

Západočeská univerzita v Plzni

Fakulta filozofická

Bakalářská práce

The Jargon and Terminology of Terrorism

Selected Examples from U.S. Media

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Plzeň 2015

Západočeská univerzita v Plzni

Fakulta filozofická

Katedra anglického jazyka a literatury

Studijní program Filologie

Studijní obor Cizí jazyky pro komerční praxi

Kombinace angličtina – francouzština

Bakalářská práce

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Plzeň 2015

Prohlašuji, že jsem práci zpracoval(a) samostatně a použil(a) jen uvedených pramenů a literatury.

Plzeň, duben 2015

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION.....	6
2. TERRORISM.....	8
2.1. What is terrorism?	8
2.2. origin of the word terrorism.....	9
2.3. Foreign Terrorist Organizations.....	10
2.4. BOKO HARAM	12
2.5. HAMAS.....	13
2.6. BESLAN SCHOOL HOSTAGE CRISIS	14
2.7. Charlie Hebdo attack.....	16
2.8. Journalistic's means of softening.....	18
2.8.1. DOUBLESPEAK.....	18
2.8.2. EUPHEMISMS	18
2.8.3. JARGON.....	19
2.8.4. GOBBLEDYGOOK.....	19
2.8.5. BUREAUCRATESE	19
2.8.6. INFLATED LANGUAGE	20
3. EUPHEMISMS AND DOUBLESPEAK.....	21
4. CONCLUSION.....	38

5. RESUMÉ	40
6. ABSTRAKT.....	41
7. BLIOGRAPHY	42
8. ENDNOTES.....	43

1. INTRODUCTION

The structure of this thesis is divided, beside the introduction and conclusion, into two main chapters. The first chapter represents the theoretical part of this thesis which focus on terrorism in general. It explains what is terrorism, give a brief information about foreign terrorist organisations, especially about Boko Haram and Hamas and it describes terrorist attacks on Charlie Hebdo and Beslan school. It also provides informations about linguistics tools, such as doublespeak and euphemism, because these two methods are used almost everytime by journalists and politicians in media. And it also informs about terms related to doublespeak, like: jargon, gobbledegook and bureaucratese.

The second chapter is the practical part and it's goal is to find in a context various titles given to terrorists or terrorist attacks, primarily in articles concerning Beslam school hostage crisis and Chrlie Hebdo attack or terrorist organisation like Boko Haram and Hamas, and explain their meaning. That is the reason why it is important to understand the term terrorism and be privy to the described attacks. Then I focuse on doublespeak and euphemisms, that create inseparable part of articles about terrorism. I state them in extracts of newspapers articles and mention their meaning and origin. Sometimes for bigger accuracy I quote the dictionary definition. And in the last part of the second chapter are newspapers extracts with the frequent terminology concerning panic, killing, violence and others.

Since the terrorism is here as long as civilisation, there is more than 200 definition of this act. But yet there is no unified definition. However, usually they are not so differen. To explain the word terrorism this thesis provides the most common definitions. For imagination there is also a list of designated terrorist organisations. The stress is put on Boko Haram

and Hamas, because these two terrorist organisations take a big part of the practical part. Then there is a description of Beslan school hostage

The main sources for the first part of this thesis was book *Criminologists on Terrorism and Homeland Security* from authors Brian Forst, Jack R. Greene and James P. Lynch and a book *Terrorism and Communication* from Jonathan Matusitz. For my thesis I also used other books (viz bibliography), internet sources and videos.

The second part was created especially with the aid of online newspaper articles (The New York Times, The Los Angeles Times,..) and with online dictionaries like Dictionary.com, Thefreedictionary.com, etc.

2. TERRORISM

In this chapter, I would like to introduce the act of terrorism. To do it, I chose the most known definitions of terrorism, which include also the definition of FBI and the Department of Defense. Then I will briefly comment on the history of the word terrorism and on terrorist organisations, which will be supplemented by the list of terrorist groups. The emphasis will be put on Boko Haram and Hamas. Next step will be describing of Beslan school hostage crisis and attack on Charlie Hebdo. And in the end of this chapter I will describe some methods that are used for softening expressions.

2.1. WHAT IS TERRORISM?

There are many definitions of terrorism, according to the studies more than 200,¹ therefore it is difficult to define it. One of the oldest definitions is a definition of Thornton: "Terrorism is a symbolic action designated to influence political behavior by extranormal means entailing the use or threat of violence."² Cooper describes terrorism as "the intentional generation of massive fear by human beings for the purpose of securing or maintaining control over other human beings."³ Brian Jenkins of the RAND Corporation posed one of the most frequently used definitions: "the use or threatened use of force designed to bring about political change."⁴ Another one of the most often used definitions is a definition of the FBI from 1986 "the unlawful use of force or violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives."⁵ According to the Department of Defense terrorism is "the unlawful use – or threatened use of – force or violence against individuals or property to coerce or intimidate governments or societies, often to achieve political, religious, or ideological objectives."⁶ Sometimes terrorism is described as

well planned and organized act, however terrorists ordinarily participate in random and impulsive acts.⁷

Because there is no unified definition of terrorism, sometimes we are not able to recognize whether the attack was an act of terrorists or not. And "even when terrorists commit acts that fit the definition, local police agencies may classify the act as criminal rather than terroristic."⁸ It is what we can see in newspapers and other media, how the journalists are avoiding the terms terrorism and terrorist and replacing it by euphemisms. And it is what I am focusing on in the theoretical part.

