

NOVA INFORMATION AND MANAGEMENT SCHOOL

Social Media Analytics

The difference between Russian and Western media in the coverage of the Ukrainian War

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Executive Summary

Background

The Ukrainian War, an ongoing conflict that has sparked global concern, has been extensively covered by news around the world. Like every war, this one also has different views and perceptions that can influence the audience that reads it and shape its reality.

In 2022, Russia launched a large-scale military incursion into Ukraine, with a large deployment of troops and heavy weaponry along the Ukrainian border. This resulted in conflicts in eastern Ukraine, particularly in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, leading to death and destruction. This military escalation, combined with cyberattacks and disinformation campaigns, created an atmosphere of worldwide uncertainty that has impacted the world's politics, economy, and society.

The media landscape in Russia and the Western side of the world represent two different perspectives of the war. So our objective is to shed light on the contrasting narratives, biases, and approaches employed by Russian and English media, representing Western social communication when reporting on the Ukrainian war.

In this project, we will scrap three leading newspapers, Sputnik, DailyMail, and Il Fatto Quotidiano. We will analyze the online articles and respective comments, dedicated to this topic from October 2022 until now.

The DailyMail is a British tabloid that covers all types of news - from politics to sports and even lifestyle. ~~It has a circulation of 797 000 copies every year and 24 million visits monthly to its website, which makes it the second most-read newspaper in the United Kingdom, after the free newspaper Metro.~~ Since the UK has been a strong supporter of Ukraine and has been involved in the war in several ways - from vocal criticism towards Putin to weaponry - we believe this newspaper can be of the utmost importance to show how the war is communicated and what's the readers' perception of it.

Sputnik is a Russian news agency and website that operates internationally and provides news and analysis from a Russian perspective. It is funded by the Russian government and it has been often accused of being a tool for promoting Russia's interests and perspectives, as well as spreading disinformation and propaganda. ~~An example of that is their alleged US presidential election interference, being accused of spreading misleading information, promoting divisive narratives, and amplifying disinformation through its news articles.~~ since the beginning of the war, all independent newspapers in Russia have been closed which led us to analyze this newspaper to understand if these claims are indeed true.

Il Fatto Quotidiano is an Italian daily newspaper, based in Rome, known for its investigative journalism and critical approach to politics and power. ~~It was founded in 2009 and has gained prominence for its independent and sometimes controversial reporting.~~ Its editor, Marco Travaglio has been linked to The Five Star Movement, an Italian political party that has been supporting the Russian side. We decided to include this newspaper to analyze how a Western media outlet supporting Russia's view behaves when it comes to spreading information and its content and understand if it perpetuates the same information coming from Russia.

Research Problem

Through a comparative analysis, we aim to provide an objective evaluation of **how news outlets on both sides of the conflict portray the Ukrainian War, adding a third one that is supporting the Russian narrative in Europe.** ~~Understanding the nuances and differences in their reporting will enable us to critically assess the influence of media narratives on public opinion, diplomatic relations, and international discourse surrounding the Ukrainian conflict.~~

By utilizing web scraping techniques, we were able to observe the similarities and differences between both newspapers, when it comes to main keywords, topics, and even the sentiment expressed.

Methodology

For this project, we extracted data from three websites: The Daily Mail, Sputnik, and Fatto Quotidiano. To do so, we applied several individual analyses to the different newspapers:

- Sentiment Analysis
- Topic Modeling
- Frequency Analysis
- Keywords Extraction
- Named Entity Recognition
- Network Analysis

Ultimately, we analyzed 66613 comments from The Daily Mail, 1045 from Sputnik, and 66340 from Il Fatto Quotidiano. When it comes to sentiment analysis, we analyzed the first 10 comments of the newspapers, and for the frequency analysis only the first 60 comments, due to time limitations.



Results

Topic analysis

Performing the topic analysis we tried to see if inside the topic of the invasion of Ukraine, there are clearly defined subtopics, and see how much they are different between each new paper. But the result wasn't so good, the reason for that is that the main keywords used in the articles are always the same so for the algorithm it is very difficult to find a clear subtopic.

Term frequency



Word cloud after stemming Sputnik

We notice the cloud is more or less the same, and the words keep relatively their weight of importance in it after stemming.

Military, special, NATO, weapons, and Kiev are mainly among the most mentioned words, after "Ukraine" and "Russia" of course.

“Donbass” is a bit less mentioned in the Sputnik newspaper along with February.



Word cloud after stemming DailyMail

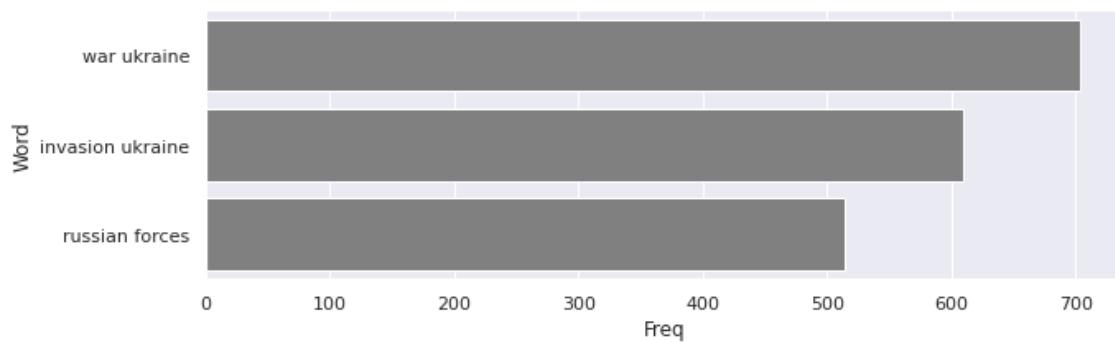
“War”, “force” and “Ukrainian” are some of the most frequent words in the Daily Mail newspaper. We also notice “Kremlin” and “nuclear” among the most distinguishable words.



