Carving up the “Chinese Melon”

American missionaries first settled in Hawaii at the start of the nineteenth century and quickly gained influence and wealth. With their increasing influence and power, American missionaries forced King Kamehameha to pass the Bayonet Constitution in 1887, which served to strip most of the monarchy’s power and imposed income and property requirements for voting, which effectively excluded all Asians. With the passing of this American-led constitution, Native Hawaiians no longer had any say in their own government.

Shi’s law in 1893, but to keep Hawaiian tradition, his sister Liliʻuokalani took the throne. Her goal was to restore the monarchy’s power and grant native Hawaiians their right to vote. Upon hearing of Liliʻuokalani’s plan to restore power to the natives, the American residents hatched a plan to overthrow the Queen and ready Hawaii to be annexed by the United States. Fearing for her life, Queen Liliʻuokalani reluctantly abdicated her throne and, in 1898, Hawaii was officially annexed by the United States. Limiting the power of the Hawaiian government by excluding natives from all involvement in decision making, American businessmen denied the Hawaiian people the right to govern themselves through this white hegemonic political reorganisation – effectively, however, this was a poorly disguised coup, backstopped by the United States government.

Conclusion

By analyzing historical instances of imperialism, we can better understand the hegemonic policies imposed on developing countries. While some nations invested their wealth in the modernisation of others, maintaining control through limiting access to certain goods and services. Nations were not deemed “just” for self-governance, but rather their resources deemed “fit” to be utilized by the superriches of the time for their own benefit. Naturally, participating in imperialisms or advocating against it leaves countries blind to the inherent denial of this universal right within their own borders.

References


Human Trafficking: Putting a Price Tag on Human Dignity in the Trajectory of the Early 20th Century

Jenny Hwang
The Honors College at Lone Star College – North Harris

Abstract
This research project analyzes the historical rationale behind various forms of human trafficking, such as drug, sex, and labor trafficking, originating in the 20th century, and addressed with the elimination of these issues, and contemporary implications of trafficking. The aforementioned methods were investigated by drawing from three distinct problem areas of the world (i.e. Europe, Southeast Asia, and Africa) as these regions employed distinct trafficking methods. A meta-analysis was contextualized by using the "Research House (producer, May 2005) a movie produced by Paul Hyett which describes additional methods pertaining to Europe, Jaime L. Small's Trafficking in Truth, Media, Sexuality, and Human Rights Evidence detailing labor trafficking in Asia and Africa, and various United Nations' laws and regulations. Findings illuminate correlations between the evolving definition of human trafficking—the unlawful movement of individuals for exploitation—and the shifting paradigm of how the crime is combated worldwide. Due to mainstream media coverage, the public possesses a baseline understanding of this controversial topic, but solutions to eradicate trafficking are not emphasized. The research indicates social limitations are placed on the victims, having been demoralized, and a societal threshold has desensitized us towards the consequences. At the turn of the century, given the heavy implementation of methods to combat trafficking during the latter part of the 21st century, ideally, the number of cases should have significantly decreased; however, even with the implementation of new laws and regulations, trafficking cases have gradually increased.

Europe: Drug Trafficking
In order for Europe's economy to thrive, illicit drugs played a key component. As the expansion of drug trafficking increased, drug mules became prevalent to the practice of transporting drugs across many countries in Europe. In many ways, this form had many cost-benefits for the traffickers. Besides Germany (producer of cannabis), Spain (producer of heroin), and Turkey (producer of morphine), other regions within Europe soon joined the chain of countries using humans to transport illicit drugs. Networks developed, and the European market was enhanced with all forms of illicit drugs for the countries to consume. As a wider variety of drugs were made available, greater black market practices enriched the drug trafficking industry. Trafficking Drug Trafficking
- The League of Nations attempted to control the illicit traffic of drugs. This resulted in the "International Opium Convention" which assessed the money made from these drugs and regulations brought to light how inefficient the business would be combating the crime since drug trafficking is pivotal to economic growth in Europe.
- The International Labor Organization was in charge of social justice as it concerned labor work but could not focus on drug trafficking even though it was a business. Drug trafficking did not directly correlate into labor work since this was illegal, and the International Labor Organization was not able to handle illegal businesses.

Africa: Labor Trafficking
Africa associated human trafficking with irregular migration, prostitution, or labor. However, the most common form was trafficking for labor. Specifically, the Saharan Africa (SA) region characterized itself with a variety of migration configurations, cross-border movements, contract workers, labor migrants, refugees, and displaced persons, which led to human trafficking. Labor Trafficking Forced Upon Men, Women, and Children (Image Below):
- Sweatshops
- Domestic Servitude
- Peddling
- Hotel/Hospital labor

In this region, the victim's social class contributed to the utilization of labor trafficking. Class elements included poverty, deteriorating living conditions, a cycle of unemployment, conflicts, human deprivation, and a sense of hopelessness becomes ingrained in each individual. Each of these aspects fostered the environment for labor trafficking to flourish within the Saharan African region.

