



**Crime and Violence Reporting in Broadcast Media: The case of Fana
Broadcasting Corporate (FBC) daily court news 'Chilot Zegeba'**

Fistum Belehu Adamu

A Thesis Submitted to the

School of Journalism and Communication

**Presented in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of
Master of Arts in Journalism and Communication**

Addis Ababa University

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

June, 2017

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This is to certify that the thesis prepared by Fistum Belehu, entitled *Crime and Violence Reporting in Broadcast Media: the case of Fana Broadcasting Corporate (FBC) daily court news 'Chilot Zegeba'* and submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in journalism and communication complies with the regulations of the University and meets the accepted standards with respect to originality and quality.

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Abstract

Representation and coverage of Crime news in broadcasting media: The Case of Fana Broadcasting Corporate daily court news ‘*Chilot Zegeba*’

Fistum Belehu Adamu

Addis Ababa University, June, 2017

The purpose of this study was to evaluate the representation and coverage of crime and violent stories in the daily court news coverage of Fana Broadcasting Corporate named ‘*Chilot Zegeba*’. The study was informed by theories of representation, framing, social construction and media's social responsibility role. Qualitative methodological approach has been employed in order to address the research questions posed. Contents of Fana daily Crime and Court news were taken in selection for analysis with a time frame (From September, 2016 up to November, 2016), interviewing journalists from Fana (media practitioners) and communication officers of the Federal and Addis Ababa Police Departments (information sources of crime stories) and document review (quarterly reports of the Federal and Addis Ababa Police) methods were also used in conjunction. In order to supplement the content analysis made on purposely selected 58 news items, interviews were conducted with the producers of the daily Crime and Court news (3) and Fana Editorial Monitoring Officers (2). The study revealed that FBC is far from its stated principles of story selection, as few types of criminal cases have dominated the entire story coverage. The media has given a very frequent coverage for corrupt and fraudulent acts committed by senior government officials and merchants. On the contrary, the media presented serious crimes like theft, burglary and physical injury that are eminent threats to the well being of the society and occurred at a higher frequency and alarming rate, were given very low rate of coverage. The presence of “law of opposites” in the media's reports indicates that there is a variations on the media (Fana) crime reporting and statistical records of the law enforcement institutions.

Fana has been providing misleading information to the public about the well educated members of the society and government officials through its over presentation of the highly inflated rate of coverage on corruption cases committed by senior government officials. The media content analysis also indicates that FBC presentation of corruption cases tends to cause public distrust and questioning of the state competence in serving public's. Results of the study revealed that Fana is presenting unbalanced and one-sided stories that ignored the voices of the convict. On the other hand the media's representation of the convicted criminals mostly as rational actors who seek prosperity and success illegally, shows the media's tendency of revealing the society's wrong perception of success indirectly by highlighting the high preference of the society's informal way of prosperity.

The practitioners focusing on describing crime scenarios and rejection of concrete analytical reporting is a prove for Fana's large scale application of economic framing principle and absence of remedy seeking and attribution of responsibility framings. Thus the media's coverage is characterized as informative and narrators of crime incidents rather than being educational and illustration of contextual issues with the analytical presentation remedy menses. Meaning that the news mostly lacks in providing critically analyzed stories that they give weak lessons about the real deriving forces, legal aspects and consequences of crimes committed. On the other hand the absence of a purely stated legal framework that governs the media and information sources coupled with the reluctance of the law enforcement bodies in releasing information to the media has resulted in the poor coverage of contextual issues of the crimes.

Though FBC's regular coverage of crime and court cases is vital in sensitizing the public about accountability incurred by violation of law, its role in social construction and setting of strong common social values is found to be poor as it marginalizes the non law abiding citizens. Its lack of attention towards discharging its social responsibility has also caused failure in forming a strong relationship with law enforcement institutions. All in all, the over reporting of corruption cases with detail presentation of procedures in a way that gives lessons about how to commit offences would certainly cause a decline in the public's trust on the state. On the other hand, the high tone presentation of terror cases with a relative longer air time coverage of the cases and the presentation of corruption cases relatively higher than other crime cases as if the government is taking strong measures at all levels of public serving institutions (with very poor coverage of corruption and fraud cases which took place in the private sectors) reveal the media being susceptible to political impositions of the ruling party. Finally, recommendations are given based on the research findings.

Acknowledgements

First, I would like to thank the Almighty God for His grace and love without which the task of writing this thesis would not have been possible. I owe my deepest gratitude to my Advisor Dr. Amanuel for his unreserved help and dedication in reading the entire manuscript, for his provision of guidance and constructive comments. My earnest gratitude also goes to Ato Zekarias Woldemariam for his help in taking care of editing the hole manuscript.

I also want to extend my appreciation to Fana Broadcasting Corporate Editorial Monitoring Officers and Reporters for their enormous help in revealing the vital data which are consistent to the basic issues the paper intended to address. I would like to express my gratitude to Addis Ababa and Federal Police Commissions public relation department heads and officers. Similarly, I would like to thank Ato Leul Hagos head of the public relation department of the Federal Supreme Court for his moral support and encouragements. Finally, my sincere appreciation also goes to my wife for her full support, without her close support and encouragement, this study would not have come to fruition.

List of Acronyms

EBC Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporate

FBC Fana Broadcasting Corporate

WWIII World War Three

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Chapter one

Introduction

1.1 Background of the study

Stories about crime provide society with a fascinating and never-ending series of conflicts between good and evil (Beckett & Chambliss, 2001). The public's interest in crime stories and criminal justice is not a recent occurrence; it has been a source of popular entertainment even before the emergence of news and programs in mass media (Faller 1987; Rawlings 1992; Durston 1996; Reiner, 1997). Biographies, written pre-execution confessions and apologies of the 17th and 18th centuries that filled the shelves of many libraries of the world are some of the evidences for the longstanding trend of raising criminal and violence related issues in the works of literature of the old days (Reiner, 1997).

The continuation of crime stories as a source of popular entertainment in the modern age of mass communication has been widely perceived with an increasing proportion of Media's space offered for coverage of crime news (McCombs, M., 1997). Among the many reasons for the longstanding and frequent existence of crime stories in media news coverage, based on Beckett & Sasson (2003) finding, are the fact that they are mostly opposite with standards and news values like stories of conflicts, predatory crimes, deviant actions and violence.

Studies on crime and media show that Media's allocation of their much time to crime cases has been increasing in the past few decades, in addition to the rising of crimes in kind (Freedman & Owens, 2011). Moreover, many scholars question (Fishman, 1980) how close do media come to representing an objective reality and compare media reality with actual social reality? Regarding the role of media in reporting crimes and violence to the public many scholars claim that media foment fears about crime and disorder in their reporting's and sensationalize the incidents by focusing on the episodic aspects rather than covering the social and economical grounds that lie behind the crimes and violations.

Greer's (2005) stated the media's tendency of exaggerating the extent of violent crime as their representations distort perceptions of the majority of the public and unnecessarily

increase the public's fear of crime due to the exaggerated reporting's. Thus Media can create panic, stereotypes of victims and criminals, wrongly convict innocents and can taint jury pools. Moreover media often pick up on the more serious and violent offenses with reconstructions giving quite frightening and, dramatized insights into the crimes committed. It also gives a false and misleading impression of the real extent of such crimes. Based on Greer's (2005), media's attention on a particular crime incident leads to people copying it and thus increasing its rate. In general, the inadequacy or inefficiency with which crime and violence are being reported in the media, challenges, and shifts the attention of the audiences wrongly to the direction of the institutions responsible for managing and containing crime and violence.

On the contrary, some researchers raise the Media's positive role in changing and minimizing the status of crimes and violence's that Media concern should be on how to equip the public with information and knowledge. Coleman (1999), among the prominent media scholars, stated that safety of the public can be maintained with the media's righteous actions and information they present. He also noted that the medias provision of crime news and information should be capable of altering and predisposing of crime and violence occurrences through promotion of discussion of ideas, opinions, and truths toward the end of social refinement.

Johnston (1998) also noted that socially responsible Media have the quality as tools of social education with the reporting of underlying causes and societal factors and facilitation of discussions on crime and violence with the active participation of the public in generating an effective policy response. Thus media's functioning of the public being informed about crime and violence incidents with detailed analytical addressing of casual and contextual issues should be their prior task. The coverage of crime cases through follow ups in ways that shows the fulfillment of justice and maintain the public's trust and confidence on the state has to be mass media prior goal in their coverage of crime and violent cases and stories.

According to Stevens (1998), the growth of the entertainment value of crime reporting and the constraints placed upon investigative journalism is the cause for the poor and limited space allocation for crime stories in news bulletins with the inclusion of etiological or social

factors of the incidents. Stevens considers a shift in the manner in which journalists report a crime to be crucial in shifting towards a greater emphasis on a preventive, public health perspective. Stevens, Dorfman, Thorson and Houston (1998) suggested about how to present violent incidents in the context of a public health approach. These suggestions include data collection from several disciplines, which would allow crime reports to include the contexts of violent crime, risk factors, and follow-up reporting on the consequences of the crime, including costs to the community.

As a result more attention has to be given by the media in reporting crime issues and present them with special focus to the resulting effects of the crime news on the public perception about crime. According to Kellner (1995), the image media present to their audiences shape the majority's audience view of the world and setting of social values; what is good or bad, positive or negative, moral or evil. Since media are best means's to reach millions at a time, they have an enormous role in shaping the mentality of the public. And this study examines the way crime stories are being covered by the broadcast media; how the media represent the reality objectively and understand the framing styles which are mostly used with their implications on the public's understanding of crime.

Though it is hard to get well-documented materials on how the Ethiopian pioneer mass media used to represent and cover crime issues in the old days, there are some publications like the 1961 "*Police na Ermijaw*" which could be taken as an indication of the long existence of criminal cases in the nation's mass media (Ethiopian Federal Police Commission, 2015). According to the data from the publications of the Federal Police fortnightly newspaper, "*Police na Ermijaw*" was the first print mass media to provide information to the public specifically about crime stories.

On the other hand, all the prominent and widely known broadcasting media (Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporate weekly police program, Addis Ababa City Administration Mass Media Agency and Dire-dewa regional state Police Programs) used weekly program and documentary format to present their crime stories with the full involvement of the public relations officers of the Federal as well as the regional police commissions on the productions of their programs and documentaries instead of the sole engagement of their ordinary journalists (Mengistu, 2007: Gizachew, 2013).

Majority of the Ethiopian broadcasting media do not regularly cover crime issues on the news programs. The print medias that are somewhat better in raising crime issues in their news also tend to focus mainly on issues of gender based violence by magnifying the evilness of the offenders. Those news of crimes focus on explaining crime incident and reporting of the deviant offenses against women rather than presenting the final resolution and court verdicts by making follow ups (Nardos, 2005; Bruktawit, 2008). And this has brought about its own negative impact on the news values and led to the questioning of the broadcast media's role in providing reliable and accurate information to the public.

On the other hand, the recently flourished state-ran radio stations and urban based private FM stations are observed to be following the same trend of covering harsh and deviant crime cases against women with irregular time table. Researchers and investigators on the media gave less emphasis to radio stations in their studying of the media's coverage of criminal cases and the impact they brought on public perception of crime and justice. Television and print media's coverage of crime issues have been taking the mind and heart of many media researchers and the wide-reaching radio mediums seem marginalized from the inquiry of media effect (Williams and Dickinson, 1993; Ericson et al., 1991).

Even in the context our country, no research has been conducted on radio and FM station's coverage of crime story as most of the studies conducted in the past mainly focused on the print and TV media which is mostly EBC weekly Police Program (Nardos, 2005; Mengistu, 2007; Bruktawit, 2008; Gizachew, 2013). However, due attention should be given to the role of radio stations in appropriately reporting crime issues so as to advance their social impacts and make them a center of social learning and mobilization by filling the gaps on how they cover crime issues.

According to the editorial policy of Fana Broadcasting Corporate (2013), it is one of the pioneer private media, which was re-established as a private media in 1995 and governed by a principle of developmental journalism concept aiming to bring changes in social behaviors and the mobilization of the wider community to realize all-rounded national development. According to a survey made by an independent institution called ERIS (September 2011), Fana's estimated number of audience has reached 45 million which is more than half of the nation's population. In the meantime, Fana believes that both 'Fana radio' with a Short

Wave nationwide coverage and regional FM stations (11 in number) have a total estimation of 60 million audiences.

This broadcast media provide daily news coverage on various international and local issues through different news formats like 90 minute news show every morning, 120 Minutes news show every evening from Monday to Friday, the midday (noon) and evening 30 minutes daily news bulletins are the main ones. All those news bulletins and news shows are broadcast through all the regional FM stations at the same time with a link (a system used by the station to broadcast jointly with all the regional FM stations). Among the news shows and bulletins of Fana, the half daytime news program has a unique format which is called 'Chilot Zegeba' in Amharic 'ቅባታ ቅባታ' that permanently covers selected court cases with a detail presentation of crime stories. 'Chilot Zegeba' news format present selected crime stories and court proceedings which took place in every corner of the country for more than a decade.

1.2. Statement of the problem

Though little is known and researched on the coverage of crime news by Ethiopian mainstream media in the past, there was a tendency in the media research field in the past few years to cover and address issues like how the print as well as electronic visual media cover crime issues. For instance, few types of research were made on how the state media (EBC) were covering crime and violence issues, even if the researchers choose to focus on taking specific kinds of violence cases (like child abuse and women's violence). These studies focused on how the print and television media were reporting and covering crime cases by ignoring the widely accessed medium: radio (Nardos, 2005; Mengistu, 2007; Bruktawit, 2008 and Gizachew, 2013).

