

A Study on the Use of Corruption Metaphors in the Online Media of Nigeria, Iraq and Malaysia

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Abstract

The paper studied the use of metaphors of corruption in the online newspapers of three countries: Nigeria, Iraq and Malaysia in order to determine how the media of the different countries conceptualize the concept of corruption. To do that, five online newspapers were selected from each country for the study. The aim was to see how different the media of the three countries are in conceptualizing corruption in their writing. Only the editorials of the newspapers were used for the study. These online newspapers were selected purposively based on their popularity in each country. The researchers adopted the Lackoff and Johnson's (1978) Conceptual Metaphor Theory as the framework for the study. It was fathomed that Nigerian online newspapers made use of more metaphors to capture corruption than the Iraq and Malaysian Editorials. This may partly be because of how widespread corruption has overwhelmed the country. The three most frequent metaphors used by the Nigerian Editorials were those related to *concepts*, *war* and *man* while for Iraq, it was the metaphors of corruption being a *culture*, *war* and *cancer* that were more frequently used in their editorials. While the Malaysian Editorials conceptualized corruption with the mappings of an *orientation*, *virus* and *war*. From these, it could be deduced that, that all the countries in their portrayal of corruption see it as a war that need to be fought because of its evil nature.

Keywords: corruption; metaphors; editorials; conceptual

INTRODUCTION

Corruption is the use of public fund, instruments or resources of the government for person's personal benefit. It has caused so many problems to different countries; it is a leech that sucks the blood out of a country's progress and development. Corruption has

been a universal issue and it is increasingly becoming widespread across the globe. Corruption does not only exist in developing countries but also in the developed states. A survey by Transparency International (TI) in 2015 indicated that out of 174 countries, only 53 scored above 50 and were considered to have clean record of corruption. Some developed countries such as Turkey, South Africa, Italy, Greece and others scored below 50 and were looked upon as corrupt nations. According to the survey none of the countries chosen for the survey scored 100% inclusive of developed countries. This shows clearly that no country is completely free from corruption. It only depends on the levels of extremeness in one's country. As defined by Okunrinmeta and Alabi (2014). Corruption occurs when the moral fabric is weakened and vices such as avarice, materialism, shortcut to affluence, glorification and approbation of ill-gotten wealth are celebrated at the expense of honesty, hard work, patriotism, community service, commitment and selfless devotion, which ought to have been taken as symbols of national pride.

As shown above, the issue of corruption today can be seen as global and therefore not restricted to a given country. All the countries of the world suffer from the hard pangs of corruption and these countries are not only limited to the poor underdeveloped countries but also the advanced countries of the world and thus making the issue of corruption universal in the continents of Asia, Europe, America, Australia and Africa. The present study attempts to analyze the conceptual metaphors used in the conceptualization of corruption in Nigerian, Iraqi and Malaysian Media.

Nigeria is one of the most populous African countries. That is the reason the country was considered the giant of Africa. Since its independence in the 1960, Nigeria has never been free from the warp grasp of corruption. And this is the logical reason behind the country's *crippling economic and infrastructural development*. It is Africa's largest exporter of crude oil and the world's number 8 but the irony about it is that it was ranked among one of the worlds most underdeveloped nations because it was battling with the monster corruption. Countries that experienced similar colonial experience such as Hong Kong and Indonesia have far overshadowed Nigeria in terms of national development. After so many years of misappropriation of the country's fund, the people of the country started the movement of change and a political party under the umbrella of President Muhammad Buhari was formed with its main slogan of "*fighting corruption*". In the fight against the past corrupt administration, not only had the people achieved in winning the corrupt government over, but also the Media was used as a strong instrument of change with its power of words that appeal to their readers' senses of emotion. The media employs different metaphorical expressions to exaggerate the damages caused by corruption to the country in the past administration.

Iraq on the other hand, is the third largest oil exporter globally. Iraq's economy is dominated by the oil sector, which has traditionally provided about 95% of foreign exchange earnings. The national budget in 2013 was \$118.5 billion. However, it is one of the most under-developed countries in the world. Iraq was way better in 1980s than now. Iraq does not have a strong infrastructural base that can drive meaningful

development. What is the problem? The problem has been traced to various sources, chief among which is corruption. The level of corruption in Iraq has become endemic to an extent that according to Transparency International in its newest corruption index for 2015, and as usual Iraq was on the list. The ten worst countries in its new study were Somalia, North Korea, Afghanistan, Sudan, South Sudan, Angola, Libya, Iraq, Venezuela, and Guinea-Bissau. In Iraq, corruption is rampant throughout the state. The ruling elite use graft and bribes to maintain their patronage systems, their militias, and to enrich themselves and that is also the reason why there is no real push to end it; if one top official was taken down it would threaten all the rest.

