Crime Reporting on Online News Media

A Comparative Sentiment Analysis between the United Arab Emirates and the United States

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Abstract:

Today's media-saturated world has resulted in crime reporting providing a means by which public perceptions are shaped, and criminal justice policies are affected. This study uses sentiment analysis and topic modeling to compare crime narratives in two major online newspapers, Gulf News (UAE) and The New York Times (USA). This research combines artificial intelligence-powered sentiment analysis and topic modeling to conduct a comparative analysis of crime stories in Gulf News (UAE) and The New York Times (USA). It clarifies emotionality, thematic trends, and relations of power, and discursively reveals that Gulf News aims to consolidate state and government discourses and that The New York Times addresses systemic failures and tests institutional frameworks. By leveraging AI tools, this work is a critical contribution to the field, with a strong focus on cross-cultural variation in reporting about crime. In addition, a pilot study was conducted in an attempt to streamline study design and authenticate AI-powered methodologies. This study brings significant insights into media framing, ethics in journalism, and ideology in reporting about crime, with a bearing on public perception in the long run.

Keywords:

Crime Reporting, Media Narratives, Sentiment Analysis.

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التغطية الإخبارية للجرائم على وسائل الإعلام الإلكترونية
تحليل مقارن بين الإمارات العربية المتحدة والولايات المتحدة الأمريكية

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ملخص الدراسة:

يشكّل عالمنا المُشبَع بوسائل الإعلام اليوم واقعًا يُساهم فيه تناول الجرائم في تشكيل التصورات العامة وتؤثر في سياسات العدالة الجنائية. في هذه الدراسة، نستخدم تحليل المشاعر ونمذجة المواضيع للمقارنة بين سرديات الجرائم في صحيفتين إلكترونيتين رئيسيتين، وهما "جلف نيوز" (الإمارات العربية المتحدة) و"نيويورك تايمز" (الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية). يجمع هذا البحث بين تحليل المشاعر المدعوم بالذكاء الاصطناعي لإجراء تحليل مقارن لقصص الجريمة في جلف نيوز (الإمارات العربية المتحدة) ونيويورك تايمز (الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية). ويوضح العاطفة والاتجاهات الموضوعية وعلاقات القوة، ويكشف خطابيًا أن جلف نيوز تهدف إلى توحيد خطابات الدولة والحكومة وأن نيويورك تايمز تعالج الإخفاقات النظامية وتختبر الأطر المؤسسية. من خلال الاستفادة من أدوات الذكاء الاصطناعي لتعزيز تحليل الخطاب النقدي، يعد هذا العمل مساهمة مهمة في هذا المجال، مع التركيز القوي على التنوع بين الثقافات في الإبلاغ عن الجريمة. بالإضافة إلى ذلك، أجريت دراسة تجريبية في محاولة لتبسيط تصميم الدراسة وإثبات صحة المنهجيات المدعومة بالذكاء الاصطناعي. تقدم هذه الدراسة رؤى مهمة في تأطير وسائل الإعلام، والأخلاق في الصحافة، والأيديولوجية في الإبلاغ عن الجريمة، مع تأثير على الإدراك العام في الأمد البعيد.

الكلمات الدالة:

تغطية الجرائم، سرديات وسائل الإعلام، تحليل المشاعر.

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Introduction:

By analyzing data from two online newspapers, this study illustrates the significance of combining media language and power structures. Based on theoretical foundations (van Dijk, 2020; Wodak, 2015), it illustrates how discourse determines public perception, and more specifically how this takes place in politically controlled (van Dijk and Kress, 2018) and liberal media contexts (Seib, 2011). It brings the qualitative/quantitative computational methods to produce a replicable media characterization framework that answers gaps in large language model (LLM) application in media studies. This approach grounds data-driven insights in sociopolitical contexts to improve the interpretability and societal applicability of computational models.

Included in this study is the analysis of how Gulf News (UAE) versus The New York Times (USA) report on 2023 crimes, reflecting and reinforcing social power dynamics in society. Gulf News highlights administrative control and enforcement successes against 'state narratives, and public trust in government. On the other hand, The New York Times is an adversary whose focus is systemic failure, the commission of violent crimes, or social problems in the name of changing institutions. The analysis uses Hall's (1980)encoding/decoding model and Chouliaraki's (2008) mediated agency framework, to explain how media messages encode messages consistent with state-centric or reformist ideologies to direct audiences toward the purview of authority and justice.

The framework used here is Fairclough's (1995) analysis of how language constructs and maintains power relations. This approach allows the interpretation of machine-coded results to be enriched and shows how media coverage conditions public responses to crime.

The study proves that there are sharp differences in how crime is reported among cultures. This makes crime a manageable situation according to Gulf News by highlighting more regulations and accomplishments in law enforcement systems. On the other hand, The New York Times views crime as part of system problems and only targets crimes involving school shootings, hate crimes, and other social injustices to mention but a few. These portrayals align with the media agendas of each society: Thus, the main function of Gulf News is to create confidence in governmental efficiency and social stability, while that of the New York Times is to portray governmental responsibility and the necessity of change.

Besides its contribution to understanding the role of media in shaping societal perceptions and power relations, this study offers insightful suggestions to media reformers. It shows how media language and cultural values create a relationship between media language towards crime and justice and public opinion on crime. Moreover, it reveals the methodological advantages of computational tools to 'nuancedly' analyze media discourse. This work supports the critical and data-driven approach to expose how media narratives shape public opinion and decision-making in different sociopolitical contexts.