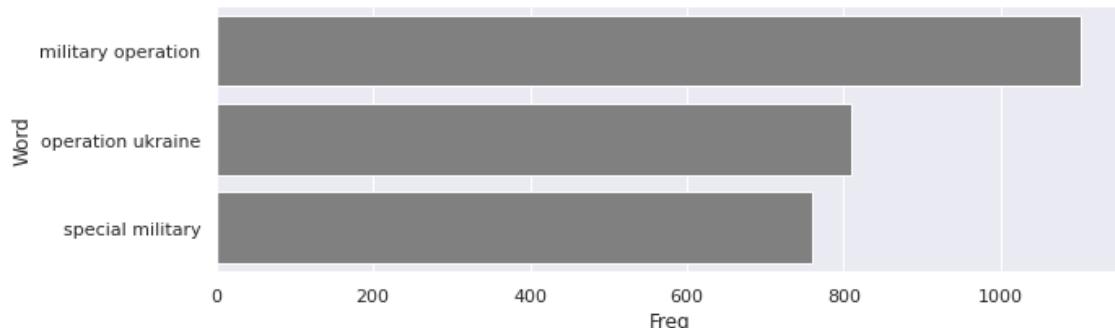
Word of cloud Fatto Quotidiano without stemming

Again we have the same word cloud but translated into Italian.

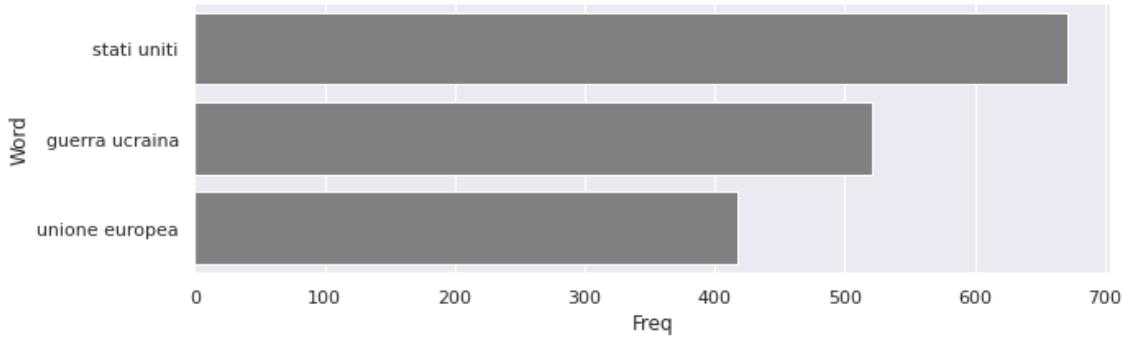
It is interesting to mention that the words mentioned in the Sputnik newspaper are more specific, as the DailyMail newspaper is stating everything related to the war, while Sputnik gives more specific content about the Russian-Ukrainian war. This is valid for the rest of the comparison, as for the n-gram analysis.