According to the 2015 Corruptions Perceptions Index reported by transparency index, Malaysia is the 54th least corrupt nation out of 174 countries. The main corruption that is heavily portrayed in the Malaysian online newspaper is the political corruption. In the past recent years or months, Malaysia has been affected by poor economy break down which has tarnished the reputation of Malaysia internationally. Numerous issues were to blame, mostly due to the lack of transparency of political leaders and the government.

THE MEDIA DISCOURSE

The mass media provided the platform through which various persuasive, informative and narrative communications of worldviews were shared among the populace and this provided an ample ground for language analysis. The media for this study means the online media and their use of language to depict the picture of corruption. In this context, the researchers were interested in analyzing the occurrences of corruption metaphors only in the media editorials. Using Metaphors while communicating is not limited to only one media but whenever a language is used, the writers or interlocutors make use of various conceptual metaphors without even being aware of such usage. The use of such metaphors usually is governed by the standard of intentionality. It is aimed at influencing the reader either positively or negatively. This may be of interest to sufficiently large group or it may affect the lives of sufficiently large group of people (Reah, 1993, p. 4). Depending on the subject matter, situational context or the owners of the news report, the way in which corruption is portrayed may differ just as the situational or interlocutors' contexts.

The Punch, the guardian, Sahara Reporters, Daily Trust and Corruption reporter were chosen in the Nigerian context for this study while for the Iraqi context we chose *Al-Monitor, the New Arab, and Iraq Sun*. Three local newspapers were chosen in the Malaysian context which are: *The sun daily, Malaysia Kini, The Star Online*. The choice of these media is because of their reputation in standing for the oppressed, the downtrodden and for being human rights activists and also because they are the most prominent and popular newspapers in the aforementioned countries which is of great importance to the study as it will cover so many stories of corruption.

Studies in linguistic metaphors and conceptual metaphors are not new phenomena in the literature, so many scholars such as Chilwa (2007), Uriel and Olugbenga (2014) have all made their contributions in to the literature of conceptual corruption

metaphors but there are very limited studies with regards to different media of different countries. Over the years, the field has also been over studied in different countries and also from other domains such as from a literature domain or looking at metaphors from the domain of medical professions etc. This study is not very different from the past literature as far as the study and analysis of conceptual metaphors is concern. However, it is different in the sense that to the knowledge of the researchers, there is no any study that was done comparing the use of conceptual metaphors of corruption among the media of the three countries (Nigeria, Iraq and Malaysia) and this is the gap which the researchers have filled by studying and analyzing the use of conceptual metaphors among the online news reports in media of the three countries.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The Conceptual Metaphor Theory by Lakoff and Johnson (1980) was chosen as the theoretical framework for this study. CMT considers metaphors as cognitive tools and not just as a mere literary styles figures of language. It is more to the cognitive thinking of how the mind infers and perceives a specific metaphor. This theory is used to understand abstract concepts in terms of more concrete ones. In relation to that, a conceptual metaphor uses one idea and links it to another to better understand something. According to Lakoff and Johson (1980) there are two conceptual domains, which is the Source domain and Target domain. The source domain consists of a number of attributes and relationships stored in mind. Whereas, the target domain, is largely abstract and takes its structure from the source domain via the "metaphorical link". This metaphorical link is made by the mapping between two domains of experience (source-target) to comprehend a metaphor in a particular context.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The research questions to be addressed are:

1. What are the different conceptual metaphors used to depict corruption in Nigerian, Iraq and Malaysian media?
2. What are the similarities and differences in the conceptualization of corruption among the media of the three countries?

LITERATURE REVIEW

The use of language in news report

Clarity and simplicity are some of the most appealing characteristics of news report and this is usually achieved in the news report by putting the audience in mind, perhaps because of their snappy nature of reading the reading audience will not want to spend much time trying to fathom the meaning of a phrase, word or sentence in the news report (Brookn, 1973, p.104). In news magazine, however, the language used is very high but it is tentatively refined. As a result, it hinders comprehension and it blocks meaning and is therefore uneasy to be grasped by the readers. It is, also, one of the dominant linguistic feature of news report, the employment of metaphorical expressions which are usually verbs, coinages, ameliorations, and subject-verb inversions which make the news different from face-to-face interaction and also makes

it sensational because of the desire to emotionally catch the attention of the audiences. The journalists often employ expressions such as: “*Milking Nigeria Dry, Batting with corruption or corruption strangles the national economy*” whose all meanings are well expressed when used in such a metaphorical way.