Significance of Study:

The purpose of this study is to illustrate how AI sentiment-driven analysis and topic modeling can be integrated to study crime reporting in different media landscapes. This paper highlights how Gulf News and The New York Times collate crime narratives that are by the state of stability in the UAE and systemic failures in the USA. The study uncovers how media narratives create the public impressions of crime, governance, and justice as well as what attempts to influence people's trust in institutions and the orientations of policy discourse. Finally, this study makes a methodological contribution by connecting computational analysis with the interpretation of qualitative methods, offering a replicable framework for discourse analysis. By implication, crime reporting is linked with journalism ethics, media framing, and policy making in a more sophisticated way than the ways dark and scary have been used and circulated. To accomplish this, the paper aimed at answering the following research questions:

- How do crime narratives differ between Gulf News (UAE) and The New York Times (USA) in terms of sentiment, thematic focus, and framing?
- What role do emotional tones in crime reporting play in shaping public perceptions of crime, governance, and law enforcement in the UAE and the USA?
- How does the integration of AI-powered sentiment analysis and topic modeling enhance the understanding of media discourse on crime?
- In what ways do media representations of crime reflect and reinforce broader sociopolitical structures, power dynamics, and cultural values in the UAE and the USA?

Theoretical Framework: Comparative Crime Coverage

Media Representation of Crime

Since the 1950s, crime has been portrayed in myriad forms (e.g., television, film, and news reporting) and portrayed in multiple ways (Kuligowski & Griffin, 2010; Pfau, Mullen, & Westley, 1995; Pollak & Kubrin, 2007). Fairclough (1995) contends that media language not only reflects the world but also constructs the meanings within society and reinforces their power relations. In line with this, Al-Jenaibi (2010) emphasizes that the media's representation of crime reinforces crime-associated stereotypes (racial and ethnic groups in particular). Following Bourdieu (1991) one also finds journals dramatizing high-profile crimes, skewing the public's view of crime, while Jewkes (2004), adds that the words used to talk about crime reflect social hierarchy.

On the other hand, the media also counter public misunderstanding about crime. For example, Potter and Warren (2013) showed that documentaries that depict crime in a complex manner promote one's understanding of criminal justice. This helps Fairclough's (2012) argument that media narratives can undermine current ideologies by providing other perspectives. This is also consistent with Bourdieu's

(1998) idea that media discourse may reinforce or challenge how society is set, as Winther Jørgensen & Phillips (2000) also insist that media discourse can offer counter-narratives that oppose the views of a powerful group.

Media Representation of Crime in the UAE

UAE's crime reporting is quite reserved and factual and is a manifestation of broader sociopolitical intentions related to sustaining social stability (Alharbi, 2018; Al-Dhaheri, 2019; Al-Mezaini, 2011). According to Fairclough (2010), such an approach is congruent with the media's function as a state instrument to sustain order and control. According to Al-Rawi (2013) and Al-Najjar (2012), UAE media also presents crime as a manifestation of individual behavior, rather than as a result of systemic factors, similar observations were presented by Rios (2018). In keeping with the ideology that maintaining stability is a result of individual responsibility, the focus on prevention is a prevailing occurrence in media discourse that follows Fairclough's (2015) stance that media discourse can be utilized to develop public perceptions to support state policies.

Media Representation of Crime in the USA

However, crime reporting in the USA is typically sensationalized, and centered around violent incidents and systemic problems (Chermak, 1995; Sloan, 2017; Heber, 2007). According to Fairclough (1995), this complies with his theory that a media narrative could sustain the polarization of power by portraying stereotypes. As Fairclough (2013) shows and Greer and Reiner (2003) note, U.S. media is used to critique institutional failures through crime stories. Similarly, Jewkes (2015) notes that the U.S. media tends to focus on racialized violence, thereby enhancing social discrimination, something that Hier (2018) and Uzuegbunam (2020) have also found: media coverage may reflect, and reinforce, social inequalities.

Crime Rates and Media Coverage

There are differences in how crime reporting is between the UAE and the USA, and this difference is due to the real crime rates in each of these countries. The nature and magnitude of the crime rates in the UAE are much lower than in the USA and, hence, is an obvious reason for the type and extent of media coverage of such reported crimes. The difference between their crime index is too much: the USA ranks 47.7 and the UAE 14.6 (World Population Review, 2023). In second place are countries with lower crime rates, such as the UAE, where media projects that focus more on the prevention and effectiveness of law enforcement, can be described. On the other hand, the United States has a higher crime rate which contributes to a more continual and varied news cycle and so commonly results in more sensational and critical reporting. As media in high-crime contexts have often sought to capture audience attention, Fairclough (2015) provides some ways in which media can use more sensationalist narratives to draw attention to social issues.

This framework is applied to the Gulf News and NYT to show the divergence of only choices of language and diverging power dynamics within society, as displayed by the Gulf News and NYT. This thesis bases its argument on Hall's (1980) encoding/decoding model, and it demonstrates how messages related to state-centric or reformist ideology in societal contexts using media. Additionally, these findings corroborate Chouliaraki's (2008) reflections on the mediating agencies where representations of law enforcement or systemic critique affect the public agency and trust.

Sentiment Analysis in Crime Reporting

The evaluation of crime-related articles through sentiment analysis allows researchers to understand both emotional tones as well as public perception effects of such articles. Multiple research investigations have tried to use sentiment analysis for crime reporting by studying its impact on police work alongside journalistic ethics and societal viewpoints on crime (Al-Harbi, 2018; Chermak, 1995). The evaluation of these research studies shows both improvements in experimental approaches and weaknesses that need improvement.

Strengths and Contributions

The main value of sentiment analysis in crime reporting involves using numerical scales to track public feelings about both criminal occurrences and police actions. The research by He and Luo (2019) which employed machine learning models showed that media reports about violent crimes in the United States produce fear and anxiety leading to moral panics in society according to Hier (2018). Natural Language processing techniques utilized by Wani et al. (2021) demonstrated that NLP methods show varying sentiment scores which depend on the combination of crimes and regional areas.

