

Nigerian Magazines' Coverage of the Boko Haram Insurgency: A Job Well Done

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Abstract

The insurgent activities of the Boko Haram sect have continued to receive the attention of the world media. However, the conventional news media like the radio and television, and to some extent the newspaper, only gave piece meal of the terror attacks of the sect. No doubt, the magazine prides itself with detailed report of the news; digging beyond the dry report of other media. It was in consonance with the above stated that this research was conceived with the broad goal of ascertaining the pattern of coverage given to the Boko Haram terrorism by the Nigerian magazines. The research adopted the content analytical method where the manifest contents of *Tell*, *The News*, *NewsWatch* and *The Source* magazines were analysed from a systematically selected editions of these magazines. The data generated with the use of code sheet were analysed using tables, and simple percentages in line with the research questions that were formulated. The findings indicate that there was high percentage of negative stories, good use of photographs in buttressing stories. Based on the findings, the researchers concluded that the magazines gave coverage to the Boko Haram terrorism. It was recommended that more attention be given to the insurgency, while the government through its security agencies put more effort in gathering intelligence on the sect and further research be done in the future.

Keywords: *.Boko Haram .Insurgency .Media .Coverage .Terror*

Introduction

The news magazines have remained one of the specialized genres of communication media the world over in giving in-depth coverage to insurgencies and terrorist activities. In Nigeria, various communication media like the radio, television and newspapers have always been in a hurry to report the conventional news. However, magazines have continued to stand tall in bringing the news behind the news. Hence, most of the terrorist activities of Boko Haram sect appear to have been thoroughly analyzed and detailed in magazine publications, just like other conventional issues in Nigeria.

The security challenge which presented itself in form of Boko Haram insurgency launched by Ustaz Mohammed Yusuf, has redefined the way crises in the country have been tackled over the years. No state or nation can advance politically, economically and otherwise in the face of such extreme violence as the one currently going on in the country. No consensus have been reached as to what classification the Boko Haram sect should be given; whether, insurgents, terrorist group, or militants, among others.

Nevertheless, the media in Nigeria have continued to give coverage to the mayhem perpetrated by the Boko Haram sect, whose real name is *Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda' awatiwal Jihad*, which when translated means (people committed to the propagation of the Prophet's teachings and Jihad). These villains have over the years continued to maim, kill and destroyed properties of both government and individuals alike; the bombing of the Police Force Headquarters in Abuja, the United Nations (Abuja) building and the Suleja Christmas-day bombing, are testaments to the fact and it has posed a worrying twist to the length which the Boko Haram Sect is willing to go.

The aforementioned issues have caused many families to fall victim of the Boko Haram Sect and their cohorts, whose utter disregard for human life is shocking and unnerving.

Indeed, Nigeria may not be a problem-free society but the rise of this monster called Boko Haram, has further pushed down our rating in the comity of nations not only as a failed state, but a terrorist nation. It has also reshaped our domestic and international policies and if care is not taken, we may be ranked with the likes of Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia, Sudan, and Pakistan where terror has become a daily routine.

The Nigeria media, (electronic and print) have promptly swung into action with the reportage of the Boko Haram attacks. In discharging their hallowed job, the media people ought to be seen as impartial, unbiased and objective in their readers' judgment. Such issue as the Boko Haram, which is multifaceted must be reported responsibly no matter how difficult it is. Though conflicts, crises, and their manifestations are not entirely new in Nigeria (from the infant years of Nigeria), the country has been visited with crises and conflicts of varying degrees that have badly dented the country's image. The coup of 1966, the accompanying pogrom in the North, the Nigeria civil war, the Maitasine crisis of 1980 and several ethno-religious crises in Jos, Bauchi, Onitsha, Aba, Yobe, Kaduna and Kano are ugly memories. In all of these, Nigeria has not witnessed such blatant disregard for human lives as being done by the Boko Haram sect. Nigeria as a political entity has not had this kinds of attack on its corporate entity, since the Maitasine religious crisis. Not even the Niger Delta militancy equaled these violent attacks by the Boko Haram Sect.

