Speciesism in Advertising: A Critical Discourse Analysis

Branislava Vičar

Associate Professor for Slovene Language, Faculty of Arts, Maribor, Slovenia

TV advertisements as a form of multimodal discourse Habitual format of a communicative action

Problem	Solution
'insects breaking into the human home'	'use of insecticide'

Fundamental theoretical and methodological framework

 Multimodal critical discourse analysis (Kress and van Leeuwen 2006; Machin 2007)

• Social actors theory (van Leeuwen 1996, 2008)

All levels of communication are shaped by power relations and ideologies, not just language.

Multimodality refers to the integrated use of different semiotic resources (e.g. language, image, sound, music) in texts and communicative events.

Multimodal critical discourse analysis:

• a systematic model for the study of the intersemiotic relationships between modes

 examines the maintenance and legitimation of inequality, injustice and oppression in multimodal texts Visual categorization of human and animal actors



Raid One Shot Fly Spray

Anthropomorfic construction of insects' intentional and planned attack



Baygon Commercial Advert



Mortein NaturGard Auto Protect Indoor Odourless



Baygon Insecticide



Raid Laminitas



Raid Original Commercial (1956)





Raid Original Commercial (1956)





RaidTelevision Commercial (1990s)





Changes in insecticide advertisement in the context of corporate capitalism

Raid Original Commercial (1956)	Raid Television Commercial (1990s)
Topos of disandvantage	Topos of danger and threat
,The fact that insects are in the human home is harmful and annoying and therefore they must be destroyed'	,Insects threaten the safety of human home and family'

"Beings from the edge of perception"

(Jure Detela)

Double discursive purpose of anthropomorphic and animated representation of insects in insecticide advertisements:

- attribution of negative characteristics
- erasing the insects as real beings from human consciousness

"Flies have a right to more than life, they have a right to be curious."

(Djuna Barnes, The Dove)