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Measures of Victimization: Study of the Verbalizations of Victims of Terrorism

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Abstract

Acts of terrorist violence have several consequences for the victims (physical, psychological, social, financial consequences), as well as other effects that are specific to terrorism (traumatic memory, vicarious trauma, post-traumatic stress disorder). The purpose of this article is to examine the extent to which the speeches produced by victims of terrorism reflect these consequences and effects. The study concerns 20 subjects who suffered directly or indirectly the consequences of the terrorist attacks which took place in France in 2015 (in Paris) and in 2016 (in Nice), from their written and video productions posted online (on the internet and social media). A detailed analysis of the content of these verbalizations, using automatic language processing tools, made it possible to highlight psycholinguistic markers of victimization, and to visually represent the consequences of the attacks on the victims.

Key Words

Victimization, Terrorism, Victimology, Psychology, Violence, Mental Health, Traumatic Memory, Disorders.