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**METAREFLECTION OF CORRUPTION PRACTICES:
INTERSECTION OF DISCURSIVE MATRICES
AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION**

Natalia Likarchuk

Doctor of Political Sciences, Professor,

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7119-439X>,

e-mail: n.likarchuk@gmail.com

Educational and Scientific Institute of Public Administration

and Civil Service of Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv,

Kyiv, Ukraine, 04050

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Corruption narratives, operating within complex political and economic constellations, constitute not only a social pathology but also a tool for global strategic communication. In the international dimension, the discursive articulation of corruption is conditioned by heterogeneous cognitive structures that integrate ideological paradigms, media effects and legal dispositions. The relevance of this issue is determined by the necessity in a reflexive explication of corrupt phenomena within the framework of transnational communication flows, where the interaction of political, economic and semiotic components takes on an irreversible globalising character.

The methodological basis of the study synthesises critical discourse analysis, poststructuralist hermeneutics, and a systems approach to the analysis of international communications. The interdisciplinary methodology use enables the identification of latent mechanisms in constructing the meanings of corruption in media and political spaces.

The research findings demonstrate that corruption narratives performatively function within the political semiosphere, where they not only reproduce power dispositions but also serve as a mechanism for regulating

societal perceptions. It has been revealed that the discursive matrices through which corruption is interpreted incorporate polysemantic meaning inversions that mediate the legitimating and delegitimizing aspects of political regimes. The analysis of key semantic oppositions in public and diplomatic discourses highlights the specific interference between local and global strategies of manipulating the corruption issue. The study proves that the semiotic constructs of corruptibility are formed through the interaction of political institutions, media corporations, and international organisations operating within the frameworks of discursive power regimes.

The conclusions emphasises the necessity in further reconceptualisation of corruption as a complex communicative construct, which undergoes dynamic transformations under the influence of information and communication technologies. It highlights the importance of rethinking the role of media discourses in legitimating anti-corruption measures, which, rooted in power paradigms, often function as mechanisms of covert political instrumentalisation.

Keywords: corrupt practices; discursive matrices; international communication; legitimation; political semiosphere; media discourse; instrumentalization; geopolitical narratives.

Introduction

Metareflection on corruption practices emerges as a phenomenological disposition wherein heterogeneous discursive matrices intersect with global communicative paradigms. The complexity of this phenomenon is conditioned by the interference of political and economic structures, normative dispositives, and latent ethico-legal dilemmas embedded within transnational institutional mechanisms (Hardy, 2024, p.31). Consequently, the articulation of corruption in the international arena is complicated by the polysemy of sociocultural codes that determine an ambivalent perception of ethical and juridical norms. The discursive comprehension of corruption phenomena necessitates the engagement of hermeneutic methodologies, enabling the unveiling of concealed mechanisms that legitimate deviations from the normative order (Haastrup, McGowan and Phinnemore, 2024, p.251). Accordingly, the narrative representation of corruption in international communication operates as a multidimensional semiotic construct, where the interaction of lexical, rhetorical and institutional codes facilitates the amorphisation of boundaries between legal proceduralism and paralegal stratagems.

The globalised political stage engenders hybrid forms of corruption dispositives, which manifest through the complementarity of relativised ethical criteria

and juridical simulacra (Rose-Ackerman, 2024, p.158). The institutionalisation of such practices occurs via the implicit normalisation of deviations, camouflaged as contextualised adaptive mechanisms. Thus, the discourse of corruption integrates itself into the political and economic fabric of society, legitimising itself through communicative manipulation and socio-legal mimicry.

In the context of corruption phenomena, a methodological analysis of the intersections of discursive matrices necessitates the application of deconstructivist approaches, which allow for the extrapolation of latent modalities of power and domination. Within the polyphonic field of international communication, corruption practices transform into adaptive heterotopias, reproduced through mechanisms of legal nominalism and bureaucratic neutrality. A retrospective analysis of historical correlations between corruption policies and the institutional evolution of state apparatuses reveals the paradoxical symbiosis between political pragmatism and normative deviancy (Likarchuk et al., 2023, p.772). The hyperreality of legal simulacra, engendered by the evolution of discursive strategies legitimising corruption, modifies the epistemological status of legal norms, which are increasingly subject to erosion under the influence of pragmatic adaptive mechanisms.