Boko Haram is an ethno- religious Sect founded by the late Ustaz Mohammad Yusuf in Maiduguri, Borno State in 2002. In 2004, the sect moved its hideout to Kanamma, Yobe State, where they built their base called "*Afghanistan*", after having some skirmishes with security agents.

However, the backers of the Boko Haram are elusive, as some reports have linked the group to some northern politicians, who set up the group to help enforce Sharia law and pursue their political ambitions. Other reports have linked the group to Al Qaeda and other terror groups in Somalia, Chad, Yemen, where members of the group may have gone to be radicalized.

According to experts, Boko Haram does not have any coherent mission statement, but top on its agenda is the complete destruction of Western-induced education in Nigeria. The group's ideology is rooted in *Sharia law* and *Sunni Islam* (*Newswatch*, August 2011).

More worrisome in the mist of this crisis, is the kind of coverage it has received. Experts have come to argue that the way news media have been framing their reports about the Boko Haram crisis is compounding the problem. According to Ekunno (2011,p.12), the way Nigerian media have so far reported the Boko Haram insurgency has heightened the need for us to rethink our conventional principles of news reportage and analysis. In fact, experts insist that the print media must rethink the way they report violent insurgency to avoid arming terrorists in the name of maintaining balance reportage. Also, the media on its part have been accused of heightening the situation, by blowing out of proportion the attacks by the insurgents.

Magazine coverage of the Boko Haram insurgency plays an influential role in setting the stage for discussion of important issues and event in society and has great grip on how public opinion is shaped, considering the fact that majority of magazine readers' are elites and opinion leaders. The medium is one of the channels through which views of the populace/ citizens and that of government, groups and organization are aired. They particularly give room for all and sundry to send and receive response. They also provide a stage for the discussion of topical issues that affect both the homogenous and heterogeneous audience, thereby giving room for more enlightened readership/ audience

Statement of the Problem

That magazines have given coverage to the Boko Haram terrorism in Nigeria is never a subject of disputation. But the extent to which they have been able to use their coverage to bring the issues to the fore through the prominent attention assigned to these issues as well as the implications of their contents necessitated this research. The effective coverage of the Boko Haram attacks in the face of the risks posed by their activities both to the society and specifically the news personnel is also of utmost concern of this study. In specifics, the

adequacy, frequency and pattern of magazine coverage of this Sect's activities so far, prompted this research exercise in the first instance.

Research Questions

The research aims to answer the following research questions:

1. To what extent did *Tell*, *The News*, *Newswatch* and *The Source* magazines give prominent attention to the Boko Haram insurgent activities in their reportage within the study period?
2. What direction of coverage did *Tell*, *The News*, *Newswatch* and *The Source* magazines take in their coverage of Boko Haram terror activities within the period of study?
3. To what extent were the Boko Haram insurgent activities frequently featured in the publications of the selected magazines within the study period?
4. To what extent was the coverage of Boko Haram terrorism by *Tell*, *The News*, *Newswatch* and *The Source* magazines adequate?
5. How effective were photographs and illustrations used by the selected news magazines in their coverage of the Boko Haram terrorist attacks within the period of study in Nigeria?

Literature Review

The Print Media and Crisis Reportage in Nigeria

It is unarguably a fact that the print media exist majorly to serve the public with up-to-date information on daily happenings. They do this by publishing daily developments on the pages of their papers.

Amongst the functions of the print media, the reportage of crisis is no doubt a cardinal function. Here, the print media bring to public knowledge the outbreak of conflicts/crisis in different parts of the globe. The Libyan crisis, the Yemen fallout, the Egyptian disorder, the Tunisian conflict and the current Syrian crisis were all captured by the print media. The sensitivity of these crises triggered the attention of journalists.

In Nigeria, the cardinality of crisis reportage cannot be taken for granted. Crisis of different dimensions have no doubt taken place. The current crisis ravaging the country is the Boko Haram terror activities.

The outbreak of these crises has claimed lots of lives and properties. Studies have obviously shown that the media, particularly the print media gave coverage to these crises. The critical question here is how did the print media cover these crises in Nigeria?