Most of the previous studies on crime and media coverage (Bruktawit, 2008; Gizachew, 2013 and Tseganesh, 2014) relied on state-owned television and print media. These media and crime researches focused on investigating state-owned media like Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporate Police Programs and the print mediums like *Medical newspaper*, *"Police na Ermijaw"* and *"Addis-Admas"* weekly newspapers. There are also comparative studies conducted on how private and state-owned media covered gender based violence.

These researchers focused on inquiring women's representation by the print media (Nardos, 2005; Mengistu, 2007). All these media and crime researches which are made by the Ethiopian media practitioners and researchers that are listed above never tried to address how the broadcasting media are covering crime stories.

However in countries like Ethiopia where 82.6% of the population lives in rural areas with small holdings of agricultural land (Central Statistics Agency of Ethiopia report, 2007) and high illiteracy rate where only 49.1% of the total population ages 15 and above can read and write (World Fact Book- Central Intelligence Agency, 2015 estimation), print media cannot be taken as influential means of mass communication in bringing social behavioral change and effective means of communication to address the wider portion of the community.

On the contrary, radio is the most important medium of news and information in Ethiopia. According to the ERIS Audience Survey Ethiopia 2011, four out of five Ethiopians use radio as a source of information. In addition to the stated socio-economic factors, the typical characters of radio, its affordability and mobility have played a great role for its high preferability by the majority of the society.

To sum up, all those listed factors seem to take the preference of radio to a higher level in the Ethiopian context than Television. Moreover, it is more likely that this dominance of radio will continue until a major incident occurs to could change the rural based agro-economic activity of the majority of the population of the nation which took over 80 percent of the nation's labor to agriculture-oriented field works (Ethiopia Media and telecoms landscape guide, September 2011). Thus radio is a more a preferable means of communication in bringing social change in the case of Ethiopia.

For all those reasons, this study aims to address how a private radio broadcast medium is representing crime and violence stories in its daily court news coverage. With this, the paper hopes to cover how a non-visual but widely accessed medium is constructing the reality through the study of common framings used and representation of crime stories in the court news. The paper would fill the gap by addressing: - how the nation's wide reaching private broadcast media (Fana) is covering crime and violence and find the media's role in shaping

the mentality of the public. The study took Fana daily court and crime news '*Chilot Zegeba*' as a subject of enquiry. Thus paper would offer better directions to the media itself (Fana) as well as others by endeavoring a new insight into the research field and upscale the significance of the medium (radio).

Media's social responsibility and their ethical issues of reporting will be seen in terms of Fana crime reporting and coverage of court issues through scientific inquiry and discussion of the actual problems. With this, the researcher hopes to empower media practitioners by providing an updated data on how the broadcast media construct the public perception and contribute its own role in empowering the mass media to be efficient and effective centers for social learning. Besides the researcher tried to uncover the root causes of media practitioners problems by addressing the strength of relationship Fana had with information sources like police and justice institutions. Moreover, the role the media house played in minimizing the frequency of crimes and how Fana present the activities of law enforcement institutions in its crime stories was also inquired in this study.

1.3. Objectives

1.3.1 General Objective of the Study

The main objective of this study is to evaluate the representation and coverage of crime stories by Fana's daily coverage of court news '*Chilot Zegeba*' through the interpretation of framing styles and social realities constructed with in.

1.3.2 Specific objectives

In addition to the main objective stated above, the specific objectives of the study are to:-

- Find out what crime incidents are mostly raised by Fana court news coverage
- Identify the framing styles which are mostly used and analyze the depth of crime issues by addressing the subject matter and coverage of the socio-economic contextual issues within the news
- Identify the kinds of realities constructed by questioning Fana's portrayal of law enforcement and justice institution activities in its court news and crime story coverage

- Identify the factors that orient the media's story composition, coverage and presentation styles and examine the media's issue selection principles based on the media social responsibility roles
- Identify the challenges the media practitioners are facing and know how far they prioritize their social responsibility role in covering crime incidents and court reporting

1.4 Research Questions

The main research questions of the paper are the following ones:-

1. What kinds of crime issues are most frequently reported by Fana coverage of court cases?
2. What kinds of framings does Fana mostly use in its crime stories of court news?
3. How does Fana represent crime stories in its court news coverage? How the media presented the activities of law enforcement institutions (information sources) in its crime stories?
4. What kind of realities does Fana court news construct? And how far the socio-economical factors (contexts) of crimes being raised in the news?
5. To what extent do hindering factors orient Fana's issue selection, ways of composition and presentation style of the media court and crime coverage?
6. How far is the media's social responsibility role prioritized by the practitioners as they cover crime stories in the daily court news?

1.5. Significance of the Study

This paper will bring a real and descriptive picture on how the nation's widely accessed broadcasting media (FBC) is covering crime cases in its daily news bulletins. The paper will also address the framings of crime stories, representations used and list the determining ideological factors in composing crime stories. The inputs of this research can be taken as a primary reference by the media itself (FBC), other private and state-owned media in designing their own communication strategies for advancing their social influences.

Moreover, focusing on radio medium may bring new insight to the media research field since the majority of the previous research were made on visual and print mediums which are owned by the state. Considering the impacts of media on the audience it is believed that the paper would add knowledge to the use of the media's in crime control and serves as a resource for media practitioners on how criminal acts should be reported and ways to cover crime issues in the court news.

Finally, this study will serve as a reference to students of journalism, media and law as well as media researchers for further studies on Ethiopian Media and their coverage of various crime issues either in broader or narrower concept through various approaches like news, programs, and documentaries.

1.6. Scope of the Study

There are many private broadcast media in Ethiopia. But this study will focus only on one of the nation's private broadcast Media named by Fana Broadcasting Corporate S.C (FBC). Fana has a wider coverage with 12 FM regional broadcasting stations with a multilingual approach in its broadcast. In addition to its wider coverage, the station uses a linkage system to broadcast its daily news shows in Amharic (national language) and reach the wider public at the same time, unlike other urban based private FM stations. Other private broadcasting stations limited their coverage only in urban areas with FM broadband like Sheger FM, Zami FM, Bisrat FM, Abaye FM, and Afro FM which never go beyond the urban (Addis Ababa) and surrounding areas. As a result, these media have less capacity to create huge social mobilization against the antisocial behavior of the criminals by reaching the majority of the rural population at the wider level.

In addition to the researchers selection of one medium for study, only one part of the many news formats of the station is taken as a focal area of inquiry due to the regular coverage of court cases and crime issues by this half time midday news show with a title of '*Chilot Zegeba*'. This half day news show is broadcasted at national level where the media uses a linkage system to broadcast the daytime news with Amharic national language. Fana's court news cover issues related with the opening of an investigation, the opening of the court hearings on certain cases and news with cases of the final verdicts of the courts. And with

all those issues the media presents the detail stories of the offences and the committed crimes. Thus the paper would focus on the presentation of crime stories and the implications of the stories framings in the news excluding the media's other regular programs which are related to court issues and crime investigation documentaries.

1.7 Shortcomings of the Study

Since the study subject of this paper is an audio medium, text analysis or Semiology and Genre study (visual mediums being studied for their images) are found irrelevant. In addition to the drawbacks of content analysis method, the researcher has found difficult to get sufficient reference materials that would provide better guidance for the paper on measuring sound elements. Due to the absence of sound standards set by the media measuring audio news elements became difficult. Moreover, content analysis of media by itself ignores issues which are related to production and consumption.

However, being critical and building team spirit with coworkers and supportive persons who involved in coding content analysis of the news minimized the limitations on the quality of the data. By taking James Curran 'Literary Editors' suggestion on research techniques choice whereby media's content analysis and text interpretations should be supplemented by additional techniques, the researcher has implemented interview techniques in conjunction with the content analysis. Regarding to the measurement of sound elements within the audio news the researcher used comparison method to evaluate the relative presence of variation in tone of the various news items which were taken for content analysis. First, classifying the news items into different categories like terror news, corruption related news, theft news etc... and second making comparison by listening in a group with another additional person (a man who participated in coding the news content analysis). Finally making judgment on the differences of sound elements reduced the limitations if not removed at all.

1.8 Outline of the study

The study is organized in to five chapters. The first chapter discusses the background of the study including problem statement, research objectives, method of the study, and the significance of the study. Chapter two focuses on reviewing crime and media related literature including the theoretical frameworks. In chapter three, methodological aspects of

the study have been discussed. Chapter four is dedicated to discussing the findings of the study through interpretation of news content analysis findings in conjugation with additional researching techniques (interview and document review) and use of related literature discussed. In the final chapter (Chapter five), conclusions and recommendations of the study are discussed.

Chapter two

Literature review

This chapter focuses on the review of some literature and begins with a discussion of theoretical frameworks of the study that deal with media representations of crime and the social realities constructed by the Media. It is also followed by an examination of related studies and their findings which are empirical reports.

2.1. Theoretical Frameworks

2.1.1. Review of Dominant theories of Criminology and media studies

Media researchers on crime coverage and representation were widely seen relying on theories established by Criminologists (a scientific name given to Researchers of crime and the justice system) in order to give an advanced and detailed explanation to their field of study. And thus professionals in the researching field of crime and media strives to state the factors which have a wider occupation in criminal activities and advancement of violent behaviors in the society based on those predefined sociological, psychological, anthropological and biological perspectives (Regis, 2016).

Even if the long aging mass media's obsession with crime stories and continuity in the developments of researching field of mass media effects, many practitioners prefer to use sociological criminal theories in collaboration with media effects theories rather than developing their own unique theories (Regis, 2016). Researchers who have been conducting an investigation on media coverage of crime and their effects on the audience were directed by the timely existed theories of media effects.

When we trace back to the history of well-known early crime philosophies and theories, we get some strong arguments on crime and behavioral aspects which were listed by the previous philosophers and still applicable in the contemporary high-tech communication world. For instance; - the classical theory of crime which raises weakness in the punishment as an encouraging aspect for the rise of crimes and stated the determining role of state's control mechanisms. On the other hand, Marxist or Conflict theory stated social and

economic environments of the society as contributors to the committing of crimes by relating with the ideological concepts of inequality and capitalism demerits (Regis, 2016).

The other one is Sociological theory whereby the person's social, family and occupational status they occupy as contributors to the existence of crime and criminological behaviors (Regis, 2016). According to a preview document on crime studies and theoretical aspects 'Regis University criminology resource center'(2016), many of the researchers and theorists tried to adopt and incorporate human psychology, social changes and technological advancements that attribute to the committing of crime with the intention of providing new and advanced understandings to the field of study. Among the current theories of crime and criminal behaviors 'Rational choice theory' is the one which centered its argument on persons that commit crime and categorize them as 'Rational actor' who commits crimes by intention and prejudgment of the outcomes, the other one is 'Precedent actor' who is subjected to crime by social and environmental factors with no power to resist the urges. And the last one is 'Victimized actor' whereby the person itself is a victim of social inequalities (Regis, 2016).

Contemporary trait theory is another theory of crime which brings the argument of reactions that took place within the nervous system of human beings. This theory clustered itself among the current theories of crime and stands on the idea of a causal relationship between criminology and biological and suggests that criminal behavior is the outcome of disorders in human nerve system and the poor ego system (Regis, 2016).

Beyond the personal attributions and biological explanations, there are also theories which address the social aspects of 'social structure theory' and 'social conflict theory'. For instance:- Social Learning Theory of Bandura (1965) and Social Cognitive Theory (1986) established a link between antisocial and criminal behaviors with the exposure to certain media contents (Bandura, 1986; Rosenstock, Strecher, & Becker; 1988) According to these theories learning through media's texts and illustrations would result in the appearance of certain criminal behaviors (Bryant & Miron, 2004).

Besides, to those psychological perspectives, the interrelationship of media and crime was also viewed from sociological perspectives. Robert Merton's (1938) theory of social strain

and Durkheim's (1893) anomie theory which is cited by Sampson & Wilson (1995) claimed changes in the environment, social structures and the media's power are determinant factors in the existence of antisocial and criminal behaviors. Durkheim's theory of anomie explained media's unequal and exaggerated presentation of success stories, the portrayal of luxurious lifestyles of famous persons without covering the means of attainment, and their ignorance of formal ways of personal change in lifestyle and prosperity led to the creation of criminal and violent behaviors in the society. Social strain theory argues that poor socioeconomic backgrounds like unemployment and inactive education systems drive criminal behaviors where citizens oppose to follow normal and procedural steps to achieve their goals and criminality is taken as an expression of conformity to the values and traditions of the community. An American sociologist Robert K. Merton who is the developer of social strain (social structure theory) presented the case of illegal drug dealers as an explicit example of rejections made on cultural values of money making which are formal as well as legal and shared by the community. For Merton crime is the resulting of 'accepting one norm, but breaking another in order to pursue the first' (Boundless, 2016, n.d).

In addition to the theory of anomie which pointed out the influences of media in cultural norms of the society, Tonnies (1905) revealed the socio-economical aspects like rapid urbanization and industrialization resulting in the creation of an unfriendly community which loosens social bondages and leading of common social values to zero level. Thus it created favorable condition for disobedience and disrespect of law. And media's role in these social learning's and thoughts of poor social values is indispensable.

The second theory that focused on social aspect is 'Social Conflict Theory'. It suggests that crime is a matter of social class struggle to get domination and ideologized the existence of crime behaviors based on class distinctions. The theory of Social conflict lays its foundation on Marxist conflict theory (Regis, 2016). According to the Marxists idea, the reporting of crime reflects the ideology of ruling class, meaning that crimes of the ruling class or those at the higher end of society are under-reported. For instance, Media give less coverage to serious offenses and violations like white-collar and corporate crimes and on the contrary, they highly report sexual abuses and domestic violence against women. Beyond the

politicizing of crime as a class struggle, media represent women's in their reporting's as victims and oppressed ones ("the hectic teacher, ideas bank and resource, media and crime workbook" n.d.).

