Review of: "Media Framing of African Refugee Migration to Europe: An Analysis of Narrative Constructions From Selected Global Media Houses in 2023"

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Review Report: Media Framing of Africa Refugee Migration to Europe: An Analysis of Narrative Constructions from Selected Global Media Houses in 2023

This research examines global media's coverage of African refugee migration to Europe, particularly focusing on the language used and attempting to identify biases, stereotypes, and stigmatisation. Utilizing a qualitative research approach and framing theory, the study reveals variations in the framing by CNN and BBC compared to Eastern African media. The author argues that the general coverage is rife with stereotypes, bias, and possible stigmatization. The study calls for actionable recommendations to address the negative portrayal of African migrants, urging media houses to undertake balanced reporting, adhere to ethical standards, and engage in awareness-building and advocacy.

General Comments:

While the author demonstrates a commendable intention to research the coverage of African migrants, the paper exhibits significant weaknesses in its academic rigor. Notably, there is insufficient evidence of the author's understanding of fundamental concepts such as "migrant" and "refugee." This common error, coupled with the paper's overall academic deficiencies, renders it unfit for publication without substantial revisions. The author should consider the following comments to enhance the manuscript:

Introduction:

Specify the Research Gap: Clarify the unique contribution this study aims to make. Identify which specific aspects of migrant coverage have been researched and which areas have been overlooked by previous studies. Making the research gap explicit will justify the study's importance.

Articulate the Significance: Enhance the explanation of the study's significance. Discuss why this research is crucial at this moment and what implications it might have for policy, practice, or further academic inquiry.

Clearly State Objectives and Research Questions: The objectives and research questions should be explicitly stated early in the introduction. Note that the paper currently lacks a proper introduction; a background section alone does not suffice. The introduction should lead seamlessly to the problem under investigation and justify its relevance, incorporating the

background as a subset.

Improve the Research Problem: Specify what aspects of the portrayal of migrants are under consideration, such as language and other dimensions.

Literature Review:

Include a Literature Review: The paper lacks a literature review. The author should incorporate a review that not only lists previous findings but also synthesizes them to build a coherent narrative. This narrative should highlight how those findings relate to the current study's context.

Explain Framing Theory: Discuss what framing theory entails and how it was applied in this study. Additionally, explain framing analysis as a technique.

Theoretical Frameworks: Expand on how the theoretical framework aids in understanding global media coverage of migrants.

Methodology:

Detailed Methodology: The methodology section needs a complete overhaul. The author must detail how the study was systematically conducted, including how data from news organizations and public perception was integrated. The source of public perception data should be clearly identified and described.

Results and Discussion:

Analyze Findings: The findings were presented descriptively with minimal analysis. The author needs to provide more substantial analysis, rather than just quoting sources.

Integration of Public Perception and Media Data: Discuss how content analysis insights complement or contrast with public perception data. This could involve discussing themes from content analysis alongside perception data results for a comprehensive understanding.

Contextualize Findings: Contextualize the results within the broader literature. The current paper lacks a proper discussion section. A strong conclusion cannot be drawn from a paper that is weak in analysis and discussion.

Recommendation:

The author should consult at least five papers on migration coverage before attempting to revise this paper for submission. A suggested reference is Fengler et al. (2020): "Covering Migration—in Africa and Europe: Results from a Comparative Analysis of 11 Countries," Journalism Practice, DOI: 10.1080/17512786.2020.1792333.