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**Persuasive Linguistic Strategies in News
Media: A Pragmatic Study of CNN and
Fox News Headlines and the Rhetorical
Grammar Components of Their Associated
Texts**

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Abstract

This thesis examines the pragmatic and rhetorical strategies used in political news headlines and articles to shape public opinion and comprehension of complex geopolitical issues. 40 texts, all being political opinion pieces on the Iranian ongoing crisis, Russia's invasion of Ukraine or the Taiwan-China-US tensions, were sourced from CNN and Fox News. The approach combines qualitative and quantitative analyses in order to gain insight into the linguistic and rhetorical strategies employed by news media writers. Based on Searle's (1975) speech act taxonomy, pragmatic analysis of headlines examines how to engage readers and convey specific messages using persuasive techniques. A rhetorical grammar analysis, influenced by Kolln and Gray (2014), examines the grammatical choices that increase the persuasive power of the texts, such as emotive language, metaphorical expressions, and modal verbs.

According to the analysis, speech acts were deployed differently across the two news outlets and based on the topics addressed. The headlines are dominated by assertive or directive acts, reflecting a focus on public opinion guidance and information dissemination. CNN's narrative-driven approach to storytelling suggests an elevated frequency of expressive acts. However, Fox News' high prevalence of directive acts indicates an agenda-setting role designed to influence audience behavior. CNN exhibited a greater frequency of first-person pronouns than Fox News, highlighting authorial presence and personal perspective. A consistent theme on Fox News is using emotive language to engage readers and reinforce ideological stances, especially in coverage of the Iranian crisis. By strategically using metaphors on Fox News, it shapes the way people interpret geopolitical reality, with a reliance on metaphors more evident when addressing Iran's complex situation.

In this comparative analysis of CNN and Fox News articles, linguistic choices significantly affect framing issues, shaping public discourse, and influencing readers' cognitive and emotional responses. An era of information overload and polarization emphasizes the importance of critical language awareness and media literacy, and underscores the importance of audiences understanding the persuasive techniques news organizations use to advance their editorial agendas. An understanding of how language, pragmatics, and rhetoric interact in news writing will provide insights into the construction of persuasive arguments. In this research, it is highlighted how media outlets influence public opinion and the importance of making

discerning audiences aware of their strategies. In order to promote public understanding of how language is used to influence perceptions of global events, the study urges heightened awareness and critical thinking when engaging with persuasive media narratives.

Keywords: *pragmatic strategies, rhetorical strategies, geopolitical issues, speech acts, rhetorical grammar, media literacy, persuasive techniques, CNN, Fox News, public opinion.*

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1. Introduction:

The language used in news media discourse, including headlines, has the potential of having a significant impact on how such discourse will be interpreted or understood on the part of the reader. While a multitude of linguistic features or components are involved in how speakers or writers may seek to bring about a desired response in the minds of their listeners or readers, the focus of the present thesis will be on the pragmatic or rhetorical (grammar) components.

This thesis evaluates persuasive news writing via (i) a pragmatic approach to news headlines based on Searle's (1975) speech acts, and (ii) an approach which centres on identifying the specific grammatical choices used by writers to add rhetorically persuasive qualities to their texts. The latter is also referred to as rhetorical grammar by Kolln & Gray (2014). For the sake of this study, 40 texts, all being political opinion pieces on the Iranian ongoing crisis, Russia's invasion of Ukraine or the Taiwan-China-US tensions, were sourced from CNN and Fox News. All texts date from the same year of publication, beginning in February 2022 and continuing through September of the same year. In order to gain a deeper understanding of these attitudes and perspectives, it would be helpful to conduct a linguistic analysis of how these news items are formulated from a pragmatic perspective. A practical analysis of political news can serve as an effective method for highlighting the significance of pragmatism, decision-making, and rhetorical techniques in shaping and sustaining an article's message. It is possible to better understand the significance and impact of a piece by focusing on the concrete details and specific choices of authors. The two approaches are applied together, making it possible to investigate correspondences between headlines and rhetorical grammar within the texts.

In establishing and maintaining the intended message and significance of an article, pragmatics, specific linguistic choices and rhetorical qualities can be highlighted through a practical analysis of political news. Study objectives include examining how selected news items are formulated from a pragmatic perspective, including the use of effective headlines in order to shape and control political news from the writer's perspective to accomplish specific goals. Additionally, the study investigates whether there are specific patterns in the grammatical choices used by writers to make their texts more persuasive, as well as whether these choices influence readers' understanding of events or issues. This study examines the pragmatic nature of political news articles using Searle's taxonomy of speech acts (commissive, expressive, etc.), in correlation with relevant metadata (such as what newspaper it is sourced from, who the

writer is, and what conflict or issue the text is talking about). The majority of the findings will be presented in charts or tables according to frequency of occurrence to facilitate easy comprehension of the findings. By studying the pragmatic and rhetorical features of news media language, scholars can identify the specific tactics writers use to influence readers or shape their understanding of events. As part of these strategies, specific words or phrases may be used, rhetorical devices like metaphor or hyperbole may be deployed, or grammatical structures may be manipulated to convey particular meanings or associations. As a result of examining the pragmatic and rhetorical features of political news articles, the research seeks to gain an understanding of how writers use language to influence readers and shape public opinion.

The study of pragmatics and rhetoric highlights the importance of discursive methods in facilitating negotiations and revisions of meaning that are situated within specific contexts. Both disciplines share similarities in their theoretical foundations and methodological foci. However, it is unlikely that pragmatics and rhetoric will fully merge as distinct fields of inquiry. Nevertheless, there are instances where a systematic pragmatic investigation has comprehensively captured and problematized rhetorical issues. Rhetorical perspectives can provide a more personalized and activity-based understanding of several central pragmatic issues, such as interactional meaning generation and meaning co-construction.

In sum, while pragmatics and rhetoric share some commonalities, they are likely to remain distinct fields of inquiry. Nonetheless, their interdisciplinary interactions have the potential to enrich our understanding of language use and meaning construction in various contexts.

This research is essential to find meanings in political news, as it can provide insights into the ways in which language is utilized to sway readers' perceptions and opinions. The news media play a critical role in shaping public opinion and decision-making, and the language used in news discourse can significantly influence how readers comprehend and respond to the information presented. By scrutinizing the language employed in news media discourse, scholars can discern these persuasive tactics and gain insights into how political discourse is constructed and propagated in the media. News networks play a crucial role in informing people all over the globe about political and military developments, and the language of news stories, or even just their headlines, is crucial to conveying the message the writers want to get across. In the absence of any research that examined the two phenomena (pragmatics and rhetoric) simultaneously, no such research has been conducted.

In order to pursue the stated aims of the present study, three main research questions have been formulated:

- I. What are the pragmatic strategies employed to construct persuasive political headlines at the level of speech acts?
- II. How do political writers seek to convey rhetorical persuasiveness to their texts in general through the use of specific grammatical choices?
- III. What may the pragmatic and rhetorical grammar strategies employed by political writers tell us about the motivations and/or positions of those same writers?

This thesis consists of seven chapters. Following an introduction to the field of pragmatics and rhetoric in general, chapter 2 presents the theoretical background and literature review for the interrelationship between pragmatics and rhetoric. An explanation of the materials and data collected in the study is presented in Chapter 3. It is the aim of Chapter 4 to present the research methodology in conjunction with relevant metadata, and most of the findings will be portrayed in the form of charts or tables. This chapter summarizes the findings, discusses the study's relevance, and emphasizes the significance of pragmatics, choices, and rhetorical features in establishing the meaning of the article. Presented in Chapter 5 of the thesis, the study findings are analyzed in detail, and are organized in accordance with the research questions. In Chapter 6, the implications of the findings are discussed, interpreting them in the light of the theoretical framework and previous research. As part of the discussion chapter, connections are drawn between the study findings and the broader context, highlighting their importance and potential for impact in the field. In chapter 7, the key findings and the significance of the findings are summarized and the research questions are revisited, and concise answers are provided based on the results and discussion. The thesis also includes an appendix section containing summaries of 40 selected articles that are not necessary for understanding the main text, but may prove helpful to readers seeking additional information.

Overall, this research highlights the importance of language use in news media discourse and emphasizes the role of pragmatic and rhetorical strategies in shaping readers' perceptions and opinions. The results of this study offer insights into the use of language in news media

discourse and contribute to our understanding of how language is employed to influence public opinion and decision-making.

2. Theoretical background and literature review

2.1 The relationship between pragmatics and rhetoric

According to the *narrow view*, pragmatics is understood as the systematic investigation of what and how people mean when they use language as a vehicle of action in a particular context and with a particular goal in mind (Bublitz & Norrick 2011: 3, emphasis in original).

Another way of saying this is that pragmatics is the study of how the meanings of words and phrases depend on when and how they are used, by whom and for what purpose they are produced. Any pragmatic analysis should be geared towards offering an understanding of the role context plays in meaning production in terms of factors influencing the differential interpretations of multifunctional utterances, ambiguities and underdeterminacy. Another question that cannot be left unanswered is how sense is localized, activated, disseminated, dissolved, and remediated in encumbered communication. Pragmatics is concerned with the factors that enforce our discrete selection, coupling and linkage of language forms and structures in various aspects of interpersonal and social interaction due to the immediate and lasting consequences of our acts on our interlocutors' attitudes, beliefs, or actions. We are, in theory, free to say or act as we please. In practice, however, we are bound by multiple linguistic conventions and social constraints – most of which pass unnoticed – which dictate the words we may select and the sentences we may construct. Message: the earlier form of pragmatics conceives the field as a way of examining how language is functionally used in different social circumstances to convey meaning. The field is thus concerned with the functioning of language in various life contexts and the different meaning interpretations that the recipients code. The specific view of pragmatics as given by Bublitz and Norrick considers the field as the systematic investigation of what people mean and how they mean it using the language as a mechanism of activity in a given situation with a given intention. Such a view emphasizes the position of context and intentionality in the formation of meaning. Pragmatics thus examines the context of language and the factors that go beyond the straightforward meaning to create meaning on the recipient's end.

It idealized formality, politeness, and mentioning people who are older or younger, of the same or opposite sex, and in different social situations. Both theories and practical knowledge of psycholinguistic pragmatics apply in such fields as education, politics, and healthcare. Thus, through language, people get more accurate outcomes in social situations and achieve success in these fields.

Rhetoric, the study and practice of persuasion, has existed for almost two millennia. Modern rhetoric remains essential in various current affairs, such as government, civil wars, the legal system, and the classroom. Unlike pragmatics, rhetoric is based not on the model of grammatical and discursive organization but on a model of social and moral organization purposefully established. Rhetoric, considered analytically, is interested in the acquisition and regulation of a goal-and receive-oriented message as well as the condition of delivery of the message , which entails the suitability of place and time of delivery. Rhetoric is the critical inquiry into how persons might impact others' judgments and acts through purposeful employ of language or other methods of connection. Moreover, rhetoric is an analytical approach for studying language's foundations in relation to one's communicative purposes and effectiveness. We should determine the extent to which language users systematically adhere to or disrupt these basic regulations in inventive ways for defined ends: persistent outcomes that aim at changing the audience . We must then assess effective and ineffective interactional methods while considering the intentions and expectations of the individuals involved. Rhetoric's main endeavors aim to clarify the connections between various sorts of rhetorical discourses and the social structures they reestablish. It refers to the manner in which rhetorical version can reinforce or strengthen current social norms, values, and power structures. Rhetorical type can be utilized by people in authority to sustain their behavior and power while also affecting how the persons receive and respond to problems.

Rhetoric, through persuasive communication strategies, engages reality in several ways. For example, it is a process of using persuasive communication strategies to shape people's understanding of the world around them. Such reconstruction of people's views and interpretation is what entails reality. As a result of strategically framing messages that resonate the most with specific values or ideologies, we then frame people's understanding and interpretation. The audience's perceptions and responses to the highlighted reality exposed this. Deconstructing reality gives people new insights and challenges them to think freshly from a perspective by critically examining existing beliefs, values, or even power structures. This new

vantage point makes people question or accept what they have believed per their logical reasoning. Consequently, rhetorical discourses become a medium of re-establishing realities. “Rebuilding reality” involves the process of strategically reconstructing parts of reality to suit predefined goals or values. Since rhetoric is used as a powerful means to influence change through shaping public opinion, various means of life are then established to suit specific policies or ideologies. Re-establishing reality, by contrast, reinforces or seeks to stabilize existing social norms, values, or power structures. Finally, the power to appeal to language and communication forms persuasively in positions offers a viable means to backup previous actions and ideals to continue the existing social order.

For instance, political leaders could use rhetorical discourse to re-establish existing power structures. They may draw on the traditional values of their society, such as patriotism or family values, to claim that their policies and actions are justified. By portraying their policies in line with certain values, they can claim support from those who prioritize them. Moreover, they can also claim that such values are essential for society to function. Businesses could use rhetorical discourse throughout their advertising to re-establish existing social structures. Their advertising might reflect traditional gender or consumer culture norms. This makes the advertisements more appealing to the target audience and reinforces the business’s social place. Generally, re-establishing social structures through the use of rhetorical discourse aligns with the idea that language influences our perception and attitude to the world. Those who are in power use language to shape how we think and feel about issues and affirm existing power relations and social standards. Public affairs, civil disputes, law courts, and education have all been critically affected by rhetoric, a discipline that has been around for 2,500 years.

In turn, rhetorical theory, as a social structure that interacts with other structures and channels of communication, has become systematic practice of persuasive communication regularly used to create reality and take part in formatting socio-political relations . It focused on the role of language and discourse in creating and maintaining social structures and power relations. However, its utilization of the structural aspects of social life through the prism of communication and language focusing on persuasion and reality reconstruction helps to comprehend how this latter process is shaped and how it could be re-shaped with the help of language . As a result, it has become a well-established approach to taking part in the structuration of socio-political relations. For example, a variety of rhetorical devices and strategies used in rhetoric, these are appeals to emotion, logic, and authority, as well as

manipulation of language to create meaning, frame events these strategies are employed by writers to influence the ways in which recipients perceive and reflect on unfolding events . Hence, through it, the reality could be actively constructed. It means that rhetoric can be mirrored, that it is almost impossible. One can see how rhetoric reconstructs the reality in political campaigns as political campaigners use the language and other communication strategies to shape the judgment of issues and choose candidates . It is seen by the way political campaigns have been framed as a reality, where one candidate is the best choice, and another is not.

Moreover, Sanders (1978: 2) defines rhetoric as "the strategic management of speech". It emphasizes that rhetoric is not merely about using language for its own sake but rather is a tool for achieving specific goals. The strategic management of speech involves a deliberate choice of words, tone, and style with the intention of persuading, informing, or entertaining an audience. In other words, rhetoric is a way of using language to influence people's attitudes and behaviours and achieve desired outcomes. This approach to rhetoric highlights its practical function in social and political contexts and suggests that it is an essential tool for effective communication and leadership. In a similar vein, Austin sees rhetorical performance as "Utterance-in-action". Utterance-in-action is the idea that speech is more than just a representation of pre-existing thoughts or ideas, but that it can create meaning and influence the situation in which it occurs. In other words, utterances are not just neutral conveyances of information, but rather they are always shaped by the context in which they occur and can have a real-world impact on that context. This idea is important for understanding the strategic nature of rhetoric, as it suggests that speakers must be conscious of the effects that their words may have and use language strategically in order to achieve their goals. For instance, a politician gives a speech to persuade people to vote for them. The words they use and the way they deliver them are not just conveying information; they are also performing an action, namely trying to convince the audience to take a certain course of action, in this case, to vote for the politician. The performance of the utterance is thus an integral part of its meaning and effect.

For example, the difference between *inventio* (invention or discovery; topic), *dispositio* (disposition, arrangement, organization), and *elocutio* (speaking style) as the main canons of the rhetoric on the one hand and *memoria* (memorization) and *pronunciatio* (delivery) on the other may be similar to the difference between speech act types and interactive or dialogic performance. The canons of rhetoric (*inventio*, *dispositio*, and *elocutio*) are concerned with the

production of persuasive language and focus on the speaker's role in creating and delivering a message. In contrast, *memoria* and *pronunciatio* are more concerned with the reception of the message by the audience and focus on the listener's role in interpreting and responding to the speaker's message.

This difference can be seen in the comparison between speech act types and interactive or dialogic performance. Speech act types are focused on the speaker's intended meaning and the form of their utterance (e.g., a declarative sentence, a question, a command), while interactive or dialogic performance focuses on the interaction between the speaker and the listener and the context in which the communication takes place. For instance, consider the speech act of a politician giving a campaign speech. The invention or discovery (*inventio*) of the speech may involve selecting persuasive arguments and evidence to support the candidate's platform. The arrangement or organization (*dispositio*) of the speech may involve structuring the speech to include an introduction, body, and conclusion, with each section focused on a specific topic. The speaking style (*elocutio*) may involve using rhetorical devices such as repetition and metaphor to engage and persuade the audience.

In contrast, the memorization (*memoria*) and delivery (*pronunciatio*) of the speech may depend on factors such as the audience's reactions, the speaker's tone and body language, and the overall context of the speech. In a dialogic or interactive performance, the speaker may need to adapt their message to respond to the listener's questions or feedback or to adjust to changes in the situation. This interactive aspect of communication is not captured by the traditional canons of rhetoric, which focus more on the speaker's role in creating and delivering a message. Richards (1965: 3) adopted a different perspective, arguing that rhetoric is the "study of misunderstanding and its remedies", whereas Burke's (1969) theoretical emphasis was on the rhetorical effect of persuasion and the kinds of methods and techniques included in any process of communication intended to influence belief and action. Speaking about the differences between rhetoric and pragmatics, Leech (1983: 15) holds that rhetoric refers to a speaking situation in which the speaker strategically uses language to influence a listener's thinking in a predetermined way.

Identifying the foci, similarities, and complementarities between pragmatics and rhetoric is the first step in evaluating and differentiating between the two fields. Whereas the focus of pragmatics is on language in its social context, rhetoric is primarily concerned with the practice of language use through transactional interactions between the addresser and the audience, as

well as the particular commonplaces characteristic of various socio-cultural groups and professional environments. As used here, "commonplaces" refer to shared values, beliefs, and assumptions of a particular group of sociocultural individuals or groups of professionals. These commonplaces may include specific vocabulary, idiomatic expressions, or cultural references that are familiar and understood by members of that group or environment but may not be as readily understood by outsiders. In rhetoric, an understanding of these commonplaces is important for effective communication and persuasion with a particular audience. This includes spontaneous or planned communicative deviations and creative irregularities, which are identified and treated as special cases or critical incidents. Both rhetoric and pragmatics focus on the relationship between human action, situational context, and underlying values. Despite their differences in analytical approach, rhetoric and pragmatics complement each other in a variety of ways. Human behaviour, the environment, and ethical principles are at the heart of both the study of rhetoric and pragmatics.

Both rhetoric and pragmatics are concerned with human behaviour and how it is shaped by language. Rhetoric is concerned with the practice of language use in persuasive communication, while pragmatics focuses on the social context of language use. Both fields examine how language is used to achieve goals, whether they are persuasive or communicative in nature. In addition, both rhetoric and pragmatics are concerned with the environment in which language is used. Rhetoric looks at how the physical and social environment influences communication, while pragmatics examines how cultural and social factors impact language use. Furthermore, ethical principles are also central to both fields. Rhetoric has a long tradition of examining the ethics of persuasive communication, while pragmatics has more recently turned its attention to the ethical implications of language use in social contexts. Both fields are interested in understanding how language can be used in ethical and responsible ways to achieve specific goals and address social issues. Thus, human behavior, the environment, and ethical principles are at the heart of both the study of rhetoric and pragmatics, and these shared concerns have led to fruitful exchanges and interdisciplinary research between the two fields.

One cannot help but note the aforementioned similarities and convergences between rhetoric and pragmatics when analysing different varieties of political news items when looking at their respective analytic frameworks. The pragmatics and rhetoric of political discourse share a common focus on the persuasive and argumentative qualities invoked by speakers or writers, tailored to specific audiences and circumstances. As Mey (1993[2001]: 35) elaborated,

pragmatics "is concerned with the process of making language and with its producers, not merely with the end-product, language," highlighting the interaction-oriented role of pragmatic inquiry. Thomas (1995: 22) presented a complementary viewpoint, describing pragmatics as "meaning in contact." Her concept includes a more rhetorical perspective on dialogue: "Making meaning is a dynamic process, comprising the negotiation of meaning between speaker and hearer, the context of utterance (physical, social, and linguistic), and the meaning potential of an utterance."

Because the two fields interact, we may be able to better understand how language is used in different situations by combining pragmatic approaches that focus on the sentence level with rhetorical approaches that focus on the larger linguistic context. Pragmatics and rhetoric are both interested in how and why meaningful interactions between people may develop via language use. The central issue in pragmatics is whether or not the language and discourse choices people make may shed light on their attitudes, intentions, and the efficacy with which they take action and achieve their objectives. Rhetoric focuses on how and why people use certain linguistic and discursive methods to accomplish predetermined ends. By combining the two methods, rhetorical practice will become more systematic and pragmatic analysis will become more in-depth. In fact, pragmatics proves to be a flexible analytical tool by integrating various theoretical approaches. This allows it to provide both a bottom-up perspective and a top-down perspective whereby textual and discursive phenomena are accounted for in terms of wider social, cultural, and political factors, drawing on social and political sciences. Based on a bottom-up perspective, pragmatics examines language use in the context of sentences and utterances at the micro-level. Among the topics examined are word selection, sentence structure, and communication strategies used by individuals. This approach aims to identify the attitudes, intentions, and effectiveness with which individuals act and accomplish their goals by analyzing the specific linguistic phenomena that are examined by pragmatics. Using this bottom-up approach, it is possible to gain a comprehensive understanding of how language is used in specific situations, as well as how it influences meaning and interaction.

The pragmatic perspective, on the other hand, also includes a top-down approach by taking into account social, cultural, and political factors that influence language use as well as the larger linguistic context. Pragmatics examines how language is influenced by and reflects societal dynamics through the use of insights drawn from social and political sciences. As a result, it examines how social norms, cultural values, political ideologies, and social norms influence language choices, thereby influencing communication and meaning. As a result of

this top-down approach, language is analysed comprehensively, taking into account the broader context in which it operates and the larger context in which it operates as well.

Combining both bottom-up and top-down perspectives, pragmatics provides a more comprehensive understanding of language usage. As well as examining the intricate details of language choices at the sentence level, it also places them within the context of larger social, cultural, and political contexts. In this way, textual and discursive phenomena can be analysed in greater detail, and how they are influenced and contribute to wider social dynamics can be examined.

So, the emphasis of pragmatics is on the language in use, whereas the focus of rhetoric is on the people who use language. In other words, pragmatics and rhetoric both seek to enable meaningful interpersonal communication to emerge and be co-constructed. In pragmatics, the underlying question is what language/discourse strategies communicate about a language user's motivations, intentions, and ability to accomplish their goals and act effectively. In rhetoric, the core questions relate to the use of particular language/discourse strategies by language users or their perceptions of such strategies for attaining certain objectives.

In addition to contemporary socio-political concerns, the increasing participation of broader groups of interactive citizens and civil society in politics, participatory decision-making, and an increase in argumentative dialogues on social media, there are also a number of factors contributing to the revival of rhetoric, especially political rhetoric, which is primarily characterized by populist manipulation, misleading/deceptive rhetorical devices, and multiple fallacious arguments (Reicher & Hopkins 1996; Bull 2000; Kienpointner 2013; Ornatowski 2012). As a result, it is important that we critically analyse the research that specializes on the confluence of pragmatic and rhetorical studies of political language in news articles and how they are related. Simultaneously, the area of (linguistic) pragmatics has been broadening its research goals and analytic lenses to include studies of both empirical and theoretical aspects of political discourse (Wilson 1990, 15; Fetzer 2013,23). This line of inquiry has become more and more useful for systematically analyzing the context, norms, goals, content, and reception of political discourse and practices, as well as for looking into miscommunication-based political conflict, a lack of common ground and shared knowledge, the causes and effects of misinterpretation and misunderstanding, and the effectiveness of multi-purpose face-to-face encounters (Ilie 2004).

2.2. The pragmatic perspective of the speech act – Searle (1975)

Speech acts refer to the actions performed through language, such as making a request, giving a command, asking a question, or making a statement. In other words, speech acts are the ways in which we use language to do things rather than simply convey information. According to speech act theorists, starting with Austin and Searle, the analytical framework identifies the underlying conditions and derivable rules necessary in order for carefully selected utterances to be realized and understood within certain contexts. A study by Austin (1962: 14–15) indicated that an addressee (the person or audience who is the recipient of a speech act) follows up on speech acts initiated by a speaker when examining the appropriate circumstances of performative utterances, whereas Searle (1975: 45) emphasized the intentional and conventional aspects of the speaker's individually performed illocutionary acts.

The illocutionary actions of the speaker are Searle's main area of interest (Searle 1975; Austin 1962: 16-17). One may choose to concentrate on one component of a statement, but there are several actions that might be taken. Muscle motions, acts of reference and predication, actions of illocution, and acts of perlocution, with Searle placing special emphasis on promise-making, serve as various examples of illocutionary behaviors. This is what Austin meant by "performative utterances". Searle takes the position that speech actions, or illocutionary acts, are the starting point for any study of language since they are, in his view, the building blocks of all human communication. To regard a sentence as meaningful in general, we need to understand that sentence as having been created by an agent with specific objectives. Searle challenges the traditional belief that words, sentences, or brain modules are the primary units of linguistic communication. Searle believes that in order to grasp the significance of a sentence, we must acknowledge it as a deliberate expression created by an agent who has specific intentions. The brain module, on the other hand, refers to a specific neural structure or region that is traditionally regarded as the primary unit of language processing. Several linguistic functions are associated with these modules, including speech production, sound perception, sentence comprehension, and meaning extraction. Searle highlights the central role of intentional communicative acts in understanding language, making the illocutionary act a central aspect of linguistic communication, in contrast to the traditional view which emphasizes brain modules and linguistic elements alone.

This framework encompasses Searle's comprehensive approach to understanding linguistic communication, utilizing promise-making as an example. His works aims to characterize the

rules, propositions, and meanings underlying promise-making, as well as the underlying semantic rules derived from these descriptions, which are necessary and sufficient conditions for performing promises. Searle's analysis provides a framework for understanding not only promises but also other speech acts within a larger linguistic context.

Additionally, Searle introduces the concept of regulative and constitutive rules in support of his claim that language is a rule-governed activity. These rules play an integral role in shaping linguistic behaviour and interactions. The promise-making model is a prominent illustration of Searle's broader theories, but it is important to note that his work encompasses a comprehensive examination of language and communication in its entirety. In order to achieve this objective, it is essential that a profound understanding of the fundamental rules and principles governing various aspects of linguistic activity is acquired.

Regulative rules are norms that are formulated as imperatives and are used to control behaviour that would occur regardless of the rules. These rules are often mistakenly assumed to be the standard rules. Constitutive rules, on the other hand, are the rules that determine the very existence of something and depend on the rules themselves. They can be imperatives in some contexts or non-imperative "counts as" rules in others, although they are often overlooked.

Examples: the regulations for chess and football (touchdown rule as constitutive vs. no taunting rule as regulative). Searle claims that illocutionary activities are carried out in line with a "series of systems of constitutive principles" that make up the semantics of language. Many distinct kinds of illocutionary acts may be created from the same source material. The propositional substance of the following statements, for instance, is identical:

- Is John going to get up and leave?
- John will leave the room.
- John, leave the room.
- I wish John would go.
- If John leaves, I will too.

Searle thinks that propositions and force should be at the centre of natural language semantics. There will be a proposition and an illocutionary force indicator that indicates how the proposition should be understood, or, to put it another way, what illocutionary force is intended in the statement in question; that is, what illocutionary act is being performed by the speaker by uttering that statement in a sentence that have their roots in the grammar of the phrases themselves. There are several illocutionary forces included in this term, including asserting,

requesting, commanding, questioning, promising, and apologizing, among others. Illocutionary forces correspond to distinct categories of speech acts, each of which is characterized by an individual set of linguistic features and conventions. As an example, an individual is using illocutionary forces when he or she makes a promise, such as, "I promise to be there on time." By engaging in this speech, the speaker intends to bind themselves to a future action, anticipating that the listener will understand the commitment made and hold them accountable if it is not fulfilled. An understanding of illocutionary force becomes critical to determining the speaker's intended meaning and the societal implications of their speech acts. As a result of this understanding, the pragmatic function and communicative intentions underlying an utterance can be determined. According to Searle (1975: 44), the goal of an illocutionary act is for the speaker to have the listener perceive that he is trying to have a specific impact on them. If the words are taken at face value, he expects the reader to understand that he intends for the phrase to have that impact by virtue of its usual association with the terms.

Austin's starting point was the recognition that language is not only used to describe or report the world but also to perform actions in the world. He called these acts of speech "illocutionary acts". Austin proposed three categories of speech acts: locutionary acts (utterances that have propositional content), illocutionary acts (utterances that perform actions), and perlocutionary acts (utterances that have effects on the listener).

Searle's take on speech acts differs from Austin's in that he places a stronger emphasis on illocutionary acts and sees them as the central focus of his theory of speech acts. An example of how Searle revised Austin's classification is his inclusion of commissives as a separate category of speech acts. Commissives, such as promises and oaths, are statements that commit the speaker to future action. Austin did not have a separate category for these types of speech acts, but Searle recognized their importance and created a distinct category for them. Searle believes that all speech acts can be analysed in terms of their illocutionary force, or the type of action they perform in the world. He also proposed a taxonomy of speech acts consisting of five categories:

- Representatives (also known as assertives, cf. Searle (1975:16) commits the speaker to the truth of the proposition uttered. They convey the speaker's belief that a speech act can be evaluated as true or false. Verbs that are commonly used in representative speech acts include belief, suggestion, hypothesize, boast, insist, complain, conclude, deduce, and claim.

- Directives are useful for directing the listener in a specific direction by using words such as: get, request, ask, order, command, order, censure, beg, plead, pray, invite, permit, advice, and dare.
- Expressives are speech acts that convey the speaker's feelings regarding a particular state of affairs as expressed in the propositional content of the utterance. Expressions of expressive speech include thanking, apologizing, congratulating, complimenting, condoling, deploring, and greeting.
- Commissives are speech acts in which the speaker commits to performing some future action. Some of the most common verbs used in commissioning speech acts include: promise, offer, threaten, plan, and commit. In institutional discourse, commissives play an important role because institutional actors are under norm-regulated obligation to accomplish an institutional action or to comply with institutional decisions as a consequence of institutional discourse.
- Declarations are speech acts that create a new fact corresponding to propositional content. Searle (1975: 554) describes this speech act by performing a declarative or declaration, a fact is brought into existence in the world, and this fact is reflected in the declaration itself. There are a variety of declarative acts that are typically performed, including the appointment of a chair, the firing of a staff member, the nomination of a candidate, the declaration of war, marriage, or christening.

Al-Hindawi and Hmood Ali's (2018) study examines the use of speech acts in news headlines and how they reflect the speaker's intention and underlying message. They argue that analysing speech acts in headlines requires attention to linguistic features, such as word choice, sentence structure, and rhetorical devices, as well as the broader context in which the headlines are produced and consumed. Their approach differs from Searle's in that it emphasizes the importance of context and situational factors in interpreting speech acts. While Searle focuses primarily on the speaker's intention in performing a speech act, Al-Hindawi and Hmood Ali argue that the interpretation of speech acts also depends on the audience's knowledge and expectations, the cultural and social norms of the context, and the broader discursive practices of the genre or medium. To illustrate, they analyse headlines that use performatives, such as "Trump promises to build a wall," and argue that the illocutionary force of the speech act depends on the political context and the audience's expectations of Trump's ability to follow through on his promise. Similarly, they analyse headlines that use directives, such as "Stay at

home to prevent the spread of COVID-19," and argue that the effectiveness of the speech act depends on the audience's perception of the authority and credibility of the source and the urgency of the situation. Overall, Al-Hindawi and Hmood Ali's study highlights the complexity of speech acts in discourse and the need for a multi-dimensional analysis that considers both the linguistic and contextual factors that shape their meaning and effect.

