Contrastive Analysis of Media Framing in German, Arabic, Spanish, and French: A Corpus-Based Study of Migration Discourse in Translated News Articles

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Abstract

The present study utilized a cross-cultural and multilingual corpus of news articles to assess the role of media framing in the migration discourse. The corpus included three hundred news reports from French, Spanish, German, and Arabic media outlets, including some supplementary material. This study investigated the independent role of translation as a reframing device in the construction of refugees and migrants in the discourse on migration. Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), Baker's Narrative Theory, and Van Dijk's Ideological Square were essential theories and tools used for analysis, along with a few others. Results of the study revealed the different mechanisms by which news media outlets maintain power dynamics and reflect cultural ideologies in translated works. These include shifts in translation, lexical framings, and in-group out-group biases.

Keywords: applied linguistics, corpus linguistics, discourse analysis, ideological square, ideology, narrative theory, sociolinguistics, translation

1. Introduction

Every culture and region has its own ideologies and stances about different phenomena, including those around migration. These ideologies can be found reflected in different sources such as language, political speeches, course curricula, news media, films and dramas, songs and anthems, legal frameworks, economic practices, and folklore and religious texts etcetera. The present study selected news media from all these different mediums, particularly translated news articles revolving around the discourse on migration, in order to explore the role of translation in the dialogue on migration. The study compares translated texts across different regions including French, Spanish, Arabic, and German news media, using a corpus based approach.

Language, and its framing, play a critical role in influencing public perceptions of narratives. It affects how we appraise the stories we read/watch/hear about, our emotional resonance with them, and how we relate with the content/subject on the other side. For example, differences in the language used between Eastern and Western media coverage of the Palestine-Israel conflict showed that Eastern outlets displayed a Pro-Palestinian approach that emphasized a Gaza ravaged with war, whereas Western media outlets displayed a stance aligned towards Israel and purported a "response" or "retaliation" perspective (Nasar, Akhtar, & Anwar, 2025). The media plays a critical role in the construction of refugees and how they are perceived by the masses. Xu (2020) found that the media holds the power to shape how refugees are represented and classifies them as either victims or pariahs, which in turn affect not only public sentiments towards them, but also policies regarding asylum. Given Spain's historical affiliations with Latin America and North Africa, Spanish media is observed to frame migration through postcolonial and regional perspectives, often drawing attention to transnational solidarity (Ramón, 2016). France holds a complex stance on the migration debate, which is accordingly reflected in French news coverage where both humanitarian notions and security concerns are noted. Themes including conflict, political responsibilities, security concerns, humanitarian motives, dehumanization, and economic burdens are regularly observed in media reports of Syrian refugees, consequently affecting pubic opinions

and attitudes towards them, and asylum seekers and migrants in general (Mustafa-Awad & Kirner-Ludwig, 2021).

The media is not an objective reporter of the accounts it provides (Fairclough, 1995). Political orientations of outlets, personal biases of journalists, linguistic framing, and cultural ideologies etcetera all influence how narratives are adapted in translation (Van Dijk, 1998; Baker, 2006). The constructions of refugees and migrants, in particular, is shaped in line with these other dimensions, as observed by Omidian Sijani (2023) and Xu (2020). The present study employs different analytical techniques and theoretical models (including Baker's Narrative Theory, Critical Discourse Analysis, and Van Dijk's Ideological Square) in order to examine the mechanisms that underlie the translation process and assess how different aspects influence the portrayal of migrants and refugees across different regions. By treating translation as an isolated enterprise in the construction of refugees and the migration discourse, the present study bridges a research gap formerly unaddressed by prior studies, and conceptualizes translation as an independent tool/device for reframing.