On the other hand, there are groups of scholars who are entitled with the name 'Feminist Pluralist' which have a similar argument in a class domination of media reporting. According to the media and crime workbook ("the hectic teacher, ideas bank and resource," n.d.) medias over reporting of lower working class crimes and their use for dominant ones as a weapon of control, is the main reason for the neglect of women's issues and wrongly representation of oppressions of woman within the family as well as within the social institutions they participate.

Media hegemony concept based on Williams (2003), focused on a Marxist concept of ideology in relation to the role and power of mass media in influencing meaning production. Antonio Gramsci who is the founder of Media hegemony concept refers to it as the process by which the ruling classes through social and cultural institutions win approval for their actions by consent rather than by oppression. Hegemonists propose that ruling groups have an advantage of closing meanings because they have the necessary power and influence to steer meaning production towards their preferred understandings of the world. For instance police institutions as promoters of the dominant ideology that they have a decisive role in filtering and providing information to the media and exert high pressure on them so as to control the contents of the media's reporting (Mawby, 2010).

2.1.2 Media's representation of crime news

Lippmann (1922) explained that Social life is made up of representations and we humans need media in order to understand our social environment as well as to communicate with one another. He also added that our actions often depend on our perceptions of what we claim to be true instead of the actual truth or objective reality. Meaning that there is a difference between the actual events of the world and mediated knowledge of those events.

Media in their outlet provide only a selection of manufactured ideas and those ideas are not the same as lived experience. "The media do not present reality instead they represent it by offering a selection of reality" (Stewart & Kowaltzke, 2007, p-35). It is to mean that the

media version is said to be not a presentation, but a re-presentation. Stewart & Kowaltzke (2007) stated some of the ways of media representation and explained how they work. According to Stewart, the availability of repeated elements in the media outlets, the presence of people, events or ideas category with labeling of the person's status or class like 'the unemployed', 'the aged' or 'businessman', the points of views in the stories or media outlets and the hidden modes of addressing which are visible to the outside natural world are some of the ways the media's representation works. As a result, the contents and texts of the media outlets should be scrutinized word by word for a search of implicit and explicit meanings the texts have. And prejudgment could be made with the intentions of the media, which they wanted to place in the minds of their respective audiences.

When we discuss media's representation and portrayal of social reality, we should not leave two concepts which are most commonly used "bias" and "stereotype". 'Bias' which is the media's lack of accuracy or fairness in covering crime issues as well as other topics and 'Stereotype' which in turn is about representations that are misleading, incomplete or negative of a group of people in society (Williams, 2003). Though accuracy and fairness are news elements and almost all news media's use as a governing principle in delivering their stories to their respective audiences, operational and procedural factors including the media gatekeepers determine the fairness and accuracy of the stories the media's cover.

Media formats such as news, current affairs, and documentaries which are usually leveled as factual forms and committed to the goal of objectivity, do not present the real existed social inequalities with zero contribution to the audiences wrong perception of the outside world and mislead by media stereotypes (Williams, 2003). This was proven in most research findings on media content analysis which have been made from the late 1960s onwards. Williams also noted that bias and stereotypes in crime news reporting were widely seen on age, sex, race or color, social class or status of victims, offenders or criminals and the statistical data recorded by law enforcement agents. These are some of the main areas whereby medias misrepresenting the objective reality due to the internal as well as external push factors.

The media's improper reflection of incidents objectively and the construction of their own reality due to the external and internal determining factors, not only contradicts with the

governing principle of journalism (accuracy and fairness) but also mislead the target audience with incomplete and negative ideas of groupings. For instance: - serious representations of criminal justice might undermine its legitimacy by becoming more critical and questioning the integrity, fairness, efficiency and effectiveness of the police (Wartella 1995; Surette, 1998 cited by Falodun, O. K, 2015). Medias undermining of internalized social controls through a regular presentation of sympathetic or glamorous images of offenses could lessen public cooperation with the system and thus consequentially increase crime.

'Representation is a reality which is a product of selection processes that include some aspects of reality and exclude others (Williams, 2003, P-144). In general, inquiries on media's representation of reality focus their area of study on media's content and measuring the coverage and priorities of selected issues in the news and other media outlets.

2.1.3. Social construction theory of Media

According to Berger and Luckmann (1991) also cited by Tom Andrew (2012), social construction theory has the intention of knowing how the media construct the reality and know whether they objectively portray the reality or not by resisting the external and internal influence. Thus understanding media's representation and social construction of news making requires an examination of the conscious and unconscious processes involved in the mass dissemination of symbolic consumer goods (DeKeseredy & Dragiewicz, 2012). Meaning that stories of various issues produced by mass media reflect and reveal much about societies' views of themselves. The theory of social construction is vital in analyzing why medias choose the cases they do and intentions of the media houses themselves as well as the powerful institutions influence on media and the extent of pressure could be covered.

Surette (2007) also briefly listed about the role of media in the social construction of realities. According to his explanation, media's role in social construction is not only limited to sharing of ideas or dissemination of arguments rather it includes further reactions and reconstructions on the existing uncomfortable systems of social reality. The physical world which includes the items that make the direct physical world and secondly the existence of institutions which runs for dominance through contradictions. On the other hand selected

ideas or filtrated arguments will be disseminated through media which legitimize (the selected idea which is the mediated) ideas or concepts and corner the rest. At last media take the leading role in bringing change and action in the system with the preoccupied perceptions and understandings created by themselves (Surette, 2007). Meaning that media create perceptions on people's mind first and then lead those people towards certain actions based on the perceptions they created earlier.

Media's role in the social construction of reality starts from externalization where individuals by their own human activity create their own social world and share it through mediated means and then objectification where people impose pre-arranged realities on themselves through the institutions which compete for acceptance and idea domination. Lastly, the media play an active role in the internalization and building of social reality (Surette, 2007). Thus we move by socially created reality and carry the culture we had in our selves and define ourselves with it.

Generally, the media takes a decisive role in the existence of shared ideas and experiences, the building of common reality with values and norms which finally lead to the creation of common binding rules of society. The implication of media's social construction and coverage of crime news by the media's themselves relates to the way the media houses present crime stories to the public and mold the perceptions of public about crime. Media's social construction of reality is related to the role it plays in the creation of social awareness and mobilizations towards crime prevention as well as the strengthening of the social system. It can be either through opposing the existed system and demand for stronger policies which is reconstructing the existing reality or demanding for a new action which is the construction of new realities (Cohen, 2014). Thus media can be taken as distributors of social knowledge that they legitimize people, social issues and policies for the general public.

Emile Durkheim's "collective consciousness" concept supports the role of media in social function. Durkheim explained that stability comes with the presence of strong social controls and norms. He defined crimes as an act that offends the shared norms, morals and values of the society (Williams, 2003, P-144). Thus media are great weapons in creating social controls by reporting beyond the incidents and going through complex processes of

construction. They focus on building collective consciousness rather than raising dominant group's morality and presenting conflicting ideas within the dominant groups. They bring the root causes and reveal hidden secrets which could be reasons behind the incidents, as a result, they change the public's perception and build their own social reality. To sum up, mass media are very cost effective and flexible means of communication in a society as well as easy to plan and control.

2.1.4. Framing in crime news reporting

According to Coleman (1999), framing is assigning of a certain meaning to an event where it can be understood by prioritizing some aspects and leave the rest. Coleman also stated that framing theory was introduced by sociologist Erving Goffman in the 1970s as humans' systematic attempt to explain their deep rooted thoughts and stances on things through their mediated communications.

Weaver (2007) listed the popularity of the term 'framing' it has gained in the past decades of researchers on medias and defined it as the central idea and concept of the text or message which is intended to reach to the targeted receiver passing through critical steps like selection, emphasis, exclusion, and elaboration. It is clear that selecting, emphasizing, interpreting and excluding are the main processes which are involved in framing.

Bruktawit (2008) stated the major functions of framing in the news by citing Entman's (1993, 2007) as problem definition, causal analysis, moral judgment, and remedy promotion. First, frames define problems that are salient to the public. Then, they determine and highlight causes of the problem. Next, they encourage moral evaluations by providing the causal analysis. Finally, they promote remedies so the concerned bodies can come up with favored policies (Entman, 2007). With all these, framings can be taken as an intended mechanism of making the audience think or feel in a certain way about the issue under discussion and directing towards a well defined and set interpretations.

Sotirovic (2003) with his study on 'media's effects on individuals perceptions of crime through information processing approach' preferred to present kinds of framing in the news media's into two basic groups as episodic framings and thematic framings. Episodic framings focus on the personalities, motivations and social issues of the people involved and

chosen by many practitioners in covering violent cases. The latter one focuses on the explanation of social circumstances and situational roles.

On the other hand, there are dominant news frames that have been identified in earlier studies and used in the current media researchers. The five well-known framings based on (Semetko & Valkenburg, 2000, P-93-109) are 'Conflict frame' the first one which focuses on the conflict between individuals, groups, or institutions so as to attract audience attention. Semetko & Valkenburg (2000) also stated Neuman et al.'s founding on U.S Media framing style in which conflict was the most commonly used one. And the second one is 'Human interest Frame' also referred to as "human impact" frame, focus on a human face or an emotional perspective on the report of an issue or event and it personalizes the news, "dramatize or emotionalize" the stories as a means to capture and retain audience interest. Neuman et al., in Semetko and Valkenburg (2000) also proved that "human impact" frame is considered the second common frame in the news next to conflict frame. Thirdly 'Economic Frame' which presents issues or events focusing on their economic consequences on an individual, group, institution, or country. Garber, who is cited in Semetko and Valkenburg (2000), highlighted the idea that the values of events or issues in the news and their economic consequences highly determine their importance. Fourthly 'Morality Frame' which emphasizes moral or religious contexts of an issue or event (Semetko and Valkenburg, 2000). Like the others three, 'Morality Frame' is also commonly used by the news media. The dominance of 'Morality Framing' in the audience's mind is asserted by the study of Neuman et al., which is cited by Semetko and Valkenburg (2000). The fifth one is 'Attribution of Responsibility Frame' and this frame "presents an issue or problem in such a way as to attribute responsibility for its cause or solution to either the government or to an individual or group." (Semetko and Valkenburg, 2000: 96). For instance, Iyengar's (1987) study on television news coverage also cited in Semetko and Valkenburg (2000), presented the notion that episodic focus of media's news reporting promotes individual's self-interpretations and explanations for social problems rather than promoting the establishment logically stated social and historical contexts of issues or events which bring consensus and setting of common agenda in the community. On the other hand, the framing of an issue may be influenced by several social-structural or organizational reasons and by an individual or ideological factors.

The dominant framings or themes in relation to Media's reporting of crimes and justice are the following (Sasson, 1995). The first one is "faulty system" which suggests the reasons for crime occurrence as well as the increasing in crime rates as the weakness of the justice system and inefficiency. Based on this suggestion media's reporting has the intention to bring change in the laws and policies like "get tough" or "tighten up." Secondly "blocked opportunities" suggests that crime occurrences, as well as the increases in frequency, are due to poverty and inequality. Thus Media in "blocked opportunities" frame present their reporting by showing the root causes of crime as well as directing the concerned bodies towards to socio-economic remedies like job creation. Thirdly "social breakdown" which argues the poor bonds of the community and unhealthy family conditions are roots of crime occurrence and the stories have an intended calling for citizen participation and community policing in every aspect of crime prevention and reduction activities. The last but not the least one is "violent media" which centered its idea on the presence of extreme violent media contents and the exposure of the audiences as a leading actor for the involvement of audiences in the crimes. Thus media's use symbols, as well as expressions related with "life imitating art" or "copycat crimes" and they put pressure on the government to take control actions regarding the dissemination of violent images in their reporting's (Sasson, 1995).

All those framing categories show the media's explicit and implicit or conscious and unconscious workings they applied in different issues and different areas. For instance one certain media may use "faulty system" framing or thematic style in its reporting on the issue of domestic violence against women whereby the law of the state takes no action due to poor legal frameworks whereas another media which is originated somewhere else may present it using "violent media" framing style so as to show the bad influences of other medias releasing of excessive violent images which could drive audiences to violence. Other media reporting of the same issue may use "social breakdown" framing style to show the unhealthy family relations of the offenders and poor social bondages that caused the incident.

The overall story of the crime, the context it occurred and its area of happening the distance with the reporting media as well as any other unlisted factors determine which framing to use by which media. For instance a certain private media may report the stealing of

construction materials from a certain private company by few youth community members and present it in a “faulty system” frame to highlight the weakness of the legal system and poorness of the correcting measures taken by state authorities may cause such kind of crimes and threatens the society. Whereas other media operating in the same state might present the same story by using “blocked opportunities” or “social breakdown” to show the absence of job and poor living conditions or the unhealthy family and social conditions of the offenders as cause for the incident and the media may call for advancing the infrastructures in the community or call for an application of active social participation.

2.2. Conceptual frameworks and empirical evidence

2.2.1 Overview of media's coverage of crime news

As Morgan et al. (2012) stated, prioritization of crime stories in the media is not a new incident instead it has been a field of entertainment for the majority of the public in the past half century. "It seems that crime stories have been a staple of popular entertainment throughout the modern period and mass media representations of crime, deviance, and disorder have been a perennial cause of concern " (Morgan, Maguire & Reiner, 2012: P-376).

The popularity and high preference for crime stories by large Media audiences, particularly for the past century, has led many social scientists to raise questions on public’s fascination with crime news (crime as both entertainment and information), consumer preferences (whether medias increases the worries of the population and their influence on the attitudes of audiences) and the ability of medias to construct public agenda (Graber, D. A., 1980; Schlesinger, P., & Tumber, H., 1994).

