

A Communicative study about the professionalism and practical usage in photo journalism: with special reference to the reportage of incidents of bomb explosions targeting Southern civilians

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Photo journalism can be defined as recording an incident visually using a camera for public circulation. A photo with its caption and description conveys a meaning which is multifaceted than a mere textual reportage. A related photo gives trustworthiness to a news item. There is a difference between professionalism and practical usage of photo journalism. Professionalism depends on its technical knowledge, experience, expertise and ethics. Usage depends on the media, its ownership and editorial policies.

Object of this paper is to study the professionalism and usage in photo journalism with special reference to reporting of the incidents of bomb explosions in Sri Lanka targeting Southern civilians.

Secondary data has been used as the major methodology of the study and Daily/weekly newspaper in sinhala/English/Tamil language from 1st of January 2008 to 27th of May 2008 have been used in this regards.

As a whole an ethical reportage cannot be seen. Hypersensitiveness of the incidents is highlighted for commercial and propaganda reasons.

Key words:- Photo journalism, Southern civilians, Caption, Professionalism, Newspaper

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