Sentiment analysis exposes ideological biases in crime news according to research conducted by Al-Rawi (2013) and Pollak and Kubrin (2007). Studies reveal that media outlets in the UAE show minimal to positive reporting on crimes as part of their government-controlled policies to support state control while Western media tend to display stronger emotional tones when expressing crime-related criticism of systemic failures (Greer & Reiner, 2003).

Limitations and Challenges

Multiple obstacles confront the use of sentiment analysis for crime reporting even after technological enhancements have been implemented. Numerous research investigations use sentiment classification systems that depend on lexicon analysis, but these prove insufficient in recognizing contextual expressions or sarcastic statements (Bender et al., 2021). The way storylines shape these words in reports determines whether they have positive or negative wording that impacts sentiment analysis accuracy (Oliinyk & Naumenko, 2018).

Current research approaches Western media contexts while this practice restricts the universal application of their results between various media systems. The analysis of U.S. crime reporting through sentiment techniques has received extensive research attention in criticism of racial stereotypes and media sensationalism (Jewkes, 2015) yet research into Middle Eastern media remains scarce specifically studying media sentiment rather than state-controlled coverage (Al-Mezaini, 2011). Essential knowledge is lacking about effective sentiment analysis implementation strategies for non-Western media spaces since their censorship and controlled news reporting follow different patterns.

Sentiment analysis systems fail to detect elaborate discourse techniques that appear in crime reporting documents. Current research that relies on machine learning models singularly fails to analyze the influence of social power structures and framing and intertextuality on media narratives based on Fairclough (1995). Research needs to combine Critical Discourse Analysis with sentiment analysis to enhance knowledge about crime reporting ideology according to the findings presented in this study.

Sentiment Analysis in General News Reporting

Neutral and emotional language in the news media serves as an analytical focus that sentiment analysis helps researchers understand through its widespread use in news media research (Davidson 2021). Multiple articles in this field analyze various sentiment dimensions such as political news sentiment (Boudana, 2011), economic reporting (Thornborrow, 2004), and crisis communication (Uzuegbunam, 2020).

The process of sentiment analysis serves as a vital tool for both detecting media bias and setting agenda standards according to multiple academic investigations. According to Sloan (2017), U.S. news outlets create different emotional patterns when covering political news because conservative and liberal media outlets choose different emotional expressions. Tamkin et al. (2021) conducted research on financial news sentiment trends which demonstrated the market response to both positive and negative emotions in news reporting.

Sentiment analysis acts as a tool for following public reactions towards significant events such as terrorist attacks and pandemics in crisis reporting scenarios. Hier (2018) conducted research that showed media outlets regulate the intensity of public emotions to boost and suppress social anxiety levels affecting both risk understanding and governance outcomes.

General news reporting using sentiment analysis receives criticism mainly because of its reductionist method of operation. Numerous research efforts in sentiment analysis apply either positive-binary or basic positive-negative-neutral sentiment categorization (Winther Jørgensen & Phillips, 2000) to journalistic texts despite their inability to interpret complex emotional expressions in news articles. Sentiment classification algorithms have been found to present biases in research

due to their biased lexical sentiment databases when processing politically controversial matters (Bourdieu, 1998). Research studies on sentiment analysis show limited findings because they do not combine quantitative methods with qualitative data assessment (Fairclough, 2015). Scholars suggest that sentiment analysis needs to partner with discourse analysis together with ethnographic methods or corpus linguistics to develop holistic enriching interpretations (Greer & Reiner, 2003).

The Big Crime Coverage Tradeoff

The conclusions reached in this study highlight what may be called 'The Big Crime Coverage Tradeoff.' This paper shows that the UAE relies on a controlled media environment that maintains hegemonic perceptions of security and stability through the support of government-dominant discourses while limiting the public's engagement with the realities of crime and its relations. However, this approach is capable of distorting information, while the citizens continue to be presented with a partial view of the world around them. On the other hand, the free press in the USA encourages responsibility and openness because of reckless exposure as most of the events causing public alarm can be attributed to sensationalism. According to Fairclough (2015), the method of the narrative which is constituted through media could either reproduce or transform the power relation; thus, the media has the intertwined function of forming the public perspective.

The current research expands crime reporting by integrating an AI method which enhances replication potential and reduces qualitative demands according to Fairclough (1995) and van Dijk (2020). This study examines the criminal accounts in state-managed Gulf News-UAE and independent The New York Times-USA newspapers to bridge official news gaps with independent reporting based on Jewkes (2015), Greer and Reiner (2003), Alharbi (2018) and Al-Rawi (2013). The research adopts equipped methodologies for analyzing political and ideological effects on criminal news reports as suggested by Chermak (1995) and Hier (2018). The study evaluates the government-controlled media assessment of crime coverage even though it does not focus on how Middle Eastern media audiences receive investigative crime discourse according to Pollak & Kubrin (2007) and Sloan (2017). The analysis between sentiment detection and topic modeling helps progress the development of superior media discourse assessment tools through systematic comparative research methods.

Data and Methodology

This research work aims to find out how crime is reported in two major online newspapers: the Gulf News from UAE and The New York Times from the USA. It includes only articles from the year 2023 for the relevance of research findings and their applicability. Sixty-nine cross-sectional articles were considered in the study, out of which fifty were taken from Gulf News and nineteen from NYT. This metadata involved the inclusion of features such as publication dates, authors, and full text that are inclusive of media practices in the regions corresponding to every

article. We use a combination of techniques, including sentiment analysis and topic modeling.

This combination not only facilitates a detailed comparative analysis of media representations of crime but also contributes methodologically when showing how the use of AI-driven tools enhances seemingly exhaustive machine-coded findings.

