Midget-Giant and the Enigma (The Precocious Man-Child): An Interplay of Faith, Language and skills in Two films on David and Goliath

Fasanmi, Olufunso Tosin, Ph.D
English Studies Department, College of Humanities
Tai Solarin University of Education, Ijagun, Ogun State, Nigeria
fasanmiot@tasued.edu.ng

Abstract
This study investigated faith, language and skills as expressed in two biblical videos on the shameful onslaught of Goliath by the precocious man-child, David, 'King David'. The choice of the two videos are purposive. Agenda-setting and, Propaganda theories of Alonzo, DaRosa and Procopio (2008) were used to explain media and information technics as potent tools of communication. Semantic study was also used to illustrate the illocutionary force that always sent the Israelites "blood to run watery" according to the fiery Goliath, giving deeper meanings to his threats and Davids' victory. The paper revealed the demonstration of raw faith by David, the hope of the hopeless nation of Israel. Strong language use and correct word choice to succinctly describe the stratospheric chains of events, that could rival the holocaust incurred after Captain Smith's utterance about the ill-fated sunk Titanic ship of 1912. "Not even God can sink this ship". Tim Shay (Riverrain films) used American English pronunciation patterns and polished standard English just like Moshood 100. The paper therefore recommends faith in God's power and acknowledge of the sovereignty of the Almighty God at all times. Learning from Goliath's fall and the sunk Titanic ship saga of 1912 saga that wisdom and the fear of God is highly required of all humans while skills acquisition practice, aid confidence should be taken seriously by technocrats in human endeavors " The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom". Intuition and wisdom should have restrained him from accepting the duel challenge, but Goliath lacked both. Seeing a mere – child, Isreal army is enough warning signal for a man without pride and overconfidence. Goliath was blindfolded by past achievements and victory envisaged is enough signal for a man without pride or overconfidence. There was more to it that met the eye! His confidence in his armour and strength made him forget the adage "By strength shall no man prevail".

Keywords: Midget, Hate Speech, Terrorism, Usurpation, Giant, Precocious, Man-Child, Hashtag

Introduction

Language as a potent tool for communication is a greatly cherished gift from God to mankind. Language according to Sapir (1921) is a purely human and non-instinctive method of communicating ideas, emotions and desires by means of voluntarily produced symbols:. Hall (1968) indicates in his definition, human interaction with one another, as they habitually communicate using oral auditory symbols. For these reasons the effects of words, utterances, expressions tones and sounds on the decoder go a long way as signals are sent to the brain through the central nervous system in communication. This indicates 'habit' as would be pointed out by the theoretical framework of behaviorism (Hall 1968). The word 'habit' becomes a strong word for the Israelites' psychological make-up as Goliath in his characteristic, manner was always growling menacingly at the people of Israel every moment creating fear and perplexity. The negative psychological effect of the threats on the psyche of both young and old was better imagined, as he bellows charging like a castrated bull most times. Linguists believe that words can be more deadly than weapon because it devastates the very essence of an individual more swiftly that a dagger. It can also kill slowly, leading to physical and psychological implosion. Words are creative tools but they also negative or positive effect depending on the choice and potency of the word.

The two chosen videos on David and Goliath revealed the apt use of language faith and skills. Tim Shay's video (our thematic concern on faith and language) described many events convincingly and skillfully. The Moshood 100 version presented the skills of the Israelites and the Philistines as two great warlords, but Israelites suffered under the threats of usurpation, annexation and terrorism by the Philistines. However, the raw and rustic natural skills of David were mirrored as they were brought to the fore by the weakling, the midget-giant Goliath.

Theoretical Framework and Methodology

This paper employed purposive sampling in selecting the two films or videos. Tim Shay was selected for language use and faith demonstrated by David despite all odds, pleas, threats and persuasions while Moshood 100's video was selected to analyzes the skills exhibited by the Israelites, philistines and of course the victorious man-child, David.

Agenda setting and Propaganda Theories were used while Semantic study and Behaviourist and analysis were mentioned.