The metareflection on corruption practices within the context of international communication acquires the characteristics of a conceptual palimpsest, where the layering of discursive matrices creates a chimeric amalgamation of legal relativism, institutional ambivalence and the structural heteronomy of global governance.

The epistemological determination of corruption dispositives within the sphere of international communication necessitates the incorporation of an interdisciplinary analytical apparatus, enabling the decoding of latent mechanisms of transgression within legal architectonics. The contamination of institutional regulatory order by discursive anomalies generates an effect of juridical dissonance, wherein legal norms undergo systemic reinterpretation in accordance with the adaptive stratagems of global actors. Such polyfunctionality of the corruption phenomenon engenders new paradigms of administrative mimicry, complicating the demarcation between legitimate procedural mechanisms and irregular configurations of power.

The usurpation of normative discourse through networked architectures of power determines the processes of deconstructing traditional jurisdictional formats, transforming the anti-corruption narrative into a simulacral category that operates in the aspect of politico-legal postmodernism. Compounded by the phenomenon of institutional entropy, the hypertrophy of legal nominalism leads to the hybridisation of state regulatory strategies, which increasingly gravitate toward normative plasticity (Nelson and Afonso, 2024, p.105). Consequently, the

corruption discourse in the global arena assumes the characteristics of a non-classical legal phenomenology, wherein the legitimization of deviant practices acquires the status of structural necessity.

Analysis of recent research and publications

The analysis of the current state of academic discourse on corruption phenomena reveals the heterogeneity of conceptual approaches and the semantic polyvariance of interpretations, determined by the multidisciplinary nature of the research subject. Discursive matrices that structurally manifest the correlation between national traditions of legal regulation and global institutional formats determine the specificity of meta-reflection on corrupt practices in the context of transnational communication Beti E. (2024), Hamidi A. (2023), Hardy A. (2024), Likarchuk N. (2023; 2024), Picci L. (2024). A complex process of hybridisation of normative guidelines takes place, in which latent mechanisms of corrupt reproduction coexist with formalised transparency structures, creating a paradoxical continuum between *de jure* interdiction and *de facto* legitimisation of deviant practices.

International communication in the field of anti-corruption highlights the necessity of an expanded understanding of cognitive and structural conflicts between dominant enforcement habitus and local forms of social capital. Within this analytical framework, the concept of corruption institutionalisation is examined through the prism of a mimetic adaptive mechanism that ensures the reconfiguration of power resources within officially sanctioned administrative structures Anderson R., Jones A., and Kovacic W. (2024), Brooks R. (1910), Boatright R., McGrath M. (2025), Rose-Ackerman S. (2024). The methodological paradigms of contemporary studies appeal to an eclectic synthesis of poststructuralist, neo-institutionalist, and critical theories, contributing to a comprehensive understanding of the latent mechanisms of corruption performativity under conditions of glocalisation.

The intersection of discursive matrices and international communication exposes the depth of endogenous contradictions between the normative perception of legitimacy, social and psychological imperatives of power reproduction. The polymorphic nature of corrupt practices in this context appears not only as a functional element of power equilibrium but also as a dynamic system that undergoes modifications under the influence of heterogeneous interactions among legal norms, ethical paradigms, and strategic narratives of global governance Foxley I. (2025), Haastrup T., McGowan L., and Phinnemore D. (2024), Nelson K., Afonso W. (2024), Sousa L., Coroado S. (2024). Reflexive extrapolation of existing research inquiries indicates the necessity of further deconstruction of established percep-

tions of corruption as a phenomenon susceptible to uniform normative control, instead emphasising its flexibility and endemic capacity for transformational symbiosis with institutional structures of contemporary societies.

Formulation of the objectives of article

The aim of the article is to analyse the metareflection of corruption practices through the intersection of discursive matrices and international communication.

