specifically using descriptive and analytical techniques to explore how foreign media revealed the images of China in political cartoons of foreign press and communicated the hidden cultural connotations and communicative intentions to the world. A functional-cognitive analytical

framework for political cartoons was finally proposed by this study, which based its analysis and debate on generic traits, semiotic resources used, relationships among semiotic modes, three meta-functions interpreted, metaphors, and pictures of China. The results showed that political cartoons' cultural allusions were intended to give viewers a particularly unfavourable impression of China as well as a certain political message. In order to further the foreign ideological goal of "China Threat Theory," the communicative intentions were to shape and promote China's political, economic, and military threats as well as its hegemony in all spheres. They also interpreted China as being economically, politically, and militarily threatening, domineering, hypocritical, bullying, cunning, and greedy.

Jaworsky & Qiaoan (2021) scholar argue that this blame game reflects long-standing geopolitical tensions and competing interests in global leadership. Studies reveal that Chinese state media positioned China as a victim of stigmatization and emphasized its effective response, seeking to project global solidarity and competence. Conversely, U.S. political narratives, particularly under the Trump administration, cast China as the primary source of the virus, a stance used to deflect criticism of its domestic handling of the crisis. This "politics of blaming" serves as a tool for domestic and international influence, shaping public attitudes and influencing international policies.

Kichloo et al, (2020) scholars highlight that conservative narratives often downplayed the severity of the virus, promoting economic reopening and framing restrictions as threats to individual freedoms. This approach aligns with traditional conservative values of limited government intervention and economic liberty. In contrast, liberal narratives focused on public health and collective responsibility, supporting restrictions, vaccination, and government-led responses as necessary to curb the virus's spread.

According to Jing & Ahn (2021) The politicization of COVID-19 vaccines in the U.S. has significantly influenced vaccine resistance, with partisan divides shaping public attitudes toward vaccination. Studies indicate that political identity became a primary factor in vaccine acceptance, with conservative-leaning individuals often more hesitant or resistant, viewing vaccine mandates as an overreach of government control. This resistance is linked to broader distrust in scientific institutions and skepticism fueled by conservative media and political leaders, who questioned the safety, necessity, or intentions behind vaccination efforts. Conversely, liberal political narratives strongly supported vaccines as a civic duty, framing them as essential for community health and recovery.

Bolsen & Palm (2022) China's diplomatic efforts to reshape the COVID-19 narrative reveal a strategic use of "soft power" to shift global perceptions and enhance its international image. Following early criticism of its handling of the virus, China launched a robust diplomatic campaign, emphasizing its role in providing medical supplies, expertise, and vaccines to affected countries, especially in the Global South. Scholars note that this "health diplomacy" aimed to reframe China not as the origin of the pandemic but as a global leader in crisis management and humanitarian aid.

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Research Methodology

The study is qualitative and is based on the text and codes. The qualitative research discusses the textual and image analysis descriptively. Textual form of analysis is highly used in qualitative research (Gay et al., 2012). The study is conducted to understand the stretches of culture based on the text and codes as well as the metafunctions of the codes. These codes are the main themes of the images presented in the images. Models that address the codes and metafunctions are of the Yuri Lotman (1975, 1977).

Yuri Lotman (1975, 1977) Proposed the theory of Cultural Semiotics Analysis.

The theory of cultural semiotics proposed by Yuri Lotman (1975, 1997) is based on the cultural codes, both verbal and non-verbal. Yuri Lotman's cultural semiotics (1977) is based on the reception of the text, choices (metafunctions of the codes) and the comparison of the text and codes (Blame, 1994).

The cultural text is both verbal and nonverbal; its construction and the activity around the world are analyzed through codes (Lotman, 1975).

Population

The population of the study is all those cartoon posts of Global Times posted with respect to the encountering of the USA narrative.

Sample

The sample is selected through convenience sampling. Six of the cartoons were chosen as the sample of the study, and these will be posted in 2021.