2.3 Rhetorical grammar by Kolln & Gray (2014)

In *Rhetorical Grammar*, Kolln and Gray (2014) rhetorical Grammar is centered on the idea of grammar as a tool of the rhetorical power of the writer. From this standpoint, the authors believe that the syntactic structure is capable of creating meaning rather than merely conveying information. Kolln and Gray start with an overview of rhetoric and its relationship to grammar. According to them, grammar is more than just a system of rules that dictate writing but a system of choices that help a writer produce a desired effect. Afterward, the authors discuss the most basic components of grammar – parts of speech, phrases, clauses, and sentences – and how writers can combine these components to create different sentences . To provoke a strong emotional response in readers, writers also use emotive language as one of the powerful rhetorical tricks. Kolln and Gray further expand on is the use of words and phrases with strong connotations in a manner that helps a writer reach the desired emotional effect. The authors argue that emotive language can help writers evoke such feelings as anger, compassion, or enthusiasm, depending on their message . Rhetorical Grammar includes a wide array of examples of how emotive language is utilized in different genres, from political speeches to advertising and opinion articles. The authors specifically note that the use of the emotive language should be limited and used ethically for fear of turning the audience away from the text by overemphasizing the emotional appeal. Ultimately, the knowledge of the emotive language helps the writer make more informed choices on how to present to topic to the audience and make their responses more personal.

Kolln and Gray delve more deeply into one of the elements of rhetorical grammar, which is metaphorical language, and continue to develop it. The authors describe metaphors as a way of seeing one concept in terms of another, often by comparing two seemingly unrelated concepts . Furthermore, Kolln and Gray mention that metaphors are not only decorative “expressive language tool” but also a means of thinking, reasoning, and communication . Thus, the shared examples demonstrate the use of metaphorical language in writing practices to frame a problem strategically, focus on some sides of an argument, or simplify a certain process . For instance,

a political writer can talk about waging a “war on drugs” to communicate the seriousness and urgency of the issue, while a scientist can give meaning to a “carbon footprint”. Similarly, it is possible to create a cohesive and strong argument with these metaphors extended and developed throughout Kolln and Gray’s article. However, the authors also warn that inappropriate or too cliché metaphors can weaken a message and advise writers to use these tools wisely. In conclusion, writers can take their works to a richer, more creative, and more persuasive level if they understand and master metaphorical language.

Furthermore, Kolln and Gray explore personal pronouns in rhetorical grammar in terms of their role in establishing the bonds between the writer and the reader. Depending on the author’s purpose and audience, personal pronouns “I,” “we,” “you,” and “they” can be used to create the sense of union, solidarity, or opposition . For example, “we” suggests the feeling of the shared experience and community, whereas “they” implies separation or even conflict. To establish authority, link up with readers, or create an emotional response, the authors also provide examples when personal pronouns in academic writing, campaign oratory, and advertisements are used effectively. They further discuss how an author might indicate a shift in stance or importance with a shift in pronoun, and how the choice of pronouns affects the formality and the tone of the text. To help writers maintain coherence and conformability, Kolln and Gray stress the importance of using personal pronouns consistently throughout a text; by becoming aware of how personal pronouns produce rhetorical effects, writers can consciously decide how to position themselves in their relationship to their readers and to their subject.

One of the key ideas of the book is that sentence structures have rhetorical effects that can be analysed and understood by writers. To illustrate, the authors explain how different sentence structures can create emphasis, suspense, contrast, or complexity. They provide many examples to illustrate these effects, including both literary and non-literary texts. Here are some examples:

- Repetition: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness" (Charles Dickens, "A Tale of Two Cities"). This famous opening line of Dickens' novel uses repetition to create a sense of contrast and balance, emphasizing the duality of the time period in which the story takes place.

- Parallelism: "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country" (John F. Kennedy, inaugural address). This well-known example of parallelism uses a repeated structure to create a sense of symmetry and balance, reinforcing the idea that individual citizens have a responsibility to contribute to the greater good.
- Antithesis: "We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools" (Martin Luther King Jr., "Speech at St. Louis, March 22, 1964"). This example of antithesis sets up a contrast between two opposing ideas, emphasizing the importance of unity and cooperation.
- Metaphor: "All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players" (William Shakespeare, "As You Like It"). This famous metaphor compares life to a play, highlighting the idea that we are all actors in a larger drama.
- Personification: "The wind whispered through the trees, beckoning me to come closer" (fictional example). This example of personification gives human qualities to the wind, creating a sense of intimacy and connection between the narrator and the natural world.
- Irony: "Water, water everywhere, nor any drop to drink" (Samuel Taylor Coleridge, "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner"). This example of irony sets up a contrast between the abundance of water and the inability of the narrator to quench his thirst, highlighting the cruel irony of his situation.
- Hyperbole: "I could eat a horse" (idiomatic expression). This example of hyperbole uses exaggerated language to emphasize the speaker's hunger, creating a humorous effect. These examples demonstrate how rhetorical choices can have a significant impact on the meaning and impact of a text. By understanding these rhetorical strategies, writers can make deliberate choices to create specific effects and achieve their desired communicative goals.
- A modal verb expresses a speaker's attitude or certainty regarding a particular action or state in the sentence by referring to it as an auxiliary verb. In a sentence, modal verbs such as "could," "should," "must," and "might" are used to express possibility, necessity, permission, or ability, enabling the speaker to communicate varying degrees of likelihood or obligation.
- Emotive language is language that is used deliberately to stimulate the reader's or listener's emotions. It is used to appeal to a reader's emotions, values, or beliefs to create an emotional impact on the audience. Samuel Taylor Coleridge, for example, uses

emotive language in the phrase "Water, water everywhere, nor any drop to drink," to convey a feeling of desperation and irony in the Ancient Mariner's dire circumstances.

Kolln and Gray reinforce the importance of grammar decisions based on the context or the writers' knowledge of the audience and the purpose. They insist in understanding genre or communicative situation conventions and using grammar without being a slave of it. For instance, they underline that passive voice is appropriate in certain kinds of rhetorical situations such as scientific discourse but may weaken persuasion or narrative. One of the strengths of *Rhetorical Grammar* is the focus on the relation between grammar and rhetoric. The book has plenty of examples of how sentence constructions may be used to produce an emotional or persuasive impact. The best one is perhaps is repetition, parallelism, and antithesis which produce rhythmic patterns or a feeling of emphasis. Questions and exclamations naturally induce a reader to seek for the answer or surprise, respectively. Another strong point of the book is Kolln and Gray's attention to the evolution of grammar especially in the digital age. They analyze how social media, texting, and other types of digital communication affect grammar and how it is ruining our speech. From Kolln and Gray's perspective, social-media forms are not ruining anything rather they are enriching grammar in sophisticated ways. Besides, with attention to making grammar a rhetorical tool, *Rhetorical Grammar* also includes short suggestions for writers. The book presents ways to rewrite and polish sentences for writers to try to create a particular effect. Finally, it is convenient that the book has exercises for students to practice grammatical rhetorical use.

An analytical framework for the study can be provided by rhetorical grammar in several ways. It allows the identification of patterns in the use of specific grammatical structures and rhetorical devices by political writers and journalists, which can reveal persuasive techniques employed by them. A study can, for example, determine how writers construct persuasive messages and convey their positions on specific issues by analysing the use of metaphorical language, emotive language and modal verbs in political opinion articles. Moreover, rhetorical grammar can be used to examine the motivations and positions of political writers and journalists. A deeper understanding of these writers' underlying beliefs and values may be gained by examining their pragmatic and rhetorical grammar strategies. In news stories, for instance, emotive language can be examined in order to determine how it affects readers' perceptions of agency and responsibility, which can provide insight into the author's emotional views. Furthermore, rhetorical grammar offers a more nuanced perspective on political

messages which are constructed and conveyed through the media, thereby providing a more nuanced understanding of how political messages are constructed. This method allows for a comprehensive analysis of the language used in political news discourse by focusing on how grammar and syntax are used to convey meaning and information.

2.4. Literature review

The relationship between pragmatic and rhetorical elements in news writing has been explored in increasing numbers of studies. A number of these studies indicate that news writers are interested in enhancing their rhetorically persuasive texts through their grammatical choices. By utilizing particular patterns of language, they capture the reader's attention and strengthen the persuasiveness of the argument.

Speech acts are forms of communication between individuals. Knowing which type of speech act was used can give the listener or reader an insight into what was not explicitly said by the speaker. Recently, studies have examined news headlines from a pragmatic perspective, analysing them as speech acts that perform several communicative functions.

For instance, as a linguistic study of how readers interpret newspaper headlines, Elly Ifantidou published an article in 2009 titled "Newspaper headlines and relevance: Ad hoc concepts in ad hoc contexts." In this study, newspaper headlines are used to explore how readers interpret headlines through ad hoc concepts and contexts. To grasp the meaning and significance of a headline, readers may use their existing knowledge and understanding, as well as the immediate context provided by the headline itself. Researchers are likely to investigate readers' navigation and interpretation of newspaper headlines by examining how readers utilize ad hoc mental representations (temporary mental representations specific to a particular situation) and ad hoc contexts (specific informational and contextual cues provided by the headline). According to the study, readers interpret headlines based on their experience and background knowledge. The individual reader and the situation in which they are reading the newspaper create these ad hoc concepts and contexts. Readers select headlines based on their expectations of relevance, and the study highlights the importance of relevance in reading newspaper headlines. As the study focuses on a small sample of newspaper headlines, its findings may not be generalizable to other contexts or languages. It also does not examine how headline writers construct meaning and instead focuses on the way readers interpret headlines. Ifantidou's work can be further investigated in future studies by examining how ad hoc concepts and contexts affect the

interpretation of other types of texts, like advertisements. In addition, future research could examine how newspaper headline writers construct meaning and how this affects readers' interpretation.

Dafouz-Milne's (2008) study aims to examine how textual and interpersonal metadiscourse markers contribute to the achievement of persuasion in newspaper discourse. Analyzing newspaper articles in English and Spanish using a discourse analytical approach explores how metadiscourse markers contribute to the persuasive function of the texts. According to the results of the study, metadiscourse markers contribute significantly to the construction and attainment of persuasion in newspaper discourse. A text's argumentative structure can be constructed using textual metadiscourse markers, including hedges, boosters, and attitude markers, which convey the author's stance on the subject. Metadiscourse markers, such as engagement and self-mention, assist in establishing a sense of shared knowledge and experience between the author and the reader. It is the purpose of Dafouz-Milne's study to provide valuable insights into how metadiscourse markers function in newspaper discourse and how they facilitate the construction and attainment of persuasion. It is important to note, however, that the study only examined newspaper articles in English and Spanish, which limits the generalizability of the results. It is possible to extend Dafouz-Milne's research into other media and genres by examining the use of metadiscourse markers in articles of the online news or opinion column, among other media and genres. As a further example, future research should examine how cultural and contextual factors affect the interpretation and use of metadiscourse markers in persuasive discourse.

Hayder Tuama Jasim Al-Saedi and Khalid Wahaab Jabber conducted a pragmatic study (2020) titled "A Pragmatic Study of Newspaper Headlines in Media Discourse: Iraq as a Case Study." The study investigates the pragmatic aspects of media discourse by analysing Searle's Speech Acts Taxonomy (1975) as applied to the examination of Iraqi newspaper headlines. A qualitative approach was used to investigate how pragmatic features contribute to meaning construction in newspaper headlines, using examples from an Iraqi newspaper as a case study.

A number of pragmatic features are utilized in Iraqi newspaper headlines to engage readers and evoke a sense of urgency, including presuppositions, implicatures, and rhetorical questions. The article also emphasizes the importance of context in interpreting newspaper headlines, suggesting that readers interpret newspaper headlines in light of their prior experiences and background knowledge.

In the critical way, it is ultimately helpful to think about Al-Saedi and Jabber because it idealizes the usage of language in Iraqi media discourse and points to every authoritarian character in a specific way. In addition, it can promote how cultural and contextual influences may be implicated in the comprehension and function of language. However, Al-Saedi and Jabber's work on Iraqi media discourse was restricted in scope; thus, the entire Iraqi media discourse might not be critical enough since it was predominantly newspaper headlines. To precisely compare how these aspects are interpreted in Iraqi newspapers and disseminated in other countries, an extension of the critical of research of Iraqi newspapers is required. Further research on any conceivable distinctions between the critical of Iraqi media discourse should be considered to get a more comprehensive understanding of them. Finally, it might be a good idea for later studies to include more examples of other media discourses, such as TV news, social, and Al-Saedi text as an additional illustration of the work. Researchers should also consider how these elements vary between societies. The Language of Evaluation: Appraisal in English offered an agenda for analyzing how text is rhetorically structured. The current study applies a qualitative approach: the author analyzes how writers use rhetorical means to convince their readers, critique their examples to discover how text construction and meaning systems interact across different written and spoken genres. The study demonstrates that writers use diverse rhetorical elements to make persuasive arguments: by creating a proper balance of evidence and evaluation written proper for a thesis. The study can help to improve their stronger deployment of speech-based or writing considered components to assess the capacity of the stances and aspects they have to achieve maximum rhetoric impact. Moreover, the author flags how much the writers' speak-up their assessment role in the text and context in which it was made. These aspects are helpful to be interpolative in the writer's viewpoint and culture since this study's purpose is an examination of English text. Another wishes to look at how composed parts are employed in other wording, to see how the context impacts the written efficacy. The study inquiries how more persuasive most powerful speech sources' stance is written. All of the research above displays the level of their fictional language used in a Variety of journalism-produced. Researchers can see how authorship in a lot of other ways makes attempts to define composition data influence processing and open literature. It will contribute significantly to boosting the composing level of readers, scholars, and politicians.

Although several research efforts have been carried out on pragmatics in news headlines and rhetoric, in the present study, both are combined to examine the dynamics of news writing. The

outcomes of this analysis can help to provide new insight into how effective or persuasive news writing is crafted. This can have a profound impact on how news is received by readers.

The present study examines the persuasive qualities of news writing in politically charged situations by incorporating both pragmatic studies of headlines and rhetorical grammar analyses of their texts. A pragmatic approach, based on Searle's Speech Acts Taxonomy (1975), is based on the notion that language is not only a medium for conveying information but is also a tool for performing actions. The analysis of speech acts in the headlines and rhetorical features in news articles sheds light on how news writers use language to persuade their audience. In contrast, the inclusion of a rhetorical approach, which is influenced by the work of Kolln and Gray (2014), emphasizes the importance of the choice of language when creating persuasive effects within a text. A critical examination of how writers construct persuasive arguments in political opinion pieces on the ongoing Iranian crisis, the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and Taiwan-China-US tensions will be conducted by analysing the use of various rhetorical devices, including emotive language, metaphorical language, modal verbs, and personal pronouns.

In addition to providing a comprehensive understanding of the persuasive qualities of news writing, pragmatic and rhetorical analysis is also used. As a result, it shows how news writers use pragmatic techniques, such as speech acts, as well as rhetorical grammar, to shape public opinion, stimulate informed discussion, and influence public policy. This study contributes to the existing body of research in the field by examining the interaction between language, pragmatics, and rhetoric, and provides insights into the intricate mechanisms that writers use to construct persuasive arguments as well as their societal impacts.

3. Description of materials/data

3.1 Corpus compilation

The composition (and thus also the compilation principles) of the present corpus is based on the body of texts assembled for Dafouz-Milne's (2008) study of metadiscourse markers in persuasive news writing. It sourced texts from two comparable newspapers, one from England and the other from Spain, to ensure a diverse range of perspectives and cultural contexts. Dafouz-Milne selected newspapers with similar readerships and subjects in order to minimize potential variations in writing style and rhetorical strategies resulting from sociopolitical influences. During the analysis of this corpus, Dafouz-Milne focused primarily on opinion

articles. Opinion articles are a key genre in news writing and employ persuasive language and rhetorical strategies to influence readers' perceptions and opinions. This study aimed to capture texts which were explicitly crafted to convey a particular point of view clearly and convincingly by limiting the search to opinion articles. As the name implies, these articles are usually written by journalists or experts with a deep understanding of a specific political issue, and their purpose is to influence the reader in favour of the writer's viewpoint. A primary objective of Dafouz-Milne's (2008) study was to determine whether metadiscourse markers are pragmatic factors in news writing that facilitate the construction of persuasion. The concept of metadiscourse refers to linguistic devices used within a text to assist the reader in interpreting, understanding, and establishing a relationship with the author. It examined both textual and interpersonal metadiscourse markers, including hedges, boosters, engagement markers, and self-mentions, as well as linguistic features such as hedges, boosters, engagement markers, and self-mentions. By influencing the perceptions of the writer's credibility, the strength of the argument, and the position of the reader within the discourse, these markers play a crucial role in shaping the persuasive impact of news writing. By exploring how readers select and interpret headlines, Dafouz-Milne challenged conventional assumptions about headline design. Ultimately, they found that readers chose headlines based on their expectations of relevance and created ad hoc concepts and contexts to interpret them based on their expectations. In this study, it was found that news reading is dynamic and interactive, in which readers actively construct meaning in response to the information presented, their prior knowledge, expectations, and the relevance of the information. Furthermore, the study revealed how metadiscourse markers in headlines contribute to news writing's persuasive impact.

In the present study, based on Dafouz-Milne's approach, pragmatic elements are examined in news headlines as well as persuasive arguments. Specifically, the study examines political opinion pieces published by CNN and Fox News regarding the Iranian ongoing crisis, the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and the tensions between Taiwan and China resulting from the Iranian ongoing crisis. As a result of analysing these texts, the study seeks to gain a deeper understanding of how news writers convey persuasive messages under politically charged conditions. The pragmatic analysis of headlines and specific grammatical choices made by writers in news texts is applied to accomplish this objective. The rhetorical analysis is concerned with analysing the specific language choices made by writers in news texts. By analysing the writings, one can understand their underlying intentions, their persuasive strategies, and their illocutionary force. It is the purpose of rhetorical analysis to identify and

analyse the stylistic and structural components of texts that contribute to their persuasive power. In this course, rhetorical devices, such as emotive language, metaphorical language, modal verbs, and personal pronouns, are examined to create persuasive arguments. This study aims to enhance our understanding of the persuasive qualities of news writing in political charged settings by drawing upon the analytical framework of Dafouz-Milne. Using language and rhetoric, it seeks to shed light on how writers construct persuasive arguments and influence the perceptions and opinions of readers. Furthermore, this study contributes to the body of knowledge about the interplay between language, pragmatics, and rhetoric in news writing, offering insight into the construction of persuasive arguments in political settings.

All texts making up the present corpus have been sourced from the two major US news networks CNN and Fox News. In order to ensure that the selected articles were current and reflected the latest developments in each political issue, they were all published in 2022. In the United States, they are both extremely popular (Fox News is the biggest, but they both provide a similar kind of comprehensive national coverage of a wide range of news topics that are covered by both networks – these points, combined with the previous point, make them a good comparative pair. They are known to have very different leanings and sympathies, and that is why they are deemed to be highly contrastive in how they present their news stories. CNN has a stronger affinity for the Democrats, whereas Fox News has a stronger affinity for Republicans, which makes them a lot more interesting to compare, since they should take a different approach to many topics. The networks, for example, have been criticized for being biased toward specific political ideologies, including CNN as a liberal and Fox News as a conservative (Yang 2023). Networks may have difficulty maintaining credibility with their audiences because of these perceptions of bias, and they may be accused of disseminating misinformation or "fake news" as a consequence.

The selection process included the search for keywords related to the discussed three political issues in the CNN and Fox News websites. When choosing articles, three specific political issues were considered: Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the current Iranian crisis, and the problems associated with China-Taiwan-United States conflicts. These articles were identified as particular as they are concerned on the international level and have been widely covered in the news. They have a significant impact on the target audience's perception and possible decision-making, and they are essential information about events. There is a chance that it may be problematic to guarantee the accuracy of the information presented by these two networks,

primarily due to the quick news cycles and social media; sometimes, it is impossible to check information before uploading. However, in general, accuracy is required and guaranteed. Additionally, given America's current political climate, which is characterized by polarization, it could prove challenging to do so as well. Citizens' lack of trust in the media is evidence that verifying accurate information when the media prefers to publish information confirming a particular narrative can prove difficult. In addition, credibility and receptivity will obviously be difficult to maintain for both networks. Antar said, "But overall, the short version is welp, both sides could do a lot better" concerning people's skepticism towards the general accuracy of news from multiple outlets that reveal the facts I and other members of the public have faced in recent days source Due to the fact that polarized political Capital's subscribers will be more than willing to get information that reaffirms our current beliefs presented with this challenge.

Throughout the creation of this corpus, clear and steadfast principles guided the development of the corpus, safeguarding the research's integrity and data reliability. The selection of articles is based not on linguistic intricacies but on extralinguistic factors: the topics addressed, the context of their work, and the sources used. The use of these methods serves as a safeguard against bias, ensuring that the corpus remains unaffected by the rhetorical and linguistic devices found in the articles.

A key objective of this study is to demonstrate an unbiased method of compiling data. It is not cherry-picked, nor is it selectively chosen from texts to match preconceived notions. Instead, the article selection process is based on an objective framework that is free of linguistic content, and focuses solely on objective criteria. As a result of such rigor, the study's findings remain firmly anchored in objectivity without being influenced by subjective selections.

These articles are devoted to three geopolitical issues that are resonating loudly across the globe and shaping public discourse and policy. As an assurance that the data is relevant to today's geopolitical climate, only articles from 2022 were selected to capture the pulse of current debates. Through this choice, a clear lens can be applied to contemporary media narrative strategies, which offers insight into the way issues of this type are framed and discussed within contemporary media.

Additionally, the study's transparent process enhances its utility. By providing clarity regarding the selection criteria and source documentation, the study has not only strengthened its credibility, but also paved the way for other academics to replicate or build upon it. The

openness of the media facilitates further scrutiny and validation, contributing to the enrichment of the field and allowing for a greater understanding of how media shapes perceptions on international affairs.

3.2 Corpus description

The present corpus consists of 40 opinion articles published online by CNN and Fox News. However, the distribution of articles between the two news outlets is not equal; Fox News contributes 22 articles, while CNN accounts for 18 articles.

Articles in the corpus are varying in length, ranging between 571 and 3,008 words, and their exact lengths have been recorded for analysis. Further classification was conducted by identifying the political issues addressed and the news networks on which the articles were published, as well as their length. As a result of this classification, it was possible to analyse how language is used in news media discourse across different political issues and news networks.

The following table examines Fox News and CNN's perspectives on the severity of the three ongoing international crises, highlighting potential differences in perceptions. The purpose of this analysis is not to provide an in-depth comparison, but rather to provide an initial overview. The difference in perception could be attributed to a variety of factors, including editorial bias, reporting focus, or the extent of information available to each news outlet. A deeper understanding of these disparities can be gained by examining how different news outlets frame and discuss ongoing crises, and how these factors might influence public opinion and policy decisions. For identification, each political news headline has been assigned a unique ID. In the ID format, "FN" represents the news outlet (in this case Fox News), "R" indicates the topic (Russia), and the numerical portion indicates the article number within the dataset. In this corpus, the articles focus on specific political developments, events, or discussions related to Russia.

	Iranian ongoing crisis	Russia's invasion of Ukraine	Taiwan-China- US tensions
Fox News	7	8	7
CNN	6	7	5
		Total:	40

Table 1 Distribution of articles across the two news agencies

The following is a summary of each of the articles that have been selected. A detailed listing of each article, along with publication dates, titles, author(s) and word counts, can be found in Appendix which provides a comprehensive overview of the corpus' contents, enabling a more focused discussion of the pragmatic and rhetorical elements contained in the thesis.

FN.R.01: Michael Allen argues that US support for Ukraine is vital for American security, international stability, preventing conflicts, maintaining economic stability, diminishing Russian military strength, and deterring China's aggression. FN.R.02: Senator Joni Ernst urges Congress to provide immediate lethal aid to Ukraine's military against Russian aggression, criticizing the Biden administration's response and highlighting the US's commitment to Ukraine's independence. FN.R.03: Haskins' Fox News article highlights Democratic presidents Clinton, Obama, and Biden's involvement in Ukraine crisis, arguing their decisions, including nuclear disarmament, failed Russian protection, and opposition to fossil fuels, weakened Ukraine. FN.R.04: Rep. Michael McCaul and Gen. Jack Keane suggest that President Joe Biden's commitment to victory could expedite the resolution of the Ukraine War. They argue that Ukraine lacks resources to secure victory and drive out Russian forces due to slow delivery of critical weapon systems. FN.R.05: Tucker Carlson criticizes Joe Biden's foreign policy record, highlighting Russia's invasion of Ukraine as a humiliating defeat and highlighting his lack of resolve and credibility in international challenges. FN.R.06: Rebecca Grant's Fox News opinion piece highlights \$3 billion in aid and Ukraine's counter-offensive as a turning point, dispelling fears of Russia's power and deterring Chinese military ambitions. FN.R.07: Knox Thames's Fox News article discusses Putin's manipulation of shared Christian heritage and Eastern Christian identity in Ukraine, raising concerns about religious freedom erosion. FN.R.08: Tucker Carlson criticizes Biden administration's funding of secret bio labs in

Ukraine, citing Rubio-Nuland exchange, highlighting research nature and potential material evasion implications.

CN.R.01: Jeffrey Sachs suggests a negotiated peace as the only solution to Russia's war on Ukraine, arguing that sanctions and military assistance are insufficient. CN.R.02: CNN's Frida Ghitis discusses Speaker Kevin McCarthy's vengeance-based decision not to appoint Schiff and Swalwell to the House Intelligence Committee, posing a potential national security threat. CN.R.03: Marion Messmer's opinion piece on March 2, 2023, explores the potential consequences of Russian President Putin's nuclear testing speech, arguing it could lead to a nuclear armament race and undermine international agreements. CN.R.04: CNN article by Daniel Treisman discusses Russia's invasion of Ukraine, offering six lessons learned, emphasizing individual leaders like Zelensky, underdog resilience, Russia's advantage, and Putin's mistakes. CN.R.05: CNN's opinion piece discusses Russia's war against Ukraine, highlighting recent defeats and Western resilience. It suggests Europe can sustain energy supply without Russia, weakening Russia's position. CN.R.06: Frida Ghitis criticizes the UN for its flaws, arguing that Russia's veto power at the Security Council prevents it from saving people, despite suspending Russia from the Human Rights Council. CN.R.07: Biden's Europe trip aims to counter Putin's actions, secure European assistance, fortify Ukraine's defenses, and rebuke his takeover, warning of an unprecedented war with Russia using chemical, biological, and nuclear arsenals. FN.I.01: Fox News article emphasizes President Biden's support for Iran protesters and sanctions enforcement, citing Iran's lax enforcement, money channeled into military and terrorist proxy forces, and the need for swift action. FN.I.02: Pat Fallon criticizes Biden's Iran policy, suggesting he should fire Special Envoy Rob Malley for initiating an Iranian reset due to Malley's ineffectiveness and lack of trust. FN.I.03: Brooke Goldstein's Fox News opinion piece highlights Iranian woman Mahsa Amini's tragic murder as a symbol of the country's violent and repressive nature towards opponents. FN.I.04: Judith Miller's Fox News article explores the potential impact of Mohsen Shekari's execution on Iranian protests, suggesting increased suppression efforts and potential collaboration with European and Asian allies. FN.I.05: Rebecca Grant's opinion piece, discusses Iran's protests, focusing on Amir Nasr-Azadani's death sentence and calls for stronger American leadership to pressurize Iran. FN.I.06: Lieberman and Mark D. urge the U.S. to abandon current Iran nuclear talks due to the Ukraine crisis. They propose waiting for a new Iranian president and keeping economic pressure on Iran in the meantime. FN.I.07: Rebecca Grant criticizes Biden administration's response to Iran protests, highlighting Mahsa Amini's death and suggesting a realistic approach

to diplomacy, despite new sanctions and improved internet access. CN.I.01: Frida Ghitis' 1190-word article "The Relentless Bravery of Iranian Protesters: A Moral Test for the Western World" highlights Iranian protesters' bravery and calls for Western moral support. CN.I.02: Kylie Moore-Gilbert, an Australian-British scholar, shares her perspective on the recent fire at Iran's Evin prison, discussing protest history and speculations, and providing a personal account. CN.I.03: Frida Ghitis critiques Iran's executions as a powerful tool for suppressing dissent, highlighting Iranian youth's resilience and the lack of international response. CN.I.04: Hamid Dabashi's opinion piece, "The imprisonment of this actress is bigger than Iran," discusses Taraneh Alidoosti's arrest and imprisonment for her role in the "Woman, Life, Freedom" movement. CN.I.05: Frida Ghitis' opinion piece "From Iran to Ukraine, David is staring down Goliath" highlights similarities between Iran's democracy struggle and Ukraine's desire to break free from oppressive chains. CN.I.06: Mariam Avlon's article highlights a global shift towards democracy, particularly in China, Iran, and Russia, indicating a renewed confidence in power and human liberty. FN.T.01: Michael Allen's, opinion piece discusses China's potential takeover of Taiwan, emphasizing public support's role in deterring aggression and the interconnectedness of national security, economy, and global geopolitics. FN.T.02: Lieutenant Colonel Robert Maginnis emphasizes Taiwan's need for US support against China, suggesting practical measures like anti-ship mines and mobile weaponry, and strengthening US military preparedness for potential Chinese attacks. FN.T.03: Senator Tom Cotton suggests President Biden should adopt a firmer stance towards China due to internal divisions within the U.S. government and military reticence, causing an international incident. FN.T.04: Chuck DeVore suggests China can learn from Russia's Ukraine conflict for Taiwan, focusing on effective offensive strategies, supplies, equipment, and accurate fire, while criticizing Biden administration's focus on Russia and Pacific region tensions. FN.T.05: Rebekah Koffler criticizes Biden administration for overlooking China's warning signs of war, citing recent airspace violations and mysterious downings, linking them to escalating tensions, especially regarding Taiwan. FN.T.06: Tucker Carlson criticizes Nancy Pelosi's Taiwan visit, highlighting the contrasting views on diversity between Chinese and American liberals, suggesting explanations, raising concerns about escalation, and criticizing the Biden administration's handling. FN.T.07: Chuck DeVore's opinion piece explores Biden's commitment to Taiwan's defense, its role as a computer chip exporter, and the potential repercussions of a Chinese invasion. CN.T.01: Clarissa Wei's CNN article highlights the disconnect between international geopolitical discourse and everyday realities, contrasting Taiwan's perceived conflict with the calm behavior of the Taiwanese population. CN.T.02:

CNN's opinion piece questions Elon Musk's global conflict expertise, suggesting vulnerability due to self-confidence and attention. It also discusses Musk's recent "peace" proposal for Ukraine and Putin-Xi Jinping interactions. CN.T.03: Jeffrey Sachs warns of a global stagflation period due to high inflation rates, potential slowdowns, supply chain disruptions, and geopolitical concerns, suggesting peace negotiations. CN.T.04: CNN article by David A. Andelman discusses President Joe Biden's readiness to aid Taiwan in case of China's attack, highlighting complexities, regional alliances, and potential provocation consequences. CN.T.05: Frida Ghitis' opinion piece discusses House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's potential visit to Taiwan, highlighting controversy, risks, China's reaction, and potential timing with Xi Jinping's economic challenges.

4. Methodology

4.1 Research Design

In this study, mixed methods are used to offer an in-depth view of the topic and a way of measuring and analysing data that is unbiased and consistent. Qualitative research is well-suited to the topic at hand because it is exploratory and tries to understand the variation and subtleties of CNN's and Fox News's linguistic strategies and rhetorical devices. A researcher is able to understand the different ways in which news media writers utilize language to persuade and contribute to political discourses. Qualitative research is essential because it offers a comprehensive view of the rhetorical devices and linguistic features used by CNN and Fox News in their opinion articles. It can provide a full scope of the ways that emotive language, metaphorical expressions, modal verbs, and sentence structures help in the persuasion meant to influence readers. Particularly in news media writing, qualitative research is useful in highlighting implied and subtle meanings presented through language and the involved politics and ideology. Therefore, this research is crucial to understand the frames and presentation of political news and the possible impact on potential public opinion. The framing methods and presentation methods utilized of these two news providers, such as selection, emphasis, interpretation, build to shape a reality for the readers, are some of the elements that are being discussed here. Thus, to determine the quantity and quality of CNN and Fox News linguistic devices and rhetorical strategies, quantitative evaluations are also used in this study. Researchers use quantitative analysis to measure, analyse, and interpret patterns, trends, and themes or relationships within data which makes it more efficient and generalizable. Therefore, through the quantitative assessment of the frequency and percentage of linguistic features and

rhetorical devices used in their opinion articles, it is possible to determine how the news media writing style and strategic publicity are comparative.

