

# EDITORIAL CARTOONS USED TO PRESENT IMPLIED MEANING RELATED TO HONG KONG EXTRADITION BILL PROTESTS

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**Abstract.** *In communication, people may express their meaning implicitly. They use different forms of expressions but mean the same thing. The expressions used are not always vocal symbols or linguistic ones but also non vocal symbols like cartoons. The cartoons can also be the context of the vocal symbols like in this study. This research aims to investigate the implied meaning (implicature) used in the editorial cartoons of Hong Kong Extradition Bill. To study this, non-participant observation used to collect the data. There were 12 editorial cartoons of the Taipei Times news website. Using Relevance Theory, the writers analyzed the data using referential, inferential, and pragmatic methods to uncover the implied meaning of the editorial cartoons. The results indicate that the implied meaning or implicature of the editorial cartoons is used by the journalist to criticize, forewarn, and provide information. The meaning can be figured out since background knowledge can be used to decode the meaning transmitted. Besides, context of situation plays an important role to understand the meaning.*

## **Keyword:**

*Cartoon, Hong Kong, extradition bill, implicature*

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## **1. Introduction**

Hong Kong Extradition Bill sparked with pro and anti-government protests which inspired journalists to respond to the issues. The response was expressed through editorial cartoons. Editorial cartoons are kinds of mass media that can be used to give comments, criticisms about what is going on in the society. In other words, editorial cartoons are one of the mass media that can be used to speak up about public opinion and complain about society's flaws, social services, and policies. The editorial cartoons are also called as political cartoons since they frequently discuss political issues. According to Diamond (2002), political or editorial cartoons have been utilized in the editorial sections of newspapers and magazines for more than two hundred years. At present, cartoonists of political cartoons also share their cartoons via internet in blogs, social media accounts, and news website. It can be seen that internet is a powerful device for sharing news and information.

One of the kinds of pictures found in the editorial cartoons is caricature. Caricature is a

picture using exaggerated and distorted features of a well-known person. It is frequently used in editorial cartoons for ridiculing well-known persons, especially politicians. Through represented bipolarities, such as good-bad and happy-sad, caricature shows what should not be done. They usually use artistic skill combined with hyperbole and stinging humor to ask for authority and raise attention to corruption and other social voices. An editorial cartoon usually depicts a delicate topic and addresses it through the biased eyes of a subjective creator. This method of presenting editorial cartoons allows cartoonists to successfully express their ideas on any present topic in society in a humorous manner. People might think that an editorial cartoon is only about jokes. However, there is something more beyond the jest and illustration. It relates to the cartoon's implicature and the relationship between the aspects. These aspects are analyzed to comprehend the political cartoon's meaning and satirical goals. Several studies on implicature in comic cartoons had conducted. The research on political cartoons performed by Bright (2013) assessed the credibility of the selected editorial cartoons through Pragmatics. The result showed that Grice's cooperative principles were observed, violated, flouted, and suspended in the editorial cartoons. It also reveals that the observance of cooperative principles and the knowledge of the contextual factors surrounding the editorial cartoons assist in supporting their credibility.

Similar studies have been conducted but none of them has talked about implied meaning or implicature in editorial cartoon. Kondowe et al., (2014) investigate how the Malawi newspaper described their political leader using Grice's Conversational Implicature. Using hedges to violate the maxim of manner is the most popular strategy of exploiting the maxims. This research shows that the cartoonist intensely gives ambiguous information not to show uncertainty or inadequate information but to emphasize precision. The ambiguity is meant to avoid being critical and invite readers to establish their interpretation of the president's acts by considering the social and political circumstances in which they live. Puri and Baskara (2019) showed the efforts to study a topic related to humor in the comic cartoons *Be Like Bro* using the Cooperative Principle. The findings show that violating the cooperative principle might lead to different meanings since there is a polar between what someone expects and what really occurs in conversation. Similar research conducted by Jayaputri (2018) used the Cooperative Principle to uncover implicature in *Tahilalat* comics. The violation maxim is conveyed in the speech, so it can be inferred that the setting of the speaker's data is not direct and vague in the *Tahilalats* comic. It can lead to misunderstanding among the participants and is utilized to produce humor. In another similar study with different media, Sanz (2013) conducted research on billboards of political issues. The study indicates that based on Relevance Theory and the two-stage incongruity-resolution theory of humor to political billboards may explain how humorous interpretations are produced. The billboards' visual metaphors may make surprising and unexpectedly analogous between political leaders and their characteristics. The humor effect of the billboard can be created by the resolution of the inconsistency. A crucial source of meaning-making can be created by the inter-semiosis between verbal, visual, and multimodal aspects of billboards. The findings indicate that the inference of billboards may depend on the ability of the viewers in getting schemata and assumptions, which can provide a context in which new information is transferred. The resources of previous research focused on social skills, inquiring political leaders' authority, and humor through implicature. However, this research focuses on one occurrence of protests on the Extradition Bill in Hong Kong excluding humor. The editorial cartoons will be understood better and more quickly if they are perceived in the current issue to be a collective cognitive environment and knowledge of the sociopolitical circumstances at the time to be