In general findings on media studies and their representation of crime news can be placed into four categories or areas of inquires (Maguire et al. , 2012). First the prioritization of crime stories in the Medias and the rising of crime coverage in media’s outlets. Studies on crime and media show that Media’s allocation of their much time to crime cases has been increasing in the past few decades in addition to the rising of crimes in kind. For instance, broadcast news, in general, devote even more attention to crime reports than most newspapers (Greer, C., 2009). According to Ericson et al (1991), Toronto’s press –45-71%

of quality press and radio news was about various forms of deviance. Moreover Williams and Dickinson (1993), also stated that British newspapers devote 30% of their news space to crime.

Secondly the variation between media's reports and official records of crimes with an emphasis on serious offenses that happen to the individuals. Moreover, the findings media's content reveals that incidents were portrayed in a serious and threatening manner which is opposite to the reality. Many scholars question (Fishman, 1980) how close do Medias come to representing an objective reality and compare media reality with actual social reality? Reiner, Livingston and Allen (2003) used the term "law of opposites" to explain the variation in statistics and contradictory nature of media's reports with the actualities on the ground. the presence of a difference in kinds of offenses or crimes, victims as well as offenders presented by the media's news and the official records of crimes kept by the law enforcement institutions (Morgan, Maguire & Reiner, 2012). Thus variations in statistical data in one way or another show the media's tendency of over-representing the occurrence of crimes and magnifying of crime risks which in turn result in social panic through the scary pictures of reporting's.

Thirdly media's coverage of offenders implied their wrong dictation on the categorization of offenders' age and social- classes which contradict to the actual statistics. For instance: - studies of Roshier (1973), Graber (1980) and Reiner (2001) confirmed the notion of "offenders featuring in news reports are typically older and higher status than those processed by the criminal justice system" (Maguire et al. 2012, p-385). Moreover, data's in media reporting of crime reveal that the highest record of offenders is 20 to 40, whereas on the official record level the highest record of offenders aged below 21 which are quite contradictory (Maguire et la., 2012).

Fourthly majority of stories depicted the success of law enforcement bodies in maintaining the order of law, besides most of the story's central idea relied on portraying the sufferings and pains of victims rather than presenting the analysis socio-economic driving factors of crimes. Researchers on media coverage of crime news asserted that medias less attention and poorly covering of causal effects of crimes added to their focus on description of crime

scenarios and wide coverage to the sufferings of victims is also another supportive idea that strengthens the notion of medias being source of panic and tension (Maguire et al. 2012).

Ethiopian media practitioners and researchers also tried to investigate and conduct assessments on how the state-run broadcast media (Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporate) covers crime issues. There are some researches which were also made on private print Media. For instance:- Gizachew's (2013) research on 'the role of state media they played in representing crime and justice' revealed that Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporate Police Programs and news highly legitimize the institution of policing and the justice system by defining the news values and frame crime stories in a way that favors ideological function of the institution.

On the other hand, most of the researches which were made on crime and media choose to take specific types of crimes and how they were represented by visual and print Mediums. Bruktawit's (2008) research on 'how gender violence been represented by the state and privately owned Ethiopian print media (*Addis-Admas, Police na Ermijaw, and Medical newspaper*), revealed that most of the reports were informative rather than being educative. The study also pointed out print Media's failure in creating public awareness. Moreover, the focus of the media was on human interest and empathy rather than covering the socio-economic and cultural reasons for crimes to occur (Bruktawit, 2008).

2.2.2 Media's social responsibility role in reporting crime

Center for International Media Ethics CIME (March 2009) presented an article which clarified the definition of social responsibility of the media and listed their accountability in the following ways: First "Accountability to their audiences, to whom the media owe correct news reportage, analysis and editorializing. Second to the government, to which they owe constructive criticism, a relay of popular opinion and adequate feedback from the populace. Third their proprietor, to whom they owe the survival of the media organization as a business venture as well as a veritable source of education, enlightenment, and entertainment. Forth to themselves, to whom they owe fulfillment in their calling, satisfaction, and an entire success story. When any of these "judges" of journalistic responsibility is shunted, accountability is denied and automatically, responsibility is

affected adversely.” (Owens-Ibie, 1994). Thus media's responsibility means prioritizing the audiences need to get accurate information and providing relevant and concise feedback to the state as well as standing firm to the fulfillments of organizational values and ethical principles of the profession.

Social responsibility goes beyond the range of appropriateness: media professionals were led to not only inform the public about an emergency but also to participate in generating an effective policy response. Journalists are “educators, conduits for relaying information through intergovernmental structures and channels to bring citizens’ concerns to official attention. Responsibility could spread beyond the mere task of informing the citizens about what was happening rather it includes the active involvement of practitioners through different levels of public policy and planning organizations by these media activities are seen as highlighting citizen concerns (Ekblom, 2010). On the other hand, media's social responsibility is all about filtration and provision of selected information with a sense of responsibility and accountability to the society in providing appropriate information which enables the public to make sound decisions.

In general, both the gate keeping and social responsibility role of media is the concern for the content of the information which is supposed to reach to the public. As we rose earlier on factors which affect media's content:- organizational structures, major Sources, other News Organizations and Journalism Norms, Traditions and Trends are among the listed factors which determine the content of Medias. Eden (2011) also stated her summarizing idea by saying ‘news is not a just plain fact that is transmitted through mass media rather it attaches types of topics, roles and representations to newsmakers by the gatekeepers in the news media’ (Eden, 2011, P. 25).

Media's role of a social actor with its social obligations and the collaborative, integrated as well as participatory strategies of crime prevention which whereby in the ‘5i-framework of crime prevention’(intelligence, intervention, implementation, involvement and impact) are supplementary to each other (Ekblom, 2010). Meaning that Connecting, not dividing. Empowering, not disempowering, and being a catalyst for development, accepting the public spirit and encouragement of social learning and discussions are features of media's social responsibility and effective way of crime prevention at the same time.

Media's social responsibility and gatekeeping role do have a common agenda in providing selected and organized information to the public in a way which could contribute to the daily life of the receivers or targeted audiences (Owens-Ibie, 1994). Though the role of media's gatekeepers seems contradictory to the notion that media should present truthful information to the public and commitment for an objective presentation of social facts and events, most media firmly stand on the idea that media's should provide what the public has to know, not what they want to know. They also raise social responsibility in relation with the ideological framings, socio-economic and political situations of the states they establish themselves and operate as decisive factors for them to select, filter and control the information contents of the mediums and reconstructed with the aim to achieve the goals the mediums set priority.

Chapter Three

Methodology and Instruments

In this chapter, the approach the researcher used, including data collection methods, analytical tools applied, sampling strategies and process, including the procedures of analysis are discussed in order to give an insight to the methodological development of the study.

3.1 Qualitative Research

In applying qualitative research methods through media content analysis, the primary purpose is to provide a detailed account of the contexts, including the participants and the processes with the intention to give a detailed understanding to the subject of the study. Identification of the dominant issues in the subject of the study and revealing the source-cultural framings and the bringing of critical judgment on the construction of issues and reality are the final outputs. Lisa A. Kort-Butler, (2016) also noted that qualitative media content analysis covers how a story is told, how characters are represented and look beyond what is presented for the deeper meanings of the media's messages.

It is widely seen that the counting and numerical explanations which are given for the incidents existed within media texts and media content analysis has been concluded and fall under the category of quantitative research method. However, content analysis has more inclination to qualitative measures. According to Klaus, (1980) who is known for his advocacy of content analysis, argued that content analysis is all about the media's texts and symbolic representations whereby interpretive tasks are the main areas of concern in the analysis process. A research which is made on news media whereby the measurement is made of the existence of certain issues or ideas within the selected media text, it would be necessary to use content analysis through interpretation and symbolic experience which is observable (Klaus, K., 1980).

According to Sintayehu and Belayneh (2007) a module on media and communication research methods, qualitative research method is a specialized subset of media content analysis and interview research techniques, a well-established research methodology that

helps to describe: media text content as well as substance, enable the researchers to make inferences to the producers and their target audiences and predict the effects of the media content on audiences.

Sintayehu and Belayneh (2007) listed some of the basic features of qualitative research by which the owner of this research found them convincing and strengthening its research method choice. These features of qualitative research method are- its focus on interpretation rather than quantity. It evaluates the meaning and messages within the media sources themselves. And this related to the researcher's intention of investigating the contents of certain media outlets and their meanings. Secondly, it emphasizes on subjectivity and covering of contextual conditions, the social, institutional, and environmental conditions within which the research subject (the medium) operates. Thirdly, qualitative research has the orientation towards the process rather than the outcomes of experiences. In other words, qualitative forms of media content analysis enable the researchers to understand how the media produce and reproduce ideas about certain issues by focusing on the narrative aspects of the media contents with an open-ended protocol to record information. Besides a qualitative research method enables the researcher to collect, integrate, and present data from a variety of sources of evidence to the media content study.

In general, all the above-listed reasoning and typical features of qualitative media content research methods are found supplementary in this paper's area of study and the topics to be covered. The main objective of this research is studying the meanings constructed in representatives of crime news and list the kinds of framings used by FBC's daily radio news '*Chilot Zegeba*'. As a result, Fana radio daily news coverage of crime issues can be evaluated based on their content and substance, inferences and references, storytelling and presentation methods will be addressed through the application of content analysis method. By using different qualitative methods of investigation in conjunction, this paper focused on addressing the external and internal factors of content determining so as to get a better understanding of the media (Fana) overall trends of production and presentation of crime stories within the court news of '*Chilot Zegeba*'.

3.2 Research design

The research design of this paper is basically evaluative. It selects some of Fana's radio crime news and study the substance and the meanings of the news contents and evaluate the ways of framings and representations used by the media based on the social realities constructed by the media, their social responsibility and ethical issues of reporting. This paper will try to give critical judgment on how the media (Fana) constructed criminality and its contribution to the crime prevention activities of the state through the evaluation of media news content.

On the other hand, it can be also described that the researcher tried at most to describe: the role of information sources (basically law enforcement institutions) they are playing and how information sources are affecting and controlling media news contents, what to include and what to omit in the crime news, will be described. Moreover, Fana's news productions are analyzed and the position the media occupies is also described based on the nation's crime prevention strategies and programs. Besides the distance Fana traveled in bringing strength to the social system and well-being of the nation by being a center of social enlightenment is covered.

3.3 Interviews

Using of interview enables the researcher to cover issues like social and environmental factors which determine the media's contents, style of presentation where media content analysis couldn't address by itself (Stokes, 2003). Through interviews, the researcher measured the extent of influences made by external and internal factors qualitatively. Besides information sources and the strength and formality of relationships between the media and information sources like law enforcement and justice institutions are covered by the interviews.

In-depth Open-ended Interviews

In-depth open-ended interviews can be defined as discovery-oriented research method which is used to get detailed information and data from participants in the subject area of study (Sintayehu & Belayneh, 2007). Moreover, this interview method has a number of

benefits by which it gives relaxed atmosphere for the interviewer as well as the interviewee and has a much flexible nature than other interviewing methods. It also lets the interviewers use follow-up questions for more explorations of meanings and deeper insight on the topic. Moreover, the interactive and flexible nature of in-depth open-ended interview helps the interviewer to get respondents' experiences and feelings (Sintayehu & Belayneh, 2007).

Taking all those ideas into consideration, the researcher has used unstructured interview method as second research technique next to content analysis. Creating a relaxing environment for respondents, especially for media practitioner would be advisable to get more information on the media's (Fana's) working procedures and uncover the contextual aspects of news production as well as reporting. The interviewer could look out for more explanation and probe for more information. All these things strengthen the research findings and pave a way for the researcher to address topic areas which won't be covered through content analysis Fana crime news. The factualness and truthfulness of crime news presented by the media itself, including the sequence of events can be well described by the raw crime data owners through the interview of police and justice department officers.

In relation with media practitioners, an interview was made with selected 3 journalists who are known in the daily crime reporting and 2 officers from the editorial monitoring team. Plus 4 communication officers from police and justice departments are taken as participants of the interview. Hence the interview with police and justice department communication offices mostly relies on data's they provide to the media and the follow up they made in the coverage of issues. In conducting the interview with the police and justice department communication offices, the researcher has given one week for the participants to collect relevant data and prepare there answeres to the subject area of inquires. All the interviews are made with the use of audio recordings. Besides, the researcher made his most effort to make the interviews more interactive and used follow up questions inorder to get the respondents deeper understanding and experiences on the topic.

3.4 Methodological challenges

Media content analysis and its focus on text paves a way for higher criticism that this method of analysis rejects the situational and contextual aspects which determine not only

the content but also the style of presentation out of the area of inquiry. In order to fill the gap as suggested by James Curran, it is advisable to use additional methods (interview) in conjunction with text analysis and get a new insight or perspective to the point of the study. Curran in his study of 'Literary Editors' also cited by (Stokes, J., 2012, P-96) presented his finding with the use of multi-systems of analysis that 'the actuality and difference between the claims raised by media practitioners, the norms and values of professionalism which affect media production and contradiction of what the professionals claim and really been doing'.

Taking James Curran suggestion from his 'Literary Editors' as a guiding principle in research techniques choice whereby media's content analysis and text interpretations should be supplemented by additional techniques of interview in order to explore issues that couldn't be addressed by content study and bring situational factors of socio-economical contexts which affect the content and presentation of style media news (Stokes, 2012). Thus Fana broadcasting radio daily crime stories on the court news could be addressed through the analysis of media content.

However, content analysis has its own drawbacks that it ignores issues which are related to production and consumption. As a result, the employment of the interview as a means to fill the gap of content analysis was believed to be appropriate. However, due to the audio nature of the medium (Fana), the researcher has found semiology or semantics and Genre study (visual mediums being studied for their images, picture, representation of various issues and films classifications and similarity) irrelevant to the study area.