Okoli (2010, p.33) unveiled in his study, that the print media were biased in their coverage of the Jos crisis. The study revealed that the print media did not observe the principle of objectivity in their coverage of Jos crisis. He further asserts that this development is very unacceptable in the real sense of objective journalism. Obi (2009) gave credence to Okoli's findings when he equally found out in his study that objectivity and balance were not observed by the print media in their reportage of Jos crisis. Obi found out that the media sensationalized their reports on the Jos crisis. The study revealed that the media, in their quest to secure high patronage, sensationalize their reports of Jos crisis by manipulating the scenario.

Furthermore, Ibrahim (2011) also upheld the revelations of Okoli and Obi when he equally unveiled in his study that the print media took sides in their coverage of Jos crisis. He unveiled that the print media reported the Jos crisis along the lines of the extractions they support. Alabi (2009, p.61) revealed that though the print media covered the Jos crisis, they were biased in their coverage.

More so, Ahmed (2010, p.47) revealed in his study that the Nigerian print media displayed subjectivity in their coverage of crisis in Nigeria. The study affirmed that the print media subjected their reports to favouring their interests instead of reporting facts. Adeyemi (2009, p.52) gave credence to the above finding when he found out in his study that crisis reportage by the print media in Nigeria is bedeviled with distorted facts; facts that are far from the real events.

Also Ikenna (2008, p.73) found out in his study that the coverage of crisis by the Nigerian print media is nothing but biased orchestrated by sentiments and selfishness. The study revealed that the print media often reports crises in such a manner that it triggers/fuels the conflicts. The study, therefore, recommended caution by the print media in their reportage of

crisis. This position was supported by Hassan, (2009, p.11) when he revealed in his study that the print media in Nigeria often relegate objective and fair reportage to the background whenever they are reporting crisis/ conflicts. The study, unveiled that the print media report crisis in line with the interests of their owners and ethnic affiliations. Hassan noted that this act has seriously affected crises reportage in Nigeria. The study strongly condemned a situation where such kind of sensitive reportage will be abused on the altar of favouritism.

Njoku (2010, p.59) also revealed in his study of print media coverage of crisis in Nigerian that the print media have not fared well in their reportage of crisis in Nigeria. The study unveiled that the print media usually take sides/participate in the crisis by subjectively covering the conflicts. Njoku, unveiled that the direction of coverage of these crises obviously points to the fact that the print media have not been objective in their coverage of crises in Nigeria. Bala (2010, p.40) divulged in his study that selfishness on the part of print media journalists influenced their reportage of crises in Nigeria. He confirmed this when he made known that virtually all print media reports of crisis favoured the regions they belong to. To defend their regions, they selfishly covered the crises in such unacceptable manner.

The Nigerian print media have failed in their coverage of crisis in the country. They have not given a good account of themselves in that direction. This is very absurd and pathetic for such a people that parade themselves as the fourth estate of the realm (Abubakar, 2011, p.21). Kunle (2010, p.11) also agreed with Abubakar, when he averred that print media coverage of crises in Nigeria has been nothing but a mere show of subjectivity and imbalance.

Furthermore, Ebitimi (2010, p.43) revealed in his study that the Nigeria print media gave adequate coverage to crisis in Nigeria but were out of place by not upholding balance and fairness in their coverage of crisis Okpako (2010, p.49) agreed with the findings of Ebitimi when he as well showed in his study that the print media coverage of crisis in Nigeria is an adventure of subjectivity. A study he conducted unveiled that the print media performed abysmally poor in their coverage of crises and conflicts in Nigeria.

Also, studies have all pointed to the fact that the print media covered the Niger Delta crisis in a biased manner. These studies contended that despite the fact that the Niger Delta Militants. Were genuine in their struggle, the Nigerian media, particularly the print media portrayed the struggle in a bad light.

Ovie, (2010, p.13) disclosed in his study that though the agitation of the Niger Delta militants were very genuine, yet the Federal Government and other government authorities used the print media to wrongly report the crisis. Chimezie (2010, p.5) affirmed the above finding when he also undraped in his study that print reportage of the Niger Delta crisis was marred by manipulation from government officials to create disaffection against the militants.