It is possible to quantify and compare the use of emotive language, metaphorical expressions, modal verbs, and sentence structures across a large sample of articles with quantitative analysis. A comparison of CNN and Fox News, achieved through calculating the frequency and proportion of such elements across each article and the entire dataset, allows for the identification of trends and patterns that might otherwise remain obscured by qualitative analysis alone. Therefore, it is possible to gain a greater understanding of the linguistic and rhetorical strategies used by these outlets and the effects that they may have on public opinion as a result.

A quantitative evaluation can also facilitate the testing of specific hypotheses regarding the language used in news media. To determine if certain linguistic characteristics correlate with specific ideological and political positions, CNN and Fox News employ different emotive language or metaphorical expressions.

Mixed methods approach offer several key advantages over either method alone. By combining the strengths of both approaches, it allows for a more comprehensive and multifaceted understanding of the rhetorical and linguistic strategies of CNN and Fox News. A qualitative study allows the researcher to explore subtle differences in language use, while a quantitative study measures and compares these elements systematic and objectively.

Furthermore, a mixed-methods approach improves validity and reliability by allowing one method to corroborate or challenge another's findings. Quantitative measures of frequency and proportion can be used to confirm the qualitative findings that CNN uses more emotive language than Fox News. It may also be possible to use qualitative analysis to investigate specific ways in which metaphorical expressions are employed between the two outlets and their impact on reader perceptions and understanding if quantitative analysis reveals significant differences.

Additionally, a mixed-methods approach permits a flexible and adaptive research design, allowing the researcher to adjust the study as new insights and questions arise. In news media writing, this is especially important, as political events and public discourse are rapidly changing, so the researcher must adapt their approach to capture the most relevant and

significant aspects of the phenomenon. Qualitative and quantitative methods are combined to ensure that the study is responsive to the evolving context and provides meaningful insights.

An understanding of the linguistic and rhetorical strategies employed by CNN and Fox News in their opinion articles can only be achieved by using a mixed-methods approach that incorporates qualitative and quantitative evaluations. It is possible to generate rich and detailed insights into how these influential media outlets shape public opinion and contribute to the broader political discourse by combining the strengths of both approaches. This study ensures validity, reliability, and generalizability.

4.2 Data collection

The study includes data collection through a systematic and exhaustive procedure resulting in accurate, complete, and representative data. The two largest and most influential news outlets in the United States were selected as the main data sources, including CNN and Fox News. It was noted that they were chosen because they shape opinion and discourse in the markets, have a reputation for bringing various points of view into discussion. In total, 40 articles, including 22 Fox News and 18 CNN articles, were selected for the source of the total database. Using the design of the study, the number of article sources is considered adequate because it allows the researcher to analyze a sufficient number and variety of articles and is also feasible in terms of resources and time required. Three particular geopolitical issues related to the articles were the current Iranian crisis, Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and US-China-Taiwan tensions. Given that these are the main issues in contemporary international relations, they are also well covered in the media and thus provide a suitable material for this study. The Iranian crisis was covered with seven articles in Fox News and six in CNN; Russia's Ukraine conflict – eight and seven correspondingly; and seven articles in Fox News and five in CNN reflected US-China-Taiwan tensions. Although the articles were not evenly distributed between the issues or the sources, this distribution allows for a relatively equal representation of each source and topic. Other criteria when selecting articles were the topic and the source. Thus, in order to make sure that the researcher relies on the latest and most relevant articles on a particular issue, the publication year should be considered, and in this case they were all from 2022. This approach makes it easier to control for different reporting techniques or focus areas.

Additionally, articles were selected according to length and format, with an emphasis on substantive analyses and commentary. CNN and Fox News articles must meet this criterion in

order to be able to be analysed in detail for linguistic and rhetorical strategies, and to provide a representative sample of their broader opinion content.

Furthermore, articles were selected to reflect a wide range of authors and perspectives within each outlet, capturing the diversity of opinions and voices. Using this method minimizes biases caused by focusing on a narrow set of authors or perspectives and ensures that the dataset represents each outlet's editorial stance and approach in its entirety.

For each selected article, data were collected using a standardized database. The data collected included:

1. Topic: The main theme or focus of the article, classified as the Iranian crisis, Russia-Ukraine conflict, or Taiwan-China-US tensions.
2. Source: The news outlet from which the article was collected, CNN or Fox News.
3. ID: Unique identifier assigned to each article, following a standardized format that includes the source, topic, and article number (e.g., FN_Iran_01, CNN_Ukraine_03).
4. Date of publication: The specific date the article was published on the news outlet's website, recorded in a standardized format (e.g., YYYY-MM-DD).
5. Title: The full headline or title of the opinion article, as it appears on the news outlet's website.
6. Author: The name(s) of the author(s) of the opinion article, as listed in the by-line or attribution.
7. Category: The classification of the article is based on Searle's speech acts, such as assertive, directive, expressive, commissive, or declarative.
8. Word count: The total number of words in the article, excluding captions, headlines, or other non-article text.
9. URL: The full web address or URL of the opinion article on the news outlet's website, recorded in a standardized format.

By using this structured database approach, all pertinent information regarding each article is captured consistently and in an organized manner, which facilitates the subsequent analysis and comparison of the articles. In addition to minimizing errors and inconsistencies, the use of standardized formats and categories ensures reliability and reproducibility of the dataset.

As well as the structured database, each article's full text was collected and stored separately. This was so that linguistic and rhetorical strategies could be investigated in greater detail. Employing this method grants the researcher access to the entirety of each article, enabling the referencing of specific passages or examples as needed.

This study's data collection process focuses on ensuring accuracy, completeness, and representativeness, along with facilitation of analysis and comparison. It provides a solid foundation for examining the linguistic and rhetorical strategies used to shape public opinion and understanding of key geopolitical issues by using a systematic and structured approach that captures the diversity and complexity of opinion content produced by CNN and Fox News.

Moreover, this study recognizes the importance of relating the findings to the metadata supplied by the texts themselves, such as the date, topic, and news source. By considering these contextual factors, the study aims to uncover patterns and trends in the linguistic and rhetorical strategies employed by CNN and Fox News that may be influenced by the specific circumstances surrounding each article. This metadata-driven analysis will involve comparing the frequency and distribution of linguistic features across different topics, investigating variations in language use over time, and assessing differences between the two news sources. Integrating this approach into the mixed-methods methodology constitutes a key strength of the study, as it allows for a more comprehensive and nuanced understanding of the complex interplay between language, context, and media outlet.

4.3 Data Analysis

In order to examine CNN and Fox News' linguistic and rhetorical strategies in their opinion articles, a multifaceted approach is used to analyse the data. A pragmatic analysis of headlines and a rhetorical grammar analysis of the texts are the two main components.

This is a statistical method used to determine the degree of variation or dispersion of a set of data values. This is one of the most used statistics to measure the spread around a data set's mean (average). In order to better understand the spread out of a data set, standard deviations are used extensively. The standard deviation will be small if the values are near the mean, indicating that the data points are clustered closely around the mean if the values are close to the mean. On the other hand, a large standard deviation suggests that the data points are dispersed over a wider range.

Another significant statistical measure is normalized frequency, which serves to standardize the frequency of occurrences within datasets of varying sizes, allowing for comparative analysis. The score is determined by dividing the number of occurrences of a particular element by the total number of elements in the dataset. For easier understanding, this ratio is often multiplied by a constant factor, such as 100 or 1000. Through this method of normalization, differences in dataset size are compensated for. This ensures that comparisons reflect differences in the relative frequency of elements rather than differences resulting solely from dataset size differences. Normalized frequency allows comparison of usage rates for specific words across texts of varying lengths in textual analysis. This approach eliminates bias introduced by document size differences.

Normalized frequency can be applied to a number of fields, such as linguistics, where it helps assess word commonality across corpora, market research, which analyses consumer behaviour patterns as a function of the total number of interactions, and environmental studies, which evaluate the frequency of phenomena such as rainfall across different regions. In addition to enhancing the comparability and fairness of data analyses across disparate datasets, this measure also improves the interpretability of results by providing a better understanding of how frequently elements occur relative to their context.

4.3.1 A Pragmatic Study of Headlines

As part of the analysis, pragmatic strategies are examined in the headlines of selected opinion pieces. The headline attracts readers, frames the article, and sets the tone for subsequent discussion. News outlets can use headlines to reveal rhetorical strategies and ideological positions.

According to Al-Hindawi and Hmood Ali (2018), linguistic and pragmatic features of headlines can be analysed through a pragmatic study. In this approach, readers are systematically examined for their perceptions and understanding of headlines, including their sentence structures, speech acts, and implicatures. It examines the sentence structures in headlines as part of the pragmatic analysis. The data is analysed by categorizing headlines by their syntactic structure, such as simple, compound, or complex sentences. CNN and Fox News' sentence structures can be compared to identify potential differences in their rhetorical styles and impact on reader engagement.

Headlines can convey a sense of urgency or directness through short, simple sentences, but a more nuanced or analytical perspective may be conveyed by longer, more complex sentences. In headlines, questions, commands, or declarative statements can serve a variety of rhetorical purposes, such as engaging the reader, directing their attention, or asserting a particular point of view.

Besides sentence structures, pragmatic analysis examines how illocutionary acts are used in the headlines, according to Searle's (1975) classification of illocutionary acts. Each headline is categorised according to its primary speech act: assertive, directive, expressive, commissive, or declarative. CNN and Fox News use different rhetorical strategies to engage and influence their audiences based on the frequency and distribution of these speech acts across the dataset.

A headline can use directive speech acts to encourage a reader to take action or adopt a particular perspective, while an outlet can use expressive speech acts, such as praise and criticism, to express its stance or opinion. Assertive speech acts such as statements or claims can be used to present information as authoritative or factual, while commissive speech acts such as promises or pledges can signal the outlet's commitment.

The pragmatic analysis also critically considers the use of implicatures and presuppositions in the news headlines. Implicature refers to any linguistic action used to communicate both information and the meaning, while presuppositions operate on the level of information treated as known and requiring no further proof. Two ideas are related, and they represent an attempt to determine how these two issues are used to encode additional information on an implicit level. For instance, both definite descriptions and factive verbs can be used as presuppositions to present something as already known or accepted, and both irony and metaphor are often used as implicatures, conveying the meaning or connotation beyond the statement comprised in the headline. These aspects provide perspective on how CNN and Fox News frame and present opinion content and its perception by the reader. Furthermore, it also enables an understanding of the cultural, social, and political conditions both appeared in.

4.3.2 Rhetorical Grammar Study of Texts

The final aspect of the current analysis concerns the full-text linguistic analysis of the chosen opinion articles. Rhetorical grammar is used to discuss how grammatical and linguistic choices help to produce certain rhetorical effects, including persuasion, emphasis, and coherence. By

examining the linguistic aspects directly, one may obtain an understanding of how CNN and Fox News talk to their viewers regarding key geopolitical themes. Personal pronouns, emotive language, and metaphorical expressions represent the linguistic devices and features that are analyzed in rhetorical grammar. Not only do these create an important view of how language may be used to persuade and affect viewers, but each performs a specific function in the overall rhetoric of the news articles. The notion must be discussed when analyzing news articles and rhetoric. erotiske features; When examining the rhetorical grammar of news articles, personal pronouns represent an essential linguistic element to take into account . Using the words “we,” “you,” “they,” and “us” allows the speaker to interact more directly with the audience or may convey the distance that exists between the individual and the speaker. CNN and Fox News use these elements in their writing to make the most significant impact on the reader’s perception of the text. This may also be a component of the overall rhetoric that the individual does not understand. Firstly, linguistic elements can recast the narrative voice. For example, “we” and “us” will make the writer feel more comfortable among their audience. When the message is intended to make the audience feel the same way about a topic or action, it is a rhetorical choice. On the other hand, exclusive voice “they” or “them” will establish a barrier between the audience and the subject. This may be a useful tool in world views with clear lines between both sides. Such techniques may have distracting applications, deviating from their primary aims. For example, noticing a channel use “we” for national problems exposes its intention to bring the national audience closer. In contrast, a channel’s frequent use of “they” for different groups and nations suggests a more hostile or competitive voice.

It is possible to gain insight into how CNN and Fox News manage their audience relationships by examining the use and distribution of personal pronouns across articles. An analysis of this can indicate if the news outlet is trying to set its audience apart from an out-group or draw them closer to a shared in-group, which impacts how the audience perceives the information.

The audience's focus can also be directed by personal pronouns strategically. A news story can be perceived as more personal if its sentences use personal pronouns heavily instead of impersonal constructions. As a result, emotional impact can be enhanced, increasing engagement with the information.

In emotive language, words and phrases evoke strong emotional responses or connotations, like "devastating," "heart-breaking," or "triumph." The researcher can identify potential differences between CNN and Fox News employing emotional appeals to engage and influence

their readers by examining the frequency and distribution of emotive language across the dataset. A particular issue may be stressed by using more intense or negative emotive language, whereas a particular event or outcome may be emphasized by using more positive or celebratory language.

Metaphors are figurative expressions used to convey meaning or insight by comparing things to one another. Metaphors assist in simplifying complicated ideas, evoking vivid imagery, and framing arguments. Studying metaphorical expressions in the articles can provide insight into how CNN and Fox News use figurative language to shape public understanding and opinion. Political tensions or disputes may be described as aggression or confrontation using military or conflict metaphors, while movements or developments may be described using journey or progress metaphors.

Combining quantitative and qualitative techniques, rhetorical grammar analysis is conducted. Quantitative analysis identifies and measures the frequency and distribution of specific linguistic features across a dataset using software such as AntConc Tools (Anthony 2023). In this way, descriptive statistics, concordances, and collocation networks can be generated, providing a broad overview of the data's linguistic patterns.

During qualitative analysis, linguistic features and devices are examined in depth and interpretively, as well as the potential effects of these choices on reader perception and understanding. In addition to close reading and annotation of individual articles, comparative analysis may be used. Concepts and methods from fields such as discourse analysis, pragmatics, and stylistics may guide the qualitative analysis.

A rhetorical grammar analysis uses quantitative and qualitative techniques to examine how CNN and Fox News use language to influence public opinion and understanding. In addition to revealing the ideological and political positions of the outlets, this analysis can shed light on their broader cultural and social contexts. Language can also provide insights into how readers are influenced and persuaded, as well as how this may affect public discourse.

4.4 Limitations

The study presents a comprehensive and rigorous analysis of CNN and Fox News's rhetorical and linguistic strategies in their opinion articles; however, a number of limitations and ethical considerations should be noted.

It may not be fully representative of the broader range of opinion content produced by these outlets due to the relatively small sample size of 40 articles in this study. It is possible that a larger or more diverse sample may yield different or more nuanced results than the sample that was carefully selected to ensure a balanced representation of various topics and sources. A larger corpus of articles could be analysed in future research, or additional news outlets or media formats may be included.

There is also the limitation of the focus on written opinion articles, which may not accurately represent other forms of media, such as television, social media, and multimedia. The dynamic or interactive nature of other media formats may not be reflected in written articles, which provide a rich source of data for linguistic analysis. Language and rhetorical strategies may be used differently across different media platforms, and how these choices may be affected by their specific affordances and constraints.

Additionally, qualitative analysis of data may be subject to subjectivity or bias. As with qualitative research, there is always some degree of interpretation and judgment involved, even though the study aims to provide a systematic and rigorous analysis of linguistic and rhetorical strategies.

There are several ethical considerations to consider in addition to these limitations. Accuracy and integrity of data collection and analysis are important considerations. There is no direct interaction with human subjects in the study, as data is publicly available from CNN and Fox News websites. The data must still be collected and analysed in an unbiased and accurate way, and the findings need to be reported accurately and transparently.

In addition, the potential impact of the study on public discourse and understanding is an ethical consideration. A key objective of the study is to gain insights into how language shapes public opinion and understanding by analysing the rhetoric and linguistic strategies used by influential news outlets. In addition, readers may be manipulated or deceived, or ideological or political agendas may be promoted. Based on the findings of this study, it is imperative that such data is used responsibly and ethically, as well as considering the implications for public discourse and understanding.

As well as the broader social and cultural context in which the study is conducted, the results may have a different impact on different communities and stakeholders. Its findings may not

be directly applicable to other cultures or linguistic contexts because it focuses on two prominent news outlets in the United States. Language and rhetoric must be studied with sensitivity and respect for different cultural norms and values, considering the diversity and complexity of media landscapes around the world.

Even with these limitations and ethical concerns, this study provides important insights into how language shapes public opinion and understanding of key geopolitical issues and provides valuable contributions to linguistic analysis and media studies. A comprehensive and nuanced understanding of the linguistic and rhetorical strategies used by CNN and Fox News in their opinion articles is sought by combining quantitative and qualitative techniques, as well as rigorous and systematic data collection and analysis. Moreover, the study can contribute to broader discussions about media literacy and the role of media in public discourse.

5. Results

The results section presents the findings of the study, which aimed to investigate the pragmatic and rhetorical strategies employed in political headlines and articles. The assessments encompassed various aspects, including speech act frequencies, rhetorical features, and the relationship between particular linguistic choices and the political orientations, motivations, and agendas of the writers. The following presentation of findings is organised into subsections based on the research questions, wherein the raw result for each assessment is presented and subsequently clarified with corresponding explanations.

5.1. What are the pragmatic strategies employed to construct persuasive political headlines at the level of speech acts?

5.1.1. Distribution of speech act frequencies in selected news headlines

Distribution of speech act frequencies in selected news headlines

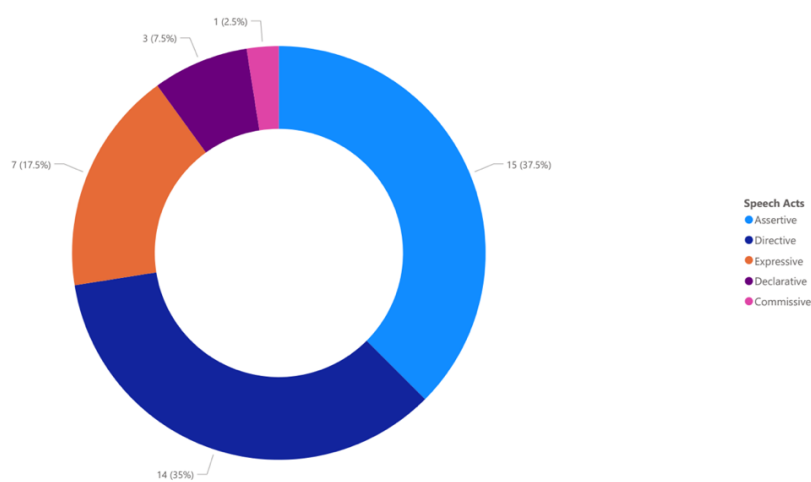


Figure 1 Distribution of speech act frequencies in selected news headline.

In Figure 1, the pie chart depicts a representation of the frequency and percentage of each identified speech act category in the discourse. According to the chart, five distinct categories of speech acts are attested in the headlines of the texts making up the present corpus: expressive, commissive, declarative, directive, and assertive. As a result, the rhetorical strategies employed in this discourse can be categorized according to these different types of speech acts.

It is clear that assertive acts play a crucial role in the discourse, and that they account for the largest proportion at 37.5% (n=15). It is more preferred to establish credibility and authority in the discourse through assertive acts, characterized by the conveyance of information, beliefs, or factual statements. This preference appears to result in a strategy of emphasizing the presentation of facts and assertions, likely to increase the persuasiveness and substantive weight of the discourse.

Directive acts, being a close second to assertive acts, account for 35% (n=14) of all speech acts, indicating the focus of the discourse is primarily on influencing audience behaviour. As these acts suggest, commands, requests, or instructions are frequently employed, which indicates a focus on directing the audience towards specific actions or behaviours, possibly in order to accomplish specific goals. Assertive and directive acts are almost equally balanced, indicating the use of a discussion strategy that emphasizes the dissemination of information and the active involvement of the audience.

As a portion of the total speech acts, expressive acts represent a moderate percentage of 17.5% (n=7), which are those that establish facts or states of affairs. Expressive acts, with 7 headlines out of the total, offer a window into the speaker's personal insight, attitudes, and emotional states. Even though the number of headlines for assertive acts is significantly fewer than for directive acts, they are crucial for conveying the speaker's sincerity and personal investment in

the discourse. This collection of 7 expressive acts provides a way of humanizing the information conveyed through assertive acts and bolstering the calls to action made by directive actions by adding depth. They enhance the discourse's overall impact and make it more persuasive and relatable to the audience by providing a nuanced layer that can foster empathy and emotional engagement.

There are a small number of declarative acts, which serve to bring about change in the status or condition of the external context by their utterance, at 7.5% (n=3) of the total. Despite the relatively low frequency of declarative acts, it is possible to assume that the reluctance to issue explicit declaratives is due to a desire to maintain a respectful, non-authoritative discourse, or to avoid appearing overly prescriptive.

Out of all speech acts, only a small percentage (2.5%, n=1) fall under the category of commissive speech acts, which involve commitments made by the speaker regarding future behaviour.

In the distribution of speech act categories, the standard deviation of 6.13 (headlines) indicates substantial variability. As a result of this high standard deviation, it is reasonable to conclude that on average, the number of headlines associated with each speech act varies considerably from the mean frequency of about eight headlines associated with each speech act. In some categories, such as assertive and directive, the distribution is closely clustered around the mean, indicating that they are used consistently, whereas in others, such as commissive, the distribution is more dispersed, indicating that they are used sporadically.

Figure 1 presents a comprehensive analysis of the frequency and distribution of a variety of speech act categories in a discourse in which the various categories of speech act are used. As a result of (i) the dominance of assertive and directive acts, (ii) the moderate frequency of expressive acts, (iii) the relative scarcity of declarative and commissive acts, and (iv) the marked variability in the distributions (as indicated by the standard deviation), the rhetorical strategies at work in the discourse are clearly evident. A closer examination of the content of the discourse illustrates the complexity of the positioning and engages the reader with emotional engagement, commitment language, definitive declarations, inducements to action and factual assertions, each of which is employed in varying degrees and with varying consistency throughout the discourse.

5.1.2. Comparison between two news agencies on the frequency of speech acts.

There is an examination in Figure 2 of CNN's and Fox News' headlines in relation to the usage of speech acts. This study aims to reveal the distinct and subtle ways in which these outlets use language to convey political news and shape public opinion in different ways by examining the frequency of Expressive, Commissive, Declarative, Directive and Assertive speech acts in each of these outlets.

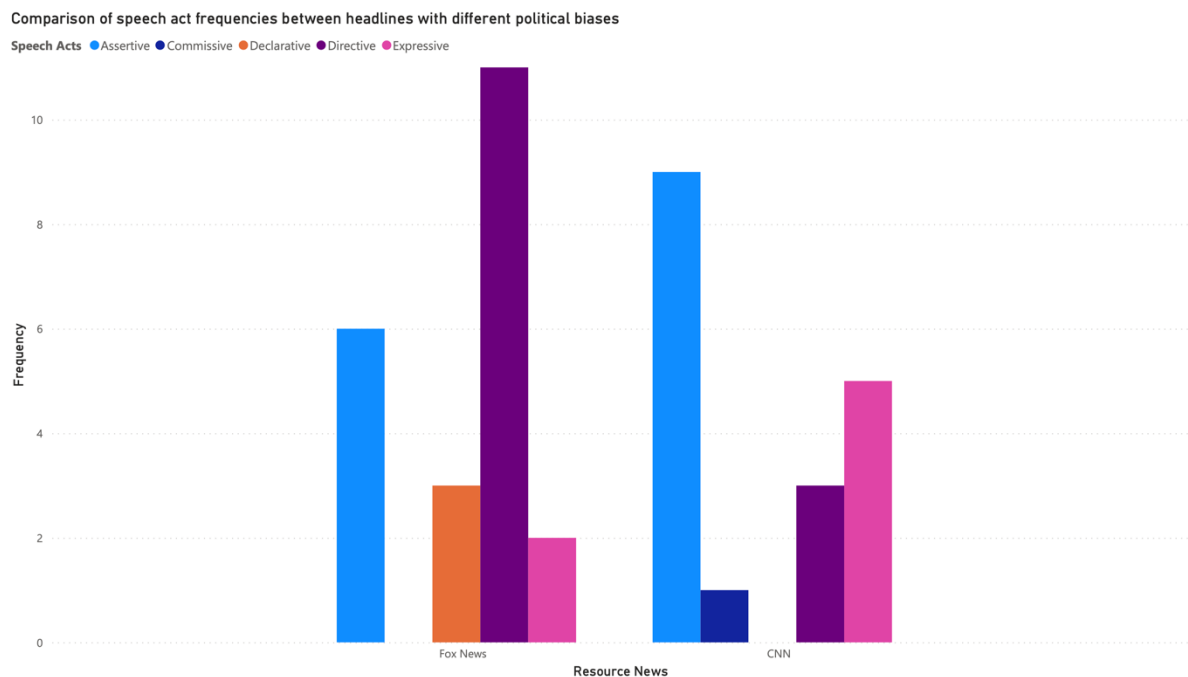


Figure 2 Comparison of speech act frequencies between headlines of news agencies

In CNN headlines, expressive speech acts, which convey subjective emotions or attitudes, are used a lot more frequently. The CNN headlines had 5 expressive speech acts, compared to 2 from Fox News, out of a total sample of 40 headlines (22 headlines from Fox News and 18 from CNN).

It has been observed that Fox News employs directive speech acts more frequently than CNN News. These speech acts are essentially instructions or requests that prompt the audience to perform specific actions. In fact, Fox News headlines have been found to contain 11 instances of such acts, while CNN News only has 3. Nevertheless, CNN News seems to be adopting a

strategic approach of increasing the use of directive speech acts. In the field of political communication, directive speech acts can be seen as a powerful tool for setting the agenda.

Both outlets use assertive speech acts sparingly. Fox News uses assertive speech acts in six out of forty headlines, whereas CNN uses assertive speech acts nine out of forty times. As a result of this comparative analysis, it becomes clear that CNN and Fox News employ different linguistic strategies.

5.1.3. Comparison of speech act frequencies across different topics (Iranian ongoing crisis, Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, Taiwan-China- US tensions).

Iranian ongoing crisis:

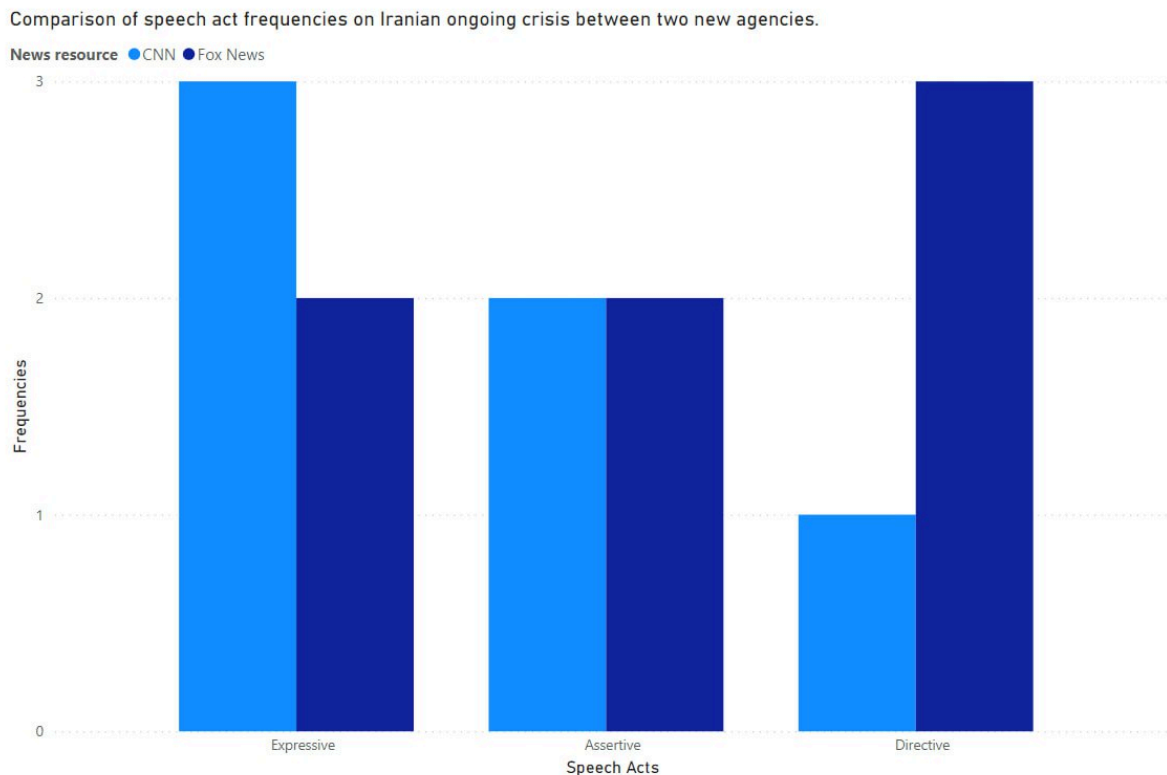


Figure 3 Comparison of speech act frequencies on Iranian ongoing crisis between two news agencies.

As a result of CNN and Fox News' coverage of the Iranian ongoing crisis, figure 3 provides a comparative visualization of the frequency of speech acts. In the bar chart, the X-axis categorizes speech acts into three categories: expressive, assertive, and directive, and the Y-axis measures the frequency of these speech acts according to each network's coverage. There was no evidence of other speech acts, such as declarative or commissive, in Iran's topic headline.

The first category on the X-axis in Figure 3 consists of expressive speech acts. These are utterances expressing a speaker's psychological state, emotions, or attitudes. Expressions of regret, condemnation, joy, or other emotional states regarding the reported events may constitute expressive speech acts in media coverage. The data indicates that CNN's coverage of the Iranian crisis contains three expressive headlines, as indicated by the sky-blue bar. Compared to Fox News, which is represented by a navy-blue bar, there are only two expressive headlines.

The second category on the X-axis consists of assertive speech acts, which are statements made by the speaker that express the speaker's belief or convey information that the speaker believes is true. An assertion or statement of fact conveys the speaker's commitment to the proposition's truth value. The frequency of assertive speech acts across the Iranian ongoing crisis on CNN and Fox News is equal to two, indicating that both networks have reported two instances of assertive speech acts.

Finally, the third category consists of directive speech acts. Directive speech acts are attempts by the speaker to get the hearer to do something. Such speech includes commands, requests, suggestions, and other forms intended to influence the audience's behaviour. As part of media coverage, these could be calls to action, policy recommendations, or other guidance directed toward the audience or other stakeholders. There is a divergence in Directive speech acts between CNN and Fox News, as indicated by their respective bars. CNN has one instance of the directive speech act, while Fox News has three.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine:

Figure 4 presents the frequency of the attested speech acts in CNN and Fox News headlines regarding the Russian invasion of Ukraine. All five speech acts being part of Searle's framework (i.e. assertive, directive, declarative, commissive and expressive) are represented across the two news outlets. There are two coloured bars displayed on the chart for each speech act category, each representing the raw number of headlines from each news source that were categorized as that speech act.

CNN headlines display a significantly higher frequency of assertive speech acts than Fox News headlines. Five assertive speech acts were identified in the CNN headline sample. However,

only one assertive speech act was identified in the sample of Fox News headlines in the texts providing commentary on the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

An opposite pattern was found in the case of directive speech acts, when compared to assertives: the analysis revealed that Fox News headlines had a higher frequency of directive speech acts, with four of the headlines being classified as directives. CNN headlines did not contain any instances of directive speech acts in the sample analysed.