easier to recall.

The riots in Hong Kong about the Extradition Bill become a favorite topic for cartoonists in Hong Kong and Taiwan. The riots that began from June until early September have become the most severe riot in Hong Kong ("Hong Kong 100 Days of Huge Rallies, Violent Clashes," 2019). The riot started because the current Government of Hong Kong intended to allow extradition from Hong Kong to mainland China. The proposal came after a Hong Kong man murdered his girlfriend while holidaying in Taiwan and returned to Hong Kong. Taiwanese officials asked Hong Kong for cooperation in extraditing the murderer, but Hong Kong officials were unable to cooperate due to a lack of an extradition agreement with Taiwan (Li, 2019). If the Extradition Bill is ratified, residents of Hong Kong are concerned that China's court system may subject them to arbitrary detention, biased trials, and torture. Besides taking part in rallies that run for 100 days, the rioters complain in witty ways, such as inventing new chants, memes, banners, and slogans that often turn the criticism against the government ("Memes, Cartoons and Caustic Cantonese The Language of Hong Kong's Protests," 2019). During the riots, numerous cartoonists published their work in newspapers and on the website to condemn the government's handling of the bill and the rioters.

A political cartoon frequently features satirical content regarding a political figure, event, institution, theory, and reflects the cartoonist's own views and beliefs on the subject. It could be argued that cartoons aim at offering serious insights, food for thought and a space for self-development, by showing us the true unrevealed nature of mankind and its works (Gkountouma, 2016). Therefore, this study aims to describing how editorial cartoons use implicature to convey cartoonist opinion regarding major events during the demonstration by applying Relevance Theory.

In Pragmatics, people learn how context influences utterance interpretation. Pragmatics aims to demonstrate how linguistic meaning relates to context assumptions in utterance comprehension. To achieve this goal, people must not only improve their theoretical grasp of utterance interpretation but also perform comprehensive research on utterance interpretation in a variety of communication and contexts. Sperber and Wilson (1995) developed the Relevance Theory to overcome the limitation of the previous models. Relevance Theory believes with Grice that linguistic communication is more than just an encoding and decoding process, but also a process of making conclusions based on context. However, Sperber and Wilson go on to add that by requiring the listener's attention, a communicator is indicating that what he's saying is important to the listener's interest, as articulated in the following general principle:

*Cognitive principle of relevance*

*Human cognition tends to be geared to the maximization of relevance.* (Sperber and Wilson, 1995, p.260). Relevance is an important factor of cognitive processes' inputs, which include thoughts, utterances, actions, memories, smells, sounds, sights, and so on. Sperber and Wilson (1995) hold, "An assumption is relevant in a context if and only if it has some contextual effect in that context". However, relevance has a degree as some assumptions are less relevant than others. The effect of the input and the work required to obtain the result determines the input scale of importance. As a result, significance is determined by processing effort and contextual effect. If a speech can be comprehended with less effort, it should be more relevant; the utterance should be more relevant when the effect of the listener's understanding is larger.

