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How is the portrayal of the Global South by the Global North news Organisations/Media?

When portraying the news from the global south by the global north there is mostly this hint of bias news reporting, to start with it appears that news from the global south are not even properly considered newsworthy unless it is negative in it’s nature, the bulk of news from the global south that become widespread in the global north are mainly about terrorism, famine, war and other negative impacts. For example, there are always news moving around about under developed countries in the global south that are suffering and in need of aid but even if the news moved the heart of the masses as intended and they try their best by donating what they can to ease the pain, to them it seems to make no difference because the actual difference that it is making is scarcely documented, instead of focusing on the development, the global north organizations will come around again and show more reports of famine and war and terrorism causing the ignorant masses that rely solely on the news reports they receive from their news organizations to believe that that’s all that goes on there, that ignorance leads to more misunderstandings.

The Northern mainstream tends to trivialize Southern contexts, giving rise to what we call erasing and imposing biases. For example, strategy scholars have been writing about “institutional voids” in developing countries. This refers to the absence of institutions, such as property rights, that enable efficient business transactions.

This is the erasing bias: a tendency to emphasize absences in Southern contexts relative to assumptions and concepts originating in and premised on Northern contexts. The notion of “institutional voids” thus erases what institutions actually do exist in Southern contexts.

Erasing creates a vacuum that is then filled through the imposing bias, using home assumptions “in our backyard in Boston” to falsely or superficially interpret Southern contexts. In the case of institutional voids, for instance, the erasing bias creates the empty space that is then filled by imposing analyses and prescriptions focused on formal, market-friendly institutions. These ignore indigenous values and practices, perpetuate an “instrumental rationality,” and may further the exploitation of people and resources in the Global South.

The Global South's often discussed struggle is to be equally represented in the media compared to the North. When looking at media coverage of developing countries, a generalized view has developed through Western media. Negative images and coverage of the poverty are frequent in the mass media when talking about third world countries. This common coverage has created a dominant stereotype of the Global South. Elisabeth Farny describes this as, "the 'South' is characterized by socioeconomic and political backwardness, measured against Western values and standards.” Mass media's role often compares the Global South to the North and is thought to be an aid in the divide.

Mass media has also played a role in what information the Global South receives. The news often covers developed countries and creates an imbalance of information flow. The Global South does not often receive coverage of the other parts of the South but instead gets generous amounts of coverage on the North.

If a walkthrough is done on the coverage of the totality of the news that comes from the global south being portrayed by the global north then one would find that the mass bulk of the news would be negative cries for help that make it look as though the countries are neither developing nor have intention and hope to do so.

 As a reference there is a certain study known as the **Critical Discourse Analysis of CNN International's Coverage of Africa.**

This study compared the newsgathering goals of gatekeepers with public attitudes regarding the coverage of Africa by CNN International (CNNI). A critical discourse analysis was based on interviews with CNNI news producers and executives, and 6 focus groups of Ugandan viewers that were conducted in 2004 and 2008. Results show not only dissonance, but also a disconnection between CNNI news producers and Ugandan viewers' perceptions of the network and of their 2 major local stations. The network was the main source of international news in 2004 in Uganda but its appeal diminished by 2008. Viewers considered its coverage largely biased and ill-motivated towards Africa. CNNI was regarded more favorably than local television (UBC and WBS) news in quality and depth of news content in 2004 than in 2008. This love-hate relationship for CNNI and the other local television networks is discussed in detail in the full view of the study.

And another reference that I’m summarizing to support this view is another popular study known as **AFRICA IN THE EYES OF CABLE NETWORK NEWS (CNN) AND ALJAZEERA: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS**

The thrust of this study was to ascertain the frequency and nature of coverage given to the African region by CNN and Aljazeera. The objectives however were predicated on the ideology that the mass media can facilitate global peace and understanding through meaningful exchange of information and ideas. The news programs of CNN and Aljazeera were content analyzed for fifteen (15) days with a view to streamlining the pattern of coverage given to Africa by the two networks. Analysis was done quantitatively and qualitatively. Inter-coder reliability showed a correlation of r=86. Data revealed that much of Africa was not reported by CNN in contradistinction to Aljazeera. It was further found that CNN had a preponderance of unfavorable news (75%) while Aljazeera had a fairly equitable distribution of 47% across the favorable and unfavorable categories. A synthesis of the data showed Aljazeera to be more favorably disposed towards the reportage of Africa.