Terrorism can have form of: threat or hoax, arson, sabotage, bombing, kidnapping, hostage taking, hijack-seizure, raid or ambush, assassination, weapons of mass destruction (wmd).⁹

There are fifteen causes why terrorism exists: religion, oppression, historical grievances, violations of international law, relative deprivation, hatred toward the global economic hegemony, financial gain, racism, guilt by association, supporting sympathizers, mortality salience, narcissism, sensation-seeking, failure of conventional channels of expression, communication and publicity. The list is based on extensive examination of journal articles and books on terrorism written by experts on terrorism.¹⁰

2.2. ORIGIN OF THE WORD TERRORISM

The word *terrorism* coined during the French Revolution's Reign of Terror (1793-1794), which was a campaign of large-scale violence by the French state, where were killed between 16,000 and 40,000 people in that year, consists from the Latin *terre*, which means "frighten" or "tremble" and from the French suffix *isme*, which refers to "to practice". So together it forms "practicing the trembling".¹¹ The word terrorism is a pejorative term, it is full of derogatory and negative meanings.¹²

The word *terror*, old over 2,100 years, signifies fear, panic and anxiety (synonyms for trembling and frightening).¹³ But the act of terrorism existed long before the word itself. Terrorism has been there from the beginning of civilization. "Moses used terrorism against the Pharaoh of Egypt to free the Israelites."¹⁴

2.3. FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS

The Secretary of State designates Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTOs) in accordance with section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). The legal criteria for designation under this section are:

1. It must be a *foreign organization*.
2. The organization must *engage in terrorist activity*, as defined in section 212 (a)(3)(B) of the INA (8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(3)(B)), or *terrorism*, as defined in section 140(d)(2) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1988 and 1989 (22 U.S.C. § 2656f(d)(2)), or *retain the capability and intent to engage in terrorist activity or terrorism*.
3. The organization's terrorist activity or terrorism must threaten the security of U.S. nationals or the national security (national defense, foreign relations, or the economic interests) of the United States.¹⁵

Designation of FTOs plays a crucial role in the fight against terrorism. Below is a list of U.S. Government Designated Foreign Terrorist Organizations:

Abdallah Azzam Brigades (AAB)
Abu Nidal Organization (ANO)
Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG)
Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade (AAMB)
Ansar al-Dine (AAD)
Ansar al-Islam (AAI)
Army of Islam (AOI)
Asbat al-Ansar (AAA)
Aum Shinrikyo (AUM)
Basque Fatherland and Liberty (ETA)
Boko Haram (BH)
Communist Party of Philippines/New People's Army (CPP/NPA)

Continuity Irish Republican Army (CIRA)
Gama'a al-Islamiyya (IG)
Hamas
Haqqani Network (HQN)
Harakat ul-Jihad-i-Islami (HUJI)
Harakat ul-Jihad-i-Islami/Bangladesh (HUJI-B)
Harakat ul-Mujahideen (HUM)
Hizballah
Indian Mujahedeen (IM)
Islamic Jihad Union (IJU)
Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU)
Jama'atu Ansarul Muslimina Fi Biladis-Sudan (Ansaru)
Jaish-e-Mohammed (JEM)
Jemaah Ansharut Tauhid (JAT)
Jemaah Islamiya (JI)
Jundallah
Kahane Chai
Kata'ib Hizballah (KH)
Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK)
Lashkar e-Tayyiba
Lashkar i Jhangvi (LJ)
Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)
Libyan Islamic Fighting Group (LIFG)
Al-Mulathamun Battalion (AMB)
National Liberation Army (ELN)
Palestine Islamic Jihad – Shaqaqi Faction (PIJ)
Palestine Liberation Front – Abu Abbas Faction (PLF)
Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP)
Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC)
Al-Qa'ida (AQ)
Al-Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP)
Al-Qa'ida in Iraq (AQI)
Al-Qa'ida in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM)
Real IRA (RIRA)
Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC)
Revolutionary Organization 17 November (17N)
Revolutionary People's Liberation Party/Front (DHKP/C)
Revolutionary Struggle (RS)
Al-Shabaab (AS)
Shining Path (SL)
Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan (TTP)
United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia (AUC)¹⁶

2.4. BOKO HARAM

Boko Haram, officially Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati wal-Jihad which means "People Committed to the Propagation of the Prophet's Teachings and Jihad" is a Nigerian based terrorist group. Boko Haram, which means 'Western education is sin' or 'Western Civilisation is forbidden,' was founded in 2002 by Mohammed Yusuf, an Islamist cleric, in response to Nigeria's democratic transition, nationalism and Western influence. In 2009, Yusuf was killed and replaced by Abubakar Shekau who is a current leader.¹⁷

Boko Haram pledges its allegiance to Al-Qaeda and has links to Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb. The main spokesperson of Boko Haram said, "...al-Qaeda are our elder brothers... our leader traveled to Saudi Arabia and met al-Qaeda there. We enjoy financial and technical support from them. Anything we want from them, we ask."¹⁸ Among other funding belong ransom kidnappings, bank robberies, sale of goods, extracting the profits of supportive businesses, child beggars which are also used as spies for the organisation, extorting local traders and cross-border smuggling of arms and cash, trafficking narcotics and receiving funding from wealthy members and supportive benefactors.¹⁹ Their objective is to create an Islamic state in Nigeria. Up to now they control much of north-eastern Nigeria, 30,000 km², which is the size of Belgium.²⁰ In November 2013, Boko Haram was designated by the U.S. State Department as a Foreign Terrorist Organization.^{21, 22}

Members of Boko Haram are often disaffected youths, unemployed graduates and members of Almajiris which are homeless youth supposedly under religious guidance and their number is estimated around 9,000 but the exact number is unknown.²³

Goodluck Jonathan, the Nigerian President, said that in the violent Boko Haram campaign against the Nigerian state over 13,000 people have been killed and hundreds of persons kidnapped.²⁴ In 2013, they killed dozens of boys in a series of school attacks and kidnapped girls and women in order to keep them, making them their wives or sell them as slaves. It was kidnapping of 276 school girls from Chibok in April 2014 what raised public awareness of Boko Haram.²⁵ Between 3 January and 7 January 2015, Boko Haram executed one of their deadliest attacks, where they massacred about 2,000 people in the Nigerian town of Baga. Bodies were strewn all over the town.²⁶

2.5. HAMAS

Hamas is an acronym for Harakat al-Muqawima al-Islamiyya and it is a movement of Islamist resistance in Gaza and the West Bank. Initially it was a charitable or teaching organisation. It was founded on December 16, 1987 by Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, a Palestinian cleric. Yassin was arrested in May 1989 and received a life sentence. Nevertheless he was released in 1997 in exchange for two Mossad agents. He took up the control of Hamas again and on October 8, 1997 was Hamas designated as a Foreign Terrorist Organization by the US.^{27,28} The United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, Japan,²⁹ Egypt³⁰ also labeled Hamas as a Terrorist Organization. It was also designated as a Foreign Terrorist Organization by the EU, but in 2014, Hamas was removed from EU list of terrorist groups. According to the European Union's second highest court it is a technical move, Hamas was put on the EU blacklist in 2003 on the basis of media and information from USA and Israel which is not sufficient, because it was not examined and confirmed by authorities. However EU still consider Hamas as a terrorist organisation.^{31,32} It is also a separatist group, because it advocates Palestinian autonomy from Israeli control.³³