Metaphor is for most people a device of the poetic imagination and the rhetorical flourish, a matter of extraordinary rather than ordinary language. Moreover, metaphor is viewed as characteristic of language alone, a matter of words rather than thought or action. For this reason, most people think they can get along perfectly well without metaphor. However, the contrary is true; metaphor is pervasive in everyday life, not just in language but in thought and action. The distinction between metaphorical and literal meanings is not always clear-cut. Charteris-Black (2004, p. 15) has defined metaphor as 'any word or phrase that causes semantic tension at the linguistic, cognitive and pragmatic levels which result in a shift in domain use' and having persuasive potential of influencing opinions and judgments. According to Lakoff and Johnson (1978), “metaphors are not merely properties of language i.e. linguistic phenomena”, but rather, metaphors are properties of thought otherwise called cognitive phenomenon. This view according to them lead to the study of conceptual metaphors which is not limited to meaning based on similarity but also to a conceptualization of an experience or thought in terms of another. E.g.

- a) I bombarded his speech
- b) She killed me with love

According to Lackoff and Johnson (1978), the mapping of the concept *speech* and *love* to that of *War* or *Fight* is demonstrated in the above examples given. The *love* and *speech* are the target concepts while the *war* with its *terror* used in concretizing the abstract concepts of *speech* and *love* is considered as the source concept.

Metaphors of corruption

Describing corruption in public service, Iroanusi (2006, p.2) states that if

If an employee receives any property or other benefits, materials or otherwise of any kind for himself or for other persons, over and above his just wages on account of anything done or to be done by him in the performance of his duties, then he will be said to be guilty of corruption.

In general terms, such an employee specifically, a public servant has placed his personal interest above those of the state, which in most cases has resulted in either outright looting of state treasury or some extreme case of economic sabotage. In the mass media, corruption is constructed not just as a passive case of economic fraud, but as a tangible entity whose overt effect are visible on every facet of a nation's national life. The study of metaphor can be traced back to Aristotle who regards metaphor as a matter of language in a traditional way (Lakoff 1993, p. 202). The traditional views of metaphor were overturned when George Lakoff and Mark Johnson put forward the new

view of metaphor from cognitive perspective. They argue that metaphor is a conceptual phenomenon rather than a language phenomenon (Philip, 2000).

Regarding war metaphors, several studies have analyzed the use of war metaphors ("fight" and "battle") in media (Koller, 2004 and Baysha & Hallahan, 2004). As an example Koller (2004) examined the use of war metaphors in regard to gender and found that coverage of women and men in business magazines used these metaphors in a way that supported hegemonic masculinity by validating competition and hyper aggression as crucial for male and female executives.

Another scholar, Paula (2001), analyzes the widespread use of war metaphors in business language by presenting examples of business texts containing war metaphors and then finds out the implications of this rhetorical choice. The use of metaphors in framing disease especially infectious diseases such as HIV has become a prominent subject among discourse analysts and linguists. In a study conducted in UK. The researchers examined how language and metaphor were used in the UK media's coverage of an infectious disease known as SARS. They found that a *killer* metaphor system was commonly used to discuss the nature of SARS. However, militaristic language was largely absent despite the fact that *war* metaphors were used in other contexts in reporting SARS. The clear absence of *war* metaphors from SARA coverage is attributed to various factors first the war in Iraq; commentators intend to create distinctive discursive systems for the two stories. Second, The UK government had to avoid panic because the disease was more or less an international story. Finally, there was no certainty to the efforts made to put an end to SARS.

Arrese (2015) conducted a study on metaphors used in Spanish press about Euro crisis. He revealed that the analysis of the economic metaphors used by the Spanish newspapers when covering the euro crisis confirms that the dominance of disease and nature expressions shows how traditional conceptual metaphors have dominated public discourse, despite the very new, complex, and peculiar nature of this crisis. On the other hand, it has been verified that the principle of universality in the use of conceptual metaphors is quite consistent, even when tested in the same country among newspapers of very different ideological and editorial nature.

An empirical study carried out in Nigeria shows that metaphors as *lion, dog, hyena, vulture, cobra, locust, leech, tortoise* and *virus*, among others share some traits with the corrupt officials that they depict in the selected works. Corrupt officials, just like the metaphors that represent them, are greedy, selfish, dangerous, discriminatory, exploitative, oppressive, brutal, callous, cunning, wasteful, reckless, pretentious, unreliable and morally rotten. They are therefore highly destructive to Nigeria as a nation (Okunrinmeta & Alabi, 2014).