Data Collection Process

Articles were sourced from LexisNexis; the preliminary list of keywords was generated concerning typical crime terms, including 'robbery', 'assault', 'fraud', ' criminal activity', 'police probe', and 'legal proceedings'. It also assists in fixing the modality of each of the publications to enhance the language used in the first run search. For example, it was ascertained that content from Gulf News was replete with such terms and UAE laws, whereas NYT articles comprised generic legal expressions. Based on these observations, the search terms were further refined:

- **Gulf News:** "Dubai crime," "UAE criminal investigation," "theft cases UAE."
- **The New York Times:** "New York crime report," "U.S. legal proceeding," "international crime cases."

Local newspapers and magazines were initially hand-searched to include only articles that referred to 'crime' literally, not metaphorically, and which provided a first account of a criminal act, an investigation, or a trial.

Analytical Framework

Sentiment analysis tracks the emotional content in texts and labels detected emotions such as anger, fear, trust, and others. Analyzing vast text datasets gives us basic numerical evidence about how language in media affects public views on crime. Sentiment analysis in articles uses NLP tools to show both hidden prejudices in reports and major themes found in media coverage of crime.

By examining crime-related news stories sentiment analysis reveals if journalists use words and expressions that create fear or fearlessness as well as doubts or an urgent need for action. Examining media content in this way shows us which news companies focus on punishing crime versus social issues and structural problems. A text-based method identifies emotional strength and types from captured emotions in news content.

This research uses sentiment analysis to study how the Gulf News and The New York Times build their crime reports. The method measures shifts in emotional response to help see if news matches official goals helps define accepted views or sparks public debates. The New York Times may discuss details of police work and government guidelines and propose ways to fix broken institutional systems.

Results

The findings discuss how Gulf News and The New York Times handle crime news by studying their most used words, emotions, and topics. This section explains how each news outlet develops crime stories through its chosen language elements and selects its thematic focus based on cultural and organizational views.

Figure 1: Most Common Words in Crime Stories Across Papers[*]
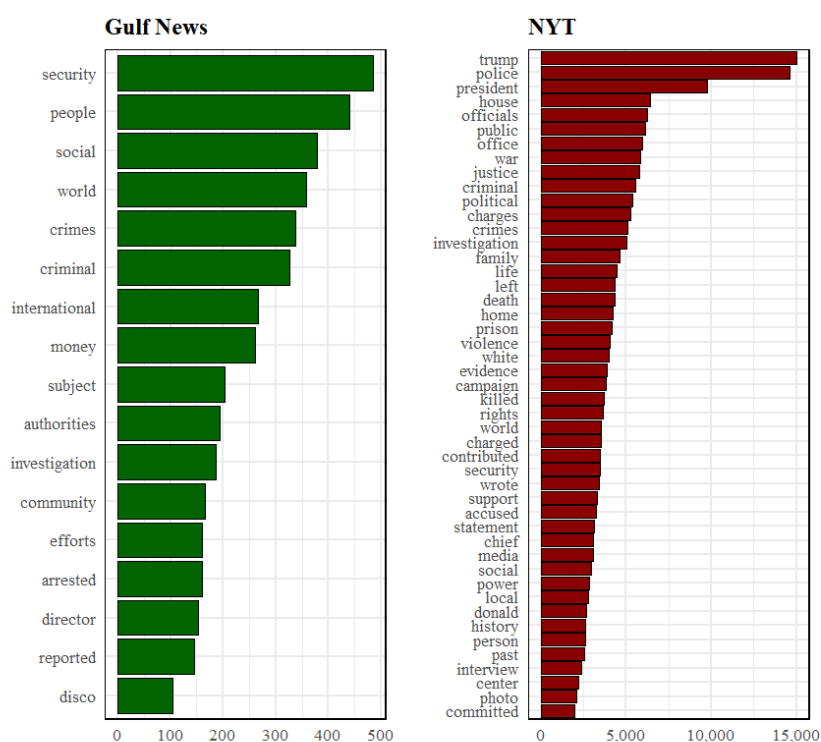
Analyzing the language that Gulf News and the NYT employ to tell crime stories is another method to demonstrate power relations and ideological stances illustrated in Figure 1. Gulf News has given much importance to words like security, people, social, community, people and crimes, criminal, and investigation. This implies a textual practice of emphasizing state agendas and constructed representations of crime as a menace to order that can be managed by state agencies. This language overwrites law enforcement and regulation with the image of stability, which is mandated by the culture of trust in state agents and bodies. The failure to use

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[*] Note: These figures include words that appeared in at least 25% of the documents but not in more than 50% of them. All technical legal and court-related words were removed. Words that were common but not informative were also removed.

highly charged terms or politically charged words reveals a depoliticized 'order' image of crime that is served to maintain institutional rationality.

While the NYT used more political and emotional terms such as 'Trump', 'justice', 'war', 'violence', and 'death'. These discourses reflect a critique of a system and relations of power, putting crime into the political and social frameworks. Thus words, such as 'charges,' 'officials,' and 'prison' convey the idea of responsibility and institutional negligence, 'killed', and 'hate' increases the readers' emotional commitment. It is rebellious, it comes with protests against the unjust structures in society and demands change. I have therefore shown that the NYT's crime discourse constructs a story that questions power relations in society while at the same time berating institutional failure and calling for reform.

Gulf News puts crime within these diverging discourses to underline a message of stability and institutional perfections, while NYT hovers over the systemic critique and the dysfunctional society. These linguistic decisions show how each outlet places itself among broader frameworks of the cultural and ideological to recreate public constellations of crime and authority. These stories do not just describe criminal events but steer how people view crimes by using particular language techniques. Media crime frameworks support institutional thinking and societal rules to steer audience interaction with crime issues.

Sentiment Analysis Results

Figure 2 illustrates how crime articles in Gulf News and The New York Times display different emotional sentiments across their publications. Each news outlet structures its reporting on crime using emotional tones that match its general cultural themes to inform its readers about crime.

