



POST-TRUTH : AN ANALYSIS IN THE PRESENT ERA

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ABSTRACT

After much discussion, debate and research, Oxford dictionary declared 2016 word of the year - 'Post-truth' defined as relating to or denoting circumstances in which objective facts are less influential in shaping public opinion *1.

KEYWORDS : Post-truth, Post-truth politics, like sourced. Like-grouped.

"History is a set of lies people have agreed upon" Napoleon.

The concept of Post-truth has been in existence for the past decade. But the usage has seen a spike in frequency this year in the context of EU referendum in U.K and Presidential election in the United States*2. It has also become associated with a particular noun, in the phrase post-truth politics.

The compound, word post-truth exemplifies an expansion in the meaning of prefix- post rather than referring to the time after a specified situation or event, as in post-war or post-match - the prefix in post-truth has a meaning more like belonging to a time' which is coined by American blogger and journalist David Robert.*3

Post-truth politics:

The term "Post-truth politics" was defined as 'Political culture' in which politics, public-opinion and media narratives have become almost entirely disconnected from policy*4. A defining trait of post-truth politics is that, the campaign continues to repeat their talking point, even if these are found to be untrue by the media or independent experts.

Post-truth era:

In the post-truth era we are constantly bombarded with messages that can be labelled as "half-truth or no-truth"*5. Propagandists speak in such a way that the targeted people believe and accept disinformation as information. They are successful in their effort as they are convinced that the audience can be persuaded, manipulated and deceived. Lies that are told in a convincing way are treated as truth and result in shaping public opinion.

Lies coupled with emotional appeal with the heart of the weak who don't know how to differentiate between falsehood and truth, information and disinformation, distortion falsehood and fiction try to have victory over information and truth*6. In the post-truth era, certain lies are considered too benign to be treated as lies.

Remedy:

The role of the educators is crucial in the post-truth world. The US BASED PARTNERSHIP FOR 21ST CENTURY SKILLS (P21) has identified communication, collaboration, creativity and critical thinking known as 4C's as the skills required for 21st century education *7. The critical thinking is the most important of the four skills in the post-truth era or century. In this period of history there is an urgent need to foster critical thinking in students and help them distinguish between information and misinformation / disinformation.

Critical thinking according to Health and physical education in the Newzealand Curriculum (1999) is examining, questioning evaluating and challenging taken for granted assumption about issues and practices *8. The critical mind is inquisitive and fact finding mind. Critical thinkers don't take anything for granted.

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