Top 3 bi-grams_ Daily mail



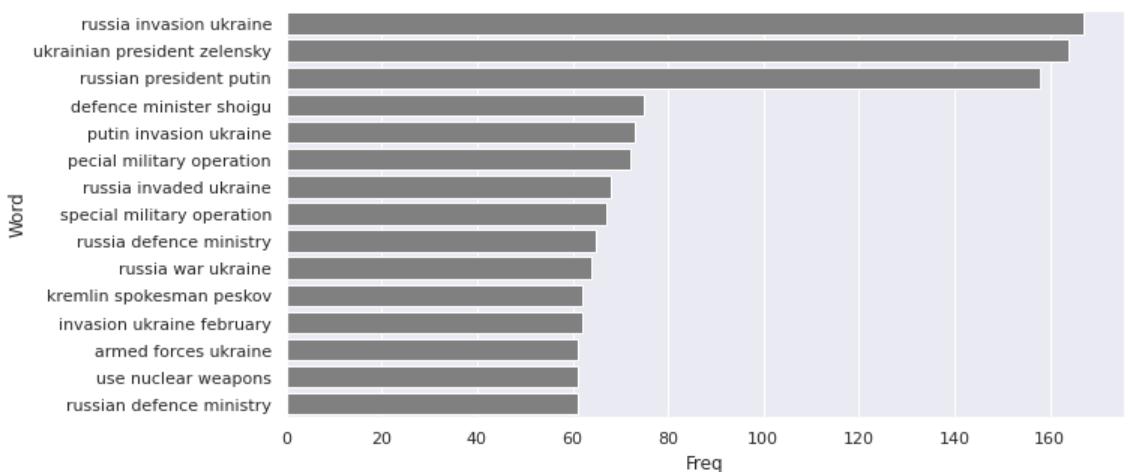
Top 3 bi-grams Sputnik



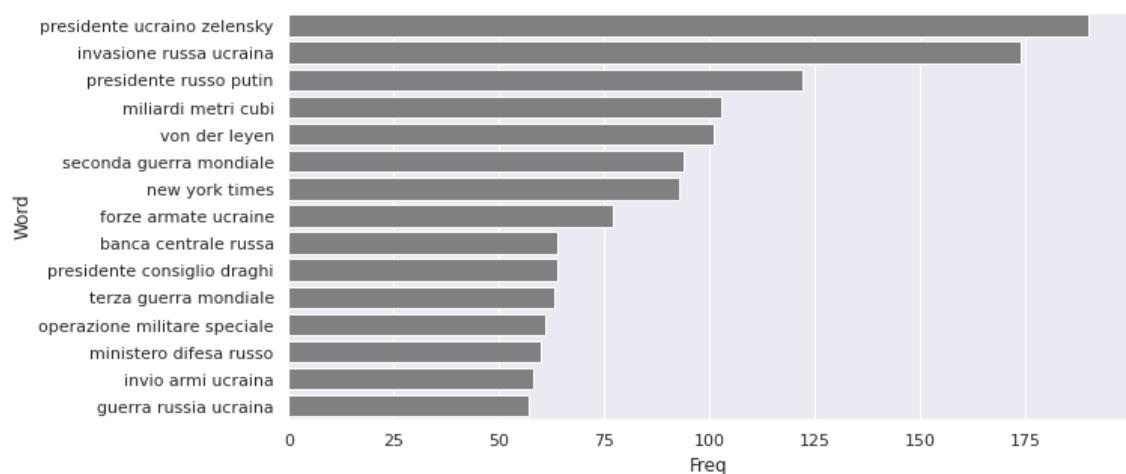
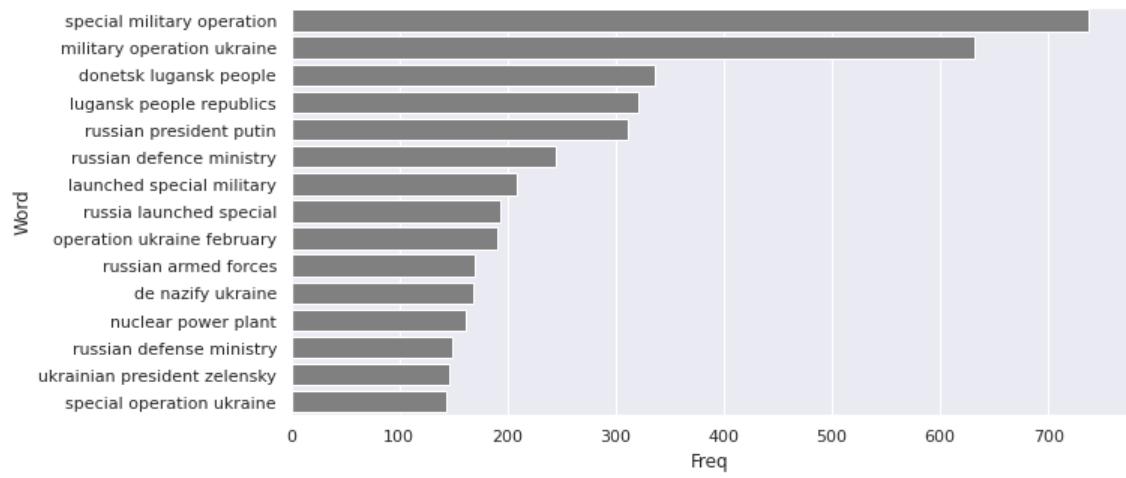
Top 3 bi-grams Fatto Quotidiano

Here we can see the difference between these three newspapers starting from the top 3 bi-gram. What is interesting to notice about Sputnik is that we have a “special military operation Ukraine” which is a four-gram split. The keyword war is not present, because of the way that the war is promoted in Russia. But we will see more in-depth later about this aspect. The Italian one has the second bi-gram about “war Ukraine” and the other two are the United States and European Union.

The Daily Mail shows a lot of time-related bigrams such as “last year” and “last week” that are very frequent, while Sputnik is mentioning the “Donetsk Lugansk” territories topic much more frequently. Both are mentioning the “united states” a lot, however, it comes as the 6th most frequent bi-gram for Sputnik, and in the 9th position for Daily Mail. The Daily Mail mentions the ministry/minister significantly, and it comes among the most importantly mentioned topics.



Top tri-grams Daily Mail

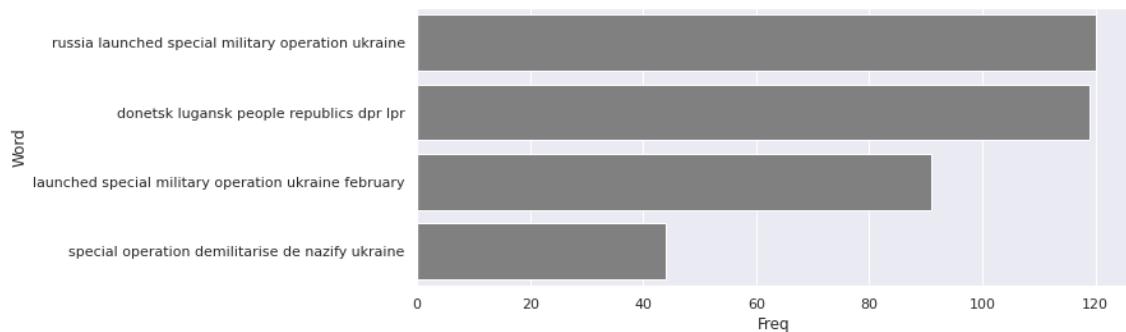


Again Sputnik shows the same words about the “special military operation”, it is interesting to notice also that the talk about “de nazify Ukraine”. “De nazify Ukraine” is part of the Russian propaganda, they say that they are helping “Donetsk” and “Luhansk people’s republics” to denazify that region. Moreover is interesting to see that the frequency of the tri-grams of Sputnik is way higher than the one of the other two newspapers.

In February 2022, Russia launched a special military operation in Ukraine in response to requests by the Donetsk and Lugansk people's republics to help defend them from intensifying attacks by Ukrainian troops. Russia has said the operation aims to demilitarize and de-Nazify Ukraine and to completely liberate the Donbas region.

[Link to the article of the image](#)

Talking about Fatto Quotidiano in the tri-grams we can see that they talk about the third world war “terza guerra mondiale” because they believe that supporting Ukraine will lead to the start of a new world war, [here](#) we have an example. [Here](#) we have another example, that shows also all the bi-grams, saying that the Us strategy is destroying the European Union and it will lead to a third world war.



Top 4 six-grams Sputnik

While the most frequent four-gram of the other two newspapers have a frequency of around 35, it is interesting to notice that the six-grams of Sputnik have a frequency of 120. We think that the reason is that they need to keep repeating the same sentences to perform good propaganda.