In Gulf News, things are focused on 'anger' and 'fear', with the events that people feel more anxious about being the crime prevention measures and the violations of social norms. These sentiments are indeed prevalent, and in so doing, those sentiments speak to a state competence and public accountability narrative of governance. For instance, in headlines such as: "Gulf News spoke with legal experts in the UAE, who said that the law helps provide security and respect on online platforms," the outlet uses language to advertise law enforcement efficacy while asserting that compliance to them is part of citizens' civic responsibility. In somewhat the same vein, rules that enable one to prosecute people for writing false information on social networks for the sake of harming other people's reputations carry the message that achieving stability and social harmony would be best served by active means of legal enforcement. It's this spirit of these examples that mirrors the "trust" sentiment, which is an antithetical sentiment to fear and anticipation and brings forward thinking to address crimes, respect ethics within institutions, give the impression of the institution's predictability and capacity to exhibit the authority and ability of the state to provide safety and order to the public.

Figure 2: Most Common Sentiment in Crime Stories Across Papers

Counts of Most Common Sentiment
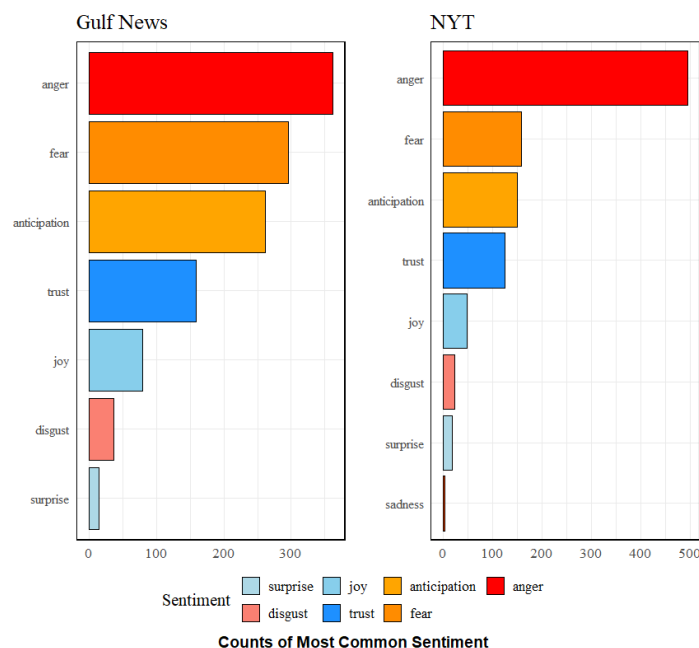
On the other hand, though the NYT is more often 'angry' it displays a greater range of emotions; "fear," "disgust," and hints of 'sadness', suggesting a more critical crime reporting approach. It is witnessed in quotes like, "The arrests followed a two-year investigation into corruption charges involving several police officers and it resulted in outrage over systemic issues," which points out institutional failings and strengthens public frustration. Just like this week, NYT demonstrates how emotionally charged language is used to criticize the gaps in institutional responses by mentioning gaps in the investigative process for the case of Idaho murder in court records, unsealed this week. In the statement, the paper also points to the article's emphasizing moral outrage and systemic dysfunction, by the laws of the statement that: 'The NYT's article about a mass shooting highlights how institutions so often fail to stop such tragedies.' The discourse in this place creates a feeling of emergency and criticism, seeing crime as a symptom of processes deeper in the very society and the economy beyond the simple event.

Crime stories in Gulf News show how the paper presents law enforcement whereas The New York Times uses sentiment to discuss police performance differently. Gulf News builds stories that show law enforcement works well to build confidence and expects the response will lead to stable control of public safety. The New York Times reports anger and sadness to show how institutional failings hurt society. The publication wants to push other institutions and government agencies to change their way of doing business. These emotional approaches follow specific plans that match each media outlet's worldwide views about rules and power. The New York Times aims to change the system by asking for an investigation, but Gulf News supports official management as part of national goals. These emotional

approaches show how each news organization decides its role in helping people understand crime and law enforcement power in their particular working sector.

In the news article from Gulf News, such 'anger' words as 'criminal,' 'court,' and 'accused' are located within a discourse that stabilizes institutions and state authority. They include the following: "Sheikh Hamdan also emphasized the need for cooperation in the provision of the rule of law, fight on crime and dissemination of knowledge and experience in the field." Likewise, "Sheikh Hamdan commended the UAE security forces for efforts towards the provision of security and fight against crime and their yeoman desire for cooperation with the police forces across the globe," similarly maintains the positive and energetic approach of law enforcement. These linguistic and narrative strategies channel collective 'outrage' towards specific offender figures and at the same time, construct confidence in institutional procedures and structures.

The underlined "fear" words in Table 1, for example, "police," "operation," and "dangerous," serve to underscore the role of institutions in mitigating the threat. The UAE's capability to achieve high levels of safety and security was driven by the will of leadership and their keenness to enable the country's security system for the protection of all sections of the community. What this means is that this statement reveals just how decisive law enforcement has been regarding public safety. Although fear in Gulf News does not point to systemic failures, it shows the capability of the state to manage and neutralize risks. In such framing, the public is reassured about the efficiency of the state and law enforcement as a last line of defense from the breakdown of societal order.

Table 1: Top 10 Anger, Fear, and Anticipation Words from Crime Stories Across Papers[†]

Gulf News			New York Times		
Anger	**Fear**	**Anticipation**	**Anger**	**Fear**	**Anticipation**
criminal (33)	police (162)	public (54)	crime (46)	Police (60)	time (17)
court (24)	operation (15)	investigation (19)	hate (30)	Shooter (16)	public (12)
Money (23)	dangerous (10)	mobile (11)	court (25)	government (9)	Church (9)
accused (22)	accident (9)	warned (11)	shooting (23)	Pandemic (8)	investigation (6)
crime (19)	fled (7)	Importance (9)	gun (20)	Hospital (7)	pay (6)
Gang (15)	intelligence (5)	immediately (8)	attack (17)	fire (6)	neighborhood (5)
Victim (14)	seizure (5)	time (8)	guilty (16)	suspect (6)	immediately (4)

[†] Note: Word occurrences count in parentheses.