3.5 Sample size and time frame

Among the news shows and programs of Fana, the researcher preferred to take the daytime news program which starts from 6:30 AM day time (noon) and lasts for 30 minutes. This news show program is unique from the others for its inclusion of daily court news and related issues every day as part of the daily news. Besides, Fana uses a linkage system with all the regional stations and broadcast the daytime news with Amharic. This widens the accessibility of crime stories to the majority of the public which is reaching of the same issue to many areas at the same time with the same approach. All in all court news and

crime stories get daily coverage from the selected media (Fana) every noon from Monday to Friday.

As a result, this paper planned to evaluate Fana's daily court news contents and provide a detailed analysis of crime issues raised by taking the daily news aired for three consecutive months' starting from September 2016 up to November 2016. Crime cases with all kinds of ordinary theft up to higher level government officials conspired corruptions are taken into account. Basically Fana's court news have three categories. They are news related with the opening of an investigation, news related with the opening of the court hearings on certain cases and news with cases of the final verdicts of the courts. In all those categories crime stories of the cases are presented in detail. Within the three months time gap 65 different court news are expected to be presented from Monday to Friday with different crime stories. However, only 58 days court news are found available. Among the 6 days left behind (October 20, November 23,24 and 25) are unavailable not only on Fana website but also on the media sound library (Nesia system). The rest September 12 and 27 are public holidays Id-Al Adeha Muslim holiday and Meskel Christians holiday. As a result, 58 daily and different court news items are placed on content analysis and evaluation using a checklist. This amount of news item is believed to be sufficient that it reaches the saturation point. Meaning that a three-month content analysis is more than enough to understand the typical framings and representation trends of the media.

3.6 Sampling Strategies

Non-random sampling technique is used in selecting of interview data providers. While seniority is the main criteria for the selection of the interviewees as it is more likely that detailed information on the subject area, the complexity of contexts and their interrelationships can be obtained from those who serve in the position for a long period of time. This purposeful sampling focus on the informational, not statistical representation of the subject of study.

The researcher conducts an in-depth interview with two groups of data providers or interviewees. The first group includes Fana reporters (those who have been assigned mostly to cover only crime and legal issues) and editorial monitoring officers. Secondly Police and

Justice department's senior public relation officers. The selection of data providers from the media as well as police and the justice system is purposive and non-random sampling method because taking senior officers from both groups can provide a detailed experience and ample information on the areas of inquiry.

The researcher planned to interview a total number of 9 people. The first 5 data providers are from FBC of which 3 are journalists who have been assigned to cover crime issues for at least two years in order to get better and in-depth information on the media house (Fana) trends of reporting. The rest 2 are from Fana media research and editorial staff with the intention of getting information on how the media directs and organizes the coverage of crime issues and gather information on issues related to practitioner's competency. On the other hand, senior communication officers of the police and justice departments are taken as additional target data providers. The researcher planned to take a total of 4 people from the police and justice institutions. Like the media persons, seniority is a key to the selection of interviewee with a purpose of gathering depthful data on trends of information sharing the law enforcement institutions have with mass medias.

Due to security and other unstated reasons, the Federal as well as an Addis Ababa Police Commission higher officials rejected the request for an interview. Thus the researcher is found successful in conducting interviews only with media practitioners and public relation officers from justice departments (Federal Supreme court and Federal Attorney General). And the total number of willing data providers became 7. Though the higher officials of the Federal and Addis Ababa City Police Commissions were found not willing for interviews, they offered raw data information on crime records which were available in their files. As a result, the researcher is forced to apply document revision on criminal records from the reports of the Federal and Addis Ababa City Police Commissions for the past three consecutive months' files (September, October, and November 2016).

3.7 Sources of data analysis

The subjects and data sources for this study were audio available at Fana Broadcasting Corporate Web Site (WWW.FBC.com) within the news archive category. It is also possible to access Fana's library through an archive system called Nesia. All the interviewees from

Fana are either producers of audio news or those who have been monitoring the daily news editorial quality and provide feedbacks. Therefore, audio format of Fana daily midday news show, Fana's journalists and editorial monitoring officers and public relation officers from law enforcement and justice departments were subjects of the study from which data was collected. Moreover, document revision on crime records from the reports of the Federal and Addis Ababa city Police Commissions was also taken to check and find out the presence of variation in the media crime record and raw crime frequencies handled by the legal authorities.

3.8 Data coding and analytical categories

In relation to the data analysis process, the researcher used general inductive analysis approach (based on Thomas, 2006) for the reason that the evaluation of texts and news contents was guided by the research objectives which are identified earlier. Other approaches like grounded theory (used for generating a theory) and discourse analysis (used for rhetoric arguments and organization of meanings within a speech) were not applied as a means of data analysis. In general inductive method provides a simple, straightforward approach for deriving findings linked to focused evaluation questions and many evaluators are likely to find using a general inductive approach more useful than other approaches to qualitative data analysis.

Thomas (2006) has listed five coding processes which are critical in the analysis of qualitative raw data. 'First, an initial reading of text data, secondly identify specific text segments related to objectives, third label the segments of text to create categories, fourth reduce overlap and redundancy among the categories, finally create a model incorporating most important categories' (Thomas, 2006, P. 241-242). As a result, the researcher used the coding principles of Thomas (2006) in the news content analysis. Regarding the interview data, it is found preferable to use a more general approach to data analysis which includes two basic procedures. They are linking the raw data to the research questions and structuring the data firstly, then secondly searching for patterns in the data and integrating the patterns. Thomas also quoted (Williams and Irurita, 1998) in his explanation for writing a report about the findings of qualitative data and included their model of category by which they designed to show the critical steps that should follow in writing a report and they are

'initiating rapport, developing trust, identifying patient needs and delivering quality nursing care' (Williams and Irurita, 1998, P. 38). But in general as a principle of writing a final report of study, it is important to label the categories and name them with proper description of the meaning they have in the report and add or insert a quotation from the raw text to elaborate the meaning of the category and to show the type of text coded into the category (Thomas, 2006, P. 245).

Accordingly, the researcher has coded the data gathered through the audio listening of the daily court news that are placed within the daily noontime news and interviews to develop themes for the study. The codes used for categorization of data are based on research objectives and research questions. Therefore, data collected through audio listening and conducting an interview are categorized into certain categories to develop themes.

1. Crime types and Issues covered: -it was a category used to identify the most presented crime issue and coded as crime of rape, burglary, murder, corruption, mischief, terror activity and illegal human trafficking or immigration.
2. The theme of the story: - it refers to the thematic content of the story and this was coded as episodic and thematic.
3. The message of the stories: -it was used to identify messages that existed mostly (supremacy of the law, the efficiency of the police, warn the public of the dangers, policing the crimes and legalize society's role).
4. Types of framings used in crime stories: - It is used to identify the type of framing mostly used and analyze from the central idea of crime stories these were coded as conflict framing, economic framing, human interest framing, morality framing and attribution framing.
5. Presentation of stories: - it is concerned with how crimes committed were presented through narratives in audio news. The coding used are identifiable tone, lower tone and normalized tone.
6. The depth of the stories: - this was coded as the problem definition, analysis, moral judgment and seeking of remedy.

7. The source of the news stories: - this was coded to identify the main source crime stories and was coded as police, court, general attorney case files and words or voices of victims, offenders and families of both including eye witnesses.
8. The ideological values of the stories: - it was coded as, what and whose ideological interest does Fana tend to portray within its crime stories.
9. Descriptions and portrayals of the offenders and victims: - it is about how offenders and victims are presented in the stories and coded as offenders as rational actors, precedent actor and victimized actor, Victims as an undeserving victim, and the stupid victim and lazy victim.

3.9 The process and procedures of analysis

The recorded audio version of the daytime news is stored within three groups based on their month. Each news file is named by its date. All the documented audio files went through content analysis by listening every news using a checklist. Regarding the interview data, all the information's gathered with audio are stored in by grouping into three like the news content and they are police, justice and media interviewees files. In addition to storing interviewees data, transcribing of the interviewee's response are made within the immediate time of interviews accomplishment.

Therefore, with content analysis of audio news files the researcher tried to answer issues like kinds of crimes, mostly stated in the news and dominant sources, the theme of the news and framings used on crime stories news, wordings and narrative styles applied with the news. On the other hand interview data analysis was made separately in order to get an answer to questions related to the contexts of productions and presentation of court news crime stories. At last, interpretation is given based on the major findings of the content analysis and interview data as well as document revision, which is added to the methodology due to the rejection of interview requests by law enforcement institutions. The interpretation was made and presented by relating with the main research questions and objectives.

3.10 Trustworthiness of the data

Lincoln and Guba (1985) described four general types of trustworthiness in qualitative research: credibility (checking data analytic categories, interpretations and conclusions), transferability (usefulness of the findings to others in similar situations, with similar research questions or questions of practice), dependability (sticking to the research questions, objectives and methods of the study), and confirmability (the researcher needs to ask whether the findings of the study could be confirmed by another).

Among the procedures they described, those most applicable to performing data analyses include conducting peer debriefings and stakeholder checks as part of establishing credibility and conducting a research audit (comparing the data with the research findings and interpretations) for dependability. Consistency checks or checks of interpreter reliability are the widely known assessing tool that can be used for evaluating the trustworthiness of the data analysis. Consistency checks or checks of an interpreter are procedural that a variation of the check on the clarity of the categories is to give a second independent coder both the initial categories and some of the text assigned to these categories. The second coder is then given a new set of text that has not been coded and asked to assign sections of the new text into the initial categories. A check can then be made of the extent to which the second coder allocated the same text segments to the initial categories as the first coder (Lincoln and Guba, 1985).

This researcher has implemented a checking on the consistency of coding which is a system used for checking the clarity of categories having another coder take the category descriptions and find the text that belongs in those categories. Also the researcher tried at most not to depart from the research questions, objectives and methods of the study, which is among the methods suggested to advance the truthfulness of a qualitative research (dependability).

Chapter Four

Data Analysis and Discussion of the Findings

4.1 News content analysis

Issues mostly covered

The study through content analysis reveals that nearly half of the selected court news items are about corruption and fraud cases. In these stories of corruption, offenders and criminals are presented as rational actors who intentionally perpetrated crimes ranging from the grand corruption (embezzlement in billions of birr) up to the petty offences (embezzlement in thousands of birr). Secondly, illegal trade activities which include the selling of fake diamond and mercury, money laundering and contraband activities were covered repeatedly. Thirdly robbery and burglary stories account for the lions share of the coverage. Cases like physical assault with homicide and attempt homicide, illegal human trafficking and terrorism were raised with a decreasing rate of frequency in the news from the physical assault to the last terrorism stories which are very few in number.

Different cases from different parts of the nation are raised in the court news. Though the frequency of crime issues raised by Fana court news coverage varies too much, corruption and fraud dominate the media's coverage of which majority happened in Addis Ababa and major regional cities.

Theme of crime stories

The content analysis indicates that, almost all the news and crime stories of the media followed episodic approach. Meaning that almost all crime stories focused on describing crime incidents and explaining the crime scenarios with the listing of crime procedures word by word.

On the contrary thematic approach of explaining the socio-economic factors revealing in all the various crime stories which are incorporated in this content analysis. This means contextual and environmental aspects of crime incidents are not presented in the crime stories of all the selected court news.

On the other hand majority of the crime news and stories which are covered in the content analysis of this study, have had messages which were stated implicitly. Among those messages, the supremacy of the law is stated implicitly in almost all the stories. From the headline up to the final closings of the story, there is a concept which states that there is a corrective measure for every unlawful act and legal accountability. In addition to the supremacy of the law, there are some news of fraud and terrorism with a central message that warns the public and other concerned bodies about the dangers. As a result, many of the crime stories of Fana court news are informative that they basically tell about the supremacy of the law and few of them inform the public about the precautions they should make.

Source of crime stories and their Depth

With the content analysis of the 58 selected crime stories 51 of them used general attorney's case file as the ultimate source of information. In these news items voices of the convicted ones with their reactions and responses to the court cases are not incorporated. The right and left voices (the general attorney that opened the case against the convicted and the voice of the convicted or accused one) are not used to balance the stories of crimes.

Police and investigators, who have been compiling and organizing the cases before the assigning of the court, are not totally used as a source of information neither as a primary nor secondary source of stories. Besides legal briefings on closed court files are seen being part of the crime stories at all. Comments from legal experts are not seen totally in the coverage of court verdicts this study has taken. As a result relationship between the incidents covered and the contextual issues of crime occurrences are not incorporated within the crime stories of Fana court news.

Age and social status of offenders and convicted people in the stories

Personal background information like age, social and family status, education level and occupations of most of the offenders and convicted criminals is not mentioned in the stories. However, there are some crime stories of court news with limited and generally listed information on the background of the convicted criminals.

Among the news stories of crimes with statements of personal information of criminals age, the majority of the convicted criminals were above 30 and almost all of them are involved in fraud and grand corruption cases. Only a few of them are below 30 and all of them are engaged in theft and burglary activities.

On the other hand, some of the stories generally define the status of the criminals by listing either family or educational status and occupations. Among the stories which presented the family status of the convicted criminals, almost all of the criminal actors are involved in physical assault and murder attempt. On the other hand stories with information about the educational & occupational status of the offenders, most of the convicted criminals are found engaging in grand corruption cases and the majority of them are higher government official and leadership. Criminal actors with the lower occupation status in the stories (farmer, daily laborers) are involved in disputes related to land ownership and murder attempts that ended up in physical injuries.

News Composition (Sequence of Events) and Presentation Style (Tonnation)

As the content analysis of this study reveals that more than 85 percent of the selected news items presented their headlines by stating the kind of offence or crime committed and followed by the verdicts passed by the courts as a punishment for the committed crimes. Next to the headlines, majority of the court news presented the stories from the beginning of plotting and conspiracies followed by a description of crime places with detail listing of criminal procedures and techniques. Story development, complication, climax and resolution steps of narration are applied in context with crime scenario explanation and the listing of technical procedures of crimes. The majority of them start from the plot or stating the place of crime incident then followed by the actions and interactions of offenders and victims sometimes. Finally, the climax and resolution which is the imprisonment of the criminals and courts final verdict is the closing of majority court news.

