

DAAD Project:
Hochschuldialog mit den Ländern des westlichen Balkans
Ohrid Summer School
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Conflicting Truths in Academic and Journalistic Writing: Forms, Functions and Intentions

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1. Intro

Political Implications

official criteria:

- continuation
- civil societies
- democratic development
- ethnic conflict

- sustainable
- young-blood research
- cross-national coop

project steps:

- workshop
- PhD training conference
- summer school
- publication REAL17

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Hochschuldialog mit den Ländern des westlichen Balkans



Das Programm „Hochschuldialog mit den Ländern des westlichen Balkans“, das aus Mitteln des *Auswärtigen Amtes* (AA) gefördert wird, knüpft an das 2016 beendete Programm „Akademischer Wiederaufbau Südosteuropa“ an. Durch dieses neue Förderprogramm soll ein Beitrag zur Stärkung der Zivilgesellschaften, zur Demokratieentwicklung und zum Abbau ethnischer Konflikte in der Zielregion geleistet werden. Dadurch trägt das Programm auch zur nachhaltigen Entwicklung der akademischen Lehre und Forschung, zur Nachwuchsförderung sowie zur grenzüberschreitenden fachlichen Zusammenarbeit in der Region bei.

Project History after ESSE Torino and ASSE Vlore

year	topic	approach	workshop	summer school
2013	Academic Writing	CL	Skopje	Ohrid
2014	AcWriting P2P	CL	Herzog Novi	Vlore
2017	Journalistic Writing: (De-)Constructing Crises in Europe	CDA	Nis	Ohrid
2018	Credibility, Honesty, Ethics, Politness (CHEP) in Ac+Journalistic Wr.	CDA+CL	Berat	Split
2019	Conflicting truths in Ac+Journalistic Wr.	CDA+CL	Vrsac	Ohrid
2020	From Uncertainty to Confidence and Trust	CDA+CL	?	Vlore?

Publication REAL 17: finding possible relevant topics!!

Research in English and Applied Linguistics
REAL Studies 17

Conflicting Truths in
Academic and
Journalistic Writing

edited by
Josef Schmied &
Jessica Dheskali

Prtljaga, J. (2019). "It must be true - the President says it". Using Epistemic Modals to Constructing Truths in European Political Discourse.

Schmied, J. (2019). Conflicting Truths in Academic and Journalistic Writing: Forms, Functions, and Intentions.

Schmied, J. (2019). [Framing the News in the ARD? The Media Dispute about Guidelines for the German Public Broadcasting Services \(ARD\) in 2019.](#)

Skara, D. (2019). "Radio Yerevan was asked: 'Is it true that the poet Mayakovsky committed suicide', Radio Yerevan answered, 'Yes, and even the record of his very last words is preserved: *Don't shoot, comrades.*'" Constructing truths in Political Jokes.

Toska, B. (2019). [Dare to Hedge and Boost True Opinions about 2019 Albanian Opposition Protests.](#)

2. Concepts

2.1 Wiki summary on "Truths" (from 2018 Project)

What are facts – alternative facts?

5 types of truth? <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Truth> (05/05/17)

- **correspondence theory:** states that the truth or falsity of a statement is determined only by how it relates to the world and whether it accurately describes (i.e., corresponds with) that world.
- **coherence theory:** regards truth as coherence within some specified set of sentences, propositions or beliefs ...
- **discourse theory:** holds that truth is whatever is agreed upon, or in some versions, might come to be agreed upon, by some specified group. Such a group might include all human beings, or a subset thereof consisting of more than one person.
- **constructivist theory:** truth is constructed by social processes, is historically and culturally specific, and that it is in part shaped through the power struggles within a community.
- **pragmatic theory:** truth is verified and confirmed by the results of putting one's concepts into practice ([Charles Sanders Peirce](#), [William James](#), and [John Dewey](#))

cf. scholarly literature (Searl 1995: viii + 8 + 167):

„defending the correspondence conception of truth, the idea that our true statements are typically made true by how things are in the real world that exists independently of the statements.“

“We often speak of judgments as being "subjective" when we mean that their truth or falsity cannot be settled objectively, because the truth or falsity is not a simple matter of fact but depends on certain attitudes, feelings, and points of view of the makers and the hearers of the judgment.“

“Often the same sentence can be used to assert a truth in one conceptual scheme and a falsehood in another conceptual scheme. But this, as we have seen over and over, does not show a genuine inconsistency.“

2.2 A strategic communications consultant on „Truths“

Macdonald, H. (2018). *Truth. How the Many Sides to Every Story Shape Our Reality.*

distinguishes 4 classes of competing truths (2018:19-21) and provides 1 chapter each afterwards:

- 1) Partial truths: the complexity of the world makes this an unavoidable feature in communication, esp. context, numbers, stories!
- 2) Subjective truths: morality, desirability, financial value to alter s.o.'s subjective truths to persuade them to act differently
- 3) Artificial truths: communicators establish new names, changing social constructs for human inventions
- 4) Unknown truths: as long predications cannot be proven to be false, beliefs are for many a form of truth

depending on intentions, he distinguishes (2018:16):

- 1) *Advocates*: selecting competing truths that create a reasonably accurate impression of reality in order to achieve a constructive goal.
- 2) *Misinformers*: innocently propagating competing truths that unintentionally distort reality.
- 3) *Misleaders*: deliberately deploying competing truths to create an impression of reality that they know is not true.

2.3 Language Approaches to „Truths“

“Truth” in Oxford English Dictionary (OED) on line (19/05/20)

<https://www.oed.com>

12? distinct senses:

- 1) Loyalty, faithfulness, etc. (4 senses, some obsolete!)
- 2) Something that conforms with fact or reality.” (5 senses, a few obsolete!)
- 3) Conformity with fact, reality, a standard, a pattern, etc. (3 senses, 1 obsolete?).
- [4) Technical senses.]

many phrases:

1) With a Preposition:

2009 *D. Nicholls One Day (2010) i. 11* In **truth** he had never really seen the point of cuddling.