METHODOLOGY

The study analyzed the coverage of the corruption phenomenon in 11 online newspapers of Nigeria, Iraq and Malaysia. The purposive sampling method is applied in

selecting the news online reports as only reports that are from January 2016 to June 2016 were chosen to be used by the 3 researchers who are all from the respective countries. Furthermore, this study employs a qualitative research design as it applies Merriam (2002) descriptive interpretive method of data analysis. The newspapers were selected based on their popularity, contents and subject matters i.e. the use of conceptual metaphors of corruption in the editorial writings. Additionally, the metaphors were coded based on Lakoff and Johnson's (1980) CMT conceptual Metaphor Theory which considers metaphors as cognitive tools and not just as a mere literary styles figures of language. It is more to the cognitive thinking of how the mind infers and perceives a specific metaphor. This theory is used to understand abstract concepts in terms of more concrete ones. In relation to that, a conceptual metaphor uses one idea and links it to another to better understand something. Finally, the data was presented and tabulated for each metaphorical category for each country. According to Lakoff and Johson (1980) there are two conceptual domains, which is the Source domain and Target domain. The source domain consists of a number of attributes and relationships stored in mind. Whereas, the target domain, is largely abstract and takes its structure from the source domain via the "metaphorical link". This metaphorical is made by mapping between two domains of experience (source-target) to comprehend a metaphor under a particular context.

Sample

A purposive sampling method is applied in selecting the online news reports as only reports that are from January 2016 to June 2016 were chosen to be used.

Five online newspapers from Nigeria, Iraq and Malaysia were used for the analysis of the conceptual metaphors of corruption by the 3 researchers who are all from the respective countries.

Data analysis and procedure

1. Five online newspapers from Nigeria, Iraq and Malaysia were selected based on their popularity, contents and subject matters i.e. the use of conceptual metaphors of corruption in the editorial writings.
2. The metaphors were coded based on Lackoff and Johnson's (1980) CMT conceptual Metaphor Theory.
3. The Metaphors identified were analyzed, described and interpreted based on Merriam 2002 descriptive interpretive method of qualitative design.
4. The data was presented and tabulated for each metaphorical category for each country.

RESULTS AND FINDINGS

Corruption in Nigeria

CORRUPTION IS WAR

Table 1. Corruption is war

SN	CORRUPTION CATEGORIES	MEDIA EXAMPLE
1	CORRUPTION IS WAR	-What is your view on PMB anti-corruption war? -EFCC takes the anti-corruption <i>crusade</i> to IDD camps. <i>Corruption Reporter</i> . -This <i>battle</i> of the soul and survival of Nigeria... <i>Daily Trust</i> -Corruption is <i>warfare</i> in Nigeria. <i>Sahara reporters</i>
2	CORRUPTION IS A FIGHTER	-Neither Buhari nor Jonathan started the legal foundation for <i>combatting corruption</i> . -The EFCC we know had taken the fight <i>Reporter</i> . -He (Buhari) is <i>fighting</i> the evil. <i>Daily Trust</i> -We <i>combat</i> corruption and <i>break</i> its leakages

Target concept: *Corruption*

Source Concepts: *war, crusade, destructive and devastating war, warfare, waging a good war, combat, fighting,*

The war metaphors are very common in almost all the five online media; this is more related to the *control of the corruption* which is similar to the metaphors used in the control of diseases and other outbreaks. But the *war is waged on corruption* as single entity without an army. Coming and standing alone as against the company of soldiers. It emphasizes on the Monstrousness of the corruption as one against the many.

CORRUPTION IS A DISEASE

Table 2. CORRUPTION IS A DISEASE

SN	METAPHOR CATEGORY	MEDIA EXAMPLES
1	CORRUPTION IS A CANCER	-If corruption is a <i>cancer</i> , then this summit has delivered -it is in response to this ravaging <i>cancer</i> -The major challenge of our time now is <i>the cancer</i> of corruption. <i>Corruption reporter</i>
2	CORRUPTION IS A SERIOUS HEALTH PROBLEM	-I met a country that was in <i>comatose</i> from mindless gang rape -The state economy are <i>on life support</i> almost at the point of <i>death</i> -To deter the public from the " <i>get quick rich syndrome</i> " -it seem to <i>run in our blood</i> and DNA -It is pervasive that all institutions are <i>affected</i> by the <i>scourge</i> . <i>Sahara Reporters</i>

Target Concept: *Corruption*

Source Concepts: *Cancer, hemorrhage, bleeding, scourge, bad ulcer, comatose*

Among the five Nigerian media, the use of *cancer metaphors* was not as much as the use of other infections such as *hemorrhage, bleeding, ulcer and sepsis* this may be because of the prevalence of such diseases in Nigeria where they are very common to see or even get affected with them as compared to cancer which is only seen “once in a blue moon”

