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Ukrainian Refugee Women as The Subject of Images and Discourses in
Swedish and Ukrainian Media

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Abstract

Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, resulted in a substantial displacement of people, most of whom were Ukrainian women and children. Given the vast number of Ukrainian refugees who have fled to other countries, the aim was to examine how the news media portrays their images and experiences. This master's thesis focuses on identifying representations of Ukrainian refugees in Swedish and Ukrainian online news media using discourse and visual analysis. The study is based on the constructivist theoretical framework (Pierre Bourdieu's approach) as well as Kimberle Crenshaw's conception of intersectionality.

Keywords: Discourse analysis, refugees, media image, media representations, news media.

Summary

The Russian invasion of Ukraine had a significant influence on Ukrainian society. Many Ukrainian women fled the country for temporary protection and the means to sustain their families, resulting in massive displacement inside and outside the country. The experience of Ukrainian refugee women is frequently reported and presented in the media. Media analysis, focused on Swedish and Ukrainian news media, was used to understand public views regarding Ukrainian refugees better.

Critical discourse analysis and visual analysis techniques were employed to investigate how the media presents a social group and its associated traits. The study combined intersectionality theory and Bourdieu's theory of capital forms assisted in determining the construction of the image of Ukrainian refugees and their portrayal in the mass media, considering the intersecting factors that affect their experience and perception in society. The thesis seeks to define, evaluate, and compare how refugee women are depicted in Ukrainian and Swedish news outlets.

This thesis was separated into several parts. In the first section, I review the scientific literature on the subject. The second section is a discussion of the methods I employ. It also includes sections on data preparation for my study and the ethical factors I consider while researching. The third section contains a theoretical framework and the key concepts. The next part contains my analysis, separated into findings and interpretation. The conclusion is the final chapter.

According to the findings, Ukrainian refugee women are typically portrayed in Swedish media as young or middle-aged mothers who were forced to leave their partners in Ukraine for the protection of their children. They experience sexism, abuse, and stress disorders; many were witnesses or victims of Russian war crimes. Ukrainian women are portrayed in Swedish media as inactive group needing help and assistance. The most typical representation of a Ukrainian refugee in Ukrainian media is of a young or middle-aged single mother who leaves her family, suffers emotional hardship, and seeks employment abroad to support herself and her children. She might also be the victim of tragic events or criminal crimes. Future studies might explore how media portrayals of refugees have changed through time.

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1. Introduction

The Russian invasion of Ukraine induced substantial changes in Ukrainian society, as well as in the media news space within the country and in European nations that are broadcasting news about events in Ukraine in one way or another (Perekrest, 2023). When considering societal transformations, it is essential to note that the war between the two countries had and continues to significantly and disproportionately influence Ukrainian women. Women and children account for over 90% of the 5.2 million Ukrainians compelled to flee to other countries throughout the world (*Ukraine situation 2023*). Their lives were altered in many ways as a result of the conflict. The war impacted massive domestic and international migration (Perekrest, 2023). A substantial number of Ukrainian women fled the country in quest of temporary safety and the ability to care for their families during this tough time. Refugee Ukrainian women are subjected to traumatic experiences, often publicized and shown in the media.

Sweden, neutral for over 200 years, shifted its political stance in response to Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine (Erlanger, 2022). It began providing military and humanitarian assistance to Ukraine and applied for NATO membership. These efforts were not unnoticed by the local news media, which reports on the quantity of help provided to Ukraine and people's attitudes regarding Ukraine and its society, particularly the situation with refugee women arriving (Perekrest, 2023). Such assistance from Sweden demonstrates it as a country friendly toward Ukraine, becoming a place where refugees can feel the necessary level of protection. About 50,000 Ukrainian refugees had been admitted to Sweden as of March 2023 (*Government.se 2023*). This is a relatively minor figure, considering the territorial distance from Ukraine. However, the very fact of accepting such a number of Ukrainian citizens raises the question of how exactly Ukrainian refugees are perceived by society.

Some level of reflection of public attitudes can be demonstrated in news reports - that is why media analysis was chosen to analyze how a given social group is portrayed in the media and what characteristics it is given. The approach of critical discourse analysis of media messages and visual analysis of graphical applications supporting text news items were employed to carry out this research. Swedish news outlets such as Dagens Nyheter, Aftonbladet, and Expressen, as well as Ukrainian news sources such as TSN, Suspil'ne, and Ukrains'ka Pravda, were considered with time frames ranging from 24.02.2022 to 24.08.2022. The implementation of this study was based on the theories of constructivism and

intersectionality. In particular, Bourdieu's theory of capital forms was employed. This theoretical framework made it possible to define how the image of Ukrainian refugees is constructed in the news media and to describe the portrait and features of this social group, considering all of the intersecting factors that affect its experience and perception in society.

Aim

This thesis aims to describe, analyze, and compare how refugee women are depicted in Ukrainian and Swedish mass media. Women were chosen as the study's focus because they make up the majority of displaced people who leave Ukraine and move to other countries, including Sweden, where they temporarily become members of another community.

More specifically, the primary goal is to study what elements were used to shape the news discourse about Ukrainian refugee women in the Ukrainian and Swedish media during the first six months of the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine and to determine the characteristics of the media news discourse around refugee women from Ukraine, comparing its features in the news of Sweden and Ukraine. It is an important question because identifying the main discourses concerning Ukrainian refugee women will aid in enhancing our knowledge of their experience and its depiction in the media and identifying potentially problematic moments that affect their experience as refugees.

Research questions

1. Which elements shape the news discourse in Ukrainian and Swedish media related to Ukrainian refugee women during the war?
2. What characteristics are used to portray Ukrainian refugee women in the media?
3. How do the discourses and representations of the research subject differ in the Swedish and Ukrainian mass media?

Delimitations

My study has several limitations and restrictions because of the research's scope and time constraints. My study concentrates solely on the subject of Ukrainian refugee women, their characteristics, and their images in the media. It determines "women" as individuals who are designated as having a "female" gender on official documents, such as the identification required to cross the border, because it is these individuals who currently have the right to

unrestricted free movement abroad during the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. It is also worth noting that not all of these people personally identify as women. However, the research does not concentrate on social groups that are subject to exclusions due to the current legal restrictions on the ability to leave Ukraine (such as conscripted women who are unable to leave or men older than 60 who, on the contrary, have the right to leave). Most importantly, the term "women" was used for people who identified themselves or were identified as women in the reviewed news texts.

Furthermore, only the characteristics and images of these women in the media are considered, which, while compared with actual data in the analysis section, may not have a precise factual basis, given that the sample is not scientific or statistical materials, but journalistic articles on Ukrainian and Swedish news sites.

The first six months following the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine are taken into research focus. This spans the dates of 02/24/2022 and 08/24/2022. Such a time limit makes it possible to obtain the most relevant data in the media regarding this topic. The experiences of those who stay in the country and their reasons for staying or leaving are also discussed in the analysis, but this is not the primary focus of my study; instead, it serves as background information to support any underlying hypotheses or conclusions.

Additionally, even though the study makes use of the intersectionality theory, it focuses primarily on gender along with specific socio-demographic characteristics of the chosen social group, leaving out factors like ethnicity or sexual orientation because they were not present in the sample of media texts.

Disposition

Six main sections constitute my study. The introduction, which informs the reader of the study's main points, is the paper's first section. Background and prior research is the following section. It discusses the research done by other authors on a related subject and their conclusions, which may be helpful for my study. Method and epistemology make up the third section. This part, broken up into two subsections titled "Data preparation and selection" and "Ethical considerations," describes my methods. Here, I go over how the study's sample was made and the ethical guidelines I adhere to when working. The theory and conceptual framework of the study are discussed in the following section, titled Theory/Concepts. The results of my research are described in the Analysis section, along with an explanation of how

they relate to the theories I use. Conclusions and a summary of the findings are covered in the final section.

Research Level

This section will outline the level, nature, and positioning of my study as well as explain how its theoretical and empirical components relate to one another. This study focuses on the global phenomena of mass social group relocation and how it is portrayed in international media. Therefore, my study primarily focuses on a broad-scale phenomenon and is, thus, macro-level. Studies at the macro level concentrate on interactions at the broadest scale, such as interactions or comparisons across nations (Serpa & Ferreira, 2019). It may also involve the examination of macro-level phenomena, such as those that are economical, social, or political, and pertain to national or international systems as well as related to processes of differentiation, stratification, and social integration (Serpa & Ferreira, 2019).

Research Type

This research is a primary qualitative study. Primary research is a strategy that entails the researcher independently collecting data using techniques best suited for addressing a given study topic (Hox & Boeijs, 2005). I made use of the archives of Swedish and Ukrainian news sites (Dagens Nyheter, Aftonbladet, Expressen, Ukrains'ka Pravda, TSN, and Suspil'ne) between February 24, 2022, and August 24, 2022, to create the sample. The sample for Swedish news articles was generated by searching for keywords "flyktingar" ("refugee") or "ukrainska flyktingar" ("ukrainian refugees"). In contrast, the sample for Ukrainian media posts was formed by watching all news on the required dates using step 2 (news from every other day was watched). The discourse analysis and media visual analysis were carried out based on these data.

It is also worth emphasizing that the research is descriptive in nature, with the goal of characterizing the image and features of Ukrainian refugees in the news media. Descriptive research aims to describe and characterize a particular group, phenomenon, event, or circumstance (Sue & Ritter, 2012, p. 2). One of the purposes of this kind of study is to describe and document the significant characteristics of the situation or event under investigation. This may contain a description of the study object's qualities, attributes, behavior, structure, distribution, trends, and other key factors (Sue & Ritter, 2012, p. 2).

In addition to assessing how the image and attributes of Ukrainian refugees are depicted in the news media, the study will investigate what variables impact the construction of this image and what disparities may be observed in images of Ukrainian women in Swedish and Ukrainian media.

Relationship between theory and empirical research

My study may also be classified as deductive since it employs a scientific approach based on an established theory and allows for the derivation of facts by going from broad theoretical principles to the search for specific patterns and trends (Azungah, 2018). Thus, as a researcher, in deductive research, I first state the theory I will employ and then verify it via empirical research, displaying the theoretical framework in connection to the findings (Azungah, 2018). Therefore, my research is a macro-level descriptive deductive qualitative investigation.

Positioning

In order to explain some results and elements of my analysis, it is necessary to establish my personal stance toward the topic of this thesis. I am a 23-year-old Ukrainian woman who has been living in Sweden for almost a year due to academic mobility. Because I only speak Swedish at an elementary level, I relied on a native speaker friend to translate news texts from Swedish media. I am a feminist who supports equal human rights. I also strongly condemn Russia's military actions, imperialist policies, and any support for Russia's acts.

2. Background and Previous Research

With the beginning of the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine, Ukrainian refugee women increasingly appeared in various research publications in the field of social sciences as research subjects. The war in Ukraine caused a great resonance in the world, and many countries continue to take an active part in helping the victims of the war, especially mothers and children who had to leave the country due to danger. Many countries of the world support Ukraine and the Ukrainian people in one way or another, which in turn is not left out of the attention of the mass media. Based on this, research on various topics is being conducted to identify the main trends for understanding this relatively new phenomenon of refugees from Ukraine, their characteristics, needs, and problems they face. So, in order to become acquainted with the present state of study on the issue, I will review research works on the case in the global and Ukrainian scientific contexts.

Previous international research on the image of Ukrainian refugees mainly focused on narratives around refugees in social and information media. These studies concentrated on investigating public opinion concerning specific occurrences involving refugees.