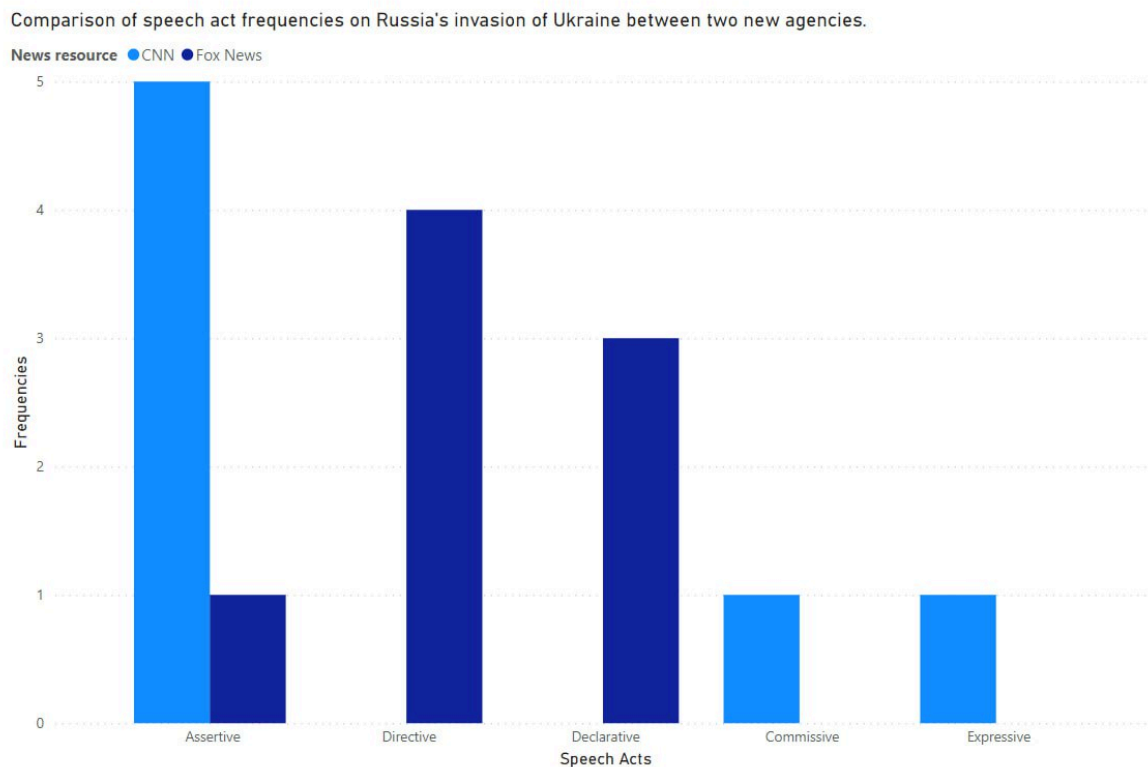


Figure 4 Comparison of speech act frequencies on Russia's invasion of Ukraine between two news agencies.

Similarly to directives, declarative speech acts exhibit a distribution where Fox News headlines contains more instances than CNN headlines. In the Fox News sample, three headlines were classified as declarative. In contrast, CNN headlines were not found to include any instances of declarative speech acts. Compared to declarative and directive speech acts, commissive speech acts were more common in CNN headlines. On the other hand, Fox News headlines contained no instances of commissive speech acts. Regarding expressive speech acts, CNN had one headline identified as expressive, whereas Fox News did not have any expressive speech acts, as per the results yielded by the present study.

Taiwan-China-US tensions:

In the analysis presented in Figure 5, three speech act categories were identified in CNN and Fox News headlines concerned with the Taiwan-China-US crisis: directives, assertives, and expressives. The chart illustrates the raw counts of headlines from each news source that fall into each speech act category using differentially coloured bars.

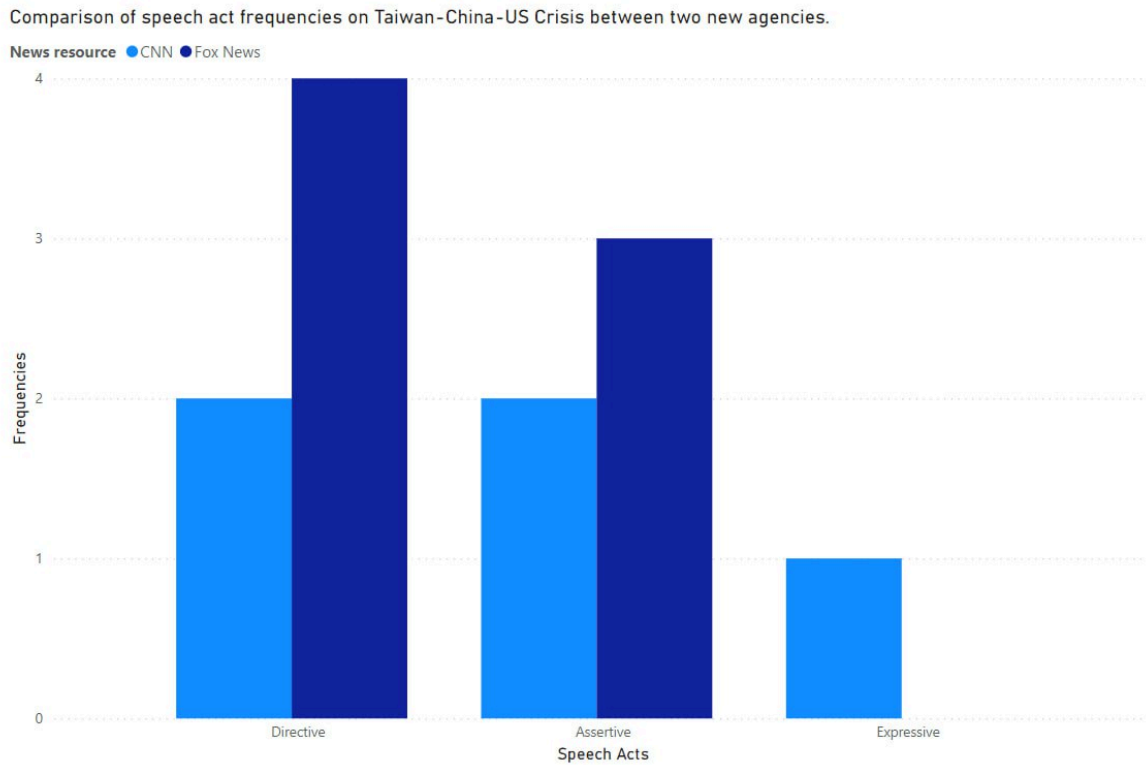


Figure 5 Comparison of speech act frequencies on Taiwan-China-US crisis between two news agencies.

According to the results, Fox News headlines contained more directive speech acts than CNN headlines. In particular, there were four directive speech acts identified among the Fox News headlines. By contrast, CNN headlines concerned with the Taiwan-China-US crisis had two directive speech acts identified among them. Assertive speech acts display a similar pattern to directives. Based on the analysis, Fox News headlines had slightly higher rates of assertive speech acts, with three headlines classified as assertive. CNN headlines had two instances of assertive speech acts in the sample analysed for this study.

5.2. How do political writers seek to convey rhetorical persuasiveness to their texts in general through the use of specific grammatical choices?

5.2.1. Tabulated Overview of First-Person and Second-Person Personal Pronoun Incidence in the Corpus

In this regard, the corpus entitled under consideration is presented as a table with an explanation of the frequency of personal pronouns in the entire text corpus, specifically those related to the speaker in the first person and to the audience in the second person.

Texts including at least one instance of:	Count:
First person pronouns	38
Second person pronouns	13
No instance of first/second person pronoun	2

Table 2 Articles including at least one instance of personal pronouns.

As such, this table reveals its purpose of making it visually clear and straightforward whether or not these pronouns are present in the corpus. Thus, the total number of texts containing one or the other cases of the first-person personal pronouns is 38. This category includes pronouns associated with the speaker or speaker-related collectivization: we, I, me, etc. Concurrently, the number of texts containing one or more cases of the second-person personal pronouns is 13. This category includes cases where the speaker addresses the listener in the syntax of the text. Furthermore, the data tells that there are two texts in the corpus that have a frequency of presence of both cases equal to zero. Thus, based on the above information, a complete picture of the use of personal pronouns is obtained.

5.2.2. Normalised frequencies of personal pronouns across various text IDs

The following table presents the normalized frequencies (N.F.) of personal pronouns across various text IDs, categorized into first-person and second-person pronouns. The total normalized frequencies of personal pronouns range from 0 to 4.75, indicating a wide variation in personal pronoun usage among texts.

First-person pronouns are more prevalent than second-person pronouns across the majority of the text IDs. Out of the 40 texts, 38 texts contain first-person pronouns, while only 13 texts contain second-person pronouns. In texts where both pronoun types are present, the normalized

frequencies of first-person pronouns are consistently higher than those of second-person pronouns. Some texts, such as FN.R.08 (4.75), FN.R.05 (3.99), and FN.T.06 (3.23), exhibit remarkably high frequencies of personal pronouns. On the other hand, texts like FN.I.01, FN.I.04, CN.I.04 (0.17), and FN.I.05 (0.12) have zero or very low normalised frequencies of personal pronouns.

Comparing the different text categories, the FN.R category shows the highest variability in personal pronoun usage, with frequencies ranging from 0.19 to 4.75. The FN.I category, in contrast, has relatively lower frequencies and less variability, with most texts having frequencies below 1.00. The FN.T and FN.R categories generally have higher normalized frequencies of personal pronouns compared to the FN.I and CN.I categories. For example, FN.T.06 has a frequency of 3.23, and FN.R.08 has a frequency of 4.75, while most texts in the FN.I and CN.I categories have frequencies below 1.00.

There are a few instances where the distribution of first-person and second-person pronouns is relatively balanced. FN.R.05 has equal frequencies of 2.00 for both pronoun types, and FN.T.06 has frequencies of 1.95 for first-person pronouns and 1.29 for second-person pronouns. Some texts, such as FN.I.01 and FN.I.04, have no instances of personal pronouns at all, with normalized frequencies of 0.00 for both first-person and second-person pronouns.

Within each text category, there are variations in personal pronoun usage. For example, in the FN.R category, texts like FN.R.01 (0.82), FN.R.03 (0.19), and FN.R.07 (0.47) have lower frequencies, while FN.R.05 (3.99) and FN.R.08 (4.75) have much higher frequencies.

The CN.R category shows a relatively consistent pattern, with most texts having normalized frequencies between 0.09 and 1.35. The FN.I and CN.I categories have a mix of texts with no personal pronouns and those with low frequencies, generally below 1.00. In the FN.T category, FN.T.02 (2.04) and FN.T.06 (3.23) have the highest frequencies of personal pronouns, while the other texts have frequencies below 1.00. The CN.T category also has texts with higher frequencies, such as CN.T.01 (2.71) and CN.T.03 (2.33), compared to the other texts in the category. These observations highlight the diverse patterns of personal pronoun usage across the different text IDs and categories. The data reveals a wide range of frequencies, with some texts heavily utilizing personal pronouns while others use them sparingly or not at all.

Text ID	Personal Pronoun		
	Total	First Person:	Second Person:
	N.F.	N.F.	N.F.
FN.R.01	0,82	0,82	-
FN.R.02	1,75	1,67	0,08
FN.R.03	0,19	0,19	-
FN.R.04	0,78	0,78	-
FN.R.05	3,99	2,00	2,00
FN.R.06	0,70	0,56	0,14
FN.R.07	0,47	0,47	-
FN.R.08	4,75	3,46	1,30
CN.R.01	1,35	1,35	-
CN.R.02	0,74	0,59	0,15
CN.R.03	0,79	0,71	0,08
CN.R.04	0,83	0,83	-
CN.R.05	0,09	0,09	-
CN.R.06	0,16	0,16	-
CN.R.07	0,84	0,84	-
FN.I.01	-	-	-
FN.I.02	0,46	0,31	0,15
FN.I.03	0,18	0,18	-
FN.I.04	-	-	-
FN.I.05	0,12	0,12	-
FN.I.06	0,85	0,85	-
FN.I.07	0,53	0,40	0,13
CN.I.01	0,50	0,50	-
CN.I.02	1,89	1,89	-
CN.I.03	0,42	0,42	-
CN.I.04	0,17	0,17	-
CN.I.05	0,41	0,32	0,08
CN.I.06	0,61	0,36	0,24
FN.T.01	0,53	0,53	-
FN.T.02	2,04	2,04	-
FN.T.03	0,55	0,55	-
FN.T.04	0,31	0,31	-
FN.T.05	0,68	0,68	-
FN.T.06	3,23	1,95	1,29
FN.T.07	0,87	0,87	-
CN.T.01	2,71	2,71	-
CN.T.02	0,70	0,47	0,23
CN.T.03	2,33	2,33	-
CN.T.04	0,92	0,92	-
CN.T.05	1,37	1,19	0,18

Table 3 Normalised frequencies of personal pronouns across various text IDs

5.2.3. Comparison of normalized frequencies of first and second person pronouns across the entire corpus

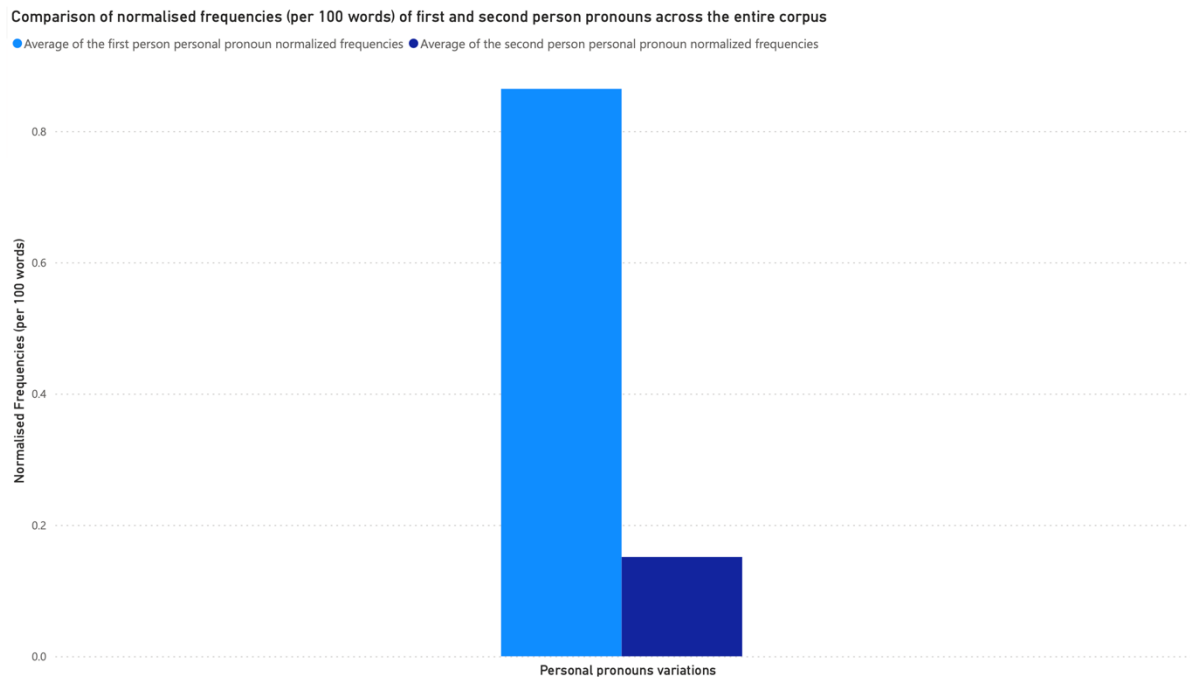


Figure 6 Comparison of normalized frequencies of first and second person pronouns across the entire corpus.

Considering the remarkably high normalized frequency with which the first-person and second-person personal pronouns were used across the whole corpus, as shown in figure 6, the differences between the pronoun categories were prominent. With the first-person personal pronouns' average normalized frequency depicted by a bar of over 0.8, their representation surpassed the second-person pronouns' category by far. The second-person pronouns, in turn, appeared so tiny in comparison that their bar with the average frequency was less than 0.2. Given the evident and vast differences in frequency, the first-person personal pronouns' engagement is dominant throughout the corpus as preferred by the users. The chart-centered presentation of information shows that the first-person pronouns appear more frequent in the corpus at any given time than those from the second category. First-person pronouns are significantly much more frequent than those of the second person, while the second-person pronouns are significantly less frequent. The bar chart representation of the normalized frequencies of first- and second-person personal pronouns is starkly revealing. More so, this juxtaposition of the two personal pronoun bars creates a conspicuous image, an attention-grabbing image, in contrast to the towering first-person personal pronoun bar and barely visible second-person personal pronoun bar. However, despite the elaborate information that the bar chart provides concerning the usage pattern of personal pronouns within the corpus, it is not

all-encompassing due to its simplicity. Instead of offering the audience a complete picture at a go, it primarily narrows down to the average normalized frequency of the first- and second-person personal pronouns. Moreover, more data points and visualizations would be needed to offer an all-round understanding of the distribution and deviation of personal pronoun use across the various individual text, and the subcorpus. The first-person perspective is well utilized by the authors or narrators to present their narratives drawing on the pronouns “I,” “me,” “my,” and “we.” The language pattern across the analysed texts is easily quantifiable.

It is important to note that the bar chart, even though it serves as a tool to identify the high-level patterns of personal pronoun use, does not demonstrate the variations present within the corpus. The chart’s informational value is high; however, it does not allow for researching personal pronoun use over single texts or several corpus sub-parts due to the use of average normalized frequencies. Further analysis and visualization of the data are required in order to create a complete picture of the linguistic landscape. However, despite the above-mentioned limitations, the provided bar chart helps to identify the interesting patterns of personal pronoun use present within the corpus. Therefore, the findings of the study provide the audience with a clear understanding that the predominant use of the first person, rather weak and inconsistent inclusion of the second person, mandates further inquiry and discussion.

5.2.4. Comparison of first person and second person personal pronouns normalized frequencies between the two news agencies.

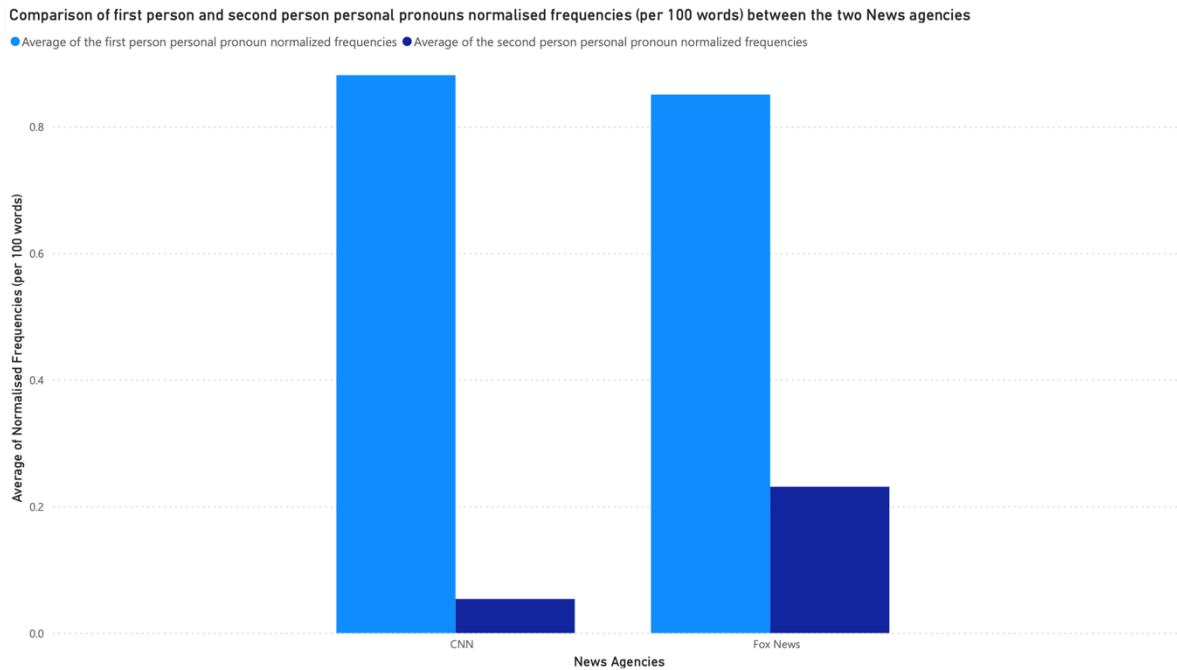


Figure 7 Comparison of normalized frequencies of first and second person pronouns across the entire corpus.

Figure 7 provides a clear and concise overview of the pronoun usage patterns between the two news agencies which focuses specifically on the average normalized frequencies of first-person and second-person pronouns in CNN and Fox News articles. Two news agencies, CNN and Fox News, are compared in this chart to find out how often they use first-person and second-person personal pronouns.

Among CNN's articles, first-person personal pronouns are used on average around 0.9 times per article, while second-person pronouns are employed about less than 0.1 times per article. This indicates that CNN's articles tend to use first-person pronouns more frequently than second-person ones.

Nevertheless, Fox News is slightly above 0.8 in first-person personal pronoun normalised frequency. In addition, Fox News articles display a much higher normalised frequency of second-person pronouns than CNN, which is approximately over 0.2.

5.2.5. Comparison of first person and second person normalized frequencies across different topics for articles in Fox News and CNN

Figure 8A impresses by creating a possible assembly of personal pronouns comparison across different topic Fox News articles. This visualization illustrates the comparison of the average normalized frequencies of first-person and second-person personal pronouns within the different topics of Fox News articles. Three topics have been selected for the analysis and presented, such as Russia invades Ukraine, Taiwan-China-US tensions, and Iran continues its crisis. It is presented approximately 1.3 normalized frequency point of first-person pronouns and 0.5 normalized frequency point of second-person pronouns within the article of Fox News on Russia invades. Therefore, the given Fox News article topic uses first-person pronouns rather than second-person pronouns. The article of Fox News on Taiwan-China-US tension accumulates a little more than 1.0 normalized frequency point of first-person pronouns usage. The accumulated frequency of second-person pronouns is about 0.2, which is almost like the presented above first-person pronouns frequency in the article on Russia invades. The third panel, about Iran crisis Fox News article, has the lowest presented total frequency of first-person pronouns, what is about 0.3. The article Iran continues has the lowest presented second-person pronouns frequency, which is approaching 0. If we look at the constructed bar chart the comparative representation of three Fox News articles personal pronoun usage presents in one visualization, which allows for relatively accurate comparison. The side-by-side representation helps to detect some differences in the three selected topic first and second-person pronoun representations.

Comparison of first person and second person normalised frequencies (per 100 words) across different topics for articles in Fox News

● Average of the first person personal pronoun normalized frequencies ● Average of the second person personal pronoun normalized frequencies

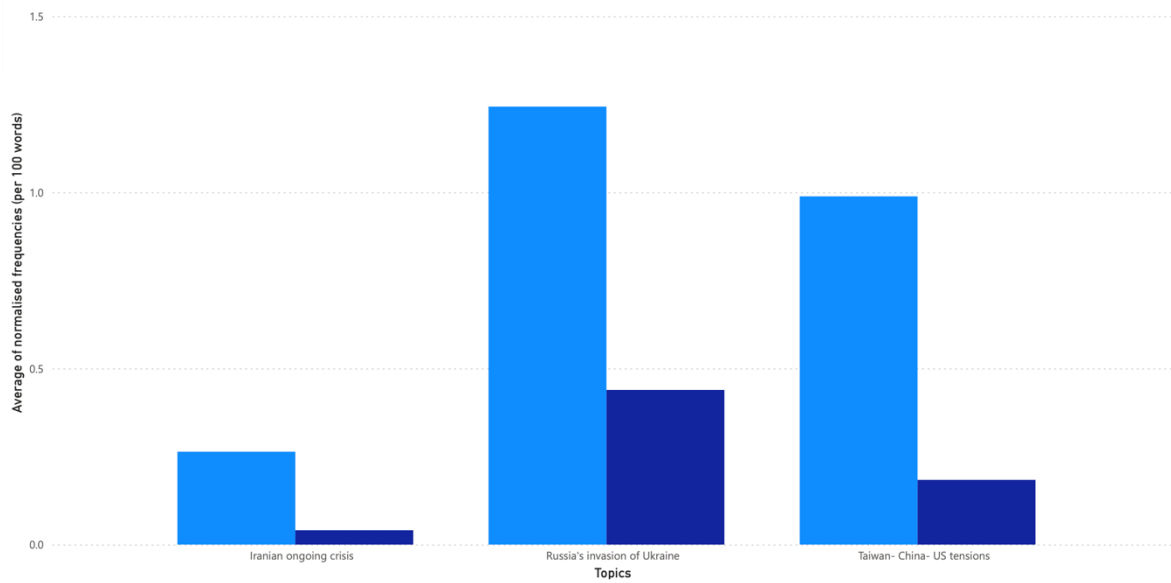


Figure 8A Comparison of first person and second person personal pronouns normalized frequencies across different topics for articles in Fox News.

Comparison of first person and second person normalised frequencies (per 100 words) across different topics for articles in CNN

● Average of the first person personal pronoun normalized frequencies ● Average of the second person personal pronoun normalized frequencies

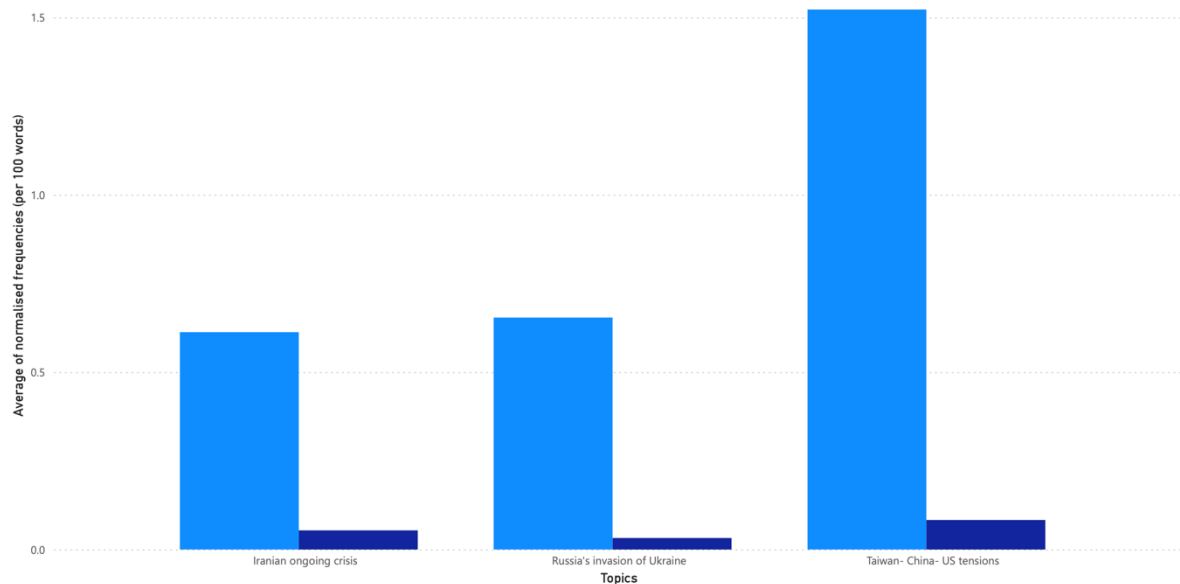


Figure 8B Comparison of first person and second person personal pronouns normalized frequencies across different topics for articles in CNN.

Compared to the papers on the invasion of Ukraine by Russia and the conflict between Taiwan and China and the US, the Fox News papers on the continuing Iranian crisis have the lowest average normalized frequency of personal first-person pronouns. This implies various factors, including likelihood of dissimilar style of reporting, different composition of sources, or the narrative sort employed by Fox News in its reports about the Iranian crisis. The chart in Figure 8A depicts the averages of the normalized frequencies of the personal first and second-person pronouns across the topics. Moreover, it does not present data on the spread or deviation between individual topics or articles. Figure 8B shows the average normalized frequencies of personal first and second-person pronouns across three topics: Taiwan-China-US tensions, Russian invasion of Ukraine, and conflict in Iran. The conditional average normalized frequency of first-person pronouns is about 1.6 for Taiwan-China-US relations, while the nationality for the second person is 0.1. Therefore, once again, as for the topic, this type of pronoun in CNN is much more likely to be used. On the topic of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the average normalized frequency of personal first-person pronouns is slightly lower, namely, about 0.7 for the nationality, at about 0 for the second person. In other words, once again, the frequency of the use of pronouns established regarding the topic of Taiwan-China-US conflict is lower than in this case. On the topic of the continuing Iranian crisis, the average normalized frequency of the personal first-person pronouns approaches the level established for the level of invasion of Russia in Ukraine, reaching about 0.6, while the percentage of second-person pronouns, less than one, is small, as in the case of the Taiwan-China topic.

The bar chart visually represents CNN articles through using bar chart, demonstrate the different usage of personal pronouns through three different topics. The side-by-side comparison of the bars in the bar chart form allows for the easy recognition of the different “trends of changes” among the specific pairs of the bars of the first-person and the second-person personal pronouns usage in the articles among the topics. It is evident that when it comes to the pair “ Russian invasion and continuing Iranian crisis, ” an average disagreement between the two bars and the two topics is in the appearance and higher usage of the first-person pronouns. Hence it may perfectly be assumed that different reporting styles, sources, or even subtly the narrative approaches were used by CNN during the publications about the Taiwanese coast guards. As a result, regarding the personal pronouns and regardless of the topic, all and every personal pronoun usage never uses the second pronouns. Indeed articles of depicting Taiwanese-Chinese coast guard usage have included more frequent usage of the second pronouns, compared to two other topics. Therefore, the main visual impactful element of the

bar chart is the ease of comparison between patterns of personal pronoun usage. Eventually, in spite of composing an average normalized frequency, the bar chart does not allow for the visualization of nuances or leverage the sources towards the vertical axis.

5.2.6. Distribution of emotive language normalized frequencies in selected news articles across the news outlets

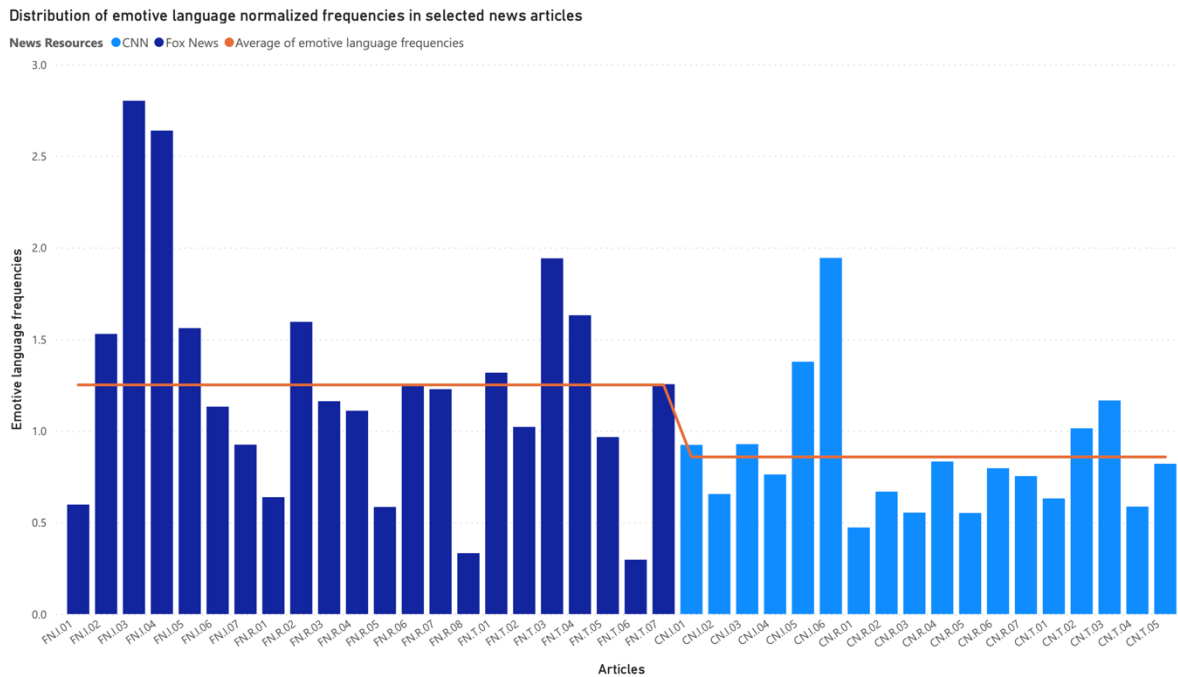


Figure 9 Distribution of emotive language normalized frequencies in selected news articles

The chart defines the normalised frequencies of emotive language in a range of news articles from CNN and Fox News. The average frequency values of emotive language between outlets alongside the frequency distribution of individual articles. As a result of this chart, the average frequency of emotive language for 22 articles of Fox News and 18 articles of CNN are presented on the x-axis with the label of article ID. For the y-axis, normalised emotive language frequencies were given in a range of 0 to three. Furthermore, a central average line corresponds to almost a frequency of 1.5, the overall average frequency of emotive language through all articles. There are several clear patterns that appear based on this comparative dataset. First, there is a high variability among individual articles, and article data points scatter on from below the average line. Moreover, Fox News’s articles appear to show greater frequency clustering between 2.0 and 3.0, while CNN articles are closer to a frequency of 1.0 to 2.0. Secondly, a second observation is the fact that, regardless of the outlet, topics uniformly have high frequencies over individual articles. That is, Iran topics exhibits the most clustering of

points than abide for a higher frequency, implicitly highlighting that for Iranian topics, coverage has the most subjective, emotionally charged language. A third point is that for Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Fox News's usage is substantially higher than CNN. It heavily arrives the central average frequency line, but there is overlap in frequencies. Lastly, for Taiwan-China-US tensions and Iranian ongoing crisis, Fox News shows a heavily distinguishing and frequency way superior to CNN, suggesting that Fox News accentuates emotive language for these topics expressly.