Furthermore, Solomon (2011, p.77) revealed in his study that the print media subjectively reported the Niger Delta crisis. The direction of coverage favoured the interests of government. Akpobi (2011, 37) uncovered in his study, that the print media ignored balance and fairness in their coverage of the Niger Delta crisis. The reports were mostly pro-government and anti-militants and the region as a whole.

To further uphold the findings above, Maxwell (2011, p.92) revealed in his study that the greatest undoing of the Niger Delta struggle was the biased coverage given to it by the media, particularly the print media. Okpoto (2011, p.97) agreed with the above finding when he revealed in his study that the print media complicated the Niger Delta crisis by according series of wrong reports on, the crisis possible to other satisfy either paymasters or to boost sale/patronage of their papers.

More so, Olotu (2011, p.38) undraped in his study, that the direction of coverage obviously pointed to the fact that the print media were satisfying some interests in their coverage of the Niger Delta crisis. He averred that a situation where the government refuses to attend to the needs of the region that sustains the economy of the country is so unacceptable for the media, particularly the print media to blow headlines of things government has never done. White (2010, p.81) lent credence to the above when he revealed in his study that the print media displayed a great deal of subjectivity in their coverage of the Niger Delta crisis. The study affirmed that only government positions on the matter were given appropriate attention. The stand of the region was relegated to the background. The print media were just ready tools for government utilization to wrongly inform the public on the Niger Delta crisis.

In the reportage of crisis, especially in a democratic setting like Nigeria, scholars have argued that the press must employ a great deal of caution. They contended that journalists must employ carefulness in reporting crisis situation. A great deal of caution must be observed so as not to report crises in a glorifying manner.

Johnson (2009, p.105) affirmed the above when he recommended in his study that the media must ensure caution in reporting crises/conflicts so as not to glorify the act of terrorism. He recommended that sensationalizing such kind of report ends up glorifying and magnifying crisis which ultimately fuels it. Alako (2010, p.63) agreed with Johnson's recommendation when he as well recommended in his study that there should be a paradigm shift in print media reportage of crisis. Such reports must be done in a careful manner that it does not encourage the crisis/conflict.

Theoretical Framework

This research was build around the frameworks of framing theory. In 1974, Goffmen originated the idea of framing, which posits that a frame is needed to organize otherwise fragmentary items of experience or information. Amos Tversky and Daniel Kahneman in 1981, further lent credence to the assertion of Goffman, when they said "the way information is *framed* determines the way people understand such message".

This theory harps on the focus of the media on certain events and then places them in a context of meaning and interpretation.

This theory comes to bear on problem of this study when put side by side with media coverage of Boko Haram terror activities. The media have reported the insurgencies with different frames such as; *senseless bomb, mass burial, agitation, religious extremists, wreckage, bloodletting, killings, Gun battle, Boko Haram bombs another church, etc.* All these are frames within which the audience must begin to understand terror attacks of this sect. To a large extent, the way the media frame their stories could go a long way in worsening the insecurity in the land. The activities of the sect alone may not have pronounced the insecurity in clear terms.

Methodology

Researchers will immediately agree that there is a need to adopt/select a research procedure through which the research will be carried out and reliable result produced at the end of such effort. In consonance with the above averment, the content analysis approach was adopted for this research. This is evidently so, because the researchers analysed already published news magazines' contents, which they have no control over. In this case, the *News* magazines coverage of Boko Haram insurgent and terror activities between June 2009 and January 2012.

Population of the Study

The population for the study comprised all magazines published in Nigeria between January 2010 and January 2012, from which four magazines were purposively selected based on their wide coverage, in-depth analysis of topical issues, vast readership across the national terrain and a high display of professionalism. They are; *Tell, The News, Newswatch* and *The Source* magazines. The study covers editions of these magazines from January 2010 to January 2012. The population of the study is 97 editions per magazine; therefore, since the research will be making use of four magazines, it becomes 97 multiplied by four (97×4) gives 388.