1.1 Theoretical Framework

Van Dijk's Ideological Square describes what is fundamentally an in-group out-group bias. It explains how narrators and translators employ an "Us vs Them" framework, preserving their own group's ideologies and mindsets, and othering groups that diverge from their own. They do so by emphasizing positive information about "Us" and negative information about "Them," and, in tandem, deemphasizing negative information about "Us" and positive information about "Them." In doing so, they "save face" and preserve their own presentation while alienating others (i.e. outgroups). It is key to note that this bias is not applied to individuals, but to groups at a societal level (such as Whites Vs Blacks). Consequently, the "Other" group tends to be constructed with a negative connotation and pathologized, through the use of various linguistic phenomena such as lexical decisions, metaphors, comparisons, hyperbole etcetera (Van Dijk, 1998).

This bias is amplified through translation shifts, as explained by Baker's Narrative Theory. This theory asserts that narratives are slightly modified in translation and do not exactly replicate the original message of the original text. These reframed narratives reflect cultural and contextual norms and ideologies, and translated texts have alterations that are tailored to readers' existing schemas and expectations, thereby influencing their reception of narratives. These subtle reframings are executed in order for readers' to emotionally relate with accounts and/or resonate with texts, whilst simultaneously reinforcing Us-Them polarizations by presenting positive notions of one's own country and people, and negative notions of migrants'/refugees' and their home countries (Aminzadeh & Anari, 2018; Baker, 2006).

Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) further reveals the underlying mechanisms by which shifts in translation amplify these biases, and the critical role culture, ideology, and power play in this relationship. CDA, a comprehensive tool in the field of discourse analysis, investigates the relationship between language, power, and ideology. It simultaneously takes into account other factors, contexts, and disciplines such as sociology, political science, linguistics, and psychology etcetera. It reveals how language perpetuates and maintains power dynamics, sociocultural norms and ideologies, and influences text production, translation, interpretation, and reception (Fairclough, 1995). CDA details how media texts reproduce power asymmetries and reveals the linguistic choices, narrative structures, and ideologies behind it. Thereby also revealing how translation shifts (Baker, 2006) amplify in-group out-group biases (Van Dijk, 1998) through discursive power reproduction (CDA).

The media is also reinforcing the way an individual looks at reality based on news reports. A significant part of this is done by journalists, who simply report their own views and biases. Policymakers are also starting to recognize how important storytelling is in shaping how people think and feel about migration and integration. They are now working to understand and use different ways of framing these stories to make better policies that connect with people (Broadhead, 2021). This study looks at the chances and challenges in conversations about migration across different languages and cultures by examining how language, beliefs, and storytelling are linked.

2. Methodology

This study utilizes a corpus–based comparative research design using a large collection of texts from German, Arabic, Spanish, and French news articles on migration.

2.1 Corpus Design

Corpora are collections of texts that are particularly selected according to specific criteria. A corpus is a compilation of texts that are accumulated for a particular reason. Corpus based research designs analyze various texts of the same or similar subject matter. This type of study, where computer programs are used to investigate large sums of language texts is known as "corpus linguistics" (Cheng, 2011; McEnery & Hardie, 2011). The corpus of the current analysis, which is based on three hundred articles dating from 2015 to 2023, was collected from news media with various geographic locations. Deutsche Welle Arabic, Al-Jazeera German, El País English, BBC Mundo, Le Monda were the selected news websites over the languages of German, French, Spanish and Arabic. These outlets were chosen because they receive a

lot of attention for reporting on migration, especially during the 2015-2023 refugee crisis. They also represent a range of political and ideological viewpoints across regions (centrist/internationalist to pan-Arab solidarity), and provide strong coverage in the target languages, which helps in ensuring a balanced sample. Additive data were collected from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (2022) and European Migration Network (2024), which enable the dataset to be generalized and adapted across settings. A cross-cultural corpus such as this allows for comparison across cultures and detailed insight to how differently culture, media sources and languages cover the debate about migration.