Frequency analysis of the comments

For Sputnik and Daily Mail, the word cloud is the same for both articles and the comments.

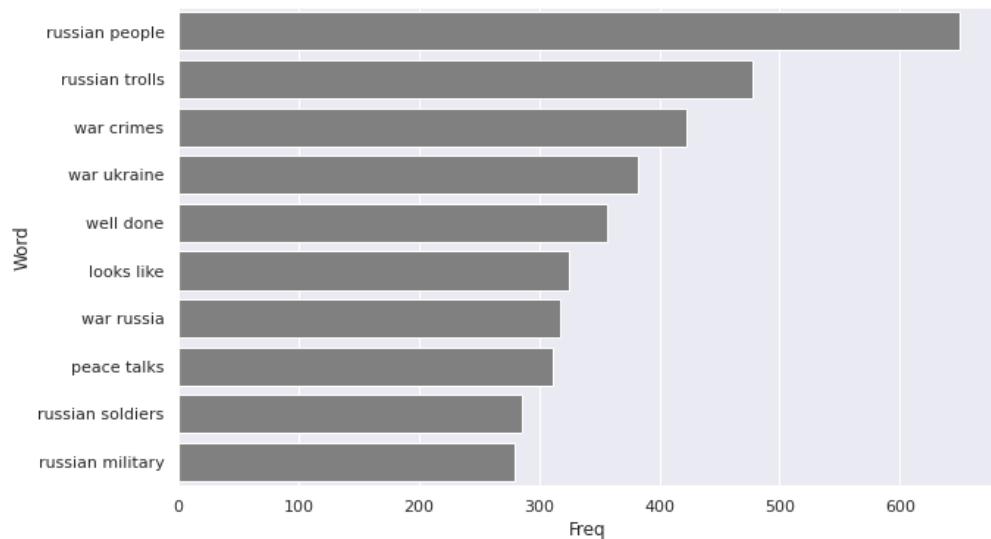
Sputnik

Proceeding with the term frequency analysis for the comments of the Sputnik website, we see that based on the uni-grams, we notice nothing unexpected. The most frequent words are mainly “Russia”, “Ukraine”, “us”, and “war”.

However, when we started looking at the bi-grams and the tri-grams, we made a discovery, that is, the comments are full of spam. Indeed, the tri-grams show the most frequent terms are “www earncash com”, “www bizpay com”, and “drahmedusman gmail com”, which are unrelated website names.

Then we stopped because of how we scraped the comments, we have been able only to have a few comments per article, so looking to four-grams leads to have very low frequency

Daily Mail

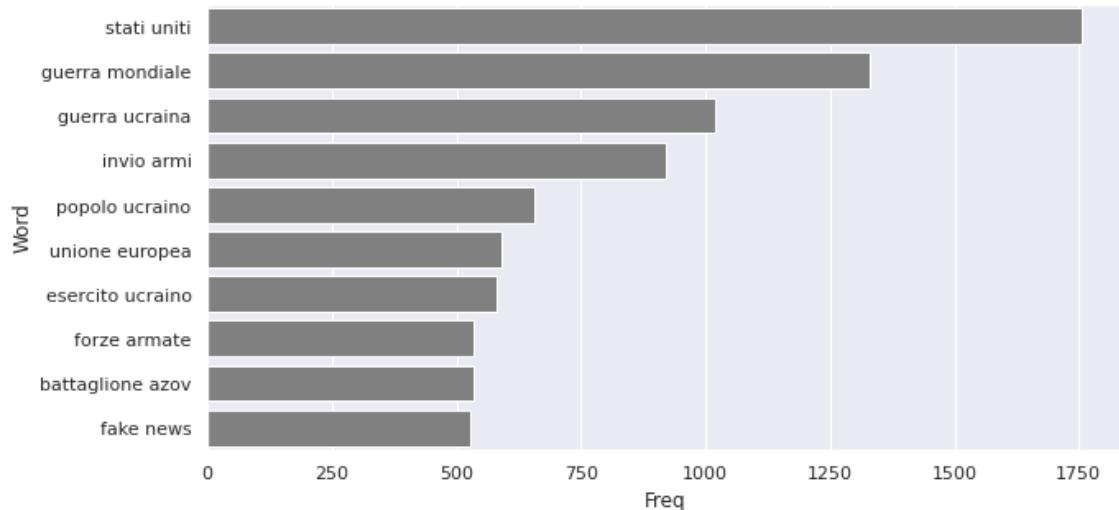


These are the bi-grams of the comments of the Daily Mail

Fatto Quotidiano



This word cloud is meaningless but is not the same as one of the articles as it happened for the other two newspapers.