Regarding the tone of crime stories presentation, special sound effect and use of musical instruments are totally absent in all court news. The majority of the stories were presented in a reporting style where journalists use to describe other social events in the news. Meaning that crime stories of the majority of the selected news don't have a narrative quality.

However, there are some cases like theft and fraud which were made by close relatives and trusted house maids, presented with attractive tone different from the ordinary news reporting and the journalists applied their narrative techniques like use of descriptive words and symbolic expressions to show how the offenders or convicted criminals lost the trust they built with their relatives, how the strong bondage between partners were eroded and cruelty brewed in the minds of violators.

On the other hand, crime cases with a similar issue are presented with a various tone of voice. And this is repeatedly seen on terror and corruption cases. For instance, with the opening of the court file, the reporters present their story with a high tone and echoing voice and used a lower tone with normal reporting style of ordinary news at the time of courts final verdict on corruption and terror files especially when the verdict is short period of jail terms. For instance, October 12, 2016, court news made at the opening of court file on terror suspects of Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF) members is presented with a high tone while on November 17, 2016, court news made on a final verdict of terrorists who are imprisoned with 4 years and below was presented with a lower tone and normal reporting approach.

Framings and wordings

The content analysis of the study reveals that with in the selected news items more than half of them are presented with the use of economical framing. Accordingly majority of the crime stories are constructed to show the economic damage and loss that the crimes incurred against state, public and individual victims properties. However, there are some crime stories in the court news that are framed as human interest and conflict framings. Murder attempts and land dispute cases within relatives and family member are some of the cases which are framed with human interest and conflict. Almost all the court news coverage focused on defining and explaining the problems. Moral judgment, attribution of responsibility and remedy solutions are not seen as part of all the stories.

Majority of the wordings in the stories coined from the perspective of the victim's and geared towards their benefit. For instance: in cases of mischief, thefts and human trafficking

cases, the laziness and stupidity of the victims are not expressed rather the over self-oriented mentality of the convicted criminals is expressed repeatedly.

On the other hand, all the convicted criminals with in the selected news are described as rational actors who intentionally committed the crimes and offenses in search of illegal benefits and getting rich quick. Thus it is hard to find any expression which elaborates the environmental and social contexts of the criminals that drives them towards committing crimes. Besides personal informations like the social and educational status of the convicted criminals are not mentioned in the news most of the time unless the courts used the convicted criminals background information as a means to lower the punishments of the criminals. Thus presenting the offenders as rational actors is a widely seen incident instead of briefing the social and educational status of the convicted ones in a way that could enable the audience to understand the root causes of crime occurrences.

All crime stories which are related to theft and burglary are constructed in a way to show up the efficiency and effectiveness of law enforcement institutions. In those theft and burglary news items the role of the society, where the crime incident occurred, they played in bringing the offenders to justice is silenced with the activeness of police forces. However, reports about terrorism are presented in a way that depict the police as passive and ignorant. In other words stories on terrorism are presented very exhaustively and explicitly that they put the image and reputation of the police and concerned bodies into question.

4.2 Analysis of interview Data

In order to substantiate the data gathered through content analysis technique, an interview session has been held with journalists of FBC, editorial monitoring officers and public relation officers from law enforcement institutions. The interview with FBC reporters and editorial monitoring officers was carried out effectively. However the researcher preferred not to state the right names of Fana workers (journalists and editorial monitoring officers) for the sake of their safety that the majority of the questions are related to organizational operations and structural issues. On the other hand interview with public relation officers from Federal Supreme Court and Federal High Court was successful, including the public relation director of the Federal Supreme Court. Though the researchers plan to incorporate

senior public relation officers from the Federal and Addis Ababa Police Commission through the interview was not successful for security and other unstated reasons, both Federal and Addis Ababa Police Commissions were positive to provide their records and documents. Thus documents on performance reports of the law enforcement institutions were taken for analysis in order to check the presence of variation of crime data within the records of the media and law enforcements.

Interview with Fana reporters addressed issues like - journalists personal background, Fana's issue selection principles, procedures of story composition and presentation and the challenges practitioners faced in covering crime stories on the court news.

All the reporters and editorial monitoring officers who have been involved in the interview served the media for more than 2 years. Meaning that they are well informed about the operational issues and experienced in the subject area of the study. However, the educational background of the reporters reveals that the media practitioners have no educational background which is related to legal issues rather than the media reporting. Meaning that all of them are graduates of journalism and communication and language studies.

Regarding to the training issue, all media practitioners and respondents of the interview expressed that they never attended any training on how to cover court and crime incidents. Simon (actual name not stated) one of the reporters who has been covering crime and court cases for years explained by saying "training issues are raised at the beginning of every year when the time of annual planning comes but they were not seen being applied in the past few years"

Interview data gathered from the responses of other interviewees also revealed that Fana has never made any effort to provide journalists a professional training that advances the competence of the practitioners in covering legal and investigative issues.

All media practitioners and respondents of the interview expressed that their coverage of crime issues was made through traditional means of data gathering which relies on the personal relationship they had with the court personals and general attorneys. A senior reporter named by Alemu (actual name not mentioned) responded by saying

....I personally have no any legal knowledge and I always stick to the words of the general attorney and court files, and try my best not to omit any idea because it has its own legal consequences

All the responses from journalists have a common idea that reporters highly depend on the court files and go for technical supports from court staffs or lawyers which they have created intimate relations and present it as they get even knowing their crime stories lacks basic information. Thus the priority issue of the reporters is not to omit any idea from the court file rather than making their own efforts to add some additional facts and increase the depth of their stories.

Fana's editorial policy and the principle of issues selection of crime and court cases reveal that the media prioritize the coverage of crimes that harm the economic activities of the state and destruct development projects. Secondly, security of the state and the society is prioritized. Thirdly crimes which are made using the society's cultural and religious norms as a weak side is the area of focus in court coverage.

In relation to the production and composition of crime stories of court news, all the reports argued on the Fana provision of unlimited freedom to the practitioners is choosing their own style of story composition and presentation. In particular with the influences and challenges they faced, all reporters expressed the absence of any external influence from the political and high-level business corporate persons. Regarding the rejection of their stories, two reporters shared their personal experiences by which they were forced to reject the court case they covered from being aired. One of the reporters said that the main reason for the rejection of his story was to protect the image of the national military and defense institution that the release of the news might cause public distrust of the state. The other reporter also said that the reason for the rejection of his crime story was to avoid public anger with the release of the news. He explained that the news was about the apprehension of individuals who involved in the instigation and fuelling of public unrest that resulted in the destruction of huge companies.

The reporters also expressed the media's decision not to cover stories on rape and child abuse cases due to the prevalence of the crime, media's fear of providing lessons on the

techniques of abuse as well as not to discourage the public by revealing the weakness of the justice system through the announcements of short range jail terms.

Regarding the challenges reporters are facing in accessing information, all the respondents of the interview revealed that it is their personal relation that matters most not the law that enforce them. One of the reporter named Gettamessye (actual name not mentioned) said

Whenever the court personnel meet with any new face and feel uncomfortable they will close the door, but as for me, I even get the files at any time whenever I could not able to attend the court proceedings physically. I know all the attorneys from the Federal High Courts and Supreme Courts as a result, I don't get any trouble in accessing information.

Almost all interviewees stated the absence of any legal operational framework that governs the sharing of information between law enforcement institutions and the Media. The reporters also affirmed the above idea by expressing that the release of any information and briefings on court and crime cases relies on the willingness of the judges and court personnel.

Thus practitioners prefer not to go further in search of information whenever they are restricted from accessing information. Responses from the reporters interviewed reveals the idea which confirms the above point. Whenever the reporters get refusal from the court, they never question on the reasons of closure due to the absence of any legal ground which enable journalists to object and challenge those court personnel's.

More over the respondents (reporters) also expressed that Police and law enforcement institutions are places where media personnel are never allowed to approach with their microphones. Most of the time police officers reason out that the release of information through the media would influence the effectiveness of their investigation and let criminals hide themselves as well as relevant evidences. Alemu (actual name not mentioned) one of the senior respondent says

The majority of the media practitioners prefers to call police investigators at the Federal as well as Addis Ababa city level as buffer zones where by getting a pieces of information for the consumption of media is difficult.

In addition to that, all the reporters who are involved in this research expressed that the majority of the investigators believes that providing information to the media on crimes committed is the mandate of courts though they have complete and well organized file of the investigation.

In the interview with the editorial monitoring officers, issues with the balance of court news and presentation of crime stories were raised. Both editorial monitoring officers of Fana confirmed that almost all stories lack balance and court cases were presented based on the files and words of the general attorney who are taken as the sole owners of the information.

Ato Wendemu (actual name not mentioned) says

...most of the reporting's lack balance, especially reporters are not seen making any effort to include the reactions of the convicted criminals after the court verdict by relating with the motivational factors and present it in a way that could lessen the public....

On the other hand, editorial monitoring officers expressed in their interview that most of the crime stories lack attractiveness and were presented with an ordinary report style with less emphasis on the critical analysis of the crime incidents and relationships between crime incidents and contextual issues of crimes.

Both editorial monitoring officers argued on the harmful impacts of the detailed presentation of crime techniques. They expressed that such presentations of crime cases with detail explanation of the procedures would leave a lesson for others on how to commit crimes and how to escape from being captured. They also suggested that over emphasis of the media on corruption cases and its provision of the cases with detail techniques gives a lesson to the public about the tactics of crime.

Ato Ahmed the second editorial monitoring officer expressed his experience of receiving a comment from the audience on one of the grand corruption case presented by Fana "*Chilot Zegeba*". According to Ato Ahmed all the audience's comment was critical questions which could not be answered by him alone. The questions forwarded by the person were

.... where do the government has been when such kind of grand corruption took place, how could higher officials have such power and where do they get the courage to do such things that harm the lively hood of millions of poor Ethiopians?

Ato Ahmed also stated that corruption, fraud cases and terror files should be reported with much care that the news items must be composed with general terms and expressions with less emphasis to the description of criminal techniques. According to Ahmed explanation the audience always question after hearing the news story. And if the outcome is giving a lesson about criminal tactics and resulted on the public's questioning of the states strength of serving justice, it would be a great failure for the media who stood for the maintaining of order of law.

In the interview with the federal supreme court public relations director and two public relation officers of the Federal High Court, the researcher got an idea that confirms the absence of any legal framework which governs the relationship between the media and justice institutions including the judges. Especially director of the Supreme Court public relation affirmed that the relationship between the Media and the justice system is very weak and full of suspicion.

The director also expressed other media rejection of crime and court cases coverage. Fana's daily coverage of court news and incidents is very small when compared with the amount or number of cases seen by the courts. He also added a single court tries 20 up to 30 cases per day passing at least two final verdicts. Given this rate, if we compare the total number of verdicts passed by the entire courts in the country with the amount of coverage given by the radio station the ration will obviously be very insignificant or near to zero.

Both the respondents from the Supreme and Federal High Court affirmed that FBC's daily court news items are very poor in maintaining balance as their sources of information solely depend on the files of the general attorneys while the voices of the convicts are left unheard.

On the other hand, the two respondents from justice areas expressed the uniqueness of FBC's coverage of crime stories and court cases for their on-the spot reporting of the issues from the premises of the court. They also stated that the media's continuous and regular

coverage of court and crime issues is also another strong side of the media that should be further upheld and enriched with new and creative approaches.

4.3 Document Review

As stated earlier in the interview part, the Federal and Addis Ababa Police Commissions public relations departments were not willing to give an audio recorded interview on crime related issues for security and other unstated reasons. However, they helped the researcher to get access to the reports of crime Investigation departments of the institutions starting from June, 2016 up to December, 2016 which is a 6 month performance report.

The basic aim of interviewing public relations departments of the Federal and Addis Ababa Police Commissions was to bring better understanding about how journalists gather information about their stories and the formality of their approaches and the relationship they have with the information sources? Moreover the interview was planned to get answers to the questions like whether Fana journalists challenge whenever they face with restrictions on the access to information and represent the real crime occurrence with the proper portrayal of the activity of law enforcement institutions or not?

However, the absence of the interview from the law enforcement institutions has never brought that much influence on the quality of the data, rather it created a good opportunity for the researcher to check and prove the presence of variations on the data the media (Fana) presents and the real raw data of crime which is found in the hand of Police department investigation units.

According to the 6 month performance report of the Federal Police the highest record of crime is physical assault, group theft and burglary, and murder cases with their order. When we see the performance of the institution taking the three months specifically September, October and November, 2016 the number of theft and burglary cases become lower but remained higher when compared with other criminal cases. In other word, corruption and fraud cases are not high in their occurrence as they are reported frequently presented by the media. On the contrary the rate of rape, abuses and physical assaults, and murder cases, including suicide attempts are high with an alarmingly increasing rate.

Regarding to the 6 month performance report of the Addis Ababa Police Commission, the same variation case occurred. In other words the highest rate of crime is on petty and group theft, burglary and mischief cases followed by physical assault cases, not corruption and fraud cases which are presented frequently by the media in the court news. In addition to the above, data from the federal supreme court well organized files of the criminal cases which got final verdict 108 of them are heavy theft cases, 66 physical assault and 58 murder cases. However, only 12 cases of corruption got the final verdict of the supreme high court.

In general, all the data gathered through document revision prove that the media (Fana) is not presenting the real occurrence of crimes rather focused on presenting fraud and corruption cases which are committed by few economically and politically empowered elite. However the majority of the unemployed youth population is getting in to criminal actions with large amount and endangering the peaceful existence of the society.