Articles were, however, aligned using the widely applied corpus analysis tool, Sketch Engine. It utilized keyword search to identify migration themes across languages and multilingual concordancing to retrieve comparable sentences and phrases (no parallel corpora were used). Consistency between themes was verified manually. This process made it possible to compare featured concepts and framing strategies across languages. This alignment and translation led to similarities and differences both in terms of the portrayal, for example of migrants as victims or pariahs. For instance, the word *"مهاجر"* has connotations of empathy, whereas scored regular occurrences in German media when reporting on migration content and depersonalizing the human issue. This process to some extent guaranteed a thorough survey of how migration was framed in both languages. It exposed how power relations, political models and cultural traditions mix together with particular personal or professional points of view being reproduced in the news sphere, and then having its impact on public opinion and legal frames surrounding migration discourse. In the present study, we aimed to see how migration narratives are articulated in different linguistic and cultural settings.

2.2 Parameters

Analyzed in the corpus were a number of parameters within the discourse on migration, including lexical semantics, syntactic patterns, shifts occurring in translation and conceptual metaphors between the languages.

Semantics are concerned with the sense of words and phrases. Term comparison shows words with the same themes and how terms of different languages have particular emotional meanings which are affecting public beliefs, opinions, attitudes and perceptions towards migration.

Syntax refers to the way in which words and phrases are put together to form a sentence that is, sentence structure. Syntactic structures were examined in the current study as well, with respect to whether they described migrants in an active or passive voice. These construct readers' perceptions of how active migrants themselves are in their own narratives, as well as readers' own country's involvement in the process/discourse. For example, Spanish phrases like *"los migrantes fueron rescatados"* (the migrants were rescued) significantly remove agency while overstating their own involvement, whereas French structuring like *"les migrants ont été accueillis"* (the migrants were welcomed) balance both ideas.

The factor of translation shifts considered the small changes and adjustments that occur during translation. It exposed which information is emphasized and what other information is disregarded, according to the ideological preferences of each country. For instance, it was a common thing to notice in French articles how they contextualize the contemporary debates on migration in their country's own history.

Metaphor: Understanding the Link Our conceptual metaphors see one idea relative to another. Analysis of these showed how in each country the politics of migration was expressed, including through the use of French metaphor *"situation préoccupante"* (worrisome situation), which suggested a particular balance between urgency and humanitarian assumptions.

2.3 Analytical Techniques

The present study integrated multiple analytical techniques in order to facilitate a detailed understanding of how migration is framed across different cultural contexts.

Baker's Narrative Theory was used to identify how sociocultural norms and ideologies and readers' perceived informational needs are reflected in translation.

Critical Discourse Analysis was employed to assess the various different framing strategies reflect power imbalances and ideology in the narratives they build.

Van Dijk's Ideological Square was used to examine in-group out-group biases and how framing in news media may contribute to alienation of refugees and migrants.

Framing analysis examined language in terms of script, rhetoric, syntactical, and thematic structures, and uncovered how the media determines reality (Pan & Kosicki, 1993; Suharyo, 2018).

Analysis of lexicons and semantics revealed patterns in the word choices that held certain connotations and embedded cultural ideologies and attitudes.

Analysis of syntax revealed how sentence structure and active versus passive formulation of migrants and refugees imparted subtle ideas of their own agency in their narratives, or lack thereof.

A manual qualitative analysis as well as translation shift analysis was used to examine how the translation process itself modified the original message from source texts to match sociocultural norms and frameworks.

Metaphoric analysis was conducted to compare the differing approaches countries have in framing migration issues.

A qualitative analysis was done to analyze the patterns identified and appraise their consequent implications for the discourse on migration, include their impact on public perceptions and policy making. In doing so, the present study also accounted for the affective, subjective and humanistic parts of narratives as these have been observed to sway public opinion, attitudes and perceptions to a more positive stance about refugees and migrants (Gamson, 1989).