Data Analysis



(Global Times, 2021): <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202107/1228861.shtml?id=11>

Verbal Codes: Research Report, Exitance of COVID-19, Time of Spread

Non-Verbal Codes: Mr. Sam as the Researcher, Virus, COVID-19

Analysis

Reception of Text

The image presents the reports done by the affected world and the virus itself, telling that the existence of COVID-19 is there in the world, but it is neglected by the US. The reader can understand the US intended to misinterpret the global pandemic by telling the rest of the world that the origin is China. On the other hand, the time of spread is mentioned, which means that the virus spread during December 2019 in the whole world rather than only in China. The reader can also understand that the leadership of the USA is intended to prove the

spread of COVID-19 by their interpretation rather than the rest of the world. The reports and the virus itself decide that the virus is spread all over the world at the same time.

The Choices (Metafunctions of the Text)

The images appeal to cognition, describing how the US misinterprets aspects and intends to play with people's minds. The codes also describe how we discursively practice reality, as the research and many of the reports are biased. The dual policies and non-authentic actions of the US are presented, appealing to the reader to understand the diverse directions of the US research and policies.

Comparison of Text and Codes

The text describes that the reports are authentic and that the virus was present at the same time in the world. The codes function so that the reader would understand that the virus is deliberately considered a war of the powers in its interpretation. The codes describe the discursive practices of the USA, while the texts present the direction of the world and the truth of the happenings.



(Global Times, 2021): <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202108/1230339.shtml>

Verbal Codes: COVID-19 as the political virus

Non-Verbal Codes: The US interpretation of COVID-19, Shield Awarding, Anxious Word for Treatment

Analysis

Reception of Text

The semiotics present the US-based narrative as the USA was intended to prove COVID-19 as the political virus. The codes can be understood from two perspectives. The mouthpiece of the US is narrated in the cartoons, telling the people that the US claims the varies as political. All the reports are intended to be disclosed as political. At the same time, the rest of the world is searching for the treatment and adoption of the precautions for the treatment of the virus.

The awarding of the shield or the club to fight and work in the world denotes that the US intended to marginalize the rest of the world rather than claim to refine and retreat from the virus. Though the world is searching for treatment in the hands of the US, politics is going to be played. These politics parents that subjugation of the facts and alienation from the rest of the world.

The Choices (Metafunctions of the Text)

The text describes that human cognition would be aware of the USA's dual policies and discursive practices in the changing global scenario. The USA plays a different role from the rest of the world due to its self-oriented strategies. The world is going on one side while the policies and dimensions of the USA are on the other side. In this scenario, the USA intends to lead the world towards useless things rather than towards the positive things which should be fruitful for the world.

Comparison of Text and Codes

The text describes the political status of COVID-19 irrespective of cognition and viability of the treatment. The codes describe the discursive strategies employed to play politics in the world. This politics is to marinate the opinions and issues of the rest of the world. The text and the codes present the discovery strategies employed by the cartoonists so that the world would understand the irrational intentions of the USA rather than idealizing them.



(Global Times, 2021): <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202107/1230114.shtml>

Verbal Codes: Bloomberg Research, COVID-19 has infected the US, with a High rate of Confirmed Cases and a High rate of death

Non-Verbal Codes: Research and The US status, Uncle Sam as Receiver of Awards

Analysis

Reception of Text

The codes describe that the Bloomberg Institute provided keen and authentic information about the spread of COVID-19. The pandemic increased the ratio of deaths and cases significantly in the USA compared to other countries (Global Times, 2021). The reader can