In particular, Polish researchers who have observed how their country has sheltered a significant number of refugees from Ukraine since the beginning of the full-scale invasion have done significant work on the analysis of the representation of Ukrainian refugees in the Polish press. Thus, the author Zawadzka-Palucka's research, using the methods of phrase analysis, investigates the interpretation of this group of refugees, their movement, and reception in Poland (Zawadzka-Palucka, 2022). This study is helpful because it offers an example of how Ukrainian refugees and migration from Ukraine as such are covered in the media with different ideological and business goals, in particular, in contradiction with other groups of refugees from other regions of the world. The study showed the advantage of a neutral and positive interpretation of the displaced Ukrainians in the mass media (Zawadzka-Palucka, 2022). This study shows that the media portrays displaced Ukrainians in a neutral and positive light, fostering a more tolerant and sympathetic attitude. In contrast, the refugees from the Middle East remain portrayed in a dehumanized light, emphasizing the harm they can do. The research authors underline that the European mass media has considerable potential to promote a humanitarian reaction to refugee displacement and to raise the audience's compassionate attitude toward displaced people. This is relevant and important given the rejection experienced by other refugee groups in Europe. The results of

this study are also helpful as a contribution to the understanding of the processes of creating, normalizing, and combating anti-immigrant discourses (Zawadzka-Paluckta, 2022).

The following study on the topic that caught my attention is the work by Khatua and Nejdil (Khatua & Nejdil, 2022). This study aimed to identify the stages of Ukrainian refugees' journey, from displacement to accommodation in the host country, using a framework of four stages: arrival, stay in asylum, rehabilitation, and integration (Khatua & Nejdil, 2022). This study made it possible to reveal the evolution in the needs of refugees - from medical support to social integration (Khatua & Nejdil, 2022). The research has the potential to aid policymakers in understanding the specific obstacles displaced individuals face at various points in their life abroad and in taking appropriate actions to support refugees (Khatua & Nejdil, 2022). This study is also helpful in that it confirms the expediency of using this toolkit structure for discourse analysis, which can be used for further research on this topic involving other types of media.

The following study is beneficial for my analysis because it involved the Swedish news media (Fekre, 2023). A critical discourse analysis of articles in Swedish daily newspapers was used for its implementation. In particular, this study was taken as a conceptual basis for quantitative analysis and counting of the most recurring themes and other characteristics in news articles. The conclusions of this analysis showed that the media describe Ukrainian refugees from the point of view of their geographical and cultural proximity to Sweden. The press also emphasizes the similarities between these two countries, focusing on why Ukrainian refugees deserve to be sheltered in Sweden and remain there (Fekre, 2023). Some narratives focus on refugees' vulnerability and helplessness, often expressed through criticism of the Swedish authorities (Fekre, 2023). This study is indicative of how media representation and language use can influence the legal obligations of refugee-hosting states and societies.

The next study focused on how media representation affects the political debate about refugees (Kotilainen & Pellander, 2021). The analysis was focused on the study of the opposition "victim/threat" in connection with the visual construction of the portrait of the refugee. This article focuses on the historical representations of refugees from the late 1930s to 2015, illustrating how the ideas about refugees who "deserve" or "do not deserve" shelter and support are transformed in this period (Kotilainen & Pellander, 2021). These attitudes were formed depending on hierarchical ideas reinforced by racial and global political

motivations (Kotilainen & Pellander, 2021). This work is helpful because it offers a historical excursion into the problem of forming favorable or unfavorable attitudes toward refugees.

During the last year, refugee topics were actively featured in Ukrainian scientific publications. One of these studies is particularly useful for this work, as it analyzes the general manifestations of the subject of refugees and internally displaced persons in the media space of Ukraine and the world, the experience of countries that received displaced people, and the directions of their media support (Fiialka, 2023). The impact of social capital on the development of strategies for refugees deciding to relocate abroad was assessed. The majority of respondents (out of 1,170 respondents) were representatives of the middle class who have families and children and are involved in various fields of work (scientific and educational activities, IT and services, self-employed, and entrepreneurs) (Fiialka, 2023). The main factor for their evacuation abroad was concern for their safety and the lives of their families. Although the phenomenon of forced migration is well-researched from various perspectives (economic, demographic, psychological, etc.), the media image of refugees still needs to be better studied and fragmented. It was noted that even the use of correct terminology regarding refugees in journalistic materials is not sufficiently correct from the point of view of their actual legal status since one of the most common legal mechanisms for them is temporary protection and not refugee status (Fiialka, 2023).

The following study, authored by Ella Libanova, a ukrainian scientist in the field of demography and socioeconomics, describes the assessment of the scale and consequences of forced external and internal migrations as a result of the active phase of the Russian-Ukrainian war (Libanova et al., 2022). This is one of the first and most extensive analytical studies on understanding migration trends after 02/24/2022. This study offers valuable resources on statistical information on external migration. Also, it describes the main trends in the objective state of affairs related to the displacement of Ukrainians due to the war (Libanova et al., 2022). The author assesses the main factors for the return of displaced people to Ukraine and the consequences of these large-scale movements. This work will be used to obtain analytical data on the forced displacement of Ukrainian women abroad and to describe the current state of affairs in the first months of the full-scale war.

Each of these works can be used to provide a theoretical or methodological foundation for my empirical research. Given the continued relevance of the topic of refugees in the world, it is possible to say that the topic of refugees, their characteristics, and their media depiction is

currently well-developed. The analyzed studies emphasize the relevance of the media's involvement in forming discourses concerning displaced persons, indicating the media's ability to shape anti- or pro-migrant discourses. It was also mentioned how media reports enable us to track the progression of refugee demands at each point of their journey. This was valuable because my work also calls attention to the needs and challenges of refugees, which were the focus of the media sources examined. In terms of how they appeal to the link between the use of language in the media and the responsibility of refugee-hosting nations and societies, the evaluated works also contribute to guiding my study. It is also incredibly beneficial to comprehend the historical perspective on this issue, as well as the historical elements that impact the establishment of attitudes toward refugees. In general, the research base that is now available on the subject enables the evaluation of specific broad media perspectives on refugees in Ukraine and throughout the world, as well as the experiences of the countries that admitted them and the kinds of support that are and are not sufficient. Analytical statistics sources were also helpful in offering factual data about the subject. Additionally, the analysis of the existing research base on the subject, both in Ukraine and worldwide, enables one to view the current situation from two distinct angles and lowers the potential level of subjectivism and chances for a one-sided view of the problem.

3. Method/Epistemology

Due to the immense complexity of the study object, the research questions I posed do not presume to have definitive solutions. In order to obtain in-depth interpretations of news discourses, using a qualitative approach to answer the questions is the ultimate solution. This will allow me to obtain a deeper understanding of the research problem as well as investigate contextual information that will help explain the more intricate components of the study phenomena (Mohajan, 2018). Furthermore, the absence of clear standardization of the method allows for more freedom in researching the issue and modifying research questions and approaches in relation to the context and features of the subject of study phenomena (Conger, 1998).

The primary goal of using media resources from Ukrainian and Swedish news is to examine how the study object's discourses and images differ between the two countries. The study's findings can allow me to highlight the differences in the discourses on refugee women between their home country and one of the nations where they seek temporary asylum.

The news media analysis combines discourse analysis and visual approaches. Discourse analysis can aid in identifying critical media discourses on Ukrainian refugee women and the primary identity features that define them. Discourse analysis is a method for analyzing written and spoken language from the perspective of its societal and political context, as well as the systems of social domination, inequality, and power that are reproduced in texts (Van Dijk, 2009).

Discourse analysis

The next crucial notion that I shall employ is that of discourse. Discourse is highly complicated, and scholars utilize it differently, even within the same field of knowledge. Discourse, according to Foucault, is a social force that plays a significant role in what is produced as "real" and hence possible. It denotes how the world may be viewed and what is known and achievable. As a result, it provides a basic definition for describing how the social subject is positioned and constrained (Foucault, 1994, p. 176). Van Dijk's concept of discourse is the most relevant to my work. According to the researcher, discourse legitimizes specific views, attitudes, etc. Discourse, according to this understanding, is directly tied to power (Van Dijk, 2006). Discourse reproductions are both the cause and the effect of powerful and influential people's social cognitions. The discursive reproduction of power is

the consequence of the powerful's social cognitions, whereas situated discursive structures result from social cognition (Van Dijk, 1993, p. 259). In my study, the news media is a source of power that determines whether and how refugee women are represented.

Discourse analysis is a method of language research in interaction with social processes occurring in society (Kamalu & Osisanwo, 2015). Thus, research based on this method focuses on how language is used to construct meaning and social reality (Kamalu & Osisanwo, 2015). Therefore, language is the central element of research in discourse analysis. It has an impact not only on the transmission of information but also on its understanding and perception by others (Kamalu & Osisanwo, 2015). It can also create certain connotations, moods, beliefs, etc. Discourse researchers, in turn, analyze which words and phrases are used in certain sources, how they relate to a specific context, and what impact they have on the audience (Happer & Philo, 2013).

Discourse analysis is a widely used method in modern media studies to study media discourses and narratives. Discourse analysis allows for examining media discourse from various angles, including structural, linguistic, social, and political considerations (Manzoor et al., 2019). The study of texts generated by media organizations is one method for the discourse analysis of media discourse. By analyzing the structure, language methods, and style of these texts, specific imposing schemes or patterns that are employed to construct a particular perspective or direct the thought process of viewers and readers may be revealed (Handford et al., 2023). It is possible, for example, to explore which issues are stressed in media messages, which terminology is chosen to describe events, or which categories are examined in media reports (Samaie & Malmir, 2017). Furthermore, discourse analysis of media discourse may include investigating the role of social actors in shaping the discourse, such as journalists, editors, and politicians (Alizadeh Afrouzi, 2020). It is possible to determine political or ideological tendencies as well as the effect of their actions on the establishment of media discourse by analyzing their statements (Wodak, 2011). In my empirical research, this qualitative technique focuses on the information element (texts, comments, descriptions, etc.) and the content of visual components accompanying them. However, given the variety of potential uses available for this method, it is also possible to use various strategies and approaches to investigate the topic further.

Furthermore, discourse analysis can help investigate the interaction between media texts and audiences (Cotter, 2015). By analyzing media messages, one can learn how media discourse

influences the formation of opinions, beliefs, and behavior in the audience (Happer & Philo, 2013). It should also be noted that the use of this qualitative approach is not always characterized by a sufficiently standardized nature and evident homogeneity. Instead, depending on the topic, its structure and type of analysis may differ. Furthermore, it is essential to understand how the topic and realities of war can influence this non-standardized method, which not only causes an increased emphasis on the subject matter, given its high relevance but can also affect the increased emotionality or subjective nature of the texts.

The critical discourse analysis method was chosen to conduct a study on the analysis of images and discourses surrounding Ukrainian refugees. It is a methodology aimed at identifying the power structures, cultural ideologies, and social norms embedded in the language structure used in the media (Schiffrin et al., 2008). In the analysis process, my main focus as a researcher was the language and discourse features of the sample texts, searching for patterns and themes that indicate the underlying power dynamics and cultural values.

Language is also a means of implementing verbal behavior that performs a social function when presented in the form of a text (oral or written) (Santosa, 2003). In turn, the values found in the texts can be implemented using various meta functions. The ideational function is the expression of meaning through the processes found in texts (Song, 2013). For such cases, transitivity analysis is popularly used, which allows one to explore ideologies in the text as well as to analyze characters or other elements (Nurhayati, 2018).

Halliday's (2014) context analysis framework was borrowed to investigate the context of news texts. The researcher analyzes three aspects of context, namely "Field," "Mode," and "Tenor." These are interrelated aspects that make it possible to use and interpret language and text in different ways.

According to the author's conceptualization, the field "Field" refers to the thematic directions of the content of the texts (Halliday, 2014). For different areas and topics broadcasted (political, economic, etc.), different vocabulary is used, and, accordingly, the topic and the subject appearing in it are covered differently.

The next aspect, "Mode," in turn, refers to the mode and environment used in the communication channel (Halliday, 2014). Most of all, in my analysis, this aspect denotes the mood that accompanies the text message.

The last aspect, "Tenor" is used to indicate the roles performed by the characters of the text, as well as the relationship with them (in the case of my research - the subject of analysis). It is at this stage that intersectionality can manifest itself since this aspect is used to indicate the subject's age, status, and other social indicators (Halliday, 2014).

In the case of my research, understanding the sentiment expressed in the news text is essential, given the research objectives. The mood and tone of the news texts give information, particularly about how the information about the news subject is perceived and disclosed and how it is presented to the audience.

Discourse analysis and theoretical frameworks

Social constructivism and intersectionality are two theoretical frameworks that can be used in conjunction with discourse analysis to provide a more nuanced understanding of how language use reflects and reinforces power dynamics and cultural norms.

Social constructivism argues that knowledge is created through social interaction and that language is crucial in constructing knowledge (Han, 2019). Thus, discourse analysis, which focuses on language and the discursive features of texts, lends itself naturally to social constructivism. By analyzing the language used in social interactions, discourse analysis can reveal how language use reflects and reinforces cultural norms and power structures (Teo, 2000).

Intersectionality, on the other hand, focuses on the ways in which different social identities intersect to create unique experiences of oppression and privilege (Nair & Vollhardt, 2020). Applied to discourse analysis, intersectionality can help reveal the ways in which language use reflects and reinforces multiple intersectional forms of oppression and privilege.

In order to combine social constructivism and intersectionality in my discourse analysis, I began work by collecting a sample of texts that, in turn, reflect the intersection of different social identities. These social identities were selected by a search method based on their mentions in the sample texts. The language used in news articles to describe Ukrainian women as refugees in different countries was analyzed. Here, the intersection of gender, economic and social class (in the manifestation of education and qualification) was noted.

Applying social constructivism and intersectionality in my analysis will enable me to provide a more detailed understanding of how language use reflects and reinforces certain power relations in the social structure.

Thus, combining social constructivism and intersectionality with discourse analysis will enable me to provide an analytical framework for understanding how language use reflects and reinforces power dynamics and cultural norms, particularly in the context of intersecting social identities.

Unlike quantitative research, qualitative research has no sample size restrictions. For media analysis, purposeful sampling was employed, with media postings selected based on thematic criteria (the presence of information about Ukrainian refugee women).

I will select the timeframe for constructing the study sample as 24.02.2022 - 24.08.2022. It is the period between the start of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and six months later. Because this was the period of the highest refugee flow from Ukraine, concentrating on this period can give maximal saturation for the sample. During this time, it is possible to study the most prevalent discourses about Ukrainian women in the news surrounding the Russian-Ukrainian War in the media of both countries.

The chosen media analysis technique might lessen some ethical issues that other qualitative techniques encounter. Still, as a researcher, I must be cautious when portraying the sensitive experience of migrants, especially in light of their traumatic experiences as war witnesses, given the specificity of the study object. When studying and reaching conclusions, it will be essential to follow the principles of beneficence, justice, and non-maleficence. The removal of any subjectivity and biases connected to my impact as a researcher and the influence of my own relevant experiences that I may unintentionally project into the analysis will be lessened via triangulation by bringing in two other researchers for analysis.

Visual content analysis

The goal of the next method, visual content analysis, is to build arguments using visual evidence. It involves visual material identification, description, and analysis (Schreck & Keim, 2013). The visual analysis can allow the research of graphic materials in news stories on Ukrainian refugee women. It will help augment the image of the study object's created identities with additional facts gathered from images and other visual appendices to news articles.

Visual analysis is a method for evaluating how events and individuals are portrayed in the media, and it has particular potential in this regard. Visual representations are more influential for people's perceptions than text messages because they are simpler to comprehend and retrieve in memory (Bucher & Schumacher, 2006). Images in the news can have an especially powerful impact on public emotional responses (Sharkey, 1993). In my study, this approach entails a rigorous examination of the visual components (such as images and photographs) included in news stories. This technique may be used to identify the ways to employ visuals to create meanings and influence the formation of public opinion. It can also have an impact on readers' and viewers' comprehension of the cultural and social environment in which news is produced. To conduct visual analysis, the sample of news articles for discourse analysis was reviewed to identify the presence of visual materials. The discovered photos and images were organized into separate samples and divided by news sources for examination. Subjects (who is portrayed in the photo), objects (what is depicted), emotional coloring (what mood the image expresses), physical location (where the photo was shot), and general elements were divided into five groups for visual analysis.

3.1 Data preparation and selection

The purpose of this research was to study what elements were used to shape the news discourse about Ukrainian refugee women in the Ukrainian and Swedish media during the first six months of the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine and to determine the characteristics of the media news discourse around refugee women from Ukraine, comparing its features in the news of Sweden and Ukraine. Three of the most popular news media in Ukraine, namely TSN, Suspil'ne, and Ukrains'ka Pravda, were selected as sources for the analysis of Ukrainian news. As the sources for the analysis of Swedish news, three popular sources that are freely accessible, namely Dagens Nyheter, Expressen, and Aftonbladet, were chosen.

In my research, the units of observation are sentences or paragraphs containing relevant information (mentions of Ukrainian refugee women in any context).

The units of analysis are words and sentences, which represent value for research as containing data on the characteristics of the subject of analysis, circumstances, and contexts associated with it, which also directly relate to the themes indicated in the codifier. 81 relevant articles and 164 observation units were chosen from the "Suspil'ne" news website's

archive. The website "Ukrains'ka Pravda" has 27 relevant items and 91 units of observation. "TSN" website, 39 articles, and 61 units of observation, respectively. The website of "Aftonbladet" contained 31 relevant items and 64 units of observation. "Expressen" had 18 articles and 43 observations, while "DN" had 45 articles and 70 observations. In total, the analysis included 147 news articles from Ukrainian media and 94 from Swedish.

The "Suspil'ne News" website is an independent Ukrainian national public Internet medium covering informative themes. This source has a web page, materials from whose archives were utilized for my study, as well as platforms on social networks and applications where the news is republished. According to the Ukrainian Institute of Mass Information, this news source has been on the "white list" of Ukrainian media with high-quality content since 2021 (Institute of Mass Information, 2021).

"Ukrains'ka Pravda" is an independent Ukrainian socio-political online media outlet that has operated since 2000. The journal is top-rated among Ukrainians and was rated #1 in the number of views among Ukrainian online media in 2020 (Institute of Mass Information, 2020). It has also been on the Ukrainian media's "white list" since 2020 (Institute of Mass Information, 2022).

TSN, which stands for "Television News Service," is a daily news show on the "1+1" channel and a Ukrainian information website still one of Ukraine's most popular. According to Gemius Audience study data, TSN.ua earned the top in the list of Ukrainian news sites by the number of unique users in 2020 (1+1 Media, 2021).

"Aftonbladet" is a Swedish evening and online newspaper whose editorial page has been labeled "independent social democratic" since the early 1960s (Koncernen, 2007). According to Kantar Sifo, Aftonbladet has a high number of visits, reach, and page views among Swedish internet users compared to other popular websites (Kantar Sifo, 2017).

"Expressen" is a daily evening newspaper and news website in Sweden that promotes itself as an "independent liberal" source. "Expressen" ranks second on Kantar Sifo's ranking in terms of views, reach, and visits among Swedish internet users (Kantar Sifo, 2023).

"Dagens Nyheter" (DN.se) is one of Sweden's major morning newspapers and has its own website and online publishing (Dagstidnings-Förteckning 2018). Since 1973, the governing DN has referred to itself as independent, but since 1998, it has referred to itself as an

independent liberal newspaper. DN is also reasonably popular in Sweden, placing fourth in the list of the most popular news websites (Kantar Sifo, 2017).

The popularity of these news sources among the people of the countries where they are produced served as the primary selection factor. Although the authority of the publications played a role in the selection process, the reach of online publications was given priority for the analysis. The mentioned online newspapers may have varied political or ideological stances. However, because of their larger readership and greater ability to influence readers and viewers, their audience reach was the main factor in their selection for investigation.

Thus, this choice was motivated by the fact that given their higher availability because of free access, they potentially garner more online views among readers. Therefore, the discourses shaped by these sources have a more significant potential to be disseminated. The challenge at this stage was that each source was presented in Swedish and had no alternative English translation. However, additional time was allocated for their correct translation into English, which made their discourse analysis possible for me.

The selection of specific units of analysis - or news articles - was carried out differently for Ukrainian and Swedish sources. Since the Ukrainian sources contained more posts and information about the research object, and the keyword search did not work (it did not always show relevant posts because of the diverse vocabulary used for the research object), it was manually reviewed and processed by me using step 2 (reviewing news of every other day from 02/24/2022 to 08/24/2022). That way, I selected all posts relevant to my topic. As for the Swedish news media, they contained less information on this topic, and the formation of the sample was of a slightly different, more straightforward nature, namely, a search using the keywords "ukrainska flyktingar" ("Ukrainian refugees"). For the analysis, media messages dating from 24.02.2022 to 24.08.2022 were considered as well.

These time frames were chosen because they take into account a period of six months from the start of a full-scale invasion. This period of time made it possible for me as a researcher to investigate the main topical discourses regarding Ukrainian women in the news related to the Russian-Ukrainian war in the media of both countries.

First, the data was prepared, and any irrelevant information was discarded. For this purpose, attention was focused precisely on the sentences in which Ukrainian refugee women

appeared, their characteristics, and any references to them in general. This way, relevant sentences or paragraphs were selected, becoming the analysis units.

Considering the differences in the sample size for Ukrainian and Swedish news, I did not conclude the differences in the frequency of the appearance of specific categories in the texts. Only the main topics that were the focus of media attention and the ways of their expression were taken into account. However, in cases where a special focus on a particular category is more clearly visible, it was described where precisely the focus was made, and a parallel was drawn with whether it appeared in news publications of another country.

Critical discourse analysis was used as a conceptual basis for studying discourses surrounding Ukrainian refugee women. Transitive analysis was chosen to form the analytical structure. However, the representativeness of the selected texts and sources can be criticized, as well as the random selection method. All this is determined by the features of the chosen qualitative research method.

Therefore, taking into account the research questions, the following dimensions and categories of analysis were created:

- 1) Extralinguistic dimension, containing categories of Field (political, economic, social, military, and health spheres) and Mode (positive, negative, neutral, and ambivalent).
- 2) Linguistic dimension consisting of the Tenor category, referring to images of refugees found in the news media (refugee women depicted as victims of war; victims of persecution, violence, and threats abroad; economic agents; mothers; caregivers; older women refugees; and refugees forced to leave the family).

By examining these two aspects, it is possible to acquire a better knowledge of how the mass media constructs particular narratives regarding Ukrainian refugee women and how these narratives impact the perception of the image and features of this social group.

3.2 Ethical considerations

First and foremost, this research aims to minimize any potential harm. In my analyses and interpretations, I must strive to reduce any possible damage to my subjects. As a result, any linguistic formulations that may be stigmatizing or derogatory should be avoided. I believe it is essential to consider the potential risks associated with describing the traumatic

experiences that happened to the subjects mentioned in the study or whose quotes are given in it.

I also aim to be as sensitive as possible to the context I am researching. It is critical to consider the cultural and linguistic differences that might influence how these women are portrayed in the media. It is also crucial to analyze the broader political and social circumstances in which these media operate since these variables may impact the formation of discourse surrounding these women.

It is important to note that discourse analysis entails the examination of public texts that were possibly not intended for usage in other contexts, including academic papers. My study contains, in particular, citations to interviews in the sampled articles that include remarks from the women who are my research subjects. Therefore, I believe it is critical to protect the privacy of the individuals I cite by not using their names or other personal information. I also wish to be as open as possible about the methodology and data analysis approaches that I employ. To do this, I give detailed descriptions of my coding system as well as every method I employ. I also go into depth about which sources were used and how the data for each country's media analyses were chosen.

Finally, it is essential to highlight the possible partiality of my analysis and interpretations as a result of my personal experience as a Ukrainian woman who was relocated to Sweden during Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. This influence will be lessened via triangulation by bringing in two other researchers for analysis.

Limitations

Scope of Focus: The study focuses on Ukrainian refugee women and their features and representation in the media. It does not encompass social categories subject to exclusions, such as conscripted women or older men, and the present legislative prohibitions on leaving Ukraine that apply to them. The research findings are limited to the experiences of women who identify as female based on official documents.

Source of the sample: The study is based on journalistic articles from Ukrainian and Swedish online news sources. While the traits and images of Ukrainian refugee women in the media are analyzed, it is crucial to remember that these representations may not always be accurate. The analysis section does not use scientific or statistical materials, which may limit the accuracy of the findings.

Time Frame: The study focuses on the first six months following Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, from 02/24/2022 to 08/24/2022. While this period provides the most relevant data, it may not reflect long-term changes or emerging dynamics in the media representation of Ukrainian refugee women.

Limited Analysis of Other Factors: Despite acknowledging the application of intersectionality theory, the study focuses exclusively on gender and certain socio-demographic factors of the targeted social group mentioned in the news media. Because race and sexual orientation are not represented in the sample of media texts, they are not included in the study. This limitation may hinder an exhaustive knowledge of Ukrainian refugee women's experiences and representations.

Background Information: Although the study briefly examines the experiences of people who remain in Ukraine and their motivations for staying or leaving, this is not the primary emphasis. The background material helps support underlying insights rather than providing an in-depth assessment of the decision-making processes or experiences of individuals who chose to remain in the country.

It is critical to note these limitations when evaluating the study's findings since they may influence the generalizability and comprehensiveness of the findings.

4. Theory/Concepts

The theory of intersectionality and Bourdieu's theory were used to develop the discourse analysis of the news about Ukrainian refugees in 2022. These approaches allow us to consider not only individual aspects of these people's experiences but also their interactions and the influence of various contextual factors on their lives.

Intersectionality

Intersectionality will be beneficial for creating a portrait of Ukrainian refugee women in the news media, as it will allow me as a researcher to describe the portrait of these individuals in terms of systems of disparities based on gender identity, ethnicity (considering the existing ethnic diversity of Ukrainian people), physical capabilities, class and status, and other forms of social dimensions intersect, creating unique dynamics and effects. Intersectionality can also reveal new pathways and areas of study that have previously been overlooked.

Kimberle Crenshaw's intersectionality approach is particularly applicable to my study as it is most relevant to reveal the ways in which different types of oppression cross and generate unique experiences for oppressed groups and individuals (Adewunmi, 2014). This author's work presents a new viewpoint on issues of violence and privilege. In her research, she claims, using the experience of dark-skinned women as an example, that this social group experiences a unique type of oppression as a result of the intersection of racism and sexism (Crenshaw, 2018). Her notion of intersectionality underlines the significance of identifying and taking into account multiple social markers (Crenshaw, 2018). Failure to understand the interdependence of these identities can lead to the erasure of oppressed people's experiences and struggles (Haynes et al., 2020). This approach of intersectionality, according to Crenshaw, is a "metaphor for understanding the ways in which multiple forms of inequality or disadvantage combine to create barriers that are often incomprehensible to conventional ways of thinking" (Crenshaw, 2018).

In this view, intersectionality entails recognizing a lot of different aspects. The first is recognizing that people's experiences are shaped by their simultaneous involvement in several interrelated social categories (Scottish Government, 2022). Second, it takes into account interactions between various social categories that occur in a setting of connected structural and power systems (Ibid, 2022). Recognizing power imbalance, in particular, is a

crucial feature of this intersectional perspective. Structural inequality may both hinder and benefit people who are impacted by it. Inequality arises through interactions between social categories, circumstances, and power dynamics. Each individual's particular experience in various scenarios of intersectionality can be both short-term and lasting (Ibid, 2022).

Furthermore, intersectionality is a tool for analyzing underlying power relations and how they impact the establishment of inequality rather than an attribute or a characteristic of individual or group identity (Ibid, 2022). Intersectionality also does not put diverse groups of people in opposition to each other to decide who is more disadvantaged or privileged. It seeks to comprehend how people's experiences with various types of oppression or inequality are produced (Ibid, 2022).

Intersectionality is concerned directly with the allocation of power and other resources in society (Yuval-Davis, 2015). This theoretical approach may be the most valid option for discussing issues of social stratification and access to advantages because it allows an in-depth study of individuals' or social groups' possibilities and chances within the framework of complex power systems rather than focusing on just one indication (Yuval-Davis, 2015). It is intersectionality that allows us to observe a social group's probable advantages or issues from several perspectives, as well as assess how systems of inequality build on one another (Azhar & Gunn, 2021). As a result, for Ukrainian women who made the decision to leave their homeland, a number of interrelated issues were crucial.

This includes their economic assets, which gives them more options for a comfortable transfer abroad. For example, the availability of a car for the departing family might play a crucial role, making the transition significantly easier for those fleeing active war zones. However, the presence of greater financial security can also create barriers for people who do not want to leave their possessions behind. Another aspect is having the presence of a disability, which can have a significant impact on the circumstances for survival during war, especially in the lack of adequately constructed bomb shelters and correctly developed evacuation plans. The type of settlement is also crucial. People living in cities may have more options for evacuation, whereas people living in rural areas may find it more difficult to leave their homes. However, village residents may benefit from the presence of their own products at home, which reduces their reliance on supplies, increases the chances of more comfortable survival, and, as a result, creates fewer factors for evacuation if they are not in particularly dangerous areas.

It is also crucial to recognize the existing social relationships or social capital that might act as a support system for a person. In some situations, refugees who have developed social links overseas may not seek assistance from volunteers and consequently feel more protected. People who can work online may have an advantage over those who are dependent on their workplace, which suggests that the type of employment may also play a significant role in this situation. This may allow them to continue earning money without leaving their jobs even if they move outside the country.

The junction of these distinct social markers may be evident, for example, when a refugee who identifies as a woman with disabilities may confront specific problems that necessitate a more nuanced assessment of their experience. In addition to physical barriers to mobility, such as a lack of accessible transportation or escape routes, individuals may be more vulnerable to gender-based violence and discrimination due to their disability status. As a result, the confluence of gender and disability must be examined in order to build successful policies and interventions that address their individual needs. In general, bringing an intersectional perspective into the analysis of refugees' experiences of war and displacement might aid in identifying and considering how many types of oppression and discrimination overlap to impact their capacity to flee and rebuild their lives (Ekoh & Okoye, 2022).

These are but a few illustrations of potential influences that may appear in various forms and influence Ukrainian women's experiences abroad. The primary factor in the intersectional framework, however, continues to be the gender advantage that women have due to their freedom to leave the country, in contrast to the majority of men.

Intersectionality, thus, allows us to consider the experience of Ukrainian refugees abroad as a complex interaction of various types of social characteristics that they are endowed with. This approach will help reveal the main problems they face in the new social environment and outline the forms of discrimination that threaten them.

Main intersectionality theorists such as Kimberle Crenshaw and Patricia Hill Collins emphasize the importance of understanding the interplay of different types of discrimination and inequality that affect social groups based on their social and cultural characteristics (Crenshaw, 1991; Collins & Nicholson, 1997). This theory emphasizes that different forms of discrimination interact and reinforce each other, creating complex intersectional forms of violence and inequality.

One of the main aspects of this theory, which was used in my analysis, is the possibility of expanding the analysis to study the interaction of a broader range of factors, such as class, age, disability, and others. Ukrainian refugee women forced to leave their country because of the war have different intersectional characteristics, such as ethnic, racial, gender, social, cultural, and others (even if this is not fully reflected in the news media). All of these intersectional characteristics can deepen their position in the new society and affect the increase or decrease of their vulnerability (Siller & Aydin, 2022). Understanding the intersectionality of this social group provides opportunities to identify and eliminate their problems and meet their needs.

In addition, the contribution of intersectionality is not only to draw additional attention to various forms of oppression and discrimination but also to challenge and reject stereotypical and prejudiced ideas about social identities, labels, and categories (Anthias, 2012). As for the methodological side of intersectionality, as an analytical basis, this theory helps answer several caveats in refugee studies. In particular, it can help to solve such a problem as focusing on excessive negativism, problematic aspects, and ignoring the strong qualities of the social group under study. It helps give voice to vulnerable groups and better understand them and their experiences.

As an example of how an intersectional lens in refugee research contributes to a better understanding of the essence of the refugee experience, it is possible to cite the study of Yakob-Haliso, who argued that age, disability, and place of residence are key demographic variables that regularly intersect with gender and are determinants in shaping access and the availability of long-term prospects and opportunities for refugee women (Yacob-Haliso, 2016). Variations in the refugee experience, such as the type of settlement (camp, village, or city), significantly impact how easily this social group can access aid. For example, being in a refugee camp can make it easier to identify problems and get support to solve them, while living in a city can be a factor in increasing the risk of violence and exploitation.

Another study (Koirala & Eshghavi, 2017) uses intersectionality theory to explore how discrimination is exacerbated among the Iranian refugee community in the US due to the intersection of risks arising from their ethnic and national origin and religion. The authors draw attention to how these factors can negatively impact the formation of policies, particularly visa procedures, registration, and administration, as well as a number of banking and financial issues (Ibid, 2017).

A subsequent study with an intersectional framework (Ayoub, 2017) used the case of Syrian refugees in Egypt to reveal how refugee women from that country are primarily treated as a single category, ignoring the factor of belonging to different social classes. This study questioned how class influences their experiences, transforming refugee identities (Ibid, 2017). The author claims that the experience of displacement is not always purely negative for this social group but can also have an emancipatory effect on many women in this social group (Ibid, 2017).

The intersectional framework will be primarily used in understanding the results of the analyses. It will enrich my research and interpretations and may help draw attention to this study's valuable yet hidden aspects.

Bourdieu's Theory

Social constructivism and Bourdieu's theory on the different forms of capital will be used as the following theoretical framework. It is a qualitative research approach to studying and interpreting social phenomena, identities, and systems. A fundamental tenet of this perspective is that cognition is more than simply a reflection and representation of an issue; it is also an active component in building an image of these known objects and occurrences (Kelly, 2000, p. 185). A construct is a model for explaining the world, a pattern of the judgment formed by individuals to assist them in understanding reality (Pilarska, 2021).

Based on this, I will explore how the image of Ukrainian refugee women in the media is produced in the news and what societal aspects and structures (stereotypes, biases, patterns, etc.) impact the construction of this image as part of my thesis.

Most of the existing research focuses on how different countries may effectively respond to migration and satisfy the refugees' requirements. To find an answer to such inquiries, it is necessary first to define the narratives through which Ukrainian refugee women are depicted in the news, generating a public media image that viewers around the country experience since they construct people's perceptions of this social group. One or more attitudes about refugee women and how their needs may and should be met evolve depending on how this image is depicted in the media.

Discourse analysis will help reveal which themes and frames dominate the news about Ukrainian refugees worldwide and construct the peculiarities of their portrait in the news media of Ukraine and Sweden. Social constructivism, founded on presumptions about reality,

knowledge, and learning, can assist in understanding how certain social norms and concepts related to the study's subject matter contribute to a given social reality for refugee women from Ukraine, which affects their experiences and opportunities (Beaumie & Orey, 2001). Also, the study of the news from the perspective of the theory of constructivism will help to investigate how the discourse about Ukrainian refugees is formed and changed in the news.

Applying the theory of Social Constructivism and Bourdieu's theory, the image of a social group is not fixed or objective. On the contrary - it depends on how the media and other participants construct it. One of the fundamental principles of the theory of constructivism is the understanding of the nature of the creation of social reality as one that is formed through joint actions and connections between people and not as one that exists independently of them (Sandu & Unguru, 2017). In the context of social constructivism, the image of Ukrainian refugees will be constructed through the interaction between the mass media and other participants (spectators, political forces, and society as such) in creating their image in the media space. The mass media can influence the formation of portraits of this social group with the help of the peculiarities of the choice of vocabulary, topics, and frames for describing events and facts. Thus, the news media can focus on the successes and achievements of Ukrainian refugees to create a positive image or on specific situations that illustrate their problems, failures, or mistakes, presenting this social group in a more pessimistic light. Also, the news media can resort to attracting stereotypes and prejudices about Ukrainian women, emphasizing their national identity and their differences from other refugees or residents of host countries.

Pierre Bourdieu is the key constructivist theorist in my work. His notion of capital represents labor assembled in its materialized or incorporated form (Bourdieu, 1986). Bourdieu describes social position differences as the ownership of four types of capital: social, cultural, economic, and symbolic (Bourdieu, 1984).

Economic capital consists of both tangible and economic resources, such as money and property (Ibid, 1984). Social capital refers to social ties and relationships that may be exploited to earn resources and influence in order to build one's image (Ibid, 1984). These resources are derived through involvement in one or more social groups. Knowledge, formal education, cultural practices and norms, and the total cultural level attained all contribute to image construction (Ibid, 1984). Finally, symbolic capital denotes the amount of public recognition or power one has.

Each of these capital forms may be viewed as a resource valuable for gaining and sustaining people's "life chances" (Bourdieu, 1984). Bourdieu employs this capital theory to situate individuals in social space (Bourdieu, 1986). He also challenges the excessive focus on monetary exchange as an indicator of social position or rank, emphasizing the need to evaluate the quantity and composition of the four types of capital.

Furthermore, it is worth highlighting the interaction between different kinds of capital in terms of how they might convert into one another and how the use or possession of one type of capital is dependent on other forms of capital. It should be noted that these social position indicators are highly relational because people's social positions might be regarded as low or high depending on how they compare to the positions of other individuals in the same social space (Bourdieu, 1986). Possession of various types of capital also influences an individual's position within power dynamics. People's similarity in the amount and structure of capital draws them together in social space, potentially establishing one social class.

Returning to the subject of my research, it is worth highlighting the importance of each type of capital in influencing refugee women's experiences, as well as the subsequent media interpretation of them and their experiences. This theoretical framework is significant because it allows for the identification of diverse trends in the depiction of study subjects by establishing distinctions in experiences based on the unique social circumstances of individuals. It also enables us to better comprehend the inequalities among the individuals who are the subjects of the analysis, as represented in the news media. Like the intersectional method, this theoretical framework enables us to uncover the hidden variables that influence refugees' lives. It is also worth noting that Bourdieu's theory of capital focuses on the resources that individuals have rather than those they lack, emphasizing advantages rather than disadvantages.

4.1 Key concepts

Refugees

Ukrainians who were forced to leave the country due to the war may have different statuses when arriving abroad.

The concept of a refugee is applied to Ukrainians who have applied for refugee status. This status is practically indefinite. Another status is "person under temporary protection."

According to the social mechanism of temporary protection, which the European Commission adopted on March 4 for citizens of Ukraine who left the country after February 24, 2022, such displaced persons have the right to live in the EU, work and receive social security and several services, including educational and medical (*Temporary Protection* 2023). This mechanism is not open-ended and is limited to one year with the right of extension or reduction in case of stabilization of the situation in Ukraine (*Temporary Protection* 2023). In my research, I use the concept of "refugees" since this concept is predominant in the Ukrainian and Swedish media regarding displaced women who had to leave Ukraine due to the war.

Refugee women

The study was limited to Ukrainian refugees who were able to leave Ukraine with a document in which their gender was set to "female" since there was insufficient information to provide a comprehensive picture of the gender distribution of refugee identification. It is worth noting that these people can identify themselves as representatives of different genders at the same time. The fact that they cross the border while identifying as women and using the term "woman" in the news media under scrutiny are both crucial keys in this situation.

Media image/Media representation

In the context of my research, a media image or media representation is a depiction of a social group that has been created with the aid of different media platforms, in the present instance, news websites. Key social indicators of identity are effectively portrayed in the media (Fürsich, 2010). These, in particular, include traits like gender, sexuality, age, class, race, and ethnicity (Ibid, 2010). In addition, media attention may be drawn to the physical characteristics, personality qualities, accomplishments, environment, and context of social group representatives (Ibid, 2010). As a result, a media portrait is a creation made by the media to depict a particular individual or social group using text, pictures, or audio-visual elements (Ibid, 2010). The impression of a person or group by viewers or readers may be significantly impacted by these images, which can affect public opinion about that subject or that group. Depending on the objective of the representation and who is the creator of such materials, media portraits may be based on facts, or they may also include different levels of subjectivity.

5. Analysis

5.1 Results

Transitivity Analysis

According to Halliday, three main types of processes have been identified for transitivity analysis, which is relevant to the study setting. These are Material processes (actions and events in materials), Mental processes (feelings and sensations), and Relational processes (being and having) (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004). Material processes can encompass the refugee situation itself (instead of "migration," as this concept was employed in the vast majority of materials) and the circumstances of adaptation to life in a foreign country. Mental processes are the feelings that (1) the refugees' experiences were broadcast and (2) the mood with which they were broadcast in the materials. For the Swedish news, the depiction of adverse mental processes or a negative mood predominated - a feeling of sorrow for the refugee women, a description of these women's challenging experiences abroad or during their displacement. For the Ukrainian news, a positive attitude prevailed, communicating the refugees' sense of gratitude, escape from the war, success in adaptation, and aid to Ukraine throughout their stay abroad:

Nataly, a bus passenger, noted: "The locals explained everything to us. They met us. When we arrived, everything was ready for us, including tea and coffee. They gave us food and water. They treat us very well. We sincerely appreciate it. They support us. Everything is quite good." ... "We will return. We'll be alright".

Suspil'ne, 2022/03/08

Relational processes are reflected in my study through the description of Bourdieu's forms of capitals in connection to the analysis outcomes, which is presented in the subsection "Interpretation."

Field

First, it was revealed how the political discourse around Ukrainian refugee women was formed. Due to their role in such processes as the organization and participation in fund-raising and protests, Ukrainian refugee women are portrayed by the Ukrainian news

media as politically active individuals who seek to help their country and its population with information and finances, physically being in another country.

In turn, this discourse is absent in Swedish news sources, indicating a different focus on news articles. The focus of Swedish news in the context of Ukrainian refugees is shifted towards political initiatives introduced in Sweden and other European countries concerning the arrival of refugees. Here, Ukrainian refugee women appeared as people in need of support at the level of bills providing financial compensation, housing, employment, education, and violence prevention (including avoiding the risks of exploitation and prostitution among this group of people). Swedish sources also draw attention to the problem of Sweden's unjust migration policy ("It is much easier to accept Ukrainian Christian women," "The gap in the attitude toward Ukrainian Christian women" (Aftonbladet, 2022/04/01)).

The Swedish news media also draw attention to the discriminatory cases of how world politicians view Ukrainian women: "a ridiculous image of a Ukrainian refugee woman in a newspaper," the objectification of Ukrainian women by politicians in Brazil as "beauty queens" and in China - "we need to take care of beautiful Ukrainian women" (DN.se, 2022/03/16).

Ukrainian media emphasize the necessity of viewing this social group as war refugees rather than economic migrants seeking jobs.

Unlike labor migrants, women who came to Poland... came solely to be as far away from the war zone as possible." They may now expect more unskilled labor, physical work in service, and product packing.

TSN, 2022/05/22

Furthermore, the difficulty of obtaining an abortion in Poland, where, according to PESEL, more than 963,000 Ukrainian refugees—the majority of whom are women—were admitted as asylum seekers as of January 2023, was frequently brought up (PESEL 2023). Given the known cases of rape of women by Russian army members in occupied territories, this is a serious issue that requires public attention. Thus, the political discourse of Ukrainian news was more focused on Ukrainian refugee women as active actors, whereas the discourse of Swedish news covered state political actions and discriminatory cases involving Ukrainian women.

The economic discourse was represented in the news media less often but still has similar trends. Ukrainian news media highlight the active role of Ukrainian refugees more than Swedish news media, with a particular emphasis on their economic engagement: "employment and work abroad after 24.02", "online work in Ukraine," "Ukrainian women help Ukrainian women to get a job" and "difficulties with employment abroad." Swedish media focused more on "refugees' need for payments," "desire to work abroad," and "Ukrainian women help Ukrainian women find employment." In this regard, the more active position of Ukrainian refugee women in Ukrainian news contrasts with the more passive role in Swedish news. Here, Ukrainian women are repeatedly shown through material processes shaping them as passive figures who rely on others rather than being active individuals. It is difficult to categorize as either positive or negative. Swedish media outlets focus on refugees' needs and difficulties in a foreign environment. It also includes the necessity to earn a new qualification due to inconsistency with job market circumstances, Ukrainian women turning to sex work in order to maintain their families' existence, a severe need for money, and expensive pricing in another country. Such media attention highlights the need for help and empathy for refugee women, which is essential to improve their lives outside their home country. At the same time, some element of passivity in the portrayal of this group in society can also be harmful by distorting the audience's perception of them.

The military discourse was much less portrayed, although, at this point, the Swedish and Ukrainian news focus is nearly identical. In the news media of both countries, Ukrainian refugee women appear as "witnesses of military actions," "victims of occupation," and "those who have lost their place of residence" (a house or settlement destroyed as a result of the war), as well as "physically affected by military actions."

I really want to go back to Ukraine, but I am not sure where exactly to go now. We received a video of what was left of our Mariupol home: two walls and a four-meter hole caused by an aerial bomb." Maria claims, "There is nothing left.

Ukrains'ka Pravda, 2022/07/16

However, it is worth emphasizing that the representation of these discourses in the Ukrainian media was higher, in particular in the category of "witnesses of military actions." The Ukrainian media was more focused on the stories of the refugees, which was primarily

manifested in the interview format. In contrast, the Swedish media had a minor focus on the individual and rarely presented the individual stories and experiences of the refugees.

As for the health care discourse, Ukrainian media mainly pay attention to the circumstances related to the health of refugees and their children. These include circumstances such as "treatment of a child abroad," "health complications as a result of war," and "departure for treatment in another country" (most often due to the inability to continue treatment in Ukraine, "the need for surgery" and "pregnancy complications"). This type of discourse is less prevalent in Swedish media. The circumstances such as "the need for surgery," "risks associated with the arrival of a large number of refugees" (reports of increased rates of rabies as a result of the arrival of refugees with animals; unsatisfactory health, compared to Swedish society; increased incidence of tuberculosis); "complication of pregnancy," "health treatment in another country," and "the need for an additional health examination of Ukrainian women who arrive in Europe" are shown. The demand to meet refugees' health needs is underlined in both countries. However, Sweden has an additional context related to the local population's health and focuses on extra hazards in a long-term perspective.

In terms of education, Ukrainian news media have the most significant focus on refugees' "educational work in Europe about the war in Ukraine," "continuing higher education online in Ukraine," as well as "efforts to learn a language in another country." The reviewed Swedish news was more focused on "insufficient knowledge of the language" (Swedish and/or English), "sufficient knowledge of the language," as well as on the "mismatch of Ukrainian and Swedish education" ("insufficient qualifications of Ukrainian women for work in Sweden" and "an existing element of discrimination in the Ukrainian school"). At the time, common features for both news sources were found in the categories "(continuing) higher education in Europe," "language learning efforts," and "creating policies to encourage and open opportunities for language learning."

The pattern of depicting Ukrainian refugee women as active participants who make particular efforts to better their educational level and the education of other Ukrainian refugees is repeated here. Sweden's popular media are once again concentrating on the needs and issues of Ukrainian women, as well as providing solutions to them, indicating an interest in easing the adaptation process of Ukrainian refugee women.

In terms of the social dimension, general characteristics relating to refugee experiences in terms of social contacts and adjustment in the new country were found. The Ukrainian media

focuses primarily on how Ukrainian refugee women receive volunteer support and how they help other Ukrainian refugee women throughout the world. It included establishing refugee women's centers abroad and locating support in Ukrainian communities. Another frequent category also drew attention to the complexities of the displacement processes and living abroad for refugees (the difficult process of crossing the border and a lack of an accurate understanding of where to go next). The unpredictability of relocating women's futures was also highlighted here.

Swedish news displays comparable tendencies in the first two categories. Most of these news items focus on the voluntarily provided support that Ukrainian women get in Sweden and other European nations. This included assisting refugees in obtaining food, compensation, and housing. The category of future uncertainty is featured in the units of analysis only once. However, more attention was paid to Swedish news sources to the unmet needs of the refugees (for example, insufficient help in finding a job, improperly trained staff in assistance centers, and lacking hygiene items for refugee women with children). These sources also frequently criticize European countries, particularly Sweden, for failing to provide enough assistance to refugees.

According to the Swedish Migration Agency, almost all those who arrive are working-age women. Children who come to Sweden have the right to attend school. However, the Ukrainian mothers are left to their own devices. The government has declared that the Employment Service will assist Ukrainian refugees with social integration and skill mapping. It is good but far from enough.

Expressen, 2022/04/19 (my translation)

To summarize the interdiscursive Field characteristics of Ukrainian media, refugee women are featured most frequently as active players in social, political, and economic discourses. The use of single nouns ("refugee," "migrant," as well as the use of personal names, which was especially noticeable owing to a large number of interview forms) places a focus on the individual.

In the Swedish media, Ukrainian women were most frequently portrayed as a group in need of assistance ("refugees," "migrants," "Ukrainian women with children"), as well as the

development of policies and support programs for finding work and housing, as well as active volunteerism.

It is also worth noting that the research found no statistically significant differences across magazines from the same countries, despite apparent disparities in the political viewpoints they reflect. Significant differences can be observed only when comparing countries.

Mode

The dimension of connotation or Mode came next in the analysis. A positive connotation was most frequently used in such categories as "receiving aid," "sports and creative achievements of Ukrainian refugees in the world" (participation and victory in sports competitions, marathons, etc.; creativity and participation in exhibitions, creation of objects of visual art), as well as "salvation from war" and "faith in victory and return." The appreciation of Ukrainian refugees for the shelter, assistance, and efforts of other countries' volunteers, authorities, and citizens was most frequently underlined in the "rescue from war" category. The high level of interest in refugee women's artistic and sporting successes demonstrates that Ukrainian media outlets continue to focus on Ukrainian women as actors who can adjust to a new environment and, despite challenges, find inspiration and desire to create.

The most common categories in the Swedish media were "receiving aid" and "being saved from the war." The efforts of foreign and Swedish volunteer organizations providing help were highlighted here. The majority of these assertions in processed news items in Sweden took the shape of facts: "Funds were collected," "Volunteers work on the Ukrainian-Polish border," and so on.

Furthermore, texts about the positive characteristics of Ukrainian refugees were present in both countries' news. While the Ukrainian media uses adjectives like "courage," "strength," and "hard work" to describe the refugees' characteristics, the Swedish media describes them through contradictions: "A typical Eastern European woman who always sees bright spots even in the dark," "Ukrainian women are not crying victims, not desperate refugees."

For Ukraine, negative connotations related to refugees' negative emotions related to the war and the necessity of relocation (fear, anger, guilt, insecurity), as well as expressions characterizing displacement as a problematic and exhausting process for refugees (complexity finding a decent job, difficulty learning the language).

The Swedish media also focused on refugees' negative experiences (lack of money for living, unsatisfactory nature of assistance in another country, banking problems, difficulty of life without sufficient knowledge of the language), as well as their difficulties with documents and, in particular, refugee status.

For Ukrainian and Swedish news, the category of neutrality is relatively similar: here, attention was made to refugees as a fact, to who exactly refugees are (women and mothers with children), and to "differences in the mentalities of refugees from Ukraine and Europeans."

Regarding the ambiguous connotation, expressions related to refugees' desire to return home and the desire to leave to save children frequently appeared in both media. According to the UN Refugee Agency, as of September 2022, about 81% of Ukrainians surveyed said they intended to return home (UNHCR survey 2022). This is despite the fact that the war is still going on, and as a result, people are still leaving Ukraine in search of a safe place for themselves and their children. As a consequence, the findings of media analysis, which have consistently shown Ukrainian women's desire to return home, are an accurate portrayal of the circumstance. In addition, Ukrainian women were described in Swedish media for their appearance as being "neat," having "good make-up, and stylish clothes."

As a result, for the Ukrainian media, a positive Mode was most frequently encountered, as evidenced mostly through interviews and personal experiences of refugees. The most prevalent negative connotation in Swedish media was the adverse experiences of refugees and their challenges in the country of relocation.

Tenor

Seven categories were employed for the next level of the discourse analysis, characterizing the research subjects in various roles in which they were placed. These are the most common images the news media uses to depict Ukrainian refugees. First, here is an image of "Victims of War." For both countries, it was most frequently found in descriptions of stress disorders experienced by Ukrainian women who had to flee; for Ukrainian media, it was the description of Ukrainian women as witnesses of traumatic events, and for Swedish media, it was the description of Ukrainian women as victims of crimes committed by the Russian army. For both countries, this image was quite widespread. There was also no silencing regarding the difficulties that Ukrainian women faced.

Following that was the "portrayal of refugee women as victims of persecution, violence, and threats abroad." This category appeared more frequently in Swedish news, especially to depict circumstances of sexist attitudes which Ukrainian women encountered abroad. These included categories such as "increased risks of exploitation due to human trafficking and prostitution," "receiving housing offers in exchange for sex," "sexual objectification in advertising," "taunting and harassment," and sexist remarks: "beautiful Ukrainian women," "adopt a Ukrainian woman."

In addition, the problem of Ukrainian women's inability to obtain abortions in other countries (notably Poland) was frequently discussed in Swedish media, particularly in situations when Russian soldiers raped these women. There is a favorable trend in how Swedish news attracts attention to the problems of violations of Ukrainian refugees' rights, as well as a general focus on the legislative component of problem solutions.

Ukrainian women who have escaped the horrors of war are shocked when they are denied abortion in Poland. Instead, they are urged to continue to depart and remain silent about the pregnancy.

Aftonbladet, 2022/05/10, my translation

The next category was "Refugee women as economic subjects." Women's active involvement in the economy and labor was highlighted here. This category was circulated particularly in Ukrainian news and contained the categories "employment after 24.02," "desire to find a job," and "online work in Ukraine."

The following frequent role was "Refugee women as mothers." First, the analysis results correlate to current demographic statistics regarding Ukrainian refugees (mainly women, most of whom had to evacuate with their children).

Mothers are hesitant to return to Ukraine with their children, both for safety reasons and to provide a positive social environment for them, including opportunities for learning, peer communication, and cultural and athletic development.

Ukrains'ka Pravda, 2022/05/30

An examination of the news in both countries reveals that mothers with children who leave the country alone, unaccompanied by their partners or other people, receive the most media

coverage. Ukrainian media also pays attention to mothers of children with disabilities (an interview format was used most to spread their experience), and Swedish media pays attention to mothers of children with disabilities who relocated alone with their children as well.

In order for families with children with disabilities to return to Ukraine, it is crucial to offer them services that are not worse than those they now receive abroad and to take all necessary precautions to guarantee that the condition of these kids and families does not become worse.

Ukrains'ka Pravda, 2022/06/12

Female carers were less prevalent. News from both nations was tracked for refugees traveling with animals or caring for younger or elderly relatives.

Older Ukrainian refugee women were likewise infrequently represented. Only the Ukrainian media highlighted this image, and these women's departure was justified as "moving to the family" and "a need to protect health."

The final image of refugee women was of them having to leave their families in Ukraine. Separation from husband, parents, and adult children featured the most frequently.

For Sweden, the most typical picture of refugee women is that of a young or middle-aged single mother forced to leave her husband in Ukraine and flee to rescue her children. These women are at significant risk of facing sexism in another nation (whether through sexual exploitation or abuse), as well as stress disorders or the effects of Russian military crimes.

The most popular portrayal of Ukrainian refugees in Ukrainian media is that of young or middle-aged single mothers separated from their spouses and family. They frequently suffer from stress problems as a result of conflict and displacement. They also frequently travel with animals and actively seek jobs in other countries to secure their own and their children's survival. They are frequent witnesses to tragic occurrences and are at greater risk of being victims of criminal activity in another nation.

Visual analysis

The visual items that accompanied the news articles in the sample were also examined. The first step was a creation of a sample of subjects documented in photos or other visual components. For both countries, it was primarily women and children. Crowds or big groups of people, as well as men (particularly those seen in images showing goodbye scenes at railway stations or transportation terminals), were frequently portrayed in both media. The visual elements in the Swedish sources were more diverse: there were images of volunteers assisting refugees as well as animals that refugees brought with them abroad.

The categories of event location on visual materials show more variability. The most prevalent locations for the images in Ukrainian news were "rallies and protests in Europe," "border crossing point," "station," and "transport." The most frequent for the Swedish were "station," "transport," and "temporary housing," as well as a "migration agency." The trend of Ukrainian media outlets to depict Ukrainian women as political activists can also be seen here. On the other hand, Swedish reports present them as "people on the run" and "in need of help."

In terms of emotional expression, Ukrainian media is distinguished by a greater variety of sentiments. Sadness, worry, joy, confusion, calm, and rage are the most common emotions here. In the Swedish media, there is a considerable rise in emotional colorings, such as joy, calm, and neutrality, and less often - worry and uncertainty. Taking into account the high risk of subjectivity in analyzing the emotional expression of visual materials, more apparent markers, specifically people's facial expressions in images, were found, and extra triangulation was performed.

Objects portrayed on visual materials were the following category. Ukrainian news was frequently accompanied by images of the Ukrainian flag in various forms; bags (for travel) in photographs of people on the road; posters (handwritten and printed); food (on the road); traditional Ukrainian clothing; baby carriages; toys; blankets. Most of these resources are images from protests in other countries (where the Ukrainian flag, posters, and traditional clothing were frequently seen). All other objects were discovered in photos of refugees on the road in the majority of cases. As a result, there are two primary scenarios of visual materials for Ukrainian media: the role of female activists (more prevalent) and the role of refugees on the road.

The objects appeared less frequently in the Swedish media than in the Ukrainian media: travel bags were often observed; children's toys, flags, and food appeared fewer times. Here, the main scenario is the role of refugees on the road.

For Ukrainian sources, it is an image of people waiting (for transportation, issuing of documents, and other queues related to the relocation procedure); features related to disorganization and disorder (in particular, the process of moving and crossing the border); creativity (creative activities, exhibitions or concerts involving refugees); saying final farewell at transport stations and talking on the phone.

Waiting, clutter, and phone conversations of individuals in images are the most distinguishing elements of visuals in Swedish online media.

5.2 Interpretation

Pierre Bourdieu's theory regards social reality as the product of social interaction and the presence of different forms of power or capital. This implies that their portrait and the qualities provided to them in news texts are developed via social and cultural interactions between the media, political forces, public perceptions, and other actors in the context of the construction of the image of Ukrainian refugees in the news media.

In the context of my study topic, cultural capital encompasses research subjects' knowledge and abilities, as well as their cultural and national identity, which influences the formation of a particular picture of a given social group in the mass media. It may also highlight their restricted access to educational and cultural resources in the nation where they fled. For example, the analytical results indicated the presence of a problematic scenario related to insufficient language expertise in the countries where these women arrive.

Thus, not knowing the language and lacking accessible ways to learn it (free courses for refugees, for example) limit their educational and career opportunities. Furthermore, the lack of cultural capital in this context limits refugees' ability to form social capital in a new country.

Due to their lack of proficiency in the fundamentals of the language of honor and heroes, their chances of finding employment or, in a reasonable way building a future in Sweden must be assessed as relatively small.

Aftonbladet, 2022/07/28 (my translation)

Refugee social capital involves networks of social relationships. The presence or absence of such linkages can substantially influence a social group's opportunities for social interaction and success in a new context. The analysis allows me to make conclusions regarding the presence of Ukrainian refugee women in newly developed social networks to help one another abroad, as well as the support offered by volunteer centers.

At the same time, the study revealed the predominance of circumstances in which Ukrainian refugee women were compelled to leave their families, finding themselves in a new setting without substantial family support. This is especially troubling considering the social group's low resources and complex and sensitive living conditions.

Ukrainian women in this circumstance have a choice: save themselves and leave Ukraine, or endanger their safety but stay with their families (since, with a few exceptions, men are not permitted to go abroad) (Vohra, 2022). According to a poll of volunteers who assist Ukrainian refugee women, women are far more vulnerable to the risks of sexual assault and human trafficking (Makovetska, 2022). Additionally, they face more economic hardship, contributing to poverty and health issues (Makovetska, 2022). However, the government is attempting to save youth and future generations by establishing such a gender advantage. This is a significant difference between the experiences of Ukrainian refugees and those of other war refugees, who had the option of leaving the country or staying but were not forced to make this kind of family-related decision. This circumstance can affect refugees' vulnerability and complicate their experience abroad.

This government-enacted law grants certain privileges to Ukrainian women but, at the same time, has a number of complicated consequences for them. It has an impact on the circumstances of their migration and living abroad, as well as the support management for refugees in each country where they arrive (Parekh, 2022). This, in particular, has an impact on their image abroad, particularly concerning the refugees who came to Europe in 2015-16. As a result, given the existing level of Islamophobia, refugees from the Middle East, Syria, and Africa were frequently viewed as hostile and threatening, which pushed the development of a negative attitude against male refugees in particular (Parekh, 2022).

The differences in how those fleeing Russian bombs in Syria and those fleeing Russian bombs in Ukraine were treated shocked people in 2022.

The reason was that the mass displacement directive of the EU became active last spring. Why, then, was it not activated for the Syrians?

DN.se, 2022/08/24 (my translation)

Thus, the gender disparity in these different groups of refugees demonstrates some differences in these groups' perceptions of the world, putting Ukrainian refugees in a more privileged position compared to other groups of refugees, influencing the formation of their experience and perception in the world.

In the context of Ukrainian refugees, economic capital greatly influences their image in the media and their overall refugee experience. For this social group, economic capital is a critical component of security and well-being. A lack of economic capital can limit refugees' possibilities and raise their risk of being victims of exploitation, human trafficking, and other types of abuse. This issue has been frequently portrayed as essential and needing attention in both Ukrainian and Swedish news media. The lack of economic resources may be reflected in the mass media's portrayal of this social group as a victim of circumstances in need of assistance. If refugee women are provided with adequate financial resources and are able to afford food and medical care for themselves and their children, their chances of experiencing social insecurity and other effects of economic inequality are minimized. However, financial stability is uncommon for refugees, particularly at the start of their resettlement process. Even persons with "above-average" incomes before the war had their social position downgraded as refugees (Sydorov & Kovalska, 2022). Many of them are compelled to rely on social assistance (either as refugees or as unemployed people) (Sydorov & Kovalska, 2022). They are frequently compelled to live in harsh conditions with little access to material items. The study proved this reality, with frequent signals regarding the need to improve financial aid for refugees, as well as refugees' desire to find work in a new nation as quickly as feasible.

Increase the compensation - otherwise, Ukrainian refugees will be forced into even greater insecurity.

DN.se, 2022/04/16 (my translation)

In the analysis, an intersectional framework can also be observed. The media review, however, did not provide a sufficiently thorough portrayal of the subjects of study in their full diversity. This approach, however, enabled me to show women's central experiences and roles in refugee circumstances. The written and visual resources provided a view of the most

prevalent age category of refugees and ethnicity (albeit it was not diversely portrayed). Materials from both countries revealed the presence of refugees with disabilities and refugees with children with disabilities. Highlighting these details in the media is crucial because it provides an understanding of the current determinants of health for this socioeconomic group as well as the need for access to health maintenance services (Kuznetsova & Mikheieva, 2020). There is also a need to research mental health among displaced people. According to the findings of the study, both nations' media focus on stress and other problems experienced by women escaping the war. Most of the time, this is explained by factors of being a witness or a victim of such hostilities, as well as additional stress caused by the need to evacuate and adjust to another country.

An intersectional framework was also able to contribute to the visibility of different, often linked types of discrimination experienced by Ukrainian refugee women during the migration process and while being abroad. These include significant risks of persecution, violence, and threats against refugee women, which are primarily reported by Swedish media. It also involves the risks of engaging in sex work, which is linked to the inadequate financial circumstances and general vulnerability of refugees abroad, who frequently lack sufficient understanding of the language and social capital in the new country (Rosenberg, 2016). A survey of Swedish media sources showed cases of Ukrainian women abroad being offered money or accommodation in return for sexual services. At the same time, news articles emphasize the importance of encouraging adaptation and assisting refugees in reducing their vulnerability, particularly to these risks. An intersectional lens is also helpful in determining whether public policy toward a vulnerable group worsens or improves inequality. An intersectional approach connects diverse oppressions through the "matrix of dominance," which comprises structural, hegemonic, disciplinary, and interpersonal power relations (Collins, 1990). A review of Sweden's news media revealed the existence of divergences in opinions about what kind of assistance should be provided to Ukrainian refugees, whether it is adequate, and whether it is fair to other refugees from other countries who also require support and attention. Regardless of the possible subjectivity or political involvement that some of the news posts may have had, it is possible to find the intersection between the privileges and disadvantages of the assistance that Ukrainian women receive, which also contributes to the formation of their image in the media.

Despite being mentioned in a few publications in news articles in both countries, older refugee women continue to be underrepresented. Their experience, nevertheless, needs

further consideration. They may confront a variety of significant challenges that other groups of refugees do not share. They have a tendency to have a stronger attachment to their home countries, which might impact barriers to integration and acculturation stress (Barbelet, 2018). Because of cultural, language, and age disparities, people who get the status of refugees or temporary migrants in other countries are at risk of losing social support in their home country and have less opportunity to rebuild their social networks. This increases the likelihood of further social isolation and loneliness (Burton & Breen, 2002; Barbelet, 2018). They may also be more prone to health problems if they do not have enough language skills or social support (Woodgate et al., 2017). As a result, their issues and experiences necessitate more media coverage and attention.

Official statistics on the ethnic composition of refugees during a full-scale invasion are presently not publically available due to the difficulty of collecting and systematizing the data. However, given Ukraine's general ethnic composition, it can be assumed that the refugees who arrived from the country represent various ethnic groups. This category, however, was not included in the study due to its lack of news texts.

Examining visual resources accompanying stories in Ukrainian and Swedish newspapers gives valuable information regarding building images of Ukrainian refugees. Several significant points are highlighted in the findings.

First, women and children were dominating subjects in both Ukrainian and Swedish media. Conversely, men were represented in farewell scenarios at train stations or transportation terminals, depicting departure settings. This gender depiction is congruent with the gender roles ascribed to refugees in this scenario and mirrors the common narratives around them.

Second, visual features in Swedish sources were more diverse than those in Ukrainian mass media. Images of volunteers assisting refugees and animals brought by refugees make portraying the refugee experience challenging. This suggests that the Swedish media is taking a more thorough approach to covering the varied components of the refugee living experience.

Overall, the findings demonstrate that the Ukrainian media emphasized women activists' role and the refugee situation's political component. In contrast, the Swedish media emphasized refugee displacement and the need for help. These various storylines and visual portrayals reflect each country's sociocultural settings and media goals.

It is critical to acknowledge the subjectivity that comes with the examination of visual resources, as well as the possibility of many interpretations. Nonetheless, this research adds to our knowledge of the discursive and visual production of representations of Ukrainian refugees in media discourse, underlining the complexity and subtleties connected with their portrayal. The findings urge for greater critical examination of media practices, as well as more inclusive and varied narratives that humanize and respect the refugee experience.

6. Conclusions/Final discussion

A theoretical framework based on intersectionality and Bourdieu's capital theory was employed to conduct the empirical research. The intersectionality theory allowed us to delve deeper into the peculiarities of the representation of Ukrainian refugees in various manifestations of their social characteristics. It also helped develop a categorical system in which the discourse analysis was carried out (specifically, it was involved in the Tenor and Field dimensions creation). In turn, Bourdieu's theory was utilized to explain the findings, outlining the relational processes that Ukrainian refugees engaged in.

As a result of the analysis, the research questions may be answered. The key elements comprising the news discourse in the Ukrainian and Swedish mass media about the research subject were delineated using transitivity analysis and identification of the direct implications that exist in the extralinguistic dimension, specifically in the Field category. Thus, it was outlined that the discourse regarding Ukrainian refugees is formed with the help of such elements as material processes (circumstances related to the need to flee and the process of adaptation in another country - also manifested in greater detail through the Field category); mental processes (emotional refugee experiences and emotional saturation of media posts); and relational processes (property relations described through Bourdieu's forms of capital).

The findings for the category of material processes and Field revealed that in the Ukrainian mass media, refugee women are most often portrayed as active participants in social, political, and economic discourses - they volunteer, take an active public stance (organizing and participating in rallies and protests), and are committed and successful in finding work, attempting to regain lost financial stability. In turn, the Swedish media portrays displaced Ukrainian women as a social group in need of assistance. The subject of legislation and aid programs for language learning, housing, and work is a prevalent theme in Swedish publications. They also underline Ukrainian women's willingness to accept volunteer assistance. Thus, material processes are used differently in the Swedish and Ukrainian media: Ukrainian women are portrayed as active players in Ukrainian media yet as a more passive group seeking assistance in Swedish media.

There is also a distinct variation in the news of different nations about mental processes. The Swedish media primarily portrays adverse events and conditions concerning Ukrainian refugees. They frequently express empathy for this social group and their circumstances.

They call attention to challenging points throughout the relocation or adaptation process. At the same time, Ukrainian news emphasizes a positive approach, publicizing refugees' gratitude for support abroad, the successes of adaptation, and refugee activities to help Ukraine (in the form of financial or informational aid).

Ownership interactions involving Ukrainian refugees were revealed through relational processes represented through the usage of Bourdieu's theory of capitals. This social group is portrayed as seeking to develop its own cultural capital by acquiring educational and cultural assets in a new country, specifically learning a language to live comfortably and obtain a job or further educational opportunities. The lack of language understanding of refugees, as shown in the media, hinders their capacity to develop social capital abroad. Because of their lack of language skills, refugee women frequently seek assistance from volunteer centers and build Ukrainian support networks abroad. However, a lack of social capital and social ties in other countries worsens their living conditions and raises violence and economic anguish risks. The theme of economic capital, which is also a key component of refugees' well-being and security, was equally prominent in both nations' media. The media's portrayal of this group brings attention to the fact that these people are victims of circumstances that require assistance. At the same time, both countries' mass media emphasize the importance of improving financial aid to refugees and the necessity for refugees to make continuous attempts to find jobs to support themselves and their children adequately.

The research aims were to describe the features employed by the news media to represent Ukrainian refugee women and to compare their manifestations in the two nations. This activity was completed under the Tenor category, which had seven categories describing the various roles or images in which the research subjects were presented. According to the Swedish media analysis findings, the most common picture of Ukrainian refugees is that of a young or middle-aged single mother (emphasizing the criterion of working ability) who was forced to leave her spouse in Ukraine and flee to save her children. These women face a significant risk of sexism and abuse abroad, as well as stress disorders, since many of them were victims or witnesses of Russian war crimes. Ukrainian women are frequently portrayed in the Swedish media as a social group (plural nouns: "refugees," "migrants," "Ukrainian women with children") that takes an inactive part and requires assistance and support.

The most common image of Ukrainian refugees in Ukrainian media is a young or middle-aged single mother forced to leave her husband and family behind and relocate

outside the country. She is affected by the emotional strain because of the war and the need to relocate. In many cases, she is also obliged to flee with her animals. This is a person who is actively seeking a job in another country in order to support herself and her children. She is also highly likely to be a witness to tragic events and to become a victim of criminal offenses against her in another country. It is crucial to note that in the context of refugees, Ukrainian media most often employs single nouns ("refugee," "migrant," or personal names) and portrays them as active characters.

Further research on the subject might look at changes in media depictions of refugees through time. Even though I detailed the categories by month in my work, the time constraints for my research did not allow me to process them and include them in my analysis. This may, however, be an interesting task for future exploration in other scientific works.

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Appendix B - Codifier of discourse analysis with results for all categories

Extralinguistic dimension	Interdiscursivity	Military	Witnesses of military actions (3)	Witnesses of military actions	Witnesses of military actions (8); Victims of occupation. The house was destroyed	Witnesses of military actions. The house was destroyed	Witnesses of war events: Victims of the occupation	Witnesses of military actions (2)	Witnesses of military actions	Victims of shelling	The city is destroyed	The house was destroyed					
					Premature birth; Complication of the state of health as a result of the war; Continuation of treatment of the disease in another country	Notification of increased risks of spreading rabies due to the arrival of refugees with animals	Rehabilitation in another country; Limb prosthesis	Migration for the purpose of surgical intervention;	Re-migration due to the need to have an abortion (2); The need for urgent access to gynecological care	Migration for the purpose of treatment of children (2); Willingness to move to a country with satisfactory conditions for a child with a disability (2); Treatment for injuries received as a result of war;			The need for constant medical care for children	Initial level of Swedish language among female migrants (2); Satisfactory level of Swedish (1);	Disappointment among refugee women due to not being allowed to learn Swedish for immigrants (complicates job search); Trying to learn a language through online courses		
			Healthcare														
			Education			Educational work in Europe about the war in Ukraine (3); Organization of language courses; Teaching (2); Continuing education online in Ukraine (1)	Elementary level of English; Continuation of studies in another country	Educational work in Europe about the war in Ukraine; (2) Continuation of master classes in Europe (2);	Continuation of online education in Ukraine; High education of migrant women, but low qualifications; The need to give refugees an education in Swedish for immigrants	Educational work in Europe about the war in Ukraine (4); Studying in another country	Educational work in Europe about the war in Ukraine (3); Learning a language in another country; Continuation of online education in Ukraine	Elementary level of English; Elementary level of Swedish	Continuation of online education in Ukraine; Learning a language in another country; Teaching and master classes in Europe; Studying in another country	Continuation of work remotely in Ukraine	Financial assistance by		
							Unsatisfactory economic condition due to inflation (1);		Opening of centers for refugees; Lack of trained personnel in assistance; Lack of distance for								

Appendix D - Codifier of discourse analysis with results for all categories

Linguistic dimension	Language	Refugee women as victims of persecution, violence and threats abroad	Refugee women as economic subjects	Refugee women as mothers	Refugee women as caregivers	Older women							
		Unpredictability of the future (3); Witnesses of shelling (2)	Unpredictability of the future; Witnesses of murders and violence	Stress disorders due to war events (7); Premature birth due to stress. The house is destroyed (3); Witnesses of shelling/Death due to stress	Stress disorders due to war events (2); Witnesses of shelling (2); Not the first fight from war. The city is destroyed.	Stress disorders due to war events (2); Unpredictability of the future (3); Witnesses of shelling; Witnesses to the murders	Stress disorders due to war events: military actions; Unpredictability of the future (2); Rape victims	Stress disorders due to war events (2); Witnesses of shelling (2)	Stress disorders due to war events (2); Rape victims	Stress disorders due to war events; Unpredictability of the future; The house was destroyed	Stress disorders due to war events; Unpredictability of the future; The house was destroyed	Victims of rape by Russian soldiers	Stress disorders due to war events.
		Increased risks of exploitation through human trafficking and prostitution (4); Offering housing in exchange for sex; Sexual objectification in advertising; Ridicule and harassment; Bullying in the media	Increased risks of exploitation through human trafficking and prostitution (4); Offering housing in exchange for sex; Sexual objectification in advertising; Ridicule and harassment; Bullying in the media	Risks of women becoming victims of exploitation (Human trafficking) (2); Evidence of buying sex from Ukrainian women	Receiving threatening messages from Russians, forced return to Ukraine, attack and murder of Ukrainian women abroad; abortions (2);	Refusal to perform an abortion in another country after the rape of soldiers (Polish ban on abortions) (2);	Public condemnation due to leaving the country; High risks of sex trafficking; Objectification of Ukrainian women by European men	Risks of encountering criminal employers	Acts of violence in another country; Public accusations due to receiving financial aid in Europe; Robbery; Rape	Inability to have an abortion in another country after rape by Russian (Polish ban on abortions)			
		Victims of fraud on the way to another country; Cases of bullying in another country	Victims of fraud on the way to another country; Cases of bullying in another country	Persecution, threats and violence from Russians in another country	Receiving threatening messages from Russians, forced return to Ukraine, attack and murder of Ukrainian women abroad; abortions (2);	Refusal to perform an abortion in another country after the rape of soldiers (Polish ban on abortions) (2);	Public condemnation due to leaving the country; High risks of sex trafficking; Objectification of Ukrainian women by European men	Risks of encountering criminal employers	Acts of violence in another country; Public accusations due to receiving financial aid in Europe; Robbery; Rape	Inability to have an abortion in another country after rape by Russian (Polish ban on abortions)			
		Efforts to find work abroad (3); Employment after 24.02 (2)	Efforts to find work abroad (3); Employment after 24.02 (2)	Employment after 24.02 (2)	Continuation of work in Ukraine online (2); Employment after February 24	Employment after 24.02							
		Mother (2); Mother migrating without a partner (6); Mothers of children with disabilities	Mother (2); Mother migrating without a partner (6); Mothers of children with disabilities	Mothers migrating without a partner (5); Mothers of children with disabilities	Mothers migrating without a partner (4)	Mothers migrating without a partner (7); Mothers of children with disabilities (4); Mother							
		Refugees with minor relatives with animals.	Refugees with animals	Refugees with animals	Refugees with animals	Refugees with animals (2)							
		Moving to the family Separation from	Moving to the family Separation from	Moving to the family: Migration with the desire to preserve health	Moving to the family: Migration with the desire to preserve health								

Appendix F - Codifier of visual analysis with results

Visual analysis		
	Ukrainian media	Swedish media
Subjects	Women (34); Children (21); Crowd (9); Law enforcement officers (2); Men (3); Men (not refugees) (4); Foreigners; Volunteers; Animals;	Women (18); Pregnant women; Men (7); Children (16); Crowd (4); Volunteers (8); Animals (4);
Objects	Strollers (3), Bags (13); Bonfire (to warm up) (2); Flags of Ukraine (15); Children's toys (3); Food (5); Blanket (3); Posters (7); Ukrainian traditional clothes (5);	Flags of Ukraine (2); Children's toys (3); Bags (11); Blanket; Food (2); Ambulance
Emotional coloring	Confusion (4); Anxiety (5); Sadness (6); Anger (2); Joy (5); Calm/Neutrality (3)	Anxiety (2); Joy (9); Confusion (2); Calm/Neutrality (3)
Location	Border crossing point (8); Station (3); Rallies in Europe (13); Transport (3); Cafe; Creative master classes; Scene; Sports competitions	Rallies in Europe; Station (7); The audience of the educational institution; Transport (5); Creative master classes; Temporary housing (4); Migration agency
General features	Mess (2); Disorganization (2); Farewell (3); Waiting (4); Talking on the phone (3); Creativity (4); Sport; Condemnation	Waiting (7); Mess (3); Disorganization (2); Art; Talking on the phone (3)

Appendix G - Codifier of Discourse Analysis

Extralinguistic dimension	Interdiscursivity	Politics
		Economics
		Military
		Healthcare
		Education
		Social
	Connotation	Positive
		Negative
		Neutral
		Ambivalent

Appendix H - Codifier of discourse analysis

Linguistic dimension	Language	Articulation of Ukrainian refugee women as victims of war
		Refugee women as victims of persecution, violence and threats abroad
		Refugee women as economic subjects
		Refugee women as mothers
		Refugee women as caregivers
		Older women
		Refugee women forced to leave their families