3. Results

3.1 Translation Shifts

Shifts in translation are observed across all the collected texts spanning German, French, Arabic, and Spanish media. Cultures and ideologies of regions are seen to be reflected in the respective translated texts through these shifts in translation. Pan (2008) detailed how framing is essentially a process of "selection and salience," where certain information that is deemed pertinent by news media is particularly highlighted and emphasized to promote that particular aspect of the text. These discoveries are consistent with shifts observed in the present study, through omissions in translated texts from source texts, revealing each region's distinct priorities regarding the discourse around migration.

In line with national sentiments about immigration, French narratives tend to avoid extensive policy discussions and give broader accounts. This is evidenced by slogans like *"accueil des réfugiés"* (welcoming refugees) rather a focus on legal frameworks. German policy debate is not replicated in Arabic translations of explainers and feature frank political scenarios which target audiences are to respond with convenient simplifications. Similarly, Spanish articles commonly ignore the German statistical data and instead emphasized human interest stories to reflect local readers' inclination for empathetic framing (Ramón, 2016).

Ideological underpinnings in reframing are further illustrated by rephrasing strategies. For instance, Arabic translations of the German term *"Asylmissbrauch"* (asylum abuse) recast it as *"استغلال النظام"* (system exploitation), taking the blame away from migrants and placing it on structural flaws instead. This take falls in line with Arabic media's general practices of emphasizing systematic inequities (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 2022). The Spanish translation, *"fallos administrativos"* (administrative failures), tempers the accusatory tone but still redirects responsibility to systemic faults. French translations, however, might use *"abus du système"* (abuse of the system), maintaining a critical tone but still giving due importance to systemic issues, like Arabic.

Appendices in translations further indicate the cultural tailoring characteristic of translated works. Spanish texts include Latin American historical comparisons, such as juxtaposing present-day Mediterranean migration to Central American *"caravanas migrantes"* (migrant caravans) in order to situate issues within regional postcolonial solidarity (Ramón, 2016). Recentered on France's colonial history, French articles frame a moral obligation regarding migration that complicates the narrative through historical value. This gives relevance and causes the French public to be more emotionally touched. Furthermore, Arabic articles attempt to reframe migration as a moral obligation by regularly including religious or historical context (such as references to Islamic principles of hospitality *(ضيافة)*), not originally present in German source texts (Pan, 2008).

By examining these translation shifts, the study demonstrated how cultural and linguistic framing (in French, Arabic and Spanish media) reshapes German narratives. French translations stir collective consciousness by illuminating history undercurrent of current conditions and context. Arabic translations distil policy debates and criticize existing structures, systems and institutions in action, whereas Spanish texts focus on narrative empathy combined with historical identity politics of the region.

Both strategies, of omission and addition, align with Baker's (2006) stance that translators act as narrative negotiators, balancing loyalty to source texts with the expectations of target audiences as per their political and sociocultural norms and ideologies.

3.2 Van Dijk's Ideological Square

Van Dijk's (1998) Ideological Square analyzed "Us vs Them" dichotomies in framing, and observed the contrasting narratives constructed with respect to migration, across the selected texts of the present study.

Arabic narratives empathize with migrants and refugees, and frame them as victims of injustice. Their culture of hospitality is reflected in their translations, where they emphasize *"تضامن"* (solidarity) and highlight how this is a

communal concern and responsibility, and not an isolated issue. In line with sociocultural and Islamic frameworks, the public is reminded of its moral obligations towards these groups. Phrases like "ضحايا الحرب" (war victims) and "حقوق اللاجئين" (refugee rights) serve as examples of Arabic orientations towards empathy and solidarity with marginalized groups (Bazzi, 2021; Van Dijk, 1998).

