

A discourse analysis of political commentaries: a case study of Makau Mutua's texts in the Sunday Nation

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Abstract:

This study is an analysis of political commentary texts. It focuses on standards of textuality of cohesion, coherence, and informativity of the texts of Makau Mutua in Sunday Nation newspaper. This dissertation is organized into five chapters. Chapter one gives a general framework of the study, statement of the problem, the set of objectives, hypotheses, rationale, scope and limitation, theoretical framework, literature review of the study, research methodology and significance of the study. Chapter two gives the basic concepts related to text analysis. These terms are defined for easing task ahead we have looked at terms like text, text and non- text, text as a semantic unit, rhetoric and text linguistics, pragmatic, and discourse context, text and intentionally, text and situationality, text and intertextuality, connectivity, texture and structure. Chapter three deals with cohesion and coherence in Mutua's texts. This is an analysis of how Mutua uses variety strategies to communicate effectively. Individual words, phrases, clauses and sentences hang together to come up with a unit. This is called a topic. Mutua uses discourse topic to make his texts coherent. Chapter four deals the standard of textuality element of informativity in Mutua's texts. A text is acceptable to the readers when it is cohesive and coherent. Mutua uses intersubjectivity, rhetorical questions, question and answer, personal pronoun use, and sentence type strategies to make his texts informative. Chapter five gives a summary, conclusion and recommendations of the study.