

Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Malaysia Terengganu in fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

**AN ANALYSIS OF PRINT AND ONLINE NEWSPAPERS ON INSECURITY
REPORTAGE: A STUDY OF FOUR SELECTED NIGERIAN
NEWSPAPERS**

MUSA UMAR MUHAMMAD

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Main Supervisor : Isma Rosila Ismail, Ph.D

Co-Supervisor 1 : Professor Madya Che Hasniza Che Hoh, Ph.D

Co-Supervisor 2 : Siti Zanariah Yusoff, PhD

School/Institute : Centre of Fundamental and Continuing Education

Insecurity is a significant global issue, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa, where countries like Nigeria face numerous security challenges, including banditry, *Boko Haram* insurgencies, kidnappings, farmer-herder crises, and militancy. Despite federal government efforts, the situation remains precarious, and stakeholders like the mass media need to support the government's efforts in addressing these security issues. This study examines the insecurity content of print and online newspapers in Nigeria and the efforts of newspaper practitioners to combat insecurity in the country. It aims to explore the differences and similarities in how these newspapers report on insecurity and readers' satisfaction with print and online insecurity content. The study employs a mixed method approach in which content analysis and semi-structured interviews were used to collect the study data. Purposive sampling was used to collect 3,294 news articles from Daily Trust, Leadership, the Sun, and Vanguard newspapers between March 2022 and September 2022, a period in which high-profile insecurity occurred in Nigeria. A semi-structured interview was conducted with newspaper practitioners and newspaper readers. The use of two different sources of data in the study enables the researcher to not only analyze

media content but also to investigate the relationship between documented issues and plain reality regarding the lingering insecurity in Nigeria. The findings of content analysis revealed significant differences between print and online newspapers in relation to insecurity reporting, in which the print editions produce more insecurity news than their online counterparts, with banditry being the most frequently reported issue. The interviews findings indicated that newspaper readers predominantly consume online news more than print news due to its accessibility, affordability, flexibility, and convenience, aligning with the Uses and Gratification Theory. Despite the preference for online newspapers, print newspapers remain relevant by offering detailed coverage of security issues. Additionally, Nigerian newspaper organizations employ various strategies to combat insecurity, including collaborations with stakeholders, informing security agencies, focusing on solution-oriented journalism, and prioritizing government and security-related issues, yet security challenges continue to become prevalent in the country. The government should support investigative journalism projects focusing on exposing the underlying factors and networks behind banditry, kidnapping, *Boko Haram*, farmer-herder conflicts, and other related security challenges in Nigeria.

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**ANALISIS LAPORAN KETIDAKSELAMATAN DALAM SURATKHABAR
BERCETAK DAN DALAM TALIAN: KAJIAN TERHADAP EMPAT SURAT
KHABAR TERPILIH DI NIGERIA**

MUSA UMAR MUHAMMAD

2025

Penyelia : Isma Rosila Ismail, Ph.D

Penyelia Bersama 1 : Professor Madya Che Hasniza Che Noh Ph.D

Penyelia Bersama 2 : Siti Zanaria Yoosuf, Ph.D

Pusat Pengajian/Institut : Pusat Pendidikan Asas dan Lanjutan

Ketidakselamatan merupakan isu global yang penting, terutamanya di Sub-Sahara Afrika, di mana negara seperti Nigeria menghadapi pelbagai cabaran keselamatan, termasuk isu samun, pemberontakan *Boko Haram*, penculikan, krisis petani-penggembala dan militan. Di sebalik usaha kerajaan persekutuan, keadaan masih tidak menentu, dan pihak berkepentingan seperti media massa perlu menyokong usaha kerajaan dalam menangani isu keselamatan ini. Kajian ini meneliti kandungan ketidakselamatan dalam Suratkhobar bercetak dan dalam talian di Nigeria dan usaha pengamal media dalam memerangi ketidakselamatan di negara ini. Kajian ini bertujuan meneroka perbezaan dan persamaan kedua-dua suratkhobar bercetak dan dalam talian serta kepuasan pembaca terhadap kandungan berkaitan ketidakselamatan di Nigeria. Kajian ini menggunakan pendekatan kaedah campuran di mana analisis kandungan dan temu bual separa berstruktur digunakan bagi mengumpul data kajian. Pensampelan bertujuan digunakan bagi mengutip 3,294 buah artikel berita daripada akhbar Daily Trust, Leadership, the Sun dan Vanguard

antara Mac 2022 hingga September 2022, satu tempoh di mana ketidakselamatan berprofil tinggi berlaku di Nigeria. Temu bual separa berstruktur telah dijalankan dengan pengamal media dan pembaca akhbar. Penggunaan dua sumber data yang berbeza dalam kajian ini membolehkan penyelidik menganalisis kandungan media dan mengenalpasti hubungan antara isu yang didokumenkan dengan realiti mengenai ketidakselamatan yang berlarutan di Nigeria. Dapatan analisis kandungan mendedahkan perbezaan ketara antara suratkhbar bercetak dan dalam talian berhubung dengan pelaporan ketidakselamatan, di mana edisi bercetak menghasilkan lebih banyak berita ketidakselamatan berbanding suratkhbar dalam talian, dengan isu samun menjadi isu yang paling kerap dilaporkan. Dapatan temu bual menunjukkan bahawa pembaca akhbar kebanyakannya bergantung kepada berita dalam talian lebih daripada berita bercetak kerana kebolehcapaian, keterjangkauan, fleksibiliti, dan kemudahannya, selaras dengan Teori Kegunaan dan Gratifikasi. Walaupun keutamaan diberikan untuk akhbar dalam talian, akhbar bercetak kekal relevan dengan menawarkan liputan terperinci tentang isu keselamatan. Selain itu, organisasi akhbar Nigeria menggunakan pelbagai strategi bagi memerangi ketidakselamatan, termasuk kerjasama dengan pihak berkepentingan, memaklumkan agensi keselamatan, memberikan tumpuan kepada kewartawanan berorientasikan penyelesaian, dan mengutamakan isu berkaitan kerajaan dan keselamatan. Namun cabaran keselamatan terus berleluasa di negara ini. Kerajaan harus memberikan sokongan kepada projek dalam kalangan wartawan yang melakukan penyiasatan dan pendedahan yang memfokuskan pada pendedahan faktor asas dan rangkaian di sebalik samun, penculikan, *Boko Haram*, konflik petani-penggembala dan cabaran keselamatan lain yang berkaitan di Nigeria.