Sample Size

In getting the sample for this study, the researcher used the Taro Yamane formula in the determination of sample size.

$$n = 196 \text{ sample size desired.}$$

196 : 4 (that is number of magazines) = 49. This now leaves the researcher with the choice of 49 editions each, that is:

Tell	-	49
The News	-	49
Newswatch	-	49
The Source	-	49
		196

Therefore, 196 becomes the study sample size.

Sampling Technique

The sampling frame of 196 implies that 49 publications of each magazine were selected for the study. Therefore, in order to handle the mass of research data in this regard, the following technique was adopted in the sampling arrangement; Mondays were used to represent the weeks throughout the study period.

In 2010 and 2011 there was the upsurge in the activities of Boko Haram, consequently, a systematic random sampling technique was used in taking two week's publications. Every first and third week of each month were selected. Being that the weekday starts with Monday, the first and third Mondays were selected in each month in 2010 and 2011.

Unit of Analysis

The importance of unit of analysis in content analysis research cannot be downplayed. It assists the researchers to code the manifest contents being studied. It is therefore pertinent to classify these units to help analyse the data generated more appropriately.

The units of analysis are stated hereunder; Feature News stories, Editorials, Opinion articles, Cartoons Illustrations, Letters to the editor and Photographs

Content Categories

The content category is the pivot/hub of a research of this nature; it is used in the classification of media contents. The category system of any research work is dependent on the problem being studied. The variables to the analysed are thus categorized and numbered.

ITEMS	DESCRIPTION	CODE
MAGAZINES	Tell	1
	The News	2
	Newswatch	3
	The Source	4
STORY TYPE	Pictures	5
	Features	6
	Editorial	7
	Opinion article/ Letters to the editor	8
	Cartoon/pictures/Illustration	9
PLACEMENT	Front page	10
	Inside page	11
	Back page	12
DIRECTION	Positive/favourable	13
	Negative/unfavourable	14
	Neutral	15
VOLUME	0 to 30 inches (1-100 words	16
	31 to 1 page (101-501 words	17
	2 to 3 pages (501-1,000 words	18
	4 to 5 pages (1,001-2,000 words	19
	6pages and above (2,000 words and above	20
FREQUENCY	Once	21
	Twice	22
	More	23

Measuring Instrument

A code sheet designed specifically for this study was used in collecting content data from the publications of *Tell*, *The News*, *Newswatch* and *The Source* magazines within the study period.

Inter-Coder Reliability Test

The inter-coder reliability test was done to show the degree or extent to which the coders agreed. The test showed 67.4% agreement.

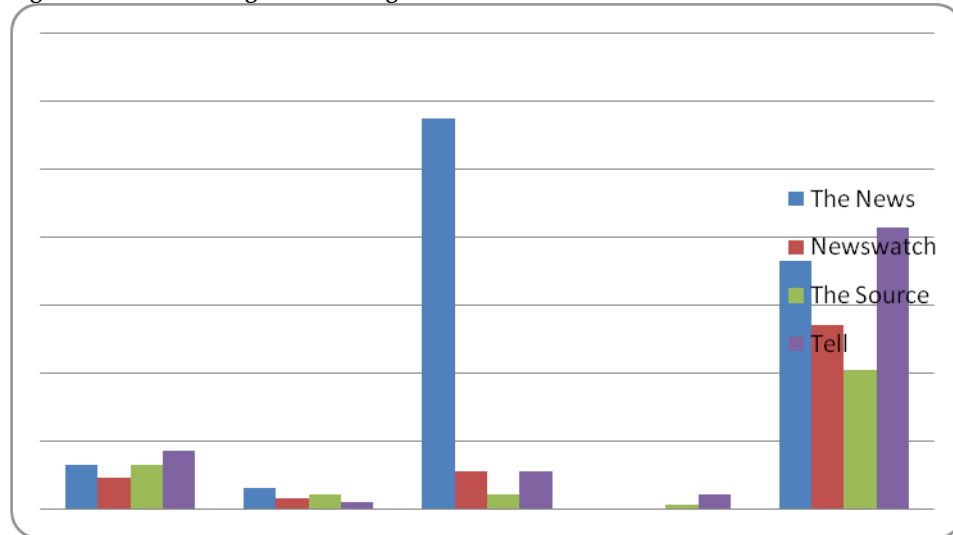
Data Presentation and Analysis

The data collected are presented and analysed using tables and charts to achieve clarity, coherence and understanding. The study focused on the magazine coverage of Boko Haram insurgency using four purposively selected magazines which were sampled. These are *Newswatch*, *Tell*, *The News* and *The Source* magazines.

