

**SOCIO-SEMIOTIC ANALYSIS OF CARTOONS IN SELECTED
NEWSPAPERS: A STUDY OF 2023 FUEL SUBSIDY REMOVAL IN
NIGERIA**

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JULY, 2024

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BY

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**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF
POSTGRADUATE STUDIES IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE
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GENERAL STUDIES, COLLEGE OF LEADERSHIP AND
DEVELOPMENT STUDIES, COVENANT UNIVERSITY, OTA, OGUN
STATE, NIGERIA**

JULY, 2024

ACCEPTANCE

This is to attest that this research work is accepted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of the degree of Master of Arts (M.A.) in English (Language) in the Department of Languages and General Studies, College of Leadership and Development Studies, Covenant University, Ota, Nigeria.

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Prof. Akan B. Williams
(Dean, School of Postgraduate Studies)

Signature and Date

DECLARATION

I, ONOGBEYE VERA IRUOGHENE (16BC020348) declare that this research was carried out by me under the supervision of Dr. Lily Chimuanya of the Department of Languages and General Studies, College of Leadership and General Studies, Covenant University, Ota, Nigeria. I attest that this dissertation has not been presented either wholly or partially for the award of any degree elsewhere. All sources of data and scholarly information used in this dissertation are duly acknowledged.

ONOGBEYE, VERA IRUOGHENE

Signature and Date

CERTIFICATION

We certify that this project titled **“SOCIO-SEMIOTIC ANALYSIS OF CARTOONS IN SELECTED NEWSPAPERS: A STUDY OF 2023 FUEL SUBSIDY REMOVAL IN NIGERIA”** is an original research work carried out by **ONOGBEYE, VERA IRUOGHENE (16BC020348)** in the Department of Languages and General Studies, College of Leadership and General Studies, Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria under the supervision of Dr. Lily Chimuanya . We have examined and found this work acceptable as part of the requirements for the award of the degree of Master of Arts in English (Language).

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DEDICATION

I would like to dedicate this research to the Almighty God for His grace and the wisdom and assistance to follow through with this program.

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ABSTRACT

Editorial cartoons, also regarded as political cartoons, are a potent form of visual communication, often used to comment on and critique socio-political issues. In the context of Nigeria, the 2023 fuel subsidy removal has sparked significant public discourse and media coverage. This study focuses on the socio-semiotic analysis of cartoons in selected Nigerian newspapers, aiming to explore how these visual narratives reflect and critique the socio-political issues surrounding the fuel subsidy removal. This study conducts a socio-semiotic analysis of political cartoons from selected Nigerian newspapers on the 2023 fuel subsidy removal. Employing a descriptive research design with both quantitative and qualitative methods, it analyzes 30 cartoons from six major newspapers between May 2023 and January 2024. Using a socio-semiotic framework, the study examines how cartoons employ iconic, symbolic, and indexical signs to critique government policies. It identifies cohesive devices that enhance narrative coherence and illuminate societal perspectives on corruption, economic hardship, and public disillusionment. This research contributes insights into the socio-political impact of editorial cartoons in Nigerian public discourse.

Key words: Political cartoons Socio-semiotic analysis Nigerian newspaper Fuel subsidy Socio-semiotic approach to multimodality