Issues which are related to how the journalists are gathering information and the relationship they have with the information sources are already answered by the journalists themselves in their interview with the researcher. Moreover the news they produced also reflects the power they have in accessing information. Meaning that if they have an access to the general attorney files only and could not able to gather additional information on the cases they handle, the reporters would certainly present biased information in their news which support the plaintiff only.

In other hand, the interview with public relations of Federal and Addis Ababa police and Justice departments planned to get answers to the questions like whether Fana journalists challenge whenever they face with restrictions on the access to information and represent the real crime occurrence with the proper portrayal of the activity of the law enforcement institutions or not? The absence of the interview with the law enforcement institutions, public relations could not bring any impact on the research data because Fana journalists by themselves responded to issues of how they get information saying that they do not use formal relationship means to get information from their sources. The journalists also clearly indicated their poor knowledge on legal issues in their interview responses and explained that there is no any legal framework which support journalists and enable them to challenge

investigators and court personnels in any restrictions imposed by the sources in accessing information.

4.4 Discussion of the findings

From the very beginning of this study, five questions were set to be answered by the end of its findings. The first research question was *What kinds of crime issues most frequently reported by Fana coverage of court cases?* Based on the findings of the content analysis of the study, FBC presents corruption and fraud cases with higher frequency than other crimes. Criminal cases like theft, burglary and physical assault are covered with less priority as a means to add variety to the media's court reports. The findings revealed that Fana's court news and crime stories are not proportional in the coverage of different crime cases. Crimes like burglary, group theft and physical assault cases which are committed by a large number of youth unemployed citizens in a way that could affect the existence of the society are dominated by fraud and corruption cases which are committed by a small number of government officials.

The second question of this study was *To what extent hindering factors orient Fana's issue selection, ways of composition and presentation style of the media court and crime coverage?* Data gathered from the interviews of reporters and editorial monitoring officers of FBC indicates that the media is in a safe position to safeguard the well being of its journalists. Plus the media raises issues based on the selection principles that prioritize the stability of the economy of the state and strengthen the solidarity of the society as well as the peace of the state. Moreover, any influence from corporate business owners, government officials and business partners of the media have never been encountered and experienced by the media practitioners and journalists.

On the other hand, Fana's portrayal of the law enforcement and justice institutions showed variation based on the issues and crime cases. For instance:- in the most news stories of theft and burglary Police and law enforcement institutions are presented as active and dedicated one for their missions. On the contrary, in terror related news police institutions are portrayed as passive, ignorant and incapable of protecting the well being of public by

presenting crime activities of the convicts exhaustively and explicitly in a way that puts the reputation of the law enforcement institutions into question.

Data from the interviews of the reporters reveals that journalists of Fana believe that they have better protection from external pressuring forces. However, there are certain cases where journalists are forced to cancel and reject their reports due to the pressures within the media itself. In general the respondents believe that Fana is relatively better than any other media in defending pressures which come from the politically and economically empowered organs. However, Fana's adherence to the ruling party ideology and support of the political actions forced journalists to uncover certain criminal cases due to their political implications and present cases like terrorism stories with much emphasis in terms of more time allocation and high tone of presentation.

The third research question was *What kinds of framings does FBC mostly adhere to in its crime stories or court news? And how far do the crime stories or court news deliberate on the socio-economic factors of crimes?* According to the Semetko & Valkenburg (2000, P-93-109) five well-known framings are used in crime reporting:- 'Conflict framing', 'Economical framing', 'Human interest framing', 'Morality framing' and 'Attribution of responsibility framing'.

The content analysis of the study reveals that more than half of the selected crime stories of Fana "*Chilot Zegeba*" mainly dwell at length on the losses incurred against the national economy as well as individual victims and the damage brought on the properties of the victims and offenders due to the criminal act. Thus it is proved that economical framing style is a widely used framing mode than others like human interest and conflict framings. However framing modes like morality and remedy seeking with attribution of responsibility are found to be totally ignored within the court news of Fana.

Based on Sotirovic's (2003) definition of episodic framings that focus on the personalities, motivations and social issues of the people involved and thematic framings that focus on the explanation of social circumstances and situational roles, Fana's majority of the court news and crime stories are found hardly having stories with concrete analytical approaches which touch the contextual factors of crimes. This means that FBC's crime stories are episodic in

their thematic content as they basically focused on problem definition, explanation of criminal procedures and crime scenarios.

Fourthly, *How does Fana represent crime stories in its court news coverage? And What kind of realities do Fana court news construct?* Osborne (1995) statement about medias reporting of crime cases and the justice system indicates that media coverage of crime cases could create and distort the real and objective representations of the social and criminal worlds. It is also capable of redefining both the concepts of justice, criminality and retribution. According to Osborne (1995), media's improper reflection of incidents objectively and the construction of their own reality due to the external and internal determining factors, not only contradicts with the governing principle of journalism (accuracy and fairness) but also mislead the consumers with incomplete and negative ideas.

The concept of “law of opposites” or variation between the media’s crime report and that of the raw data (records of crimes by law enforcement institutions) has been observed in the crime stories of people above 30. FBC’s reports indicate that these people who are above 30 have a higher track record of involvement in fraud and corruption while data in the crime records of law enforcement institutions speaks a different story, ie they have a lower level of involvement in fraud and corruption when compared to those who are meddling between 25 up to 30.

Media’s regular and serious representations of certain criminal offences with sympathetic presentation and undermining of internalized social controls, could lessen the public cooperation with the system and result in the questioning of the integrity, fairness, efficiency and effectiveness of the police, which as a consequence contributes to increase in the rate of crime (Wartella 1995; Surette, 1998 cited by Falodun, O. K, 2015). According to the findings of the study, Fana's coverage of theft, burglary, physical assault and homicide attempt only as a means of adding variety to its news coverage and the prevalence of corruption cases in the court news reveals its lack of attention to the real burning issues of the society which are related to safe livelihood and working conditions. Its mishandling of crime reporting could also put into question the strength and efficiency of the state in serving the interest of the public.

Media's social construction of reality is related to the role it plays in the creation of social awareness and mobilizations towards crime prevention as well as the strengthening of the social system (Cohen, 2014). It can be either through opposing the existing system and demand for stronger policies which is reconstructing of the existing reality or demanding a new action which is the construction of new reality. As a result, they could be taken as distributors of social knowledge as they legitimize people, social issues and policies for the general public.

The presentation of the news headlines by describing the crime incidents firstly and followed by the legal consequences the offenders went through is the widely existed style of crime news presentation in "*Chilot Zegeba*". More than half of the participants who provided interview data agree on the idea that Fana created wider perception on the public's mind about crime that any unlawful act brings request by the law with legal punishment as a reward.

However the results of the study through news content analysis and interview data revealed that FBC has done little in creating public agenda on crime issues which threaten the society's well being. Moreover, the media is seen hardly striving to bring about system change by covering follow up news and conducting of impact assessments that could be used to create link between similar cases and ask for more legal amendments. Almost all interview respondents from the media argue that the media has done very little in bringing change in the legal system and jurisdictions by placing critical and burning crime issues as a top priority of the state and the public.

Lastly this study tried to provide answer to the question *How far do media's social responsibility role have been prioritized by the media practitioners while covering crime stories in the daily court news?* Media's responsibility could spread beyond the mere task of informing the citizens about what was happening rather it includes the provision of balanced and accurate information (Ekblom, 2010). In other words it is all about filtration and the provision of selected information with a sense of responsibility and accountability to the society that enables the public to make sound decisions.

The media practitioners and public relation officers of the justice department have lauded FBC's endeavor in covering court cases by assigning its journalists to the jurisdictions and court proceedings. However majority of the crime stories have a visible weakness in providing balanced views to their audiences as voices of the convicts like responses and reactions to the cases are not incorporated in the stories. Moreover Fana's coverage of court news and presentation of crime stories is biased and lacks balance. Data gathered with interviews from editorial monitoring officers and content analysis of the news prove that majority of the crime news are bounded with the presentation of courtroom incidents and using of files of the general attorneys as a sole source of information. Almost all the selected news items use one sided story which are mostly taken from the general attorney and favors the plaintiffs.

Journalists lack of knowledge as to how to build up their stories, the overarching traditional trends of covering court and crime stories and dependence on information sources are the main reasons for the practitioners reliance on courtroom incidents and files of the convicted criminals. Lack of knowledge of legal issues and absence of advisory on legal issues within the media itself have also contributed to journalists failure of adding critical and analytical quality to their news. Thus the news become more informative and mere story tellers rather than being educational which brings change in the mind of the listeners.

Since any media, by the virtue of its establishment, should stand for the sovereignty of the nation, support the development activities of the state and contribute to the advancement of social solidarity and rule of law. FBC's crime issue selection principles are found relevant and appropriate in principle. However in practice, FBC's court news stories are inclined to raise certain issues with special focus and other cases just for variety of reasons.

Chapter Five

Conclusions and Recommendations

5.1 Conclusions

The study was conducted on how crime cases are represented in broadcast media (radio) by focusing on the midday news show which covers Crime and Court cases on weekdays named with '*Chilot Zegeba*'. Those court news cover issues related to the opening of an investigation by police, the opening of the court hearings on certain cases and final verdicts of the courts on high level crimes and selected offences. Cases that range from petty theft up to grand corruption are covered with their detail stories and procedures. Thus the paper has focused on the presentation of crime stories and the implications of the stories framings in the news excluding Fana's other regular programs which are related with court issues and the radio documentaries on crime investigations.

The paper examined how crime stories in the court news are represented and covered, with the objective of identifying the media's (Fana) framing types mostly used and exploring messages of the stories which lie within the broadcasted crime issues. Qualitative research method was employed on the bases of news content analysis taken from FBC radio news for three consecutive months from September to November 2016. Besides open ended interview technique was used to support the interpretations of information gathered from the news content analysis. And a total of 8 informants were interviewed, 5 from Fana (3 producers of court news with crime stories, and 2 from the editorial monitoring team), and 3 from the public relations departments of the Federal Supreme Court and Federal Attorneys Generals office. Moreover document review was also made on law enforcement institutions (Federal Police and Addis Ababa Police Commissions) performance report to cross check the variations of medias reporting data and enforcement institutions recorded data within the same time period (September to November 2016). Analytical categories were applied in news content analysis including types of crime stories mostly covered, themes of the stories, messages and presentation tone of the stories.

Explaining how the social system is working through the promotion of the public safety and ensuring of the realization of the order of law within members of the society is the core

principle every media should carry in covering crime cases. And it is related to the role media should play in the creation of social awareness and mobilization towards the construction of strong social system (Cohen, 2014).

Based on the findings of the study, Fana's crime issues selection principles, which are stated in the media's editorial policy as well, are found to be consistent that they reflect the media's recognition of its roles and responsibilities in terms of principle. However, the news content analysis of this study revealed that serious crime issues like theft, burglary and physical assault cases which are threatening the society at most were presented with less priority only as a means to add variety to other reports. The role Fana played in maintaining the order of law would lessen when the public raised questions on the strength of the state to administer and protect the interests of the public due to the high coverage of corruption and fraud cases as if they are occurring at an alarming rate more than ever. When few crime cases took the dominance over the others and un-proportional coverage of various crime cases is seen on the media, it means that the media is practically far from its stated principles of promoting public safety with the maintaining of order of law.

According to Gans (1980) classification of crimes and justice stories which are 'disorder news' that report threats to all kinds of order as well as the measures taken to restore order, and those stories about "routine activities" that are normative and usually pose no direct threats. Fana's presentation of corruption and fraud cases which are made by higher government officials and merchants at a higher frequency and the small coverage of serious crime issues (burglary, organized theft and physical assault) implies the media's obsession with "routine activities" that have less impact on the well being of the society and grouped as social or secondary disorder news.

The variation in statistics and the contradictory nature of media reports with the actualities of the records on the ground can be described as "law of opposites" and the term was used by Reiner, Livingston and Allen (2003). The variations on the recordings of the media (Fana) crime news presented and statistical records of the law enforcement institutions is the reflection for the presence of "law of opposites" in the media. Moreover, the finding of the study discovered that Fana has been instilling wrong impression and dictation about highly educated people and government officials through its over presentation of corruption and

fraud cases. Omission and ignorance of crimes which are committed by large unemployed youths from media coverage not only mislead the public but also prevent the concerned government bodies and institutions from realizing the burning issues of the society and block them from taking proper actions on the root causes of criminality.

According to Wartella (1995) and Surette (1998), the media's improper reflection of incidents objectively misleads the consumers with incomplete and negative ideas that could lead to undermining the legitimacy of the state and effectiveness of law enforcement institutions. Fana's presentation of corruption and fraud issues with exaggerated and explicit description of procedural techniques not only provide wrong lesson to the public (copy cat crimes) but also reveals the weakness of the government in controlling and administering the public. Unless these stories are presented repeatedly with a call or an urging to government and public institutions to take measures and amendments on the weak legal frame works, the sole presentation of mischief tactics being applied in every story of corruption and fraud would led the public to label the government as ignorant as well as inactive. Thus FBC's over representations and detailed as well as colorized explanation of procedural techniques could result on the majority public's distrust on the government.

The presentation of theft, burglary, physical assault and homicide attempt cases are covered as a means of adding variety to news coverage and the ignorance of these critical issues, the media's (Fana) ultimate support for the government (ruling party), and the coming of corruption issue to the forefront of the media's agenda with its frequent reporting of the cases reveals the presence of high political interest in the selection and coverage of crime issues.

Crime stories were critically examined in this paper in relation to the media's presentation of convicted criminals and victims. Based on Lea and Young (1984) book of '*What is to be done about law and order*' suggested that success and social acceptability are measured by the material possessions one can accumulate. They also claimed the media's for their bombardment of the people's mind with a consumer orientated lifestyle that led to relative deprivation which is similarly stated by the American sociologist Robert K. Merton on Social Strain Theory. Crime is the resulting of 'accepting one norm, but breaking another in order to pursue the first' (Boundless, 2016, n.d).