CORRUPTION IS AN ANIMAL

Table 3. CORRUPTION IS ANIMAL

SN	METAPHOR CATEGORY	MEDIA EXAMPLES
1	CORRUPTION IS A COW	-Saraki, Chibuike, Amechi, Tunde Fashiola and others <i>milk Nigeria dry</i> -The cow must die before they stop <i>milking it</i>
2	CORRUPTION IS A WORM	-It is a <i>cankerworm</i> that has eaten into the Nigerian psyche -it is <i>cankerworm</i>
3	CORRUPTION IS A MONSTER	-It is Nigerian <i>bogeyman</i> (a monster or ghost in children stories) -it has become <i>hydra headed monster</i> ; it is sucking the common man. <i>Sahara reporters</i>
4	CORRUPTION IS A CHICKEN	-Before <i>the chickens</i> of heinous theft of Nigerian treasury come home to roost
5	CORRUPTION IS AN ANIMAL	-We need a holistic approach <i>towards taming</i> this scourge
6	CORRUPTION IS A FISH	-EFCC is casting an <i>ever widening net</i> to bag corruption

Target Concept: *Corruption*

Source Concepts: *Cow, worm, monster and scavengers*

In the past literature, the most prominent conceptual metaphors for animals to portray corruption are: those of *elephants, tortoise, snake, hyena and lion* which are quite greedy and beastly as compared to the present study in which the most commonly source concepts for animals are *Cankerworm, cow, fish, chicken and monster*. It can be seen that the conceptual animals here are not as *gigantic* and *beasty* as the ones in the past literature. The conceptualization of the animals with the exception of *cow and Monster* seem very funny as all the animals were not as big as the concept of ***corruption itself***.

CORRUPTION IS PLANT

Table 4. CORRUPTION IS A PLANT

SN	CATEGORY	Media EXAMPLE
1	CORRUPTION IS A CROP PLANT	-The colonial masters including the british <i>laid the seed of corruption</i> . -Corruption <i>thrives and flourishes</i>
2	CORRUPTION AS A SEEDLING (young plant)	-In its determination to nip corruption <i>in the bud</i> -Corruption continues <i>to grow luxuriantly like yam Tendrils</i>
3	CORRUPTION IS A TREE	-It is an <i>Iroko (a tall tree in Nigeria)</i> on which many built -Attack <i>the roots of corruption</i> -Stemming corruption. <i>Sahara Reporters</i>

Target Concept: *Corruption*

Source Concept: *tree, crop plant, seedling, seed and Iroko*

The plant conceptual metaphors in Nigeria are only relevant to the Nigerian community. This is partly because of the “*reading audience factor*” looking at plants like Iroko which is a very huge tree in *Igbo land*, only a person with a modicum of knowledge about them can understand such a name. In the conceptual metaphors, if not for the Iroko tree, the corruption of Nigeria also is portrayed using very little plants such as a seedling, and the seed itself. This is partly because the metaphors are only showing the growing level of corruption when it is *tender and young* as against the monstrous virtual nature of it.

CORRUPTION AS DIRT

Table 5. CORRUPTION IS DIRT

SN	METAPHORICAL CATEGORY	MEDIA EXMPLES
		-The <i>deep stains</i> of corruption
1	CORRUPTION AS A DIRT	-Not all criticisms against the war against corruption are informed by those whose <i>hands are stained</i> -Buhari was voted to <i>clean the Augean Stable</i> -Before we <i>sanitize</i> Nigerian Government of Corruption

Target Concept: Corruption

Source Concept: *Stains, Augean Stable, Sanitation, clean hands*

The metaphors for corruption as dirt require a person with a modicum of knowledge in the past literature and also knowledge to fathom what concepts like *Augean Stable* means. **Augean stable** is a stable during the time of king Augean which for 35 years it has never been cleaned and therefore it was very dirty that Hercules was given a task among his Ten “Herculean tasks” to clean it. By equating corruption to Augean Stable, the media is exaggerating the intensity of dirtiness of Nigerian corruption.

