



TEXTUAL ANALYSIS OF CONSPIRACY THEORIES AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM

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Introduction

This presentation is about understanding how some untrue stories, known as conspiracy theories, mix with very strong and dangerous opinions, leading to new types of harmful actions, or terrorism.

Basit, A. (2021). Conspiracy Theories and Violent Extremism: Similarities, Differences and the Implications. *Counter Terrorist Trends and Analyses*, 13(3), 1–9. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/27040260>



Register

Use of specialized vocabulary and technical terms: "Conspiracy theories (CT), facilitated by social media and accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic, have entered the political mainstream, producing new forms of terrorism and violent extremism" (Basit, 2021, p.1).

Formal tone and style: "Violent extremist (VE) groups across the ideological spectrum use CT in their propaganda narratives to lure recruits and validate their Manichean worldviews" (Basit, 2021, p.1).

Extended and complex sentences: "However, CT and VE are separate and should not be confused with each other. As outlined above, almost all VE groups have CT as part of their ideological and propaganda narratives, yet they cannot be termed as conspiracy theorists or vice versa, barring few exceptions such as QAnon" (Basit, 2021, p.2).

Citation of sources: "CT materialize quickly and gain widespread acceptability during crises events, such as pandemics, natural disasters, wars, and conflicts" (Basit, 2021, p.1).



Genre

The genre of the text is an academic research article or journal article. This genre is characterized by a structured presentation of research findings, often including an abstract, introduction, methodology, results, discussion, conclusion, and references.

Headings and subheadings that organize the content into sections: The sections "Introduction," "Similarities Between CT and VE," and "Differences between CT and VE" serve to structure the article's argument (Basit, 2021, pp. 1-2).

In-text citations and references to existing literature: "However, CT facilitated by social media and accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic, have entered the political mainstream" (Basit, 2021, p.1), referring to sources such as Scott (2021) and Radu (2020).

Conclusion summarizing the findings and suggesting further research or policy implications: "This article, keeping in view emerging security threats, has shone light on the potential risks related to the intersection of CT and VE" (Basit, 2021, p.8).



Stance

To identify the author's stance in the text I'll focus on the arguments presented and how the author positions themselves in relation to the topic. Abdul Basit's stance appears to be that while conspiracy theories (CT) and violent extremism (VE) are distinct phenomena, they are interconnected in ways that can have serious implications for security and require careful consideration in counter-terrorism strategies.

The author suggests that CT can lead to VE when certain narratives are exploited: "However, CT and VE are separate and should not be confused with each other. As outlined above, almost all VE groups have CT as part of their ideological and propaganda narratives" (Basit, 2021, p.2).

Basit indicates the potential risk of CT in radicalizing individuals and communities: "CT materialize quickly and gain widespread acceptability during crisis events, such as pandemics, natural disasters, wars, and conflicts" (Basit, 2021, p.1).



Functions

The function of the text is to examine and elucidate the relationship between conspiracy theories (CT) and violent extremism (VE), discussing the nuances of their interaction, especially in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. It aims to provide an analytical framework for understanding the synergies and distinctions between CT and VE and to inform counterterrorism strategies.

Argumentative function – The author presents arguments and evidence to persuade readers of the validity of their analysis and assertions: “CT facilitated by social media and accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic, have entered the political mainstream, producing new forms of terrorism and violent extremism” (Basit, 2021, p.1).

Prescriptive function – The text suggests recommendations for policy and action based on the analysis: “With CT being part of VE narratives, it is important to devise strategies that address the fostering of such beliefs within the broad framework of PCVE” (Basit, 2021, p.8).



Organization of the Text

The organization and structure of the text "Conspiracy Theories and Violent Extremism: Similarities, Differences and the Implications" by Abdul Basit is characteristic of a scholarly article. The structure typically includes several distinct parts:

Title: Clearly states the main topic and sometimes includes a subtitle that provides additional information about the content.

Abstract/Synopsis: A brief summary of the paper that includes the purpose, methodology, and main findings or conclusions.

Introduction: Sets the stage for the paper by introducing the topic, stating the research question, and outlining the paper's structure.

Main Body/Content Sections: Divided into subsections that cover various aspects of the topic in detail, such as literature review, methodology, results, and discussion.

Conclusion: Summarizes the findings and implications, and may suggest areas for future research.

References: A list of all the sources cited in the paper, following a specific citation style.

Footnotes or Endnotes: Additional comments or explanations that provide more detailed information about certain points mentioned in the text.



Cohesion

Cohesion in text refers to the ways in which components of the language act together to form a unified whole. Cohesion in scholarly articles like this one is crucial for guiding the reader through complex arguments and a large amount of information.

Repetition: Key terms and concepts are repeated throughout the article to maintain focus and clarity.

- Example: The phrases "conspiracy theories" and "violent extremism" are used repeatedly to emphasize the central themes of the research (Basit, 2021).

Transitional phrases: These help to link sections and ideas, showing how they relate to each other.

- Example: "With rapid social, political and technological changes unfolding around us..." is a transition that connects the global changes to the spread of conspiracy theories and violent extremism (Basit, 2021, p.2).

Lexical Chains: Series of related words that contribute to the overall theme and help to weave different parts of the text together.

- Example: A chain of terms such as "ideologies," "narratives," and "strategies" appear throughout the article, tying together the discussion on how various elements contribute to the phenomena of CT and VE (Basit, 2021).



References

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