

## A Comparative Study on Bilateral Events and Integrative Editorial Complexity of Newspapers between the Countries

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### Abstract

This study looked at how the integrative complexity of news in the main newspapers of each country was impacted by positive and negative interactions between pairs of countries. At the low end of the scale, integrative complexity is characterized by inflexible, one-dimensional, black-or-white thinking, and at the high end, by a flexible, responsive, interactive approach. Prime minister visits to Germany, France, Nepal, and Japan were monitored on a bilateral basis. Events that affected each pair's relationships favorably or unfavorably in each year were judged by impartial judges. When ties were positive, news about the other country appeared in Bild, The Connexion, The Himalayan Times, and The Japan Times. Overall, news and editorials from Germany and Paris were more complex than those from Nepal and Japan. The two nations with the longest-lasting positive bilateral relations are Nepal and Japan. The news was compared with government sources; all have comparable tendencies. Editorial complexity and advantageous or adverse changes in international periodicals relations are correlated.

**Keywords :** Bilateral Events, Newspapers, SPSS, Integrative Complexity, International Visits

### 1. INTRODUCTION

"War starts when diplomacy ends"- Albert Hitler

India is a democratic nation; therefore, the people are in charge of, by, and for the government. The world's largest democracy is found in India. India has the second-largest population after China, and it has a variety of political parties that participate in elections. 900 million people cast ballots in the 2019 midterm elections. The media is essential to Indian politics. According to some, the fourth pillar of democracy is the media, after the executive, legislative branch, and judicial branch. The media has become more important to Indians in recent years as a source of information and pleasure. There is no disputing that the media portrays the average man in all of his complexity. A democratic environment is strengthened by the media.

#### Role of Print Media in Bilateral Events

People were denied access to their personal information during the start of the 20th century because of the very different media environment during the British era. During the battle for liberation, print media was extremely influential. Be aware that many of the Indian independence fighters were supposed to be journalists and that most of them were well-versed in journalism.

The role of the media has grown since the country's independence, and although it is governed by the government, citizens are still allowed to voice their own opinions. But in 1976, while the country was under a state of emergency, the government entirely owned and controlled the media. The government also imposed strict instructions and completely dismantled the media's freedom. After the emergency period, the media grew more powerful throughout time, serving as a voice for the public. Following the emergency, the media began providing people with both information and education. The way news is reported has evolved because of the use of print, electronic, and social media in modern society. When it comes to information and technical growth, India is regarded as one of the top nations that have made significant advancements.

"If it were up to me to decide whether our government should be run on newspapers or not" Without a government, I shouldn't think twice about starting a campaign to favor the letter". Thomas Jefferson.

The media serves as the government's watchdog, informing the public about events taking place all around them. The media covers all the minor concerns in addition to the big ones. The media serves as a potent conduit between the populace and the government. A free press is essential for a functioning government and has a significant impact on how people live their lives. The media educates the public on a range of topics, including politics, economics, social difficulties, and cultural concerns. The media reflects society and presents the facts, yet it can also be quite cruel. The media organizes the numerous conversations and debates on the current problems and considers public opinion. Press freedom has been increasingly important in the modern period, and the phrase "praise freedom" has just been introduced.

Communists and dictatorships are present in certain nations. As a result of the media's function as a watchdog and the desire of every government to possess its own media outlets, press freedom is essential today. "It is praising freedom, where the press is fully free but only to praise, and the more the press can praise, the freer it is certified."

India saw the quickest growth after independence thanks to its links with other nations. From the first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, to the current Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, Indian political leaders have been abroad and engaged in diplomatic negotiations to have their country ranked top in the world. When Indian politics was still in its infancy, our first prime minister made his maiden trip to the United States and handled his economic-related issues there. Strong ties with adjacent nations are a significant driver of international travel.

Every nation has its own set of rules. India has as well. India's foreign policy prioritizes disarmament, achieving world peace, and protecting national interests. Technology, globalization, and independence all play a significant role in fostering a solid relationship with neighbors. India's foreign policy has changed since becoming independent.

International conflicts benefited from India's policy. It will aid in promoting international harmony and collaboration. Conflicts with China and Pakistan forced some critical reforms in India's foreign policy. In 1991, India's economy began to diversify and its trading relations with foreign nations changed. It boosts the nation's economy and enhances employability.

The current study aims to thoroughly explore the relationship between bilateral events and the media. In a democracy, the press paves the way for ongoing political developments. It has a big impact on how the political elite think and behaves.

The elites have a big impact on how the ordinary public views politics. As a result of carrying out these duties, the press has the potential to have a substantial influence on the state's policy-making process. We wish to better understand how the Indian press and foreign press have reacted to bilateral events by examining the news articles of some of the most esteemed Indian and foreign publications.