CORRUPTION IS A DISASTER

Table 6. CORRUPTION IS A DISASTER

SN	METAPHORICAL CATEGORY	MEDIA EXAMPLES
1	CORRUPTION IS AN EARTHQUAKE	-Nigeria which is now <i>epicenter</i> of the worst excess of corruption -Until <i>find the core</i> of corruption
2.	CORRUPTION IS FIRE	-Lawyers who stroke <i>the flames</i> of corruption before in the name of fighting. <i>Vanguard</i>
3	CORRUPTION IS A PLAGUE	-The <i>plague</i> call corruption

Target Concept: *Corruption*

Source Concept: *Plague, fire, disaster, earthquake, flames, core and epicenter*

As a disaster, corruption was seen as an *earthquake* as it is at the *epicenter* of Nigeria; it is also seen as a fire as it has *flames* which can be stroked. It is also conceptualized as a *plague* which going by history was one of the greatest disasters that had befallen Egypt also known as the *ten Calamities* sent to Pharaoh after he imprisoned and ill-treated the Israelites in the book of Exodus in the Bible. So one can see that the disaster metaphors although they appeared very scanty in the media, they are more giant and more serious than the plant and animals metaphors which in the past literature were so gigantic.

CORRUPTION IS A HABIT

Table 7. CORRUPTION IS A HABIT

SN	METAPHORICAL CATEGORY	MEDIA EXAMPLES
1	Corruption is a way of life	We are in real trouble because corruption is now <i>a way of life</i> . <i>Sahara Reporters</i>
2	Corruption Is A Culture	-Putting a stop to the pervasive <i>Culture</i> of corruption. <i>Sahara Reporters</i>

Target Concept: *Corruption***Source Concept:** *Culture, way of life*

The metaphors of corruption being construed and conceptualized as a habit centers around culture which is a way of life for the people.

CORRUPTION IS A MAN

Table 8. CORRUPTION IS A MAN

SN	METAPHORICAL CATEGORY	MEDIA EXAMPLES
1	CORRUPTION IS A MAN	-There are major corruption investigations, the most popular among is <i>DASUKIGATE</i> -I will bring corruption <i>to its Knees</i> . <i>Daily Trust</i>
2	CORRUPTION IS AN ENEMY	-Corruption is <i>the worst enemy</i> than Boko Haram- <i>The Guardian</i> -Corruption is <i>the trouble with Nigeria</i> , it is the enemy <i>within</i> . <i>The Guardian</i>
3	CORRUPTION IS A MALEVOLENT BEING	-it <i>harms</i> the private sector -it <i>hurts</i> the downtrodden -it has <i>denied</i> the people opportunities. <i>Sahara Reporters</i>
4	CORRUPTION IS A NATIVE	-Corruption is <i>a native</i> of Nigeria
5	CORRUPTION IS A WOMAN	-Corruption <i>gave birth</i> ...

Target Concept: *Corruption***Source Concepts:** *enemy, man, malevolence, harming, denying, malicious, native, birth, woman*

Corruption in Nigeria follows the name of individuals who are extremely corrupt. For instance, DASUKIGATE is a conceptual metaphor which is from the name of the Nigerian National Security adviser to the president who stole and squandered about **\$2 billion** meant to buy arms in order to tackle Boko Haram, a radical religious sect that exterminated about 1,000 people. The other name DIAZANIGATE is also from the name of Nigeria's minister of petroleum resources who had appropriated also 20 Billion Naira and bought herself mansions in Europe and rented a private jet for her lavish life.

Corruption in Iraq

Table 9. Corruption metaphors in Iraq

METAPHORICAL CATEGORY	MEDIA EXAMPLES
5.2.0 CORRUPTION IS WAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Iraqi government must <i>fight</i> corruption as hard as it fights insurgency. - Regulatory processes hampered joint efforts <i>to combat</i> corruption." <p>Source Concepts: <i>embattled, crime, battle, attack, bomb</i></p>
5.2.1 CORRUPTION IS A VIRUS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Corruption has become so <i>endemic</i> in Iraq that the Inspector General himself has organized a special "Week of Integrity". - There <i>is a virus</i> here, like Ebola. It is called corruption. There is no hope, I am sorry to say." - <i>The spread</i> of the disease in seen everywhere <p>Source Concepts: <i>dangerous virus, epidemic, endemic, disease, poison</i></p>
5.2.2 CORRUPTION IS A CULTURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "From the highest officials to the lowest employees, it's become a <i>culture and the culture</i> of corruption runs deep". - <i>The culture</i> of corruption runs deep, - US Militarism Created Culture of Corruption <p>- Source Concept: <i>Culture</i></p>
5.2.3 CORRUPTION IS A CANCER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Iraq's political leaders have so far lacked the will to fight the "<i>cancer</i>" of corruption - "Corruption is <i>a cancer</i> ... we should take it on by long-term strategies," - Corruption is "a disease, it is a <i>malignant cancer</i>" <p>Source Concept: <i>Cancer</i></p>
5.2.4 CORRUPTION IS A PHENOMENON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "Corruption is <i>a phenomenon</i> that forms a real threat to the structure of the state," - Exacerbating <i>this phenomenon</i> is Iraq's weak regulatory system <p>Source Concept: <i>Phenomenon</i></p>

The virus metaphor seems to be widespread when referring to corruption. The word *virus* has been used in many different ways to describe corruption in Iraq. Corruption can proliferate within the country as a virus that needs to be remedied.