There are several significant conclusions that can be drawn from these data-driven trends. In the first place, Fox News' increased use of emotional language suggests a persistent effort to engage with audiences rather than simply stating facts, but rather appealing to emotions. A higher average frequency indicates that the stylistic choice has been to rely more on subjective, affective rhetoric, whereas a lower CNN average indicates a more objective, neutral orientation.

The second reason is that both outlets seem to acknowledge Iran as an evocative issue that merits a more subjective treatment. Iranian ongoing crisis seems to trigger the most impassioned coverage, as it has the highest frequencies above the average. As a result of vividly portraying the human elements of the issue, this may indicate that the intent is to elicit sympathy or outrage.

It is also worth noting that Fox News' disproportionately frequent use of emotion regarding Iranian ongoing crisis and Taiwan-China-US tensions suggests a deliberate effort to manipulate perceptions of these nations and issues by using charged, valorising, or vilifying rhetoric and metaphors. According to the data, coverage of perceived threats may be influenced by appeals to fear, patriotism, or conflict.

Based on the quantified patterns, it is evident that Fox News adopts a more persistently emotional style than CNN, even when it comes to certain issues like the Iranian conflict. However, when it is beneficial to framing debates or priming audience reactions, both use emotions strategically to serve rhetorical goals. The data indicates sophisticated use of affective language in rhetorical campaigns. In addition, further corpus analysis might be able to reveal the specific emotional appeals that have been employed in the writing and how the noun choice and framing shift across topics as a result. By quantifying key linguistic variables like

emotionality, computational methods provide valuable insights into media discourse by providing an insight into how stylistic choices intersect with ideological positioning.

5.2.7. Distribution of emotive language frequencies in articles based on their topic and source.

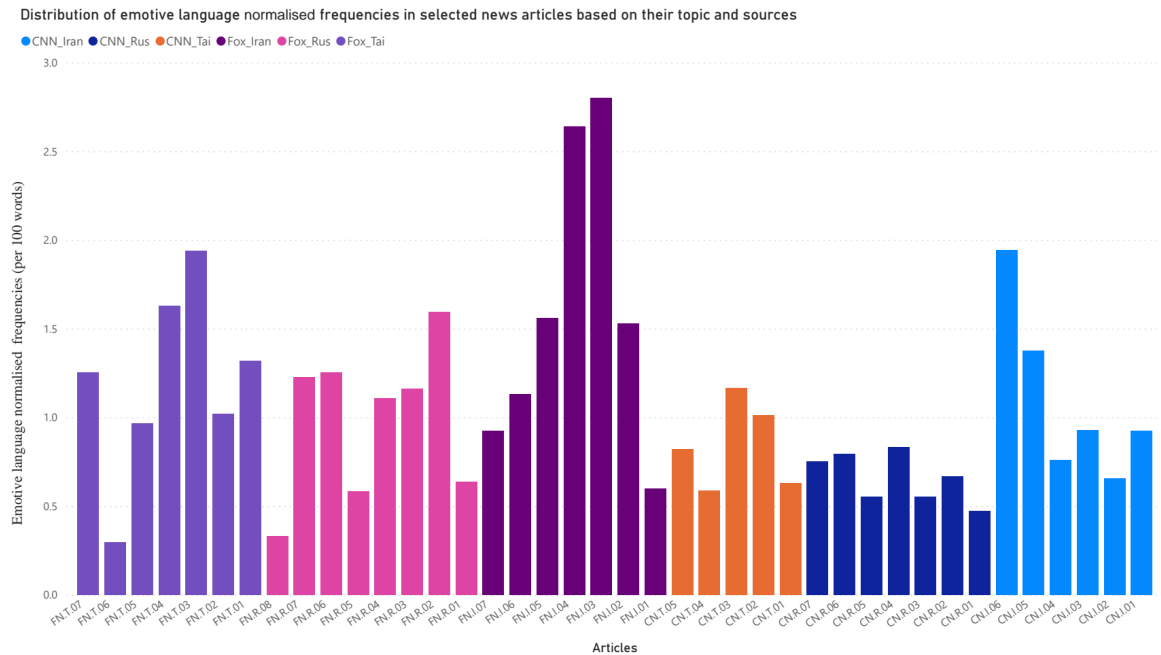


Figure 10 Distribution of emotive language normalized frequencies in selected news articles based on their topics.

Figure number 10 indicates a wide range of emotive language frequencies embedded in Fox News's Taiwan coverage, which range from 0.30 to 1.94. There is also a wide range of emotive language frequencies embedded in Fox News' Iran coverage, which range from 0.60 to 2.80. According to this range, Fox News is willing to utilize strong emotive language in its narratives, potentially triggering a strong emotional response from viewers, which may indicate Fox News' editorial position on Iranian social and political issues. A similar amount of emotive language is used in Fox News' articles about Russia as it did in its coverage of Iran, with frequencies approximately the same as that observed in its coverage of Iran. It is evident that Fox News does not differentiate between Iran and Russia in terms of its use of emotive language, which suggests a uniform reporting approach to contentious international affairs, possibly to maintain a consistent tone that is consistent with the expectations of its audience.

Comparatively, CNN's coverage of Taiwan issues, which has emotive language frequencies between 0.63 and 1.17, indicates a moderate to high use of emotive language when compared

with Fox News' coverage. With a frequency of approximately 0.47 to 0.83, CNN's coverage of Russia has a noticeably lower frequency of emotive language. In light of the complex nature of reporting in Russia, which often involves nuanced geopolitical and security issues, this may reflect a more fact-oriented approach. CNN may have been restrained by its attempt to provide a clear, unambiguous narrative in a context that is already characterized by high international tensions. There is a moderate to high use of emotive language in CNN's coverage of Iranian issues, with emotional language frequencies ranging from 0.66 to just under 1.94. As a result, CNN may utilize emotional narrative techniques in order to engage the audience on human-interest subjects, such as social issues or human rights stories, while maintaining a level of restraint, possibly in order to maintain journalistic integrity.

There is a noticeable difference in the distribution and maximum frequency of emotive language frequencies when comparing the coverage of Iran by CNN and Fox News. CNN's usage is moderate, whereas Fox News spans the entire range, peaking at higher frequencies.

With the coverage of Russia, the comparison is even more striking. CNN's use of restrained language contrasts starkly with Fox News's extensive application of emotive language. The critical nature of Russia-related news might guide CNN's approach here, striking a tone of sobriety and analysis. Fox News, however, may be seeking a deeper emotional connection, despite the complexity of Russian affairs. The frequency of emotive language in Taiwan is moderate on both networks, although Fox News shows a tendency to express emotions at higher levels. Although both networks are aware of the sensitivity of Taiwan's geopolitical situation, Fox News is more inclined to use emotive language in order to emphasize the urgency and importance of regional developments.

As a result of the data, emotive language has been identified as a strategic choice when reporting news, significantly influenced by the network's editorial policies and the topic at hand. As a result of Fox News' use of emotive language across all topics, a consistent editorial voice indicates a focus on emotional storytelling to engage viewers. As a result, the network's viewpoints can be reinforced, and a compelling narrative is created.

There may be some implication that CNN is attempting to provide a more fact-based and analytical reporting style by using more measured emotive language, particularly in its coverage of Russia. It may be interpreted as an attempt to provide a balanced narrative, allowing viewers to form their own opinions without feeling emotionally influenced by the

report. According to the analysis of emotive language frequencies in news coverage, trends and patterns are indicative of broader media strategies. Networks are likely to adopt these strategies based on their perceptions of the demographic and preference characteristics of their audiences, as well as the desire to differentiate their brand in an increasingly competitive media environment.

By analyzing these trends, it becomes apparent that news consumers are exposed to various levels of emotive content, influencing their perceptions of international events and narratives. In today's highly polarized environment, where media outlets are often viewed as echo chambers for certain political ideologies, this influence has significant implications for public opinion and discourse. It is also possible that the differences in emotive language use reflect the networks' perceived responsibilities or roles in the media industry. It suggests that CNN takes a more traditional approach to journalism, where emotional engagement is balanced with an emphasis on objective and informative reporting. Alternatively, Fox News's strategy may be influenced by a more commercial or modern perspective on news as a product that must attract and retain audiences in an extremely competitive market.

According to the analysis of CNN and Fox News articles, Fox News demonstrates a greater use of emotive language than CNN, illustrating a significant difference in their linguistic strategies.

5.2.8. Distribution of metaphorical language normalized frequencies in selected news articles

A detailed analysis of the frequency of metaphorical language in CNN and Fox News news coverage can be found in figure number 5. In order to examine how news media strategically use figurative metaphors to frame political issues and shape audience interpretations of these topics, a dataset of aforementioned 40 articles covering three selected topics is analysed. In this way, comparative frequencies can provide empirical insights into the different rhetorical preferences and styles of outlets.

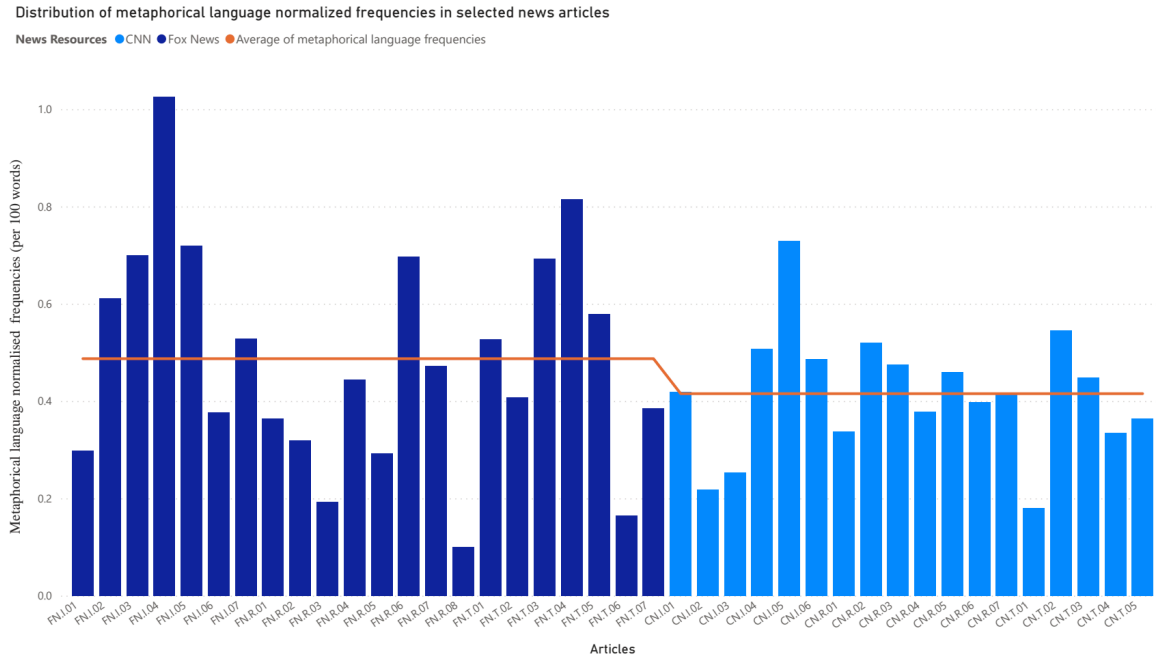


Figure 11 Distribution of metaphorical language normalized frequencies in selected news articles across the two news outlets.

A total of 22 articles from Fox News outlets were analysed in this study. Seven of these articles addressed the ongoing Iran crisis, eight addressed Russia-Ukraine issues, and seven addressed the tensions between China and Taiwan. The metaphorical language frequencies for each article were extracted and quantified using 18 sampled articles from CNN, including six articles about Iran, seven articles about Russia, and five articles on Taiwan and China issues. There is an average frequency line at 0.45 and frequencies are visualized with a range of 0 to 1.0 on a scale from 0 to 1.0.

One of the key trends that can be found in the distributions is that Fox News articles consistently exhibit a higher level of metaphor frequency than CNN articles. Fox News articles are most often found to occupy the upper ranges of the y-axis scale to over 1.2, while CNN articles are generally below 0.5 in frequency. Fox News is structurally integrating far more metaphorical language into its political coverage as a strategic stylistic choice, whereas CNN adopts a more clinical, non-figurative approach as a strategic style.

The second issue is that, with multiple data points exceeding average frequency, both outlets selectively emphasize metaphors when discussing escalating tensions with Iran. In other words, this implies that artful metaphorical abstractions are used to make sense of the opaque, complex dangers of escalating tensions. In addition, there are some high rates of metaphor usage in

Russia coverage with peaks around 0.7, while articles about China-Taiwan have very high rates, about 0.8 on average.

Furthermore, Fox News employs a very high number of metaphors in its discussion of Iran's ongoing tensions, with 5 out of the 7 sampled articles using metaphors above the average frequency, drastically outpacing CNN in this regard. During the coverage of Russia and China-Taiwan, Fox consciously emphasizes metaphorical framing devices when discussing topics such as Iran which require more complex rhetorical strategies. There is, therefore, no significant difference between outlets in Russia or China-Taiwan coverage.

It is evident from the results of the study that Fox News employs a significantly greater number of metaphors in its narratives as compared to other news outlets. This study reveals that articles dealing with Iran are more likely to use metaphors than articles dealing with other topics, and this pattern continues across almost all of the datasets.

5.2.9. Distribution of metaphorical language frequencies in selected articles based on their topic and source.

Figure 12 examines a corpus of CNN and Fox News articles, focusing on how often metaphorical language is used in them. In a graphical format, normalized frequencies were plotted against article identifiers on the X-axis to illustrate the frequency of this phenomenon. Articles in the corpus addressed three major geopolitical events: the Iranian crisis (represented by dark purple for Fox News and blue sky for CNN), the Russian invasion of Ukraine (represented by pink for Fox News and navy blue for CNN), and tensions between Taiwan, China, and the United States (coloured by purple for Fox News and orange for CNN).

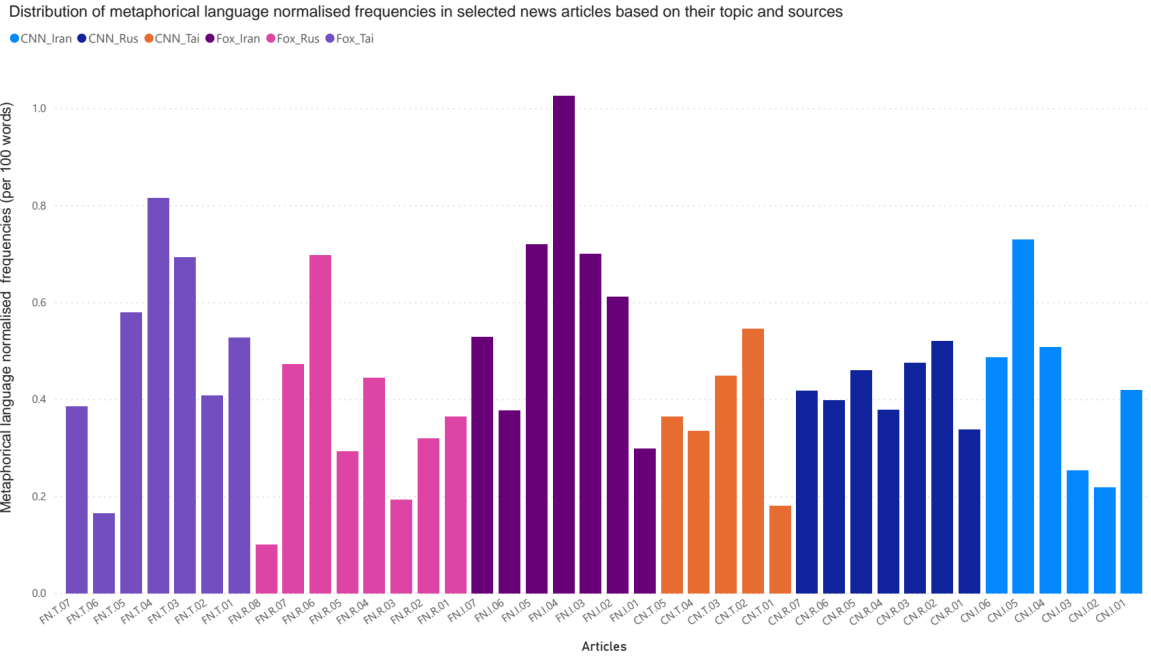


Figure 12 Distribution of metaphorical language normalized frequencies in selected news articles based on their topics.

The analysis revealed that the use of metaphorical language varied significantly across individual articles within the same news source and between CNN and Fox News, respectively. As a result of this variability, all three geopolitical issues analyzed in the corpus were observed to exhibit this variability. Compared with CNN articles, Fox News articles displayed a broader and generally higher frequency range of metaphorical language.

A significant amount of metaphorical language was used within the CNN and Fox News articles when addressing the Iranian crisis. The frequency of the articles from Fox News varied from moderate 0,3 to high 1,03, with some instances reaching the upper limits of the normalized frequency scale. CNN articles regarding Iran, on the other hand, exhibited a narrower band of metaphorical language frequency, with the majority of articles falling in between the lower (0,22) and middle frequencies.

There was a distinct pattern in the usage of metaphorical language in articles related to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The majority of CNN's data points clustered in the lower quartile of the normalized frequency range due to particularly low metaphorical language frequencies (0,34-0,52). In contrast, Fox News articles demonstrated a wider range of frequency variations ranging from 0,19 to 0,7, but the overall frequency of these articles was still lower than the frequency of articles related to the Iran crisis.

The corpus presented a wide dispersion of metaphorical language frequencies pertaining to tensions involving Taiwan, China, and the United States. There was a wide range of frequency in Fox News articles relating to this topic, with some articles displaying very low amounts of metaphorical language (0,16), while others approached the higher frequencies (0,82). The distribution of frequencies in CNN's articles on this topic also demonstrated variability (0,18-0,55), but unlike Fox News, CNN's distribution of frequencies was more centred around the centre.

Moreover, this data can be more vividly presented graphically in order to compare the frequency of the appearance of metaphorical language in CNN and Fox News articles. Therefore, from such graphical representation, a clear visual demonstration could imply that Fox News uses more metaphorical patterns than CNN. Correspondingly, all 3 Fox News articles contain more normalized metaphorical language than three articles from CNN. With the data for Fox News about the Iranian crisis, it can be seen that the number of occurrences of metaphorical language in the normalized frequency chart is mainly located in the top half. On the contrary, the distribution of data for CNN is much more uniform. Thus, the results indicate that two given news agencies use a different frequency of metaphorical speech in articles on the Iranian crisis. Altogether, when investigating normalized frequencies of analyzed values within all 6 articles, Fox News always displays a greater level of variability between articles' content and uses a higher frequency of metaphorical language. CNN shows lesser variability and just low average frequency of metaphorical language use. This pattern is typical for all three analyzed geopolitical topics. Consequently, as it was stated above, the differences in two newspapers' narrative regarding populating articles about different geopolitical occurrences can be contextually analyzed through frequency values of analyzed values concerning metaphorical language.

6. Discussion:

6.1. Analyzing Headlines Through the Lens of Pragmatic Strategies

A major objective of this study was to examine pragmatic strategies employed in crafting persuasive political headlines at the level of speech acts. A central component of the present study is an assessment of the distribution of speech act categories in news headlines both at an overall level as well as at the level of different political topics (Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Iranian ongoing crisis, Taiwan- China- US tensions), where the different practices of two news

media outlets (CNN and Fox News) may be compared. In describing the way media outlets frame political issues, it is important to understand how they use persuasive language and how they use rhetorical strategies to get their message across. Understanding the media's role in shaping the discourse surrounding political issues requires an understanding of the pragmatic strategies and rhetorical techniques used by media outlets. In headlines, precise language choices do not function as neutral statements; they have the power to subtly influence the audience's opinions, emotions, and actions about complex political events. A headline may emphasize certain aspects while omitting others, resulting in a distorted portrayal of reality. Specifically, when CNN and Fox News cover the same events differently, researchers can gain insights into their editorial biases by studying these strategies. Audiences who rely on these news sources to understand world events may not be aware of the underlying persuasive techniques at play but can take advantage of this comparison to gain a deeper understanding.

6.1.1. The pragmatic strategies of headlines

Generally, headlines serve two critical functions in the world of journalism: they (a) summarise the contents of the article to come and (b) draw the reader's attention towards the full text of the article (cf. Ifantidou 2009: 699 and the references cited therein). Additionally, headlines can also serve as "loose, inadequate, or misleading" substitutes or stand-ins for the full text(s) that they accompany in many cases; this is achieved by focusing the reader's attention on a particular aspect of the story, highlighting the topic in a non-objective yet intriguing manner, and simplifying the full-text content while consistently masking other relevant information (ibid.: 700). By focusing a reader's attention exclusively on specific aspects of a story and framing these aspects in non-objective ways, intentional, goal-oriented practices are engaged. It is therefore possible to see the newspaper headline as an instance of language used for action in a particular context with a specific purpose, as described by Bublitz and Norrick (2011: 3) in their outlining of the "narrow view" of pragmatics. Since headlines are very brief and have limited scope, categorizing them as a whole as a speech act provides a reliable and consistent basis for assessing "what and how people mean" from a pragmatic perspective when headlines (and language in general) are utilized to achieve a particular goal (cf. ibid.).

Following the above, the distribution of the speech act types employed in the headlines of the opinion articles included in the present corpus, presented in Figure 1, provides insight into the overall discourse. Based on these results, it is clear that assertive acts account for the most significant percentage at 37.5%. In political discourse, much emphasis is placed on conveying

factual information or stating beliefs. There is a high frequency of assertive speech acts in this discourse, which suggests that politicians, journalists, and other participants are trying to present information in such a way that it appears authoritative and confident. Initially, such linguistic trends may reflect a strategic preference for asserting certainty and authority, which may serve to enhance the credibility of the information being presented. However, there is a large range of implications associated with such a finding.

Readers are presented with a narrative that reflects confidence as a result of the dominance of assertive acts, which may shape public perception. The headlines can be trusted and aligned with the message they convey. As a result, the frequent use of assertive language may discourage readers from engaging critically with the content, as assertiveness may suggest a closed case, which leaves little room for questioning or alternative interpretations.

A directive act is the second most prevalent category, representing 35% of all speech acts. Directive acts involve attempts to influence or guide a person's behaviour, beliefs, or expectations. This is a strategic effort aimed at shaping the narrative, controlling the agenda, and guiding public opinion that has led to the prominence of directive speech acts. There are many ways that political actors can use directives to influence the public discourse on specific topics or influence their constituents' actions and decisions. For instance, citizens are often compelled to take action by shared values and mythologies. Politicians use patriotism to trigger constituent feelings of national identity and pride. Supporting one's country is frequently among the highest moral virtues. This leads to directives that cite behaviors or stances as patriotic duties rooted in deep-seated notions of loyalty, honor, and sacrifice.

For example, the call to "Support our troops" emphasizes the need to boost military spending to care for our service members who risk their lives to defend our country. Using this appeal, constituents are encouraged to contact their representatives by being implied to betray courageous troops abroad through inaction or opposition. Similarly, the cry to oppose tyranny is mythologized, turning ordinary citizens into heroes committed to preserving the democratic heritage that precedes the nation's founding.

"Us vs. them" rhetoric also influences notions of identity and belonging, but it is more exclusionary than inspiring. People are intrinsically driven to belong to groups to maintain security and solidarity. Politicians exploit this tendency by otherizing those with opposing views, damaging social cohesion. Political positions are used as litmus tests for membership in

various groups, separating the "virtuous us" from the "nefarious them." Ultimately, the directive becomes an ultimatum that must be obeyed, or the tribe will be excommunicated.

The threat of exclusion provokes anxiety and desperation to regain status through adherence. This pressuring tactic spurs action by triggering an emotional response. At the same time, compliance is presented as an opportunity for demonstrating loyalty to the in-group and superiority over the reviled out-group in conjunction with the directive. Politicians utilize constituents' fundamental need for belonging and validation to direct behavior by making inclusion contingent upon obedience.

As a proportion of the total number of speech acts, expressive speech acts comprise a moderate percentage of 17.5%. Expressions of feelings, attitudes, or subjective feelings comprise expressive speech acts. Political communication is characterized by a relatively high frequency of expressive acts in the overall discourse, suggesting that emotional appeal and subjective perspectives significantly impact the discourse. Expressive speech acts connect to the audience on an emotional level, foster a sense of shared values, and elicit specific responses, reactions, or responses from their audiences.

In terms of speech acts, declarative acts account for just 7.5% of the total number of speech acts. There is less emphasis on making definitive claims and explicitly stating facts in political discourse based on the low frequency of declarative acts. A part of this may be attributed to the cautious nature of political communication, as political actors may refrain from making overt claims in order to maintain their impartiality, avoid controversies, or satisfy journalistic standards of accuracy in their communications.

Making a commitment, pledge, or promise is the least frequent of all speech acts. Commissive speech acts comprise approximately 2.5% of all speech acts. As the presence of commissions in the discourse is relatively low, it indicates a minimal emphasis on expressing explicit commitments or promises. This may be due to the nature of political discourse, where politicians may be cautious about making concrete commitments or are more likely to be flexible or avoid potential backlash if circumstances change if they commit.

The distribution of speech act categories in Figure 1 indicates how political actors and media practitioners have shaped the discourse based on their strategic choices. As a result of the high prevalence of assertive and directive speech acts, it becomes evident that it is essential to

communicate information, shape narratives, and guide public opinion in order for them to be successful. It is evident from the moderate frequency of expressive acts that the purpose is to engage the audience and help foster a sense of shared identity or values. According to the relatively few occurrences of declarative and commissive acts in political discourse, the discourse is somewhat cautious and flexible.

6.1.2. Speech Act Frequencies in News Headlines

Based on Figure 2, it is possible to see that the usage of speech acts implemented by two news agencies, CNN and Fox News, allows distinguishing the following patterns, which can help identify the particular speech acts and understand the goals of both newsrooms to send specific messages. With regard to the CNN headlines, the expressed speech acts are more frequent because 5 examples out of 40 headlines represent this category. Such patterns can help CNN use the subjectivity, emotionality and personal perspective of the audience to resonate with it and help understand the shared ideologies and values. Hence, the usage of expressed speech acts is one of the portions of speech that CNN wants to implement to the audience to establish the emotional connection rather than the straightforward attitude and the hostile objectivity of the activities. However, in comparison with other headlines from the same sample, the number of expressed speech acts among Fox News headlines is fewer, and only two headlines from 40 can be considered expressed speech acts. Evidently, Fox News takes the less emotional part of news framing design, which means that the overall message is presented in the less emotional context. It can be hypothesized that due to the factual and less emotional and the respondent perception of the audience, the Fox News network is considered more conservative and truthful.

According to the Fox News headlines sample, the expressed speech acts are more frequent than in the samples CNN uses because 11 mentions out of 40 headlines are available for analysis. In this case, Fox News is more concerned about the controlled behaviour, belief, and expectation response, which means that the headlines that present the network's possible position on the topic under discussion help shape the narrative and the audience's attitude to the news.

As opposed to this, CNN headlines are less likely to use directive speech acts, with only 3 instances out of the same sample of 40 headlines. As a result, CNN may be focusing on presenting information and fostering discussion, rather than actively directing the audience.

This indicates a relatively low emphasis on guiding the audience's behaviour or expectations. Considering CNN's history as a more centrist or left-leaning news outlet, this decision fits well with its reputation as a source of information that seeks to provide a platform for diverse viewpoints and allow for public participation in political debate.

As a matter of fact, CNN and Fox News both employ assertive speech acts sparingly in their headlines. CNN uses assertive speech acts in 9 of their 40 headlines and Fox News uses them in 6 of their 40 headlines. Both publications appear to have a conservative approach to making factual claims or definitive statements as shown by the low frequency of assertive speech acts in their headlines. In addition to journalistic standards such as accuracy and objectivity, this may be attributed to a desire to avoid controversies or partisan entrenchment that could result. As a result, both outlets have relied on other types of speech acts to shape public opinion, guide interpretation, and engage their audience instead of using the traditional forms of speech acts such as expressive and directive acts.

The comparison of speech act frequencies shown in Figure 2 illustrates the distinct communication strategies employed by CNN and Fox News in their headlines. By employing a high percentage of expressive speech acts, CNN emphasizes emotional appeal and subjective perspectives, which is in line with the network's narrative-driven approach and attempts to make an emotional connection with its viewers. Fox News, on the other hand, uses a higher degree of directive speech acts compared to its competitors, which aligns with the network's agenda-setting role as well as its goal of influencing public opinion through its use of directive speech acts.

6.1.3. Speech Act Frequencies in Different Political Topics

Taking into account the peculiarities of the Iranian Crisis coverage, it is crucial to note that, as it can be inferred from Figure 3, CNN and Fox News used different numbers of expressive speech acts. Thus, for CNN, high use implies an attempt to reach the audience on a significantly emotional level, trying to evoke empathy regarding the crisis and make it as human as possible. Indeed, based on the results of previous studies, it is true that emotionally-filled news is more engaging to the majority of the audience. In this case, as it is shown below, Fox News demonstrated a much smaller number of expressive speech acts. Therefore, it could be assumed that the network presented a less emotionally filled position, which was achieved by a more reserved focus on the crisis or an attempt to pay more attention to other sides of it. Also, there

is no difference in the frequency of assertive speech acts, and there is no indication for one or another network. From here, one may infer that Fox News was likely influenced by the set agenda of specially selected directed speech acts. This conclusion could be based on the fact that this network has shown a more significant number of such acts than CNN. The outcomes of this study demonstrated that not only the emphasized but also the implications of how people should react to the determined events may influence public opinion. Concerning the coverage of the Russian invasion to Ukraine, it is crucial to note that CNN and Fox News had distinct differences in the frequencies of assertive speech acts, as provided in Figure 4, contrasting the reported numbers in the previous year. CNN's higher likelihood of using assertive speech is the fact of this network's focus on providing the audience with factual and trustworthy information. In the context of international crises, such a position could be interpreted as an attempt to create some level of trust between the media and the audience. Furthermore, Fox News' utilization of directive and declarative speech acts points to a narrative position as it is likely to be more of the former. While the former implies trying to point the audience in a certain direction of interpretation or action, the latter may be utilized to express the network's attitude towards the event.

CNN's coverage of commissive speech acts alone could be indicative of CNN's strategic decision to commit to particular viewpoints or reporting stances for the future. The absence of expressive speech acts in Fox News' coverage results from a strategic strategy that emphasizes action-oriented reporting over emotional engagement when reporting.

There is a correlation between the frequency of speech acts in the coverage of the Taiwan-China-US crisis and the overall pattern of the use of directive speech acts by Fox News in promoting more directive narratives across various crises. Figure 5 shows the frequency of the language used in Taiwan-China-US coverage. As such, it could suggest the importance of a consistent editorial approach in international reporting that emphasizes guidance and direction.

Fox News' slightly higher use of assertive speech acts could indicate that it is committed to asserting its views on the crisis, which could help it position itself as an authoritative source of information on this topic. CNN's lower frequency of directive and assertive speech acts and the absence of expressive speech acts could indicate that they take a more reserved approach to this particular crisis, possibly due to its complexity and the sensitive geopolitical implications involved.