2) In various proverbs and proverbial phrases:

1823 *Byron Don Juan: Canto XIV ci. 165* **Truth** is always strange; Stranger than fiction.

1939 *Washington Post 19 Jan. 9/2* It has been well said that **truth** is the first casualty of war.

3) In idiomatic phrases:

1988 *Mother Jones July 14/3* The **truth** is, nobody really knows why ratings go up or down.

1905 *W. Osler in Med. News 30 Sept. 625/1* No human being is constituted to know **the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth**; and even the best of men must be content with fragments, with partial glimpses, never the full fruition.

"Truth" in WordNet (19/05/20)

<http://wordnet-online.freedicts.com/truth> (19/05/20)

3-4 distinct senses: 1) "verified fact" (correspondence theory?),
 2) "actuality" (NOT "falsity", "falseness"; coherence theory?),
 3) "true statement" (NOT "falsehood", "untrue"; abstract ("fidelity", +value?).

Noun truth has 5 senses

1. **truth** - a fact that has been verified; "at last he knew the truth"; "the truth is the he didn't want to do it"
--1 is a kind of **fact**
--1 has particulars: **home truth**; **verity**
2. **truth**, **the true**, **verity** - conformity to reality or actuality; "they debated the truth of the proposition"; "the situation brought home to us the blunt truth of the military threat"; "he was famous for the truth of his portraits"; "he turned to religion in his search for eternal verities"
--2 is a kind of **actuality**
Antonyms: **falsity**, **falseness**
3. **truth**, **true statement** - a true statement; "he told the truth"; "he thought of answering with the truth but he knew they wouldn't believe it"
--3 is a kind of **statement**
Antonyms: **falsehood**, **falsity**, **untruth**, **false statement**
--3 has particulars: **gospel**, **gospel truth**; **tautology**; **truism**
4. **accuracy**, **truth** - the quality of nearness to the truth or the true value; "he was beginning to doubt the accuracy of his compass"; "the lawyer questioned the truth of my account"
--4 is a kind of **quality**
--4 has particulars: **exactness**, **exactitude**; **fidelity**
5. **Truth**, **Sojourner Truth** - United States abolitionist and feminist who was freed from slavery and became a leading advocate of the abolition of slavery and for the rights of women (1797-1883)
--5 is a kind of **abolitionist**, **emancipationist**; **feminist**, **women's rightist**, **women's liberationist**, **libber**

“Truth” in the Online (19/05/20)
Oxford Collocation Dictionary
<http://www.freecollocation.com/>

clearly 2 senses:

- 1) “value?”
(correspondence theory?),
- 2) “fact”
(coherence theory?)

truth *noun*

¹ *what is true*

ADJ absolute, gospel (*informal*), honest (*informal*), real *She takes everything she reads in the paper as gospel truth.* | full, whole *It still doesn't make sense to me? I don't think he's told us the whole truth.* | exact, literal | naked, plain, simple *The simple truth is he's lost his job.* | underlying | awful, bitter, cruel, dreadful, hard, harsh, horrible, horrid, painful, sad, shocking, terrible, unpalatable, unpleasant, unwelcome *the shocking truth about heroin addiction among the young* *The sad truth is he never loved her.* | objective | empirical, historical, moral, poetic, psychological, religious, scientific, spiritual *It's a good film but contains little historical truth.* | divine

QUANT element, grain *There may have been a grain of truth in what he said.*

VERB + TRUTH know *So now you know the truth. If the truth be known, I was afraid to tell anyone.* | admit, speak, tell (sb) *He was reminded of his duty to speak the truth when questioned in court. I'm sure she's telling the truth. To tell you the truth, I'm rather dreading his return.* |

establish, discover, find out, get at, learn, reveal, uncover *She was determined to discover the truth about her neighbours. The journalist protested that he was only trying to get at the truth.* | guess | accept, acknowledge, face (up to) | doubt *The police doubt the truth of his statement.* |

conceal, cover up, hide, suppress *You've been hiding the truth from me!*

TRUTH + VERB be, lie *We are examining the matter to see where the truth lies.* | come out, emerge *Towards the end of the letter the cruel truth emerged.* | dawn on sb *The awful truth suddenly dawned on her.*

PREP in ~ *She laughed and chatted but was, in truth (= in fact), not having much fun.* | ~ about *finding out the truth about her husband* | ~ behind *What's the truth behind all the gossip?* | ~ in *There is no truth in the rumour.*

PHRASES be economical with the truth (= not to tell the whole truth), nothing could be further from the truth *I know you think she's mean, but nothing could be further from the truth.* | the quest/search for (the) truth, a ring of truth *His explanation has a ring of truth to it.* | a seeker after truth (*literary*) *seekers after divine truth* | the truth of the matter *The truth of the matter is we can't afford to keep all the staff on.* | the truth will out (*saying*) (= People will find out the true facts of a situation even if you try to keep them secret.)

² *fact that is true*

ADJ basic, central, common, essential, eternal, fundamental, general, great, important, profound, simple, ultimate, universal *in search of the eternal truths of life* | ancient | obvious, self-evident, undeniable *We hold these truths to be self-evident ...* | underlying | half, partial *His evidence was a blend of smears, half truths and downright lies.* | harsh, home, painful, unpalatable, unpleasant, unwelcome *It's time we told him a few home truths about sharing a house.* | necessary | moral, philosophical, scientific, spiritual | divine

VERB + TRUTH establish, reveal, uncover | tell sb | accept, acknowledge, face up to

PREP ~ about *She was forced to face up to a few unwelcome truths about her family.*

“Truth” in online bilingual database *Linguee*

<https://www.linguee.com/english-german/translation/truth.html> (19/05/20)

German wider?

