### **Recognizing Misinformation: Useful References for Teachers**

Fake News/Misinformation

Molina, Maria D., S. Shyam Sundar, Thai Le, and Dongwon Lee. 2021. "“Fake News” Is Not Simply False Information: A Concept Explication and Taxonomy of Online Content." *American Behavioral Scientist* 65 (2): 180-212. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0002764219878224>.

* The article argues that fake news includes more than just false facts. It provides a detailed classification of misleading online content, such as satire, propaganda, and deliberate falsehoods. The authors explain that these different types of content are spread with varying intentions and effects. This helps to understand the complexity of fake news.

Zhou, Cheng, Kai Li, and Yanhong Lu. 2021. "Linguistic characteristics and the dissemination of misinformation in social media: The moderating effect of information richness." *Information Processing & Management* 58 (6): 102679.

* The article explores how language use influences the spread of misinformation on social media. It examines how factors like information richness moderate the effect of linguistic features, such as emotional tone and narrative style, in facilitating the spread of false information. The study highlights the role of content and context in determining misinformation's reach.

Fighting against misinformation

Lewandowsky, Stephan, John Cook, Ullrich Ecker, Dolores Albarracín, Panayiota Kendeou, Eryn J Newman, Gordon Pennycook, Ethan Porter, David G Rand, and David N Rapp. 2020. "The debunking handbook 2020."

* The handbook provides strategies for countering misinformation effectively. It outlines psychological principles for debunking false claims, such as emphasizing facts, explaining fallacies, and providing alternative narratives. The handbook also discusses the importance of repetition, avoiding exposure to myths without correction, and tailoring debunking efforts to audiences. It is designed to help communicators, educators, and the public combat misinformation in various contexts.

Relevance theory & epistemic vigilance

Clark, Billy. 2013. *Relevance theory*. Cambridge University Press.

* This book offers a comprehensive overview of relevance theory in pragmatics, originally proposed by Dan Sperber and Deirdre Wilson. The book explains how humans communicate by balancing effort and cognitive effects, emphasizing that communication is not solely about decoding language but inferring meaning from context and intent. Clark examines applications in linguistics, cognition, and communication, making it accessible for students.

Sperber, Dan, Fabrice Clément, Christophe Heintz, Olivier Mascaro, Hugo Mercier, Gloria Origgi, and Deirdre Wilson. 2010. "Epistemic vigilance." *Mind & language* 25 (4): 359-393.

* The article "Epistemic Vigilance" explores how humans evaluate information by scrutinizing its source and content. Sperber and colleagues discuss mechanisms of epistemic vigilance, such as assessing communicator trustworthiness, which help individuals navigate misinformation and deception.