Paper Report
Framing and Agenda-setting in Russian News: a Computational Analysis of Intricate Political Strategies

The paper titled "Framing and Agenda-setting in Russian News: a Computational Analysis of Intricate Political Strategies" aims to analyze the framing and agenda-setting techniques used in Russian news media to influence public opinion on political matters. The study employs computational methods and data analysis to uncover the intricate strategies employed by Russian news outlets. This report will delve into two key segments: Agenda Setting and Framing Analysis, while also discussing potential improvements in the methods used and project ideas for Elections 2024 Data Analytics.

Agenda Setting:
The paper leverages correlations and Granger causality to examine the agenda-setting strategies in Russian news media. It identifies a negative correlation between US coverage and changes in the Russian GDP which indicates the possibility of intentional agenda setting by the government. By analyzing the time series data of news articles, the researchers identify relationships between how a drop in the economy is followed by an increase in U.S. news coverage, which indicates that it is causation and not just correlation.

Framing Analysis:
The framing analysis in the paper involves identifying the linguistic and semantic patterns used in Russian news articles to shape the perception of political events. Researchers employ advanced Natural Language Processing (NLP) techniques and lexicons to examine the underlying context and sentiment within the text. Lexicons, specifically designed for political framing analysis using the annotations of the Media Frames Corpus, are converted into lexicons specific to the Izvestia (the Russian Newspaper) corpus to aid in identifying keywords and expressions related to different frames.

Critique and Possible Improvements in Methods:

1. **Data Selection Bias**: The study's reliance on a specific dataset of Russian news articles may introduce data selection bias, leading to incomplete insights into the broader media landscape. To improve this, researchers can consider employing a more diverse dataset from multiple sources, including social media, to capture a wider range of perspectives.
2. **Limited Linguistic Features:** The paper focuses on sentiment analysis and topic modeling and uses annotations as the basis for the analysis. While these methods are valuable, incorporating more advanced NLP techniques such as linguistic style analysis, argument mining, and emotion detection can offer a deeper understanding of how framing and agenda-setting occur.

Leveraging Methods for Elections 2024 Data Analytics Project:

Media Analysis:
- News media, and more recently, social media plays a crucial role in modern elections.
- By applying sentiment analysis and topic modeling to social media data, we can uncover the framing and agenda-setting strategies used to influence voters' opinions.
- We can combine the type of framing analysis and agenda setting used in the paper along with the empirical analysis done in the Elections 2024 project to obtain more meaningful relations between Media campaigns and Winning parties.

Conclusion:

The paper "Framing and Agenda-setting in Russian News" presents valuable insights into political strategies used in Russian news media. However, there are opportunities for methodological improvements to gain a comprehensive understanding. By leveraging similar methods in an Elections 2024 Precog project, we can enhance outcomes by identifying manipulation tactics, monitoring public sentiment, combating misinformation, and effectively targeting voters with tailored strategies. Such data-driven projects can play a significant role in ensuring transparent and informed democratic processes.