

The Bottom Line in a Post-Truth Perspective

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Abstract: In the environment of deepening globalization, the value of TV dramas in cultural dissemination, building national image and enhancing national cultural strength is becoming more and more prominent. As an important carrier of China's cultural communication, TV dramas have the important mission of spreading national culture, shaping national image and improving national cultural soft power. The article analyzes the drama "The Bottom Line" released in China from the perspective of post-truth, which mainly focuses on a series of legal issues arising from cyber violence to reflect human ethics.

Keywords: Post-truth; Post-truth era; The Bottom Line.

1. Introduction

On September 19, 2022, *The Bottom Line* was aired on Hunan TV and synchronized on Mango TV and Aichi. This drama is the first step of the realism of the legal system theme TV drama with the guidance of the Supreme People's Court, panoramic real show the latest achievements of China's judicial reform. Mainly about the present era of the rule of law in the judicial road in the face of the new era of the context of the case continue to open up, interpretation of the contemporary ordinary people's judge mission to bear the story. The drama has brought some real cases, which have attracted much attention in the society and are representative, to the TV screen. In fact, most of these cases are adapted from real cases in reality, and belong to the post-truth events, more representative of the "girlfriends murder case" adapted from the "11.3 stay in Japan girls murder case" is what we call the public "Jiang Ge case", "help you pull case" adapted from "cargo Lala case", "Tang Xiaoyun matricide case" adapted from "Wu Xieyu matricide case" these cases were in the community at the time caused a lot of discussion among netizens, and even caused public opinion cases, but the truth of the late and most netizens did not pay attention to, we are concerned about the output of their own words, their right to speak can not be expressed. For the authenticity of the case, even when receiving information is also the problem of denial or selective "deafness", only to accept those with their own views or values in line with the message, while ignoring those with their own position contrary to the message.

2. Post-truth to Post-truth Era

2.1. The Conceptual Origins of Post-truth

Post-truth is a foreign word, called post-truth in English, in which "post" means "beyond", from the English words can be seen "beyond the truth". The word "post-truth" means "beyond", and it is clear from the English word that "beyond truth" means that "truth" is no longer so important. The word "post-truth" first appeared in 1992 in the United States, "The Nation" miscellaneous reflections on the Gulf War, the author pointed out that the government wants to contain the truth, cover up the facts of the behavior of the United States people living in a post-truth world, but at that time after the emergence of post-truth this word did not cause a large reaction and attention, until the 2016 U.S. presidential election and the British referendum on the European Union

two events, the word used in the major media, the media, the media, the media, the media and the public. The word's usage in major media rose rapidly, up 2,000% from its 2015 usage, and as a result, the Oxford Dictionary named it the word of the year for 2016 in November 2016. The word "post-truth" is a term that is used to describe a situation in which a person has a strong belief that he or she has been wrongly accused of a crime. "It is defined as a kind of objectivity associated with plurality of circumstances in which objective facts have a weaker influence than emotions in shaping public perceptions"[1] In China, Luo Yuting and Wu Nan define post-truth from the perspective of cyberspace. In China, Luo Yuting and Wu Nan define it from the perspective of cyberspace, believing that "post-truth is the ecology of online public opinion in which the online media, especially the social media, replaces objective facts with emotional and imaginative facts, and replaces objective information with subjective information of subjective desires, imaginings and tendencies that deviate from or are detached from the objective facts".[2]

2.2. The Post-truth Era

Post-truth is not a complete denial of the existence of the truth or the fact of the truth, but rather a change from a rational concern for the truth to an emotional catharsis. In the post-truth era, it does not mean that only lies are false, but it is still "false" to focus on only part of the truth. The Post-Truth Era is a book by Hector MacDonald, a British writer, in which he divides post-truth into four types, namely, one-sided truth, subjective truth, artificial truth, and unknown truth. These four categories provide a new dimension to our understanding of the post-truth era.