Of fact, it is difficult to determine the actual impact of the media on the creation of foreign policy by examining newspaper columns. The "Letters" column's well-read reactions to news stories also don't provide a trustworthy indication of how well the media has shaped public opinion. However, it seems that it would be fascinating to investigate the ways that the Indian press has attempted to shape bilateral events by examining how it presents foreign news, how it evaluates foreign policy decisions and actions, how it suggests alternative courses of action, and how the public reacts to it when it discusses various foreign policy issues.

The government has likewise integrated itself into the media process, according to O'Heffernan (1991), who stated that "the media today are indeed part of the policy process." Patrick O'Heffernan's comment captures the interconnectedness and interdependence of the political process, the government, and the media. Undoubtedly, the media has become an important part of politics. This paper attempts to give a better understanding of how the media may have an impact on policy-making processes in democratic governments, with particular attention to how it affects both internal and international affairs. This paper examines the media considering their connection with the government and aims to show their influence and importance in the formulation of foreign policy by demonstrating the weight that governments themselves give to the media when formulating policies.

To study the current media-foreign policy connection, Patrick O'Heffernan has concentrated on the everyday, intricate, multilayered interactions that take place between the media and politicians (1991:82). His "insider model" considers the importance of the media's own goals and interests, which have contributed to the evolution of the relationship between the media and politicians. In doing so, the media grow into actors whose functions go much beyond the limited tactical use that politicians have of them. These motives were emphasised by O'Heffernan as a primary force. In their capacity as autonomous organizations resembling policy agencies, the media in the sense that the creation of news was the result of many interactions between people and institutions, all of which tried to further personal interests (1991: 82). By relying on the media's intentional behavior, he opened the door for the current thesis to expound on this behavior and how it influences media-political interaction. In the area of foreign policy, it is more crucial to consider how the connection develops and how it becomes far more complex than what the body of existing literature says.

According to Cohen (1986: 9), the media has a clear role in the process of information collection and interpretation that precedes the formulation of foreign policy.

One of several techniques for the systematic study of documentary evidence to infer various characteristics of the interactions between countries is the archival measure of integrative complexity, developed by Suedfeld and Rank in 1976. Differentiation (the perception of multiple dimensions in a stimulus situation or multiple perspectives on the situation) and Integration (the recognition of relationships among differentiated dimensions or perspectives, such as interacting, as capable of being integrated, or as relevant to some overarching event or idea) are two information processing components that work together to process information.

The current study focuses on the relationship between difficult editorials in publications with wide readership and influence and international relations. Additionally, it considers the consequences of situations that are more "normal" than global issues.

## 2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

On this subject, there isn't a literature review. There hasn't been any formal research done yet on this topic. On Indian foreign policy, leader visits, and certain studies in the press, very little of relevance was discovered.

According to this research "The Influence of the Media on India's Foreign Policy", *Mehta, M. (2019)* mentioned that the media plays a huge and important part in determining India's foreign policy. The response of the government completely determines how the media affects foreign policy. Due to the government's control of the media from 1947 to 1990, the media in India is shaped by several elements and has a greater influence on foreign policy. Today there is freedom of publishing, however in 1991 media companies and houses were controlled by private patrons. The media occasionally stokes the fire on border concerns.

*Baru, S.(2009)* in his research "The growing influence of business and media on Indian media policy" found that the film and other forms of entertainment have a soft power that influences both Indian and foreign policies of other nations. Public policy is greatly influenced by mainstream media. To uphold

Indian foreign policy, the ministry of affairs has traditionally maintained relationships with editors and columnists. Because they support press freedom, several media outlets refuse the government's invitation.

*Basrur, R. (2017)* in his study "Modi's foreign policy fundamental: a trajectory unchanged" found that the foreign policy of India was examined in this study. Hindu nationalism is not seen as a desirable policy, and the way it is portrayed appears to be quite biased. The three pillars that form the basis of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's foreign policy strategy are the exercise of power, the variety of security alliances, and the pursuit of prestige. The Indian relationship with the major nations has not been redrafted under Modi. Modi's approach to Indian foreign policy is very different from previous ones and will not be successful in the future. The border security plan by Modi offers a nonviolent solution.

*Rybinska, N. (2012)* in his research found that "Old and new constraints in foreign news coverage in post-communist". Public diplomacy has a significant role in shaping foreign public opinion and American foreign policy. For diplomatic missions abroad, the United States has great regard. The agenda-setting and communication theory contends that the target must hear the message for it to have an impact on their beliefs and actions. Most people look for political leaders' international travels and how they affect how the public perceives them.

*Smith, A. L. (2000)* in his work "Indonesia's foreign policy under Abdurrahman Wahid: radical status quo" claimed that Indonesia must now cope with the post-referendum scenario because of the change in its foreign policy. It puts further strain on the ties with western nations like Australia, the United States, and Europe. They begin to cooperate with other nations in these circumstances. When Indonesia loses political and economic clout on the world stage. After that, they began developing the foreign strategy.