Table 1 - Distribution of Data according to Units of Analysis

Units of analysis	The News	Newswatch	The Source	Tell
Features	13 (6%)	9 (12%)	13 (21%)	17 (14%)
Editorials	6 (3%)	3 (4%)	4 (6%)	2 (2%)
Opinion/letters	115 (56%)	11 (14%)	4 (6%)	11 (9%)
Cartoons	0	0	1 (2%)	4 (3%)
Pictures/ illustration	73 (35%)	54 (70%)	41 (65%)	83 (31%)
Total	207 (100%)	77 (100%)	63 (100%)	117 (100%)

Figure 1: Chart showing the above figures in columns



Discussion of Findings

The study poised to finding out what pattern of coverage was given to the Boko Haram insurgency within the study period by the four selected magazines. The theoretical framework was used in discussing and interpreting the data which was coded in line with the research questions, which was earlier drawn for this study.

Research Question 1: To check the extent to which selected magazines (*Tell*, *NewsWatch*, *The News* and *The Source*) give prominent attention to the Boko Haram insurgent activities in their reportage within the study period. Data generated showed that a grand total of 255 stories were published within the period. In the 255 stories, 11% made the front page with *Tell* having the highest 12 or 20%. The researchers observed that in the four magazines under study, none published any story(s) in its back page, rather it was mostly paid advertisements. The research revealed that out of the 255 stories, the inside page had 228 or 89% of the total publications of these four magazines.

It is therefore, necessary to state that the agenda setting responsibility of the press is sine-qua-non to the existence of the press and the society where it operates. According to Umechukwu (2004, p.18) the agenda-setting of the mass media, predetermines which issues are regarded as important and worthy of public attention at a given time in a given society. Though the number of front page stories given by the magazines under study is 27, it is the researchers' view that these 27 stories generated the other 228 stories, as reactions to the 27.

The assumption therefore is that the selected media gave prominent coverage to the Boko Haram attacks. The news magazine gave the highest prominent attention to the Boko Haram issue with 134 stories which consist of front and inside pages, while *Tell* had only 59 stories. *The Source* and *NewsWatch* had 39 and 23 respectively.

Research Question 2: What direction of coverage did *Tell*, *The News*, *NewsWatch* and *The Source* magazines take in coverage of the Boko Haram terror activities within the period of study?

Here, the direction of coverage was coded along the following lines: favourable/positive, unfavourable/negative and neutral. Out of the 239 issues, 35 or 15% were coded as positive, 134 or 56% were also coded as negative, while 70 or 29% of the total number came up as neutral items. Furthermore, *The News* had 14 positive items, *NewsWatch* had none, *The Source* 6 and *Tell* 15 positive. The negative stories were more in number, with 80 = *The News*, *Tell*= 24, *NewsWatch*= 19 and 11= *The Source*, *NewsWatch* and *The Source* had 15 item while *NewsWatch* and *The Source* had 4 and 11 items respectively. It is pertinent to note that positive stories/items are all the efforts of the government to curbing the Boko Haram sect, while the negative stories/items are those that depict or tell of the mayhem made by Boko Haram sect. Neutral stories are those that give a rather balancing view of the situation by portraying both the government and *Boko Haramists*. McQuail (2010,p.170) also asserts that a responsible press should provide full, truthful, comprehensive and intelligent account of the day's events in the context which gives them meaning. It should serve as a forum for the exchange of comments and criticisms and a common carrier and of the public expression.

It is glaring that from the finding made, negative stories were more in number. The account reported by the magazines indicates that the government is not doing enough to contain the Boko Haram insurgencies hence the amount of negative stories and the small amount of positive stories.

Research Question 3: To what extent were the Boko Haram insurgent activities frequently featured in the publications of the selected magazine media within the study period?