2 senses:

1) “reality”
(correspondence theory?),

2) “fact” (coherence theory?),

+special cases!

Linguee English ↔ German

truth

Dictionary English-German

truth *noun* (plural: truths)

Wahrheit *f* (almost always used) (plural: Wahrheiten)

You should always tell the truth.
Ich habe die Wahrheit der Aussage bestätigt.

I attested to the truth of the statement.
Ich möchte dich nicht täuschen, also werde ich dir die Wahrheit sagen.

I do not want to deceive you so I will tell you the truth.

Tatsache *f*

The scientist's theory is now accepted as the truth.
Die Theorie des Wissenschaftlers ist heute als Tatsache akzeptiert.

less common:

Wahrhaftigkeit *f*

Examples:

in truth *adv* - wahrhaftig *adv* - eigentlich *adv* - in der Tat *adv*

statement of truth *n* - wahrheitsgetreue Aussage *f*

tell the truth *v* - die Wahrheit sagen *v*

© Linguee Dictionary, 2019

Wikipedia

Truth: Truth is most often used to mean being in accord with fact or reality, or fidelity to an original or to a standard or ideal. en.wikipedia.org

Wahrheit: Dem Begriff Wahrheit werden verschiedene Bedeutungen zugeschrieben, wie Übereinstimmung mit der Wirklichkeit, einer Tatsache oder einem Sachverhalt, aber auch einer Absicht oder einem bestimmten Sinn bzw. einer normativ als richtig ausgezeichneten Auffassung („Truism“ oder Gemeinplatz) oder den eigenen Erkenntnissen, Erfahrungen und Überzeugungen (auch „Wahrhaftigkeit“). de.wikipedia.org

Oxford ALD
definitions of "Truth"
(similar Longman, Collins, Cambridge ALD)

3 senses:

- 1) **singular!** "reality" (correspondence theory?),
- 2) **uncountable!** "fact" (coherence theory?),
- 3) **countable!** "fact believed to be true"

Longman ALD: similarly, but "important idea" (usually plural!)

BrE /tru:θ/ ; NAmE /tru:θ/

(pl. truths BrE /tru:ðz/ ; NAmE /tru:ðz/

Add to my wordlist

1 **the truth** [singular] the true facts about something, rather than the things that have been invented or guessed

- Do you think she's **telling the truth**?
- We are determined to get at (= discover) **the truth**.
- **The truth (of the matter) is** we can't afford to keep all the staff on.
- I don't think you are telling me **the whole truth** about what happened.
- The awful truth about his disappearance finally dawned on her.
- It's the **gospel truth!** (= completely true)
- The sad truth is that, at 72, he is past his prime.

Oxford Collocations Dictionary

2 [uncountable] the quality or state of being based on fact

- There is no truth in the rumours.
- There is not **a grain of truth** in what she says.
- His version of events does contain an element of truth.

→ OPPOSITE **FALSITY**

→ SEE ALSO **POST-TRUTH**

Oxford Collocations Dictionary

3 [countable] a fact that is believed by most people to be true

- **universal truths**
- She was forced to face up to a few **unwelcome truths** about her family.

→ COMPARE **UNTRUTH**

→ SEE ALSO **HALF-TRUTH, HOME TRUTH**

Working definitions of “Truth”

3 senses??:

- 1) in correspondence theory of truth?: “the state of being a truthful, accurate, actual reflection of reality”
- 2) in coherence theory? “a fact that fits into the general picture of world perception”
- 3) in discourse theory of truth?: “belief that is not contradicted or taken for granted by the community”

3. Forms of conflicting truths

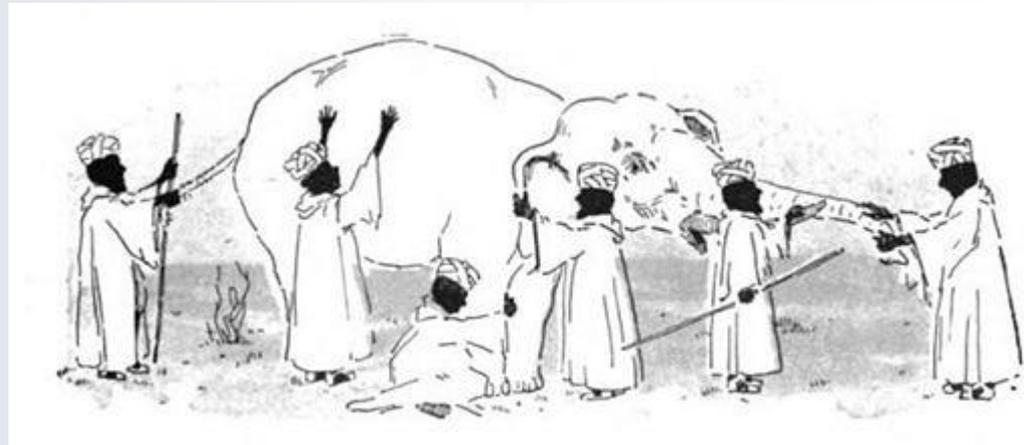
3.1 Images

A group of blind men heard that a strange animal, called an elephant, had been brought to the town, but none of them were aware of its shape and form. Out of curiosity, they said: "We must inspect and know it by touch, of which we are capable". So, they sought it out, and when they found it they groped about it. In the case of the first person, whose hand landed on the trunk, said "This being is like a thick snake". For another one whose hand reached its ear, it seemed like a kind of fan. As for another person, whose hand was upon its leg, said, the elephant is a pillar like a tree-trunk. The blind man who placed his hand upon its side said the elephant, "is a wall". Another who felt its tail, described it as a rope. The last felt its tusk, stating the elephant is that which is hard, smooth and like a spear.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blind_men_and_an_elephant (19/04/16)

"The Blind Men and the Elephant" by John Godfrey Saxe (1816–1887):

And so these men of Indostan
Disputed loud and long,
Each in his own opinion
Exceeding stiff and strong,
Though each was partly in the right
And all were in the wrong!