6.1.4. Comparison and Integration of Figures

By comparing data across three political issues, one can see that both news networks employ communicative strategies that are consistent across them. According to Fox News, a higher frequency of directive speech acts is consistently used, suggesting that Fox News has adopted a uniform approach to guiding audience perception in different geopolitical crises. In order to position the network as a guiding force in political discourse, there might be an underlying editorial policy or a deliberate strategy underlying this consistency.

A more nuanced approach, adapted to the specifics of each crisis, can be seen in CNN's variable use of speech acts across crises. Considering that the network is more sensitive to each crisis' unique characteristics, it may influence the choice of narrative tactics that the network employs, indicating that its strategy is more sensitive to the unique aspects of each crisis.

A comprehensive analysis of these findings indicates that there are contrasting narrative strategies that could have significant repercussions for public discourse as a whole. The consistent use of directive speech acts by Fox News might strengthen certain viewpoints or actions, thereby influencing public opinion more uniformly across various issues. Depending on the nature of the crisis, CNN's ability to be flexible in its use of speech acts suggests that it is taking a narrative approach that may influence public discourse in various ways depending on the situation at hand.

6.2. The Role of Rhetorical Grammar in Political Persuasion

6.2.1. Comparison of CNN and Fox News Speech Acts: Divergent Linguistic Strategies

It is clear from the synthesis of these three figures that the central theme emerges: CNN and Fox News deploy speech acts differently during the coverage of international crises due to the differential deployment of speech acts. An intriguing thematic nucleus encompasses the varied linguistic strategies the two prominent news networks employed during high-stakes geopolitical events. The nucleus has significant implications for understanding the impact of the media on public perception.

As a result of these findings, a consistent pattern emerges in the communicative preferences of the respective networks across diverse political landscapes, ranging from the Iranian crisis to the Russian invasion of Ukraine to the tensions between Taiwan and China. A propensity of

CNN's editorial team to use assertive speech acts was evident, suggesting an editorial inclination towards articulating news as factual and providing a platform for emotional engagement in their reporting. Alternatively, Fox News displayed a predilection for using directive and declarative speech acts, which indicates an intention to shape audience behaviour and perspective through a more prescriptive and authoritative discourse to influence the audience.

As a result of this common thread of divergence, compelling questions should be asked about the media's role as an essential mediator between political events and public interpretation. As evidenced by the media's preferred speech acts, the media's narrative choices can significantly impact how the public perceives and reacts to international affairs. In crises where public opinion and policies are affected by how the events and the actors involved are portrayed, narrative shaping has proven to be one of the most potent methods of shaping narratives.

Besides simply transmitting information, CNN and Fox News also use speech acts as a vehicle for performing actions that align with Austin's fundamental assertion that speaking is acting. These speech acts serve to assert, direct, and declare. As a result of these findings, there are profound implications for society, as they are evidence that media cannot only report on events but also construct realities and influence the collective consciousness of a society.

This thesis examines political headlines through the lens of speech act theory, emphasizing the profound influence of linguistic choices on defining public discourse, especially in the context of international crises, and thus emphasizing the profound impact of linguistic choices on shaping public discourse. This theme explores media outlets' responsibilities when it comes to reporting and the necessity of a discerning audience that is aware of the underlying intention of the information they present.

During CNN's and Fox News' coverage of the Iranian Crisis, Figure 3 illustrates the frequency of speech acts. CNN's crisis coverage was more expressive (3 instances) than Fox News's (2 instances), which is a crucial observation. Consequently, CNN may prioritize building an emotional connection with the audience, resulting in a more empathic response. Both networks are equally committed to reporting what they perceive to be factual information, as evidenced by the similar frequency of assertive speech acts (2 each). However, it is significant to note that Fox News (3 instances) employs directive speech acts more frequently than CNN (1 instance), suggesting a strategic choice to guide audience interpretation or behaviour.

Several media practices documented in existing literature can be attributed to these trends, where particular speech acts may be prioritized by different networks based on editorial policies or perceived audience preferences. There are many possible reasons for these trends, including ideological biases of the networks, perceptions of audiences, and the nature of the news event itself. This trend has significant implications, as it could affect public opinion and potential policy discussions related to the Iranian Crisis.

There are similarities and differences between the networks' communicative strategies when comparing this figure with the other two. Fox News's consistent use of directive speech acts across all topics indicates a steadfast strategy for influencing audience perspective. In contrast, CNN's variable use of expressive speech acts indicates a more nuanced strategy.

However, this analysis has limitations, as the sample size and the particularity of the Crisis may not allow for generalization across different contexts or networks. Moreover, the classification of speech acts could introduce bias since it requires interpretive judgment, which may vary among coders. A speech act's nature is determined by its text alone, without any consideration of tone, context, or speaker's intent, as part of the classification process. Different analysts may categorize the same piece of text differently, depending on their own understandings and biases, as a result of this subjective analysis. Depending on how analysts interpret the language used, one analyst might perceive a directive speech act as an assertive act.

It is also possible for analysts to develop biases due to their cultural background, their linguistic training, and their political views. The ability to discern subtleties in language can be affected by these personal factors, potentially resulting in inconsistent categorization of speech acts. Because interpretive judgment is required of analysts, subjective bias can seep into the analysis process, which can affect the validity and reliability of the results. Political discourse often involves nuanced language that can be interpreted in various ways, which is particularly relevant when dealing with complex political discourse.

The comprehensiveness of the analysis may be limited by the omission of other speech acts not represented in the data, such as the commissive or declarative acts relating to the Iranian Crisis.

The frequency of assertive speech acts is remarkably different in Figure 4, with CNN exhibiting significantly higher occurrences (5 instances) than Fox News (1 instance). CNN may be

presenting information it stands behind as factually credible more strongly, which may be explained by this discrepancy. Accordingly, Fox News's higher frequency of directive speech acts (4 instances) and declarative speech acts (3 instances) suggest an approach that focuses on guiding the audience's understanding and expressing the network's perspective on the events of the invasion.

According to the literature on media framing, such differences may be attributed to the networks' strategic choices to satisfy their audience's preferences or uphold certain narratives that align with their brand of journalism. These differences have profound implications, as they contribute to the formation of divergent public narratives about the invasion and may affect public sentiment and international relations in a significant way.

By comparing this figure to the other two, Fox News' editorial strategy indicates that it consistently uses directive speech acts. In contrast, CNN's preference for assertive speech acts depends on the particular crisis being reported. As a result of this contrast, existing notions of media bias and objectivity may be supported or challenged.

This analysis has several limitations, including the possibility that selective bias may have occurred during the classification of speech acts and the possibility that other meaningful speech acts were not identified. Furthermore, the findings are based on a specific time frame and set of headlines, which may not fully reflect each network's overall invasion coverage.

A frequency analysis of speech acts has been presented in figure 5 for the Taiwan-China-US crisis coverage. The Fox News coverage contained more directive speech acts (4 instances) than CNN's coverage (2 instances), confirming a pattern that has been identified in other crises. Additionally, Fox News exhibits a marginally higher frequency of assertive speech acts (3 instances) compared to CNN (2 instances), suggesting a more authoritative reporting style.

The findings align with the existing discourse on the agenda-setting role of the media, in which certain speech acts are used not only to report on events but also to shape public understanding and policy discourse. Fox News's consistent use of directive speech acts is likely a deliberate editorial choice aimed at positioning the network as a guiding force in political discourse, which may appeal to audiences who prefer clear directives and strong viewpoints.

Based on the comparison between this figure and those during the Iranian Crisis and the Russian invasion, it is evident that Fox News has a steady preference for directive speech acts, whereas CNN varies in its use of directive speech acts. Both networks avoided emotional engagement in a complex geopolitical issue by not using expressive speech acts in their coverage of the Taiwan-China-US crisis. As with previous figures, this analysis has limitations, including the potential for bias in speech act classification and the limited scope of the data set. By excluding expressive speech acts from the analysis, an essential aspect of the coverage may be overlooked, adversely impacting audience engagement and perspective.

6.2.2. Arguments Integration

A central theme of the three figures is the frequency of speech acts in media coverage and how they may affect audience perception during international crises. In the context of three distinct geopolitical events, namely the Iranian crisis, the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and the tensions between Taiwanese and Chinese nationals, CNN and Fox News used differentially different speech acts. In light of this pattern, it is possible to discern the editorial stances of the respective networks and forecast their impact on the audience.

Fox News' consistent use of directive speech acts is an insight that emerges from the collective analysis. This suggests that Fox News' editorial approach to news reporting favors a more authoritative and action-oriented approach. As a result of the frequent use of directive speech acts, the audience's understanding and subsequent reaction will likely be actively shaped. The impact of these changes would be to position Fox News as an influential actor in the political discourse, not simply as a passive provider of information, but as an active participant in constructing narratives surrounding international affairs.

CNN, on the other hand, presents a narrative approach that is characterized by a higher use of assertive speech acts and a variable use of expressive speech acts during the Russian invasion of Ukraine. While CNN appears to prioritize the communication of information that it perceives as accurate and credible, it also selectively engages the audience's emotions according to the crisis context. The variability in editorial strategy could be interpreted as a response to the unique characteristics of each situation through an adaptive and more nuanced editorial strategy.

As a result of the comparative analysis of CNN's and Fox News' coverage styles, distinct editorial choices are likely to influence audience perceptions. According to Fox News' consistent use of directive speech acts, the network may be perceived as an authority or guide in interpreting international events, which could encourage its audience to adopt a more prescriptive outlook. As a result of CNN's blend of assertive and expressive speech acts, viewers may see the network as a source of factual information and emotional engagement, potentially leading to a more individual interpretation of events.

These contrasting strategies also reflect the broader media landscape, in which networks tailor their coverage to align with the expectations of their target audience or to differentiate themselves from their competitors. In contrast, CNN's approach may resonate with viewers who value informational content and emotional connection. At the same time, Fox News' use of directive speech acts may appeal to viewers seeking clear and robust viewpoints.

In addition to the significant impact of these editorial choices on audience perception, Fox News may influence audiences to adopt particular perspectives or support specific policy responses by frequently employing directive speech acts. The network's combination of factual reporting and emotional appeal may result in a more critical engagement with its content due to CNN's strategy.

Accordingly, the integrated analysis of speech act frequencies across the three political issues indicates CNN and Fox News have adopted divergent narrative strategies, each with implications for audience perceptions. CNN employs a more flexible approach than Fox News, potentially cultivating a more discerning audience engagement, while Fox News adopts a more directive and authoritative stance. It is clear from these results that media outlets play a significant role in the shaping of public discourse surrounding international crises. Furthermore, they highlight the importance of understanding media strategies within the broader context of political communication.

6.2.3. Personal Pronoun Usage Across the Corpus

Thus, the analysis of personal pronoun use across the corpus conjures a vivid image of authorial presence and reader engagement. On the one hand, multiple examples of first-person pronouns reveal the over-representation of this pronoun group. Existing scholarship highlights the vital role of first-person pronouns in constructing authorial identity, asserting personal opinion, and

drawing the audience. Writers who use such pronouns as I, me, and we, make it possible to make explicit the source of these opinions and experiences. Consequently, they create a community of views with the target audience. On the other hand, only 13 examples of second-person pronouns are identified across the corpus, a markedly under-representation. Regarding the writers, this imbalance suggests that they have consciously chosen to prioritize self-representation and a personal voice when communicating with the addressee. This latter pronoun was inserted irregularly to preserve objectivity in a manuscript, in good accordance with disciplines or genres associated with the presentation of a point of view in an impersonal manner. Nevertheless, even the individual numerical distribution attests to the will to engage in a dialogue, although moderated by the author.

There are two texts that are entirely devoid of both first-person and second-person pronouns. These instances provide another layer of intrigue to the analysis as they raise questions about the rhetorical motivations and contextual factors that lead writers to avoid using first-person pronouns in the first place. It is possible that the absence of personal pronouns indicates a conscious effort to achieve a tone of impersonality or objectivity, possibly in accordance with specific genre conventions or disciplinary norms that place a greater emphasis on communication of ideas than author identity projection. It is also possible that the avoidance of personal pronouns is a stylistic choice that is motivated by individual preferences or a desire to achieve a certain rhetorical effect. If further investigation is conducted into the nature and purpose of these texts, the reasons behind this fascinating pattern of pronoun avoidance, as well as its potential implications for the engagement and persuasion of the reader, can be clarified.

As a result of analysing the usage of personal pronouns across the corpus, a deeper understanding can be gained of the rhetorical strategies writers use to assert their presence and engage with their audiences, as well as navigate the conventions of their respective genres and disciplines can be gained. In the texts examined, the predominance of first-person pronouns emphasizes the authorial identity as well as the personal voice of the author, whereas the limited use of second-person pronouns raises questions regarding the balance between self-representation and reader engagement. A further examination of the contextual factors and rhetorical motivations that shape writers' choices when using personal pronouns will be enriched by the fascinating cases of pronoun avoidance.

Pronoun usage patterns across various genres and text categories reveal a complex combination of rhetorical strategies, disciplinary conventions, and individual author choices that are not

merely the product of stylistic preference, but rather of a complex combination of rhetorical strategies and disciplinary conventions.

6.2.4. Normalized Frequencies of Personal Pronouns Across Text IDs

It is interesting to observe the consistent pattern of personal pronoun use across different text IDs, which allows us to reflect on the nuances of authorial presence and reader engagement across a wide range of textual contexts. From the absence of personal pronouns (0.00) to the striking prevalence of first-person pronouns (4.75), the diverse spectrum of frequency illustrates the diversity of rhetorical strategies employed by writers across a wide range of genres, disciplines, and individual styles.

According to the overall trend observed in the corpus, the majority of texts use first-person pronouns over second-person pronouns, reinforcing the notion that writers place a high value on personal voice and self-representation in order to establish credibility, convey expertise, and assist readers in understanding their arguments (Hyland 2008). It is possible that the higher normalized frequencies of first-person pronouns in texts containing both types of pronouns suggest a deliberate rhetorical choice intended to emphasize the author's perspective and presence, even when engaging the reader directly. The pronounced usage of pronouns in texts like FN.R.08 (4.75), FN.R.05 (3.99), and FN.T.06 (3.23), suggests that such rhetorical purposes and contextual factors are at play. It can be revealing to understand the reasons behind these exceptionally high levels of frequency to assist writers in achieving their persuasive goals and creating a strong authorial identity by strategically deploying personal pronouns.

A puzzling contrast can be observed in the texts exhibiting zero or extremely low normalized frequencies of personal pronouns, as in FN.I.01, FN.I.04, CN.I.04 (0.17), and FN.I.05 (0.12). In these cases, there is a scarcity or a complete absence of personal pronouns, raising interesting questions regarding rhetorical strategies and contexts that influence the choice. This avoidance of personal pronouns is possibly a conscious attempt to maintain an objective or impersonal stance, adhering to conventions based on particular genres or disciplines which place greater emphasis on the transmission of ideas than the projection of authorial identity. It may also be the stylistic choice to limit the use of personal pronouns to achieve a particular rhetorical effect, such as emphasizing the content over the author's presence, resulting from personal preferences or a desire to create a particular rhetorical effect. The analysis of the content, structure, and

rhetorical purposes of these texts may provide valuable insight into alternative linguistic strategies and devices used by writers to communicate effectively without personal pronouns.

Based on a comparative analysis of text categories, significant variations were observed in the use of personal pronouns, revealing the complex interaction between genre conventions, disciplinary norms, and authorial choices. With a wide range of frequencies, the FN.R category emerges as the most variable when it comes to personal pronoun usage. Despite this heterogeneity, the category appears to have substantial flexibility and room for individual stylistic choices, suggesting a less rigid adherence to genre conventions or a wider range of rhetorical purposes. FN.I, on the other hand, exhibits relatively lower frequencies and reduced variability, suggesting that the use of personal pronouns has become more standardized or constrained, possibly influenced by the expectations and norms associated with the genres or disciplines included in this category. There are contrasting patterns in these texts, which make it possible to further explore the specific characteristics, purposes, and conventions of each type of text, as well as how authors navigate these constraints to achieve their rhetorical goals.

As exemplified by FN.R.05 and FN.T.06, the intriguing distribution of first-person and second-person pronouns further enhances the analysis complexity. The use of equitable pronouns may be an intentional rhetorical strategy aimed at fostering a dialogue between the writer and the reader. The authors of these texts potentially create a sense of shared perspective and invite the reader to actively participate in the construction of meaning by striking a balance between self-representation and direct reader address. It is possible to determine the effectiveness of such balanced pronoun usage in achieving persuasive goals and promoting reader participation by reviewing the content, argumentative structure, and rhetorical moves employed in these texts.

There is a striking variation in frequency of personal pronouns within each text category, which emphasizes the idiosyncratic nature of language use and the influence of individual writing styles. Contrasting patterns in the use of personal pronouns within categories, such as the low frequency in FN.R.01, FN.R.03, and FN.R.07 compared to high frequencies in FN.R.05 and FN.R.08, emphasize the need to consider both genre-specific patterns as well as authorial choices when analysing personal pronoun usage. Writing authors use personal pronouns for a variety of reasons, including specific rhetorical purposes, target audiences, and stylistic preferences.

By examining the normalized frequencies of personal pronouns across text IDs, one can gain a nuanced understanding of the complex tapestry of authorial presence and reader engagement strategies employed by writers. In view of the wide spectrum of frequencies observed, it is evident that rhetorical choices are diverse and genre conventions, disciplinary norms, and individual styles influence use of personal pronouns. It is evident from the comparative analysis of text categories that there are substantial differences between the texts within each group, which encourages further investigation of those texts. As a result of the intriguing examples of balanced pronoun distribution and the striking contrasts within categories, it is imperative that genre-specific patterns as well as authorial choices be considered when analysing personal pronoun usage. Through the exploration of the extensive use of pronouns in various texts and genres, a deeper understanding is gained about how authorship identity, reader engagement, and rhetorical strategies contribute to persuasiveness in written discourse through the interaction of author and reader.

6.2.5. Comparison of First-Person and Second-Person Pronouns Across the Corpus

There is a significant disparity in the normalized frequencies of first-person and second-person pronouns across the corpus, as is illustrated in the bar chart, which calls for further study of the rhetorical implications and potential factors contributing to this finding. First-person pronouns are extremely prevalent throughout the text, with an average normalized frequency exceeding 0.8, demonstrating the writers' strong desire to assert their authorial identity and self-representation, as well as guide the reader through their argumentative process.

A stark contrast exists with the marginal use of second-person pronouns, with an average normalized frequency below 0.2, raising questions about the writers' rhetorical strategies and audience engagement strategies. There may be an intention to maintain a certain level of distance or objectivity by limiting the use of second-person pronouns, placing a greater emphasis on presenting ideas and arguments over direct reader involvement. Genre conventions or disciplinary norms can influence this approach, emphasizing content communication rather than establishing a dialogic relationship with the reader. This approach emphasizes a more impersonal or detached manner of writing. There is also the possibility that the limited use of second-person pronouns may be the result of individual author preferences or stylistic preferences influenced by factors such as the intended audience, the purpose of the text, or the desired rhetorical effect.

In addition to creating a compelling visual representation of the imbalance in personal pronoun usage, figure 6 displays a striking contrast between the towering first-person pronoun bar and the barely discernible second-person pronoun bar. As a result of this striking contrast, readers are invited to contemplate the rhetorical and reader perceptions associated with such a substantial disparity. In spite of the dominant use of first-person pronouns, which may enhance the sense of authorial presence and engagement, there are limited opportunities for direct reader involvement and dialogic interaction due to the paucity of second-person pronouns. As a result of this imbalance, the texts are questioned whether they are effective in fostering a shared perspective and promoting active reader involvement in meaning construction.

Although figure 6 is an effective representation of personal pronoun usage within a corpus, it is imperative to recognize its inherent limitations. As a result of focusing solely on average normalized frequencies, the nuances and variations across individual texts and subcategories are not captured. Obtaining a more comprehensive and detailed understanding of pronoun usage would require additional data points and visualizations. In order to achieve this, it is necessary to examine the frequency of pronouns in particular sections of texts. It is necessary to conduct qualitative analyses of pronoun functions and contexts, or examine the relationship between pronoun usage and other linguistic characteristics. Detailed analyses of such texts would provide valuable insight into the complex interplay between the authorial presence, the reader's engagement, and the rhetorical strategies employed within particular textual contexts.

However, figure 6 provides a powerful framework for exploring intriguing patterns of personal pronoun usage within the corpus, despite these limitations. In addition, it encourages further research into the rhetorical motivations, genre expectations, and disciplinary conventions that inform writers' choice to use first-person and second-person pronouns. In addition, this study emphasizes the necessity to examine more nuanced how pronoun usage contributes to authorial identity, reader engagement, and persuasive argumentation within specific textual contexts. A deeper understanding of the complex relationship between authorial presence and reader involvement in written discourse can be obtained by studying personal pronoun functions and contexts.

It raises significant questions concerning rhetorical strategies and conventions that shape academic writing when first-person and second-person pronouns are analyzed across the corpus. Understanding how disciplinary norms, genre expectations, and individual authorial choices affect self-representation and reader engagement is challenging. In the corpus, first-

person pronouns dominate, and second-person pronouns are relatively scarce. This may reflect a broader trend in academic discourse where the presentation of ideas and arguments is more important than direct reader participation. While recognizing the diverse rhetorical practices across disciplines and genres is essential, it is also important to recognize the role of individual authorial agency in shaping the use of pronouns within specific textual contexts.

The implications of these patterns for both writers and readers are important to consider as the complex landscape of personal pronoun usage in academic writing is further explored. When used strategically, personal pronouns can serve as a powerful tool to establish credibility, assert expertise, and guide the reader through the argumentation process for writers. A writer's effectiveness may, however, depend on the expectations and conventions of his or her target audience, as well as the rhetorical purposes of the text. To achieve their communicative goals, writers must balance self-representation with reader engagement, observing the norms and practices of their disciplinary communities while also making deliberate choices.

In addition to shaping their perceptions of the author's identity, the nature of the arguments presented, and their own role in the meaning-making process, readers are also affected by the presence or absence of personal pronouns. Incorporating first-person pronouns may contribute to the author's sense of authority and expertise, allowing readers to connect with the author's perspective and experience. Although second-person pronouns are scarce, there may be limited opportunities for direct reader involvement and dialogic interaction, which may affect the sense of shared perspective and active participation in knowledge construction. It is important to note that readers' expectations and interpretations regarding the use of personal pronouns may differ depending on the genre or discipline they are reading, as well as their own cultural and linguistic background.

As a catalyst for further research and reflection into rhetorical strategies and conventions that shape academic writing, a comparative analysis of first-person and second-person pronouns across the corpus is being conducted. This study encourages a deeper exploration of the many interplays between authorial presence, reader engagement, and disciplinary norms and practices. It is possible to gain a deeper understanding of writers' approach to self-representation and reader involvement by examining the patterns of use of personal pronouns within specific textual contexts, and how these choices contribute to their persuasiveness and effectiveness.

6.2.6. Personal Pronoun Usage in CNN and Fox News Articles

A comparative analysis of CNN and Fox News personal pronoun usage in articles illustrates interesting patterns and potential implications for these organizations' rhetorical strategies, as illustrated in Figure 7. CNN articles have a higher average normalized frequency of first-person pronouns, indicating a greater emphasis on authorial presence and personal perspective in their reporting. By highlighting the writer's unique voice and experiences, first-person pronouns can establish credibility, convey expertise, and engage the reader. The CNN article may attempt to strengthen the reader's connection with CNN by emphasizing the journalist's identity and perspective, encouraging them to trust the writer's insights and interpretations of the news events being covered.

Fox News articles, on the other hand, tend to use first-person pronouns less frequently, with an average normalized frequency of just above 0.8 on average. This seemingly minor difference raises questions regarding the rhetorical implications and editorial choices that shape Fox News reporting when it comes to pronoun usage. A slightly reduced use of first-person pronouns could indicate a desire for an impersonal reporting style or a cautious approach to authorial self-representation by the author. By prioritizing facts and events over the reporter's personal perspective, this approach is likely to reflect a desire to maintain a sense of objectivity or neutrality. The use of first-person pronouns in news reporting may also be influenced by organizational norms or editorial guidelines.

There is, however, a striking difference between CNN and Fox News articles regarding the frequency of second-person pronouns. As compared to CNN's frequency of less than 0.1, Fox News articles possess a significantly higher average normalized frequency of second-person pronouns. As a result of this disparity, Fox News appears to be making an increased effort to engage the readers and directly address them. This fosters a sense of interaction and involvement. In Fox News articles, second person pronouns are commonly used, which may reflect the author's deliberate rhetorical strategy to develop a stronger connection with the audience, resulting in a sense of shared perspectives and encouraging the reader to participate actively in interpreting the news events being reported. It may be possible for Fox News articles to engage the reader directly, in an effort to create a more persuasive and inclusive discourse that invites them to align with the writer's perspective and engage in the debate.

It is intriguing to investigate the rhetorical choices and editorial policies that influence the language used by these influential news organizations through an analysis of personal pronoun usage in CNN and Fox News articles. The differences in frequency and distribution suggest that CNN and Fox News approach authorial presence and reader engagement differently. Though CNN and Fox News clearly prefer first-person pronouns to second-person pronouns, the differences in frequency and distribution indicate different approaches. In CNN's use of first-person pronouns, the emphasis may be greater on building journalistic credibility and communicating personal perspectives, while Fox News' use of second-person pronouns may indicate a deliberate attempt to engage and persuade viewers by addressing them directly and sharing their perspectives.

These findings must, however, be considered within the broader context of news discourse, along with the particular genre expectations and constraints influencing journalism. A number of factors may influence the observed patterns of pronoun usage, including editorial guidelines, target audience demographics, and the content covered. A larger sample of articles and a consideration of additional linguistic features would be of value in order to gain a better understanding of the rhetorical strategies used by CNN and Fox News. In addition to exploring the relationship between personal pronoun usage and other stylistic and rhetorical devices used by these news organizations, this project may involve examining the use of personal pronouns across various news genres, including hard news reporting, feature articles, and opinion pieces.

It raises important questions regarding the role of language in shaping public discourse and influencing audience perceptions as a result of the comparative analysis of personal pronouns on CNN and Fox News. Journalists and news organizations' rhetoric, including the use of personal pronouns, can significantly influence reader engagement and interpretation of news events being reported. It is possible to gain a deep understanding of journalistic authority, reader engagement, and public opinion by observing and analyzing the patterns and variations in pronoun usage across different news sources.

As a result of this comparative analysis, practical implications for journalism education and practice have also emerged. Through a better understanding of rhetorical strategies and linguistic choices that characterize different news organizations, future journalists can better understand the tools they are available to engage readers and convey their intended message by developing a more nuanced understanding of these strategies. These insights can be used in journalism education to guide students in making deliberate and effective choices in their own

writing, taking into account audience expectations and conventions as well as their intended rhetorical purposes.

Based on the above-mentioned data and results of the comparative analysis, it is possible to conclude that CNN and Fox News apply different rhetorical strategies. However, in both cases, these rhetorical patterns help to promote different approaches and styles that identify each news organization. In other words, the possible explanation for more frequent use of first-person pronouns in CNN's articles can be their focus on authorial presence and personal perspective. In contrast, the application of second-person pronouns in Fox News's articles proves the intention to address readers and persuade. The results, thus, have some implications for understanding the language use and news writing. It is essential to consider the limitations of the present study and the peculiarities of its focus. To compare CNN and Fox News, it was possible to concentrate only on their personal pronouns and specific characteristics. The future study should consider a larger number of articles and analyze multiple linguistic characteristics to offer a comprehensive view of the news organizations' rhetoric. At the same time, the present study contributes to the new insight into the aspect of language influence on the public discourse and perception and emphasizes the importance of the rational application of certain rhetorical devices for journalists and their works.

It is possible to gain valuable insight into the ways language is employed to construct journalistic authority, foster reader engagement, and shape public opinion by understanding patterns and variations in the use of personal pronouns across different news sources. As a result of these insights, aspiring journalists can develop rhetorical awareness and effective writing strategies that will benefit their career development. It is a compelling starting point for further research and reflection that the comparative analysis of personal pronoun usage in CNN and Fox News articles serves as a compelling starting point for further research and reflection.

6.2.7. Emotive Language

CNN and Fox News employ a wide range of rhetorical strategies in their news articles, as evidenced by the comparative analysis of emotive language frequencies. Using emotional language in the manner described in Figure 9 illuminates the striking disparities between the outlets' approaches to persuasion and audience engagement, suggesting that each outlet has

developed its own distinct approach tailored to resonate with its target demographics and advance its editorial goals.

As evidenced by the constellation of data points scattered above and below the average line, perhaps the most noteworthy observation of the comparative data is the sheer magnitude of variability between individual articles. The findings lend support to the notion that emotive language is a deliberate rhetorical choice made by writers to achieve particular persuasive objectives. There is considerable variability in the way writers use language, which suggests that they are not bound by an exclusive style guide, but rather have the flexibility to strategically adapt their language according to the nuances of each story, taking into account factors such as topic, context, and target audience. In light of this adaptability, it is imperative to take into account the numerous complexities and subtleties of rhetorical strategies in media discourse, in which writers manage the delicate balance between informing and persuading their readers while maintaining their outlet's editorial voice and ideology.

While the two news outlets exhibit a wide range of differences between themselves, there are unmistakable patterns that emerge when comparing them, patterns that suggest deeper differences in rhetoric and editorial philosophy between the two news outlets. As a result of the higher frequency clustering observed between 2.0 and 3.0 in Fox News articles, it is clear that emotive language is used more prominently and pervasively, which contrasts greatly with CNN articles whose frequency clustering tends to fall between 1.0 and 2.0. Fox News writers have taken a deliberate approach to employing emotional appeals as a central pillar of their rhetorical strategy, using affective language to develop a stronger connection with their audience and promote engagement. Fox News writers may be seeking to cultivate a loyal and passionate audience by infusing their articles with a higher concentration of emotive language, resulting in readers who will be more receptive to their editorial stance and more likely to internalize their ideological viewpoints. The primary objective of Fox News is to engage its audience's emotional landscape by tapping into the affective dimensions of news stories. By doing so, Fox News is not just reporting the facts but also influencing how viewers perceive and interpret those facts.

Both outlets exhibit the highest frequencies of emotive language when covering the Iranian conflict, according to the analysis. There is a significant clustering of data points associated with Iranian articles compared to Russian or Chinese articles. This suggests that the Iranian issue is perceived as an extremely emotive and contentious topic. This requires an emotionally

charged rhetorical approach that is subjective and emotional. It is possible that the increased use of emotive language in coverage of Iran has been the result of a concerted effort to create an impression of urgency, moral outrage, or sympathy among readers, thereby influencing public opinion and potentially influencing policy preferences. As a result of this finding, significant questions arise about how the media frame international conflicts. In addition, significant questions arise about the influence of emotive language on public discourse and decision-making. In other words, news outlets are not simply channels for disseminating information, but are active participants in developing narratives that impact how the public perceives and responds to global events.

Additionally, the data reveals a significant disparity in Fox News' and CNN's use of emotive language when discussing Russian issues. When comparing Fox News articles to CNN articles on the same topic, the use of emotive language in Fox News articles is significantly higher, as is the distribution of data points in CNN articles. In regards to Russia-related issues, this finding may indicate that there are fundamental differences in editorial stances and rhetorical approaches among the two publications. The more emotional coverage Fox News provided about Russia could be interpreted as an attempt to frame the issue in a particular manner, perhaps by evoking feelings of threat, suspicion, or patriotism among its audience members. CNN, on the other hand, uses emotive language more restrained in its coverage of Russia, possibly reflecting a deliberate decision to maintain a more objective and analytical tone, by prioritizing factual reporting over emotional appeals. Different editorial policies, target audiences, and ideological orientations may contribute to this divergence in rhetorical strategies. In addition, it provides evidence that media outlets may use selective emotive language to influence public perceptions of foreign powers and attitudes toward foreign countries.