Fraud (11)	smuggle (5)	Board (7)	violence (15)	war (4)	plea (4)
Lawyer (11)	tactics (5)	judicial (7)	assault (14)	indictment (3)	top (4)
defendant (10)	compassion (4)	plan (7)	criminal (14)	Injured (3)	track (4)

Yet as Table 1 shows, the NYT's language was a political, sensational, "anger" language: settling their "crime," "hate," and 'gun" angles against institutional inadequacies, further fueling public anger to build scandal. The NYT uses quotes such as, "Court records unsealed this week provided key insights to the Idaho murder case revealing holes in the investigative process and inspiring anger widespread," to draw anger to systemic shortcomings rather than individual acts of crime. The NYT too however proves that it puts its focus on systemic issues with the arrest coming after a two-year investigation into corruption charges involving several police officers resulting in public outrage.

"Fear" in the NYT is politicized, with the use of words like "shooter", "government", and "pandemic" reflecting great societal risks and institutional failures. As it were, the quote, "The NYT's article focuses on the implications of a mass shooting and brings to light how institutions routinely fail to prevent such tragedies," underlines this very approach. Here, fear is mobilized to indicate systemic dysfunction and societal vulnerability, rather than the reinforcement of institutional trust that was seen in Gulf News. The language used evokes emotion over topics such as gun violence and corruption, often building urgency for reform.

Moreover, Table 1 also details these contrasting narratives as part of the category of "anticipation." Anticipation in Gulf News is shaped as a forward-looking trust in institutional processes based on the words, 'public,' 'investigation,' and 'judicial.' The language betrays confidence in the state's ability to resolve cases and meet justice, in line with quotes that say the leadership has 'keenness to improve the country's security system.' The NYT, by contrast, employs words like "anticipation" and words like "time," "neighborhood," and "plea" to indicate ongoing dilemmas and a need for work. NYT focuses on high-profile crimes and failures of governance and much of what's anticipated is tied to systemic accountability.

The language of Table 1 from Gulf News embraces government ideas because it shows crimes can be controlled and law enforcement can keep society safe. The coverage shows institutions can control crime by using emotions of anger and fear to maintain confidence in their ability to handle disruptions. The approach stays within the limits and function of official authorities set up for crime control. The New York Times uses these emotions to discuss power dynamics and social problems in ways that produce more politicized and challenging opinions. The news article focuses on crime yet highlights organizational weaknesses to motivate society for change. While The New York Times uses emotions to critique social

issues and power structures the article shows more political aggression compared to the hometown newspaper article. The method shows more than crime details by identifying failed organizations that need to be made accountable.

These publishing platforms use different ways to explain criminality and police actions while showing power relations. Inside each newspaper publications uphold their publishers' political ways of thinking and cultural beliefs.

Comparison of Thematic Content in Crime Reporting

In Figure 3 the structure of three topics delivered the clearest results for examining crime news across Gulf News and The New York Times. Each newspaper shows its distinct editorial perspectives by addressing unique crime topics that differ substantially from those of other outlets. Language styles and story focus in Gulf News and The New York Times differ from each other due to their underlying roles in society. Gulf News chooses to explain crime stories by displaying the effectiveness of state power and security systems. While The New York Times covers criminal stories to reveal how government failures need improvement the newspaper differs from Gulf News's style.

Figure 3: Topic Model Coherence Scores across Papers
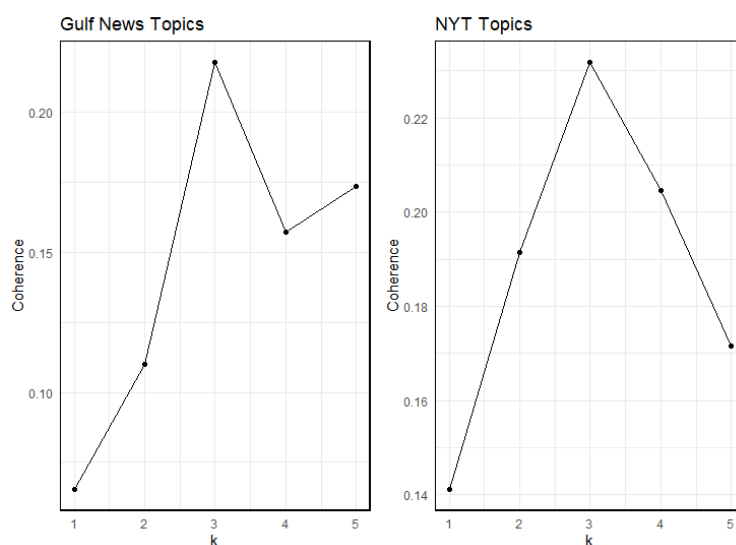
Gulf News Topics

Online Crime

Having words like "fraud", "money", "social media" and "electronic" in the Online Crime theme, that's how Gulf News procedurally would handle crime. Articles such as "Ramadan 2023: Crime involves a matter of individual responsibility and compliance with regulations, and are penalized with 'Dh5,000 fine, three months in jail for certain violations' frame. This is a language of governance, defined

broadly, which uses words like 'fine' and 'violations' to emphasize an institutional sense of order. Another article, "'Green Customs': also highlights cross-border activities on economic crime, thereby placing the UAE as a global leader on regulatory efficiency. The language in Gulf News shows crime can be controlled through government action and the police force. The news story stays objective and does not include personal emotions about the case participants nor focuses on court proceedings. Gulf News wants to show UAE citizens their country stays safe by supporting the national commitment to manage security. The news stories care more about official authority than examining nationwide problems.