3.2 Narratives

Wind the clock back a few years and imagine you've never heard of quinoa. You find it on a shelf in your local store and ask the nearest assistant about it.

He tells you one true thing about the bag of seeds in your hand. It could be:

Quinoa is really nutritious, high in protein, fibre and minerals, and low in fat.

Or:

Buying quinoa improves the incomes of poor farmers in South America.

Or:

Buying quinoa makes it more expensive for Bolivians and Peruvians to eat their traditional food.

Or:

Quinoa farming is having a serious environmental impact on the Andes.

Macdonald (2018: 10)

3.3 Figures/statistics

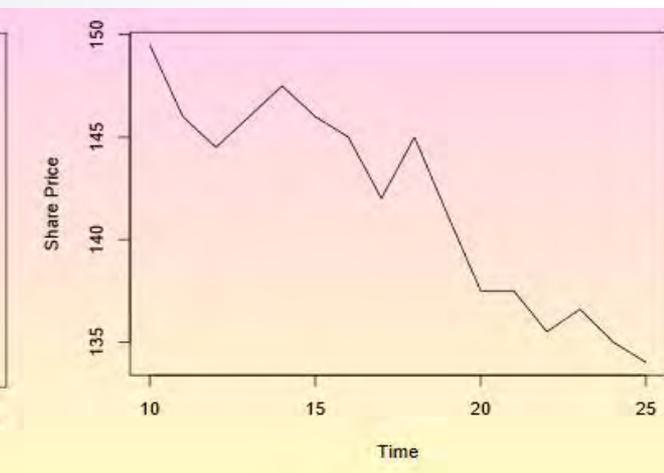
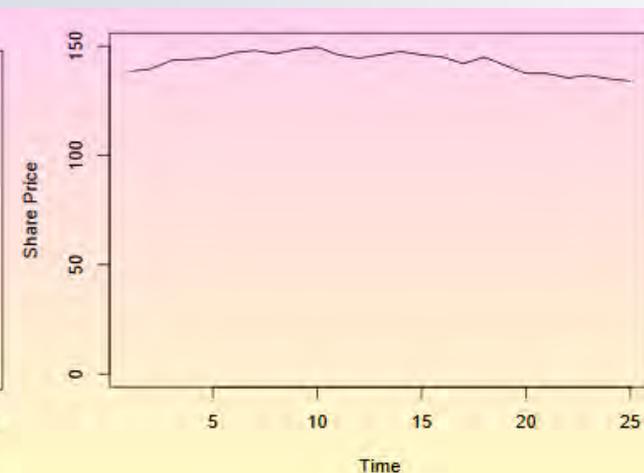
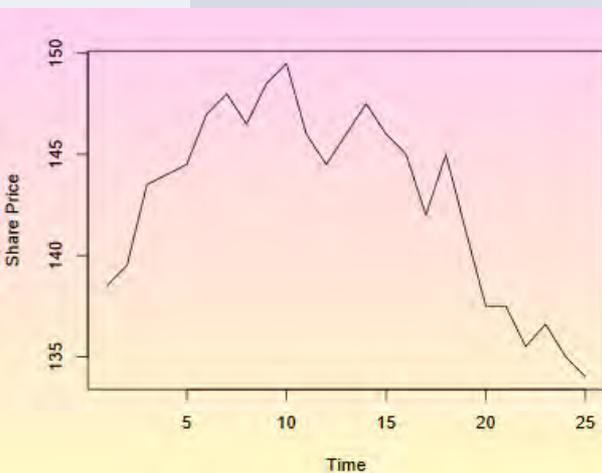
Mark Twain, 1907: "Figures often beguile me, particularly when I have the arranging of them myself", and he attributes the most famous quote to Disraeli: 'There are three kinds of lies: lies, damned lies and statistics'., but it cannot be found in Disraeli, so "it is often erroneously attributed to Twain himself".

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lies,_damned_lies,_and_statistics (19/05/14)

On problematic statistics there are numerous guidelines: <https://www.statisticsonewrong.com/>

Web collections: <https://www.logicallyfallacious.com/tools/lp/Bo/LogicalFallacies/122/Lying-with-Statistics>

and illustrations: <http://www.mas.ncl.ac.uk/~nmf16/teaching/mas8391/lie.pdf>



3.3 Figures/statistics

arithmetic mean instead of median?

https://www.der-paritaetische.de/fileadmin/user_upload/Schwerpunkte/Arbeitsbericht/doc/2018_arbeitsbericht.pdf

(19/04/15)

Average income is not the average common income calculated by adding all household incomes and dividing the sum by the number of households (arithmetic mean). Instead, the so-called median, the mean value, is calculated: All households are ranked according to their income, with the household income in the middle of the row representing the mean. The difference between the arithmetic mean and the median can be very large. For example, if five households each have an income of 700 euro, 1,300 euro, 1,900 euro, 6,500 euro and 9,000 euro, they have on average $(700 + 1,300 + 1,900 + 6,500 + 9,000) : 5 = 3,880$ euro. The median value, however, would be 1,900 euros. The poverty threshold calculated with the median and the resulting poverty rates are very "stable": households in the upper range can become richer and richer. As long as the household in the middle of the ranking has no increase in income, this has no influence on the poverty thresholds.