The State of the nation of Israel

In psychology, the stimulus response theory indicates action and reaction. Also, learning is done through repetition for permanence. Hence, the Israelites had learnt the language of threat and coercion directly from the action and inaction of Goliath and the philistines. They must have memorized Goliaths utterance and had a picture snapped into their heart and sub conscious mind. The language of death, devastation, annexation, usurpation, terrorism, defeat and obliteration from the face of the earth were learnt by them for forty days and forty night. He made very many denigrating remarks to God as well.

He would come out and harass the nation of Israel. In Nigeria, a terrorist named Shekau was known for such occasional declaration and attestation of their horror unleashed on innocent Nigerian citizens. Goliath always had such macabre tone and language as he defamed Jehovah, the God of the host of Israel. The Nigerian Shekau did just that and even more!

The two situations apparently would send shrills down the spines of citizens of such nations. Meanings have been described in terms of words to mean lexemes, Semantic words (orthographic word or phonologically related phonology) with strings of sounds strung together

or having the same semantic word (meanings) variously represented grammatically in different variants. These varieties have different meanings with specific functions in communication (John, 1. Saeed 1997, 2003). Goliath used different appellations in Shay's film to show his detestation and contempt for God. He used several words expressed and acted by Ted Cassidy who acted the role of Goliath.

> *Ted Cassidy (Goliath): Like…… "Your faceless God. Jehovah!"*
> *"I spit three times for your impotent and faceless God Jehovah!"*
> *Ted Cassidy (Goliath): The war is now between the*
> *champion of Dagon against the champion of your*
> *powerless God Jehovah!" etc.*

The use of such demeaning and pejorative words to describe the revered Jehovah, the God of Israel nation is a flaming dagger ripping the hearts of the fledgling Israel nation state army…... "Horror at the valley of Elah" one would say. The Philistine engaged in querilla warfare, kidnapping and killing the Israelites as they encamped at Succor. The semiotic language of choosing white flag as against red, by the emissaries Israelites' army as they journeyed towards the Philistine' camp to appease the intransigent Goliath and his cohort further aggravated their fury…….

> *"You came uninvited, and insulted us by asking for*
> *"just a little land! They jeered at them.*

The Israelites entreated and begged

> *"You have annexed all our land. We shall give you. (10, 000) Ten thousand deckers and move to area that is not even fertile. You can have the entire land of Elah. Just give us a little land".*

In response, the Philistines declined such requests.

"We won't give you a little land, we want it all!. They threatened and mocked them as the Philistines were being guided by Satan, (represented as an old man in the video) full of evil thoughts.

The 1990[s] Iraqi-Kuwaiti Gulf war of Saddam Hussein's annexation of Kuwait because of their oil wells was a case in point in world history. (Goliath's armour bearer) who always massaged his ego, but at the same time reminded him of who Jehovah is has …….powerful, dreadful!. He emphasized, was an example of the hangers on, who push arrogant, wicked leader to their precipice of destructive before they stop following them and look for another spineless victims

Agenda-Setting Theory and Propaganda and the role of information Dissemination

Over the ages humans have been communicating verbally and non verbally. In modern day 21[st] century, the media would have done so much damage to inform and misinform the two warring sides, Israel and the Philistines Information for war reporting mostly is based on agenda setting and propaganda. Some untrue information, some damaging, photoshop and misleading sketches would have been used. The agenda is to cause confusion, fear and unrest in the hearts of opponents.

In this century, the media has been grossly abused by the political class and tyrants especially across thirds world countries, Europe and African continents. There are instances of people being spotlighted and criminalized for speaking the truth, ethnic profiling for going against and oppression by the ruling class. If Goliath were to use the media of today, he would have gathered more than enough followers among the Israelites to work against their people using ethnicity and profiling them for hashtag, hate speech treasonable felony and arson, as they speak for the oppressed and the downtrodden. This is the media literacy meant to educate and reform the society using skills of inquiry and self-expression required of citizens of democracy. (Thoman and Jolls, 2005,) Wikiversity, 2016 cited in Oni, B.O and Fasanmi O.T (2017).

