

Aliens or Allies: Images of Immigrants in Contemporary American Cultural Texts

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Thesis Statement

- A survey of cultural texts indicates ambivalence and hostility toward both legal and illegal immigrants within and among industry labor organizations, government bodies, and the popular media.

Key Concepts

- Hostile
- Supportive
- Ambivalent

Methods

- Grounded Theory
- Purposive Sampling
- In Vivo Coding
- Exemplar Quotes
- Methodology is based on Bernard (2002)

Purposive Sampling

- Sources selected from three prominent voices in the immigration and labor debate for comparative analysis
- Media
- Government
- Industry Labor Organizations

Data Analysis

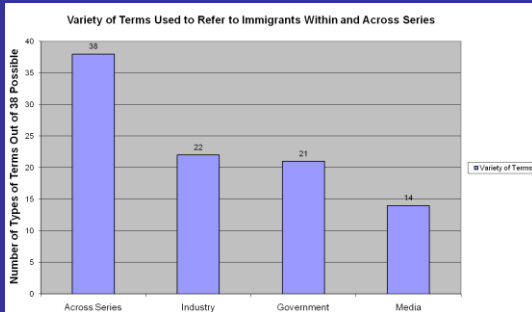
Quantitative

- Create Codebook
- Create Data Matrix

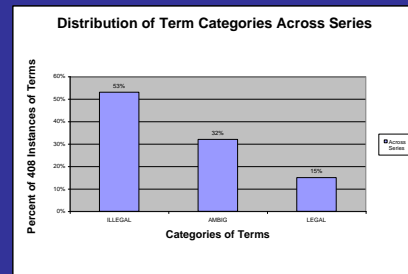
Qualitative

- Select exemplar quotes to illustrate how terms may change according to context

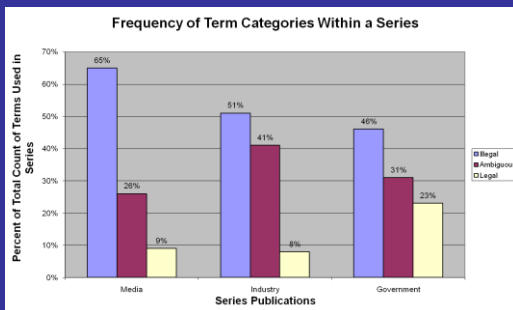
Quantitative Results



Quantitative Results



Quantitative Results



Qualitative Exemplars from Industry Publications

- “Since it is against the law for businesses to hire illegal aliens, what is the possible rationale for providing them state-subsidized educations in our public universities?”
- “He is one of those hard-working, taxpaying immigrants whom both unionists and immigrants’ rights advocates extol and defend.”

Qualitative Exemplars from Government Publications

- “The increasing number of noncitizens highlights the challenge of dealing with immigrants in the criminal justice system.”

Qualitative Exemplars from Government Publications

- “For years, limited detention space forced the release of many illegal border crossers from nations other than Mexico with nothing more than a Notice to Appear for a hearing before an immigration judge.”

Qualitative Exemplars from Government Publications

- “An investment in tools to help new Americans learn English will be repaid many times over in the contributions these immigrants make to our political discourse, economy, and society.”

Qualitative Exemplars from Media Publications

- “Sen. Hillary Clinton on Wednesday came out against granting driver’s licenses to illegal immigrants...”
- “The Democratic governor introduced the plan two months ago with the goal of increased security, safer roads, and an opportunity to bring immigrants ‘out of the shadows’.”

Further Research

- Would my results be repeated with a larger, more stringently selected sample?
- What is the influence of the Department of Homeland Security on the immigration debate?
- Why do some labor organizations adopt and lobby for strict anti-immigrant policies when grass-roots, inclusive policies are proven effective?
- How influential is mass media on government and labor organizing policies?

Conclusion

- Better understanding of the complexity of the issue
- More familiarity with lobbying process and the connection between media, government and industry
- Experience in data collection and analysis
- Many lessons in time management and organization