

STRATEGIES AND TACTICS EMPLOYED IN REPRESENTING PROTEST MOVEMENTS IN CONTEMPORARY ENGLISH- LANGUAGE PRINT MEDIA

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Aim of the research:

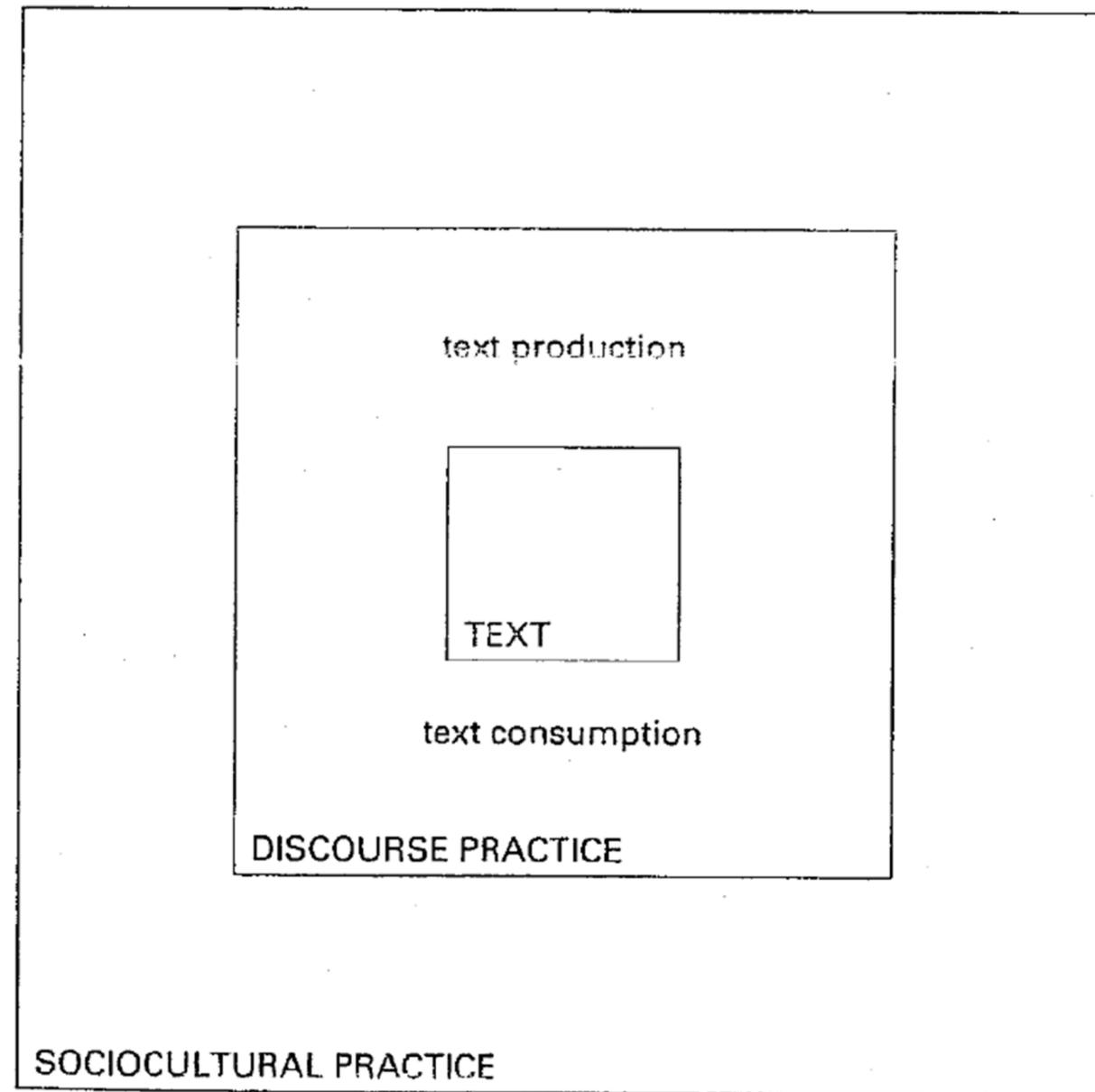
- Identifying and exploring manipulative strategies and tactics used in the media to represent protest movements
- Establishing the differences in their use

Central research case: the Yellow Vest movement in France

Methods:

- Data collection: a sample of 50 articles about the Yellow Vests movement (sampling)
- Data analysis: Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) (N. Fairclough, C. Hart)