Personally I once carried out an assignment exercise late 2019 to monitor the BBC reporting website daily for the period of 3 weeks and mark out which news comes from the global north and which comes from the global south after which I would write out the bulk of what was observed and during this exercise, I discovered that by the time the three weeks were up, news from the global north has dominated the spreading scheme, the news from the global north was so much that one would have enough information to claim they live there, but In contrast to that was the news from the global south that was not only low in quantity but also quite negative in quantity, I personally realized that most of the news from the global south were mainly reporting famine, war, poverty and negativity as opposed to the news from the global North. Each week would have a ratio of about 4:2 in favor of more news from the global north.

2. What are the challenges a foreign correspondent is likely to face in these times, especially with Corona Virus, Racism and all other Fears in view? Proffer the solutions you think will overcome the challenges you raise.

Foreign correspondence is the reportage and filing of new stories by a Journalist known as a foreign correspondent (who works for a media organization) from a foreign country. A Foreign correspondent is a journalist who sends news reports and commentary from a foreign country for publication or broadcast.  His is an agent who contributes reports to a newspaper, radio or television, from a remote, often distant location. The foreign correspondent is stationed in a foreign country. Challenges are the part of every job and journalism is not escaped from it. This profession invites maximum number of challenges and a correspondent has to take them as part of his/her occupation.

These are troubling times all around that world, that is for sure and even more dangerous for those who are in charge of the documentation of the world history, especially as a foreign correspondent who is not a local to wherever geographical area they are deployed to work in, it can get messy, for example in this case of coronavirus that originated in the east, as tensions began to rise people started taking brash actions, example of such actions was the numerous assaults of Asians as they blamed them for having brought the virus to their country, that period of time before it settled down a bit must’ve been a really dangerous period for Asians who ate living within the United States borders, especially for the reporters and media folks who have to report on the ongoings, they are quite vulnerable to these such racism crimes. People who report news sometimes find themselves in the news. This is especially true for foreign correspondents, who risk their lives to bring us important stories from dangerous parts of the world.

 Some of the basic problems that foreign correspondents have to deal with are:

·         Wars, disputes and ripple are major challenges faced by foreign correspondents and why many upcoming communication students avoid foreign journalism and journalism as a whole. Countries are made up of people with different perspectives and ideologies on issues. These differences when not well managed results to dispute and if not still curbed, may result to wars. During situations like these, foreign correspondents and reporters in general are injured, maimed or killed. Correspondence have to take protective measures while reporting wars because, it might entail reporting from the war front.
Foreign correspondents often have to visit places which are badly struck by natural calamities like floods, heavy snowfall, volcanoes, etc,. In order to keep the authorities alert,of the affected area towards the welfare and rescue mission of the people, foreign correspondents have to visit the worst hit areas as well. This could also pose a serious threat to their lives as well. In some unfortunate accidents, foreign correspondents have suffered injuries while covering stories in dangerous places.

Foreign correspondence is also followed by assignments, like covering a war zone, communal riots, and infiltrations in borders, civil wars and much more perilous coverage. The spread of insecurity in a country not only threatens the lives the people of that place, but foreign correspondents also become their targets. Many terrorist organizations do not hesitate to kill them; they accuse journalists for supporting the government authorities and security forces. Sometimes these consequences can turn fatal.

Foreign correspondence are also held hostage and detained during conflicts between the countries. It is really traumatic and sometimes situations can become extremely dangerous for the captured media professional/s.