The agenda of media users vary, mostly meant to favour their aims and aspirations. While the Israelites communicated positively using the instrument of communication by sending peace makers, to the Philistines camp and Goliath within their ranks only killed and mainmed, sending severed heads and dying citizens of Israel or soldiers on a horse barks to Israel that was their own deadly communication apparatus. The Philistines from time to time ambushed and killed the Israelites. Goliath's approach if operational now can be likened to the Critical Approach, Classical Semiotic Approach and the Cultural Studies Approaches. As observed by Oni and Fasanmi (2017) in line with Piette Giroux (1998) and UNESCO, the media critical approach ideology sees the media as all powerful ideology used by the ruling class to impose repressive ideologies into the minds of the masses. "It assumes a passive audience and a powerful media" (Shilder 2017, Oni & Fasanmi 2017), apparently, Goliath would have used such media to his utmost advantage for repression. Thus, Buckyham (2003, Shilder 2017, Oni and Fasanmi 2017 also observed, the use and importance of semiotic method in communication. The negative use was seen on a large scale during the Israel and Philistines war saga era. From the Israelite camp, some political elites would have influenced King Saul to see David's affront especially as he refused to use his armour for defense against Goliath, a debate that may have stopped David from fighting. Goliath's friends in the Israelite army and the rich would have done everything to keep the Israelites in perpetual bondage using the media to tell lies and distort information in the situation.

Image Laundering, Hangers on, the Priesthood and the Embattled Goliath

The midget-giant Goliath. "He bestrides the whole world like a colossus- (William Shakespear). This creature variously described by David in Tim Shay's video as this folk, this monster, animal, uncircumcised animal by David and Goliath armour bearer has a false image of himself, his height, perceived strength, but no sense: even his hangers on tactfully reminded him the truth about God of Israel who wrought wonders by parting the red sea for them and recovering the stolen Ark of Covenant by Goliath and his allies. He could not be bothered in his self-delusion. They praised him to high heavens to the extent of near brandishing him as a messiah!

The devil image created to lead him astray and hail his evil deed was so proud of his prowess and strength

and invincible status to a fault. They were soon to be disappointed!

Word Choice and Expressions in Tim Shay's film

The use of negative words, discouraging expressions from David's brother Eliab, Saul and his daughter Micah. Though her presence in camp was not mentioned in the scripture.

Micah: *You cannot win David*!
Eliab: *I told you to leave, get on your horse and leave!*
Elder brother: *Goliath will kill you David and hang your head on a stake, if that is what you want!*
Eliab: *You will get killed and our father will blame me!. God cannot save you David!*
David: *He can and He will, He is my fortress and my salvation!*
Eliab: *I don't believe in God!*
David: *Even though you don't believe in God, I will not stop trusting and believing Him!*
Elder brother: *Let me get this to your stupid brain, that man Goliath will kill you, that is what he was trained to do, likes doing. He will kill you David! David go home father is waiting for you. Thus is sheer madness*!

Out of frustration Saul expressed despondency.
Saul: *See all our beloved valley sequestered now!*

Micah, King Saul's daughter the promised gift to whoever killed Goliath express fear concerning David, not to venture into it for her sake.

Micah: *You don't have to do this! Shepherd boy, please don't die. Don't throw away your life!*

Even Saul discouraged him initially but later gave in to pressure from him and he approved his request to fight Goliath. He gave him his blessings.

Faith and the Impossible Demonstrated

The Holy Bible describes faith as the impossible, yet possible. The substance of things not seen but believe that they are,
"*Faith is what makes real the things we hope for, it is proof of what we cannot see.*

David's demonstration of faith is marvelous in spite of his tender age. This is an indication of God's apparent presence in his life. Words of encouragement and commitment were demonstrated by David character Miles Slowman in Shay's film.

Miles Slowman (David) said…….

"Faith is having three hundred (3000) men fighting ten thousand (10, 000) or standing on the shore of the Red Sea and saying that the sea would part". Faith is the unknown but yet known. It is the impossible but possible. "but my God will deliver me".

"I will kill the chap and I will get back to my sheep" (Miles Slowman).
"I can see sword slit through throat but my God will be there for me".
The lord is my shepherd I shall not want……." Psalm. 23 (Mile Slowman), reading David's Psalm 23. The Lord's prayer.

Throughout the Night

The ranks of Israel witnessed debates, condemnation, suggestions but still some insisted that David should be allowed and supported to take up the challenge and fight Goliath in the morning There was tension, the atmosphere was greatly charged. They prayed for him.

As that was going on, the camp of the Philistines engaged in espionage by sending spies out to see if Israel's chosen champions identity could filter to them. They got to know about David and they killed the soldier that told them by duress.