N. FAIRCLOUGH'S MODEL FOR COMMUNICATIVE EVENT ANALYSIS



C. HART'S DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

- Connection between ideology and grammar
- Legitimization/delegitimization
- Linguistic means of event representation :
 - Description of processes
 - Mystification (Passive Voice, nominalization)
 - Description of social actors
 - Hidden evaluation
 - Visual images

RESULTS

SOCIAL ACTOR ANALYSIS

- “Riot police fired tear gas to try and disperse the **protesters** around the Place de la Republique, but **demonstrators** responded by starting fires and throwing flares and paving stones.” (*The Irish Independent*)
- “It was the third weekend of protests and confrontations with the police by the **group**, and by far the most damaging.” (*The New York Times*)

RESULTS

SOCIAL ACTOR ANALYSIS

Conservative and neutral newspapers:

- ““Everything leads us to believe that **rioters** will try to mobilise again.”” (*The Straits Times*)
- “French television showed images of volunteer medics treating a **yellow-vested** protester lying on the ground, with the smell of tear gas mixed with black smoke choking the air.” (*The Irish Independent*)

RESULTS

SOCIAL ACTOR ANALYSIS

Liberal newspapers:

- “**Well-spoken, tidy, clipped beards and short hair**, these gilets jaunes (yellow vests) seemed hardly the stone-throwing, shop-smashing rabble those packed into the public benches had come to watch.” (*The Guardian*)
- “**Several had lost an eye or limb** in clashes with riot police.” (*The Guardian*)
- “**He had two children with his girlfriend**, but they did not live together, **his mother** was being operated on for lung cancer this week and his arrest meant he would almost certainly lose his job.” (*The Guardian*)
- “He worked as a **forklift truck operator** earning €1,200 a month out of which he paid €300 a month for his council flat.” (*The Guardian*)

RESULTS

PROCESS DESCRIPTION: MATERIAL PROCESSES

Conservative and neutral newspapers:

- “**Protesters dragged** two officers to the ground and **kicked** them repeatedly, the video showed.” (*The New York Times*)
- “**Rioters also vandalised** a Boss menswear store and the luxury Longchamp handbag store.” (*The Irish Independent*)
- “**Rampaging groups** last weekend **threw** cobblestones through Paris storefronts and **looted** valuables in some of the city’s richest neighborhoods.” (*The Mercury News*)

RESULTS

PROCESS DESCRIPTION: MATERIAL PROCESSES

Liberal newspapers:

- “**The gendarmes fired** tear gas and stinger grenades.” (*The Irish Times*)
- “A group that observes police conduct at gilets jaunes (yellow vest) protests said **officers had attacked** five of their number during the demonstration, **injuring** one of them.” (*The Guardian*)
- “In driving rain, **protesters marched** under umbrellas, **waving** placards reading “Macron, clear off”.” (*The Irish Times*)
- “**Marching** from outside the economy ministry, **protesters calmly carried** French flags with slogans against Macron written on their yellow vests.” (*The Guardian*)

RESULTS

PROCESS DESCRIPTION: VERBAL PROCESSES

Conservative and neutral newspapers:

- ““We need to stop being a country that listens to those who cry the loudest,” **Education Minister Jean-Michel Blanquer told LCI news channel.**” (*The Globe and Mail*)
- “**Two police union officials told** The Associated Press they are worried that radical troublemakers from both the far right and far left will hijack Saturday’s protests.” (*The Mercury News*)

Liberal newspapers:

- ““We’re suffocating with this government who wants to put us on our knees,” **said Annie Moukam, a 58-year-old teacher among the protesters.**” (*The Guardian*)
- “**Laetitia Dewalle, a protester from the Val-d’Oise, said:** “We’re continuing – always in a peaceful spirit.”...she **added:** “This movement itself is not violent. That’s not our way of doing things.”” (*The Guardian*)

RESULTS

MYSTIFICATION: PASSIVE VOICE

Conservative and neutral newspapers:

- “A French yellow vest protester’s hand **has been ripped apart** during violent clashes in Paris as demonstrators tried to storm the French National Assembly during a 13th consecutive week of unrest.” (*The Irish Independent*)
- “...after dozens of Yellow Vest protesters **were injured** by “dispersal grenades” and rubber pellets.” (*The New York Times*)

Liberal newspapers:

- “Some bins and bicycles **were also torched.**” (*The Guardian*)
- “Did he know about the off-licence that **had been looted** near where he was arrested? No.” (*The Guardian*)