Hamas has strong financial backing, they receive about several tens of millions dollars per year from their sources in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf State. It includes several million dollars support from Iran. They also simphone endosments from apparent charities or profitable economic projects.³⁴

Hamas method of attack is suicide car bombings and individual suicide attacks,³⁵ but also kidnapping, knife attacks, rocket attacks and mortars.³⁶ "Their goal is to raise a flag of Allah over every inch of Palestine," which is also Israel, and that means they want to destroy it.³⁷ Israel is permanently under attack, there has been 25218 rockets fired into Israel since 2001. And on Israelhasbeenrocketfree.com you can see how long Israel has been rocket free. There is a real clock timer which automatically resets when Hamas fires a rocket toward Israel.³⁸

In the video after the speech of Hamas Leader Khaled Mash'al, they say: "Death to Israel. Death to America." And Ismail Haniya, the Prime Minister of Hamas, says: "Oh Americans, Allah will punish you. The time has come for Allah to declare war on you, oh usurers!"³⁹

2.6. BESLAN SCHOOL HOSTAGE CRISIS

On September 1, 2004, a school in the southern Russian town of Beslan was attacked by approximately 32 armed men and women who belonged to a Chechen liberation group led by Shamil Basayev. Basayev was also responsible for the takeover of a Moscow theatre in 2002 where died about 130 hostages, in May 2004 for the assassination of the pro-Moscow president of Chechnya, Akhmad Kadyrov and for other acts of terrorism and murder.⁴⁰ They took hostage over 1,120 children and adults, who had gathered to celebrate the opening day of the new school year.⁴¹

The second day, the perpetrators refused hostages water and trips to the bathroom. Twenty-six nursing women and their infants were released, but women had to leave their other children inside the school. The second day was also presented following demands to the Russian forces:

Vladimir Putin, it wasn't you who started this war. But you can finish it if you have enough courage and determination of de Gaulle. We offer you a sensible peace based on mutual benefit by the principle independence in exchange for security. In case of troops withdrawal and acknowledgement of independence of Chechen Republic of Ichkeria, we are obliged not to make any political, military or economic treaties with anyone against Russia, not to accommodate foreign military bases on our territory even temporarily, not to support and not to finance groups or organizations carrying out a military struggle against RF, to be present in the united rouble zone, to enter CIS. Besides, we can sign a treaty even though a neutral state status is more acceptable to us. We can also guarantee a renunciation of armed struggle against RF by all Muslims of Russia for at least 10 to 15 years under condition of freedom of faith. We are not related to the apartment bombings in Moscow and Volgograd, but we can take responsibility for this in an acceptable way.

The Chechen people are leading a nation-liberating struggle for its freedom and independence, for its self-protection rather than for destruction or humiliation of Russia. We offer you peace, but the choice is yours.

Allahu Akbar⁴²

In the morning of September 3, 2004, there was an explosion inside the school, after that the Russian special forces entered to the building. 330 people, including 186 children, were killed and another 783 were injured. Some of the victims were killed in a gunfire, others by explosions or in a subsequent fire.⁴³ According to Nur-Pashi-Kulayev, "chechen separatists" one of the "hostage-taker" had a foot on a trigger mechanism and a Russian sniper hit him. That caused the explosions.⁴⁴ It is the most deadly terrorist attack in Russian history.⁴⁵

Almost all of the perpetrators were killed, only survivor from a group of "Chechen separatists" is Nur-Pashi-Kulayev, a Chechen carpenter, who was almost lynched by the citizens outside the school before authorities captured him.⁴⁶ He was convicted in 2006 of banditry, terrorism, hostage taking, murder, attempted murder of members of the security forces, illegal storage, possession and acquisition of weapons, ammunition and explosives and was sentenced to a life in prison.⁴⁷

2.7. CHARLIE HEBDO ATTACK

Charlie Hebdo is a satirical left-wing French weekly (hebdomadaire in short hebdo means in French weekly), which makes fun of religious figures, politicians and celebrities and uses cartoon in order to do that. It is published in France and in a few French-speaking countries. The satirical magazin was first published in 1969, in 1970 was banned for mocking the death of former French President Charles de Gaulle and in 1981 ceased publication because of a lack of readers and funds. In 1992 was resurrected.^{48, 49}

On the morning of 7 January 2015, two brothers, Chefir (32) and Said Kouachi attacked the Charlie Hebdo offices where they killed 12 people: eight journalists, two police officers, one caretaker and one visitor (eleven men and one woman) to avenge the Prophet Muhammad. The Kouachi brothers escaped, but on 9 January 2015 were found and killed by the police. Meanwhile Amedy Coulibaly attacked Hyper Cacher supermarket and took the present people hostage. He demanded the Kouachi brothers were allowed to go free. The elite commandos freed 15 hostages from the store and shot Coulibaly dead. In the Cacher supermarket were found bodies of four hostages, all of them were Jews. Amedy Coulibaly's wife, Hayat Boumeddiene is sought by French police for being a suspected accomplice of Coulibaly. Attack on the satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo is the deadliest attack in France since 1961, nevertheless it is not the first

time Charlie Hebdo became a target of terrorism. On November 2011 the magazine's offices were fire-bombed after publishing a cartoon of Muhammad.^{50,51,52,53}

Before the attack on Cacher supermarket, Amedy Coulibaly shot and killed an unarmed policewoman in Montrouge and shot a jogger in Fontenay aux Roses.⁵⁴ He also put a bomb on a car which blew up in the Ville Juif, a Jewish town in the southern suburbs of Paris.⁵⁵ Therefore there are speculations whether Coulibaly targeted the Jews or not, since the four victims from the Cacher supermarket was also Jews. According to the President Obama the victims were killed "randomly." Below you can see an interview with the report Jonathan Karl and the White House spokesman Josh Earnest:

KARL: This was not a random shooting of a bunch of folks in a deli in Paris. This was an attack on a kosher deli. Does the president have any doubt that those terrorists attacked that deli because there would be Jews in that deli?