Contextual effects are created when additional knowledge interacts with an existing context. The amount of processing effort required is determined by how much effort the listener expended to create a proper background to interpret the statement. The listener

should make every effort to gain an understanding that meets his expectations for optimal relevance, and communication should follow the general principle outlined below:

*Communicative principle of relevance:*

*Every act of ostensive communication communicates a presumption of its own optimal relevance.* (Sperber and Wilson, 1995, p.260). Furthermore, Sperber and Wilson claimed that an utterance is most relevant under two circumstances:

*Presumption of optimal relevance:*

- a) *The ostensive stimulus is relevant enough for it to be worth the addressee's effort to process it.*
- b) *The ostensive stimulus is the most relevant one compatible with the communicator's abilities and preferences.*

(Sperber & Wilson, 1986/1995: 270)

An utterance achieves optimal relevance when it is relevant enough to be worth working on and when it is the most relevant utterance that the speaker is willing and able to make. Optimal Relevance is explained in this way; when a speaker speaks to others, he wants maximum relevance, so the listener should make every effort to obtain an interpretation that meets this standard of optimal relevance. Relevance Theory simply refers to explicature and implicature instead of all of the different types of meaning in the Gricean or neo-Gricean framework (such as, short-circuited implicature, conventional implicature, particularized conversational implicature, generalized conversational implicature, and so on). Sperber and Wilson (1995: 182) created the concept of explicature to support the Gricean concept of implicature to highlight that pragmatic inferences contribute not just to what is implied, but also to what is explicitly conveyed. They described an explicature as an utterance's 'explicit' assumption, which is a development of a logical form encoded by the utterance (ibid: 182).

It is also worth noting that the data studied in this research had a high visual component. The input to the understanding process comes from the visual component. In addition, taking into account the fact that nonverbal communication tends to be less explicit than verbal communication, then the visual elements in the adverts may lead to different inference processes in different viewers (Forceville, 2005). The editorial cartoon's verbal component is usually comprehended in conjunction with the graphic aspect, and there's no guarantee that the intended interpretation will be picked up by the addressee.

Wilson & Sperber (2002: 261) propose three tasks in the comprehension process:

- a) *Constructing an appropriate hypothesis about explicit content (EXPLICATURES [8]) via (i) decoding, (ii) disambiguation, (iii) reference resolution, (iv) enrichment and (v) deriving implicatures.*
- b) *Constructing an appropriate hypothesis about the intended contextual assumptions (IMPLICATED PREMISES).*
- c) *Constructing an appropriate hypothesis about the intended contextual implications (IMPLICATED CONCLUSIONS), conclusions deducible from the input and the context together, but from neither input nor context alone.*

## **2. Method**

This research is descriptive qualitative research. The researchers apply Relevance Theory to analyze implicature within cartoons. Then using referential and inferential methods

to reveal the implicature of the expressions integrated in the cartoons.

In conducting research, the researchers took the samples from the Taipei Times news website ([www.taipeitimes.com](http://www.taipeitimes.com)). The utterances were selected using purposive technique sampling. The data populations are cartoons from June to August; the editorial cartoons must contain utterances in English and discuss Hong Kong protests. The time of data selection; was from June to August 2019 because it was the most severe riots. Most news media covered its stories. The data deem sufficient because a lot of important events happened. The Taiwan Times, a daily English news media since 1999 in Taiwan, was chosen as the sample of data because it has grown to become one of the authoritative and trusted voices among English news media in Asia. Twelve editorial cartoons are selected and will be analyzed.

The researchers used identity method for analyzing the data to unveil the referents of the expressions integrated in the cartoons. According to Sudaryanto (1993, 2015), identity method (or padan method) is a method of analysis using elements outside language like referent. Referents may be in the form of circumstances, objects, and picture figures. Then, the relevance theory is applied to build a hypothesis about the speaker's meaning that fulfills the assumption of relevance conveyed by the utterance. The data are comprehended through three processes proposed by Wilson & Sperber in section 2.4.

### 3. Result and Discussion

In this section, the writer presents the result of the data analysis based on 12 editorial cartoons from Taipei Times. The findings reveal that a reader's ability to editorial cartoons is based on their understanding of existing assumptions and ideas that determine the context in which new information is processed. It holds for all of the editorial cartoons investigated, where decoding the meanings communicated requires prior knowledge. The writer discovered that implicature was used to complete the communicative task in editorial cartoons. The cartoonist uses implicature to express criticisms, forewarns, and provide information regarding the Hong Kong Extradition Bill.