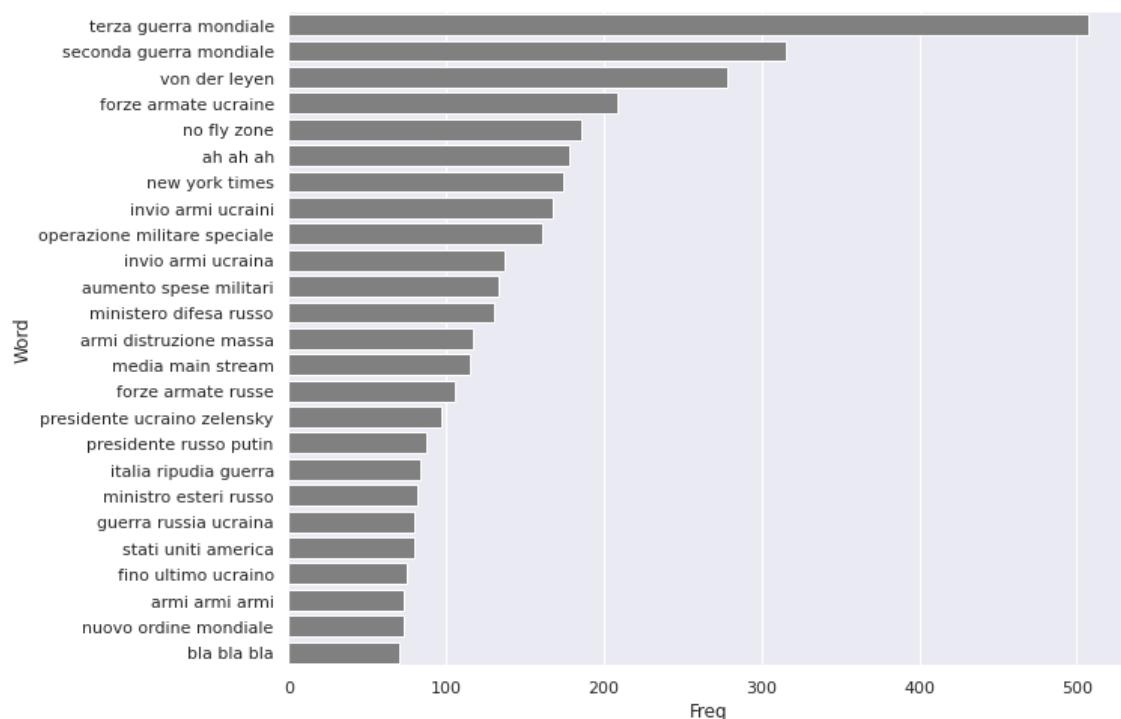


After identifying and extracting the bigrams from the text, we proceeded with a keyword extraction analysis to identify comments containing specific bigrams. In this case, we focused on the bigram "fake news" and discovered several noteworthy comments related to it.

By examining the comments that included the "fake news" bigram, we encountered valuable insights and information. These comments shed light on the presence or impact of misinformation, deliberate falsehoods, or misleading content within the context of the discussed topic.

'avvertite slirp (di cui chiedo il ban) che : 1) sono false le notizie di deportazioni e rapimenti di migliaia di bambini ucraini . come ha documentato marinella mondaini in un magistrale articolo sull'antidiplomatico , la russia anzi ha salvato numerosi bambini portandoli in luoghi sicuri lontani dalle zone di conflitto . 2) la russia non ha commesso crimini di guerra . la russia non mira ai civili , non mira a scuole e ospedale , non mira ad abitazioni civili e teatri , non mira a condomini e fabbriche civili , ma mira ad obiettivi militari e paramilitari . e infatti il numero di civili morti in un anno di operazione speciale russa sono inferiori a guerre occidentali . e in caso di obiettivi civili , si è trattato di false flag , fake news , errori , scudi umani , obiettivi militari e paramilitari camuffati da obiettivi civili , o depositi di armi nascosti in edifici civili ... 3) la guerra in ucraina non è iniziata con l'operazione speciale russa , ma 9 anni fa con golpe di euromaidan , persecuzioni dei russofoni da parte degli ucraini , crimini ucraini in donbass , strage di odessa contro la casa del popolo e del sindacato , violazione degli accordi di minsk . 4) alla russia non interessa invadere l'ucraina , ma avere un'ucraina pacifica , in buoni rapporti con la russia , antinazista e che tuteli le minoranze russophone .<'

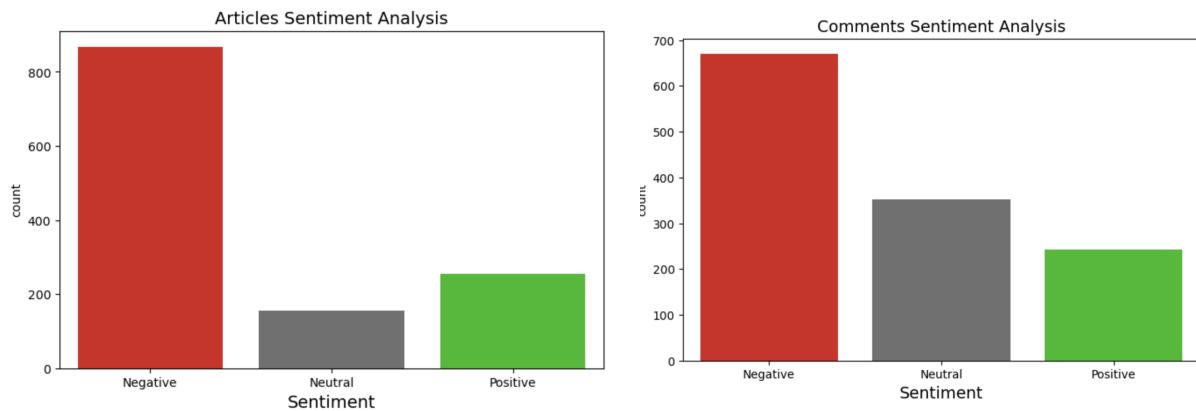
The comment accuses the article of being fake news, suggesting that it contains intentionally misleading or false information and there are lots of comments like this in the article of this newspaper.



Sentiment Analysis

Daily Mail

We conducted a sentiment analysis on both articles and comments from the Daily Mail that led us to the following results and conclusions.



Both articles and comments have a higher rate of negative sentiments, although the comment section registers a higher number of neutral content than positive, contrary to the articles, where positive content is more expressive.

Looking deeper into the data, we analyzed how comments and articles with different polarities behave.

As expected, **articles with negative sentiment with positive comments** are the ones dedicated to Ukrainian military attacks against Russians, with comments praising the actions and the people that are publicly behind them.

Russia in flames once more as Ukrainian drones and artillery destroy oil refinery and shell border town a day after targeting elite Moscow suburb

- The Afipsky oil refinery in Russia was hit by a suspected Ukrainian drone today
- Ukrainian artillery also struck the Russian town of Shebekino on the border

By RACHAEL BUNYAN and WILL STEWART
PUBLISHED: 07:26 BST, 31 May 2023 | UPDATED: 11:13 BST, 31 May 2023

[Share](#) [Comment](#) [Email](#) [Share](#) 154 [View comments](#)

 Thelairdohouston24, Glasgow, United Kingdom, 23 hours ago
A taste of their own medicine, at last.