The **cost of operation** has risen, not only as a result of economic meltdown but also because of the advent of new technology. The media organizations have to make sure they do not get out of business as a result of citizen Journalism, which has come to stay. The economic situation all over the world has made many countries call back their foreign correspondent and close down news bureaus. The advent of new media technology has even made it easier for the extent of foreign correspondence. These new technologies, made it possible that correspondents are not sent abroad, before news information are gotten from reliable sources. Reporters can now sit in the comfort of the newsroom, access the internet and gather necessary information. The technological progress over the past years has enabled large parts of the general public to access and afford new ways of interaction and communication via the internet’s new intelligent web services and fast broadband connections. Personal digital assistance (PDA); in form of Androids, Smartphone, Tablets, etc. is also not encouraging media houses and agencies to send foreign correspondents on assignments. This is because individuals are now becoming citizen journalists, providing user generated content and relegating to the ground the function of the foreign correspondent. A media organization or agency, that is not buoyant financially, might find it difficult to send foreign correspondents on assignment because money is needed for transportation, accommodation, feeding and other things that will keep the foreign correspondent going.

·         The problem of language barrier, which is very common but can be avoided. Being a foreign correspondent means you report happenings in countries outside your country. The language in this foreign country is most definitely different from what is spoken in your own country; this may pose as a challenge to the foreign correspondence. This is why foreign correspondents need to possess a bilingual skill. The foreign correspondent should at least have a working knowledge of the language of the country of assignment. Foreign correspondence should learn international languages that will give him/her edge during an assignment and also make it easy to interact with people in the country of assignment. Languages can be learn in school or prior to an assignment while on the job.

·         The foreign correspondent is also faced with cultural challenges. The foreign correspondent if not conversant with the culture of his place of assignment will have problems. The culture of the place of assignment of the foreign correspondent is usually different from that of his/her country. The correspondent has to learn the culture of the people; the dress sense, what they eat, different seasons in the country, courtesy among the people, their way of live, the laws of the land (dos and don’ts) and the language and it’s usage. To know all these, the correspondence must read extensively. Foreign correspondents at times find it difficult to eat some types of food in their place of assignment; at times they break some rules not knowing they are breaking them. The correspondence also has to take note of the seasons so as to bring the appropriate clothing. For example if a reporter is sent from Nigeria and assumes the weather of Nigeria is similar to that of New York’s, he will probably have to freeze and develop cold. Some things that are accepted one country may not be accepted in other countries, things might be much more different in the place of assignment of the correspondent. This is why it is important to study the culture of the host country. A foreign correspondent must have a knowledge and appreciation of the history of the region concerned. So much news today evolves from events, decisions or incidents from years back and which puts things in context. You must be conversant with history to be able to analyze events with real authority and thus boost your credibility as someone who knows what he/she is talking about. It is certainly the case for print reporters, who are expected also to write lengthy analytical pieces and features about developments and what they all mean.

·         Political instability is another problem faced by a foreign correspondent. When there is political instability in a country, a correspondent will not be able to carry out his assignment effectively. He might even be sent back to his country. A foreign correspondent might not be able to carry out in his country of assignment when there is political upheaval.
Many western countries have “freedom of the press” but not all the countries give this right to their media professionals. In many countries media does not have freedom to speech and journalists (foreign correspondent) have to adhere with the set norms before writing or publishing a story, else they have to face dire consequences. This is called self-censorship. The foreign correspondent is often oppressed by the governments of his place of assignment. The foreign correspondent in some countries is not supposed to show any videos which could malign the government for violating human rights and taking innocent lives and creating havoc. The foreign correspondent also has some roles to play. He has to have a  thorough knowledge of various political philosophy operation in his place of assignment i.e. should know the difference between capitalism which is operated in U.S and western Europe and communism a variance of socialism still practiced in China, Cuba of North Korea. He should have the knowledge of authoritarianism, fascism and totalitarianism, which are almost stale. The knowledge of these philosophies will help the correspondent know what step to take in case of any situation. He should have a wide knowledge of the constitution of his country of assignment. The constitution is the primary law upon which a country is governed. This will also save him the trouble of asking too many questions about the political parties because the constitution gives the reporter access to the conduct of political parties in his country of assignment.