Several significant conclusions are drawn from the comparative analysis of emotive language frequencies across topics and outlets. These conclusions have wide-ranging implications for understanding media discourse. As a first point, Fox News' consistent use of emotive language suggests a deliberate rhetorical strategy designed to engage the reader emotionally rather than rely solely on factual reporting. In addition to capturing attention, this approach may reinforce ideological positions, and foster a sense of shared identity among the outlet's target audience. Fox News writers can develop a more immersive and compelling narrative by emphasizing the affective dimensions of news stories. This resonates with readers on a deeper, more visceral

level beyond mere intellectual understanding and reaches out to core values, beliefs, and emotions, beyond mere intellectual understanding.

Additionally, Fox News' tendency to use emotive language in its coverage of Iran and China suggests a concerted effort to frame these issues as a specific issue, which could have a profound effect on public perceptions and policy preferences. In order to shape the narrative surrounding these complex geopolitical issues, emotive rhetoric may be employed to create an impression of threat, urgency, and moral righteousness. Media play a crucial role in the construction and perpetuation of certain worldviews and emotive language may have an important impact on public opinion and foreign policy debates. As a result of this research, news outlets have the ability not only to report on global events, but also to actively shape how those events are viewed and understood by the general public, potentially influencing international policy and international relations.

The analysis also shows that both outlets strategically utilize emotive language to achieve specific rhetorical objectives, regardless of the intensity or frequency of their use of emotional language. A keen awareness of the persuasive power of emotions in shaping public opinion and discourse can be seen in the selective use of emotive language in coverage of certain topics. Reading news outlets must be attuned to the linguistic choices they use to persuade and influence public opinion in order to gain critical media literacy. In a time of increasing polarization and misinformation, it also raises important ethical questions concerning the responsibilities of journalists and media organizations. Media consumers must develop critical thinking skills so that they can navigate the increasingly complex and often emotionally charged landscape of modern journalism as the lines between news, opinion, and propaganda become increasingly blurred.

The quantitative analysis yields valuable information regarding CNN and Fox News' rhetorical strategies in covering international affairs. This information has significant implications for understanding media discourse and its influence on public opinion. Reading these findings emphasizes the importance of critical media literacy and the need for readers to be sensitive to the linguistic choices that news outlets use in order to persuade and influence the public. In an increasingly fragmented and polarized media landscape, it is crucial for consumers of media to develop critical awareness of the persuasive power of language and how news organizations use it to advance their editorial agendas. Understanding the rhetorical strategies at play in media texts is crucial for becoming better discerning and empowered consumers of information. This

is capable of resisting manipulation and making informed decisions about significant societal issues.

Research may continue to explore the specific types of emotional appeals employed, the rhetorical devices used to convey emotion, and the potential impact of these strategies on the perceptions of audiences and policy preferences of various audiences. It would be possible to gain a better understanding of the role of emotive language in media discourse across a range of political and ideological spectrums through a comprehensive analysis that includes a larger sample of articles and outlets. Examining reader responses and interpretations of emotive language in news articles through qualitative studies could offer valuable insight into the actual persuasive effects of these rhetorical strategies on public opinion and decision-making. This exploration has the potential to reveal the complex interplay between media discourse, public sentiment, and political action. It will also demonstrate how language shapes our understanding of the world and our place within it.

This analysis further prompts consideration of critical ethical questions surrounding emotive language in journalism. News organizations face significant responsibility for shaping public discourse. While strategic emotional appeals engage readers and highlight issues, they also manipulate opinions, solidify biases, and cloud complex realities. Journalists and news organizations need to strike a balance between engaging readers emotionally and ensuring accuracy, fairness, and transparency in their reporting. In order to achieve this, it may be necessary to promote media ethics education and training. In addition, it may be necessary to develop industry standards and guidelines for emotive language use in journalism.

In conclusion, the analysis of the frequency of emotive language in CNN and Fox News articles is ultimately a powerful reminder of the impact language can have on an individual's perception of the world he or she is a part of. As the world increasingly becomes more polarized and plagued by fake news, this book makes a powerful argument for critical media literacy. It demonstrates how media discourse can and often is used to convince, persuade, and manipulate the public. A critically aware knowledge of both the persuasive power of language and the way news agencies leverage it to shape the dialogue is crucial for us as media consumers to navigate through the quickly changing and contentious information landscape. Understanding the rhetorical strategies used in media texts, we can become more aware and confident observers or users of information, well-equipped to face both the challenges and the advantages we have in our current media age. This can help in making the community a more informed, active,

democratic, and engaging community: a place where language is used to illuminate, inspire, and bring people together, not to tear them apart.

6.2.8. Metaphorical Language

A comparative analysis of the frequency of metaphorical language across CNN and Fox News articles, as illustrated in Figures 11 and 12, provides insight into the rhetorical strategies used by these influential media giants to shape public opinion and perception regarding complex geopolitical issues. It provides a nuanced and multifaceted analysis of how metaphorical language frames and discusses three key topics. The data are presented as normalized frequencies on the Y-axis, as well as article IDs on the X-axis.

In all three topics examined, the most striking observation is that the frequency of metaphorical language is significantly different between the two news outlets. In comparison to their CNN counterparts, Fox News articles exhibit significantly higher levels of metaphorical language, with data points consistently clustering in the upper range of the normalized frequency scale. CNN articles, on the other hand, tend to congregate below 0.5, suggesting a more literal and restrained approach to reporting. Fox News focuses on the evocative power of metaphor to shape readers' perceptions and emotions, while CNN employs a neutral, factual approach to journalism. This stark disparity indicates a fundamental difference in the rhetorical strategies and ideological orientations of the two outlets.

Although the data demonstrates an overarching pattern of divergence, there are some intriguing similarities in how both outlets use metaphorical language in their reporting. In particular, articles addressing the escalating tensions with Iran tend to use metaphorical language in higher frequency than the average, with multiple data points from CNN and Fox News exceeding this frequency line. In light of the opaque and multifaceted nature of the Iranian crisis, which is characterized by a complex web of political, economic, and cultural factors, it may be necessary to rely more on metaphorical abstractions as a means of comprehending the crisis. It has been proven that metaphors can serve as powerful conceptual scaffolds for readers, allowing them to gain a better understanding of the intricacies and implications of a situation by mapping the unfamiliar and abstract into a more concrete, familiar context.

As a result of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, some peaks in metaphorical language frequency were also observed, especially in Fox News articles, clustering around the 0.7 mark in a number

of data points. It may be that the high stakes and emotional resonance of the conflict are reflected in this elevated use of metaphorical language, as well as the need to convey the magnitude and severity of the conflict to readers who may be geographically or experientially distant from the events unfolding.

There is a wider variety of metaphorical language frequency across both outlets, reflecting a more mixed picture of the tensions between Taiwan, China, and the United States. However, CNN articles exhibit a more varied distribution, ranging from the very low (0.18) to the moderate (0.55), while Fox News articles still tend to cluster at the higher end of the scale, with some peaks around 0.8. There is a possibility that this pattern is influenced by the complex interplay of geopolitical, economic, and ideological factors involved in the topic, as well as by the different rhetorical strategies employed by each outlet in order to frame and interpret these dynamics for the intended audience.

Upon closer examination of the Fox News articles concerning the Iranian crisis, a striking pattern of metaphorical language usage is evident. In five out of seven sampled articles, metaphors are employed at significantly higher frequencies than CNN's coverage in this area. The findings suggest that Fox News deliberately utilizes metaphor's rhetoric to frame the Iranian situation in a particular light. This reflects its editorial stance and is widely perceived by its target audience. By using evocative, figurative language to cover the crisis, Fox News may aim to shape readers' cognitive and affective responses, leading them to interpret events through a specific ideological lens.

Compared with CNN and Fox News in their coverage of Russian and Chinese-Taiwan issues, CNN and Fox News employ metaphorical language at roughly comparable frequencies, resulting in a less pronounced divergence between the two outlets. According to this pattern, these topics, while still contentious and emotional, may be less polarizing or ideologically fraught than the Iranian crisis, therefore less likely to result in such stark rhetorical differences between the two outlets.

These findings have several important implications. There is evidence that Fox News articles consistently use metaphorical language in a deliberate, strategic manner to influence readers' perceptions and interpretations of geopolitical realities through the use of figurative framing devices, as shown by the consistency of this use of metaphorical language across all topics. Fox News uses metaphorical imagery and connotations to craft narratives that provide more

than mere reporting of facts, but also actively construct a particular version of reality that includes implicit value judgments, ideological assumptions, and emotional resonances. Using figurative language aligns with and reinforces readers' existing cognitive schemas and worldviews, which may help to shape attitudes and opinions among those readers who are predisposed to accept the publication's editorial viewpoints.

Furthermore, the use of metaphorical language by both outlets in reporting on the Iranian crisis underscores the importance of metaphor in conceptualizing and communicating complex, abstract political realities. Metaphors can serve as powerful heuristic devices in simplifying and organizing information in a way that makes it more accessible and impactful by providing readers with a familiar and concrete framework through which to understand the intricacies of the situation. Although metaphorical abstraction can be beneficial, there are also certain risks associated with it, such as oversimplification, distortion, or even manipulation of the underlying realities. In order to understand these metaphorical frames, it is critical for readers to examine the assumptions and implications embedded within them, as well as seek out alternative perspectives and information sources.

In covering the Iranian crisis, Fox News employs tailored metaphorical language, which raises questions regarding the role of ideologically motivated framing in shaping public opinion and discourse. It may be Fox News' intention to prime readers to interpret events in a manner aligned with its political agenda by selectively employing metaphors that carry specific connotations and emotional resonances, thus potentially influencing their attitudes and behaviours. Media outlets should engage in greater media literacy and critical thinking skills among their readers, as well as rigorous scrutiny and accountability of the rhetorical strategies they employ.

As a result of comparing the frequency of metaphorical language across topics and sources, it is evident that figurative language is dynamic and context-dependent in political discourse. In the coverage of the three topics, varying patterns of metaphorical language deployment were observed, suggesting that reporters and news organizations are sensitive to the unique rhetorical demands and opportunities presented by each situation, adjusting their language use accordingly. It is imperative to recognize that metaphorical framing is fluid and adaptable, and that it is important to take into account the specific political, cultural, and historical contexts in which news discourses are produced and consumed, as well as how these contexts influence different actors' rhetorical strategies and interpretive frameworks.

The analysis also yields a number of key insights into how metaphorical language is used to construct and reinforce narratives and frames around complex geopolitical issues. News outlets can construct coherent and compelling stories by consistently employing certain metaphorical domains and mappings that structure public understanding and opinion in a certain way in line with their ideological agendas. It may serve as a means of emphasizing the urgency, severity, and existential nature of these situations, as well as priming readers to view them through a confrontational and aggressive lens, for example, by using war and conflict metaphors in the coverage of the Iranian crisis and Russia's invasion of Ukraine. It is equally important to consider that the use of economic and strategic metaphors in the reporting on tensions between Taiwan, China, and the United States may create the impression that these issues are framed in terms of national interests, power dynamics, and zero-sum scenarios.

CNN and Fox News use metaphorical language differently to frame and interpret geopolitical events, according to the comparative analysis. It is important to note that, even though both outlets employ metaphors that are similar to those used by other outlets, such as war, conflict, and economics, the specific meanings and connotations of these metaphors may vary according to the editorial stance and ideological orientation of the outlets. Fox News, as an example, may emphasize themes of threat, aggression, and moral righteousness in its coverage of the Iranian crisis, which is consistent with Fox News' conservative and nationalist worldview. By contrast, CNN's use of metaphors may reflect a more nuanced and moderate approach to the situation, one that acknowledges the complexities and ambiguities of the situation. Observing these different uses of metaphor demonstrates how figurative language can be strategically deployed to advance particular political agendas and reach particular audiences.

As a result of this analysis, it has been demonstrated that critical metaphor analysis is an effective tool for analyzing political discourse in order to gain a deeper understanding of its ideological underpinnings and persuasive strategies. The ways in which metaphorical language is used across various texts, topics, and sources can be studied in order to gain valuable insights into the subtle and implicit ways in which figurative framing devices shape public perceptions and opinions. Analyzing metaphor in this way can clarify its rhetorical power, revealing its underlying assumptions, biases, and agendas, which can serve as a means of demystifying its rhetorical power in political communication. Critical metaphor analysis can also shed light on the contested and dynamic nature of political discourse by comparing the metaphorical

strategies utilized by different actors and outlets, highlighting the way in which competing frames and narratives attempt to gain dominant positions in public discourse.

Accordingly, the comparative study of metaphorical language frequencies in CNN and Fox News articles illustrates the rhetorical strategies that CNN and Fox News employ in order to shape public opinion and understanding of complex geopolitical issues. A significant role is attributed to figurative framing devices in structuring political discourse and in influencing readers' cognitive and affective responses to news events by quantifying and visualizing the patterns of metaphorical language usage across different topics and sources in this study. This study contributes to ongoing debates about the ideological functions and persuasive power of metaphors in public discourse by situating these findings within the broader context of critical metaphor analysis and political communication research.

6.3. Final Discussion

According to a comparative analysis of the usage of personal pronouns, emotive language, and metaphorical language in CNN and Fox News articles, these media giants use complex rhetorical strategies. Using quantitative and visual analysis of patterns of language use across different topics and sources, this study has highlighted the crucial role linguistic choices play in shaping public discourse, framing complex geopolitical issues, and influencing readers' emotional and cognitive responses to news articles. A study of this nature has significant implications for the understanding of media discourse, journalistic practices, and the dynamics of public opinion formation in an increasingly polarized and technologically advanced society.

The analysis of the personal pronouns used during the selected week on CNN makes it evident that frequency of the first-person pronouns used on CNN is much higher than the frequency of the same pronouns as they are used on a weekly basis. Even though such a comparison does not provide readers with the opportunity to compare similar news stories or genres, but it is possible to compare the overall use of the first-person pronouns and determine the main trends related to the use of such pronouns by CNN. It becomes evident that the perception of media is based on the different rhetorical environment, indicated by the editing choice of personal pronouns. For that reason, CNN is trying to create a comfortable and reliable atmosphere for a reader to trust during discussing the provided article. At the same time, Fox News is focusing on the shared experience of the conversation, using targeted personal pronouns.

In addition, the analysis of emotional language frequencies revealed a complex landscape of rhetorical strategies, with Fox News consistently utilizing more emotional appeal than CNN. Affective language is deliberately used by outlets to shape readers' perceptions, reinforce ideological positions, and foster a sense of shared identity. Writers at Fox News may be attempting to cultivate a loyal and passionate audience by incorporating more emotive language in their articles, making the audience more likely to internalize the outlets' ideological viewpoints. There are important questions raised about how ideologically motivated framing shape's public opinion by selective use of emotive language in coverage of the Iranian crisis, and it emphasizes the importance of media literacy and critical thinking. Having been exposed to varying levels of emotional content, readers' perceptions of international events and narratives are inevitably influenced, with significant implications for public discourse and policy debate.

Comparative analysis of metaphorical language frequencies has shed light on the nuanced ways that figurative framing devices frame political discourse and guide the interpretation of complex geopolitical events by readers. There is a consistent higher use of metaphorical language by Fox News across all topics, suggesting a strategic effort to create narratives that engage readers on a deeper, more visceral level, tapping into their underlying values, beliefs, and emotions. Using a wide array of metaphorical expressions and maps, Fox News articles may aim to simplify and organize information in a way that aligns with its editorial agenda, influencing readers' opinions and policy preferences. In contrast, CNN's more restrained use of metaphorical language suggests a preference for literal, fact-based reporting, emphasizing the importance of providing objective information and allowing readers to draw their own conclusions. Based on the varying patterns observed in the coverage of the Iranian crisis, Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and tensions between Taiwan, China, and the United States, it is evident that metaphorical language use is dynamic and context dependent. It is important to consider the political, cultural, and historical contexts within which news discourses are created and consumed in order to better understand them.

Media discourse and its influence on public opinion are profoundly impacted by these insights. This research has contributed to ongoing debates about the ideological functions and persuasive power of linguistic choices in political communication by systematically examining patterns of language use across texts, topics, and sources. Readers need to be aware of the subtle ways news organizations frame issues, engage audiences, and advance their editorial agendas with

personal pronouns, emotive language, and metaphorical expressions. Having a strong understanding of language and its persuasive power to influence public discourse, shape policy debate, and guide collective decisions is imperative as media consumers in a complex and contested information landscape.

A nuanced and reflective approach to news consumption is imperative in a time of increasing polarization, misinformation, and information overload, especially when positioned within the context of critical discourse analysis and media studies. A comparison of CNN and Fox News reveals how media outlets can strategically use language to construct narratives, appeal to different audiences, and promote ideological agendas. Thus, it emphasizes the importance of media diversity and the need for citizens to gain a deeper understanding of our world's issues through exposure to a range of perspectives.

In addition to journalism education and practice, this study provides practical implications. As a result of this research, citizens can gain a critical and discerning understanding of the ways in which linguistic choices shape their perceptions and opinions. The rhetorical strategies students use in their own reporting should take into account the expectations and conventions of their target audiences as well as their potential impact on public discourse, so journalism educators can provide guidance. By gaining a better understanding of language's persuasive power, media organizations can develop more ethical, transparent, and accountable reporting practices. These practices emphasize accuracy, fairness, and public interest over sensationalism, partisanship, and commercial imperatives.

This study has limitations and further research is needed in this area. It focuses primarily on two prominent news outlets and uses a limited sample of articles. Future studies need to examine a wider range of sources, genres, and cultural contexts, including non-Western and non-English media, to gain a better understanding of linguistic choices in media discourse. A qualitative approach could complement the quantitative approach used in this study by examining personal pronouns, emotive language, and metaphorical expressions in news articles in more depth. The effectiveness of different language choices in shaping public opinion could also be investigated in future research using experiments or surveys based on audience perceptions, attitudes, and behaviours.

Additionally, the findings of this study raise important questions about how language is used in journalism and how media organizations shape public discourse ethically. Using linguistic

devices strategically to engage audiences, reinforce biases, and obscure complex realities can be effective in manipulating public opinion. In order to maintain accuracy, fairness, and transparency in reporting, it is crucial for media professionals to strike a balance. In addition to increasing media ethics education and training, industry standards and guidelines may need to be developed for the responsible use of persuasive language in journalism.

The comparative analysis of CNN and Fox News articles demonstrates the importance of language in defining our understanding of the world. This study has revealed how news organizations frame issues, engage audiences, and advance their editorial agendas through the use of rhetorical strategies employed by these influential media giants. The role of language as a persuasive tool in influencing public discourse, shaping policy debates, and guiding collective decision-making is increasingly important to consumers of media in an increasingly complex and contested information landscape.

As a result of this study, comparative linguistics has been proven useful in understanding media discourse and its impact on public opinion. This study sheds light on the subtle but powerful ways language choices frame issues, engage audiences, and shape perceptions by examining patterns of using personal pronouns, emotive language, and metaphorical expressions across various topics and sources. It highlights the need for greater critical language awareness and media literacy in an age of information overload and polarization, which has important implications for journalism education, media ethics, and public deliberation in democratic societies.

As the media ecosystem rapidly evolves, it is important to remain aware of how language can influence, persuade, and manipulate perceptions. Citizens can become more discerning consumers of information if they cultivate a critical and reflective approach to news consumption. They would then be better equipped to engage in the struggle for truth, justice, and democracy. The development of critical analysis skills and an understanding of rhetorical strategies in media texts can lead to a more informed, engaged, and inclusive public sphere. Language would be harnessed in such a sphere for enlightenment, inspiration, and unity, not division and deception.

Media roles in democratic societies and journalistic responsibilities in an increasingly fragmented and polarized public sphere are also strongly influenced by the findings of this study. CNN and Fox News can construct distinct narratives, appeal to different audiences, and

promote specific ideological positions by using language strategically. It is possible to engage readers with such rhetorical strategies and convey the importance of certain issues. However, they can also create echo chambers and filter bubbles where citizens only see information and perspectives that align with their values and beliefs. Thus, common ground for democratic debate and compromise can become increasingly difficult with more polarized and less informed public discourse.

The language choices journalists and media organizations use can influence public opinion and political outcomes in ways that counter these tendencies. As part of this, journalistic practices that prioritize objectivity, balance, diversity of perspectives and combat misinformation, disinformation, and propaganda may need to be strengthened. Media literacy and critical thinking skills can also be cultivated among audiences by journalists who are more transparent about sources, methods, and editorial decisions, and by engaging readers in a dialogic and participatory process.

As a result, this study highlights the importance of public engagement and responsibility. By seeking out diverse perspectives, fact-checking information, and engaging in respectful dialogue with those who hold different views, citizens have a vital role to play in promoting a more informed, inclusive, and constructive public discourse. Through the development of a critical awareness of how media texts frame issues, engage emotions, and shape perceptions of reality, language's persuasive power can also be recognized and resisted. A more resilient and responsive public sphere can be achieved by fostering active and discerning news media consumption.

Another significant benefit of the study is that it implies certain contributions to the development of linguistics and language in their interaction in various social and political contexts. Thus, as it was mentioned, the findings of the study promote a novel approach to linguistics, media studies, and political science; they prove the potential of comparative linguistic analysis for discovering certain patterns of media discourse that negatively influence public opinion. Possible directions of further study may include more detailed analyses of different linguistic specifics, namely, syntax, discourse organization, explicitly and implicitly expressed discourse characteristics, and so forth. This will help establish a better understanding of how language contributes to socio-political reality that language users have, and eventually, we may be able to develop more efficient tools for communication and government control.

In addition, CNN and Fox News' comparative analysis demonstrates the importance of linguistic diversity and the need to pay attention to how language varies across media outlets, political ideologies, and cultural contexts. Despite focusing on two prominent American news organizations, future research could explore linguistic strategies used by media outlets in other countries and regions, as well as how local politics, economics, and cultures influence these strategies. An increasingly interconnected and multipolar world can be illuminated by linguists taking a more global, comparative approach to media discourse.

Humanities as a whole and the role language plays in shaping human experience and understanding will be significantly impacted. Based on a comparative analysis of CNN and Fox News, language is more than just a way to convey information; it's a powerful tool to construct meaning, shape perceptions, and influence behavior as well. In the humanities, analyzing how language is employed in different social, cultural, and political contexts can help us better understand the human condition. It is possible to gain insights from linguistic analysis across a range of disciplines, including literature, philosophy, history, and anthropology, to better understand how language shapes identities, values, and beliefs.

Comparative analyses of personal pronoun usage, emotive language, and metaphorical language frequency provide a rich and nuanced understanding of CNN and Fox News' complex rhetorical strategies. The study quantifies and visualizes language use patterns across different topics and sources to demonstrate the importance of language choices in shaping public discourse, framing complex geopolitical issues, and influencing readers' cognitive and affective responses. In an era of information overload and polarization, this research highlights the need for greater critical language awareness and media literacy in journalism education, media ethics, and public debate in democratic societies.

In a rapidly evolving media ecosystem, it is imperative that we remain conscious of the ways language can persuade, influence, and sometimes manipulate our perceptions and opinions. Consuming news critically and reflectively can lead to becoming more discerning and empowered consumers of information, better able to participate in ongoing struggles for truth, justice, and democracy. Skills for interrogating rhetorical strategies within media texts are developed to foster a more informed, engaged, and inclusive public sphere. In such a sphere, language would be harnessed for enlightenment, inspiration, and unity, rather than division and deception.

What may the pragmatic and rhetorical grammar strategies employed by political writers tell us about the motivations and/or positions of those same writers?

There are a number of pragmatic and rhetorical grammar strategies that political writers use in CNN and Fox News articles that provide insight into their motivations and positions. Through the analysis of speech acts, personal pronouns, emotive language, and metaphorical expressions of these influential media outlets, one can gain a better understanding of their different rhetorical approaches and ideological orientations.

Among headlines, the predominant use of assertive and directive speech acts suggests that the aim is to inform the public about the situation authoritatively and to guide it. CNN's headlines are more frequently characterized by expressive acts, which are indicative of an approach aimed at emotionally engaging readers, while Fox News headlines are more frequently characterized by directive acts, which indicate that Fox News intends to set the agenda and influence the behaviour of its audience.

CNN's increased use of first-person pronouns emphasizes authorial presence and personal perspective, potentially fostering trust and rapport with readers. In addition, CNN's strategic deployment of personal pronouns further illustrates the writer's intention. The greater frequency in which Fox News uses second-person pronouns suggests that they are attempting to build a sense of shared perspective through addressing and persuading the audience directly.

Based upon a comparative analysis of emotional language frequencies, Fox News consistently relies on affective appeals in order to reinforce ideological positions and shape readers' perceptions, particularly when reporting on the emotionally charged Iranian crisis. The outlet has implemented a rhetorical strategy in order to build a loyal and passionate audience, receptive to its editorial positions.

There is also a stronger and more consistent use of metaphorical language by Fox News across all topics, suggesting that a concerted effort has been made to frame the issues according to the network's ideology. The writers of Fox News use figurative devices to create narratives that touch the underlying values and beliefs of their readers, thereby engaging them on a visceral level.

This linguistic choice can be viewed as a reflection of the editorial policies and target audiences of these outlets. As a result of CNN's rhetorical strategies, it is evident that CNN has placed an

emphasis on building journalistic credibility, providing a platform for diverse perspectives, and fostering emotional connection. In the case of Fox News, the use of direct language, second-person address, and metaphorical framing indicates an overtly persuasive style that aims to reinforce conservative ideologies as well as mobilize the audience.

In terms of advancing their respective editorial agendas, CNN and Fox News writers employ pragmatic and rhetorical grammar strategies that reveal their underlying motivations to shape public discourse, influence opinion, and advance their respective editorial agendas with their writing. It is through their strategic use of language that these media giants play an active role in crafting narratives that resonate with their target audiences and shape the public's understanding of complex geopolitical realities by strategically framing issues, engaging emotions, and imposing interpretations.

7. Conclusion:

This study has provided a comprehensive analysis of the pragmatic and rhetorical strategies employed by CNN and Fox News in their news articles, focusing on the use of personal pronouns, emotive language, and metaphorical expressions. As a result of examining 40 opinion articles that cover the ongoing crisis in Iran, Russian invasion in Ukraine, and tensions between Taiwan, China, and the United States, several key findings have been identified which directly address the research questions posed at the beginning of this dissertation.

Based on Searle's taxonomy of speech acts, the first research question sought to identify the pragmatic strategies used to create persuasive political headlines. The analysis revealed a tendency for assertive and directive acts to dominate headlines. There was a higher frequency of expressive acts on CNN, indicating a narrative-driven approach intended to connect emotionally with readers, as opposed to Fox News which employed more directive acts, suggesting an agenda-setting role and efforts to influence audience behavior.

It was the second research question that examined how political writers used specific grammatical choices to convey rhetorical persuasiveness. According to the rhetorical grammar analysis influenced by Kolln and Gray, CNN's articles were more likely to utilize first-person pronouns and emotive language, emphasizing their authorship and emotional engagement. The Fox News channel, on the other hand, employed more directive language, second-person

pronouns, and metaphorical expressions to shape audience perceptions and reinforce its ideological stance.

It was the purpose of the third research question to determine if these pragmatic and rhetorical grammar strategies revealed information about the motivations and positions of political writers. CNN's rhetorical choices indicate a focus on creating narratives and creating emotional connections with readers, whereas Fox News' strategies indicate a more direct approach aimed at influencing audience perceptions and reinforcing ideological positions.

By taking these findings into account, a deeper understanding of how language is used strategically in the news media to shape public discourse and influence readers' perceptions of complex geopolitical issues has been achieved. Study findings emphasize the importance of effective language skills and media literacy in an age of information overload and polarization, emphasizing the need for readers to be aware of the persuasive methods employed by news organizations to advance their editorial agendas.

On the other hand, it should be noted that the research has several limitations, such as the, in fact, focus on a couple of news sources and a modest sample of articles. Therefore, for a comprehensive study of the manner in which language influences the formation of media discourse, other sources, types of news, and cultures should be included, as well as separate language elements and methods used for the analysis.

This research may facilitate a deeper understanding of the interplay between language, pragmatics, and rhetoric in news writing. In this study, linguistic analysis has been demonstrated to be important in revealing subtle ways in which media outlets can influence public opinion and shape global narratives, underscoring the importance of cross-disciplinary collaboration between linguists and media scholars.

This study is valuable for linguistics and media studies because it illustrates the paramount role of language in the process of construction and formation, perception, and behavioral impact. With the need for developing sensitivity and analytical skills in the challenging tasks of the media, the public needs to have an accurate understanding of events and information. Thus, the modern media environment highlights the significance of language as an instrument of awareness, comprehension, and integration.

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APPENDIX

Summaries of the selected news articles based on their IDs

FN.R.01: In the opinion article titled *Top 5 reasons America must support Ukraine and help it defeat Russia*, published on Fox News on December 15, 2022, 1097 words are contained. Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, and the article is associated with the invasion. The article discusses Russia's actions, the significance of supporting Ukraine from a strategic perspective, and potential implications for American security and international peace. In this opinion piece, author Michael Allen presents five compelling reasons why America must support Ukraine in its ongoing conflict with Russia. The United States and NATO allies can benefit from supporting Ukraine by preventing a larger European conflict and protecting their interests. Furthermore, supporting Ukraine weakens Russian military capabilities, giving European allies the opportunity to enhance their defense capabilities. The third reason is that by supporting Ukraine's victory, we are preventing disruptions caused by the conflict, including spikes in oil prices, which contribute to economic stability. Fourthly, a successful Ukrainian campaign sends a strong message to China, discouraging any aggressive ambitions regarding Taiwan. Additionally, supporting Ukraine aligns with the defense of Western values, such as freedom, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, against the oppressive actions of Russia. In the face of geopolitical challenges, the United States can safeguard Ukraine's security and promote stability by actively assisting the country.

FN.R.02: The second selected opinion piece published on Fox News by Senator Joni Ernst on March 5, 2022, titled *Ukraine's military desperately needs more lethal aid and Congress must step up* advocates immediate action from Congress to provide lethal assistance to Ukraine's military in their battle against Russian aggression, approximately 1113 words are contained. In order to prevent a potential Russian victory within weeks, additional weapons, ammunition, communications equipment, and medical supplies are essential, according to the article. Ernst has criticized the Biden administration's response to the conflict, pointing out missed opportunities to prevent the conflict and adequately support Ukraine's defence. Throughout her essay, she emphasizes the United States' historic commitment to Ukraine's independence and its shared values of freedom and democracy. By concluding the article, Congress is urged to take decisive action to support the Ukrainian people in their struggle for freedom and independence by prioritizing the situation in Ukraine. As a result of the call for assistance, the

Ukrainian military is facing increasing losses, and the cause of freedom is diminishing.

FN.R.03: The third selected opinion piece that contains 1035 words published on Fox News on February 25, 2022, titled *How Democratic presidents Clinton, Obama and Biden caused the crisis in Ukraine* discusses the role democratic presidents, including Bill Clinton, Barack Obama, and Joe Biden, played in causing the Ukrainian crisis. It is Haskins' contention that these presidents have made significant mistakes in handling the situation, contributing significantly to the current chaos that is occurring in Ukraine. Among the factors highlighted in the article are the decision of Clinton to support the nuclear disarmament of Ukraine, the failure of Obama to protect Ukraine's sovereignty in the face of Russian aggression, as well as Obama's and Biden's opposition to fossil fuels, which has led to Europe's dependence on Russian energy. As a result of these actions and policies, Haskins asserts that Ukraine has been weakened and Russian influence has been expanded. As the article does not specifically relate to a specific event in the political world, it presents a retrospective analysis of the impact of these presidents' decisions on the ongoing Ukrainian crisis.

FN.R.04: As reported by Rep. Michael McCaul and Gen. Jack Keane on Fox News on February 24, 2023, *The Ukraine War wouldn't take as long if Biden committed to victory*. Approximately 901 words make up this opinion piece. It has been argued that if President Joe Biden demonstrates a stronger commitment to achieving victory, the ongoing Ukraine war may be resolved more quickly. As they draw parallels to historical events like Hitler's aggression, the authors emphasize the importance of supporting Ukraine during its conflict with Russia. According to them, Ukraine lacks the resources to secure victory and drive out Russian forces because the Biden administration is slow in providing critical weapon systems. Ukraine's offensive capabilities should be bolstered by the prompt delivery of air defence systems, artillery, armor, drones, and fighter jets. Moreover, it emphasizes the importance of joining forces with its allies in supporting Ukraine, morally and for national security. A swift resolution is crucial to deter Chinese expansionism in the Indo-Pacific region and to prevent further Russian aggression. It analyzes the current political situation and offers recommendations for supporting Ukraine in its fight against Russian aggression more actively.