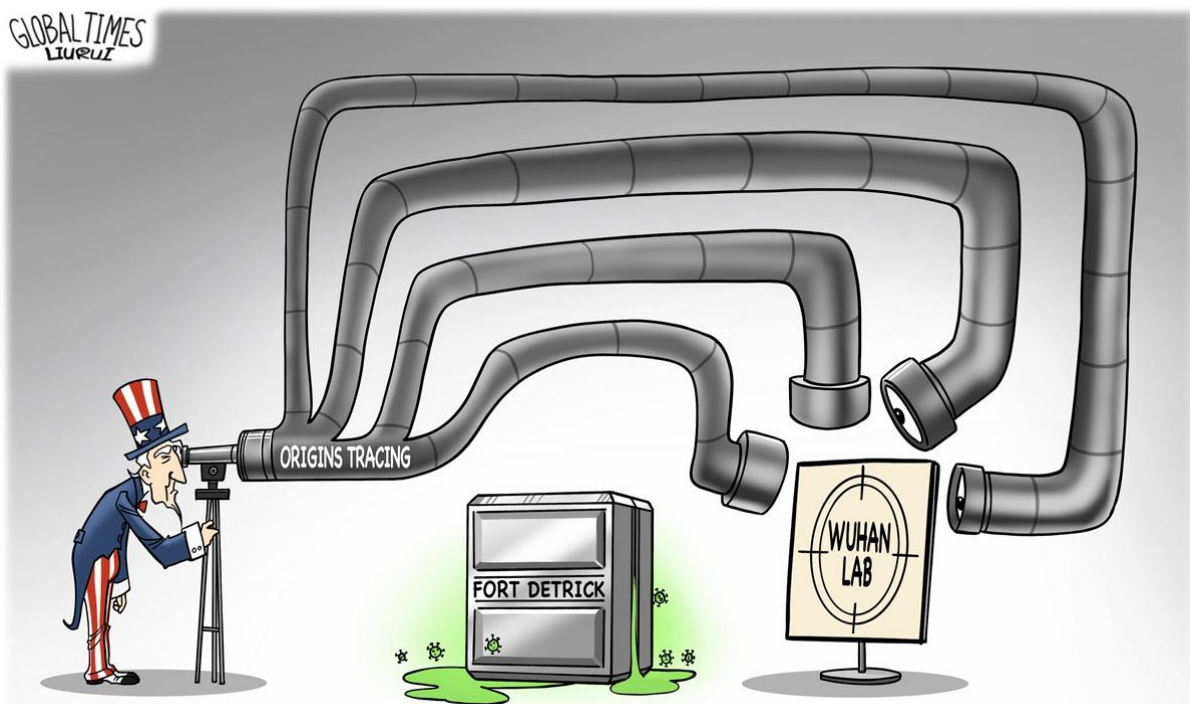
understand the existing situation of COVID-19 in the world while the champion of world affairs is negligent about COVID-19 precautions. The exceeding rate of death and cases presents that the issue is of a high level rather than of a surface level, but it is not properly dealt with in the USA.

The Choices (Metafunctions of the Text)

The text appeals to the reader to understand the discursive strategies of the USA in the real world. It presents the ironical aspects of the awards that are given based on the negligence and carelessness of the US, as the US believes in self-supremacy rather than accountability. The text also plays the role of conscious and unconscious understanding of the scenario in which China is blamed, and the US plays its typical role in politics in the world.

Comparison of Text and Codes

The text highlights the pandemic situation in the US's running scenario. It presents negligence and the getting away from one's responsibilities. Here, the subjugation of humanity is evident, and the role of the US is discursive. The code appeals to the reader that the stance of the US is based on a fake assumption. The reality is that the negligence of the US in the exceeding issues of the world scenario is being addressed. The use of the strategies described to present the country with a high rate of affected people is being given the award. It presents that the news and information are spread based on the self-narrative rather than on the existing realities in the world.