[Share](#) [Comment](#) [Email](#) Click to rate 4 0

Russian military plane bursts into flames and crashes into a lake in region bordering Finland

- Law enforcement agencies reported the crash, according to Russian state news
- The crash was reported to have happened in Murmansk in Russia's northwest

By CHRIS JEWERS
PUBLISHED: 15:59 BST, 26 April 2023 | UPDATED: 17:26 BST, 26 April 2023

[Share](#) [Comment](#) [Email](#) [Share](#) 49 [View comments](#) 501

 Cally1, UK, United Kingdom, 1 month ago
I think its time the whole of Russia was completely obliterated. Get all defenceless animals out and flatten it.

[Share](#) [Comment](#) [Email](#) Click to rate 8 3

In this analysis, we also got to see examples of the canceling culture that happened during this period against Russians outside of the country, followed by the positive support to these people in question in the comments section.

Arsenal delete a tweet wishing former Russian player Andrey Arshavin happy birthday after Ukrainians raged at their support for ex-footballer who said he would fight in the war

- Arsenal paid tribute to Arshavin when wishing him a happy birthday on Monday
- But their post for the Russian drew criticism from several Ukrainians on Twitter
- In the end Arsenal took the birthday message down in light of the controversy

By OLIVER SALT FOR MAILONLINE
PUBLISHED: 10:08 BST, 30 May 2023 | UPDATED: 13:41 BST, 30 May 2023

[Share](#) [Comment](#) [Email](#) [Share](#) 189 [View comments](#) 9

 Casper, The Truth Is Out There, United Kingdom, 2 weeks ago
Football has got nothing to do with the war in Ukraine #JUSTSAYING.

[Share](#) [Comment](#) [Email](#) Click to rate 146 22

However, in articles dedicated to Ukrainian claims against Russia, of suspected attacks, we can see that several comments are defending Russia and blaming the West for the war.

Ukraine intelligence warns Putin is planning to simulate major accident at Europe's biggest nuclear power station in an attempt by Russia to thwart Kyiv's counteroffensive

- Zaporizhzhia plant IN southern Ukraine is Europe's biggest nuclear power station
- In Russian-occupied territory, both sides have blamed each other for shelling
- Claiming radiation leak would force an investigation by international authorities

By IWAN STONE
PUBLISHED: 00:23 BST, 27 May 2023 | UPDATED: 02:13 BST, 27 May 2023



View comments

 Watts_Up, Stoke, United Kingdom, 2 weeks ago
This is Zelensky's way of asking for even more money .. seems Europe and the US have become his personal cashpoint.

[Click to rate](#)  27  10

On the other hand, **positive articles with negative comments** happen when, for example, it is announced that the West, such as the USA or European countries, is supporting Ukraine in some way, causing concerns regarding the economic impact of the world in the countries.

Are F-16 fighter jets being sent to Ukraine? What has the UK pledged and why does Zelensky want them?

- All you need to know about the F16 fighter and why Ukraine wants to use them

By ZAC CAMPBELL
PUBLISHED: 10:54 BST, 19 May 2023 | UPDATED: 10:54 BST, 19 May 2023



View comments

 The Welsh Judge, cardiff, United Kingdom, 3 days ago
Ukraine can never claim to have won the war if Russia ever loses it will be thanks to the poverty stricken Uk as they will pay heavily for supporting Ukraine, with more poverty to come for the uk when we pay to rebuild Ukraine.

[Click to rate](#)  6  10

We can also verify that articles focusing on President Zelensky's declarations or initiatives have negative comments, making him a figure that not all Westerners approve of.

Zelensky says Ukraine is preparing counter-offensive to liberate occupied areas and has no plans to hit targets in Russia as he holds talks in Berlin with Olaf Scholz who has promised £2.2bn in military aid

- Zelensky today said: 'We don't attack Russian territory, we liberate our own'
- [READ MORE: Russia 'loses two warplanes' on Putin's side of the Ukraine border](#)

By HANNAH MCDONALD FOR MAILONLINE
PUBLISHED: 09:02 BST, 14 May 2023 | UPDATED: 14:23 BST, 14 May 2023



View comments

In this case, we can also see that articles bashing Russian individuals, especially from sports, are highly criticized in comments, where people claim fair play and understanding, showing a rationalized way of looking into the war.

Wimbledon BAN Russia flags from the grounds for this year's tournament - and Russian journalists are told they are NOT welcome despite players being welcomed back as 'neutrals'

- Wimbledon chiefs will not allow Russian flags at this summer's tournament
- Officials have taken a strong stance amid Russia's invasion of Ukraine
- The tournament won't be shown in Russia and Russian media are not welcome

By OLI GAMP FOR MAILONLINE
PUBLISHED: 14:17 BST, 25 April 2023 | UPDATED: 01:36 BST, 27 April 2023

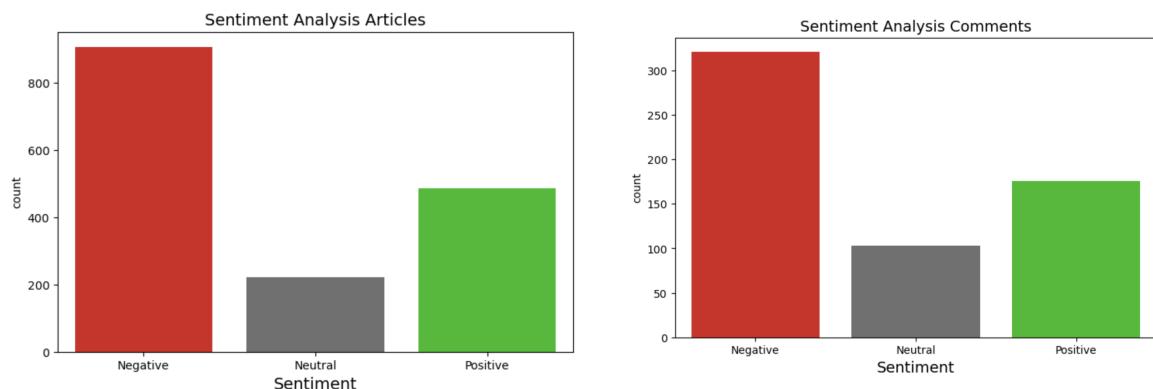


dm32, carp, Canada, 1 month ago

Whats tennis players got to do with Putin who started this war. Let every tennis player play for whatever flag they wish. Be it a rainbow one or whatever. Wimbledon stop being so petty.