"Belastung" (burden), *"Flüchtlingskrise"* (refugee crisis) and *"Integrationsprobleme"* (integration problems) are, in contrast, used by German media to discuss the issue of migration. Precisely this brand of aversive and antagonistic framing marginalizes refugees and migrants, having both an impact on the general perception towards migrant and refugees and to legitimize repressive policies that contribute further to their isolation and exclusion. These terms also emphasize the perceived negative aspects of hosting these groups, by portraying them as threats to public security, economic stability, social cohesion, and national welfare etcetera. This is not simply a linguistic concern, it is a reflection of the rising Islamophobia and Xenophobia in Europe (Bolognani & Erdal, 2017; Lee & Nerghes, 2018).

Spanish media have been recorded to use terms such as *"derechos humanos"* (human rights), *"crisis migratoria"* (migration crisis), *"acogida humanitaria"* (humanitarian welcome), and *"protección internacional"* (international protection). This reflects a dual position of solidarity and urgency, placing the discussion of migration through Spain's historical position as a Mediterranean gateway and its post-colonial links to Latin America (Ramón, 2016; Van Dijk, 1998).

The same narrative is evident in French texts that also express a mixed perspective, such as *"Crise des réfugiés"* (refugee crisis)—emphasizing urgency of the situation—or *"flux migratoire"* (migratory flow), which illustrates the endlessness of migration. The terms, *"droit d'asile"* (right to asylum) and *"hospitalité"* (hospitality), relate to moral responsibility and humanitarian principles, given its colonial past. Thus, this type of gendered discourse surrounding the migration narrative balances security concerns along with humanitarian intentions, and does not stigmatize migrants and refugee populations.

Van Dijk (1998) developed the Ideological Square to assess the variation of migration texts across different regions within their corresponding translated texts. The Arabic texts divulge notions of community solidarity while the German texts discussed ideas of threats and challenges. The Spanish and French texts straddle hybrid notions according to their historical and community ties. In their translated texts, the sociocultural and sociopolitical ideologies and biases are also represented, highlighting how forms of media reinforce or remediate power imbalances in relation to migration discourse (Baker, 2006; Bazzi, 2021).

3.3 Lexical Framing

Framing was also noticed in the specific wording or phrases, or specific vocabulary used, in each language. Structural options, morphology, metaphor, nominalization, and phrasing enter into how migrant discourse is framed depending on each country's ideologies. The German terms *"Asylbewerberleistungsgesetz"* and *"Grenzkontrollen"* frame migration as procedural, and administrative or systemic, while institutionally framing the act of migration, and distancing it from the masses. Such terminology strips away subjectivity and human agency, and objectifies the narrative, making it even more difficult for readers of the source texts to feel something for the stories they are reading (Van Dijk, 1998).

Arabic media, on the other hand, emphasizes communal responsibility and hospitality through its use of root based derivatives, in line with its sociocultural norms and ideologies of community cohesion. Cultural and Islamic connotations of unity and solidarity are embedded in Arabic terms like "هجرة" (migration), from the root "ه-ج-ر" (to emigrate), which are often used for discussions on migration.

The Spanish media combine natural imagery with urgency through conceptual metaphors such as *"ola migratoria"* (migration wave); thus, they frame migration as a repetitive process and as a crisis. These metaphors, as well as *"crisis de refugiados"* (refugee crisis) contain a double nature in which both urgency is provoked, as well as humanitarian notions. This double nature aligns with Spain's functions as both a postcolonial conversationalist, as well as a gateway in the Mediterranean (Ramón, 2016).

French media take a similar approach to Spanish media in balancing two narratives in the discourse surrounding migration. The term *"flux migratoire"* indicates continuity, while the term *"crise des réfugiés"* communicates a state of emergency. Given France's past with migration, the balance of French narratives is between security concerns and humanitarians, and they empathize with migrants and refugees but must consider responses to logistical challenges that come with them.

4. Discussion

The analysis demonstrated that framing in news media preserves ideological biases, reflects cultural norms, and manages power dynamics concerning the migration discourse. The translated texts deviate from the source texts in how they build migrants and refugees narratives (Baker, 2006; Aminzadeh & Anari, 2018), whether they adhere to

socio-cultural norms and political rhetoric, biases of in-group and out-group, words with unique connotation, and the addition and omission from source texts in anticipation of readers' expectations and perceived information needs.

