

A CRITICAL EVALUATION OF JOURNALISM PRACTICES: “SOMA DISASTER” NEWS

Fatma Gürses

Asst. Prof. Dr. Kastamonu University, TURKEY, fatosgurses@gmail.com

Abstract

As a continuously changing and developing professional area with the advances in technology, journalism has always been the center of the debate on ethics. Serge Halimi, known as a successor of Noam Chomsky, claims that journalists are the gatekeepers of capitalism in political and economic terms. This approach is quite correct and requires the analysis of journalism practices from the perspective of ethical discussions. These practices are built in the rhetoric of journalists. The images portrayed by a journalist about certain incidents (fictions) transforms the so-called news report into a form of information. In fact, the structure of the news is constructed as an ideological discourse and it is taken out of life and turns into a visual image beheld by those on the outside of it. Journalism presents news to the masses as a stamping ground of capitalism through a standardized language and discourse.

In this context, this study is an observation of the discourse and journalism practices on the newspapers that represented the incident that occurred on May 13, 2014 in Soma district of Manisa province and that was titled as “Soma Disaster” in the press and is critical of the journalism practices in discourse level. The main target of this study is to reach the critical analyses of the journalists and journalism practices in these forms of discourse construction within the “ethical” framework. In this context, the study consists of two chapters. In the first chapter, the forms of discourse and power relations in the framework of journalism practices were discussed. In the second chapter, the background of the news and the newspaper clippings covered in the national media from May 13 until June 6, 2014, when it dropped off the agenda were examined with the textual analysis method. The findings were evaluated in the context of journalism practices and news discourse.

Keywords: Soma Disaster, News, Journalism, Discourse, Power, Ideology.