Corruption in Malaysia

Table 10. Corruption metaphors in Malaysia

METAPHORICAL CATEGORY	MEDIA EXAMPLES
5.3.0 CORRUPTION IS WAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is, in fact, a very big <i>clarion call</i> to all Malaysian citizens for systemic reforms. - Najib has lost the 'mandate from heaven' to govern even though he has <i>armed himself</i> with emergency powers under the National Security Council (NSC) Act. -He said these <i>attacks</i> on the nation are done by Malaysia's corrupt officials.
5.3.1 CORRUPTION IS VIRUS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The new system transformation can act as an <i>antidote</i> that can cure a thousand <i>*sickness</i> facing the country. - For instance, the 1MDB issue is an economic <i>paralysis</i> - Future generations are <i>suffering</i> and are <i>infected</i> due to the level of

		politics in our country. -The economic situation is <i>recovering from the infection of corruption</i>
5.3.2 CORRUPTION IS AN ORIENTATION		-Inflation of resources is unlikely to <i>take toll</i> on Great Eastern Life. as they could not afford to <i>take the path</i> of least corruption - The government has to reform the ballooning debt and other social <i>practices</i> of corruption
5.3.3 CORRUPTION IS A MACHINE		-The political corruption will <i>generate</i> the economic situation of the country or the region. -Meanwhile, Gabriel continued to press Obama to raise the issue of Najib's <i>clampdown of media</i> outlets in Malaysia that expose corrupt practices -Corruption is <i>setting off alarm bells</i>
5.3.4 CORRUPTION IS SEXUAL ABUSE		-As property developers <i>gang-raped</i> the ecosystem of the mangroves and the estates, and huge acres around the areas, money-spinning becomes irreversible - It is declared as an <i>economic rape</i>
5.3.5 CORRUPTION A NATURAL DISASTER		-One day, the Citizens' Declaration of wealth will <i>snowball</i> into a Malaysian <i>tsunami</i> which will overwhelm PM Najib Razak.
5.3.6 CORRUPTION IS A COLOUR		-"From what it looks like, we are not dealing here with <i>shades of grey</i> .
5.3.7 CORRUPTION IS A DESTROYER		-Corruption is a <i>termite</i> eating into the main pillars of the country

The Star Online, *New Straits Times online*, *Berita Harian*, *The Sun Daily* and *Malaysiakini* were the online newspapers chosen for this study. Like any other countries, the Malaysian journalism board is also highly influenced and driven by either the current political party which rules the government or the opposition party who is against the norms and policies of the governmental. In relation to that, *The Star Online*, *New Straits Times online*, *Berita Harian* are influenced by the governmental parties and as opposed to that, the oppositional parties are supported by *The Sun Daily* and *Malaysiakini*. The existence of two sources of newspapers, allows the particular political party to highlight or comment issues which are important and advantageous to them and to spread their intended needs. Based on the table illustrated above, it is evident that, from the combination of five online newspapers, the war metaphors of corruption were most widely used in the newspapers with words appropriately used in the context of war to describe an issue which is not related to war at any cost. Here, corruption is the target concept and source concept used the following verbs war to depict the war concept; *outraged*, *clarion call*, *armed*, *strategy*, *killed*, *battle*, *shootings* and *attacks*. These metaphors were rather used to describe verbal acts and varying ideologies.

Interestingly, the second most used metaphor in the Malaysian online newspaper is the orientation metaphor. The target concept is the corruption itself whereas the source concepts were; *take toll*, *boost*, *moving beyond*, *take the path*, *transfer*, *ballooning*, *gripped* and *future*. Here, corruption is described as something that changes and affects the shape, size and direction of something.