EARNEST: Well, Jon, it is clear from the -- the terrorists, in some of the writings that they put out afterwards, what their motivation was. The adverb that the president chose was used to indicate that the individuals who were killed in that terrible tragic incident were killed not because of who they were, but because of where they randomly happened to be.

KARL: Well, they weren't killed because they were in a Jewish deli, though? Because they were in a kosher deli?

EARNEST: These individuals were not targeted by name. This is the point.

KARL: Not by name but by -- by religion, were they not?

EARNEST: Well, Jon, there were people other than just Jews who were in that deli.

KARL: So you think that was a -- that deli was attacked because it was a kosher deli...

EARNEST: No, Jon. Any random deli, Jon.

KARL: It was a kosher deli.

2.1. EARNEST: I answered the question once. No.⁵⁶

2.8. JOURNALISTIC'S MEANS OF SOFTENING

2.8.1. DOUBLESPEAK

The word doublespeak was coined in 1984 by George Orwell.⁵⁷ And it is a "language designed to evade responsibility, make the unpleasant appear pleasant, the unattractive appear attractive. Basically, it's language that pretends to communicate, but really doesn't. It is language designed to mislead, while pretending not to,"⁵⁸ says William Lutz, American linguist and author of *Doublespeak*.⁵⁹ Doublespeak is used to circumvent, deceive, distort, inflate, mislead and obfuscate.⁶⁰ There are four types of doublespeak. The first is euphemism, second is jargon, third type is bureaucratese or gobbledegook and the fourth is inflated language.⁶¹

2.8.2. EUPHEMISMS

The word euphemism comes from Greek from 16th century and it means speak with pleasing words. It replace a word which could be considered offensive, hurtful or unpleasant. Euphemisms are often used by politicians and reporters, and especially in topics such as ethnicity, drugs, politics and war.⁶²

Euphemism is a kind of doublespeak. However it is not the case when euphemisms are used in cultural taboo, in tactful phrases in order to avoiding a painful reality or in order not to hurt someone's feelings (e.g. in expressing condolences).⁶³ Euphemism becomes doublespeak, when it is used to mislead or deceive.⁶⁴ It is the case of describing terrorism in media. Journalists and also politicians usually substitute the T-words with

words as militants, fighters, jihadists, etc. And it is a topic of the theoretical part of this thesis, where is also explained the difference among these words.

2.8.3. JARGON

The word jargon comes from 14th century from Old French and it is a language, especially the vocabulary, appropriate to a specific profession(used mostly by doctors, educators, engineers, lawyersand car mechanics⁶⁵ or particular group, also unintelligible talk without meaning, gibberish.⁶⁶ It allows to quickly comunicate within the specific group of people.⁶⁷

But if jargon is used in obscure or pretentious way, sometimes to impress the people around, in knowing others will not understand, the jargon becomes doublespeak.⁶⁸

2.8.4. GOBBLEDYGOOK

In 1944, the Representative Maury Maverick (of Texas) coined the word gobbledegook (from gobble). It is unintelligible or pretentious and wordy jargon. It is often used by officials.⁶⁹ Gobbledygook may sound impressive, however usually does not make any sense.

2.8.5. BUREAUCRATESE

Bureaucratese is a type of language that is used especially by bureaucrats. It is characterized by the use of abstractions, buzzwords, circumlocutions, euphemisms and jargon. Bureaucratese is usually unintelligible.⁷⁰

2.8.6. INFLATED LANGUAGE

Inlated language intends to make ordinary thing, people, or situations extraordinary, impressive or important.⁷¹

3. EUPHEMISMS AND DOUBLESPEAK

For this part I chose several articles from miscellaneous newspapers and analysed them. I focused especially on different words describing terrorism in media (attackers vs. militants vs. guerillas etc.) and their distinction, on euphemisms and doublespeak, on their meaning and perception, and on words used in connection with terrorism.

3.1. WORDS DESCRIBING TERRORISM

The terms terrorist and terrorism are often incorretly swaped by media for terms like attacker, captor, commando, extremist, fundamentalist, guerrilla, insurgent, millitant and resistance fighter. However, these words do not mean the same thing and they should not be mistaken. Terrorists can have extremist beliefs or guerilla motivations and perceive themselves like that. But for defining them, their behaviour is more important rather than their believes.⁷²

Media are trying to avoid the word terrorism which has a negative bias, so they rather use euphemisms, and in this case more likely doublespeak, because it intends to mislead or deceive readers. According the research there are at least 20 substitutions, which make terrorism look less terrifying: activists, assailants, attackers, bombers, captors, commandos, criminals, extremists, fighters, group, guerillas, gunmen, hostage-takers, insurgents, kidnappers, militants, perpetrators, radicals, rebels, separatists.⁷³

The words like terrorist, jihad and Islamist are even forbidden for some reporters. "Al Jazeera English executive Carlos van Meek banned his news employees from using words like "terrorist," "Islamist" and "jihad," explaining that it's important to realize that some might take offense — that one person's idea of terrorism is simply another person's fight for freedom."⁷⁴

But journalists are obligated to write the truth, they should not lie to their readers and confused them. Because there is a difference between freedom fighters and terrorists. For some it is just a matter of perception, but there is more in it. Freedom fighters target agents of the government, bases, military assets and soldiers, on the contrary terrorists target non-combatants.⁷⁵ Freedom fighters often come from oppressed groups, something was deprived from them and they fight to get it back. On the other hand, terrorist are concerned with destruction, rather than with acquisition.⁷⁶

3.2. *BESLAN SCHOOL HOSTAGE CRISIS ATTACKERS*

In following articles concerning the same terrorist attack (Beslan school hostage crisis), you can see some examples of differen use of words describing the terrorists and their real meaning.