(Siqi & Qingqing, 2021): <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202108/1232768.shtml>

Verbal Codes: Scope Visions, Fort as an International Research, Chinese Labs

Non-Verbal Codes: Black and White Background, Uncle Sam as a Researcher, Scope of Virus, Visuals, Distributive Length of visions

Analysis

Reception of Text

The codes describe that the patriotic symbolic Uncle Sam intends to blame China at every cost that it has spread COVID-19 to the world. The codes also reveal that world research and authenticity are neglected. Fort Detrick's report is also neglected. All the views and reviews

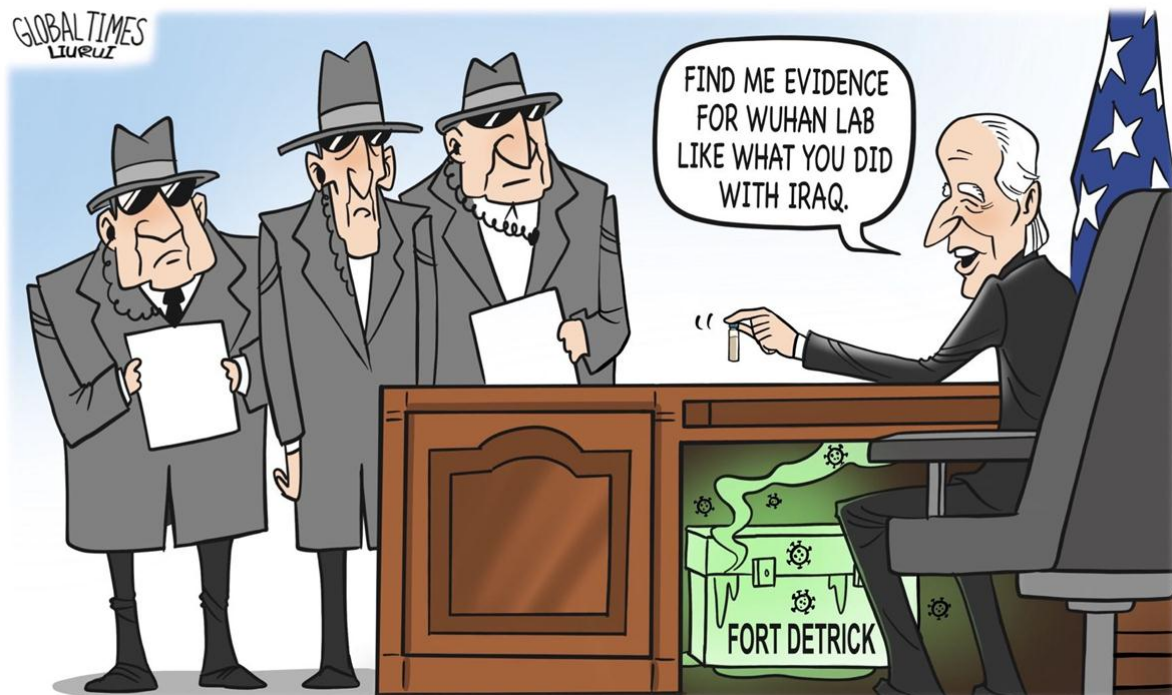
of the US lead towards the involvement of the USA in the spectrum of the spread of COVID-19 to China. The black background describes that the background information is dark of the USA, and only light is put on the Wuhan Lab of China. The codes also state that the researcher is biased in the USA and intended to ornate the biased information to collect against China. Used Macroscopic describe that the realities are focused only on the decisive and the negative intentions while the disruptive length of visions presents the

The Choices (Metafunctions of the Text)

The text and the codes function in the role of discursive strategies appealing to the cognitive and noncognitive perspectives of the reader about the stances of the USA and China regarding COVID-19. The codes and the text also appeal to the cognition that the realities and the issues are not truly subjected to the information. People of the world are told controlled meanings rather than true ones. The US perspective had been to recognize China as the enemy of the world, while the Chinese perspective had been to know the virus and its effects as a natural pandemic rather than the world. At the same time, the report of Fort Detrick is neglected in that the reality is different, and the USA seems involved in the organization of the virus in the world.

Comparison of Text and Codes

Both text and the codes exercise the discursive strategies employed as the information given to the people. The text describes the invites of the US and regrets the biases of the USA while the codes preset that there had been controlled information from the USA and the Chinese perspectives. The world had to rest on the major information. At the same time, it is presented that the realities are more diverse than the existence of the things that can be understood through comparing text and codes. It also presented that there is a political war of power and world sympathy between both states.