Presentations of the main material of the study

In the contemporary discourse of global interaction, corrupt practices constitute not merely an anomaly within the political and economic structure but also a permanent epiphenomenal category that structures international relations, mediating the ambivalence of power dispositions (Picci, 2024, p.57). The intersection of discursive matrices of corruption in a transboundary dimension demonstrates that processes of illegitimate resource appropriation reflect not only political stagnation but also the mutagenesis of diplomatic communicative modalities. Corruption emerges not as a unilateral deviant construct but as a structuralised emergent form that refunctionalises geopolitical interrelations within asymmetric communicative spaces (Anderson, Jones and Kovacic, 2024, p.117). A semantic analysis of the corruption discourse through the prism of international communication reveals that the formation of hegemonic regimes of power reproduction occurs through the institutionalisation of latent mechanisms of systemic co-optation. The dialectic of formal and informal power, being inseparable from the concept of sovereignty, not only determines the parameters of political corruption but also legitimises it within the space of intergovernmental interest. Particular attention should be given to the paradigmatic shift in which corrupt practices cease to be a localised pathology of administrative structures, instead evolving into a transnational phenomenon that provokes disparities in the global security architecture.

The multivariant nature of communicative responses by international actors to manifestations of corrupt regimes generates multilayered matrices of interaction in which the coordinates of legal regulators are displaced. These mutations not only hyperbolise the structural vulnerability of state institutions, but also determine the contours of a new diplomatic ethic, which represents mechanisms of imitative accountability (Sousa and Corrado, 2024, p.209). In such a context, the discursive legitimisation of corrupt transactions, carried out through the reinterpretation of normative constructs, appears as a reciprocal phenomenon reflecting the profound ambivalence of the international legal order.

The deconstruction of classical paradigms of anti-corruption efforts on an international scale is accompanied not only by the fragmentation of ethical orientations but also by the production of new communicative strategies aimed at compensating for the legitimisation vacuum (Likarchuk, 2024, p.75). In this aspect,

the intersection of antagonistic narratives becomes evident: doctrinal normativity and pragmatic adaptability, provoking an ambivalent modality of intergovernmental interaction. It is precisely through the prism of this antinomic tension that the contemporary algorithm of diplomatic reflection on corrupt transactions is constructed. The internationalisation of the corruption discourse, correlating with globalisation tendencies, fosters the manifestation of new forms of heterogeneous power dispositions that reproduce asymmetric legitimisation. The discourse of corruption not only expands the spectrum of political manipulations but also generates new parameters of diplomatic deontology, functioning within the domain of situational adaptability. In this sense, corrupt practice emerges not only as an instrument of destabilisation but also as a mechanism of latent consolidation of alternative vectors of power.

Reflection on corruption phenomena through the prism of international communication demonstrates that instead of eliminating illegitimate structures, global diplomacy increasingly incorporates them into its semantic matrix. The consequence of this is the blurring of boundaries between legal and illegal communicative models, leading to an evolution of the international order toward situational normativity based on flexible interpretations of power strategies.

In the aspect of modern transnational interactions, corruption practices should be regarded as a polyvalent phenomenon operating at the intersection of globalised economic structures, political dispositifs and discursive matrices that shape the normative-axiological boundaries of societal perceptions of the legitimacy of power transactions (Betí, 2024, p.107). The genesis of corruption is not confined to mechanistic reductionism within the framework of criminal and legal categories. Instead, it is rooted in heterogeneous regimes of discursive production, where it undergoes semiotic reframing in accordance with the ideological configurations of the hegemonic order (Brooks, 1910, p.121). Constituting the corruption paradigm as an endemic component of sociopolitical mechanisms implies its implicit normalisation through adaptive practices of power subjectivity, manifesting in the creative modification of resource extraction mechanisms, legitimisation of rent-seeking, and simulated transparency.

The discursive anatomy of corruption strategies is based on a complex network of interdependencies among economic structures, legal institutions, and cultural archetypes that determine the symbolic capital of corrupt acts (Hamidi, 2023, p.45). Postmodernist critiques of institutional constructivism demonstrate that corruption functions not only as a deviant behavioral practice but also as an emergent effect of the cognitive mapping of power relations, where the simula-

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crum of virtue can be instrumentally employed for covert accumulation of power (Boatright and McGrath, 2025, p.45). So, the corporatisation of political influence, the normative expansion of clientelistic mechanisms and the deregulation of moral imperatives become key vectors in the evolution of corruption, acquiring a transnational dimension through the convergence of globalised instruments for legitimising financial manipulations.