Some of the the solutions that can be used to ease the threats of foreign correspondence are as follows:

* The problem of language barriers can be avoided with proper adequate training In the language of the country they are deployed to, simply having the language on lock might save a person’s life in dire situations that might require negotiation especially in war torn countries and countries suffering from poverty and famine. So the organizations should endeavor to spend time on the training and acquisition of the proper and effective language skills that the foreign correspondent would need during their work abroad.
* When deploying to war torn countries, adequate measures should be taken to protect the well-being of the foreign correspondent and the correspondent should also receive adequate survival training for the unknown cases cause anything can happen in such a zone, the country’s government should be made aware of the foreign correspondents presence before deployment so they can prepare adequate intervention methods to save lives.
* Traditional foreign correspondent: The cost of maintaining well-trained foreign correspondents is increasingly seen as prohibitive. They will not disappear entirely, however. Traditional foreign correspondents will remain working for national media organizations and wire services but they will do so as just one part of an increasing array of correspondents.
* Parachute journalist: Filling the increasing void, the parachute journalist has become the alternative of choice for large media organizations when they are obligated to cover a foreign story. When a story happens – like the most recent war in Iraq – reporters are sent in to cover events in the region temporarily. Embedded reporters, one of our most recent additions to our vocabulary, exemplify the approach of choice for national media. Remarkably, as the national media use this technique to render foreign news more economical, local news outlets that did no foreign reporting previously have employed parachute journalism. Contrary to the view that parachute journalism is bad, this type of correspondence can increase foreign coverage.
* Foreign foreign correspondent: The hired foreign national is another increasingly relied upon means to cover events overseas. Economics are the principal force at work here but increasing globalization diminishes the cultural and professional rift that was once the basic motivation for sending Americans in the first place. ‘Going native’, in other words, is no longer the professional sin it once was.
* Local foreign correspondent: Local news media have found a way to cover foreign news from home. Because foreign connections reach into every American community, reporters for local news stations and newspapers find that local stories often have an international angle. As national boundaries become more porous from culture and business to immigration and environmental degradation, reporting the local news means telling a story that is, at least in part, international.
* Foreign local correspondent: The foreign local correspondent is a non-American who works and reports for a foreign news organization whose news is available worldwide on the Internet or via satellite. Although it has been possible to read

The Guardian in Los Angeles, Le Monde in Miami or watch TV 5 news in New York, it has not previously been convenient or timely. But now, getting news and information from a foreign news source is as easy as turning on your satellite television or going on-line. A reporter in New Delhi, writing for the Times of India is just as much a potential source of news as are Associated Press reporters or John Kifner from The New York Times. The recent war in Iraq highlights this evolution especially well. Americans could read and see what was being reported in Saudi Arabia or even Syria. In stark contrast to American network and cable news, Al Jazeera, for instance, published images of dead American soldiers and POWs.

* In-house foreign correspondent: As we have pointed out by way of the Rothschild anecdote, in-house correspondence has been part of the large enterprise since the early 19th century. The Internet and new communications technologies have made this sort of communication’ easier and the need to be globally competitive has made using this communication network imperative.
* Premium service foreign correspondent: Increased dependence on parachute correspondents in traditional news organizations suggests an editorial strategy of episodic and event coverage. Nevertheless, as we have outlined earlier, there exists a demand for consistent news and information from remote parts of the world. For those who can pay for it, companies like Bloomberg and Reuters provide customers with that information. As we envision the situation, the principal feature of the premium service correspondent is a narrow focus on information – currently an emphasis on financial intelligence, data and analysis. Further, technology like the Internet has made it possible for smaller private intelligence firms to peddle information to subscribers based on global and military intelligence.
* Amateur correspondent: Perhaps the most recognized and demonized face of the new information order is the unaffiliated and often untrained de facto journalist who reports on international events. The Internet has created a distribution network that rivals the reach of any single media chain. Any individual can publish news on the Internet. Web log software makes production and collaboration even easier.