2.3. The Generation of Post-truth Phenomena

On the one hand, in the post-truth era, people's concern and care has changed from focusing on facts and advocating the truth to satisfying their inner needs and belonging to a group. Because the public in this era pays more attention to the "microphone" that they didn't have before, they want to express their long suppressed right to speak and choose, and even use a more radical way to express their voices at the expense of the truth. "When an event spreads to the society through the 'decentralized' and 'flat' media, and various communication discourse systems enter people's minds, the audience selectively believes in certain 'facts' that match with their own knowledge level and emotional attitudes. The

audience selectively believes in certain 'facts' that match their knowledge level and emotional attitude, and even fails to recognize the truth that has already been disclosed." [3]

On the one hand, the rapid development of information technology and the high degree of self-media development have shifted the power of discourse downward. In the new period of networking, the public is given more opportunities to voice, everyone can become a producer and disseminator of information, so also to some of the wrong information to provide a convenient, when the public realized that the information they pass on the wrong may have been a variety of versions of rumors have been created, it is too late. Therefore, in recent years, "reverse news" has gradually entered the public's view, such as "help you pull the case" is adapted from a real reverse news.

Finally, the post-truth phenomenon is the result of a capitalization drive following big data algorithmic recommendations. "More and more people in the media are becoming convinced that truth is unprofitable, while fiction is profitable." [4] The content of the user's search and the length of the viewing time. According to the user's search content, clicks and the length of viewing time, under the recommendation of big data algorithms, it can accurately recommend to the user the content he is interested in. In this case, those who write false information for the sake of click-through rate become the beneficiaries of the marketing number. From this, we can also see that "the commercialization of information has made information play a role in shaping public opinion in the post-truth era, and another important feature of the secondary public opinion shaping of the post-truth era is the operation of media consumerism and entertainment". [5]

3. The Bottom Line in the Post-Truth Era

Bottom line is a realist legal drama, most of the cases in the drama are adapted from real cases, which has certain practical significance. In the above content we mentioned Hector MacDonald's "post-truth era", next we talk about the post-truth era in the era of one-sided truth, subjective truth, man-made truth, the unknown truth under the four types of era of the "bottom line".

First one-sided truth: the truth chosen by the communicator. One-sided truth is when advocates take advantage of the complexity, history, and context of reality to amplify a part of the truth on purpose, not conveying the full truth, and purposefully misleading. In *The Bottom Line*, Li Fangning encountered sexual harassment in the workplace, but the other party refused to admit it and used the one-sided truth that Li Fangning was a saleswoman with revealing clothes to imply and mislead that Li Fangning was not a "proper woman" to fight back, and the public did not think about it after receiving these messages, but rather acquiesced in attacking Li Fangning, the victim herself, for the sake of making a statement. Li Fangning is the victim herself.

Second subjective truth: truth that can be changed. Subjective truth means that because people's perceived morality, attractiveness, and financial worth are our main motivators, there is a subjective nature to the individual's judgment of him or herself, so outsiders can change it by finding the key elements. In the drama "murder of girlfriends", Mu Ziqi was stabbed to death by Ge Qingqing's ex-boyfriend in order to protect her best friend Ge Qingqing, and Mu Ziqi's

fiancé pursued Ge Qingqing's legal responsibility through a civil lawsuit, and due to the lack of witnesses, Ge Qingqing's testimonies were inconsistent in the meantime, and Ge Qingqing tried to cover up the truth by convincing herself that it was her own subjective truth. This is Ge Qingqing's own subjective truth.

Third artificial truths: truths created by people. The act of using new definitions, social constructs and definitions to suit one's own purposes is actually creating new truths. In the drama "Sudden Death of Anchor", Luo Youyou, a popular anchor, died suddenly during a live broadcast because of the high intensity of the network company's work, although not explicitly mandatory, but the behavior of the leadership, as well as the company's system is to make employees work at high intensity. Her boss, however, said, although the anchor work is high-intensity, but the company is not mandatory, and, before the sudden death of Locke Youyou take leave to go home for three days, but these three days are not used to rest, is to take a part-time job to buy a house for his brother, so Locke Youyou's death has nothing to do with the company and the use of network public opinion to pressure Locke Youyou parents, this is the boss created a new truth.

The fourth unknown truth: the truth that affects the future. Unknown truths are things that are predicted to happen in the future and are treated as truths, which have not yet become reality, but which you believe will become reality. In *The Bottom Line*, Li Xiaole's manager invites Mr. and Mrs. Fang Yuan to a family dinner, and when Fang Yuan sees the manager's nephew, he immediately leaves because the manager's nephew is a party to one of Fang Yuan's cases, and he thinks that the manager's nephew is going to look for him to do something out of order, so he immediately leaves and has a heated argument with Li Xiaole.