(Rui, 2021): <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202108/1230615.shtml>

Verbal Codes: Instructions and Planning for Blaming China, Discursive Plans, Virus Existence, Fort Detrick Report

Non-Verbal Codes: The US agents with Guided Instructions, Hidden Fort Detrick Report, Secret Agenda, Table Game

Analysis

Reception of Text

The text is telling the reader that the US is practicing the discursive and wrong exercise through its agents by producing and giving wrong information. This information would be realized. At the same time, the text describes a game of balding by the US against China. On the other hand, the discrete plan, as was practiced in Iraq, where the information was not found, is going to be practiced for China. The origin place of the virus is labelled on the Wuhan Lab, and we collect such information and the secret places. The Fort Detrick report is hidden, in which the involvement of the US can be directed and observed in the expansion of the virus. The text also describes that agents are guided rather than freely working in the world. The segment is presented as the hidden agenda, and the reports are intended to be prepared against China. The text also demonstrates that the believer in tabletop games wants the desired results, information, and discourse in the world.

The Choices (Metafunctions of the Text)

The text provides the stretch of power existing between the USA and China. Both intend to prove their ethical dominance in the world. The codes function as cognitive appeals by telling the subjugated situation presented by the US in the controlled directions. The text tells that the US only played a controlled role, and all the directions were based on fake and controlled information. Agents were told to produce only the controlled discourse against China while the authentic reports were hidden due to the catching of the blames.

Comparison of Text and Codes

The text describes that the US intended to play an integral in the subjugation of China while China also launched its media war to counter the narrative. The text and the codes present the stretch of power. The text describes the intentions and the efforts of the US and the strategies that were played in Iraq. On the other hand, the codes of non-verbal discourse precede the exposure of the strategies employed by the US in the world. These strategies present a discrete role for the US in making blame china due to the controlled and directed information. Both codes and the text provide the ideology of the stretch of the dominancy and neglecting the realities. This reality is presented in a way that the discursive strategies are played by the USA by its state actors while China had to come on the defence lines to expose the intentions of the US.



(Rui, 2021): <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202107/1229610.shtml>

Verbal Codes: China as a Distanced state, China as the Top Threat, Gun Violence issues in the US, COVID-19 spread in the US, The US as a Divided Country

Non-Verbal Codes: China as the US's main target, Top priorities of the US, Issues in the state of the US, Lingered issues of the US, Washington as Boiling Home, Ship, Linger on Ship

Analysis

Reception of Text

The codes provide the comprehensive state of trauma running during the COVID-19 pandemic. The codes describe that though China is at a distance, there are stretches of dominance in the world with respect to economic challenges in this regard. China is considered the top threat not due to COVID-19 but due to China's economic position in the world compared to the US monopoly. There are violent weapons, threats of the increasing rate of the US, and political division in the US, but all the focus is due toward China by the US. The codes describe the state of the US as divided, and there are social, economic and political crises in the country, but the needs of the people are fulfilled. Yet, the main focus is on the subjugation limitation of China's economic growth. The codes describe the differences between the targets and the US regarding the development and the discourse orientation in the world. It can also be understood that Washington is boiling with the pressure of other domains of life and public affairs. The USA totally ignores the major factors in its country, and the main focus is on China.

The Choices (Metafunctions of the Text)

The readers are addressed by cognition of certain discourses. The code appeals to raise the thinking the state of the US is neglecting its major problem and believes in the stretches of political and economic power without any preparation or reason. China focuses on its perspectives of development, and the major thing is controlling the pandemic. Discursive strategies are presented by telling the audience that the US is not paying attention to its domestic issues rather than paying attention to the affairs that are not related to them. The codes also appeal to raise the idea that the domestic issues are in a high range, which stops

the state running affairs and the development of the USA, but at the same time, the US intends to maintain the stretch of soft war with China.