#### 3.1 The Implied Meaning Used to Criticize

The Editorial cartoons that use implicature to criticize found in cartoon 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6. The critics are addressed to Joyce Huang, Carrie Lam, older generation, and Police force who support Extradition Bill. These cartoons show violence toward human rights and protesters.



Cartoon 1

Joyce Huang : "Long live the Extradition Bill"  
Man 01 : "Is she on drugs?"

From the example (1), we can interpret what is stated through the word and image of the cartoon (1) as follows. The visual expression of the cartoon is Joyce Huang made a statement regarding her idea on the Extradition Bill and how public respond to her speech. It is important to understand the visual expression to form an accurate inference about the content of an editorial cartoon. Joyce Huang is described as Pro-China Government as the cartoonist put a label *TV host Pro-Extradition Bill* and her chant *Long live the Extradition Bill* while *hanging Hong Kong human rights*. In addition, she puts on the old uniform of China soldier. Through these references, readers understand the political bias of Joyce. A man that labeled *Hong Kong human rights was hanged*. This visual figure shows that support toward the Extradition Bill means sentencing Hong Kong's human rights to death. Man 01 and 02 act in example (1) as citizens of Hong Kong who give their responses. The men doubt Joyce's consciousness since it is absurd that she is intoxicated in public. Through enrichment, it is natural for the reader to assume instead of under influence of drugs, she must have said something nonsensical. Thus, the cartoon showed that not all shared similar political views as her.

From the explication, the authors can infer the implied meaning of the visual expressions of the cartoon. The meaning is that supporting the Extradition Bill is an unusual political view because it is harmful to Hong Kong's human rights, while the implied conclusion can be stated that people criticize Joyce Huang because her unusual political view. The journalist represents the public to criticize Joyce Huang due to her uncommon view on what is happening in the politics of Hong Kong.



Cartoon 2

Carrie Lam : "I apologize. Now get out of my way!"  
 Anti-extradition protest : (opt out)

The example (2) conveys the visual expression of Carrie Lam riding a *Hong Kong* tank while holding the *Extradition Bill* flag, apologizing and ordering an anti-extradition protester to leave. Although the cartoonist does not bring up blatantly what Carrie apologizes for, the reader knows the topic by inferring the caption of a protester that linked to extradition Bill. In her speech, Carrie apologized for the dispute and conceded that the bill was unlikely to happen. However, she never promises to withdraw the Extradition Bill despite its controversy causing months of demonstration. The reader employs this background knowledge to complete the meaning of the text through enrichment. The slogan shirt and flag show each

character's urgency. In this case, Carrie Lam and Extradition Bill meanwhile Anti-extradition protest and judicial and human rights. Through this reference, the reader knows Extradition Bill contradicts judicial and human rights in Hong Kong.

From the explication, the authors may infer that the implied meaning of the visual expression is the Extradition Bill will materialize because politicians support it despite its contradiction with judicial and human rights in Hong Kong. The implied conclusion taken from the visual expression is that the reader can infer that despite being associated with Hong Kong, Carrie still strongly supports the Extradition Bill that contradicts human rights and judicial act.

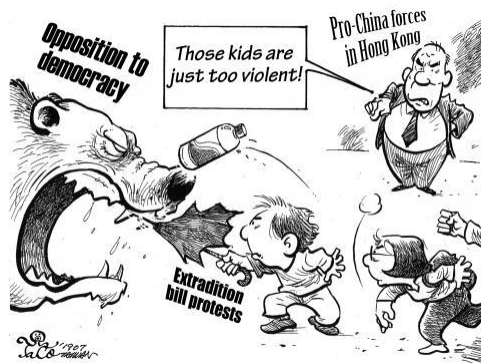


Cartoon 3

Carrie Lam: Witness the power of my Double-Hand Palm technique!