"She said the attackers had identified themselves as Chechens."⁷⁷

The word **attack** comes from 16th century from French. An **attacker** is someone who is aggressive, hositle or violent towards someone else in order to hurt him.⁷⁸

"At least 250 people - most of them students, teachers and parents - died, according to official reports and witnesses, after two large explosions set off pitched battles between heavily armed **captors** and Russian forces that continued for hours."⁷⁹

The word **captor** comes form 17th century from Latin and means "a person or animal that holds another captive."⁸⁰

"A daring rescue by commandos killed all the **guerrillas**, but also 129 of the hostages, most from nerve gas pumped into the building."⁸¹

The word **guerrilla**, also spelled **guerilla** comes from early 19th century from Spanish and means little war. Guerrillas are civilians, they are not members of a typical military unit. They are often fighting in their homeland, so they know the landscape, they can have the support of the local population. Guerrillas usually want to bring down the government by surprise attacks (ambushes, raids, sabotages, vulnerable targets).⁸² They attempt to take and hold territory, maintain political control over captured territory of people and their groups are larger.⁸³

"The hostages were crammed into the school's gym, which the gunmen rigged with homemade explosives."⁸⁴

The compound word **gunman** is composed of words gun and man. It is used in American English⁸⁵ from 1620s and it is "a man armed with a gun, especially an armed criminal or a professional killer."⁸⁶

"Moreover, the only surviving hostage-taker insists that the initial explosions were ignited when a sniper shot a militant whose foot was on the trigger."⁸⁷

The word **hostage** comes from 13th century from Old French.⁸⁸ An **hostage-taker** is a person who abduct someone in order to extort certain conditions (to get money, release prisoners,...).⁸⁹

The word **militant** comes from 15th century from Latin.⁹⁰ Militants are not afraid to use violence, but in comparison with terrorists, militants do not need to use it. They use rather verbal violence.⁹¹

"On September 1, 2004, armed Chechen rebels took approximately 1,200 children and adults hostage at a school in Beslan, North Ossetia, Russia, at around 9 am local time. "⁹²

The word **rebel** comes from 14th century from Old French, directly from Latin and it is "a person who makes war on his country for political motives."⁹³

"The school seizure capped an already deadly week of terror across Russia blamed on Chechen separatists, with the nearly downing of two airliners and a suicide bombing at a Moscow subway station that together claimed 100 lives."⁹⁴

The word **separatist** comes from 16th century and means "a person who advocates or practises secession from an organization or group."⁹⁵

"The brutality of the hostage-taking seemed almost a natural disaster _ - an outbreak of human savagery in which neither the perpetrators nor their motives were known."⁹⁶

Perpetrator, a word from 1560s comes from Late Latin, is a person who committed an evil or criminal act.⁹⁷

3.3. TERRORISTS OR NOT?

Because there is no united definition of terrorism, it is difficult to say what is terrorist attack and what is not. According the head of BBC Arabic the fighters who killed 12 people in the Charlie Habdo attack should not be called terrorists, because the word terrorist is a "loaded" word.⁹⁸

"We try to avoid describing anyone as a terrorist or an act as being terrorist. What we try to do is to say that 'two men killed 12 people in an attack on the office of a satirical magazine.'" said the senior BBC executive.⁹⁹ But again, the journalists should describe things as they are, not try to avoid it. Of course, they want to diversify their articles, so it is undesirable for them to use the same words all over again. And it is obvious that if someone commits an attack, he is an attacker, if he have a gun, he is a gunman, if he take someone hostage, he is a hostage-taker,

etc. But if these words are used to describe a perpetrator of a terrorist attack it degrades the value of the message, or the attack itself and how people perceive it. And the impact of it might be that one day people will not be able to distinguish terrorist attack from a regular crime. Someone is not able to do it already. After all, even journalists are not capable to do it.

In some press the Charlie Hebdo attacker are called "gunmen" or "attackers" and in other "terrorists." In some articles you can read about "terrorist attack" others mention "massacre." NBC News describes Charlie Hebdo situation as a "massacre" committed by "attackers". They do not mention any "terrorist attack" or "terrorists." And for example NY Daily News described the attack as a "bloody rampage". Here are some extracts from several newspapers:

"A survivor of the Charlie Hebdo massacre revealed how he hid from the attackers by lying on the floor with his dog,.. "100

"Then, on the day of its publication, masked gunmen attacked Charlie Hebdo's offices in Paris."101

"The fugitives were holed up in a printing firm called Creation Tendance Decouverte on an industrial estate on the outskirts of the town."102

"Elite forces deployed snipers, helicopters and military equipment - sealing off any means of escape for the suspected killers and beginning a tense, eight-hour stand-off."103

"The announcement comes just days after two bloody rampages in Paris, carried out by Islamic extremists, leaving 17 people dead."104

"The White House will hold a summit in February that will focus on ways citizens and governments can counter violent extremism."¹⁰⁵ ("Violent extremism" refers here to Islamist terrorism.)

"That's one challenge for authorities in the wake of last week's bloodshed in France."¹⁰⁶

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said: "It was a horrendous, unjustifiable and cold-blooded crime. It was also a direct assault on a cornerstone of democracy, on the media and on freedom of expression."¹⁰⁷

"Social media responded to the terrorist attack with "Je suis Charlie," or "I am Charlie."¹⁰⁸

"Two other terrorists killed in shootouts with police following last week's attacks await burial."¹⁰⁹

3.4. REFERRING TO DESIGNATED TERRORIST GROUPS

Even designated terrorist organisations as Boko Haram or Hamas are not usually called terrorist organisations and their members are not called terrorists. They are called fighters, militants, jihadists, etc. If journalists are not sure whether something is a terrorist organisation or not, they should verify the facts. It is not that difficult and it is their job. Because again, there is a difference. Jihad is an Arabic word that means struggling or striving, it is also often translated as holy war. It is not a violence concept, but if a peaceful settlement is ineffective, military jihad can use force to the faith against others. However innocents as women, children or invalids can not be harmed.¹¹⁰ It is something what we can not say about terrorism, because terrorists target especially non-combatants, which means

innocents. There is an example how journalists are describing Boko Haram and Hamas, the terrorist organisations.