Table 1. Summary of dominant frames across languages, demonstrating translation as reframing

Language	Dominant Frame
Arabic	Moral/religious solidarity + communal hospitality
German	Bureaucratic/governmental threat
Spanish	Balanced empathetic crisis
French	Hybrid humanitarian-security narrative

Analysis of translated texts from different geo-political regions demonstrated clear ideological priorities. German media detach subjectivity from narratives and frame migration as a bureaucratic and governmental issue. Depictions of refugees and migrants are shaped by the German and European political landscape and, due to their threat oriented view of these populations, enactment of policies can exclude and discriminate. Arabic media provide almost a completely different narrative, as they emphasize moral imperatives, communal solidarity, and hospitality. Arabic media criticize the structures and systems that produce migrants and refugees instead of viewing them as an isolated issue or blaming them for sole culpability. French and Spanish media provide a balanced hybrid position as results from historical connections and differences. Both simultaneously highlight humanitarian concerns and emergency narratives, with French texts also considering security concerns.

Findings of the present study are consistent with Baker's (2006) assertions that translators act as narrative reframers. Arabic texts cut down on the dehumanized and politicized framings found in German source texts, instead advancing communal narratives, Spanish texts address the situation as per Spain's own identity as a sender and recipient of migrants, German texts introduce objectivity to accounts in line with political and cultural tensions, and French translations allude to France's history, adding more context.

However, framing differences across the four languages can be partly explained by structural and typological features, not just ideology. For example, Arabic's root based morphology and phrasing make it easy to highlight communal values, hospitality, and religiously influenced solidarity. Whereas, German's compound heavy nouns naturally lend themselves to more bureaucratic and technical descriptions of migration as an administrative issue. Similarly, French and Spanish have well-established ways of expressing humanitarian crises and social emergencies. This can make texts lean toward crisis focused, but empathetic, framing, even without clear ideological intent. Still, simply looking at structure does not fully explain the repeated use of certain words, metaphors, or omissions across outlets and over time.

These patterns suggest that ideology, institutional routines, and editorial policies also play a role. Public service or centrist European outlets operate in political and media contexts where security, integration, and policy debates are important, which pushes translators and editors toward bureaucratic and threat focused framing. In contrast, Arabic outlets serve audiences familiar with displacement, war, and religious ethics of hospitality, making solidarity-driven, morally charged narratives both expected and effective. Translation, then, does not happen in isolation: translators and editors balance the linguistic possibilities of each language with the ideological goals of their organizations and the expectations of their audiences. This fits with Baker's (2006) idea of translators as narrative negotiators. It shows that language features and editorial policies interact with, rather than replace, ideology. As well as the fact that framing differences in the corpus are best understood as a result of this complex mix, rather than just linguistic factors.

Furthermore, framing differences may partly come from everyday journalistic practices, where standard sources are used, such as government data in German outlets and UNHCR reports in Arabic media. This can lead to the repetition of dominant frames rather than the creation of new ones (Armstrong & Neuendorf, 1992). They may also be influenced by how important certain events were during the 2015-2023 period, with peak moments encouraging "crisis" framing instead of long-term solidarity (Pan & Kosicki, 1993). In addition, shared international news agencies may provide basic narratives. Meaning that translation sometimes strengthens existing patterns rather than fully reframing them ideologically (Omidian Sijani, 2023), especially when commercial pressures favor audience engagement over activism (Gamson, 1989). Linguistic features and editorial policies also play a role, as discussed above. However, the consistent pattern of changes across outlets, such as German bureaucratic terms regularly becoming more moral and solidarity based in Arabic (as shown through concordance analysis), goes beyond routine repetition or strict source use. This suggests that translators actively negotiate ideology, as described by Baker (2006).