Click to rate 3 10

Sputnik



While looking at the data gathered, we can see that positive comments are supporting Russia while negatives are against Ukrainian allies. When it comes to articles, the ones dedicated to losses are classified as negative and the ones talking about winning are classified as positive. An interesting fact about this type of analysis is that a positive article is not always connected to a Russian victory, but a win in general, something that can represent a limitation for the research. In both comments and articles, the sentiment is mainly negative, followed by positive and lastly negative, showing stronger feelings and opinions in the comments when compared to the DailyMail.

Looking again deeper into the data, we analyzed again how comments and articles with different polarities behave.

The **articles with negative sentiment with positive comments** are the ones dedicated to Ukrainian failure, with comments praising the Russian troops.

Ukraine Loses Nearly 600 Military, Mercenaries in Donetsk Direction Over Past Day - Russian MoD

11:55 GMT 29.04.2023 (Updated: 16:54 GMT 29.04.2023)



© Sputnik / RIA Novosti / Go to the mediabank

Well done, Russia and Good luck for the final victory !

LC LUCIAN-ION COJOCARU

29 April, 17:06 GMT 7

i guess the nato training these ukranian forces got did not include the message "try not to get yourself killed".

J Joy Myers

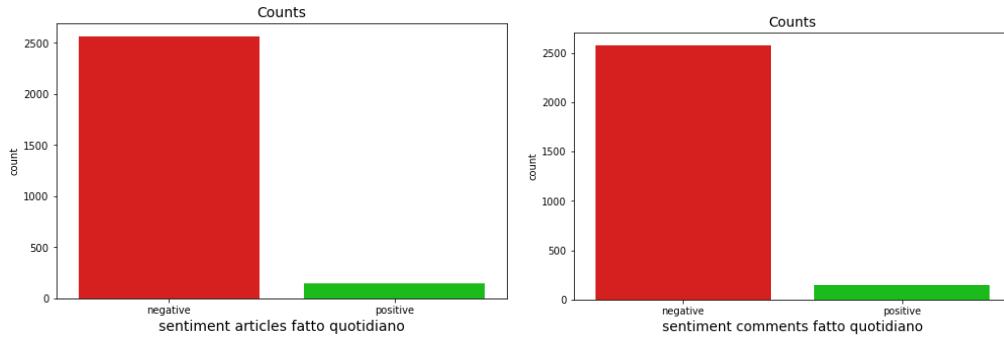
29 April, 16:38 GMT 4

We can also understand that the comments on Sputnik are more extremist, with a strong opinion of the West, with expressions such as “nazi” and “Ukrainian regime” being used often in these comments.

I hope these (bande de fasciste et neo Nazi) will be hanged for war crimes and in public this would learn these bastards in the western hemisphere that it is no more cool to go on safari in Russia for these psychopaths

On the other hand, **articles with positive sentiments and negative comments** are mainly dedicated either to a win of Russia over Ukraine, with comments bashing the country. On some occasions, there are positive articles that cover support from the West sent to Ukraine, such as weaponry, with negative comments from Russians criticizing this support.

Il Fatto Quotidiano



The model used for the sentiment analysis doesn't have a neutral sentiment, so we have only negative and positive. So what we can notice like the previous newspapers is that most of them are negative articles, which makes sense since we are talking about the war.

"I piu' vivi complimenti a tutti i politici che hanno predicato (... e continuano a farlo...) sul fatto che l'invio di armi all'Ucraina avrebbe portato alla pace...\\nGodetevi i risultati....!!!"

Trying to read the positive comments on negative articles we can notice a difference between this newspaper and the others. The thing is that most of the positive comments are sarcastic, so basically most of them are negative as well.

Looking at articles with positive sentiment and negative comments we notice that as happened with the previous newspapers the article itself is not negative so is correctly classified and the comments are negative. Most of the comments that we read are against the government but are difficult to understand by looking at the keywords since one can understand by reading the comment but not because they directly mention a key person.

Graph Analysis

To construct a graph based on the articles, we employed named entity recognition to extract the individuals mentioned in the articles. Subsequently, we established connections between these individuals by creating edges in the graph if they appeared in the same sentence. Our decision to consider edges between individuals who appeared in the same sentence, rather than just the same article, stemmed from the observation that this approach yielded a more captivating graph. Furthermore, we believed that the relevance of two individuals being in the same sentence outweighed their presence in the same article.

We observed that the degree distribution across the three graphs exhibited a striking similarity, characterized by numerous nodes with low degrees and only a few with high degrees. This distribution pattern follows a power law.

```
[('Putin', 0.19010160603080958),
 ('Zelensky', 0.08947885939036382),
 ('Papa Francesco', 0.03343166175024582),
 ('Li', 0.032448377581120944),
 ('Alex', 0.02917076368403802)]
```

Top degree centrality Fatto Quotidiano

```
[('Putin', 0.3985339506172839),  
 ('Zelensky', 0.13155864197530864),  
 ('Kherson', 0.0763888888888888),  
 ('Biden', 0.06442901234567901),  
 ('Sunak', 0.038580246913580245)]
```

Top degree centrality Daily Mail

```
[('Putin', 0.39175597054634803),  
 ('Zelensky', 0.3835549598907884),  
 ('Biden', 0.36606705444494814),  
 ('Konashenkov', 0.33547553534109803),  
 ('Zaporozhye', 0.334376644958605)]
```

Top degree centrality Sputnik

One intriguing aspect of the analysis is examining the nodes with the highest degrees, as they represent individuals who are frequently mentioned and hold central positions within the graph due to their numerous connections.