4. Reflections in a Post-Truth Era

4.1. The Post-truth Era Following the Question of

The first is that the public chooses to ignore the truth in order to have a voice. The public ignores the truth, in fact, in the post-truth era, it belongs to the one-sided truth, the more complex the subject, the greater the chance of ignoring the unfavorable truth, we often see that people hide the important truth and distort the reality by ignoring it, and now the society has created such a phenomenon: part of the people say the truth, but they only choose to say part of it. Because in the post-truth era, the public's need for the truth has exceeded the need for the truth, the public chooses to ignore it, thinking that as long as they tell the truth, they are getting closer to the truth, but the public ignores the fact that the part of the truth that has been covered up has taken them farther and farther away from the truth. Even if all statements are the truth, they may still distort the truth.

The second is that reverse news can affect the social trust of the mainstream media. Reverse news is a product of the post-truth era. Mainstream media has a certain degree of authority to the public, which is the social credibility gradually accumulated by mainstream media. However, in the era of new media, some netizens are unable to categorize the media, and it is easy for them to regard platforms with the function of information dissemination as media of the same nature. In fact, the online news that netizens come into contact with in their daily lives cannot be called real news, they can only be regarded as online information. The social platforms

and self-media that publish online information are full of false information and rumors, so some self-media will intentionally imitate the official media to publish information to enhance the credibility of the information. Therefore, when the online information released by these self-media is reversed, the public can easily attribute the source of the false news to the mainstream media.

The third is the rampant misinformation in the post-truth era. "Due to the openness of social platforms and other reasons, the threshold for the release and dissemination of information has been lowered, and a large amount of information has been generated and piled up, leading to a mixed online environment. False information is spreading in a viral manner, causing a serious impact on the lives of the general public." [6](c) The existence of "pseudo-opinion leaders" on some platforms who spread false information for profit, without considering the consequences of such information for the public, who are easily drawn into such false information. In some platforms, there are "pseudo-opinion leaders" who spread false information for profit, and they do not consider what consequences false information will bring to the public, and the public can easily be caught up in the "waterfall of information flow" by such false information, brainwashing the public and inculcating information, which makes the public farther and farther away from the truth. The public is easily drawn into the "waterfall of information" by such false information, which brainwashes and indoctrinates the public and makes them further and further away from the truth.

4.2. Strategies for Coping with Problems in a Post-Truth Era

The first is to improve the media literacy of the audience. If we want to solve the problem at the source, we have to start from the audience. In the era of new media, the public's right to speak is more and more at the center. Although the audience is at the center, their media literacy has not been improved, and the threshold of information producers and disseminators is getting lower and lower. As long as the audience begins to learn to pay attention to the truth, no longer lacks the sense of rational analysis, and strengthens the ability to interpret and judge, they will have a certain ability to judge the information on the Internet. When the audience's media literacy increases, the "microphone" in the hands of the audience will become a microphone of positive energy. Thus, improving the media literacy of the audience is an effective way to ensure the good dissemination of information.

Secondly, traditional media should correctly guide public opinion in a timely manner. In the case that the new media mechanism is not yet fully mature, traditional media need to take on the heavy responsibility of guiding the overall network environment. Since traditional media are more professional and authoritative, and the public is more willing

to trust traditional media than new media, traditional media should maintain the transparency of news, enhance the power of guiding social opinions, take the initiative of social opinions, and guide the correct direction of social opinions.

Thirdly, it is necessary to cultivate public information ethics and raise the public's legal awareness. In some cases, the public is easy to make preconceived judgments and vent their feelings, in the drama "mother-shaming murder case", the public did not fully understand the cause of the incident on the basis of sympathy for the murderer, and put pressure on the court, and sometimes also on the parties involved in the human flesh search, the character in the drama, Zhao Fangning, because of the network public opinion on the Internet blocking interviews, these cyber violence will cause secondary damage to the parties involved. The character of Zhao Fangning in the drama has been besieged and interviewed by netizens because of the Internet opinion, and these Internet violence will cause secondary damage to the person concerned.

5. Conclusion

The emergence of the "post-truth era" is not necessarily a bad thing, the public wants to speak out, the public dissemination of information is in order to better explore the "truth". It's just that the public just got their own "microphone", and they haven't mastered how to use it yet. In the author's opinion, the appearance of "The Bottom Line" is not simply to let the audience watch one more drama, but through the adaptation of past events to recall the public's mind has been concerned about the event, so that the public learn to explore the "truth".

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