Based on the news content analysis of the media, the majority of the criminals in the news are presented as rational actors who seek illegal benefit and short way approach towards prosperity. The data also reveals that the news stories are reflecting the society's wrong perception of success and the prevailing preference of illegal path towards prosperity which might be the outcome of the societies poor working habits or media's wrong illustration of success. The crime stories which depict convicts as intentional violators reflects the society's weakness and reveal the wrong perception they had about prosperity. It is a call for the media institutions that they should refrain their portrayal of success and material possession in their infotainment programs and raise issues that would advance the working culture of the society.

In relation to presentation of the convicts in the stories, FBC's crime reports are observed presenting unbalanced and one-sided reporting. With such coverage, convicted criminals are always portrayed as rational actors and the ignorant, weak, as well as the stupidity of the victims in the stories left untouched. Thus the stories failed to provide better understanding and lesson for the public about what to do and what not.

The high preference of the public on crime stories and Fana's raising of crime and court cases regularly in the news enabled the media house to be on the first list of the public's media choice. Thus Fana's news presenting of crime stories and its creation of a perception on the public's mind about the supremacy of the law is not seen as being successful in building strong anti-crime societal behavior. FBC's poor performance in bringing behavioral change within the larger society through social discussion forums, and other idea sharing formats that would enable to mobilize the society is among the most commonly stated idea raised within the participants of the interview.

Media's social construction of reality is related to the role it plays in the distribution of social knowledge and act as a platform for reactions and reconstructions on the existing uncomfortable systems of the social reality (Cohen, 2014). All news content analysis of Fana news and interview data reveal that the media hasn't played its social responsibility role and never made any effort to bring changes on the justice system and avoid weak social practices with investigative and in-depth reporting on crime and related issues. Fana's agenda setting of crimes issues on the public's prior concern is proven untouched when

compared with its capacity and achievements the media had in bringing good governance and realization of development projects. Fana's abstinence from covering repeatedly occurring crimes that bothers the society at most and call for change on the social practices as well as judiciary system by taking cases like child abuse, rape and murder for revenge reveals the media's weak agenda setting role on crime and justice issues. Cases like rape and reprisal are taken out of the issues list for fear of not to create public fear. However instead of narrating the criminal procedures of these cases, it would be valuable to focus on legal aspects and the weakness the system has. It seems that bringing the issues to the discussion table and asking for more change in the system is not the concern of the media and there is no any news content which has the element of showing legal weaknesses. Thus Fana's role could never go beyond informing and creation of perception, even though more is expected from such mainstream media that reaches millions of audiences at a time.

On the other hand, this study also tried to address the media's (FBC) social responsibility role. Social responsibility is all about filtration and provision of selected information with a sense of responsibility and accountability to the society in providing appropriate information which enables the public to make sound decisions (Ekblom, 2010).

According to the results of the study, FBC's presentation of terror cases with high tones and longer air time different from other cases, the use of exhaustive and explicit descriptions of crime scenarios reflects the media's intention of placing certain issues at high level of attention. Besides, the absence of critically analyzed crime stories and the absence of contextual factors of criminal actions forced the media to lose its power of providing comprehensive information that matters most in the life of the audience.

In addition to the description of crime scenarios, the results of Fana news content analysis reveal that FBC is inculcating wrong impression and dictation in the minds of its audience regarding highly educated people and senior government officials. The media's repeated presentation of the occupational levels of convicted criminals on corruption cases carries an implication that educated people who are on top positions of public institutions are more vulnerable to offences more than others. On the contrary, the real crime record reveals that most of the crimes are committed by people with lower or no educational background, merchants and youth. This misrepresentation of the educational and occupational status of

the offenders and the presence of variation on data records of crimes would certainly prevent the concerned government institutions from taking right measures of crime prevention with the collaboration of the concerned bodies and partners. The media's misrepresentation and misguidance has its own effect on the public officials not to question the effectiveness of crime prevention polices and strategies. Besides, such media practices would lessen the active participation of the public on crime prevention activities by lowering the public's trust they have on the state. In other word without the active involvement of the mass publics, any crime preventing activity could not be fruitful.

Among five well-known framing styles or modes of Semetko & Valkenburg (2000) which are mostly used in crime reporting, Fana is found widely applying economical framing mode in the majority of the cases and very few cases are framed using human interest and conflict framing modes. The absence of morality framing and remedy seeking with attribution of responsibility framings reflect the media's (Fana) focusing on crime scenarios description and rejection of concrete analytical approaches. On the other hand, Fana's focusing on economical, conflict, and human interest framing modes and the rejection of morality and attribution framing modes reveals the media being informative only and its failures in becoming center of education and social learning's.

Journalist's lack of knowledge on legal issues and their use of poor information source influenced majority of the crime stories within the court news to focus on presenting criminal procedure and techniques of crimes stated on the files of general attorneys with no slight adding to the content. Thus majority of the stories lack inferences and setting of casual relationships within the cases of similar nature due to knowledge gap, reservations from the information sources and absence of legal frame work that govern the information flow between the medias and sources. Consequently, the findings revealed that the reasons behind Fana's crime stories hardly addressing of contextual and environmental factors of crimes with poor analytical approach is the outcome of the information sources and police investigators reservations in sharing information.

Moreover, the competency of the media practitioners placed an enormous role in blocking the coverage of crime issues from going beyond the general attorneys file where the journalists could easily access. The findings of this paper reveal that Fana is not directly and

openly influenced by crime information sources in its issue selection, composition and presentation. In general the respondents believe that Fana is relatively better than any other media in defending pressures which come from the politically and economically empowered organs. However, the high reliance on those limited sources of crime news influenced the topics to be covered and contents of the crime news. Moreover, journalist's reliance on law enforcement agents, officials and general attorneys for information is found high even more than the initial expectations of the researcher himself.

Despite the area of the field, the findings of this research paper are similar with the previously made researches in pointing out the knowledge gap whereby FBC's professionals lack knowledge of legal issues. While police program producers of EBC and other regional TV stations lack journalistic skills. The findings of this research reveal that skills which are related with media reporting could be filled with experiences and exposures. However, legal knowledge is different from skill related subjects and should be filled with long time trainings and consultancy services whereby Fana could not provide to its journalists or higher media practitioners who have legal ground in their educational documents.

The growth of the entertainment value of crime reporting and the constraints placed upon investigative journalism also result in extremely limited space in news bulletins for the presentation of etiological or social factors connected to the reported crimes (Steven, 1998). Finding of the study showed that majority of the reporters presented their stories with ordinary reporting styles used in other socio-economic issues of news reporting. Workloads on crime stories producers and shortage of air time allocated to cover their issues and other factors forced journalists not to focus on narrative qualities of their stories and rather mostly think of just covering their stories within the already available air space.

Moreover, due to the absence of a purely stated legal framework that governs the media and justice system journalists limit themselves to the court files and abstain themselves from incorporating legal briefings and comments from experts in the reporting. In conducting this thesis, the researcher has personally witnessed that law enforcement institutions like the Federal police and Addis Ababa city police Commission's investigation departments repeatedly reject calls from the media.

Though journalists are free in presenting the weakness of law enforcement institutions in preventing crimes and violent actions through their stories, they do not have power in deciding which story to be presented. Interview data from media practitioners proved that Fana's independence in covering crime cases is partial that issue selection for transmission is mostly not in the hand of journalists self decision even though they have serious and burning stories in their hands. However, content analysis data proved that Fana presented the activity of law enforcement and justice institutions from its own perspective rather than that of the sources. This showed the independence of the media unlike other medias where in many situations information sources of crime stories (law enforcement and justice institutions) have been observed influencing the content of media's productions which even goes to the extent of deciding what to omit and include.

Content analysis of Fana's story telling or narratives proved that the majority of the news lack attractiveness and the narratives are not good. And Fana's inclination to cover crime issues which are less threatening to the society when compared to the others, its coverage of terror cases with high tone and longer air time coverage, and the medias over representation of corruption cases with the detailed presentation of the techniques are proves for the presence of ideological impositions of the ruling party against the media.

5.2 Recommendations

This study was conducted to investigate the overall coverage of crime stories and their representations in the daily court news of Fana Broadcasting radio. The study also attempted to examine the social constructions on the court news and stories in relation to the medias social responsibilities roles. Thus Fana's news framings and issues selection fall under inquiry through news content analysis and in-depth interviews supplemented by the review of documents of crime records of law enforcement institutions. Thus, the researcher provided the following suggestions for media practitioners, owners of the media (Fana) and concerned institutions that are the main actors in maintaining the order of law and serving the justice system of the state.

- The media should shift from its approach of episodic content and detail explanation of crime scenarios to thematic approach and critical analysis. The media should

move out from the traditional trends of focusing on criminal procedures and explanation of crime scenarios and move to revealing the relationships between incidents within its stories. Framing approaches in story composition like using morality, attribution and remedy seeking should be also applied.

- The media should take the responsibility for the creation of legal frame work that governs the information release by the court and law enforcement institutions. Reservations especially on police investigation documents and sharing of substantial information on cases to be covered by the media calls for the urgent need of further collaboration and establishment of strong communication bridge between police institutions and justice system. Thus not only FBC but also other media platforms should be encouraged to address similar issues in their news and other programs to promote in-depth coverage of the issue and introduce new insights of media approach.
- Moreover, law enforcement and police institutions should also change their media communication policies and encourage transparent system. Especially the Federal police and Addis Ababa city police Commissions should move out from their hidings and remove their media phobia. Those institutions should work with the medias by advancing the involvement of active citizens and societies roles in crime prevention policies.
- Fana should change its way of crime stories representation by parting itself from frequent coverage of corruption cases and turn its face towards other crime and violent cases that threaten the peace and stability of the society. Moreover, portrayal of corrupt criminals as highly educated, middle and higher class citizens as well as victims of fraud cases as innocent and unintentional should be changed. Rather the stories should bring the reality objectively and reflect the real situation of crime. For instance in fraud case stories must show the lazy and stupidity of victims by advancing information sources on issues.
- Though FBC hardly cover violent and sexual crimes, its overemphasis on terror cases should be changed at least by its approach on the presentation of the stories and the news should focus on uncovering the contextual situations behind the terror acts. Besides the media should change its approach by legalizing the role of the

society in reducing the rate of crime frequency. Fana's court and crime issue coverage should encourage the “collective consciousness” by incorporating internal social control mechanisms and building of good social norms, morals and values in the stories.

- Fana should advance its coverage of crime issues and strengthen its approaches so as to bring change and amendment on the weak social systems by serving as a platform for public discussions and debates to cause impacts on high rate crimes. The media should use its reputation to bring change and strengthen the justice system of the state by going further to the news coverage of issues.
- Using approaches that advance the participation of the society in crime prevention activities and incorporating legal briefings and comments on closed case files should be presented in a feature news format so that other additional voices could be heard from experts and the public.
- Training should be given periodically and continuously to reporters and practitioners to advance their competence. Training will also enable the practitioners to move out from one sided reporting system. Moreover reporters should design their own means and system to bring balanced coverage on the issues and let the voice of offenders (convicted criminals) and victims with their relatives be heard.
- Fana should assign a legal expert for the team that covers court and crime news independently. At the same time, the media should organize crime and court reporters as a separate, independent team so that they won't face work loads and focus on crime issues with advanced approaches and good narrative quality.
- Plus Fana should set a standard which is used for evaluation criteria. Thus it helps to control and advance the quality of crime news reports. The standard should set as criteria for wordings, depth of the story, messages of the story and strength of the ideas, and styles of presentation.

The researcher also recommends further researches to investigate;

- How the upcoming new free air satellite television stations are covering crime cases in their programs and the public's reactions to those productions?

- Impact assessment on the public based on the coverage of crime and court news with the productions of the dominant state owned and private media.
- Comparative study on the international media's way of covering crime and court cases in relation with the overall Ethiopian media's coverage trend.

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Appendix 1

Interview Guide for Fana's crime reporters and editors

1. How do you relate journalism reporting ethics with crime reporting ethics?
2. Are there restrictions imposed on Fana's working manuals or any unwritten norms or rules which are used as a guiding principle in covering high level economical conspiracies and crimes fearing sponsorship and marketing lose?
3. How do you define Fana's issue selection procedures in relation to the openness principles applied by the editors what to include and what not?
4. How do you express Fana's editors and newsroom coordinators commitment to supporting the reporters and facing the challenges of restrictions made by the sources during investigation and follow up reports with critical analysis?
5. Who are the dominant sources of Fana's crime news?
6. How do you see police and justice department's officers and workers approach in responding to your requests for information and expiations on crime cases?
7. How do you describe the capacity of police and justice departments in their handling of information and their trends in offering and sharing of critically analyzed data at the time of request?
8. What dominant issues have you seen in the press releases made by police and justice departments and institutions as a whole?
9. Do you have any experiences with sabotage of high level political persons or economical firms and forced you to reject the cases from being broadcast?

Appendix 2

Interview Guide for Fana's crime news sources (police and justice officers)

1. How do you explain Fana journalist's capacity of news reporting using the information they get from the police or justice departments?
2. How do you see journalist's ways of approach in searching for information and explanations of the cases they intend to cover and the legality of the questions they raise mostly?
3. Do you have any experience of challenges from journalists and argue about the legality of information release? How do they respond to the restrictions imposed by your office?
4. Do you monitor Fana's crime news as the department level or else whenever you provide information on the reported cases? If so, on what areas do you focus at the time of monitoring?
5. What do you think of Fana's reporting in the actual picture of crime incidents within its news contents and show the rate of crimes as it is in relation with the numerical data and recordings of justice or police institutions?
6. How do you describe Fana's role of awareness creation and being a center of social learning's based on the coverage of crime issues and the way it represent the cases?