The metareflection of corruption practices entails their analysis at the intersection of macro- and micropolitical determinations, where technologies of power interact with social structures through the prism of heterogeneous regulatory regimes. In this aspect, an intersectional analysis of corruption dispositifs requires a comprehensive approach that encompasses the analytics of normative ambivalence, legal plasticity, and strategies of semiotic hybridisation of corruption narratives (Foxley, 2025, p.217). Considering the high adaptability of corruption mechanisms to political and economic conjunctures, their critical examination necessitates the application of a deconstructivist reading of legal and economic texts, enabling the identification of latent schemes for the accumulation of power and resources within the complex networked architectures of globalised capital.

Table 1

**Epistemic Interweaving of Corruptogenic Paradigms: Transversal Confluences
of Discursive Matrices and Hyperglobalised Communicative Architectonics**

Discursive Matrix	Corruption Practice	Metareflection	International Example
Neoliberal hyperrationality	Capitalocentric deregulation and quasi-legalised lobbying	Institutional camouflage of clientelist transactions under the guise of economic efficiency	<i>Citizens United v. FEC</i> precedent as an instrument for normalising financial oligarchy in the U.S.
Neopatrimonial autocracy	Clan-oligarchic rent control	De-subjectivisation of corruption through its entrenchment in a neo-feudal system of social and political relations	Systemic capillary corruption in Kazakhstan's administrative structures
Postcolonial extractivism	Transnationalised financial exfiltrations	Reconfiguration of hegemonic practices through nominally sovereign yet de facto dependent legal mechanisms	Concentration of African state assets in UK offshore havens

Technocratic discourse of managerial neutrality	Audit mimicry as a mechanism for legitimising shadow transactions	Reduction of corruption to a technical anomaly to avoid political accountability	Rating manipulations in World Bank reports on the creditworthiness of developing nations
Populist hyperbolisation of social equality	Politically instrumentalised subsidisation	Facade democratisation of corrupt distributive mechanisms to legitimise power verticals	Redistribution of budgetary resources before elections in Brazil and Argentina
Post-truth reality simulation	Discreditation campaigns against anti-corruption institutions	Transformation of corruption narratives into political weapons through semiotic deconstruction	Utilization of state-controlled media to delegitimise opposition investigations in Russia
Globalised financial deregulation	Transnational money-laundering schemes	Corruption as an intrinsic substrate of post-industrial financial architecture	Use of Danske Bank for laundering Russian assets
Digital panopticon and algorithmic governance	Nominally transparent yet manipulatively structured cyber-control mechanisms	Corruption as an effect of technological hyper-integration and bureaucratic oversight	Sale of personal citizen data within China's social credit system framework
Mediocracy and public opinion engineering	Oligarchic media exploitation	Corrupt transactions as discursively structured constructs that reshape mass perception	Influence of Ukrainian media moguls on political dynamics through controlled TV networks
Conflict-prone military-industrial complex	Manipulative state defense procurement	Corruption as an inherent component of military economies and their cyclical institutionalisation	Systemic corrupt deviations in U.S. military contracts during Iraq campaigns
Networked crypto-economic systems	Anonymised illicit transactions in digital environments	Glocalised decentralisation of corruption through pseudo-autonomous blockchain structures	Utilization of crypto exchanges by North Korea to circumvent sanctions
Hybrid regime configurations	Political clientelism as a tool of authoritarian adaptability	Corruption as a long-term power retention strategy through controlled redistributive policies	State corruption in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

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Jurisdictional shopping in international arbitration	Exploitation of supranational institutions to legitimise disputes with corrupt substrates	Globalisation of legal loopholes to reinforce oligarchic influence in international legal frameworks	Manipulative use of ICSID in investment arbitration disputes by offshore structures
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Source: Author's own development based on (Anderson, Jones and Kovacic, 2024; Boatright and McGrath, 2025; Foxley, 2025; Picci, 2024)

In a global context, meta-reflection on corrupt practices emerges as a phenomenon deeply embedded in the structures of power disposition and economic stratification. Empirical data obtained through Transparency International's methodology indicate that the average Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) score in 2023 was 43 out of a possible 100 points, signaling a chronic deficiency in anti-corruption imperatives (United Nations, 2004, pp.30-35). According to the UN, annual financial losses due to corruption exceed \$2.6 trillion, equivalent to over 5% of global GDP, demonstrating the macroeconomic determination of deviant schemes. The global stratification of corruption patterns is marked by significant regional variability. For example, in Scandinavian countries, the average CPI score exceeds 80 points, correlating with high institutional transparency and low tolerance for corrupt deviations. In contrast, in geopolitical clusters with low legal consolidation, such as Central Africa or Southeast Asia, the corresponding score does not exceed 30 points. This indicates a persistent paternalistic legitimisation of corrupt mechanisms in public administration (*Statista*, n.d.).