FN.R.05: Tucker Carlson discusses the impact of Russian invasion of Ukraine on the foreign policy record of President Joe Biden in his opinion piece published on February 26, 2022, entitled *Russia's invasion of Ukraine is a humiliating defeat for Joe Biden*, published on

February 26, 2022. The article spans approximately 670 words. In this article, Carlson argues that Biden's leadership has failed in this invasion, highlighting this as the second major foreign policy crisis under his leadership within the past 12 months. According to the author, both events demonstrate the weakness of the United States and undermine credibility on the global stage as they demonstrate the chaotic withdrawal from Afghanistan. According to the article, Biden is viewed as lacking resolve and credibility when dealing with international challenges, which undermines the U.S. position as a superpower. In light of the current Ukrainian crisis, the opinion piece presents a critical assessment of Biden's foreign policy approach.

FN.R.06: Rebecca Grant analyses the situation in Ukraine in her opinion piece published on Fox News on September 9, 2022, titled *Ukraine Aid Is Working and Russia's Invasion Is Losing Ground*. A length of approximately 717 words, she describes the recent developments surrounding the conflict between Ukraine and Russia in this article. During Grant's visit to Kyiv, Secretary of State Antony Blinken pledged assistance and announced \$3 billion in aid. As well, General Mark Milley, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin confirmed that Ukraine had launched a major counter-offensive. According to Grant's analysis, these actions represent a turning point in the conflict, dispelling fears of Russia's overwhelming power. As an investment against Russian imperialism and a deterrent to Chinese military ambitions, the author stresses the importance of continuing aid to Ukraine, emphasizing its role in Ukraine's success and its contribution to countering Russian imperialism. This article provides excellent insight into the ongoing conflict and the impact of aid on the evolving military situation.

FN.R.07: On March 6, 2022, the opinion piece titled *Defending Religion in Ukraine - Putin Distorts Shared Christian Roots to Justify War* appeared on Fox News, written by Knox Thames, and spanning approximately 1059 words. Thames explores the religious aspects of the ongoing conflict between Ukraine and Russia, pointing out how President Putin has manipulated their shared Christian heritage to justify the conflict. According to the article, Putin emphasized spiritual connections as a justification for the invasion in his pre-invasion speech. Thames also examines the religious landscape of Ukraine, examining the dominant Eastern Christian identity and the influence of the various Orthodox churches. As a result of Russian victory, the author raises concerns about the erosion of religious freedom in Ukraine. As a whole, the article offers a comprehensive analysis of the religious underpinnings of the Ukraine-Russia conflict and how they have influenced Putin's view of the conflict.

FN.R.08: Tucker Carlson raises concerns about the presence of dangerous biological weapons in Ukraine in an opinion piece published on March 9, 2022, titled *Someone needs to explain why there are dangerous biological weapons in Ukraine*. In approximately 3008 words, Carlson questions the Biden administration's alleged funding of secret bio labs in Ukraine as well as their failure to secure the contents of those labs before the Russian invasion of Ukraine. His rebuttal, published in USA Today, dismisses claims regarding U.S. biolabs in Ukraine as false and linked to Russian propaganda. Carlson points to an exchange between Senator Marco Rubio and Under Secretary of State Victoria Nuland during a hearing of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, in which it is revealed that Ukraine has biological research facilities, and concerns have been raised about the possibility of the research materials falling into Russian hands. The revelation raises significant concerns about the nature of the research conducted in these laboratories, the reasons for the funding provided by the United States, and the implications of such materials escaping. According to the article, the presence of these biological weapons may be correlated with ongoing tensions between Russia, Ukraine, and the United States.

CN.R.01: It was stated by Jeffrey Sachs in an opinion piece published on April 20, 2022, titled *A negotiated peace is the only way to end Russia's war on Ukraine*, which contains 1481 words, that a peace agreement is the only means of resolving the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine. In his opinion, Sachs emphasizes that the current approach of imposing sanctions and providing military assistance to Ukraine is insufficient. In the article, the author argues that the U.S. should reconsider its position on NATO enlargement, as well as engage in negotiations with Russia. The article emphasizes that both sides must make concessions and compromises in order to achieve peace. Despite not providing an exact word count, this opinion piece offers a comprehensive analysis of the situation and advocates diplomatic negotiations as a possible solution. It discusses the demands presented by Putin, the US strategy, and the potential political implications. As part of its advocacy for a negotiated settlement, the article discusses the complexities of the conflict and stresses the importance of diplomatic efforts in resolving it.

CN.R.02: As part of a CNN opinion piece published on January 26, 2023, Frida Ghitis writes, *McCarthy's committee vengeance could pose a grave risk*. The article consists of approximately 1347 words and discusses Speaker Kevin McCarthy's decision not to appoint Democratic Representatives Adam Schiff and Eric Swalwell to the House Intelligence

Committee. Rather than portraying McCarthy as being high-minded, security-conscious patriot, the author argues that his decision was based on his own vows of vengeance, not on his own patriotism. As McCarthy's decision appears to be motivated by political payback rather than the best interests of the country, the article suggests that it could pose a grave threat to national security. Additionally, Schiff and Swalwell played significant roles in impeaching former President Donald Trump, and McCarthy would likely not have been able to hold the speaker's gavel without their support. Speaker McCarthy rejected the appointment of Democratic Representative Adam Schiff and Democratic Representative Eric Swalwell to the House committee that oversees national intelligence, which is correlated to the article.

CN.R.03: As part of the opinion piece published on March 2, 2023, entitled *The Other Nuclear Threat You Might Have Missed from Putin's Speech*, Marion Messmer, a senior research fellow at Chatham House, discusses in 1264 words an important aspect of the recent speech by Russian President Vladimir Putin to parliament. According to the author, Putin made a glancing reference to the possibility that Russia would resume nuclear testing; however, this has received less attention than the suspension of Russian participation in New START. As Messmer argues, this announcement is equally significant and could lead to devastating consequences, since it demonstrates Russia's intention to utilize nuclear weapons and could trigger a new, more destructive nuclear arms race. It is also highlighted by the author that Russia's nuclear tests may have a negative impact on other nuclear-armed states and that international non-proliferation agreements may be undermined. Although the author does not provide an exact word count of the article, he provides an excellent analysis of the potential ramifications of Russia's stance toward nuclear testing within the context of international relations and global security.

CN.R.04: The author of *6 lessons the West has learned in the 6 months after Russia's invasion of Ukraine* opinion piece, Daniel Treisman, discusses six important lessons that the West has learned from Russia's invasion of Ukraine in his article published on CNN on August 22, 2022. He explores key insights derived from the ongoing war, challenging old assumptions about it in a 1321-word article. The author emphasizes the significance of individual leaders like Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and the resilience of the underdog in conflict. As well as discussing Russia's underdog advantage, the article discusses unconstrained autocrats such as Putin's mistakes. This opinion piece explains the complex dynamics at play in the geopolitical landscape, shedding light on the lessons learned from the invasion.

CN.R.05: The author discusses Russia's current state of war against Ukraine in an opinion piece entitled *Desperate Putin Will Twist, Not Stick*, published on CNN's website on September 23, 2022 (word count: approximately 1087). Nixey emphasizes the importance of recent battlefield defeats and Western resilience, which have left President Vladimir Putin limited options. In the article, it is noted that Europe can sustain its energy supply without relying heavily on Russia, weakening Russia's position as an energy superpower. According to Nixey, in desperation, Putin has resorted to nuclear threats and partial mobilization of reservists. Despite the hesitation created by the nuclear weapons card among Western decision-makers, it is becoming increasingly evident that nuclear blackmail cannot be tolerated as well. There are long-term and detrimental consequences for European and global security if Russia prevails in the conflict. Nixey acknowledges that world leaders face challenges in finding a resolution that protects Ukraine's interests.

CN.R.06: Frida Ghitis discusses the flaws of the United Nations (UN) in her opinion piece published on April 7, 2022, titled "The UN is flawed, and Russia's war against Ukraine is revealing all of its imperfections," in a 1256-word article that discusses how the Russian war on Ukraine exposes these flaws. A number of innocent lives have been lost as a result of Russian President Vladimir Putin's assault on Ukraine, which has resulted in frustration and outrage. Despite the symbolic act of suspending Russia from the UN Human Rights Council, Gitis stresses that it cannot save lives alone. Due to Russian veto power in the UN Security Council, the UN has been unable to address ongoing atrocities committed by Russia. As a result of Russia's aggression towards Ukraine and the international community's efforts to hold Russia accountable within the framework of the UN, the article correlates with the event.

CN.R.07: There are 1195 words in this article titled *Biden's Europe Trip Achieves Key Goal*, directly related to a specific political event, namely President Biden's trip to Europe. During this visit, Biden was concerned with stopping Russian President Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine from succeeding. During his speech in Warsaw, Biden framed the conflict as a battle between democracy and autocracy, which has been emphasized by the author. While avoiding direct military confrontation, Biden's mission was to rally European allies, strengthen Ukraine's defenses, and denounce Putin's violations. As a result of Putin's aggression, Biden and the West face many challenges, and the article highlights the potential for the conflict to escalate, including the possibility of Russia resorting to chemical, biological, or even nuclear weapons.

The opinion piece provides a detailed analysis of President Biden's objectives and strategies during his European visit in connection with the ongoing geopolitical crisis in Ukraine.

FN.I.01: It was highlighted by the authors of an opinion piece published on Fox News on November 1, 2022, entitled *Biden Must Support Protesters in Iran and Enforce Sanctions, or Else*, how important it is for President Biden to support protesters and enforce sanctions in Iran. In the article, which consists of approximately 1004 words, the Biden administration is urged to take more aggressive action toward Iran, notably enforcing economic sanctions imposed by the Trump administration previously. It is argued by the authors that Iran has been able to obtain substantial sums of money by laxing the enforcement of sanctions, and this money has been channelled into its military, Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, and terrorist proxy forces. Iranians have also been negatively affected by the lack of strict sanctions enforcement, as funds intended for social welfare and development have been diverted towards oppressive measures and human rights violations instead of social welfare and development. According to the authors, sanctions evasion by individuals and entities in the maritime industry should be dealt with swiftly and severely. The authors emphasize the importance of vigorously enforcing sanctions when pursuing diplomatic and military strategies to counter Iranian aggression and safeguard U.S. interests and regional allies. Though the article does not explicitly relate to a particular political event, it provides an analysis of the Biden administration's stance toward Iran and the implications of enforcing sanctions.

FN.I.02: On Fox News on November 23, 2022, Pat Fallon argues that an Iranian reset should begin with Biden firing Special Envoy Malley in an opinion piece entitled *Iranian reset should start with Biden firing Special Envoy Malley*. He argues for the removal of Special Envoy Rob Malley from his position in order to initiate an Iranian reset. He criticizes the Biden administration's approach to Iran, particularly its desire to re-enter a nuclear deal that has failed to serve American national security interests. Throughout Malley's tenure as a special envoy, the author asserts that he has been ineffective and lacking the trust of both Iranians and Americans, with the Iranian regime showing no concern for him. It is Fallon's contention that the administration's negotiations with Iran have resulted in an emboldened Iran and increased sanctions relief that has fuelled Iranian aggression, as well as an emboldened Iran. It emphasizes the need for a policy shift away from appeasement, as well as the enforcement of existing sanctions against Iran, in order to provide tangible support for the Iranian people. In this 654-word piece, the author does not refer to any particular event in politics, but rather

provides an analysis of the Biden administration's policy towards Iran as well as the need for a change of leadership to protect national security.

FN.I.03: According to Brooke Goldstein, in an opinion piece published on Fox News on October 13, 2022, entitled "Iranian Woman's Horrific Murder Symbolizes How Violent, Repressive Nation It Is to Opponents", the murder of Mahsa Amini represents how violent and repressive the Iranian regime has been towards its opponents for some time. In the article, which contains approximately 571 words, the author describes the protests that occurred following the death of Amini by the "Morality Police" after she was arrested for violating religious laws and killed by them. Throughout the book, Goldstein emphasizes the ongoing struggle for human rights in Iran, particularly regarding women's treatment and oppressive responses by the government to any form of opposition. By connecting Amini's murder to the larger movement of Iranian women seeking autonomy and freedom, the author illuminates their resistance to religious adherence and oppression by the regime. Despite not directly relating to any specific political event, this article provides a poignant account of the violent and repressive nature of the Iranian regime as well as the ongoing struggle for human rights.

FN.I.04: Judith Miller explores the repercussions of the execution of Iranian protester Mohsen Shekari and how it might lead to even more violent regime crackdowns on Fox News on December 10, 2022, titled "Executing Iranian Protestor May Kick Off Even More Violent Regime Crackdown" Since September, Iranians have been protesting for freedom and challenging clerical rule in large numbers. Miller's article includes 690 words about the widespread protests. Over 450 civilians have been killed and 18,000 arrested during these protests. Shekari's execution, accused of "waging war against God," suggests the regime has escalated its efforts to suppress protests, possibly leading to a more violent phase. Miller acknowledges Biden's criticism of the Iranian government's violence, but highlights that the nuclear accord negotiations have not been suspended or a major speech has been delivered condemning the regime. Moreover, the regime accuses Americans and Israelis of meddling. Rather than making public statements, Biden should collaborate with European and Asian allies to diminish Iran's revenue by providing behind-the-scenes support for the Iranian protesters. To deter Tehran, international outrage and consequences are essential. While the article does not directly relate to a particular political event, it sheds light on the Iranian regime's response and the execution's potential impact on the Iranian protests.

FN.I.05: Rebecca Grant discusses the growing protests in Iran and their potential impact on the power dynamics within the country in an opinion piece published on December 19, 2022 titled "As Protests Increase, Iran May Soon Confront the Power of Sports." The article includes 833 words and focuses on the case of professional soccer player Amir Nasr-Azadani, who is facing a death sentence for participating in protests supporting women's rights. With their solidarity and social media influence, soccer fans and stars in Iran have played a crucial role in maintaining the protests. According to the author, the execution of Nasr-Azadani could result in a shockwave within Iran as well as throughout the globe, since it could spark a shockwave. Additionally, the article mentions the U.S. Soccer Federation's support for Iranian protesters. In spite of Iran's repeated violations of human rights, Grant stresses the power of sports in world politics and calls for stronger American leadership to pressurize them. As a result, this article sheds light on an ongoing political event in Iran by providing an analysis of how sports, politics, and protests intersect in Iran.

FN.I.06: The opinion piece published on March 4, 2022, entitled "After Ukraine invasion, U.S. should walk away from nuclear talks with Iran," was written by Joe Lieberman and Mark D. In light of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, it has been argued by the United States that the United States should withdraw from nuclear negotiations with Iran. In their opinion, any deal that is shaped by Putin's Russia will not serve the interests of the United States. According to the authors, this drastic change in understanding Putin's actions necessitates a change in U.S. policies, particularly in the ongoing negotiations to revive the Iran nuclear deal. In negotiations with Iran, the authors emphasize that relying on Russia and China, which have recently declared ideological and geopolitical war on the United States, is inherently untrustworthy. It is questioned whether an agreement influenced by countries hostile to the United States and its allies is fair and trustworthy. In the article, it is suggested that the Biden administration should impose increased economic pressure on Iran until it will be willing to engage in direct negotiations to address its malign behavior. Approximately 684 words in length, the opinion piece addresses Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the implications of that invasion for international relations and Iran's nuclear negotiations.

FN.I.07: It is Rebecca Grant's opinion piece that was published on September 29, 2022, entitled "Iran protests torched Biden's 'relentless diplomacy,' but the administration refuses to learn," which discusses the recent demonstrations in Iran and critiques the Biden administration's diplomacy approach. It is noted by the author that Mahsa Amini, 22, died in police custody and

that protests have erupted across the country as protesters expressed their dissatisfaction with the oppressive regime. Despite token gestures like new sanctions and improved internet access for Iranians, Grant argues that the Biden administration has failed to respond adequately to the protests. The author observes that the Biden administration remains committed to returning to the nuclear deal despite the ongoing protests and Iran's non-compliance with the 2015 agreement. Taking a more realistic approach to Iran would be more effective than the administration's relentless diplomacy, according to Grant. According to the author, the opinion piece consists of approximately 757 words and is directly related to the current protests in Iran and the administration's stance on diplomacy with the country.

CN.I.01: "The Relentless Bravery of Iranian Protesters: A Moral Test for the Western World," published by Frida Ghitis on October 29, 2022, highlights the courageous actions of Iranian protesters and stresses that Western countries should support their cause on a moral basis. In an 1190-word article, Ghitis discusses the widespread protests triggered by the death of Mahsa Amini, a young woman who died while being detained by Iran's intrusive morality police. In his article, Ghitis asserts that these protests do not just focus on the mandatory headscarf, but also on the fundamental desire for change in Iran. He also mentions the bravery and sacrifice of individuals such as Nika Shahkarami, whose death has served as a rallying point for the protests. As the article explains, the protests in Iran have been going on for longer than any previous uprising since 1979, and international solidarity with Iran's struggle for freedom and human rights is of utmost importance.

CN.I.02: Kylie Moore-Gilbert, an Australian-British scholar of Middle East and Islamic studies, and a former inmate of Iran's notorious Evin prison, presents her perspective on the recent fire incident at the notorious prison in an opinion piece consisting of 1373 words published on CNN on October 24, 2022, titled "Part of me wished Iran's godforsaken prison would burn to the ground." A hidden part of Moore-Gilbert wishes that the prison would burn down after the prisoners have escaped, although she expresses shock, fear, and concern for the prisoners trapped inside Evin prison. In this article, the author discusses the history of protests and unrest within Evin prison, as well as speculates on the cause of the fire, which is reportedly believed to have started in Ward 7, where criminals and recent protesters reside. Throughout decades, the Evin prison has been housing political prisoners in brutal conditions and with a political focus. Moore-Gilbert recounts her own experiences during her two-year imprisonment in Evin and emphasizes the relief felt by those associated with the prison when they were able

to confirm that their loved ones had been safe. This article provides a personal and introspective account of the Evin prison fire within the context of Iranian politics.

CN.I.03: The Iranian regime's use of executions to suppress dissent is discussed in Frida Ghitis' opinion piece published on January 10, 2023, titled "Iran's most powerful weapon isn't working." Mohammad Mehdi Karami, a 21-year-old karate champion, and Seyed Mohammad Hosseini, a volunteer children's coach, were executed for killing a paramilitary force member, according to the author. Although the regime attempts to instill fear and intimidation by executing protesters, Gitis emphasizes that Iranian youth continue to demonstrate remarkable courage and resilience despite the regime's attempts to instill fear and intimidation. A number of young protesters have been killed in recent months, sparked by the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini, and the regime has failed to adhere to due process in such cases. Furthermore, Gitis points out that the international community has not responded robustly and meaningfully to the regime's actions, urging a more robust and meaningful response. A commentary on the political events that are unfolding in Iran and the determination of its citizens to fight for freedom and change is the subject of this article, which has approximately 1186 words.

CN.I.04: On December 29, 2022, Hamid Dabashi wrote an opinion piece titled "The imprisonment of this actress is bigger than Iran," in which he discussed Taraneh Alidoosti's arrest and imprisonment. He states that Alidoosti has taken part in the "Woman, Life, Freedom" movement, which opposes mandatory veiling, economic corruption, and militant Islamist oppression, as well as being an active critic of the ruling regime. It is important for the author to emphasize the importance of Alidoosti's arrest, since it symbolizes the struggles Iranian women filmmakers and actors have faced for years as they have used cinema as a platform to showcase their nation's development. As Dabashi noted, Alidoosti's arrest attracted international attention, and prominent filmmakers and actors from all over the world expressed their support and condemned the violent suppression of Iranian protests. Iranian women are highlighted in the article for their role as filmmakers, actors, and others in the film industry. A strong network of Iranian women filmmakers defies the ruling regime through self-representation. Alidoosti's courageous fight against a bullying and violent state is a testament to generations of Iranian women's rights activists. The article, with a word count of approximately 1181 words, provides a comprehensive analysis of Taraneh Alidoosti's imprisonment and the broader implications it may have on Iran's political and cultural landscape.

CN.I.05: Frida Ghitis explored the remarkable parallels in the struggle for democracy occurring in Iran and Ukraine in the opinion piece published on October 4, 2022 titled "From Iran to Ukraine, David is staring down Goliath." In spite of their distinct contexts, both nations are witnessing individuals who are attempting to fight for freedom of movement and resistance against oppressive regimes. As a result of Mahsa Amini's death while in the custody of the morality police, Ghitis highlights recent uprisings in Iran. As a symbol of resistance against oppressive social norms, Iranian women are shedding their hijabs in the streets. According to the author, these acts of defiance go beyond the hijab itself, and represent the collective desire to break free from oppressive chains. Iranian and Ukrainian democracy battles continue to demonstrate extraordinary courage and may have significant repercussions. The opinion piece contains approximately 414 words and sheds light on the interconnected struggles and determination of individuals to challenge autocratic regimes through its word count of approximately 1234 words.

CN.I.06: John Avlon, a CNN senior political analyst and anchor, highlights a significant global shift away from autocratic regimes in his opinion piece published on December 1, 2022, titled "The Tide Is Turning Against Autocracy." Recent developments in China, Iran, and Russia are cited by Avlon as indicators of the challenges and setbacks faced by autocrats. Consequently, he emphasizes that the pendulum appears to be swinging back toward democracy, and this should restore confidence in the people's power. In spite of the fact that there are still areas where autocrats thrive, Avlon acknowledges that the widespread opposition to their control by the people they seek to govern is a positive sign for human liberty in the future. In summary, this article provides insights into the current global political landscape and the evolving dynamics of democracy and autocracy, with a word count of approximately 823 words.

FN.T.01: In an opinion piece published on November 3, 2022, titled "If China conquers Taiwan, it would be a huge blow to US national security, economy," Michael Allen discusses the potential consequences of China's hypothetical takeover of Taiwan. Such a scenario could have a significant impact on the United States, particularly in terms of national security and economics. By absorbing Taiwan's GDP, China would be able to expand its market position and gain a competitive advantage in Asia. According to Allen, China's current economic behavior, which is characterized by rule-breaking and violations of trading rules, suggests that it may abuse its position at the strategic crossroads of Asia and abuse its economic superiority. Furthermore, the author emphasizes the possibility of China engaging in hostile economic

activities, gaining leverage over Asian supply chains, and exerting economic coercion on its neighbors. In total, 759 words of the article emphasize the high risk posed to the US economy and the necessity of public support in order to deter China's aggression. This opinion piece provides insight into the possible consequences of a Chinese takeover of Taiwan and emphasizes how vitally important national security, the economy, and global geopolitics are interconnected.

FN.T.02: "Taiwan Deserves Full US Support, but We Must Be Ready" was published on Fox News in a 979-word article on August 26, 2022, by Lieutenant Colonel Robert Maginnis. He argues that Taiwan needs to stand with the United States against China while being prepared. Earlier this year, U.S. lawmakers visited Taiwan as provocative acts that caught Beijing's attention, foreseeing an immediate Chinese response, possibly escalating military tensions. Taiwan's semiconductor industry is extremely important to the United States' national interests, according to Lt. Col. Maginnis. A practical measure like anti-ship mines, mobile weaponry, and attack helicopters is recommended as a defensive measure for Taiwan, which is urged against underestimating China's intentions regarding Taiwan. As a result of the piece, the United States is urged to strengthen its military preparedness in case China attacks Taiwan with weapons and encouragement. The ongoing political event between Taiwan and China is correlated with this opinion article. There have been recent visits by U.S. lawmakers to Taiwan that have caught Beijing's attention and could escalate tensions. A global geopolitical competition between the U.S. and China emphasizes Taiwan's strategic importance in semiconductor production and its ties to the U.S. national interest. A military confrontation between China and Taiwan also poses risks and consequences, highlighting the need for the United States to be prepared and supportive.

FN.T.03: As part of his opinion piece published by Fox News on August 3, 2022, Senator Tom Cotton argued that Biden's irresponsible waffling over Pelosi's Taiwan trip caused an international incident. As a result of President Joe Biden's irresolution and incompetence, Biden turned Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan into a major international incident due to his irresolution and incompetence. This article contains approximately 721 words. Among the reasons the author points out the President's equivocation is due to his acknowledgment of internal divisions within the U.S. government as well as his reticence within the military. Xi Jinping, the Chinese President, was believed to believe he could intimidate President Biden into submitting to his will by challenging the status quo in Taiwan. President Biden, according

to Senator Cotton, failed to defend the right of Pelosi to travel to Taiwan, which was noticed by China and further exacerbated tensions. According to the article, President Biden should adopt a firmer stance towards China as a result of the broader context of U.S.-China relations. In general, this opinion piece correlates with the specific event of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan, as well as the geopolitical tensions resulting from this visit.

FN.T.04: "China can take three lessons from Russia's faltering war with Ukraine for its face-off with Taiwan," Chuck DeVore explains in an opinion piece published on September 1, 2022, which discusses the possible lessons China can apply to its own tensions with Taiwan based on Russia's ongoing conflict with Ukraine. It is deVore's emphasis that Ukraine has demonstrated its fighting spirit and resilience in defending itself against Russia's invasion, while he also emphasizes the difficulties involved in organizing an effective offensive that requires supplies, equipment, and accurate artillery and missile fire. Taiwan is an important strategic location, and the author emphasizes the potential consequences of a Chinese military conquest. The author suggests that China should take three lessons from the Russian experience: invading with overwhelming force, obtaining information dominance to control the narrative, and anticipating possible American and Japanese interference. As well as criticizing the Biden administration's perceived focus on Russia, the article also critiques the tensions in the Pacific region. Based on the observed events and current political landscape, the opinion piece provides insight into the geopolitical dynamics surrounding China, Russia, Ukraine, and Taiwan in 981 words in total.

FN.T.05: It has been argued that the Biden administration is turning a blind eye to the warning signs that China is already at war with America, as Rebekah Koffler wrote in her opinion piece published on February 15, 2023. In a word count of approximately 1035 words, Koffler writes about the recent violation of U.S. sovereign airspace by a Chinese high-altitude reconnaissance vehicle and then the downing of mysterious aerial objects by U.S. forces that led to the downing of the Chinese high-altitude reconnaissance vehicle. The author criticizes Biden's security team for downplaying the threats posed by these incidents, as well as the need for a comprehensive and serious strategy against China as one of America's biggest strategic threats. There seems to be a correlation between the events described in the article and the escalating tensions between China and the United States, particularly regarding Taiwan, according to the article.

FN.T.06: Tucker Carlson discusses Nancy Pelosi's trip to Taiwan and the response it received from Chinese leaders in this opinion piece published on August 2, 2022 titled "Chinese leaders

treated Pelosi's arrival like an invasion." Carlson emphasizes with an effective word count of approximately 3032 words the contrasting views on diversity between the Chinese government and American liberals, stating that China is a militarized ethnostate which primarily benefits Han Chinese citizens. Chinese leaders treated Pelosi's arrival as an invasion and announced air raid sirens and live fire exercises. Using insider information, Carlson suggests possible explanations for Pelosi's trip, such as checking on investments made by her husband. In addition, he raises concerns about possible escalation and tensions in the region while criticizing the Biden administration's handling of the situation. This article offers a critical appraisal of Pelosi's visit to Taiwan as well as the broader dynamics between the United States and China as a whole.

FN.T.07: Chuck DeVore examines the significance of President Joe Biden's recent remarks regarding Taiwan defense in his May 23, 2022 opinion piece titled "What Biden's Taiwan remarks mean for China and the US." According to DeVore, Biden's commitment to Taiwan's defense is imperative, given the fact that it is a major exporter of computer chips and a beacon of democracy that challenges the one-party rule of China. Throughout the article, the author discusses the changing nature of US-Taiwan relations as well as the possible ramifications of a Chinese invasion of Taiwan, emphasizing the implications for regional security and America's standing in the Pacific region. In this article, which has a word count of approximately 1036 words, he discusses how Biden's remarks on the political landscape have impacted the political landscape.

CN.T.01: An opinion article, titled "Here's a Taiwan chill pill to relieve your Pelosi-induced anxiety," appeared on CNN on August 2, 2022. It was written by American-Taiwanese journalist Clarissa Wei, based in Taipei. In this article, the author explores the contrast between the perception that Taiwan is a potential flashpoint for conflict by those outside of the country and the calm behavior of the Taiwanese population. It contains approximately 1109 words. In his essay, Wei discusses Taiwan's longstanding threats from China and illustrates the disconnect between international geopolitical discourse about Taiwan and the everyday realities of Taiwanese citizens. Although the article does not appear to be directly correlated with an event in politics, it provides an alternative perspective on Taiwan's situation in the midst of the visit of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

CN.T.02: During a CNN opinion piece published on October 18, 2022, titled "Is Elon Musk being manipulated by a master manipulator? ", Frida Ghitis explores Elon Musk's statements

and actions in relation to global conflicts. Musk's expertise in delving into dangerous conflicts such as the Russian-Ukraine war as well as tensions between Taiwan and Beijing is questioned by Ghitis. Musk may be vulnerable to manipulation by those with ulterior motives due to his self-confidence and desire for attention. Musk's recent "peace" proposal for Ukraine was highlighted in the article, which was criticized for resembling a Kremlin-drafted plan and suggesting acceptance of Russian sovereignty over Crimea. Ghitis also mentions Musk's interactions with Presidents Putin and Xi Jinping of China. This article raises the question of Musk's potential consequences and the principles which underpin his global forays. In this opinion piece of approximately 1282 words, Elon Musk provides a critical analysis of his involvement in global political issues and explores the potential ramifications of his actions.

CN.T.03: A opinion piece written by Jeffrey D. Sachs, published on May 12, 2022, entitled "The Bad News About the Economy," discusses the concerning state of the global economy as a professor and director of Columbia University's Center for Sustainable Development and president of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network. According to Sachs, inflation rates are alarming, with a year-over-year inflation rate of 8.3% and a monthly core inflation rate of 0.6%, which represents a compounded annual rate of 7.4%. As a result of high inflation combined with low or negative growth, the world is in danger of entering a period of worldwide stagflation, which has not occurred since the 1970s. It is noted by Sachs that the preliminary estimate of America's GDP for the first quarter of 2022 indicates a potential slowdown in both the US and world economies. Inflation has been attributed to a variety of factors, including highly expansionary monetary policies, disruptions in global supply chains, and geopolitical concerns. In order to resolve the ongoing war, Sachs argues that serious peace negotiations should take place between Russia and Ukraine, since it affects global commodity exports and further exacerbates economic hardships. This opinion piece contains approximately 1115 words and provides insight into the current economic situation and potential consequences thereof. In the opinion news article, no specific event in politics is explicitly mentioned, but rather geopolitical issues, such as the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and the sanctions imposed by the US and European Union against Russia, are discussed as contributing factors to economic challenges.

CN.T.04: On CNN's website, the opinion article titled "Opinion: Biden shouldn't confuse Taiwan with Ukraine" was published on May 24, 2022. The article is composed of 1193 words and was written by David A. Andelman, a contributor to CNN and a former correspondent for

The New York Times and CBS News, examines the implications of President Joe Biden's remarks about the United States' readiness to assist Taiwan in the event of an attack by the Chinese. As this article indicates, Taiwan and Ukraine are different situations, and Biden's statement has reawakened China's concerns about the possibility of using force against Taiwan. There is an in-depth discussion of the complexities of the US-China relationship, the importance of building alliances in the region, and the possible consequences of provoking China in the article. It is not provided how many words are found in the available portion of the article.

CN.T.05: Frida Ghitis explores the dilemma surrounding House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's potential visit to Taiwan in an opinion piece published on July 28, 2022, entitled "Opinion: How Pelosi could visit Taiwan without causing a foreign policy storm." There is discussion in this article of the controversy and risks associated with the visit, as well as China's reaction, which considers Taiwan to be a renegade province. A key consideration for Gitis is the timing of the visit, which may coincide with an extremely difficult time for Chinese leader Xi Jinping, particularly in light of economic challenges and internal issues within China. Pelosi's visit is analyzed by the author in terms of its potential consequences, including emboldenment of Beijing as well as the possibility of confrontation. A word count of approximately 1097 words is used in the article to provide insight into the complex foreign policy considerations surrounding this visit and the implications it might have on the political landscape.