



The role of misinformation in the information practices of Iraqi asylum seekers in Finland

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Hilda Ruokolainen, hilda.ruokolainen@abo.fi



Asylum seekers in Finland

Who are coming to Finland?

- Iraqis, Afghans, Syrians
- 18–34-year-old men

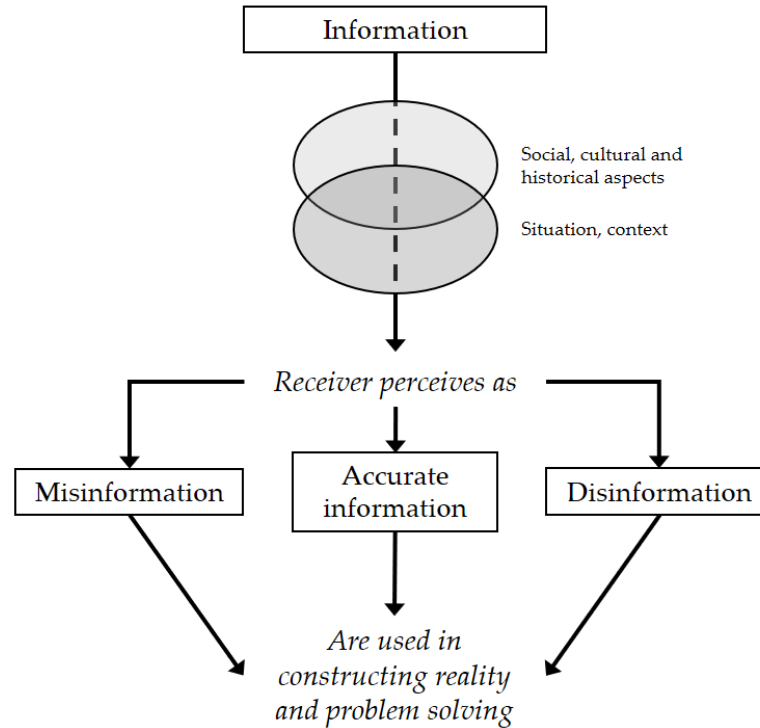
Asylum situation in Finland

- Long waiting periods
- Changes in the asylum policies

Misinformation

- Inaccurate, uncertain, vague or ambiguous information (Karlova & Lee, 2011; Karlova & Fisher, 2013)
 - Receiver
 - Situation, context, time
- Normative and disnormative information (Haasio 2015)
- → *perceived and normative misinformation*

Information perception model



Information practices of asylum seekers

Information needs

- Asylum process (rights, duties, services, programs, aid)
- Personal networks (in Finland and in the country of origin)
- Situation in the home country
- Emotional security, hope
- Language learning

Barriers

- Trauma, stress
- Information environment in Finland
- Language skills
- Bureaucracy
- Cultural conflicts
- Unwanted information, information overload
- Lack of social networks & capital

Types of Misinformation (1)

- Official information (Brekke, 2004; Pikkarainen & Wilkman, 2008)
- Outdated information (Aarnitaival, 2012; Gillespie et al., 2016)
- Misinformation
 - via gatekeepers (Jeong, 2004; Lloyd et al. 2013)
 - via other mediators or through delegating tasks (Aarnitaival, 2012; Chu, 1999)

Types of Misinformation (2)

- Misinformation giving
 - false hope (Brekke, 2004; Rotter; 2010)
 - unrealistic expectations (Juntunen, 2016; Merisalo, 2017)
- False rumours (Merisalo & Jauhiainen, 2017; Rotter, 2010)
- Distorted information (Pikkarainen & Wilkman, 2008; Koser & Pinkerton, 2002)

Project plan

- Interviews with young Iraqi men, photovoice
- Misinformation in focus
 - Social networks
 - Cognitive authority
 - Social inclusion

Conclusions

- Understanding the complexity of misinformation is especially important when studying minorities
- The viewpoint of asylum seekers

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