Methods to Combat Labor Trafficking
- The African Government developed a holistic approach to combat labor trafficking in Africa while taking into consideration the following populations could not participate:
  - Minority
  - Vulnerable area
  - Vulnerable adults
  - Female
  - Local educational
  - Specific ethnicity (to be determined by the government)
- This holistic approach failed as the attempt was never implemented because officials needed labor trafficking for their economy to thrive.

Southwest Asia: Sex Trafficking
In Asia, cultural devolution on women and children versus able-bodied men led to subjugation into sex trafficking rings. The vending and trading of women and children accounted for the greatest proportion of human trafficking globally—with Southeast Asia acting as the illegal industry's largest international hub. From the early 20th century, at least 225,000 women and children trafficked from the southeast region of Asia every single year. This figure accounts for approximately one-third of the entire human trafficking trade around the world.

Determinants of Sex Trafficking
- Social determinants of poverty
- Corrupt government officials and police share profits
- Social determinants of gender
- Lack of enforcement of existing laws

Unsuccessful Attempts to Eliminate Sex Trafficking
- The local police deemed evidence as "weak" when arresting traffickers
- Government officials/police were allegedly bribed—resulting in the wrong conviction.
- The government largely neglected the public outcry and took little responsibility in amending the issue.
- Government officials/police focused more on profit rather than the victims.

Impacts of Early 20th Century on Early 21st Century
As human trafficking becomes more widespread, it has also become more sophisticated. As a counterpart, some governments are implementing new legislation, hosting international conferences, and signing new and existing conventions. The United Nations (UN) and other Inter-Governmental Organizations (IGO) dedicated substantial resources to developing more effective solutions. Many governments lack assistance for trafficking victims. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) take up the challenge of organizing locally, nationally, and internationally in order to advocate for and meet the needs of victims.

Conclusion
The corrosive effects of these various forms of human trafficking witnessed throughout the early 20th century have brought both political and social ramifications into the 21st century. Comparative assessment of attempted solutions indicates efforts were ineffectual as they did not adequately address the economic nature of human trafficking. Governmental agencies replaced their efforts by combating human trafficking using laws and regulations without appropriate emphasis on combating this crime on a monetary level, which resulted in legal and policing leniency. Despite increasing awareness addressing the issue, this awareness has not translated into tackling the root causes, and, as a result, human trafficking has expanded and grown into an even more powerful economic enterprise. Future study is needed to identify other potential obstacles on the perception level and combat public desensitization to human trafficking.

Works Consulted
"Refugees" Using Women as a Resource.

Fig. 1. Human Trafficking: 20th and 21st Century. Original Material.

The graph above represents the number of cases of human trafficking, specifically each trafficking method, from the 20th century to the 21st century.


The image above represents how human trafficking is broken down specifically to analyze the severity of drug trafficking.

Fig. 3. Graph of Labor Trafficking in Africa. Original Key.

The above image represents the themes governments took into consideration when implementing new laws and regulations.
Pragmatics in the News Media Realm: The Truth About Political Bias

Jesus Patino
The Honors College at Lone Star College – University Park

Abstract

This independent research seeks to objectively examine the role news networks play in partisan media bias and its overarching effect on consumers. To determine the degree of partiality through a contemporary lens, the linguistic concepts of pragmatics—specifically, the sub-topics of conversational structure, implicature, and deictic deixis—were applied to the 2016 Presidential Primary coverage by Fox News and The Young Turks. These elements of pragmatics serve as analytical criteria that assist in conducting an impartial analysis focused on how news networks present their information rather than concentrating on the specific topics of discussion. Additionally, Fox News and The Young Turks were chosen because they are widely consumed media outlets and are highly condemned for reporting information favoring certain political ideologies. The application of this linguistic criteria reveals how Fox News and The Young Turks engage in biased reporting by presenting their information using rhetorical strategies, indirectly influencing their audience towards a certain political ideology without having to resort to obvious partisanship.