Comparison of Text and Codes

The codes describe the state of trauma of the US, while the text presents the orientation of the US stance. The discursive strategy played by the US is to keep China as the main focus while intentionally neglecting domestic and other administrative issues. China, through cartoons, describes the state of the US as interfering in others' matters while neglecting its matters, which are the utmost responsibility of a state. At the same time, the text describes the issues of the US, while non-verbal codes present the discursive state of actions beyond the facts and realities.



(Yelu, 2022): <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202205/1265082.shtml>

Verbal Codes: Human Rights Motives

Non-Verbal Codes: Uncle Sam's claims, Get rid of precautions, Heroism

Verbal Codes: Non-Living of Humanity, Birth of Human Tragedy, High Death Rate in the US.

Non-Verbal Codes: Human Graves, Dark Life, Unknown Graves

Analysis

Reception of Text

The codes present the US president's claims to eliminate the essential precautions for COVID-19. On the other hand, the motivation for human rights as the mask is an issue for humanity. At the same time, there are codes which pretend that there is an increase in the deaths of Americans because of COVID-19. At this point, the major aspect to discuss is the approach of the US in which irresponsible behaviour is presented. The dark clouds, human graves, unknown graves, birth of human tragedy and getting rid of the precautions denote that the officials of the US are leading their nation towards destruction. Their misleading can result in the shape of death of humanity and the birth of human tragedy in the US.

The Choices (Metafunctions of the Text)

The codes cognitively appeal to the reader to understand the irresponsible behaviour of the US. In this regard, the keen aspect is to understand the discursive and unauthentic precautions of the US. The avoidance of the mask and claims of human rights despite precautions denote the birth of human tragedy. The codes persuade the readers to keep the US administrators as irresponsible and not loyal to their citizens. It can result in the shape of the birth of human tragedy and the loss of the human, resulting in the shape of no human right to live on the earth.

Comparison of Text and Codes

The text presents the huge rate of death in the US and the negligence of the US president. At the same time, the codes present the discursive possibility of the US in a challenging situation. The odes present the US president and the officials as irresponsible persons who are unable to run a state. At the same time, the codes and the text present the discursive strategies of the interpreters to interpret the US as an irresponsible state and not loyal. The codes derbies the dark about the life of the American while the text presets human death and loss.

Conclusion

Broader geopolitical differences and reflection can be observed within the narrative of blaming between the two countries. Both countries had been crafting the narrating to shift the responsibility of pandemic management while influenced the both domestic and international relations. The issues of blame and accountability affected the global cooperation and effects on the health crisis management in the world.

The narrative constructed by the USA is widely used during the election campaigns the USA blaming China as responsible for the virus. Blaming China has been a great tool of political narrative construction in the USA to divert attention from the domestic issues of the USA (Klein, 2021; Lee, 2021). Such tendencies raised anti-Asian sentiments and gave birth to endorphins in the USA with the complicated narrative construction about China (Wong et al., 2021).

The worsening of the tension between the USA and china arose due to the blame game, which led towards the deterioration of the diplomatic and cultural relations. A war of words emerged between China and the USA, and China started blaming the USA for politicizing the virus while the USA had been demanding accountability from China (Liu & Shen, 2021; Wang, 2021). The tension led towards the effects on the global cooperation both in the trade and health sectors.

A key finding in the comparative study of U.S. and China narratives during the COVID-19 pandemic is the contrasting use of blame and responsibility to shape global perceptions and domestic support. The U.S. narrative, particularly during the Trump administration, framed China as the origin of the virus, coining terms like the “China virus” to underscore this blame. This approach aimed to deflect criticism from the U.S. government’s handling of the crisis and rally domestic support by emphasizing external threats. In contrast, China’s narrative highlighted its swift control measures, robust public health response, and global aid as evidence of its competence and responsibility, positioning itself as a victim of external blame rather than a perpetrator.