"A Nigerian military says Boko Haram militants have slit the throats of 12 people in northeast Nigeria as the army was trying to evacuate civilians from the area."¹¹¹

"Subsequently, the fleeing Boko Haram fighters attacked the town of Maidogo in Chad Friday. "¹¹²

"Boko Haram, the vicious jihadist group carrying out attacks in northern Nigeria and neighbouring countries,.. "¹¹³

"Fighters from Nigerian Islamist group Boko Haram killed at least ten people in overnight attacks on two villages in neighboring northern Cameroon,.. "¹¹⁴

"Abubakar Shekau, commander of the militant group Boko Haram, had descended on the northeastern Nigerian city of Gwoza,.. "¹¹⁵

"The Palestinian militant group Hamas is continuing to stockpile rockets and looking to forge regional alliances in anticipation of a future war,.. "¹¹⁶

"In the tunnel, a Hamas fighter said the group would press on with restocking its arsenal or rockets and other weaponry and shoring up its underground network. "¹¹⁷

"Chatting in soft voices and laughing at times, Hamas men guided the Reuters crew through corridors less than a meter (3.3 feet) wide that are reached by descending a thin metal ladder through a tiny shaft. "¹¹⁸

3.5. EUPHEMISMS AND DOUBLESPEAK IN TERRORISM

"Asymmetrical warfare is a euphemism for terrorism, just like collateral damage is a euphemism for killing innocent civilians."

Alan Dershowitz

The media do not use euphemisms/doublespeak just to replace their word terrorism, but also to tone down the consequence, as the dead civilians, and military actions including interrogation/torture. But it might be more tolerable than in the previous case. At least usually, if it is not for deceiving readers, but to make the incident sound less terrifying. In following articles you can see the most used euphemisms, in articles connected to the terrorism, and their meaning.

The first euphemism that is worth mentioning is **War on Terror**. It really means War on Radical Islam.¹¹⁹ Another is **Department of Defense** which is actually Department of War.¹²⁰ Below you can see more euphemisms with examples of their application.

"The announced end of the air campaign comes just as Saudi Arabia's King Salman mobilized the National Guard for the fight in Yemen."¹²¹

Air campaign is a euphemism for bombing.¹²²

"Body Count takes a clear and objective look at the various and often contradictory—reports of mortality in conflicts directed by the U.S. and allied forces in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan."¹²³

The euphemism **body count** means "the total number of casualties after a conflict."¹²⁴

"To his family, Sodhi is as much a victim as those who died in the air crashes. He represents, in a sense, collateral damage in America's new war on terrorism."¹²⁵

The word **collateral damage** coined in 1968 in U.S. is an euphemism and means "unintentional damage to civil property and civilian casualties, caused by military operation."¹²⁶

"A preliminary investigation has found that friendly fire likely killed U.S. Border Patrol Agent Nicholas J. Ivie and wounded another in the rugged Arizona desert near the Mexico border, the FBI said Friday."¹²⁷

Friendly fire, also **blue on blue** is an euphemism for "weapon fire coming from one's own side that causes accidental injury or death to one's own forces."¹²⁸

"The hostage-taker has been 'neutralised' a security source says."¹²⁹

The word **neutralised** in here is an euphemism for word 'killed'. The article was published in US newspapers, but the word 'neutralised' is written in British English, not in the American form 'neutralized'. We can assume the speaker is a Frenchman, since the article concerns an attack in Paris.

"At least 17 French citizens were killed by terrorists in the chaos, officials said, first in a massacre at a satirical newspaper that some Muslims believed insulted the Prophet Muhammad,.." ¹³⁰

Massacre comes from Middle French (1580) and means "the unnecessary indiscriminate killing of a large number of human beings or animals, as in barbarous warfare or persecution or for revenge or plunder". ¹³¹

"It was a profoundly man-made disaster – that could and should have been foreseen prevented,.."¹³²

Man-made disaster or **man-caused disaster** is an euphemism for terrorist attack.¹³³

"The United States launched its opening attack against Iraq Thursday morning, aiming at "targets of military opportunity" in a pre-dawn "decapitation" strike..<"¹³⁴

Target of opportunity is a term for "a target visible to a surface or air sensor or observer, which is within range of available weapons and against which fire has not been scheduled or requested."¹³⁵

Decapitation strike, also **decapitation attack** is a euphemism for military attack that is supposed to destroy the enemy' leadership.¹³⁶

"Ehud Barak is certain the US has plans for surgical strikes against Iran as a last-ditch measure if Tehran refuses to stop its development of a nuclear weapons capability."¹³⁷

Surgical strike, also **signature strike** or **targeted killing** is "a military action designed to destroy a particular target without harming other people or damaging other buildings near it."¹³⁸ However Mr. Shane, a national security reporter, comments it: "I think [target killing] is far from a euphemism. It denotes exactly what's happening: American drone operators aim at people on the ground and fire missiles at them. I think it's a pretty good term for what's happening, if a bit clinical."¹³⁹

"ISIS and Al Qaeda are increasingly mounting and calling for attacks on soft targets as a means of deterring Western assaults on their strongholds..<"¹⁴⁰

Soft target is an euphemism for "a person or thing that is relatively unprotected or vulnerable, especially to military or terrorist attack."¹⁴¹

"With an eye to the "ticking bomb" scenario, Israel authorized the use of "moderate physical pressure" to persuade suspected terrorists to talk..
"142

Another euphemism is **debriefing** which stands for interrogation in the third degree.¹⁴³ According to a dictionary, noun "debrief" means "to interrogate in order to obtain useful information or intelligence."¹⁴⁴ "Torture" as distinct from "debrief" means "to cause extreme physical pain to, esp. in order to extract information, break resistance, etc."¹⁴⁵ After watching a youtube video¹⁴⁶ of the CIA interrogation of the al-Qaeda operative Abu Zubaydah, you can make your own opinion, whether it is a debriefing or torture. Below you can see the different opinion on these two words in an excerpt from an interview with Porter Goss, the then-director of the CIA, and Charles Gibson, the ABC News anchor:

Charles Gibson: Let me ask you about torture.

Porter Goss: Mm hmm.

Charles Gibson: You said the other day that the CIA does not do torture. Correct?

Porter Goss: That is correct.

Charles Gibson: How do you define it?