The example (3) in the cartoon (3) can be inferred that the visual symbol of the cartoon is Carrie Lam's success in overpowering *democracy, extradition to China, rule of law, and human rights* using *Triad* and *Police*. The label *Hong Kong* infers to the location of the event. The cartoonist draws Carrie's attire as a martial artist despite her being a politician in real life. This is also supported by her statement "Witness the power of my Double-Hand Palm technique!" while impersonating gestures that are often shown in martial art movies. *The Double-Hand Palm technique* refers to *Police* and *Triad* as Carrie signal it through her hands. Via reference resolution, both visual and verbal, the reader discerns that Carrie Lam resolves her predicaments by force of *Police* and *Triad*.

From the expression stated explicitly, the authors can reveal the implied meaning that can be presented as follows. Carrie Lam does not settle her problems in the manner of a politician but rather by force, while the implied conclusion can be dragged out that Carrie Lam behaves in a tyrannical manner.



Cartoon 4

Pro-China Forces in Hong Kong: “Those kids are just too violent!”

The cartoon (4) presenting the expression (4) can be seen that the visual metaphor of the cartoon is unbalance power between *Opposition to democracy* and *Extradition bill protests*. Metaphor of bear is used to show unbalance of power struggle between protester and opposition to democracy. The reader may freely imagine the difference of power but certainly it is imbalance. Their power struggle compares as fighting a bear with an umbrella and a bottle. The cartoonist also shows the rift that happen between old and young generation during the protest through combination of verbal and visual parts. *Pro-China Forces in Hong Kong* referred as old generation through formal attire which associated to office staff or working adult and wrinkles on the face. Meanwhile, younger generation identified through casual attire, relatively younger face, and referred as “those kids”.

*Pro-China Forces in Hong Kong* utterance regarding protester may only reference to the protester attitude. However, via enrichment reader know the utterance related to Yang Guang, a spokesman of Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office, China's top body in charge of affairs in the city, said the protests showed a sign of terrorism and counsel that they were the real threat to the law (McDonnell, 2019).

The implied meaning of the expression conveys that the cartoonist already tip-off the imbalance power during rally. However, older generation of Hong Kong, *Pro-China Forces in Hong Kong*, believe otherwise. The label of *Pro-China Forces in Hong Kong* implies despite have Hong Kong citizenship this group does not have sense of belonging to Hong Kong because they more incline to Mainland China Government. The implied conclusions can be dragged that the older generation in Hong Kong ignores the fact that the protestors are weaker and not the real threat because lacking a sense of belonging.



Cartoon 5

Carrie Lam : “No, I won’t step down. I still have warm and passionate feelings for you!”



Word and Image Explicatures: The visual metaphor in the cartoon is that Carrie Lam has beaten democracy and freedom and is now attempting to defeat Hong Kong. Nearby lay a weapon presumably used by Carrie to overpower and damage them as evidence.

Carrie's utterance has positive sentiment despite the scene looking ruthless. "I still have warm and passionate feelings for you", this utterance refers to Carrie Lam's statement that she used to refute the rumor of her retirement as Hong Kong's Chief Executive by referring to herself as a mother figure for the people of Hong Kong. Moreover, Hinckley (1990) said presidents stand for their countries and are viewed as common parents of their citizens. The reader uses this background knowledge to complete the meaning of the text via enrichment.

Implicated premises: Carrie Lam has incapably led Hong Kong as she fails to fulfill her role as a mother figure of the country. Carrie lam already harms democracy and freedom and then tries to injure Hong Kong. The inconsistency between her statement and her act is shown in the cartoon. Implicated conclusions: Carrie Lam should bear responsibility for her inability to lead Hong Kong by resigning from her post.



Cartoon 6

Violent cop : "Serving the government."  
Moonlighting protester : "Serving the people."

Words and Image Explicatures: In this cartoon, the visual metaphor is a *violent cop* compared to a *"moonlighting" protester*. Through the title "Hong Kong police during protests," readers understand the cartoonist wants to focus on the attitude of the police during the Hong Kong rally. Using reference resolution, "Serving the government" means the violent cop performed his duties to the government, but along the way he causes casualty. Although this is a positive declarative sentence, the meaning conveyed is negative due to the police aggression and epithets directed at him. Meanwhile, the protester gets the epithet "Moonlighting" which can be interpreted he gets paid to attend the rallies. However, his utterance "Serving the people" means he performed his duties for the people. Hence, it contradicts the initial interpretation and shows the protester genuinely performed his duties. The reader is guided through disambiguation and reference resolution to the interpretation that the police should have served the people just like the moonlighting protester.

