

Review of: "“We Only Came Home to Find His Body Dangling”: Voices and Practs in Selected Nigerian Newspapers Reportage on Suicide"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

These are my suggestions for improvement for the various sections of the paper:

Introduction

1. The definition of suicide in the Introduction should come from an academic source.
2. *While it is not encouraged in many tribes because of the stigma attached to it, suicide nevertheless remains a significant cause of death worldwide*... The word ‘tribes’ is a rather curious choice. Perhaps a better word is ‘cultures’?
3. *“The investigation of the menace of suicide in Nigerian newspaper reportage cannot, therefore, be successfully pursued without the tools of pragmatics.”*... Perhaps a stronger justification is needed for the choice of pragmatics as an analytical tool to investigate the reporting of suicide in Nigerian papers.
4. Perhaps after your Introduction section, there should be a small section on the Background of the Study. Here you can briefly state some facts about the socio-cultural contexts of Nigerian society, especially in relation to suicide, as not all readers may be familiar with this matter.

Previous Studies and Problem Statement

1. It would be useful to include a brief explanation of the different types of suicide, according to Durkheim. Also, briefly explain the meaning of the “Werther effect”.
2. The last part of this section reads like the Significance of the Study rather than “Problem Statement”.

Methods and data

1. Some justification is needed for the selection of texts for analysis. If you feel only 15 texts are sufficient, you need to justify it.
2. Are these 3 newspapers similar? That is, are they considered as tabloids, or are they considered as more quality newspapers?
3. *Mey’s Pragmatic Act Theory*. Reference to this particular theory should be made earlier, that is, in the previous section on Theoretical Framework.

Analysis

1. Some spacing is needed after the presentation of text excerpts.

Conclusion

1. *This paper concludes that, while men are the most common victims of suicide, little linguistic correlation exists between gender and suicide in Nigerian newspapers*

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As most of your reports were on male suicides, it is hard to determine this. If you are also investigating gender differences in the reporting of suicide, it should be included as one of your research objectives.