RESULTS

MYSTIFICATION: NOMINALIZATION

- “As **scuffles** broke out in front of the National Assembly and French police responded with tear gas, paramedics huddled around the injured protester at the National Assembly gates.” (*The Irish Independent*)
- “**Skirmishes** also broke out between the police and protesters in major cities in western France, including Nantes, Bordeaux and Caen.” (*The New York Times*)
- “**Clashes** also broke out between demonstrators and police near the Porte de Champerret, close to the Arc de Triomphe, as protesters prepared to march across town towards Gare d’Austerlitz.” (*The Irish Times*)

RESULTS

HIDDEN EVALUATION

Conservative and neutral newspapers:

- “French Interior Minister Christophe Castaner blamed **“thugs”** and **“bullies”** on Sunday for the violence that hit demonstrations the previous day marking the first anniversary of the anti-government “yellow vest” protests.” (*The National Post*)
- “Philippe announced new security measures ... aimed at avoiding a repeat of Saturday’s **violence**, in which rioters set **life-threatening** fires, **ransacked** luxury stores and **attacked** police around the Champs-Elysees.” (*The National Post*)
- ““Once again, the republic was **attacked with extreme violence** — its **guardians**, its representatives, its symbols,” Mr. Macron wrote.” (*The New York Times*)

RESULTS

HIDDEN EVALUATION

Liberal newspapers:

- “Lawyers estimate that as many as **17 people have lost an eye because of the police’s use of such weapons** since the start of the street demonstrations, while **at least three have lost their hands** and **others have been left with their face or limbs mutilated.**” (*The Guardian*)
- ““**...It was like a war.** It was our first demonstration. I had no idea the police had weapons that could do that damage.”” (*The Guardian*)
- “She said **using the sting-ball grenades was akin to using military weapons against a civilian population.**” (*The Guardian*)
- “The demonstration, which passed off **peacefully...**” (*The Guardian*)

RESULTS ANALYSIS OF VISUAL IMAGES

Conservative and neutral newspapers:



More than 3,000 came out in Paris, the government said. Credit... Olivier Morin/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images (*The New York Times*)



Thousands of yellow vest protesters took to the streets across France on Saturday for a 15th straight weekend of demonstrations (*Daily Mail*)



A burning bicycle near the Champs-Élysées. Credit... Michel Euler/Associated Press (*The New York Times*)

RESULTS ANALYSIS OF VISUAL IMAGES

Liberal newspapers:



Protester who had been injured by a stun grenade, and others with crosses bearing names of injured people, Bordeaux, September 2019. Photograph: Georges Gobet/AFP/Getty Images (*The Guardian*)



Jérôme Rodrigues, one of the leaders of the gilets jaunes movement, is helped after being injured in the eye during clashes between protesters and police. Photograph: Zakaria Abdelkafi/AFP/Getty Images (*The Guardian*)



Priscillia Ludosky started the movement with her online petition against the rising cost of fuel. Photograph: Eric Fieberberg/AFP/Getty Images (*The Guardian*)

RESULTS

ANALYSIS OF VISUAL IMAGES

Conservative and neutral newspapers:



A protester attacking a shop window near the Champs-Élysées in Paris on Saturday.
Credit... Zakaria Abdelkafi/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images
(*The New York Times*)

Liberal newspapers:



A statue of Marianne, a symbol of France, inside the Arc de Triomphe was damaged by rioters on 1 December. Photograph: Etienne Laurent/EPA (*The Guardian*)

RESULTS ANALYSIS OF VISUAL IMAGES

Conservative and neutral newspapers:



About 89,000 security forces were deployed across the country on Saturday, including 8,000 in Paris, compared with 4,600 a week earlier.
Credit... Benoit Tessier/Reuters
(*The New York Times*)

Liberal newspapers:



A woman remonstrates with riot police during an anti-government yellow-vest demonstration on Saturday in Paris. The yellow-vest (gilets jaunes) protests first erupted last November. Photograph: Zakaria Abdelkafi/AFP/Getty (*The Irish Times*)

RESULTS

ANALYSIS OF VISUAL IMAGES

Liberal newspapers:



Protesters clash with riot police forces near the Opera Garnier in Paris.
Photograph: Zakaria Abdelkafi/AFP/Getty Images (*The Guardian*)

Conservative and neutral newspapers:



Protesters clashing with French riot police officers on the Champs-Élysées on Saturday. Credit... Etienne Laurent/EPA, via Shutterstock
(*The New York Times*)

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