

**Assessment of the Guardian Newspaper Reportage of Coronavirus between February
2020 and January 2021**

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Certification

This is to certify that this study was conducted under my supervision by Ezinne Precious Idih (LCU/PG/001243) for the award of Master of Science Degree (M.Sc.) in Mass Communication and Media Technology, Faculty of Communication and Information Science, Lead City University, Ibadan, Nigeria and that this work has not been previously submitted.

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Date

Dedication

This project is dedicated to Almighty God, my ever-supportive husband, and lovely children.

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Abstract

The concerns brought about by the outbreak of Covid-19 all over the world in the year 2020 was so dramatic as it was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organisation. The need to look into news reports of the virus also became a concern to researchers in the field of mass communication hence this study assessed Guardian newspaper reportage of coronavirus in Nigeria between 28th February 2020 and 27th January 2021. The study adopted the Framing theory, the Social Responsibility theory, and the agenda-setting theory as its theoretical framework. The quantitative research design was adopted with the content analysis approach used in examining the manifest contents of the Guardian Newspaper in addressing the research objectives. Findings show that the Guardian newspaper used Fear/Death frame 125 (34.1%) between 27th February 2020 and 28th January 2021 more frequently. The study also found that the newspaper showed a high level of prominence in reporting the Coronavirus stories as it published more of front page and back page stories. It also had more of hard news stories. The study recommends among others that as the fourth estate of the realm and the watchdog of the society, journalists should constantly cover and report cases of Coronavirus to inform and educate the society on the dangers of its spread in Nigeria. Also, journalists should constantly address the issue of professional ethics stipulated by the Code of Ethics for Nigerian journalists under the Nigerian Press Council in covering and reporting Coronavirus as this would help ensure accurate and fairness in their reportage.

Keyword: newspaper reportage, reportage frequency, reportage prominence, coronavirus, guardian newspaper

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List of Acronyms

Africa CDC-	African Centre for Disease Control
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease-2019
CDCP-	Center for Disease Control and Prevention
H5N1-	Bird Influenza Virus
H1N1-	Human Influenza Virus
MERS-	Middle East respiratory Syndrome
MERS-CoV-	Middle East Respiratory Syndrome-Coronavirus
NCDC-	Nigerian Centre for Disease Control
PPE -	Personal Protective Equipment
SARS-	Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome
SARS-CoV -	Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome-Coronavirus
WHO-	World Health Organization

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