The Young Turks

Due to the liberal bias often attributed to The Young Turks and its growing popularity in the media realm, this platform was selected for its wide consumption and perceived partisan favoritism, serving as an opposing linguistic perspective to Fox News. As an emerging internet news source with more than 1.7 billion lifetime views, initial interpretations might suggest The Young Turks possess a certain level of bias due to the nature of online information and the freedom the network holds from utilizing objective journalistic practices. While the founding members of The Young Turks label themselves as political analysts “focused solely on the facts,” always revealing the truth because of their independence from corporate influence, the network consistently receives criticism for their alleged political bias. For example, the Washington Post credits The Young Turks for building “a cult reputation as liberal talkers who [are] as loud and fearless as right-wingers.” The Young Turks represents the second component of this analysis on partisan favoritism because of its increasing audience and politically opposing counterpart to Fox News.

Fox News

Since this linguistic analysis seeks to objectively and contemporarily analyze political bias and its overarching impact on consumers, Fox News was chosen because it is a widely consumed traditional media source and is perceived to possess strong conservative leanings. As a well-established journalistic network, preliminary observations would assume that Fox News employs conventional journalistic practices to remain objective in their reporting. This notion is further supported through a study conducted by East Carolina University revealing how Fox News is “the most commonly used primary source of political information for television news.” Nevertheless, a Pew Research Center investigation found how “almost two-thirds of Republicans watched Fox News and reported using the network as their primary source for political information.” The factors have lead numerous political pundits and observers to criticize Fox News and their audience for possessing strong Republican favoritism in its news reporting, providing a strong platform for the basis of this investigation.

Conversational Structure

Conversational Structure, defined universally by social scientist Stephen Levinson as “the linguistic concept focusing on how and why speakers order their sentences in a specific structure,” is vital to analyzing political bias. Empirical research conducted at the University of Georgia and Temple University demonstrates how the rhetorical strategies chosen from the last knowledge the person reads, observes, or hears.

The Young Turks

“We talked to the Democrats, let’s proceed and talk about the Republic Race,” Brett Baier, Special Report

“We just finished the first segment, this wasn’t split into any subsections,” Sean Hannity, America’s Election HQ

“I left the Democratic results for last because the results were quite astounding,” - Cork Uygun, Primary Coverage

These statements largely represent how Fox News and The Young Turks organized their political coverage of the 2016 Presidential Primaries. Both networks discussed a certain party’s results in the first part of the show and then examined the other partisan outcomes in the latter half of the program. This rhetorical strategy primarily influences viewers of Fox News to more clearly remember and discuss Republican ideals while spectators of The Young Turks more often recall and spread the results of the Democratic primaries. Despite their opposing political bias, both networks utilized similar linguistic utterances in their news coverage, highlighting the parallels between the platforms.

Implicature

Implicature, outlined in the Scientific Journal of Humanistic Studies as “the factor analyzing what is suggested in an expression and the word associations created even though not directly express,” assists in examining beyond the superficial meaning of the 2016 Presidential coverage of Fox News and The Young Turks:

Against the Opposition

“All Hillary is about is money for her foundation and own pocket” - Chris Wallace, Fox News America’s Election HQ

“Republicans see destroying our culture; we look at them as personally motivating people” - Cork Uygun, The Young Turks Primary Coverage

The application of implicature exemplifies how the speakers of Fox News and The Young Turks utilize subtle linguistic techniques in their reporting, indirectly influencing audiences’ opinions and attitudes regarding presidential nominees. While not directly stated, the various hosts of the news platforms imply certain emotions when discussing presidential candidates, leading the audience to associate certain words with a particular person or idea. Even though the language of both networks imply distinct messages pertaining to opposing parties, Fox News and The Young Turks employ the same rhetoric strategy, ultimately influencing their audiences’ political beliefs.

Emphatic Deixis

Emphatic Deixis, labeled by The Oxford Dictionary of Pragmatics as “an analysis of encoded emotional proximities or distances between the speaker and aspects of a speech based on the use of deictic expressions,” was applied to several six-minute videos of Presidential Primary analysis by Fox News and The Young Turks searching for the amount of times hosts utilized Proximal Deictic Expressions (this, here now) and Distal Deictic Expressions (that, there, then).

The hosts of both shows utilize a similar number of proximal deictic expressions when discussing the political ideology they are criticized for favoring; while employing almost identical amounts of distal deictic expressions when analyzing the opposing political party. Despite their claimed objectivity and their contrasting reporting mediums, Fox News and The Young Turks use a parallel number of deictic expressions, further highlighting the show’s rhetorical similarities.

Conclusion

Preliminary observations would conclude Fox News and The Young Turks both employ analogous subjective practices to promote their respective political bias. By analyzing the rhetorical strategies employed by the news reporting rather than the specific topics of discussion, this analysis further reveals how Fox News and The Young Turks utilize parallel linguistic expressions to appeal rhetorically to their given audiences, despite their claims of objectivity and partisan impartiality. The fact two networks deemed polar opposites in perceived bias, contextual audience, and media reporting platform, used similar strategies in their coverage of the 2016 Presidential Primaries further highlights the biased nature of these news networks and their role in influencing the opinions of consumers, becoming a political tool capable of impacting the future of the election cycle, rather than objective news coverage of said events.