The ……(armour bearer, the priesthood) devil and other praise --------- Goliath, expressed mockery for such a choice that they dared not venture into such suicidal mission by send a shepherd boy to fight Goliath, that no one could defeat Goliath, "especially not a shepherd boy". The armour bearer retorted excitedly. This is the irony and the Achilles heel of Goliath that bought about his downfall and defeat of the Philistines. The clown reminded him of how Jehovah, the God of the Israelites' fiery power and how he had helped them. All these testimonies were not in the least convincing to Goliath.

David's brothers threatened, persuaded and begged him to drop this suicidal mission but he declined, teaching them what faith could do".

Eliab: "let me get this to your stupid" brain, you don't have a chance of defeating Goliath. He was created to kill, and this is what he will do to you!" (Eliab), David demonstrated faith.

Miles Slowman (David): "maybe that is what I was born to do. To bring back faith to those who desperately need it. I will kill the monster and get back to my sheep!.

In frustration, one of his brothers said "this is sheer madness"!

Eliab, his brother even doubted that David once killed a lion because David was known to be a shepherd, a poet, a singer and a harpist, very eloquent in handling musical instrument, with astounding dexterity, but not a warrior!. Ironically, David from the stock of Jesus Christ, the lion of the Tribe of Judah, A Benjamite needed no sweat to kill a lion even as a small lad! He had already been anointed by God to do exceedingly exploit to the Glory of God.

Skills, dexterity and Intuition in Riverrain Republics Pictures on David and Goliath.

The Philistines were known to be very skilful in the art of warfare, the clown Goliath (armor bearer) in Tim Shay's film boasted of their invincibility and possession of the deadliest and most effective weapon that he had never used before from the best blacksmith of all ages…. The "sword of Ahaka" which was divinely reserved to severe his head … an irony or twist of fate because he had it ten times sharper than usual.

The Israel's army understood the mountains and hills very well and their Benjamin Archers and foot soldiers were ever ready to use the creeks and hills to advantage. They always lay ambush for the Philistine army and this had become worrisome to the Philistines.

David still got trained by Abner who still believed that David may be a sacrificial lamb. However, he instructed him to save time and engage Goliath in conversation to draw away his attention even as he distanced himself away from him. David having practised and mastered the use of sling (simple but deadly weapon) and stone, he was ready for the onslaught. With five stones from the brook he moved calculatingly towards Goliath. By ….dodging his numerous sword strikes and getting quickly out his vision field he prolonged the fight. By the time he struck Goliath, the physical demonstration by Ted Cassidy playing David indicated his unbelief that, with his fingers he dazedly demonstrated how the stone was released timely by David from the sling as he slowly surged and staggered forward with blurred vision, the stone sunk into Goliath forehead and no doubt the last signal activity of his central nervous system which must have been instructed by his brain, that a mere small, harmless shepherd boy did the work of the God of all impossibilities by killing him. Ted Cassidy in Republic Picture gave a good demonstration of the slow but meaningful motion before he crashed.

Conclusion

Athletes are prepared in the gymnasium before the final match " God taught David's fingers to war against the lions and bears (2Sam, 22-25) (Olusola, B, 2021) while Goliath, the veteran war lord was unleashing terror on the Israelites, David a rookie war-trainee from obscurity, became God's Champion, rendering Goliath impotent. " you come to me with pear and javelin but I come to you in the name of the Lord of host, the God of the army of Israel whom you defied (1 Sam, 17-45), faith, language and skills were treated the two films with maturity and experience.

Recommendations

It is good to trust in God and do our best in our daily endeavours for accomplishment. It is only the hand of God that saves his own Miles Showman (David) because by strength shall no man prevail (Olusola. B. 2021).The researcher is also a living testimony of the power of God which always brings back nostalgic moments when someone, surprised said. "Did this fellow come out of this bus also, unscathed?!"

Olusola, B. (2021) observed that "David saw Goliath not as a threat too big to hit, but as a target too big to miss". Therefore submit that Goliath is too small and stupid for his height and presumed strength not to rubbish!. He is a midget-giant, while David is the larger than life giant of Jehovah (God). David is a good role model of all ages. I recommend his faith, skills and talents for all.

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