Fn 16 Empirically, the median income is regularly below the average (cf. Markus Grabka / Jan Goebel (2018): Einkommensverteilung in Deutschland: Realeinkommen seit 1991 gestiegen, aber mehr Menschen beziehen Niedrigeinkommen, in: DIW Wochenbericht 21, p. 451). An orientation towards average income would be perfectly appropriate. This approach would noticeably raise the poverty threshold - and thus also the number of households below it. Here too, however, parity follows the established convention: poverty is underestimated rather than overestimated by this approach. Translated with www.DeepL.com/Translator (13/05/19)

Arbeitsbericht 2018, p.7

4. Functions

4.1 Competing truths through “Mediatization” and “Proximization”

Kopytowska (2015: 6):
this process of construction of mediated experience, and thus of mediated social reality, is contingent upon journalistic/media manipulation of distance in several different dimensions.

Kopytowska (2015: 11f):
If we understand epistemic proximization as an attempt to reduce the cognitive effort of the audience in their interpretation process, the discursive reproduction of ideologies and related hegemonic worldview turns out to be the result of not only the conscious and manipulatory endeavours of political elites, but also of professionally-motivated choices. Such an approach sheds a different light on the notion of ideology itself, placing greater emphasis on its “professional” dimension (related to journalistic ethics/culture and news/media discourse as a process ...).
(cf. Cap 2008)

Kopytowska (2015: 8)

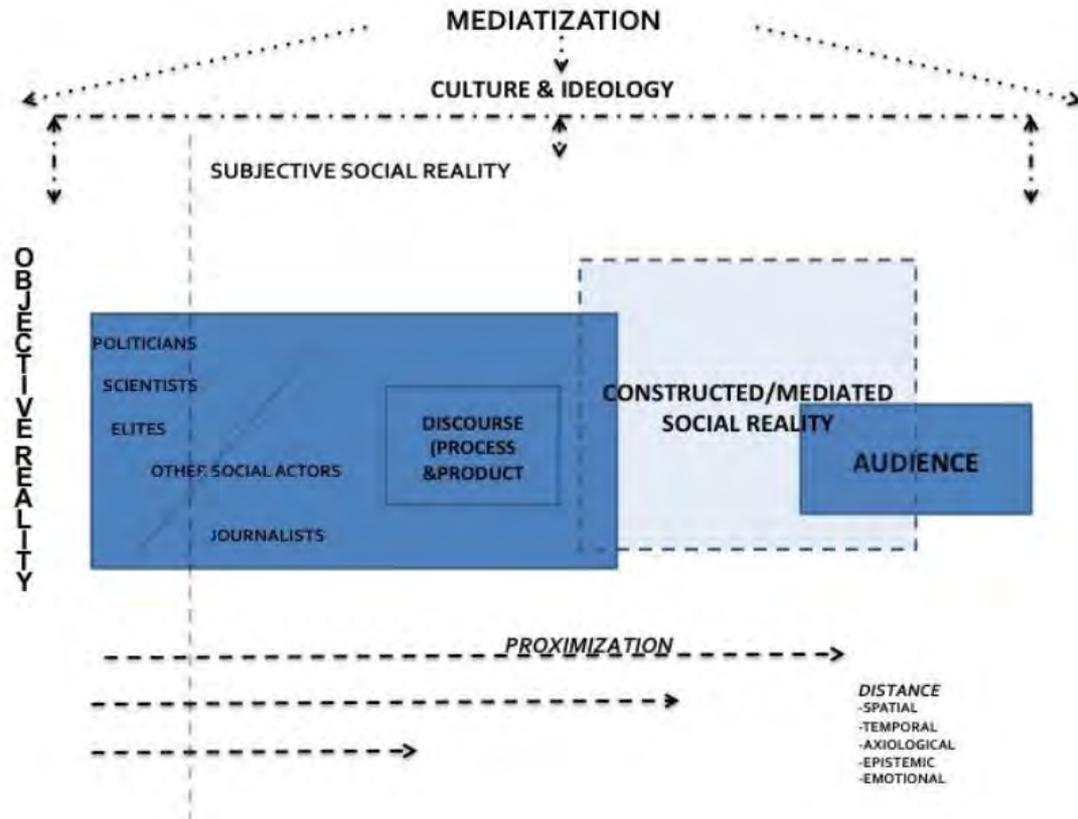


Fig. 1: Proximization process and mediated social reality

4.2 Competing Perspectives: ?Framing

conscious setting of interpretation perspective

e.g. mdr Framing-Manual and training Elizabeth Wehling

- “Berkley Institute”
- n years of research experience (since beginning of MA or PhD?)
- credibility through publication as co-author with a famous professor

Tversky & Kahneman (1981) or

the international bestseller Kahneman (2011):

“Framing is the context in which choices are presented.

Experiment: subjects were asked whether they would opt for surgery if the "survival" rate is 90 percent, while others were told that the mortality rate is 10 percent. The first framing increased acceptance, even though the situation was no different.”

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thinking,_Fast_and_Slow

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Framing_\(social_sciences\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Framing_(social_sciences))

(19/05/21)



BERKELEY INTERNATIONAL
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FRAMING-MANUAL

Unser gemeinsamer, freier Rundfunk ARD

4.2 Competing Perspectives: Concrete Recommendations?

Theoretical linguistic value elementary?

Sprache ist das wirkvollste Instrument für die Mobilisierung von Mitbürgern, aufgrund einer einfachen Wahrheit: Sprache aktiviert Frames.

Language is the most effective instrument for mobilizing fellow citizens, based on a simple truth: language activates frames.

Practical linguistic value minimal?

- ❖ **Gemeinsamer Rundfunk statt Informationsanarchien**
- **Joint? broadcasting instead of information anarchy?**

- ❖ **Demokratie statt rechenschaftsfreier Echokammern**
- **Democracy instead of unaccountable echo chambers**

Beispielhafte linguistische Umsetzungen der moralischen Framings 1-4 in kurzen Sätzen und Slogans

Kontrollierte Demokratie statt jeder wie er will.