When an issue is repeated over time, importance is attached to it and one of the laid down rules for agenda-setting by Folarin (1998,p.68) is frequency of reportage. The research findings showed that, the *News* magazines used both stories and pictures to set the agenda on the Boko Haram insurgency. In all, 464 items were used. Of all these, 52 were feature stories, 15 were editorials, 141 were opinion articles and letters to the editor, also cartoon and illustration had 5, while pictures had 251. This translates thus; *The News* published 207 items on Boko Haram during the period under study; *NewsWatch* published 77 items, *The Source* published 63 items

and *Tell* used 117 items during the period of study. This goes to show that, the readers' of magazines and the Nigerian people are responding to the way the issue is being handled. Furthermore, the magazines did give the Boko Haram wide frequency by the number of stories it carried in the selected editions. Stories on Boko Haram appeared in the selected editions 464 times, it is however, a launching pad for magazine to further direct its attention to the insurgency, to glean support in ending the mayhem by publishing more stories on Boko Haram.

Research Question 4: To what extent was the coverage of Boko Haram terrorism by *Tell*, *The News*, *NewsWatch* and *The Source* magazines adequate?

The background and explanations are needed in discussing issues of national importance. Here, the study found out the following: 127 stories were published within the 1-100 words or (30") range, 46 stories made up the 101-500 words or the 31"- 1page column, while 501-1000 words or 2-3pages had a total of 26 stories recorded against it; furthermore, stories that were under the 1,001-2,000 words or the 4-5pages were 17 or 7% .while above 2,000 or the 6 pages column had 19 stories or 8% of the entire figure.

The research findings revealed that the 1-100 or 30" column of news came majorly from letters to the editor, editorials and a fragment of feature. The reactions of the reading populace accounted for this. The 101-500 or 1page stories came mostly from opinions knowing that the medium is not a straight news medium which publishes more straight news than the magazines, more people are inclined to write to magazines that comes out weekly. 501-1,000 words or 2-3 pages here columnist and staff writers for these magazines take their time to embellish the stories with flowering language and more facts, hence, the number. The 1,001-2,000 or 4-5 pages and the above 2,000 or 6 pages had 18(8%) and 19(8%) respectively. These included interviews and more detailed analysis of the issue (Boko Haram insurgency).

There is no doubt that the magazines give more detailed account of an event like no other medium. The depth of coverage given to the Boko Haram insurgency is high as stories sometimes get between 4 - 6 pages excluding pictures which in themselves are stories that stand alone.

Research Question 5: How effective were photographs and illustrations used by the selected news magazines in their coverage of Boko Haram terrorist attacks within the period of study?

This study, coded the picture under the following headings: (a) positive (b) negative and (c) neutral. Since the research aimed at measuring how effective pictures were used, the above becomes vital. In total, 55 pictures were coded as positive, because they helped to the story of governments' effort in arresting the Boko Haram insurgents, while 112 pictures were coded as negative because it shows the length and breadth of the devastations perpetrated by the Boko Haram sect. The neutral pictures themselves numbered 84; here these are pictures of people who were used to complete stories, and other such depictions that do not show either the positive or negative sides.

The research findings, reveals that picture were effectively used; as they tell their own story as well as evoke emotion on such topic, as Boko Haram.

Conclusion

Having gone through relevant literature and analysed manifest contents from the magazines, it shows that the magazines in Nigeria gave adequate coverage to the Boko Haram insurgency. This therefore shuts down assumptions that adequate coverage was not given. Furthermore, the direction of the reportage is mostly negative. Therefore, for a more positive reportage, the government must do more in arresting the sect's escapades.

Recommendations

Based on the research findings, the following recommendations were made.

1. It is imperative for the pressmen to be trained properly in the art of crisis reportage.
2. Media organizations should engage the services of a professional photographer and cartoonists. During the cause of this research, it was revealed that most of these media organizations use the same photographs in telling their stories. It is therefore pertinent

that each media house provides its own photographer(s) to vary the pictures used in page make-up and design.

3. Magazine publishers should use their front pages mostly in reporting this form of attacks in the future. By so doing, care must be taking, with recourse to indecency.

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