Porter Goss: Well, I define torture probably the way most people would, in the eye of the beholder. What we do does not come close because torture, in terms of inflicting pain or something like that, physical pain or causing a disability, those kinds of things that probably would be a common definition for most Americans, sort of you know it when you see it, we don't do that because it doesn't get what you want. We do debriefings because debriefings are, the nature of our business is to get information and we do all that, and we do it in a way that does not involve torture because torture is counterproductive.

Charles Gibson: We reported in the past two weeks about, having talked to a number of people who have worked and did work in this agency, about six progressive techniques, each one harsher than the last to get terrorists to talk, including things like long term standing up, sleep deprivation, exposure for long periods of time

to cold rooms, or something called water boarding, which involves cellophane and, over the face and water being poured on an individual. Do those things take place?

Porter Goss: (inaudible) we just simply . . .

Charles Gibson: You know, you know what water boarding is, though, right?

Porter Goss: I, I know what a lot of things are, but I am not going to comment.

Charles Gibson: Would that come under the heading of—would that come under the heading of torture?

Porter Goss: I don't know. I . . .

Charles Gibson: Well, under your definition of torture that you just gave me of inflicting pain?

Porter Goss: Let me put it this way, I'm not going to comment on any individual techniques that anybody has brought forward as an allegation or have dreamed up or anything like that. What we do, as I've said many times, is professional, is lawful, it yields good results and it is not torture.¹⁴⁷

Moderate physical pressure also **enhanced**¹⁴⁸ or **harsh interrogative techniques**¹⁴⁹ or **coercive interrogation**¹⁵⁰ are euphemisms for practicing violent interrogation methods (shaking, tight handcuffing, sleep deprivation, the use of cold water.).¹⁵¹

Sleep deprivation, also **sleep management**¹⁵² involves "keeping detainees awake for up to 180 hours, usually standing or in stress positions, at times with their hands shackled above their heads."¹⁵³ Heather Mac Donald, an American political commentator and journalist¹⁵⁴ quoted: "keeping a terror suspect up past his bedtime for questioning is not torture."¹⁵⁵ Here we can see how is everything just a play with word. Because 180 hours is hardly past bedtime.

The use of cold water for example means, that detainees were during interrogation dousing in cold water. After dousing they were wrapped in plastic and left like that for several minutes. In November 20, 2002 Gul Rahman, the suspect Afghan militant, died of hypothermia in a secret CIA prison in northern Kabul.¹⁵⁶

"According to CIA records, Abu Ja'far al-Iraqi was subjected to nudity, dietary manipulation, insult slaps, abdominal slaps, attention grasps, facial holds, walling, stress positions and water dousing with 44 degree Fahrenheit water for 18 minutes."¹⁵⁷

Dietary manipulation is switching from solid food to liquid (the liquid diet consists of Ensure and water). It also limits vomiting during waterboarding.¹⁵⁸

Attention grasp involves "grasping the suspect with both hands - one hand on each side of the collar opening - in one quick motion. In the same motion, the suspect is pulled towards the interrogator."¹⁵⁹

Facial hold is a procedure when interrogator put his hand on each side of detainee's face to keep his head immobile, keeping fingertips away from the detainee's eyes.¹⁶⁰

Walling is a method when suspect is slammed against a fake wall. To prevent a whiplash, his head and neck are supported with a rolled towel.¹⁶¹

Stress position is an interrogation method when large amount of a detainee weight is concentrating on a small amount of muscles.¹⁶² Detainee is for instance forced to stand erect for several hours, he might be shackled to the ceiling with his arms extended, without his feet touching the ground.¹⁶³

Water dousing is a technique when detainee is naked, held down on a tarp in the form of a bathtub and cold refrigerated water is poured on him.¹⁶⁴

Another interrogation methods:

Cramped confinement is a technique when the suspect is imprisoned for up to 18 hours in a box big enough to stand up in. Or he is shut for up to two hours in a smaller box just big enough to curl up in. Harmless insects can be put inside the box.¹⁶⁵

Rectal feeding, also **rectal rehydration** is a form of torture, when food is pureed and rectally infused to the detainee¹⁶⁶, which the former CIA chief Michal Hayden commented as follows: "That was a medical procedure because of detainee health. The people that are responsible there for the health of these detainees saw that they were becoming dehydrated... This is one of the ways that the body is rehydrated." According to him this method was done every time for the health of the detainee, not to interrogate or soften him.¹⁶⁷

Rough takedown is a term for dragging suspect out of his cell, cutting off his clothes, covering his head in a hood, securing him with a tape and forcing him to run in a hallway. Meanwhile officers are slapping and punching him.¹⁶⁸

Wall standing is a method when detainee faces a wall that is about four feet away. He has to reach out and touch the wall by his fingertips and stay in that position.¹⁶⁹

Water-boarding, sometimes also referred as the **water cure**¹⁷⁰ or **suffocation by water**¹⁷¹ is an euphemism for a method in which a detainee is strapped down, legs above their head, with his face wrapped in a wet towel when water is continuously poured over his face. It causes aspirating fluid to the point of being unable to breathe, it is a sensation of drowning. The term water board was firstly recorded in 1976 and the verb-noun waterboarding in 2004.¹⁷² The suspected senior Bin Laden lieutenant Abu Zubaydah was subject of waterboarding 83 times, Khalid

Sheikh Mohammed, the principal architect of the 9/11 attacks, underwent the process 183 times.¹⁷³

"The report also highlights the rendition of two Libyan nationals who were taken to Tripoli against their will, along with their families, in 2004."¹⁷⁴

The term **rendition** was coined by US bureaucrats and it is an act of "sending terrorism suspects to countries that allow the use of torture." It is for example Pakistan, Morocco, Saudi Arabia or Egypt.¹⁷⁵

"It is not known whether the Pentagon or the CIA still holds "ghost detainees," Satterthwaite said, referring to people housed at secret facilities."¹⁷⁶

Ghost detainees, also **ghost prisoners**, are suspected terrorists that are held in detention centers by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency as unregistered prisoners.¹⁷⁷

3.6. OFTEN USED WORDS IN CONNECTION WITH TERRORISM

Another often used words describing terrorism involve: bomb, brutality, death, panic, violence, etc. These words have a negative bias. They describe and arouse grief, pity, consternation or fear.