References

Abstract
Baz Luhrmann's 2013 ostentatious adaptation of F. Scott Fitzgerald's great American novel, *The Great Gatsby*, is often assessed as a failure along with prior *The Great Gatsby* films. However, despite mixed critical and audience reception, some identified the film as an artistic feat. This research questions how Luhrmann's version differs from the previous film versions of the novel by applying Jean Baudrillard's *Simulacra and Simulation* and then compares it to the 1974, 2000, and 2013 versions of *The Great Gatsby* movies and analyzing that application in relation to the film's critical backlash. Baudrillard's theory in *Simulacra and Simulation* explains that symbols repeat themselves but do not share a common meaning—confusing an individual's perception of reality and fantasy and creating a hyperreal. The simulacral trend makes it impossible for humans to distinguish reality from fantasy. Does Luhrmann's film artistically mimic the previous films, repeat the original novel, or stand alone? The application of the theory suggests that *The Great Gatsby* (2013) is not a part of simulation; rather, it is a representation that celebrates the adaptation process. Applying *Simulacra and Simulation* productively explains varied receptions of *The Great Gatsby* movies over time and, ultimately, provides criteria to analyze film adaptations as a whole.

Simulacra Defined
Baudrillard's definition of simulacra helps assess the adaptations of *The Great Gatsby*. According to his theory, symbols frequently repeat themselves, stripping from their original meanings. The result, according to Mark Poster, translating *Simulacra and Simulation*, is a "world... that has no reference to a 'reality' other than its own referential signs... bypassing any distinction between 'real' and 'unreal'." The result is the "hyperreal." Symbols today no longer relate to the original source; rather, they are reflections of the symbols preceding themselves. The cross is one example. Baudrillard argues that these individual realities exist together. Baudrillard's four stages of simulacra can be applied to elucidate audience reactions to *The Great Gatsby* films.

Exigence for Novel and 2013 Film
The socioeconomic parallels between the 1920s and 2000s create similar exigencies for the novel and the 2013 film. In 2008, Luhrmann told Mark Naglazas of *The Toronto Star*, "*The Great Gatsby* is the perfect allegory for our own gilded age, a devastating dissection of the materialism, the excess and the spiritual emptiness that lead to the economic apocalypse from which the world is still struggling to recover." Fitzgerald's novel served as a socioeconomic commentary when it was published in 1925, right before the Great Depression. The early 2000s were gradually leading to the Great Recession in 2008. Luhrmann recognized the similarities between the Great Depression and the Great Recession, and he wanted to use *The Great Gatsby* story as a mirror. However, the previous films ignored the exigency for the novel, resulting in a shallow adaptation of the novel. In fact, the 1974 version romanticized the 1920s, presenting it as a happier decade in American history.

Symbolism
Luhrmann incorporated Fitzgerald's original symbols into his film, once again separating his film from earlier versions.

Cinematics and Modern Elements
The contemporary elements in the 2013 version prove the film is not attempting to be the novel; rather, it is a self-aware product of the twenty-first century, and therefore not a part of simulacra.

- Luhrmann created a twenty-first century Gatsby. He did not intend remake the twentieth century Gatsby, but he wanted the audience to react and learn the story just as Fitzgerald's original audience did. The effect of the original novel translated over into the modern day through Luhrmann's film.

- The Great Gatsby book was risqué and not immediately well-received.

- Fishing for a similar reaction to reveal the film's social and economic message, Luhrmann integrated ostentatious elements specific to the twenty-first century, such as music by Jay Z and Beyoncé, and exaggerated events from the novel, such as turning a party into a modern-day orgy.