Findings

Reception of the Text

- The reader can also understand that the leadership of the USA is intended to prove the spread of COVID-19 by their interpretation rather than the rest of the world. The reports and the virus itself decide that the virus is spread all over the world at the same time.

- Though the world is searching for treatment in the hands of the US, politics is going to be played. These politics parents that subjugation of the facts and alienation from the rest of the world.
- The exceeding rate of death and cases presents that the issue is of a high level rather than of a surface level, but it is not properly dealt with in the USA.
- Used Macroscopic describes that the realities are focused only on the decisive and the negative intentions while the disruptive length of visions presents the
- The hidden agenda and the reports are intended to be prepared against China. The text also demonstrates that the believer in tabletop games wants the desired results, information, and discourse in the world.
- Washington is boiling with the pressure of other domains of life and public affairs. The USA totally ignores the major factors in its country, and the main focus is on China.
- The dark clouds, human graves, unknown raves, birth of human tragedy and getting rid of the precautions denote that the officials of the US are leading their nation towards destruction. Their misleading can result in the shape of death of humanity and the birth of human tragedy in the US.

The Choices (Metafunctions of the Text)

- The dual policies and non-authentic actions of the US are presented, appealing to the reader to understand the diverse directions of the US research and policies.
- USA intends to lead the world towards useless things rather than towards positive things, which should be fruitful for the world.
- The text also plays the role of conscious and unconscious understanding of the scenario in which China is blamed, and the US plays its typical role in politics in the world.
- US perspective had been to recognize China as the enemy of the world, while the Chinese perspective had been to know the virus and its effects as a natural pandemic rather than the world. At the same time, the report of Fort Detrick is neglected in that the reality is different, and the USA seems involved in the organization of the virus in the world.
- US only played a controlled role, and all the directions were based on fake and controlled information. Agents were told to produce only the controlled discourse against China while the authentic reports were hidden due to the catching of the blame.
- Codes also appeal to raise the idea that the domestic issues are in a high range, which stops the state running affairs and the development of the USA, but at the same time, the US intends to maintain the stretch of soft war with China.
- Readers keep the US administrators as irresponsible and not loyal to their citizens. It can result in the shape of the birth of human tragedy and the loss of the human, resulting in the shape of no human right to live on the earth.

Comparison of Text and Codes

- Codes describe the discursive practices of the USA, while the texts present the direction of the world and the truth of the happenings.
- Text and the codes present the discovery strategies employed by the cartoonists so that the world would understand the irrational intentions of the USA rather than idealizing them.

- The use of the strategy described to present the country with a high rate of affected people is being given the award. It presents that the news and information are spread based on the self-narrative rather than on the existing realities in the world.
- At the same time, it is presented that the realities are more diverse than the existence of the things that can be understood through comparing text and codes. It also presented that there is a political war of power and world sympathy between both states.
- Both codes and the text provide the ideology of the stretch of the dominancy and neglecting the realities. This reality is presented in a way that the discursive strategies are played by the USA by its state actors while China had to come on the defence lines to expose the intentions of the US.
- The state of the US is interfering in others' matters while neglecting its matters, which are the utmost responsibility of a state. At the same time, the text describes the issues of the US, while non-verbal codes present the discursive state of actions beyond the facts and realities
- Codes and the text present the discursive strategies of the interpreters to interpret the US as an irresponsible state and not loyal. The codes derbies the dark about the life of the American while the text presents human death and loss.

Recommendations

- Yuri Lotman's theory of cultural semiotics can explore the stretches and the functions of the codes.
- Subjugate and oppressive narratives can be exposed through receptions, metafunctions and comparison.
- Both-sided narratives can be investigated under Yuri Lotman's theoretical perspectives when there is an oppositional narrative for the research studied.

Gap for Further Research

There can be research on political, social and cultural stretches based on the codes. The study can be conducted to understand the narrative strategies and symbolic interpretations. There can also be research on the symbolic functions and textual comparison of the same cartoons in future.

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