DATA ANALYSIS

Table 11. Analysis of the findings for the online newspapers of the three countries

Similarities/ Differences Country	NIGERIA	IRAQ	MALAYSIA
NEWSPAPERS USED	<i>Daily Trust, Sahara reporters, Corruption Reporter, The Guardian, & Vanguard</i>	<i>Al Monitor, The new Arab, Haruna Yahya, Gulf Times and Iraq Sun</i>	<i>The Star Online, New Straits Times Online, Berita Harian, The Sun Daily & Malaysiakini.</i>
STATUS OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE	English as a First Language	English as a Foreign Language	English a Second Language
TYPES OF CORRUPTION METAPHOR CATEGORIES FOUND	12 Categories: <i>War, Disease, Animal, Habit, Man, Killer, Crime, Evil, Vehicle, Concept, Old, Terrorism.</i>	5 Categories: <i>War, Virus, Culture, Cancer, Phenomenon</i>	9 Categories: <i>War, Virus, Orientation, Tool/Machine, Sexual, Occupation, Natural disaster, Colour & Creature</i>
3 MOST FREQUENT CORRUPTION METAPHOR CATEGORIES USED	Concept: 23 times War: 21 times Man : 19 times	War: 12 times Culture: 8 times Virus & Cancer : 7 times	War : 9 times Orientational : 8 times Virus : 6 times

Table 11 above, depicts the similarities and differences found in the usage of corruption metaphors in five online newspapers each from three different countries, namely Nigeria, Iraq and Malaysia. It is found that, the online news media of Nigeria have made use of corruption metaphors most prominently as compared to Malaysia then followed by Iraq. It is because, within a span of 6 months from January 2016 early June 2016 of the data collected, the Nigerian media used 12 different types of metaphorical categories to describe corruption in their country and this followed a very big corruption scandal that has crippled the country with the arrest of the former National Security Adviser. On the other hand, the Iraq media has shown a comparatively lower use of corruption metaphor in its news. It is believed that, this is due to the importance given to the status of English language in Nigeria and Iraq. Nigeria has English as its second language; however, Iraqis are EFL users of English. Thus, it can be noticed that, the status of language directly affects the use of English corruption metaphors in the online news media which makes Nigeria to use a richer amount of metaphorical category as compared to Malaysia and Iraq.

On the other hand, Nigeria also takes lead as the 3 highest total number of frequency of corruption metaphor used in the online news media. The total frequency count of Nigeria for corruption is Concept: 23 times, War: 21 times, Man: 19 times, followed by Iraq with War: 12 times, Culture: 8 times, Virus & Cancer: 7 times and lastly Malaysia with War: 9 times, Orientation: 8 times, Virus: 6 times. It can be assumed that, Nigeria has the highest number of corruption metaphorical category and total frequency because unlike the online newspapers in Iraq and Malaysia, Nigeria has a specific online newspaper which solely revolves around the issues pertaining corruption in their country. This also significantly proves the reason to why the Nigerian media uses vast amount of corruption metaphors.

Adding on to that, the findings also revealed that, two countries have one thing in common. The War metaphor was enormously used in Iraq and Malaysia to describe corruption in their respective country. War metaphors are found to be used widely in describing verbal interaction between two different parties when there is a losing or winning or defense element. In contrast to that, Nigeria has relatively used CONCEPT METAPHORS the most to describe corruption. Value or humane character has been provided to most objects such as to rice, wind, road, water, building, and cosmetic to illustrate a situation or issue.

CONCLUSION

In a nutshell, it can be concluded that the online news media of Nigeria, Iraq and Malaysia have used corruption metaphors as the lens through which journalists report their news to the public. Issues such as an economy or political crisis in the respective countries are described using metaphors to make it comprehensible to the readers as they can relate a specific issue correctly without any misinterpretation according to the media's intended message. Metaphors are important as they structure our perceptions, the way we make sense of the world around, the way we understand things that affect our lives. Most importantly, corruption metaphors have the potential to become Weapons of Mass Deceptions when inappropriately used. Therefore, journalists have to be aware of the use and misuse of the corruption metaphors to avoid any unnecessary negative circumstances. The use of corruption metaphors in online news media has become one of the most powerful sources of force that acts as tool to shape our mentality and judgments of people from our nation and other nations entirely.

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The Online Newspapers

Iraq Online Media

1. Al-Monitor

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/iraq-pulse>

2. The New Arab

<https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english>

3. Harun Yahya

<http://www.harunyahya.com/>

4. Gulf Times

<http://www.gulf-times.com/>

5. Iraq Sun

<http://www.iraqsun.com/>

Nigerian Online Media

<http://www.dailytrust.com.ng/>

<http://saharareporters.com/>

<http://www.punchng.com/>

<http://guardian.ng/>

www.facebook.com/corruptionreporterng/

Malaysian Online media

<http://thesundaily.my/>

<http://www.thestar.my/news/local>

<http://www.malaysiakini.com.my>

<http://www.bharian.com.my>

<http://www.nst.com.my>

<http://musingsoniraq.blogspot.com/2016/01/iraq-ranks-in-ten-most-corruption.html>