Das Recht auf freie Information überlebt sich nicht.

Das Gute sehen.

Gutes sehen statt Brot und Spiele fürs Volk.

Exzellenz statt Umsatz.

Exzellenz statt Profitfixierung.

Demokratie statt Umsatz.

5. Intentions

5.1 unintentional? – irrelevant!

innocent? - insufficient knowledge? - careless journalism?

<https://www.spiegel.de/wirtschaft/service/brexit-und-gelbwesten-demokratie-braucht-eine-solide-faktenbasis-a-1259144-druck.html>

Falsche Wahrheiten – False/Wrong Truths [Untruths] 24. März 2019, 07:48 Uhr

The Brexit disaster and the yellow vest movement show Democracy needs a solid factual basis to make sensible decisions. If faith in the truth crumbles, disaster threatens.

What is true? Actually a simple question. But it is no longer so easy to answer. More than half of German citizens believe that they frequently come into contact with reports that are false or at least reflect reality in a falsified way. After all, one third say it is difficult for them to recognise such reports. Germany is even still in quite a good position. In other European countries the confusion is greater. In France, for example, more than 80 percent of citizens believe they are frequently confronted with false reports. In the UK, the proportion is 75 percent, according to the latest Eurobarometer survey. Quite serious findings. When the sense of truth is lost, societies become unable to act. Two current developments obviously have something to do with the loss of the common fact base: the hanging game around the Brexit and the protests of the yellow vests in France. It is not even so important whether reports are actually wrong - or whether citizens merely suspect they are being presented with untruths. Much falls into this category: malicious fake news, launched by propagandists, activists or secret services and distributed via social networks, as well as serious press reports whose truthfulness is wrongly questioned by users. In any case, the result is uncertainty - with destructive side effects.

Translated with www.DeepL.com/Translator (16/05/19)

5. Intentions

5.1 unintentional? – irrelevant!

<https://www.spiegel.de/wirtschaft/service/brexit-und-gelbwesten-demokratie-braucht-eine-solide-faktenbasis-a-1259144-druck.html>

Falsche Wahrheiten – False/Wrong Truths (cont.)

Feeling Fake News

The phenomenon of yellow vests in France also results from a fundamental distrust. It is an uprising by sections of the population who feel detached and have nothing but cynicism for the ruling system. President Emmanuel Macron has made an effort with his great "national debate", taking a lot of time, listening and arguing. But the hardcore demonstrators don't get caught. They want to overthrow the system - because it seems wrong and untrustworthy to them.

This shows a fundamental tendency. In countries such as France and the UK, where there is a high prevalence of actual or perceived fake news, citizens tend to have little confidence in politics and the public authorities as a whole.

On average, only 31 percent of the French and 32 percent of the British trust the respective political institutions - significantly less than the citizens of Germany (54 percent) and other northern European countries. A similar gap can be seen in trust in the media.

One pattern becomes apparent: where political and media institutions enjoy little trust, there is also distrust of the truth. Where does this connection come from? Who is to blame?

Translated with www.DeepL.com/Translator (16/05/19)

5.2 Fake: propaganda or embellishment?

Fake is the new standard collocate with news since Trump

<https://www.spiegel.de/kultur/gesellschaft/leserbriefe-zum-fall-claas-relotius-a-1245713.html> Freitag, 28.12.2018 18:03 Uhr

"Well written. At the expense of truth" Letters to the editor on the Relotius case

The current "SPIEGEL affair" is all the worse as it will be a great food for those who are constantly spreading slogans of "lying press" and "fake news".

Joachim Kasten, Hamburg

I also enjoyed reading Mr. Relotius' texts. They were and are very well written. At the expense of the truth, as we now know. You must and will improve the controls. But there can and will never be one hundred per cent control of people, and I do not think anyone can want that either. Transparency and self-criticism are important. That is what you are doing. And you do it in your usual professional way, well-written as well. Why not?

Sabine Lagies, Pleystein (Bavaria)

With its premature public reappraisal of the "falsified stories" and "fraudulent works" of a "criminal individual perpetrator", the Spiegel apparently wants to artificially enhance its own significance in times of the increasing decline of the seemingly obsolete print media in view of the overwhelming digitalization and diverse Internet offerings.

Dr. David Perteck, Hamburg

Translated with www.DeepL.com/Translator (16/05/19)

5.2 Fake: what we would like to hear – and find persuasive, well written

<https://www.spiegel.de/kultur/gesellschaft/fall-claas-relotius-versuch-einer-aufarbeitung-in-fergus-falls-a-1245694.html> Freitag, 28.12.2018 18:03 Uhr

Case Relotius The Fake City

Former SPIEGEL employee Claas Relotius invented a report about the US small town of Fergus Falls in Minnesota. Attempt at a reappraisal.

The text by Claas Relotius, published at the end of March last year, is entitled "In a small town". Last Wednesday, the SPIEGEL editor-in-chief revealed that this and probably most other texts by Relotius contain forgeries, if not completely invented. (You can read more about this here.) He came up with names, people, scenes, he put together a completely new reality, also in Fergus Falls in Minnesota, "typical of rural America", as the subline of his report says.

Translated with www.DeepL.com/Translator (16/05/19)

5.3 Knowing the Truth: Illusion of Explanatory Truth? (cf. Sloman/Fernbach 2017)

To arrive at the edge of the world's knowledge, seek out the most complex and sophisticated minds, put them in a room together, and have them ask each other the questions they are asking themselves.



Fri, May 17, 2019

CONVERSATIONS

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2018 : WHAT IS THE LAST QUESTION?

2017 : WHAT SCIENTIFIC TERM OR CONCEPT OUGHT TO BE MORE WIDELY KNOWN?