Technology and Security

In the Technology and Security theme where some of the used terms include" Dubai police," "AI", and "forensic" it points to the UAE's focus on technology as a measure of policing. Articles like "AI and policing: The advancements in artificial intelligence are seen as essential for Dubai Police to maintain safety as demonstrated at the global summit. The language emphasizes the rationalization of the processes, such as 'International summit emphasizes the enhancement of the security cooperation.', In this language, the UAE takes the lead in international security. The news shows that state officials use international connections and advanced technology to present their operations. Gulf News displays surveillance and technology in its articles as tools that help stop crime instead of discussing their political or social importance. The publication features details that showcase how the state maintains total governance assurance through its enforcement activities. The news coverage chooses not to explore how surveillance impacts public rights and sets up state systems as needed for keeping peace and safety across the region.

Israeli/Palestinian Conflict

This paper has demonstrated that the Israeli/Palestinian Conflict is a clear representation of regional stability and governance when it comes to the theme in Gulf News. The prominence of terms such as "Israeli", "Gaza", "violence" and "states" also suggest a concern with the social implications of the drama. For example, "Rising Tide of Hate: "Disturbing Incidents Challenge Coexistence" and hate crimes and tensions in society can be associated with conflict, including with the problems of governance. Another article, "Gaza war: Why American universities are in the crosshairs," depicts protests and hate crimes on campus as sources of disorder that need to be addressed by regulatory measures. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict receives professional news coverage in Gulf News as a government matter rather than a matter of personal emotions or political preferences. The newspaper focuses on maintaining peace in the region with a focus on the diplomatic role of the UAE. The news materials focus on how official organizations handle disputes while promoting the beneficial role of diplomatic powers.

The New York Times takes a feel-based method alongside its structure, unlike this news outlet. The New York Times gives detailed coverage of the conflict but fails to examine the social and political reasons at its core. Gulf News selects stories that put political stability first while The New York Times gravitates towards describing the connections and feelings of its readers.

Figure 4: Word Clouds of the Top 20 Words Extracted from Topic Models across Papers
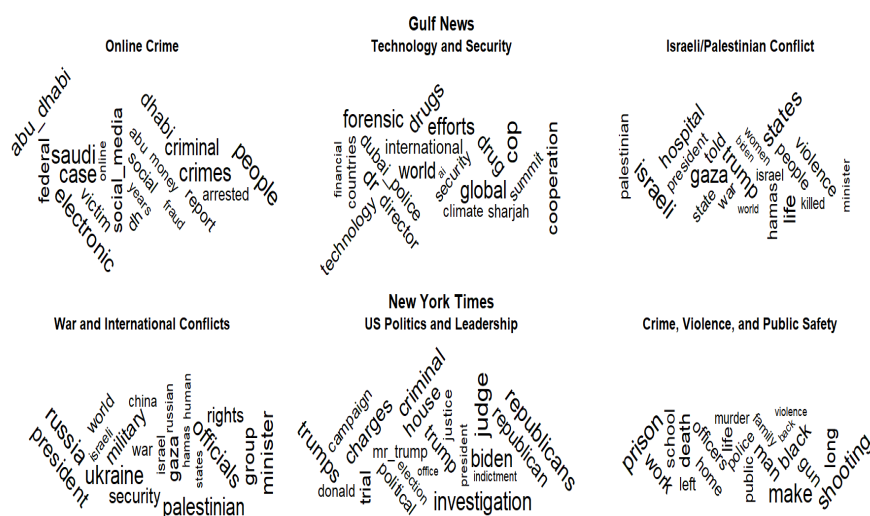
NYT Topics

War and International Conflicts

With words such as "Ukraine," "Palestinian," "military," and "human," they pay much attention, as you would expect, to the humanitarian and systemic dimensions of the world of violence. In articles like "34 Hours of Fear: In The Blackout That Cut Gaza Off From the World" we critique systemic failures that make humanitarian crises more likely. Similarly, "War crimes and accountability: They use the language of "accountability," "war crimes" and "Russian actions under scrutiny" to point out that there are no consequences for state action. By using NYT's language, the stories of systemic injustice are emotionally engaging, and NYT's language creates public outrage and stimulates calls for reform. Through its reports in The New York Times, the publication criticizes powerful organizations by showing society-wide conflict effects and using passionate words to display failed leadership. Instead of giving event details, NYT creates a story that examines official reactions while showing problems in society.

Gulf News handles global crises by examining how well government institutions control events. The Gulf News builds confidence in state organizations while the New York Times motivates readers to doubt institutional fixes because urgent

structural repair is needed. Each publication uses its format differently to display both the official institutional view and the independent report on how systems fail.

US Politics and Leadership

As we can see the terms "Trump," "indictment," "charges," and "Republican" plainly indicate that the primary news theme of the NYT is centered around legal responsibility within the framework of the US political process. Articles like "Trump's Indictment: What It Means for the US Democracy" construct governance through the framework of political responsibility and connect crime with systematic vices of political institutions. This is especially the case in the headline 'Legal challenges to Trump deepen GOP divides', where the language ties Trump's legal issues to political turbulence. While at Gulf News political leaders are shielded from public legal prosecution, the NYT portrays Trump's indictments as a victory for democracy. Different ways of discussing crime and government in Gulf News and The New York Times display their political views. Gulf News recommends that government institutions solve social problems using their established management procedures. Under this view problems focusing on the national government level need solutions from police and government decision-makers.

The New York Times tells political crime stories that reveal problems in democratic structures of power. NYT shows how basic operation problems need fixing and demands system changes in its news reporting. The different media outlets show their basic beliefs through their reporting styles as Gulf News supports the current political system, yet The New York Times wants to fix its problems.