"The hostage takers reportedly wore suicide belts and bombs were strapped to the basketball goals in the gymnasium."¹⁷⁸

"They drove off towards Paris in the same Renault Clio car hijacked after the attack on the Charlie Hebdo offices."¹⁷⁹

"The siege of a school here in southern Russia ended Friday in panic, violence and death 52 hours after it began."¹⁸⁰

"The brutality of the hostage-taking seemed almost a natural disaster - an outbreak of human savagery in which neither the perpetrators nor their motives were known."¹⁸¹

"The French police killed three terrorists on Friday in raids, ending three days of bloodshed that shook a nation struggling with Islamic extremists."¹⁸²

The word **raid** means a sudden surprise attack and comes from 15th century from Old English.¹⁸³

"The group's abduction of 276 schoolgirls a year ago shocked the world, but its brutality has gone much further: When the group sacked Gwoza, its fighters beheaded boys and men like goats, burned dozens on a pyre and announced that the women were slaves who would be forcibly married off or sold. Boys as young as 10 were shot."¹⁸⁴

"Many other boys were abducted and forced to join the group to fight and learn its hard, narrow view of the Koran, played out in endless killing and suicidal jihad. No one knows how many boys were abducted, how many males were killed, and how many women were forced into marriage in Gwoza during Boko Haram's terrifying eight-month occupation of the city of about 275,000."¹⁸⁵

Koran also spelled **Qur'an** is a "sacred text of Islam, considered by Muslims to contain the revelation of God to Muhammad."¹⁸⁶ According to the Koran, "Muslims have the duty of fighting enemies and invading non-Muslim territories to spread Islam."¹⁸⁷

"ISIS and Al Qaeda are increasingly mounting and calling for attacks on soft targets as a means of deterring Western assaults on their strongholds."¹⁸⁸

ISIS is an abbreviation which "stands for Islamic State in Iraq and Syria and is a militant group ruling by Sharia law."¹⁸⁹

Al Qaeda (The Base) is "an international terrorist network which is responsible for the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon (September 11, 2001). It was founded by Osama bin Laden in 1989."¹⁹⁰

4. CONCLUSION

In this thesis I worked with terrorism like with a concept that is understood and described in U. S. media differently. Journalists are avoiding to use the terms terrorism and terrorists, even when they are referring to a terrorist organisation and their members or actions. They substitute these words with double speak and euphemisms. And that is what I am focusing on in my thesis. Primarily in the practical part, since the theoretical one introduces to the problematics of defining of terrorism and provides the information necessary for better understanding.

I sacrifice the majority of my bachelor thesis to euphemisms and doublespeak. Sometimes they can help us, in polite phrases, to express our condolences or to avoid the taboos. But they can be also a communication barrier. They soften the meaning of words and it gives them the ability to camouflage the real meaning and this way to it deceives the reader or listener. In this case it impedes the reader to see what is really happening. The vocabulary of doublespeak and euphemisms in the field of terrorism is very rich. Just for the word terrorist, there are about 20 substitutions. Also the vocabulary of torture/interrogation and its methods is very extensive.

In the theoretical part are interviews where national security reporter defends the term surgical strike which according to him, is not a euphemism, the director of the CIA claims they do not torture people, but he intentionally avoids the direct answers. He also said that rectal feeding is just a medical procedure and is not used for torture. And for a political commentator and journalist 180 hours without sleeping is not a sleep deprivation. This supports my idea, for journalists and politicians it is just a game of words. Their attitude of speeches and writing will not change, they will be creating new euphemisms and doublespeak, as long as we will not understand them. This different describing of terrorists and their acts

has a negativ influence on our ability to distinguish terrorism from other criminal acts. The last part of the second chapter shows that the articles about terrorism are full of terms with negative bias. They relate to assault, death, violence, killing, panic, fear

5. RESUMÉ

Tato práce se zabývá používáním slov 'terorismus' a 'terorista' a především jak jsou tato slova v tisku nahrazována. Dále se pak zabývá skutečným významem těchto substitucí, jelikož je důležité si všimnout, že tato slova nejsou ke slovu 'terorista' nebo 'terorismus' synonymní. Jedná se o eufemismy a takzvané mlžení. Tyto metody jsou v americkém tisku velmi používané, ovšem nejsou žádoucí, jelikož svoji povahou, která snižuje význam slov, klamou čtenáře. Eufemismy a mlžení zmírňují slova s negativním podtextem, což v případě teroristického útoku nepodává přesné informace. V této práci jsou také vybrány další, jedny z nejpoužívanějších a nejzajímavějších eufemismů týkající se terorismu. Na konci praktické části jsou úryvky z novinových článků, kde je vidět, jaká slova se spojí s popisem teroristických útoků.

Aby však běžný čtenář bez většího zájmu o terorismus mohl pochopit praktickou část, předchází jí část teoretická, kde jsou vysvětlené pojmy jako terorismus, eufemismus a mlžení. Dále je zde charakteristika teroristických organizací Boko Haram a Hamas a popis teroristického útoku na Beslanskou školu v Severní Osetii a na redakci francouzského časopisu Charlie Hebdo.

6. ABSTRAKT

This bachelor thesis deals with words 'terrorism' and 'terrorist', primarily with their substitution. It is important to notice that these substituting words are not synonymous to the words 'terrorism' and 'terrorist'. They are euphemisms and doublespeak. These methods are very used in American press, but they are unwanted, because they deceive the reader. The word with negative bias are replaced by pleasing words which in the case of reporting terrorist attack is very inaccurate. In this thesis you can also find one of the most common and the most interesting euphemisms concerning terrorism. At the end of the practical part are extracts from newspaper articles, where you can see what words are connect with the description of terrorist attack.

Before the practical part is a part theoretical, so a common reader with no special interest in terrorism would be able to understand the practical part. In the theoretical part are explain terms like terrorism, euphemism and doublespeak, there is also a characteristic of Boko Haram and Hams which are terrorist organisations and than there is a description of the terrorist attack on Beslan school in North Ossetia and on the editorial office of the french magazine Charlie Hebdo.

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