The emergent dynamics of corrupt practices are evident in public procurement, which accounts for approximately 15% of global GDP, where losses due to non-transparent procedures reach 20-25%. Meanwhile, analysis by the World Economic Forum indicates that in 70% of developed countries, corrupt deviations are most frequently associated with public-private partnerships, whereas in countries with transitional economies, informal transactions between officials and businesses dominate (*Statista*, n.d.). This highlights the transformational adaptability of corruption mechanisms within the framework of political and economic morphology.

The intersection of digital technologies and corruption discourse enables novel financial manipulation schemes. According to World Bank data, the annual volume of money laundering through cryptocurrency assets has reached \$1.4 trillion, accounting for approximately 2.7% of global financial circulation. Global regulatory asymmetry and insufficient unification of legal norms contribute to the complementary coexistence of legitimate and shadow financial flows, complicating the effectiveness of law enforcement mechanisms. The semantic polyvariance

of anti-corruption strategies generates paradoxical effects. According to the OECD, in 60% of cases, the introduction of strict anti-corruption measures leads to the emergence of latent forms of adaptation, particularly through institutional obstruction or nominal demonstrative compliance with norms (*Statista*, n.d.). This illustrates the complexity of the correlation between legislative initiatives and their effective implementation in public management.

Driven by corruption, global challenges entropy determine the necessity in creating polycentric anti-corruption mechanisms capable of functioning within a multi-discursive legal framework. In the context of international communication, a continuous process of glocal convergence of norms is taking place, where the interaction between local legal traditions and universal standards shapes a new morphology of anti-corruption regulation.

Conclusions

In the context of meta-reflection on corruption practices, it is impossible to overlook the fact that dominant discursive matrices, functioning as vectors of globalised communication, immerse themselves in a polycentric space of complex and ambivalent interrelations between political, social and economic structures. The collective perception of these phenomena is shaped not only by the hermeneutic analysis of specific corruption cases but also by an understanding of broad contextual transformations that transcend national legal paradigms. After all, corruption practices do not merely accumulate local identities. They also extrapolate onto supranational currents, incorporating themselves into heterogeneous global architectures that structure the modern agenda. Thus, meta-reflection enables the deconstruction of hidden mechanisms of manipulation that operate between different subjects and are represented through linguistic practices at the international level. In particular, the specificity of international communication lies in its operation within socially constructed realities, where corruption appears not only as a legal or ethical phenomenon but also as a latent instrument of geostrategic governance. Instrumentalised in international relations, discursive strategies have the capacity to generate paradoxical situations in which deviant practices can be normalised in accordance with political and economic conjunctures. Thus, considering corruption practices through the lens of international communication allows for the explication of mechanisms through which political and economic actors transform anti-corruption rhetoric into a means of realising their strategic interests. At the same time, a deficit of transparency in communicative processes contributes to the cementing of illegitimate structures within international institutions.

The analysis of integrating corruption practices into global communication is impossible without accounting for heteronomous cultural narratives that shape the globalised discursive positions of political actors. Often, through linguistic manipulations and political science constructs, internal conflicts are transposed to the macro level, where corruption becomes merely an instrument in the struggle for hegemony. Simultaneously, the interaction of discursive formations on the global stage fosters a new type of communication, wherein compromises and stabilisation mechanisms acquire a latent function of supporting corruption processes. Such an interaction generates the risk of further institutionalising deviant practices within the framework of world political and economic structures.

Hence, meta-reflection on corruption phenomena reveals a complex interplay between subjective and objective determinants, where linguistic codes and diplomatic strategies, in spite of their declarative orientation toward ethical imperatives, often function as mechanisms for renegotiating power relations and resource redistribution. Simultaneously, a shift in semantic accents occurs when international organisations articulate an anti-corruption agenda while avoiding critical reflection on their own role in legitimising opaque practices through institutional inertia. This demonstrates a high level of ambivalence in contemporary international relations, where each call for fighting corruption potentially contains a latent potential for its further adaptation to new political realities. As a result, structured through complex discursive mechanisms, international communication can serve both as a platform for anti-corruption policies and as a stage for the normalisation of these practices. Focused on pragmatic approaches to achieving transnational objectives, global communication paradigms reveal the multidimensional nature of corruption, which not only reflects internal systemic dysfunctions but also maintains a certain stability of the status quo. The study of the role of media, diplomatic mechanisms, and international organisations in shaping the corruption discourse opens new horizons for understanding political dynamics at the macro level. Under these conditions, corruption acquires features of a social institution that is not merely reproduced within nation-states but also embedded in the global political and economic architecture, where its legitimisation occurs through the categories of efficiency and structural stability.