This study contributes to research on critical discourse analysis and migration by focusing on translation as a measurable factor in how migration is framed. As well as by connecting translation studies with media discourse analysis, using a multilingual corpus of 300 articles from 2015 to 2023. Unlike earlier CDA studies, such as Xu (2020) and Omidian Sijani (2023), which mainly examine framing within single languages, this study looks at translation shifts as an independent ideological mechanism. These shifts were measured using Sketch Engine concordances and analyzed through Baker's (2006) Narrative Theory. This showed how German bureaucratic framings like *"Asylmissbrauch"* are

reshaped into Arabic solidarity based language, Spanish empathetic framing, or mixed French approaches. By applying Van Dijk's Ideological Square to comparable translated corpora, the study demonstrates how ideology is reproduced through cross lingual mediation, an area that has not been fully explored before. It offers a scalable method that highlights translators as active agents across different academic fields.

The media has a critical role in shaping public beliefs, opinions, and attitudes towards, and perceptions of, refugees and migrants through its framing of narratives (Fairclough, 1995; Omidian Sijani, 2023). Readers' perceptions are subtly constructed and shaped, bypassing their conscious level of awareness through peripheral routes and deceptive mechanisms. In order to combat this, readers can engage with given texts mindfully and employ critical reading skills to break down and inspect implicit ideologies and agendas (Mustafa-Awad & Kirner-Ludwig, 2021). Opinions and experiences of former refugees and existing migrants on integration and cohesion practices should be included in the discourse on migration for a more inclusive, relatable, practical, and accurate approach (Kämmer & Albert, 2023). Furthermore, journalists must address their own personal biases towards refugees and migrants, and cater to how these are reflected in their works, providing more neutral reports (Aswad, 2019).

The present study focuses mainly on qualitative CDA analysis using Baker's (2006) Narrative Theory and Van Dijk's (1998) Ideological Square to examine translation shifts, word choices, and in-group out-group biases across 300 comparable multilingual articles. Sketch Engine concordancing was used to help align themes and identify patterns, while thematic consistency was ensured manually. However, quantitative methods such as word frequency counts, collocation analysis, or statistical testing were not applied in a systematic way. As a result, findings of the present study are more descriptive, limiting generalizability and statistical support.

5. Conclusion

The present study confirmed Baker's (2006) assertions of translators serving as narrative reframers. Findings revealed how shifts in translation, in-group out-group biases, and lexical framings reflected a given nation's cultural norms and political ideologies in translated texts. German and Arabic media outlets are strikingly different in their portrayals of migrants and refugees, whereas Spanish and French texts hold hybrid stances as per their respective histories, legacies, identities, and affiliations. Future researchers are encouraged to broaden the geographical and cultural landscape for sources, include regional dialects, and inspect other forms of media such as podcasts, visual, and social etcetera. Additionally, they could improve on the current study's limitations by combining qualitative reframing analysis with corpus based frequency data (such as collocation patterns of different "refugee" terms), to better support and compare framing differences across languages.

Authors contributions

Prof. Dr. Renata Asali-van der Wal conceived the overall study design, developed the theoretical framework, and was responsible for the German corpus analysis and the structural organization of the manuscript. She also coordinated the comparative methodology and led the writing process.

Prof. Dr. Renad Al-Momani conducted the Spanish corpus analysis and contributed to the contrastive interpretation of media framing across languages. She also participated in revising the manuscript critically for intellectual content.

Associate Prof. Dr. Riham Jaradat was responsible for the French corpus analysis and contributed to data interpretation and comparative discussion. She reviewed and refined the manuscript with a focus on linguistic accuracy and analytical coherence.

All authors contributed intellectually to the study, reviewed the final version of the manuscript, and approved it for submission. The authors contributed equally to the scholarly content of the research within their respective language specializations.

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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