In our analysis of all the newspapers, it is expected to find Putin and Zelensky as the nodes with the highest degree. Given their roles as prominent political figures in Russia and Ukraine, respectively, they naturally attract significant attention and connections within the graph.

In the case of Fatto Quotidiano, an interesting finding is the inclusion of the Pope as one of the nodes with a high degree. This suggests the significance of religious figures within the Italian context and the newspaper's coverage, highlighting the intersection of politics and religion. Notably, the absence of nodes representing Mattarella and Meloni, who are the Prime Minister and the leader of a major political party in Italy, respectively, in the top degrees indicates a potential emphasis on other aspects of news coverage by Fatto Quotidiano.

Similarly, in the Daily Mail, Sunak, the UK Prime Minister, stands out as a node with a high degree. This reflects his prominent position within the British political landscape and the newspaper's focus on UK politics.

Interestingly, in the Italian newspaper, Biden does not appear among the top five nodes with the highest degree. This observation suggests a difference in coverage priorities or the level of attention given to international political figures, with a greater emphasis on domestic and regional figures such as the Pope, Putin, and Zelensky.

These findings provide valuable insights into the prominence of specific individuals within the analyzed newspapers, shedding light on the editorial choices, the focus of the publications, and potentially the readership preferences.

Source	Target	Weight
Putin	Zelensky	97.0
Peskov	Putin	30.0
Putin	Biden	29.0
Putin	Berlusconi	28.0
Putin	Putin	24.0
Salvini	Meloni	21.0
Salvini	Putin	21.0
Putin	Papa Francesco	19.0
Putin	Alex	19.0
Schröder	Putin	19.0

Fatto Quotidiano weighted edges

Source	Target	Weight
Zelensky	Putin	247.0
Putin	Kherson	126.0
Biden	Putin	115.0
Putin	Xi	104.0
Zelensky	Biden	88.0
Putin	Putin	84.0
Prigozhin	Putin	82.0
Medvedev	Putin	75.0
Shoigu	Putin	65.0
Peskov	Putin	64.0

Daily Mail weighted edges

Source	Target	Weight
Putin	Zelensky	85.0
Zaporozhye	Kherson	73.0
Biden	Putin	68.0
Biden	Zelensky	59.0
Zaporozhye	Putin	40.0
Kherson	Putin	34.0
Putin	Putin	33.0
Macron	Putin	31.0
Konashenkov	Putin	27.0
Peskov	Putin	25.0

Sputnik weighted edges

In the provided tables, we can examine the edges with the highest weights for each newspaper. These edges signify the individuals who are mentioned together most frequently.

Within the Fatto Quotidiano graph, an interesting observation is the presence of a strong edge between Putin and Berlusconi, ranking it as the fourth highest-weighted edge. This observation is intriguing because Berlusconi neither holds the position of prime minister nor premier of Italy at the time. Several factors contribute to this interesting edge. Firstly, Berlusconi was known to have maintained a close relationship with Putin in the past, suggesting a personal connection. Additionally, the creator of Fatto Quotidiano, Travaglio, is associated with a political party that competes with Berlusconi's party, adding another layer of interest. Travaglio gained fame through an investigation that involved Berlusconi, which may have contributed to the prominence of this edge within the graph.

These observations highlight the interplay between personal relationships, political dynamics, and media narratives within the constructed graph. They suggest the importance of considering not only the presence of individuals within the graph but also the context and reasons behind the connections observed.

In our analysis, we explored additional centrality measures, namely closeness centrality and betweenness centrality, to gain further insights into the graph. However, these measures did not yield any particularly intriguing or novel findings, and they did not provide us with significant new information about the structure or dynamics of the graph.

Discussion of Results

In conclusion, our analysis of news outlets' coverage of the Ukrainian War reveals distinct narratives, biases, and approaches employed by Russian and English media in representing the conflict.

Despite challenges in identifying clear subtopics within the articles, stemming and n-gram analysis revealed distinct patterns in the choice of words and phrases used by each newspaper. → Sputnik focused more on specific aspects of the Russian-Ukrainian war, while Daily Mail covered a broader range of topics related to the conflict. Il Fatto Quotidiano exhibited a critical approach to Western support, emphasizing the potential for a third world war and the impact of supporting Ukraine.

The sentiment analysis of articles and comments highlighted prevailing negative sentiments in both media outlets. However, there were variations in the tone of comments compared to → ~~articles~~ Daily Mail readers' comments often expressed support for Ukrainian military actions and criticism of Russia, while Sputnik's comments exhibited extremism, with strong negative opinions towards the West. Il Fatto Quotidiano's comments were largely sarcastic, even in articles with positive sentiments.

The ~~graph analysis provided insight into the key individuals mentioned in the articles and their connections~~. Putin and Zelensky emerged as central figures in all three newspapers, reflecting their significant roles in the conflict. In the case of Il Fatto Quotidiano, the inclusion of the Pope as a prominent node suggests the intersection of politics and religion in the Italian context.

→ Our study contributes to a better understanding of how media narratives shape public opinion, influence diplomatic relations, and contribute to the international discourse surrounding the

Ukrainian conflict. The contrasting views and biases presented by these newspapers emphasize the importance of critically evaluating and analyzing media sources to gain a comprehensive perspective on complex geopolitical events.

Regarding limitations, we believe that it is more impactful in the data collection, particularly concerning the Sputnik comments, which led to a less in-depth analysis.