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Adam Waytz

Psychologist; Associate Professor of Management and Organizations, Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University; Author, The Power of Human

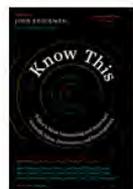
The Illusion of Explanatory Depth

If you asked one hundred people on the street if they understand how a refrigerator works, most would respond, yes, they do. But ask them to then produce a detailed, step-by-step explanation of how exactly a refrigerator works and you would likely hear silence or stammering. This powerful but inaccurate feeling of knowing is what Leonid Rozenblit and Frank Keil in 2002 termed, *the illusion of explanatory depth* (IOED), stating, "Most people feel they understand the world with far greater detail, coherence, and depth than they really do."

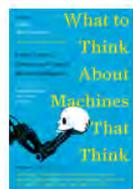
Rozenblit and Keil initially demonstrated the IOED through multi-phase studies. In a first phase, they asked participants to rate how well they understood artifacts such as a sewing machine, crossbow, or cell phone. In a second phase, they asked participants to write a detailed explanation of how each artifact works, and afterwards asked them re-rate how well they understand each one. Study after study showed that ratings of self-knowledge dropped dramatically from phase one to phase two, after participants were faced with their inability to explain how the artifact in question operates. Of course, the IOED extends well beyond artifacts, to how we think about scientific fields, mental illnesses, economic markets and virtually anything we are capable of (mis)understanding.



2017 : WHAT SCIENTIFIC TERM OR CONCEPT OUGHT TO BE MORE WIDELY KNOWN?



2016 : WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER THE MOST INTERESTING RECENT [SCIENTIFIC] NEWS? WHAT MAKES IT IMPORTANT?



2015 : WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT MACHINES THAT THINK?



2014 : WHAT SCIENTIFIC IDEA IS READY FOR RETIREMENT?

5.4 Intentionality

1) OED s.v.

"The quality or fact of being intentional."

e.g. a1834 S. T. Coleridge *Literary Remains* (1836) II. 180 Observe the consciousness and the intentionality of his wit.

2) Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy s.v. <https://seop.illc.uva.nl/entries/intentionality/> (19/05/21)

"in its philosophical usage, the meaning of the word 'intentionality' should not be confused with the ordinary meaning of the word 'intention.'"

3) Searl (1983: 1 + 3):

"Intentionality is that property of many mental states and events by which they are directed at or about or of objects and states of affairs in the world. If, for example, I have a belief, it must be a belief that such and such is the case; if I have a fear, it must be a fear of something or that something will occur; if I have a desire, it must be a desire to do something or that something should happen or be the case; if I have an intention, it must be an intention to do something."

"The obvious pun on "Intentionality" and "intention" suggests that intentions in the ordinary sense have some special role in the theory of Intentionality; but on my account intending to do something is just one form of Intentionality along with belief, hope, fear, desire, and lots of others; and I do not mean to suggest that because, for example, beliefs are Intentional they somehow contain the notion of intention or they intend something or someone who has a belief must thereby intend to do something about it. ... In order to keep this distinction completely clear I will capitalize the technical sense of "Intentional" and "Intentionality". Intentionality is directedness; intending to do something is just one kind of Intentionality among others.

Related to the pun on "intentional" and "Intentional" are some other common confusions. Some authors describe beliefs, fears, hopes, and desires as "mental acts", but this is at best false and at worst hopelessly confused. Drinking beer and writing books can be described as acts or actions or even activities, and doing arithmetic in your head or forming mental images of the Golden Gate Bridge are mental acts; but believing, hoping, fearing, and desiring are not acts nor mental acts at all. ... mental states and events".

5.5 Types of (des-)Information based on Intention (Brodnig 2017: 31-36)

- 1) Satire/Parody: no wrong intentions, but possibly misunderstood, misleading
- 2) wrong relations in headlines, images, etc. do not fit the content
- 3) misleading content used to mislead
- 4) wrong relations in authentic contexts
- 5) wrong content with sources that only pretend to be authentic
- 6) reworked content with authentic elements aiming to deceive
- 7) invented content mainly constructed to deceive

5.5 Example (Die Zeit 29/2019: 11.07.19)

„Every seventh German is too poor to afford a one-week holiday“.

German media broadcasted it, LINKE politicians argued:

low wages and pensions + Hartz-IV stigmatises and restricts “social participation”

Data from a serious source (self-assessment)

EUROSTAT (in Luxemburg) has been asking 200.000 citizens since 2005:

“Inability to afford to pay for one-week annual holiday away from home”

raises 3 questions/issues:

- 1) How much money do we need for our annual holiday?
a week on a yacht around Greek Islands or
in a B&B on Usedom or
a chalupa in the Czech countryside?
 - 2) Germany in comparison with other EU countries?
if you take all 4 “deprivation” questions, only 3.4% has problems, EU 14%
 - 3) 2019 in comparison with previous years?
2005 it was 24% in Germany, 2012 only 20%, 2018 only 14.5%
- wrong emphasis in media and wrong conclusions by politicians

6. Conclusion

6.1 Definitions of “truth” (based on grammatical features in CoBUILD!)

truth1 = an ideal, quality (abstract, non-count, +*the*) of being true, genuine, actual, or factual

CoBUILD1: “N SING : the+N all the facts about a situation, even, or person, rather than things that are imagined or invented”

examples: She takes everything she reads in the paper as gospel truth.

When you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth. (Sir Arthur Conan Doyle)

truth2 = a reality item, fact (non-count) = a proven or verified principle or statement

CoBUILD2: “N uncount = truthfulness If you say that a statement or story contains truth, you mean that it is (partly) true”

examples: The journalist protested that he was only trying to get at the truth.

There may have been a grain of truth in what he said.

The sad truth is he never loved her.

truth3a = a true statement or proposition (count)

CoBUILD3: “N count ≠ falsehood A truth is a fact, idea, or principle that is generally accepted to be true.

examples: Mr. Esmond ... told a truth, which was nevertheless an entire falsehood. (Thackeray)

He shouted and threw the first thing he could lay hands on, and spoke outright some scalding and awful truths. (K.A. Porter)

truth3b = concepts (count, usu. plural) representing important, systematic aspects of the world
not distinguished from truth3a in CoBUILD

examples: We hold these truths to be self-evident ... (US Constitution)

They would be instructed in the deeper truths of Christianity only after the initiation of baptism. (K. Armstrong)

6.2 Synonyms and Antonyms

can be used as a test for which sense?

synonym

antonym

truth1:

truthfulness

falsity, falseness

truth2:

fact(s)?

untruth, falsity

truth3a:

fact [actuality, certainty]

lie (verbal), fake (general)

truth3b:

concepts

fake

6.4 Truth – certainty – confidence - trust

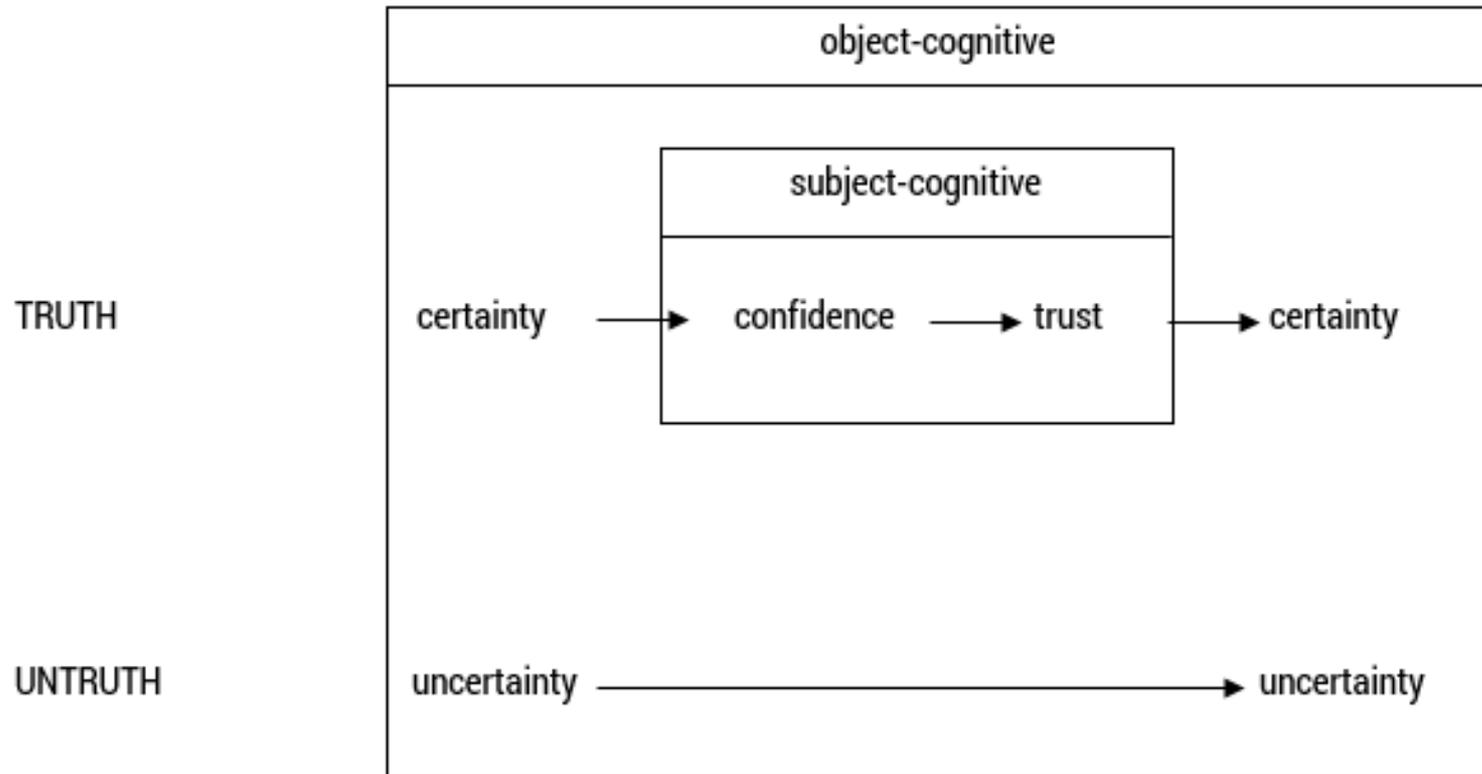


Fig. 2: From certainty to confidence to trust

6.5 The concept of Truth Humanities (Lilienthal/Nevala 2017:46)

Der Medienwissenschaftler Bernhardt Pörksen hat in einem Interview gesagt: „**Geistes-** und Kulturwissenschaftler haben viel zu fahrlässig den Begriff der Wahrheit in einer erkenntnistheoretischen Debatte aufgelöst und die Vorstellung verbreitet, alles und jedes sei nur ein Konstrukt. Das war, wie man heute sagen muss, eine postmoderne Idiotie. Nun müssen wir anerkennen: Das antiautoritäre und irgendwann ins Beliebige driftende Spiel mit den vielen Wirklichkeiten, das gerade noch so wahnsinnig schick erschien, ist nichts für ernste Zeiten und den Eskalationsfall global zirkulierender Gerüchte. Wir brauchen den Begriff der Wahrheit im öffentlichen Diskurs.“

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<https://www.tu-chemnitz.de/phil/english/sections/ling/News4SEE2018.php>