Implicated Premises: The cartoonist wants the reader's attention drawn to the police's behavior during the Hong Kong rallies. He is been compared to a "moonlighting" protester and chastised for serving the government rather than the people, in this case, Hong Kong citizens.

Implicated Conclusions: Because they are funded by the government, Hong Kong police officers have been functioning as an instrument of the government in suppressing protesters.

### 3.2 Using Implicature to Forewarn

The Editorial cartoons that use implicature to forewarn found in cartoon 7, 8, 9, and 10. The cartoon forewarn reader there is a chance that the extradition bill will be introduced again, that the extradition law would be over rule the two-country-one-system, and that Mainland China will interfere in Hong Kong.



Cartoon 7

Xi Jin Ping : “Don’t worry it is just a matter of suspended animation. We will find a way to bring it back to life.”

Word and Image Explicatures: The visual metaphor is Xi Jin Ping assure Carrie Lam that the bill can bring up later in the future. Via disambiguation and taking the visual into consideration, *Animation* from Xi utterance means the state of being alive. The word *Animation* is used to match up with Carrie Lam statement that the bill was *dead* on 9 July 2019 but she still abstained from withdrawing it. The reader uses this background knowledge to clarify the meaning of the text via enrichment. By means of relevance resolution, *it* in “We will find a way to bring it back to life” refer to Mainland Extradition Bill because the phrase *Rest in Peace Mainland Extradition Bill* written on a coffin. Meanwhile *We* refer to Carrie Lam and Xi Jin Ping as in the cartoon; this shows they have correlation regarding Extradition Bill.

Implicated premises: There are chances to revive the bill as it is suspended and yet officially withdrawn by local government. This settlement happens because Mainland government involved.

Implicated conclusion: The mainland Chinese government is the one that decides if the extradition bill will be continued.



Cartoon 8

Carrie Lam: "Relax... It is dead."

Hong Kong: "Yeah, we've seen this before."

**Word and Image Explicatures:** The visual metaphor in the cartoon is Extradition Bill is similar to jiangshi. It means a stiff corpse, Jiangshi is a living dead from Chinese folklore that can live when its talisman rips up. Here Carrie Lam, who act as a shaman, convinces citizen of Hong Kong that Extradition Bill is dead. The reader applies this background information to complete the meaning of the text through enrichment. Although there are a large number of people with vastly different cognitive environments who may be unable to make the connections between Jiangshi and the extradition bill because they lack the "collective cognitive environment" required to recognize the resemblance. The reader can rely on the utterances to understand the information of the comic partially via reference reader recognize *it* refer to Extradition Bill and *this* refers to the situation of the bill is dead. Despite the fact that the response of Hong Kong citizens is a positive declarative clause, the connotation conveyed is negative.

**Implicated premises:** The comic prints after Carrie Lam stated Extradition Bill dead, without withdrawing the bill officially. As previously mentioned, the cartoonist compares Jiangshi and the bill because the cartoonist believes both Jiangshi and Extradition Bill share a similar characteristic. It implies Extradition Bill, like Jiangshi, may be revived in the future. Thus, the citizen of Hong Kong suspicious of Carrie Lam's statement that she only put the bill on hold and later will approve it.

**Implicated conclusion:** The protester should stay alert because declaring the bill dead is merely a ruse to hush the protestors; the bill may still be passed later.



Cartoon 9

Xi Jin Ping: "One country, two systems? I say let Hong Kongers rule Hong Kong."

Word and Image Explicatures: The cartoon's visual metaphor is that Xi Jin Ping will not allow Hong Kongers to rule over Hong Kong. Xi Jinping wears attire similar to the pattern of the National Flag of the People's Republic of China, also known as the Five-star Red Flag while holding a cane with a skull handle. The cane is a metaphor describing retaliation or punishment for another's wrongdoing or public outrage against an individual or group for the same reason. Meanwhile, a triad member is seen hanging a protester in a dead tree which has the design of the Hong Kong flag. The dead tree is known to symbolize death, this is due to the fact that trees are so closely tied with life in everyday life.

