

Stereotyped Foreigners' Crime in Media: A Case Study of Taiwanese Newspaper's Reporting Practice

Fang-Yi Wang
Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages, 2017

Abstract

The global economy has lowered the barriers among nations. This greatly facilitates people to cross borders and, in the meantime, increases the opportunities of foreigner crimes in other countries. In recent years, due to the increase of foreign workers and foreign tourists, the number of foreigners has grown in Taiwan. Therefore, people have seen news about foreigners' crimes more frequently. This phenomenon made the researcher curious about whether the reports of foreigners' criminal cases were positive with the real criminal cases.

The study aims to compare the media reports with the official records to identify if there were gaps between these two sources with regard to foreigners' criminal case. Other than the official records, media data were from the Apple Daily, the Liberty Time Net, the China Times, and the United Daily News. With content analysis, the study found that the focus of media reports of foreigners' criminal cases and official records of criminal cases were different. The media inclined to report more criminal cases of assault, obscenity and drug than the average of official records. The other finding was that the direction and gravity in reporting foreign criminal cases among the four newspapers were somewhat different. The China Times and the Liberty Time Net reported more than the other two newspapers. The Apple Daily focused more on the obscenity cases and used more exotic words to catch audience' eyes. The United Daily News had the least records in reporting foreigners' criminal cases. The study points out that a follow-up research could widen the scope of media reports to all other forms of media.

Keywords: crime news, foreigners' crime in Taiwan, newspaper,