

DISCOURSE STUDIES TO PROTECT MINORS AGAINST VIOLENCE IN SPORT: TOWARDS DISCOURSE STUDIES NOVELTY

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Abstract

The paper explores current state of affairs in the field of violence in sports against minors. The paper rests on the understanding of social value and human significance of sports for contemporary civilisation. On the other hand, there is evidence regarding sexual violence in sports, and often minors turn to be victims.

The above arguments have shaped the present research scope that includes review of current state of affairs and latest developments in the Academia studies of the research topic.

The analysis of the publications aims to identify current trends in the mentioned field of studies to consider if discourse as tool for human interaction is included in on the agenda of discourse studies.

On grounds of literature analysis, the paper introduces preliminary vision of subsequent research objectives, materials, and tools that are supposed to be used in further investigation that would provide discourse models for communication with minors to prevent their sexual abuse in sports settings.

Keywords: discourse, violence, sexual abuse, sport, child's protection.

1 INTRODUCTION

Discourse studies represent an interdisciplinary field that currently goes beyond purely linguistic focus and elaborates on societal dimensions of discourse practices with regard to human activities. Sport represents one of the very diverse spectrum of the above (Thorson, Serazio, 2018).

Modern sport is a socially significant segment of society. The positive role of sport in the processes of social formation of the individual, his/her sociocultural and civic self-identification and representation is generally recognized (Stempel, 2018). However, the international community also recognizes such a negative fact as sexual harassment and violence against minors in sports.

Therefore, the present paper goal is two-fold: to explore the current trends in studies with regard to the phenomenon of aggression and sexual violence in sports and to justify the novelty of discourse studies that are aimed to explore its potential in protecting minors from this kind of abuse.

The above goal has specified the research methodology that stands on comparative descriptive analysis of the cases related to the topic under studies. These cases are represented in publication that cover empirical

analysis of sexual abuse victims regarding sports settings. The investigation also took into account the victims' narratives in the media and the media coverage of the topics under study.

The research results show that scientific novelty of the proposed angle of the analysis that stems from the fact that the chosen subject and problems have not been the subject of linguistic research so far. Moreover, the innovative character of studies stems from their objectives (which have no analogues in common practice), and comes from specific methods and tools of analysis.

2 RESEARCH RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

2.1 Literature Review

Sports are widely represented in society in verbal and visual forms. Therefore, there is a considerable bulk of papers that explore media discourse on sports and its impact on society (Billings, et al. 2015, .Lewis, Weaver, 2015). Particular emphasis is laid on managerial and leadership discourses in the field under study (Burton, 2015, Mueller, 2016).

Furthermore, insult and gender-sensitive issues discourse within sports environment are also subject to linguistics studies (Kang et al 2017, Murray & White, 2017, Scandurra et al 2017).

Scholars also pay attention to discourse on sports in educational contexts, explore the educational role of discourse in sports (Duncan-Andrade, 2010, Van Rheenen & DeOrnellas 2018), and draw attention to discursive strategies in shaping policy for physical education (Pill et al 2017).

Within sociology of sports researchers, explore phenomena of power, discourse, and violence (Cushion, Jones, 2006, Kim et al 2018, Silva, 2018).

Regarding the violence and aggression in sports, one can track two major research trends. The first one concerns violence and aggression in spectator sports (see Jewell 2011, Goldstein, 2012). Scholars underline that this topic requires multidisciplinary angle (Brackenridge, 2008, Caldwell et al 2016, Spaaij, Schailée, 2018). Special attention is paid to fans' behaviour (Hilliard, et al 2018, Knapton, et al 2018). Researchers agree that the investigation of predictors for their violence and aggression is critical (Toder-Alon, et al 2018).

Another trend focuses particularly on types and forms of violence against athletes (Parent, Fortier, 2018), characteristics of coaches that abuse athletes physically or verbally (Yabe, et al 2018). The topic has become subject for discussion by the International Olympic Committee (Mountjo et al 2016). Particular emphasis is laid to the recovery period (Owton, 2016).

Regarding the research methodology scientists use victims' narratives to consider power and trust dynamics in sports' interpersonal relations from the perspective angle of sexual violence (Eiler 2019), explore interviews to analyse grounds for inner consent to violence by synthesis of criminal law and ethnography of

Speech (Weinberg, 2016), use corpus-based approach within the above angle of studies (Jaworska, 2016).

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2.2 New Angle of Research

The literature review confirms that current discourse studies have not referred to the topic of speech tools that can be used to prevent violence and abuse with regard to minors in sports.

To our mind, the above-mentioned angle of discourse analysis bears societal importance. This confirms the current importance of the proposed angle.

The literature analysis has allowed the author of this paper to identify preliminary scope and stages of the investigation. It is expected to include the following:

- Identification of key topics regarding violence in sport
- research of typical communication situations associated with the phenomenon of violence in sport
- examination of various target audiences and subjects (persons) involved in communication on violence in sports
- Definition of subjects to communicative situations in relation to the phenomenon of violence in sport

- Study of language tools for the expression of social role-playing status and intentions of the mentioned subjects (persons)
- analysis of the discursive practices of various subjects of communication in situations that verbalize the phenomenon of violence in sport
- Identification of speech behaviour patterns of the mentioned subjects
- Development of discursive models for communication of different target audiences in order to protect minors against violence in sport.

The research methodology is supposed to follow ground theory approach, use case studies and content analysis of the victims' narratives, statements of sports officials, guidance texts for coaches, etc.

2.3. Materials and Tools for Further Studies

The literature review confirms that current discourse studies have not referred to the topic of speech tools that can be used to prevent violence and abuse with regard to minors in sports. This justifies the present suggestion to turn to critical discourse analysis of victims' narratives, media coverage of the topics under study, international and national sport official statements, guidance for coaches and other specialised sources for those engaged in dealing with minors within educational, amateur and professional sports settings.

The proposed approach to analysis supposed to apply digital and manual content analysis, frame structure analysis and modelling.

The research is expected to combine micro-level (discourse of various subjects in different communicative contexts of situations related to the phenomenon of violence in sport), macro-level (discourse in different national and state contexts), and mega-level (discourse at the level of international organizations and international professional associations)

3. CONCLUSION

So far, Academia has explored positive and negative factors in sports from the point of view of education and implementation of psycho-physiological abilities of the individual, in sociocultural and interpersonal aspects, from the standpoint of political and ideological influence, in the context of legislative and law enforcement practice, in the framework of psychology, pedagogy, sociology and medicine.

However, the issues of discourse as an instrument to protect minors from violence in sports have not become subject to comprehensive research so far.

This angle of research requires scientific novelty as the chosen subject and problems have not been the subject of linguistic research so far. The constructing of discursive models of verbal communication with an informative-preventive target designated for various target audiences, which are affected by violence against minors in sport, has not been carried out before.

The analysis of current trends in investigation of discourse issues with regard to violence and abuse in sport lead to the understanding of the future research complexity that is due to its interdisciplinary character. It is supposed to involve data from discourse theory, communication theory, cognitive science, psycholinguistics, pragmatics, jurisprudence. Further, research objects are expected to be identified as a complex of interrelated phenomena (subject areas, situations, persons engaged, their intentions and speech behaviour models in various contexts of manifestation violence against minors in sport).

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