“One country, two systems? I say let Hong Kongers rule Hong Kong” said Xi. The utterance should imply that Hong Kong has an independent government from China. The remark has a different connotation if you look at the picture; the triads are also Hong Kong citizens, rule over the rest of the people. Implicated premises: When Xi Jin Ping declared that only Hong Kong citizens can govern Hong Kong, he did not mean it. He employs Triads as a means of suppressing protesters. According to Ben Bland, a director of the Southeast Asia Project at the Lowy Institute think-tank, it is well known in the past the Chinese government, Communist Party, has worked with these groups in Hong Kong and similar thuggish gangs across China as unofficial enforcers (Gollom, 2019). An example of Triad involvement is Yuen Long attack going from 21 to 22 July 2019 pro-democracy protester was attacked by an armed mob in white shirts when they tried to go home after a rally (*Yuen Long Attack: Hong Kong Police Accused of 'Re-Writing History'*, 2020).

Implicated conclusion: Hong Kong will never be an independent country because the government of Mainland China will try to interfere in Hong Kong in many ways, such as through the triad.



Cartoon 10

Soldier : “Seems fine to me. What is your problem?”  
 Man : (Silent)

Words and Image Explicatures: The visual metaphor is the disagreement between the Extradition Bill and one country, two systems policy. The meanings conveyed by this billboard are difficult to decode. The stone inscribed with 50 years is a symbol for the validity term of the Sino-British Joint Declaration. The reader's effort, on the part of the receiver, is crucial since the reader must be able to associate the inscribed stone with the Sino-British Joint Declaration. The stone inscription refers to the duration of Hong Kong being independent of the mainland. Through enrichment, the reader recognizes a soldier personifies the Extradition

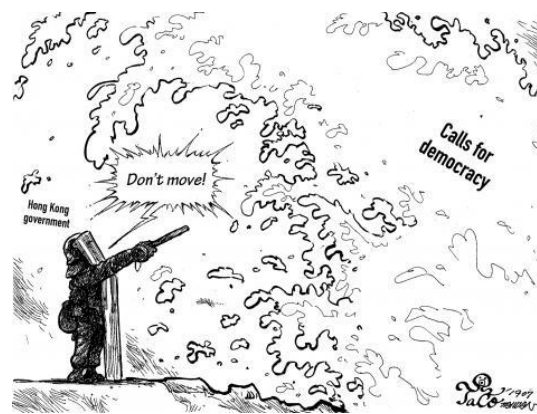
Bill and a civilian personifies one country, two systems policy. A soldier is chosen to personify the Extradition Bill to contrast the strength of a civilian. The different proportions of the characters emphasize their differences. “me” in the soldier utterance refers to people who support the Extradition Bill and “your problem” refers to people who oppose on Extradition Bill; they support one country, two systems policy. Thus, through “Seems fine to me. What is your problem?”, the reader spot disagreement between two parties.

Implicated Premises: The reason for disagreement between the two parties is explained on the inscribed stone. The first group, which supports one country, two systems policy, feels the Extradition Bill breached Sino-British Joint Declaration. Meanwhile, the second group, which supports the Extradition Bill, feels there will be no changes when the bill is enacted. However, the cartoonist suggests there will be a disparity of authority if the bill is enacted.

Implicated Conclusions: Extradition Bill enactments will overpower the authority of one country, two systems policy.

### 3.3 Using Implicature to Provide Information

The Editorial cartoons use implicature to inform the current situation to the reader. The cartoons told the reader of the reason Carrie Lam could maintain her position in the Hong Kong government in cartoon 12. The editorial cartoon also shows the cartoonist standing with protestors to oppose the extradition bill in cartoon 11.



Cartoon 11

Hong Kong government: “Don’t move!”

