

Thematic and Functional Analysis of Cartoons in the Nigerian print Media

Alimi, M.M. & Shopeju, J.O.

Department of General Studies, University of Agriculture, Abeokuta

ABSTRACT

Cartooning as an art form which thrives on humour and satire, is a popular mode of communication in the print media in Nigeria. Over the years, cartoons have increased from a few in the 70s to very many in this decade. This paper analyses the thematic content and the functional value of cartoons. Our findings show that the content of the cartoon message is a function of certain variables: political, economic and domestic. Functionally, cartoons are a means of criticizing undesirable behaviours of individuals, groups and policies of government, a source of entertainment and a diary of events. The formulation of the cartoon message is, therefore, a response to the needs of the society.

Keywords: