Framing Russia-Ukraine War in the Newspapers of Bangladesh: A Topic Modeling Approach

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ABSTRACT

Background: Media coverage consistently exerts a significant influence on the formation of the public's opinion, especially framing the war. Media framing refers to the deliberate selection and presentation of information in a manner that influences people's perception and reaction to specific aspects of an issue. The major objective of this study was to investigate how Bangladeshi Print media frame the Russa-Ukraine Conflict (RUC) during the conflict period. **Methods:** The study comprised of scrapped data from the online version of two newspapers the Daily Star (n=1135) and New Age (n=728) news items related to the Russa-Ukraine conflict from 24 February 2022 to 24 February 2023. The news stories were scraped utilizing Python's web scraping package Beautiful Soup. The data is analyzed adopting the Latent Dirichlet Allocation (LDA) topic modeling technique to determine the dominant framings like top keywords, top key phrases, and the most highlighted topic of the Russa-Ukraine war. **Results:** The frequency analysis of the Daily Star showed Ukraine (n=7,112) and Russia (n=5,884) being the most frequently used words, similarly New Age depicted Ukraine (n=4,901) and Russia (n=3,655) as both newspaper's top two mentioned words: Ukraine and Russia, were the same. The 'United States' was the top and second most used key phrase in New Age and The Daily Star, correspondingly. Surprisingly, Daily Star mentioned 'United States' (n=487) and 'Joe Biden' (n=211) in a notable amount though the United States was not a direct part of the conflict. The topic analysis showed that the topic – 'Military confrontations between Russia-Ukraine' (frequency =513) and the topic- 'Russia and Ukraine's military clashes' (frequency= 421) had the utmost priority in the coverage of the Daily Star and the New Age, respectively. **Conclusion:** It was evident from our findings that Unites States, Joe Biden, western, sanctions, European Union, security council, Black Sea etc. topics were got much attention in compared with the sufferings of the victims, price hike, energy crisis etc. topics.

Keywords: Framing war, Russian-Ukraine War, Bangladeshi Newspapers, Topic Modeling

INTRODUCTION

The media play a crucial, yet complex, role during wartime providing vital information and connect people to the realities of conflict through the projection of the conflict. Most of what happens in the world is indirectly viewed through the reporting of the mass media, shaping public understanding and evaluation of political events and conditions, despite their learning about politics through personal experiences and conversations with others. More than any other source of communication, the news media shape the considerations that people use to understand and evaluate political events and conditions (Iyengar & Kinder, 1987). The Russia-Ukraine Conflict (RUC), often referred to as the Russo-Ukrainian War, is a complex and ongoing conflict that began in 2014 which was ended up signing the agreements MINSK II. But the conflict again started in 24 February, 2022 when Russian forces invaded Ukraine. The RUC had made the worldwide global energy and food security worsen. The conflict has induced the prices of cereal and oil, and global inflation. It has been assumed that because of the conflict about 67.3 million people will suffer from undernourishment and 316.7 million people from extreme national food insecurity (Deng et al., 2022). Moreover, it has also been assumed the conflict will affect the global energy and predicted to enhance the production ability and energy types to overcome the effects of RUC (Zhou et al., 2023). The conflict is not only a regional conflict but has increased the volatility among different countries. It has increased the systemic risk in Europe and the USA and predicted an unintended costs of wars on the financial sectors (Qureshi et al., 2022). The conflict has significant trade implications of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, primarily benefiting Russian mineral oil and gas (Steinbach, 2023). From its very beginning, the conflict has great impact on the relation between Russia and the western countries and other alliances. This complex relationship and circumstances are establishing a new climate often referred as a new cold war (MacFarlane, 2016). In this case, the mass media has been blamed for escalating the conflict into a serious problem through confrontational, biased journalism, and destructive framing (Lichtenstein et al., 2019).

Conflict sometimes may create crisis that can cause serious threat to the basic structures or norms of a system. Moreover, the international crisis may affect or hamper the structure of the international state-system (Wilkenfeld et al., 2003). Media's influence also plays an important role in interpreting the events with their consequences (Messinger, 2011). It may also help in forming the public's perception of events, raising expectations about political actions, discussing the causes of an event, and also by addressing the questions of responsibility. Thus, the media's role is not only to address event but also to take active

involvement and constitutive role in that event. Moreover, the prevalent framing in media may influence political crisis management and problem-solving tactics also (Lichtenstein et al., 2019).

Media Framing on War: Media always play a substantial role in shaping public understanding of war. Through their coverage of conflicts, news outlets can influence public opinion about the causes, consequences, and legitimacy of war. Media framing, the process of selecting and presenting information in a way that shapes how people understand certain aspects of an issue and respond to it, is particularly important in the context of war (Entman, 1993). By emphasizing certain aspects of a conflict while downplaying others, media framing can influence how people perceive the conflict and its participants. Agenda-setting theory postulates that the media play a dominant role in shaping public perceptions by determining which issues receive attention and how much attention they receive (McCombs & Shaw, 1972). Framing theory, on the other hand, suggests that the media not only influences what people think about but also how they think about it (Olmastroni, 2014).

A number of common frames have been identified in media coverage of war. These frames include, Conflict as a just war which argues frame portrays the war as a necessary and justified response to aggression or oppression (Reese, 2001). Another frame conflict as a tragedy claims framing emphasizes the human cost of war, focusing on the suffering of civilians and soldiers alike (Allen, 1996). While conflict as a game frame modulates the seriousness of war, portraying it as a contest or a sporting event (Gamson, 1992). And the frame conflict as a business emphasizes the economic aspects of war, focusing on the profits made by arms manufacturers and other war profiteers (Barron & Murdock, 2001). The economic frame focuses on the economic consequences of the war highlighting the costs of the conflict and its impact on economy (Gilboa, 2001). A study on framing the Iraq war and Asian conflicts in Asian newspapers conducted by Lee et al. (2006) claimed that the war journalism frame was dominant in covering the Iraq war, whereas the peace journalism frame was deployed to cover the local conflicts. The study also found that hard news predominantly framed the Iraq war as war journalism, while feature stories were less likely to adopt this frame. Additionally, foreign-sourced news items were more frequent than locally produced items.

Media framing has been shown to have a significant impact on public opinion about war. For example, a study by Vliegenthart and Schröder (2010) found that news coverage that framed the Iraq War as a just war was more likely to lead to public support for the war. Conversely, news coverage that framed the Iraq War as a tragedy was more likely to lead to public opposition to the war. The use of media framing in war reporting raises a number of ethical concerns. Critics argue that framing a war as a just war can make it more difficult to end the war peacefully (Allen, 1996). Additionally, critics also argue that framing a war as a tragedy

can lead to a sense of apathy and resignation among the public, making it more difficult to mobilize support for humanitarian relief efforts (Reese, 2001). Media framing plays a powerful role in shaping public understanding of war. By highlighting certain aspects of a conflict while modulating others, media framing can persuade how people perceive the conflict and its participants. Journalists and media organizations have a responsibility to use framing responsibly, taking into account the potential impact of their coverage on public opinion and the course of the conflict.

This study aims to provide the insights of framing the RUC conflict in the media of Bangladesh as the geopolitical tensions between Russia and western countries may also have significant implications for some south Asian countries like India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh etc. Though the south Asian countries are not directly affected by the refugee crisis, the high oil prices and potential energy shortages are affecting the economic structures of these countries. Moreover, the new political standards or deviations among nations because of RUC may alter the South Asia's security ecosystem and the regional balance (Singh, 2023). Likewise, because of the spike in global commodity prices caused by RUC, Bangladesh is facing threatened of food insecurity and poverty (Tahrima et al., 2023). Besides foods, the prices of fuel and fertilizers have also risen rapidly and that is hampering the economic stability of Bangladesh with long-term effects (Xinshen et al., 2022). So, throughout this study, we tried to extract the importance and significance of the RUC using LDA topic modeling technique. The news were extracted from two convenient newspaper of Bangladesh: Daily Star and New Age that published news from 24 February, 2022 to 24 February, 2023. So, this study also provides the key insights of the effects of RUC in Bangladesh with valuable information.

MATERIALS AND METHOD

Research design and sampling

Table 1: *Sampling of the study and data sources*

News Media	Number of scraped news	Time Period	News Archive (Accessed on April 13, 2023)
Daily Star	1135	24 February 2022 to 23 February, 2023	https://www.thedailystar.net/news/world/russian-invasion-ukraine
New Age	728	24 February 2022 to 22 February, 2023	https://www.newagebd.net/tags/Ukraine%20invasion

Table 1 shows our sampled news media and number of news stories reported between 24 February 2022 to 23 February 2023 providing newspaper archive links which was accessed on April 12, 2023. This study was conducted following a quantitative approach. We had

selected the online version of two newspapers as both of them were convenient for collecting data: the Daily Star and New Age. Firstly, English newspapers were the only consideration as sample because we used the topic modeling technique to address the research question. Secondly, these two newspapers had the most comprehensive archive of Russia-Ukraine war news among the 35 daily English newspapers in Bangladesh. Hence, it was convenient to collect data for the analysis from these two news outlets. From these two newspapers, we had taken the news published from 24 February 2022 to 23 February 2023, covering one year of Russia's full-scale invasion in Ukraine.

Data collection and preprocessing: We scraped news using Python's web scraping package BeautifulSoup.

Scrape news article
By using Python web scraping library BeautifulSoup, news articles were scrapped

⬇

Filter news by date
The Python Pandas library was utilized to filter out news stories that don't fall within the specified time range.

⬇

Remove duplicate news.
The Python Pandas library was used to eliminate duplicate news articles.

⬇

Convert to lowercase
To make all the letters in lowercase, the Python Pandas library was used

⬇

Remove URLs, @names, non-ASCII characters, symbols, numbers, punctuation
Python Pandas library was used to remove URLs, names, non-ASCII characters, and anything else that was not an English letter or space, like '1' and '?'

⬇

Remove stop words
A list of stop words in the English language was created using the Python libraries NLTK. These stop words are used to remove words and characters that have little or no analytical value, such as 'the', 'very', and '&'.

⬇

Lemmatization
By using Python libraries NLTK, the words were lemmatized to their root forms (for example, vaccinated > vaccinate)
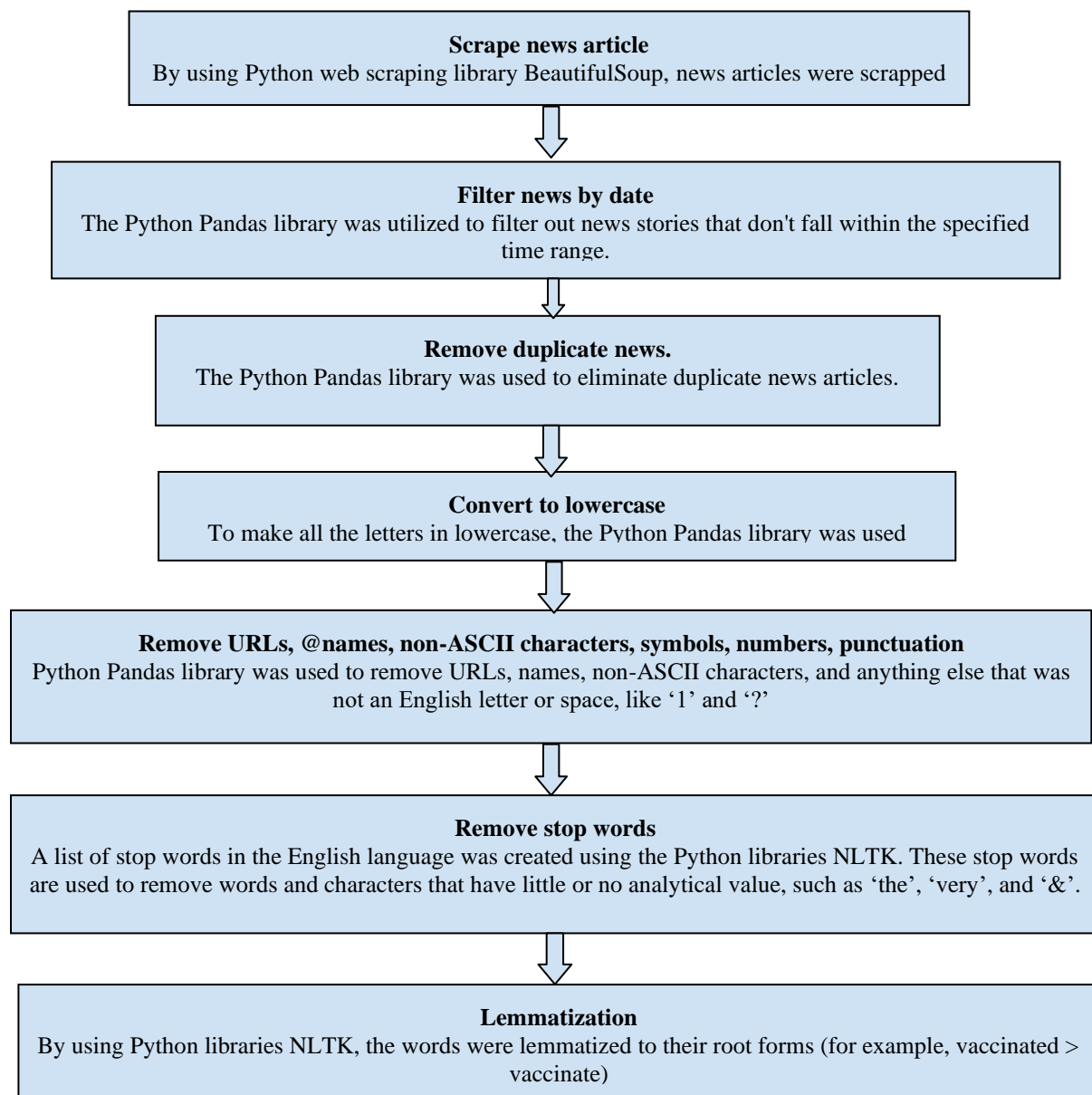

Figure 1: Process of data collection

Figure 1 demonstrates the process of collecting data from the news archives of our sampled news outlets. In the data preprocessing, the news texts were converted to lowercases. Next, we made a script to eliminate the URLs, names, non-ASCII characters, and anything else that was not an English letter or space, like '1' and '?'. When we scraped the news, there might have been some duplicate news. So, the Pandas library was utilized to eliminate duplicate news. In the next stage, we cleaned the news by removing words and characters of little or no analytical value (for example, 'the', 'very', '&'). To do so, a list of stop words was created to the English stop words list from the Python library Natural Language Toolkit. We again stemmed and lemmatized the words to their root forms (for example, vaccinated > vaccinate). Finally, we used the Python library Natural Language Toolkit for stemming and lemmatizing words. Thus, two separate corpuses were made for the two newspapers.

DATA ANALYSIS

To analyze data, we applied the topic modeling technique to the news corpus to answer the research question. Topic modeling is a quantitative method (Jacobs & Tschötschel, 2019) that researchers have previously used for examining news framing (Al-Zaman & Khan, 2021).
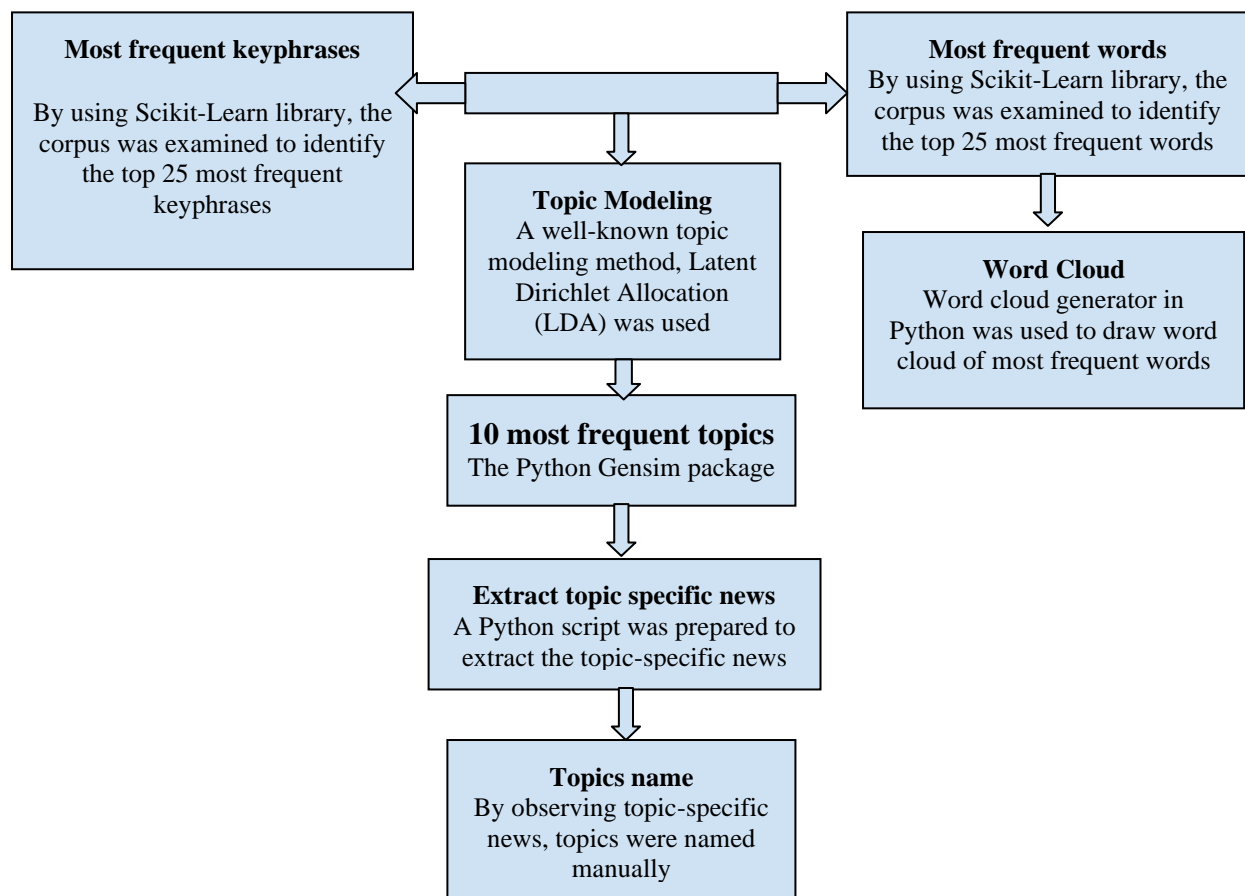
Most frequent keyphrases

By using Scikit-Learn library, the corpus was examined to identify the top 25 most frequent keyphrases

Most frequent words
By using Scikit-Learn library, the corpus was examined to identify the top 25 most frequent words

Topic Modeling
A well-known topic modeling method, Latent Dirichlet Allocation (LDA) was used

Word Cloud
Word cloud generator in Python was used to draw word cloud of most frequent words

10 most frequent topics
The Python Gensim package

Extract topic specific news
A Python script was prepared to extract the topic-specific news

Topics name
By observing topic-specific news, topics were named manually

Figure 2: Data analysis procedure

Figure-2 exhibits the process of data analysis to fulfill our study objectives. This study applied a well-known topic modeling method, Latent Dirichlet Allocation (LDA) using Scikit-Learn, a free software machine-learning package for the Python programming language. We examined our corpus to identify the top 25 most frequent words and key phrases and Python Gensim package was used for topic extraction. However, topic modeling is a non-intelligent process (Al-Zaman & Khan, 2021). So, we prepared a Python script to extract the topic-specific news for emerging topics. After reading the extracted topic-wise news, each topic was named manually that suited it best.

RESULTS

Top key words: Figure-3 and 4 describe the most framed 25 words in Daily Start and New Age with its frequency amount, respectively. This frequency analysis of the Daily Star showed Ukraine being the most frequently used term (n=7,112), followed by Russia (n=5,884). In addition, geographic terms such as Kyiv (n=1,948) and Moscow (n=1,948) were frequently mentioned. Besides, political terms were also prevalent in the coverage, with
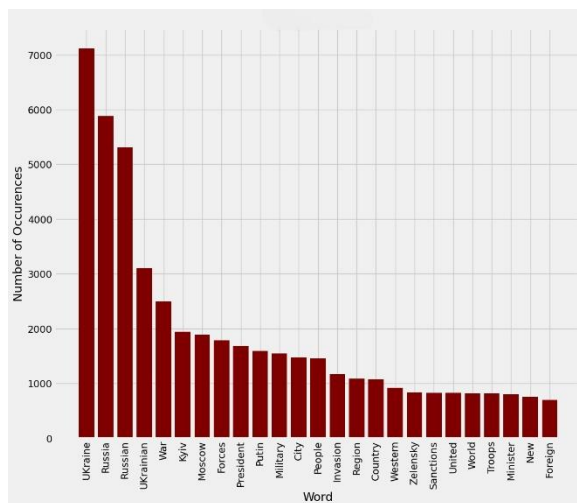

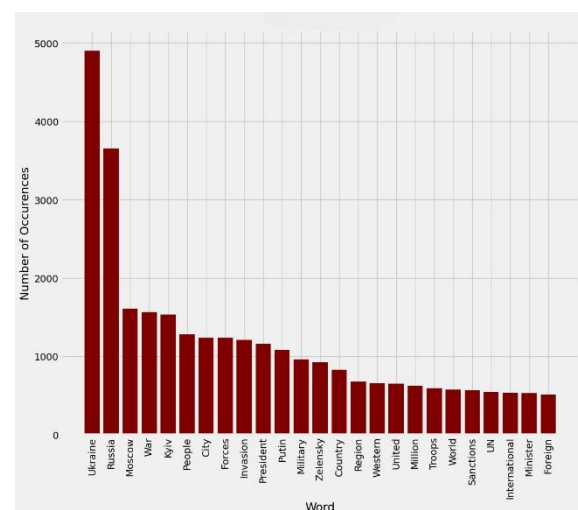*Figure 3:* Top 25 most frequent words in The Daily Star

Figure 4: Top 25 most frequent words in New Age

Putin (n=1,589) and Zelensky (n=838) frequently used. Other frequently stated terms were War (n=2,500), People (n=1,457), and United (n=825).The frequency analysis of The New Age depicted that Ukraine (n=4,901) was the most frequently referred word, followed by Russia (n=3,655). Moscow (n=1,609) and Kyiv (n=1,533) were among the mentionable frequently-used geographical location-related terms. Besides, Putin (n=1081) and Zelensky (n=926) were notable political mentions. International organizations such as the UN (n=545) were also referenced along with other terms like, War (n=1,566) and Sanctions (n=570) were used frequently. Both newspaper's top two mentioned words: Ukraine and Russia, were the

same. Though Ukraine was the most frequent word in both newspapers' corpus, interestingly, both newspapers mentioned 'Putin' more frequently than the word 'Zelensky'. Other commonly used words include Moscow, Kyiv, forces, military, and troops. However, The New Age often mentioned international organizations like the UN (United Nations), while the Daily Star mentioned the word Western.

Top key phrases: Figure 5 and 6 demonstrates the top 25 key phrases highlighted in both newspapers one year news coverage of the war. This collocation analysis of the Daily Star revealed the most frequently used key phrase was 'Russian forces' (n=763), followed by 'Invasion Ukraine' (n=448) and 'Russian troops' (n=326). Besides notable political figures like 'Russian Putin' (n=296) but it is thought provoking that Ukraine's president Zelensky did not get a position in the top 25 key phrase. International organizations such as 'United Nations' (n=271) and 'European Union' (n=213) were often discussed and notably, 'Black
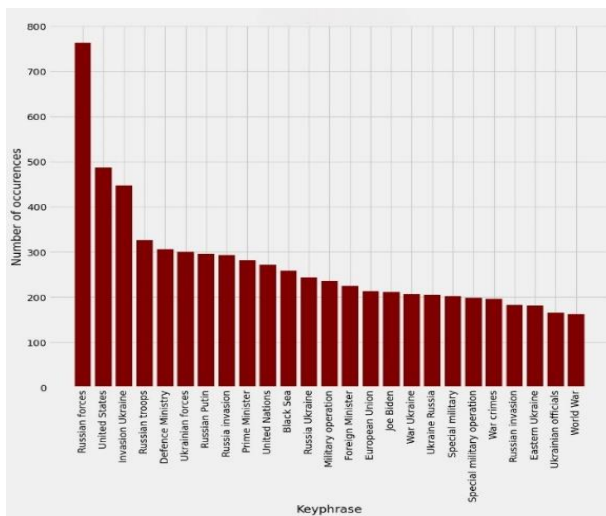

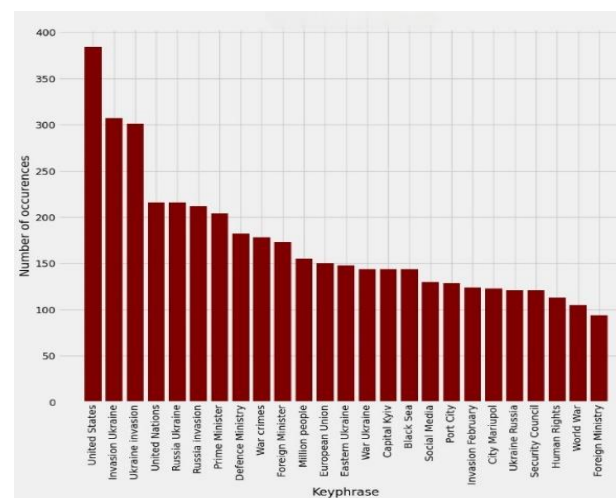***Figure 5:*** Top 25 key phrases appeared in The Daily Star

Figure 6: Top 25 key phrases appeared in New Age

Sea' (n=259 was also frequently used. Surprisingly, Daily Star mentioned 'United States' (n=487) and 'Joe Biden' (n=211) in a notable amount though the United States was not a direct part of the conflict. This collocation analysis of the New Age's coverage showed the most frequently used key phrase was 'United States' (n=384), followed by 'Invasion Ukraine' (n=307). International organizations like 'United Nations (n=216) and 'European Union' (n=150) were mentioned frequently. Other frequently used key phrases indicating citizen suffering included 'War crimes' (n=178), 'Million people' (n=155), and 'Human Rights' (n=113). Additionally, 'Social Media' (n=130) appeared in the frequently used key phrases.

The 'United States' was the top and second most used key phrase in New Age and The Daily Star, respectively. Additionally, 'Joe Biden' was mentioned in The Daily Star frequently. Though the United States was not directly participating in the war, US-related key phrases were prominent in both newspapers. In addition, phrases like 'World War' were among the most frequent in both newspapers indicating these two newspapers were tensed of breaking out a world war from this Russo-Ukraine conflict. Both also mentioned the 'United Nations' and 'European Union' frequently. Additionally, the New Age frequently mentioned 'Million people', 'Social Media', and 'Port City', which were not present in the Daily Star.

Table 2*: Top Topics in the Newspapers*

Topics	Key words & phrases	Frequency	Percent	Coherence
1. Military confrontations between Russia-Ukraine	Russian;Ukraine;Ukrainian; City;Russia;Kyiv;Force;Moscow;Military;Region	513	45.20	0.50
2. Russo-Ukraine war and global leaders	Ukraine;Russia;War;EU;State;World;United;China;Invasion;Minister	374	32.95	0.39
3. Sufferings of Ukraine citizens due to the war	People;Ukraine;Border;Poland;War;Refugee; Child;Family;Ukrainian;Home	66	5.81	0.32
4. War effect on Bangladesh and global economy	Bangladesh;Government;Percent;War;Bank;Inflation;Rate;Global;Foreign;Exchange	59	5.20	0.58
5. Black Sea Grain Initiative	Ship;Port;Ukraine;Crew;Vessel;Sea;Attack; Shipping;Grain;Member	45	3.96	0.59
6. Russo-Ukraine war and West countries	Russia;Russian;Putin;Moscow;Ukraine;War; West;Talk;Say;Nuclear	33	2.91	0.39
7. Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant	Power;Plant;Nuclear;Russian;Ukraine;Europe;Energy;Agency;Moscow;Corporation	16	1.41	0.50
8. EU sanctions against importing gas and oil from Russia	Oil;EU;Gas;European;Energy;Sanction;Russian; Crude;Europe;Fuel	14	1.23	0.56
9. Weapon support for Ukraine from allies	NATO;Germany;Ukraine; Weapon;Russia;Ally;Mariupol;Poland;Finland;Western	12	1.06	0.48
10. Rise in food and energy price	Price;Export;Year;Wheat;Market;Supply;Import; Global;Higher;Food	02	0.18	0.75

Table 2.1: The top 10 topics of The Daily Star

Topics	Key words & phrases	Frequency	Percent	Coherence
1. Russia and Ukraine's military clashes	Ukraine;Kyiv;Russia;City;Force;Moscow;Putin; Military;People;Zelensky	421	57.83	0.38
2. Russia-Ukraine conflict and world leaders	Russia;Ukraine;Moscow;Invasion;War;Council; UN;China;President;United	143	19.64	0.46
3. The plight of the Ukraine citizens	Ukraine;People;Poland;Million;Border;Refugee; Invasion;Russia;War;Poverty	68	9.34	0.56
4. EU embargo on Russian oil, gas	Bank;Russia;Sanction;Oil;Price;Global;Gas; Ukraine;Economic;EU	43	5.91	0.63
5. Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant	Nuclear;Power;Plant;Ukraine; Zaporizhzhia;UN; Chernobyl;Russia;Site;Energy	19	2.61	0.58
6. Russo-Ukraine war and the United States	Ukraine;Visit;United;States;Biden; President; Blinken;Million;Invasion;Billion	14	1.92	0.46
7. Russo-Ukraine war and Bangladesh	Bangladesh;Hadisur;Embassy;Ship;Crew; Romania;Port;Stranded;Foreign;Ministry	12	1.65	0.72
8. Journalists and the Russia-Ukraine war	War;Ukraine;Protection;kill;Cameraman;France;Ovsyannikova;Journalist;Conflict;Zakrzewski	04	0.69	0.36
9. Russian opposition politicians	Jail;Airfields;Information;Directions;Medium;Reconnaissance;Bill;False;Alexei;Cargo	02	0.27	0.55
10. Muratov selling noble medal for Ukraine refugees	Muratov;Prize;Nobel;Medal;Newspaper;Editor; Ruins;Dmitry;Journalist;Donate	02	0.14	0.52

Table 2.2: The top 10 topics of New Age

Top topics: Table-2 highlights the top 10 topics both in Daily Star (2.1) and New Age (2.2) covered during the study time from February, 2022 to February, 2023. In this section, frequency refers to the amount of news from which the topic has emerged. The percentage was calculated against the total number of scraped news. Coherence refers to the meter of semantic similarity of the topic with the news from which the topic has emerged.

The topic analysis showed that the topic Military confrontations and clashes between Russia-Ukraine received highest attention 45.2% (n=513) and 57.83% (n= 421) in the coverage of Daily Star and New Age, respectively. The mention of global leaders dominantly appeared as the second most covered topic in both news outlet Daily Star 32.95% (n=374) and New Age 19.64% (n=143). Though the percentage is lower compared to the previous two topics, the third most projected topic was related to the sufferings of Ukraine citizen 5.81% (n=66) in Daily Star and 9.34% (n=68) in New Age due to the outbreak of the war. The effect of the war on Bangladesh and global economy was placed as the fourth most framed topic in Daily Star, whereas the embargo of EU on Russian oil and gas 5.91% (n=43) occupied the same position in the New Age. But EU sanctions against importing gas and oil from Russia outlined as the eighth 1.23% (n=14) in the Daily Start's treatment.

Interestingly, a single event, the Black Sea Grain Initiative 3.96% (n=45), a deal Russia and Ukraine made with Turkey and the United Nations to combat the global food crisis, got much attention in the Daily Star's coverage. And the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant event was found considerably projected as seventh and fifth in New Age and Daily Star, accordingly. The context of Bangladesh also came in the top ten list with the topic Russo-Ukraine war and Bangladesh which is at the seventh position of the list, note that, a sub-topic- 'Hadisur', emerged under this topic, which is about Hadisur Rahman, a crew member of a stranded Bangladeshi ship in a Ukrainian port in March 2022 killed in a missile assault and Journalists and the Russia-Ukraine war' 0.69% (n= 4) also emerged as a topic in only New Age's coverage at the eighth position in the topic list. In addition, Russian opposition politician and the Muratov's sale of novel medal for Ukraine refuge appeared as the ninth and tenth topic in New Age with the projection of 2 stories each. Whereas topics like Russia- Ukraine war and west countries 2.91% (n=33), Weapon support for Ukraine from allies 1.05% (n=12) and Rise in food and energy price 0.18% (n=2) were reported sixth, ninth and tenth in daily Star, respectively.

DISCUSSION

Throughout the study, we tried to determine the dominant frames of RUC in Bangladeshi media. About 1863 news had been scraped from two famous and well-known newspaper of Bangladesh using Python's web scraping packages BeautifulSoup. Analyzing a corpus of the news, LDA topic modeling had been used to extract the most frequent key words, key phrases and topics and also the topic specific news. The findings also determined the term 'Russia' and 'Ukraine' as the most frequent word. Moreover, the term 'Putin' got more attention than 'Zelensky'. Besides the relevant term, some non-relevant term with war got more attention in this study like, 'United', 'Western', 'Sanction', 'World' and 'International' etc. Besides the key phrases 'Russian forces', and 'Invasion Ukraine', the collocation analysis defined 'United states', 'United Nations', 'European Union', 'Joe Biden' 'Social Media', 'Human rights' as the important key phrases. We also tried to sort out the important topics throughout the study.

Though the United States is not directly involved in this war, it is facing some consequences like higher inflation, supply chain disruptions, economic growth impediments etc. because of RUC (Mbah & Wasum, 2022). Moreover, it has been stated that the United States is primitively responsible for causing the Ukraine crisis they pushed forward policies towards Ukraine against Russia (Mearsheimer, 2022). It has also been assumed that the obsession of the Biden administration to bring Ukraine in NATO and to make Ukraine a western bulwark on Russia's boarder are one of the two important causes of the RUC. That's the reason while taking about the RUC conflict the name of Joe Biden has been appeared. In this study, the frequency of Joe Biden has been found 211 which indicates the relation of Joe Biden and RUC.

While talking about the RUC conflict, the phrase 'European Union' or the word 'Western' has been appeared more frequent. It's because that the European allies are thought to be most responsible for the conflict because of the NATO enlargement, and to integrate Ukraine into the west (Mearsheimer, 2014). Another important issue is the effect of 'Social media' on the RUC conflict. Social media is assumed as the trust-based network to influence public opinion. It's been said that the role of social media is different for various purposes and also the propaganda techniques and capabilities (Ciuriak, 2022). Moreover, the social media can also manipulate the public opinion through fake news and disinformation and also exemplify how governments and media also employ more nuanced strategies (Park et al., 2022).

In both the newspapers' coverage, the topic– 'Military confrontations/clashes between Russia-Ukraine' emerged as the first topic with the highest frequency. In addition, topics like 'EU's sanctions against Russia', and 'Russo-Ukraine war and global leaders'- were common in Daily Star and New Age. Interestingly, a single event, the 'Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant' received significant attention from both the newspapers. Every war has the dark face causing the sufferings and death toll to the civilians. A study conducted by Parry K. on the visual framing analysis of two British press photography during the 2006 Israel- Lebanon conflict that exhibited nearly 50% of the photographs used in both newspapers (The Guardian, 49.1% of the selection, while in The Times, they account for 47.5%) during the conflict depicted civilians as the primary subject matter, showcasing their experiences such as injuries, daily activities, or individual portraits (Parry, 2010). Our study also showed a strong relation with the existing findings despite having a lower percentage compared to the Parry's study findings, the third most projected topic was related to the plights of Ukraine citizen 5.81% (n=66) in Daily Star and 9.34% (n=68) in New Age due to the outbreak of the war.

Another issue that has been come forward is the violation of the human rights through the invasion of Russia on Ukraine. Besides the killing and injuring of the civilians, the destruction of healthcare facilities and disrupted delivery of healthcare and supplies that is causing the humanitarian crisis and also the destruction of infrastructure (Haque et al., 2022). That is also pointing the violations of the international human rights (Trautman & McFarlin, 2023).

The capital of Russia and Ukraine have also been focused by the Bangladeshi renowned newspaper The Daily Star and The New Age. The process of invasion on Ukraine started landing paratroopers on Moscow near Kyiv (Kusa, 2022).

STRENGTHS AND LIMITATIONS

One of this study's major strengths is that it analyzed 1,863 news articles from two news outlets in Bangladesh. There is no scholarly article published that examined the framing of the Russo-Ukraine war news in Bangladeshi media. Thus, this study bridged the knowledge gap by analyzing a commendable amount of data. Besides, this study used topic modeling, a type of unsupervised machine learning, to study the framing of the Russo-Ukraine war news. Hence, the findings of this study are almost free from human biases.

Like all other studies, this study also has some limitations as well. First of all, this study did not explore the qualitative aspects of framing analysis. Quantitative methods can provide us

with a general overview of how news is framed, but they cannot tell us why certain frames are used or uncover the motivations of news producers. Secondly, as this study employed the topic modeling technique, only English-language-based news outlets were included. The framing of news outlets in Bangladesh that use the Bengali language has not been analyzed. Even with these constraints, the results of this study will be crucial in comprehending the framing of Russo-Ukraine news in Bangladeshi media.

CONCLUSION

This study generates the insights that are instrumental to understand the priority issues projected in the Bangladeshi media during the Russia-Ukraine conflict. The key findings suggest that the confrontation between Russia and Ukraine get the dominant focus, but the second highest coverage underscores the involvement of the global leaders like United States, European Union, western block, Joe Baiden etc. in the conflict which indicates the Russia-Ukraine conflict is highly associated with the global powers. And the plights of the Ukrainian citizens due to the war portrayed with paramount importance in the media of Bangladesh unearthing the humanitarian perspective of media framing. A considerable amount of coverage relating to the effect of war in the economy of Bangladesh and global spectrum highlighting the oil, gas, food crisis also represented in the media that acknowledge the war's inevitable and persistent anxieties regarding food security, energy prices and regional instability during the war period. The issues like sanction on Russia, weapon support for Ukraine, Black Sea Grain imitative, Zaporizhzia nuclear power plant, Russian opposition leader, Muratove's noble medal sale are also hit in the top 10 topics projected in the Bangladeshi media that evidently designates that a number of diversified relevant topics were outlined. However, the diverse media sources and audiences' perspectives can offer a more holistic understanding of the narratives surrounding the Russia-Ukraine war in Bangladeshi media landscape.

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