



## **2.3.2 Framing & discourse**

**Chair: Sarah Van Leuven // Room: Albert I**

### **2.3.2.1 The framing of migration by Flemish politicians: A comparative content analysis of newspapers, television, Facebook and Twitter**

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The current research focuses on the role of frame sponsors, more specifically politicians of the six main Flemish political parties (N-VA, Open Vld, CD&V, sp.a, Groen or Vlaams Belang), in framing the public debate about migration in the news as well as on social media. More specifically, we investigated the presence of four frames: the intruder frame, the victim frame, the wealth gap frame and the win-win frame (Van Gorp et al., 2018). We collected statements on migration or migrants made by Flemish politicians between 1 January 2016 and 30 June 2018 in four different types of media. We selected the five most read national newspapers: Het Laatste Nieuws, Het Nieuwsblad, De Standaard, De Morgen, and De Tijd. The television news items were collected from the 19h daily newscast VTM Nieuws (commercial broadcaster) and 19h daily newscast Het Journaal (public broadcaster VRT, Eén). On Twitter and Facebook, we included the official accounts of the political parties as well as the official accounts of their most important politicians (party leaders, Ministers and State Secretaries in the Federal and Flemish government, party experts on migration). In each of the four media, the units of registration are the statements by Flemish politicians containing at least one of the keywords “migration” or “migrant”. We only selected the verbatim quotes by politicians. The newspaper data were collected through the GoPress database, the TV items through the ENA (Elektronisch Nieuwsarchief) database, the Twitter data using the Twitter API, and the Facebook data by means of a manual scraping (due to practical limitations only the 50 most recent posts). The study was conducted by two independent coders. The intercoder reliability test resulted in strong kappa values (ranging from 0.617 to 1).

We collected 1528 statements of 82 politicians representing the six parties; 47.9% (732) from N-VA, 27.1% (414) Vlaams Belang, 8.2% (125) Open Vld, 6.0% (91) CD&V, 5.9% (90) sp.a, and 5.0% (76) Groen. Importantly, only 245 of these statements contain one of the four researched frames (16.0%). This is not a surprise, since a lot of quotes are just factual and too short to contain framing or reasoning devices. The intruder frame is by far the most used frame (73.1%), followed by the victim frame (22.0%), wealth gap frame (3.7%), and win-win frame (1.2%). Vlaams Belang (38.8%) had the most framed statements, shortly followed by N-VA (35.9%). Both parties used the intruder frame the most. In



contrast, the other four parties used the victim frame the most. We also found differences in frame use depending on the media type. The overrepresentation of the intruder frame on Twitter and television is related to the dominance of N-VA and Vlaams Belang accounts in these platforms. We also compared the framed statements in the media to the official views as carried out in the parties' election programs (2014) which turn out to be more neutral, less emotional and comprise more alternatively framed statements about migration.

### **2.3.2.2 Comparison of eleven discursive events related to immigration in Belgian public and commercial Television**

***Valeriane Mistiaen***

This paper is in line with our previous article “Depiction of Immigration in Television News: Public and Commercial Broadcasters – a Comparison” (Mistiaen, forthcoming 2019) and contributes to the study of Belgian French-language immigration TV news. Indeed, in Belgium, if few comparable studies are available for Dutch-language immigration TV news items (Van den Bulck & Broos, 2011; Beckers *et al.*, 2018), we do not know any for the French-language TV. Based on images and language interfaces, different media will organize their own rhetoric according to what they think their audience expects (Tétu, 2004: 9–10) but also according to commercial logics and their own environment (Kleemans & Hendriks Vettehen, 2009).

In our previous article (Mistiaen, forthcoming 2019), we study the quantity and the quality of the news items on immigration—with emphasis on refugees—broadcast by Belgium's most popular French-language TV channels, *RTL-TVI* (commercial channel) and *La Une* (public channel). We conclude first that although *La Une* offers longer newscasts, news items on immigration were less numerous than on *RTL-TVI*. Nonetheless, even if the number of immigration sequences is less significant on *La Une* for the period under study, the channel actually deals with a wider range of topics and offers a wider view of the situation, including a greater number of different actors while *RTL-TVI* mainly focuses on emotional events.

In this article, we intend to investigate how public and commercial Belgian French-language TV newscasts diverge in the coverage of eleven similar immigration news items broadcasted from the 28<sup>th</sup> of August to the 24<sup>th</sup> of September 2015 (respectively 9301 words and 12,875 words). To compare the selected twin news items, we led an in-depth qualitative analysis, followed by a lexical analysis complemented by Corpus Linguistics tools.

The main result shows that both channels have a similar way to process news