Meta-reflection on corruption practices involves not only an analysis of individual cases but also a critical examination of the systemic factors that contribute to their reproduction at the global level. The interaction between discursive constructs and empirical practices makes it possible to identify the mechanisms through which corruption remains an integral component of the international political ecosystem. As a result, there is a need for a continuous revision of strat-

egies to counteract these phenomena based on a comprehensive, interdisciplinary approach.

In conclusion, it can be stated that analysing corruption practices as a phenomenon that transcends the boundaries of local and global processes requires a multi-vector approach, which involves not only studying the specificity of these practices but also critically reflecting on the structural foundations of their existence. Thus, international communication plays an ambivalent role in shaping corruption paradigms. In some cases, it can act as a driver of change, while in others, it serves as a platform for the reproduction and transformation of these practices in line with current geopolitical realities.

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МЕТАРЕФЛЕКСІЯ КОРУПЦІЙНИХ ПРАКТИК: ІНТЕРСЕКЦІЯ ДИСКУРСИВНИХ МАТРИЦЬ ТА МІЖНАРОДНОЇ КОМУНІКАЦІЇ

Лікарчук Наталія Василівна

*Докторка політичних наук, професорка,
ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7119-439X>,
e-mail: n.likarchuk@gmail.com*

*Навчально-науковий інститут публічного управління
та державної служби Київського національного
університету імені Тараса Шевченка,
вул. Академіка Ромоданова, 12/2, Київ, Україна, 04050*

Наративи корупційних практик, функціонуючи у складних політико-економічних констеляціях, конституують собою не лише соціальну патологію, але й інструмент глобальної стратегічної комунікації. Дискурсивна артикуляція корупції в інтернаціональному вимірі обумовлюється гетерогенними когнітивними структурами, що інтегрують ідеологічні парадигми, медіаефекти та правові диспозиції. Актуалізація проблематики детермінується необхідністю рефлексивної експлікації корупційних феноменів у координатах транснаціональних комунікаційних потоків, де взаємодія політичних, економічних і семіотичних компонентів набуває невідворотно-го глобалізаційного характеру.

Методологічний каркас дослідження синтезує критичний дискурс-аналіз, постструктуралістську герменевтику та системний підхід до аналізу міжнародних комунікацій. Використання інтердисциплінарної методики уможлиблює виявлення латентних механізмів конструювання корупційних смислів у медійному та політичному просторах.

Результати дослідження демонструють, що корупційні наративи перформативно функціонують у політичній семіосфері, де вони не лише репродукують владні диспозиції, але і слугують механізмом регулювання суспільних уявлень. Виявлено, що дискурсивні матриці, через які інтерпретується корупція, інкорпорує полісемантичні смислові інверсії, що опосередковують легітимаційні й делегітимаційні аспекти політичних режимів. Аналіз ключових семантичних опозицій у публічних та дипломатичних дискурсах висвітлює специфічну інтерференцію між локальними і глобальними стратегіями маніпуляції корупційною проблематикою. Дослідження доводить, що семіотичні конструкти корупційності формуються у взаємодії політич-

них інститутів, медіакорпорацій та міжнародних організацій, що функціонують у межах дискурсивних режимів влади.

У висновках наголошується на необхідності подальшої реконцептуалізації корупції як складної комунікативної конструкції, що зазнає динамічних трансформацій під впливом інформаційно-комунікаційних технологій. Зауважується на важливості переосмислення ролі медіадискурсів у легітимації антикорупційних заходів, що, будучи вкоріненими у владні парадигми, часто функціонують як механізми прихованої політичної інструменталізації.

Ключові слова: корупційні практики; дискурсивні матриці; міжнародна комунікація; легітимація; політична семіосфера; медіадискурс; інструменталізація; геополітичні наративи.