Crime, Violence, and Public Safety

The theme of Crime, Violence, and Public Safety gives us words or terms such as "police," "murder," "gun," and "school." Articles, e.g., "Gun Violence in American Schools: The Failure of Policy Reform," fail to target systemic failures of dealing with gun violence using expressions like "policy reform" and "public safety" to press the point of societal responsibility. Another example is "Murder in the Suburbs: The Untold Story of Police Inaction", which pointed out institutional inadequacy when dealing with crimes of violence, framing the incident as system issues to be reformed. Through crime reporting the New York Times demonstrates both what happened and shows how society fails its people and institutions act improperly. Through its specific words, the publication shows how social problems and unequal opportunities lead directly to criminal behavior. The strategy helps people view crime and society in depth while examining how institutions handle criminal issues. NYT presents crime news within social and political structure to show institutional failures and push for necessary change which makes its content stand apart from standard police-driven news reports.

Summarizing the Comparison of Topic Model Results

The thematic crossovers between Gulf News and NYT are rather apparent – the freedom of speech and the necessity to influence the authorities and the society is like the concern about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. However, these frames, as has been shown, are instead indicative of their partisan positions. Gulf News mainly deals with governance reporting on institutions and procedures as well as the approaches used in containing crime. On the other hand, the NYT censures power relations and revolutionary emoting and systemic leveling to rein the power and promote change. Our analysis shows that Gulf News and The New York Times use different views to show how criminals fit in the social environment. Gulf News maintains confidence in public institutions by showing that crime belongs to state authorities who should handle this matter. NYT takes on dominant structures by portraying crime as a sign of social problems and organizational failures which leads to discussions on societal injustice and necessary institution updates. Crime media coverage through Gulf News represents state control and order perspectives while NYT explores institutional weaknesses and recommends improvements to showcase media influence on social beliefs about crime.

Discussion

The study indicates that crime portrayals are part of cultural and political systems of meaning, repeating particular power relations. One effect of such methods used by Gulf News is the build-up of confidence in the state's law enforcement and administrative accomplishments. By contrast, The New York Times uses language that exposes the cogs of the problematic system, likely to rally the public into demanding change. This kind of combination of sentiment analysis, topic modeling, and critical discourse analysis not only uncovers discrepancies in media reporting but also offers a platform to conceptualize the part of the media that influences public opinion towards crime and justice. Future studies should replicate this design in other media contexts to see the findings over time.

Our analysis shows that Gulf News and The New York Times use different views to show how criminals fit in the social environment. Gulf News maintains confidence in public institutions by showing that crime belongs to state authorities who should handle this matter. NYT takes on dominant structures by portraying crime as a sign of social problems and organizational failures which leads to discussions on societal injustice and necessary institution updates. Crime media coverage through Gulf News represents state control and order perspectives while NYT explores institutional weaknesses and recommends improvements to showcase media influence on social beliefs about crime.

In contrast, NYT develops a more critical framing of crime by emphasizing systemic failures and social injustices. Dominated by feelings such as "anger" and "fear," the theme is imbued with discussions on violence, racial disparities, and police brutality-an adversarial frame that resists established power. Such thematic

framing shows the indicant function of U.S. media to galvanize public sentiment toward accountability and reform.

This research brings emotional content and key subject matter together while analyzing news coverage and examines how different emotions and themes affect the power structure of media organizations. Through this strategy, we can now read and understand better what machines detect in the data material. The analysis adds new research methods to support work with Large Language Models in media studies as their operating structure needs better understanding (Bender et al., 2021; Tamkin et al., 2021). This study develops an effective way to apply computer models in real-world settings so that data insights show true importance to society.

The significance of these findings is not only for media research but for popular perception as well. In the UAE, stressful trust and regulatory measures create an image of a risk-free environment, supporting the state's governance model. In the United States, concern with anger and structural problems might mobilize people and draw attention to injustice to impact policy discourse and activism. This corresponds with other researchers who suggest that media that are state-controlled privilege stability and authoritative control (Al-Rawi, 2013; Al-Mezaini, 2011) whilst liberal press environments participate in systematic critique (Greer & Reiner, 2003; Jewkes, 2015). Corroborating with Fairclough's (1995) view that power relations are constituted through language in the media by reinforcing or challenging dominant ideologies, the study also applies. In this way, by combining artificial intelligence tools and a well-grounded critical discourse analysis model, this research contributes to theoretical as well as methodological theories about crime reporting. Running as a fit with current literature it presents a more nuanced view of crime reporting, by enhancing qualitative approaches through an investigation of media ownership in a variety of media settings. Further studies also need to invest in such dynamics by a further expansion of the dataset and by treating reception studies in an attempt to evaluate how events in crime narratives may shape social understandings and discursive structures in the areas of policymaking.

Despite the findings outlined in this study, one of the major limitations is the usage of a single-year data source, which might not present the long-term trend in crime reporting in the UAE and the USA. This research could be extended by incorporating Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA). This approach could offer a powerful lens for interpreting the textual outputs of Large Language Models (LLMs) by uncovering deep-seated ideological structures, implicit biases, and power dynamics embedded in language. While LLMs generate text based on probabilistic patterns, they lack the contextual awareness and critical sensitivity needed to fully grasp the social, political, and historical implications of discourse. CDA can help decode latent meanings, expose hegemonic narratives, and refine LLM interpretability by offering structured frameworks to assess how language constructs reality. Integrating CDA methodologies into LLM training and analysis

could enhance the model's ability to recognize implicit assumptions, improve bias mitigation strategies, and refine contextual nuance in generated content. This presents a promising avenue for research, bridging computational linguistics with critical social inquiry to make AI-generated discourse more transparent, equitable, and critically aware.

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