Words and Image Explicatures: The visual metaphor of the cartoon is the Hong Kong government trying to block calls for democracy. In the cartoon by reference resolution, the reader knows a huge wave personifies calls for democracy. The comparison between wave and calls for democracy has two interpretations. First, “to be like water” that free, formless, and adaptable. The second interpretation refers to protestors in Hong Kong rallies. During the rally, the protestors make several small groups instead of a huge crowd in their district every day (Tattersall, 2019). The idea of the strategy is “like water” that is fluid and adaptable, so they can easily move from one to another place and avoid the police force. The strategy was founded after the protester banned from using a mask, so the protestors changed their strategy (Leicester, 2019). Both interpretations are available through the enrichment of the reader. Although, the latter interpretation is only available to those who are heedful regarding the bill issues to complete the meaning. Using disambiguation, the reader chooses the second interpretation as it is more suitable for the cartoon. Meanwhile, the reader is aware that a

police officer represents the Hong Kong government, commanding demonstrators not to approach any further issuing the Extradition Bill.

Implicated premises: The protester strategy during rallies made the Hong Kong government overwhelmed. Implicated conclusions: There is hope for the protester to voice their opinion despite the Hong Kong government's restraints.



Cartoon 12

Carrie Lam : "What? Me step down? Never!"

The cartoon (12) can be inferred that Xi Jin Ping supporting Carrie Lam governing Hong Kong as Chief Executive. Via decoding, the reader recognizes the creature behind Carrie shares facial traits with Xi Jin Ping. In addition, the label China in its body could be interpreted as someone belonging to China. Then, Carrie Lam seen stands on the peak of land with the tag "Hong Kong Government" on it. Through decoding, the reader can interpret Carrie Lam has the highest post in Hong Kong Government. Meanwhile, readers get information using explicature enrichment in the utterance "Me step down?" refers to Carrie Lam resigning from her post in Hong Kong Government.

The implied meaning can be inferred from the cartoon (12) that the cartoon is a parody of Carrie Lam's statement when she refutes her retirement rumor amid the protest in Hong Kong. Carrie Lam's reason for not resigning was revealed when Carrie Lam's audio recording with business leaders leaked. The recorded conversation contains Carrie Lam explaining her situation of not being able to do much about the ongoing protests and will step down to end the crisis. After that, Lam said at a televised news conference that she had never contemplated resigning and that Beijing thought her government could manage the three-month-long problem on its own. This background knowledge may only be available to people who attentively follow the news of the Hong Kong Extradition Bill. China, precisely Xi Jin Ping, is a powerful entity that supports Carrie Lam to govern in Hong Kong. In other words, Carrie Lam's reign relies on the influence of the Chinese government. It may also consider instruction from the mainland China government. Implicated conclusion: Carrie Lam gave statement that she still wants to lead Hong Kong because the China government does not allow Carrie Lam to resign.

From the analysis, it can be inferred that implied meaning may have more than what it is meant. Journalists, in this case, use editorial cartoons to express the response regarding to.

#### 4. Conclusion

The research findings suggest that Relevance Theory can be used to deduce the implicit meaning of editorial cartoons. The writer found implicature in the Editorial cartoons was used to accomplish the communicative task. The cartoonist uses implicature to criticize, forewarn, and provide information regarding the Hong Kong Extradition Bill. Most of the cartoons, there are six in total, are used to express criticism to the people who disagreed with the cartoonist's political views and depict injuring human rights. Four editorial cartoons warn the reader of the possibility of a reintroduction of the extradition bill and its consequences if it is implemented. The remaining cartoons use implicature to inform the reader of the reason Carrie Lam could maintain her position in the Hong Kong government. The editorial cartoon also shows the cartoonist standing with protestors to oppose the extradition bill.

The findings also show that the reader's ability to perceive editorial cartoons is dependent on their knowledge of preexisting beliefs and assumptions that build a context in which new information is processed. The finding applies to all of the editorial cartoons examined, where background knowledge is required to decode the meanings transmitted. The reader's attention is focused on the artwork and dialogue created by the cartoonist in an editorial cartoon, so readers must learn the messages that the cartoonist is attempting to convey in this process. On the other hand, the cartoonist conveys his intended meaning in a drawing instead of words. Hence, he must make it clear enough for the public to understand what he wants to demonstrate and express because nonverbal communication tends to be less explicit than verbal communication. The reader is then expected to deduce or understand the message based on the current situation.

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