References
Scott, A. O. "Shimmying Off the Literary Mantle: 'The Great Gatsby'...*’* "http://diversionsjournal.wordpress.com/2013/05/12/ of-course-you-can-repeat-the-past-old-sport-
Conclusions
Jean Baudrillard explains the consequences of simulacra's repetition of symbols: the symbols risk losing their original meanings—and thus their identity. Jay Gatsby, for example, struggles to retain his identity as he repeatedly, and unsuccessfully, attempts to recreate himself throughout his pursuit of Daisy Buchanan. In creating his new identity, Gatsby's original persona is lost—creating a simulacrum within the plot of novel. The 2013 film does not, however, fall into the same simulacrum pattern as the prior movies because it adheres to the original novel and at the same time, updates the exigency by paralleling the social and economic climates of the 1920s to early 2000s. The 2013 adaptation suggests we continue reading—and watching—*The Great Gatsby* because it still applies to us today. The message need not change; the application of the message to the twenty-first century needs to be repackaged. Although critics debate the film's ostentatious additions, Luhrmann welcomes the discussion and considers his film a success because of the ongoing conversation. This debate also reveals a transition towards acceptance of contemporary revisions of classics. However, many audiences feel they can only trust "traditional" portrayals of the novel—leaving them more susceptible to falling into the hyperreal. This study suggests *The Great Gatsby* (2013) is a truer representation of the novel that embraces the artificiality of the prior films because of the parallel exigencies between the film and the novel enhanced by the cinematics and symbols. Luhrmann is not trying to repeat the past, old sport... rather, he is celebrating the adaption process.

Maintaining Artificiality: The Disney Land Park
Maintaining artificiality, a specific concept within Baudrillard's theory, is placing an obviously fake representation next to other symbols to make them look more real. External aspects integrated into society maintain the artificiality of other symbols and plunge the world deeper into the hyperreal. Disneyland Park is an example of maintaining artificiality. In the park, visitors are well aware they are in a "fantasy world," so they assume the city outside the park’s walls is reality. However, Baudrillard argues, Los Angeles is more fake--discovering Disneyland because it attempts to hide the symbolism that exists, while Disneyland embraces it. Maintaining artificiality, according to Baudrillard, masks simulacra but also determines a "proper representation," consisting of self-awareness and celebrating that the adaptation is a re-creation—not the original.

Audience Reception of the Films
Differing receptions of the various films suggest that Luhrmann’s film is set apart from its predecessors. The films prior to *The Great Gatsby* (2013) had unanimously negative votes, criticized for being dry and for focusing too much on the relationships between Jay and Daisy and between Nick and Jordan. In 1974, audiences were excited that Robert Redford played Jay Gatsby; however, after viewing the film, audiences indicated he did not meet their expectations. The audiences’ criticism of the 2013 film, on the other hand, was divided equally in favor and in opposition. A debate connected the relationship between modern film and classic literature, discussing Leonardo DiCaprio’s interpretation of Jay Gatsby.

- A. O. Scott of *The New York Times* said "[DiCaprio] is beautiful... and desperate; in exactly the way Gatsby should be."
- Film critic James Berardinelli claimed “DiCaprio's performance is... far from the definitive interpretation of Jay Gatsby.”
- Clearly, DiCaprio's portrayal of Gatsby sparked a meaningful conversation—which was Luhrmann's goal.

Of Course, You Can Repeat the Past, Old Sport: An Application of Jean Baudrillard's *Simulacra and Simulation* to Baz Luhrmann's *The Great Gatsby* (2013)
Lois Ann Suter
The Honors College at Lone Star College - Tomball

Luhrmann's film

Fig. 4: The Fane of Dr. T.J. Eckleberg

Fig. 5: The Cover of *The Great Gatsby*

Fig. 6: 1974 Film Cover

Fig. 7: 1974 Film Cover

Fig. 8: 2000 Film Cover

Fig. 9: 2013 Film Cover
http://diversionsjournal.wordpress.com/2013/05/12/

Fig. 1: Comparison of Actors in the 1974 film (left) and the 2013 film (right)
http://www.filmflyff.com/2014/05/20/theperfectdiscoveryofthegreategatsby還沒wallpapers/

Fig. 2: Psychical Cross-Ontological Cross
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Crosses.jpg

Fig. 3: Evaluation of The Cross
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cross

Fig. 7: Redfield Carsons relating the Great Depression to The Great Gatsby
http://www.keyportal-suggestions.com/2012/07/21/Orlando-DiCaprio-in-The-Great-Gatsby-

Fig. 8: Jim Carrey’s Gatsby in the 1994 film (right) and the 2013 film (left)
http://diversionsjournal.wordpress.com/2013/05/12/

Fig. 9: Beyoncé as Lucey in the 2013 film (left) and the 2013 film (right)
http://diversionsjournal.wordpress.com/2013/05/12/

Fig. 10: The Gatsby's tomb in 1974 Film (left) and 2013 Film (right)
http://diversionsjournal.wordpress.com/2013/05/12/

Fig. 11: Gatsby island in the 2013 film (above) and the 1974 film (left)
http://diversionsjournal.wordpress.com/2013/05/12/

Fig. 12: Comparison of 2013 film (left) and 1974 film (right)
http://diversionsjournal.wordpress.com/2013/05/12/