*Rees, N. (2006)* in his research "Ireland's foreign relations in 2006" found that, foreign policy plays a crucial role in the growth of states. The two countries' relations grew more secure, and Ireland shown an interest in world affairs. Despite being a tiny nation, Ireland is an important part of the alliance with other nations.

*Chinni, & Bronston, S. (2017, July 9)* the public is in favor of the watchdog function despite attacks on the press. The idea that the press serves as a political watchdog paints the media as defenders of the general welfare. By informing the public and requiring government openness, the watchdog press acts as a check on abuses by the government. Significant public support exists for the media's watchdog function. Individuals in the United States think that media coverage can "prevent people from doing things that shouldn't be done."

*Cuban, F. (2016)* in his research paper "the role of media in international relations: from CNN effects to the Al-Jazeera effect" said that media, the people, and politicians all share knowledge. The political process and the impact on the public's view of international issues are entirely dependent on the media. On the other hand, the government depends on the media to raise public awareness. Through reporting on political topics, the political aspects bind the public, lawmakers, and media together. Good foreign policy is a result of the government and media working together. It cannot be argued that the media decides everything if we are talking about how media coverage affects policy.

*Gilboa, E. (2006)* found that international relations and communication. He explains how international communication affects foreign policies in his study work. Traditional borders are being undermined by global connectivity.

### **Research Problem**

India is becoming more well-liked in the world nowadays. This study highlights the variations and parallels between the reporting practices in India and other nations. The major focus of this study is how domestic and international media report on Indian political leaders' abroad travels.

### **Significance of the Study**

India is struggling with significant social, economic, political, and security issues. Both domestically and internationally, these are detrimental to the nation. It is well recognized that the fourth pillar of democracy is the media. The media should take an objective and impartial approach to resolving these issues. The goal of this research is to safeguard the nation's foreign interests and preserve the greatest possible inter-national relations. This study will reveal how international and Indian media portray political leader visits and the advantages these visits have for a nation.

Any government must priorities maintaining positive connections with other nations, which depends on a leader's political travels. A country's peace and riches are enhanced by its relations with other nations. It's crucial to understand how journalists describe political leaders' trips now.

### **Theoretical Framework**

#### **Objectives**

- National newspaper editorials that were evaluated for integrative complexity.
- Situations involving both nations in each pair, rated from highly favorable to extremely negative.
- To study the format of coverage of the event
- To find out the sources of the coverage.
- To evaluate the placement of the coverage.
- To figure out the visual spread of the coverage.

### **3. METHODOLOGY**

In this study, content analysis was employed. The qualitative technique is better at examining the "latent or hidden meanings" buried in the texts than the content analysis method, according to Berger (Berger 2005, 154). Content analysis is used to deal with "manifest or more readily apparent meaning" while also generalizing the results to a greater extent.

**Newspaper Selection:** The highest circulation newspapers are chosen. Based on which newspapers had the largest ABC (Audit Bureau of Circulation) circulation, the researcher chose Times of India and Hindustan Times.

**Equipment and Methods:** With the use of cross tabulations, Pearson's chi-square analysis, and frequency counts in SPSS, the code sheet designed for data gathering and analysis is carried out. The basis for The Universe of Study is media coverage of political leaders' worldwide trips.

**Study Subject:** The study subject is based on the top English newspapers from the host nation.

**Sample Size:** The research makes use of available material. The sample is taken from the visits of prime minister.

#### **Data Analysis:**

##### **1. National newspaper editorials that were evaluated for integrative complexity.**

Editorials from a given nation's newspaper (the "source country") that discussed ties with, or the behavior of a particular other country (the "subject country") were the documents that were examined. After that, each paragraph was graded on its integrative complexity. The two scorers had taken part in a one-week training session, and on many training passages, they had demonstrated acceptable levels of reliability ( $r = .85$  or greater) with the trainer. Furthermore, they had conducted complexity scoring on earlier study materials and consistently maintained an inter-rater reliability of at least 80%. As it requires agreement on ratings rather than just a correlation, this criterion is more stringent than the reliability coefficient.

Each paragraph was scored separately by the scorers, who also used a comprehensive scoring manual (Baker-Brown, Ballard, Bluck, de Vries, Suedfeld, & Tetlock, 1992).

The approach for grading assigns a different grade to each paragraph on a scale from 1 to 7. Another person, an occasion, a notion, a country, etc. are all examples of stimuli. The lower half of the scale

(1-3) shows progressively higher degrees of differentiation: knowledge and use of distinctive stimulus characteristics and/or diverse points of view in stimulus evaluation. With 4 acting as a transitional score, scores of 5-7 acknowledge higher synthesis, interaction, and trade-offs among the several aspects or viewpoints (see Table I for examples). Unscoreable paragraphs are ones that only include factual statements (such as statistics or historical events) or quotations without any interpretation or opinion. Paragraphs with disparities of two scale points and one scale point are settled by discussion. Due to years within the sample period when bilateral events involving any pair of nations could not be classified as having a positive or negative valence, not all of these paragraphs were utilized in the final data analysis.

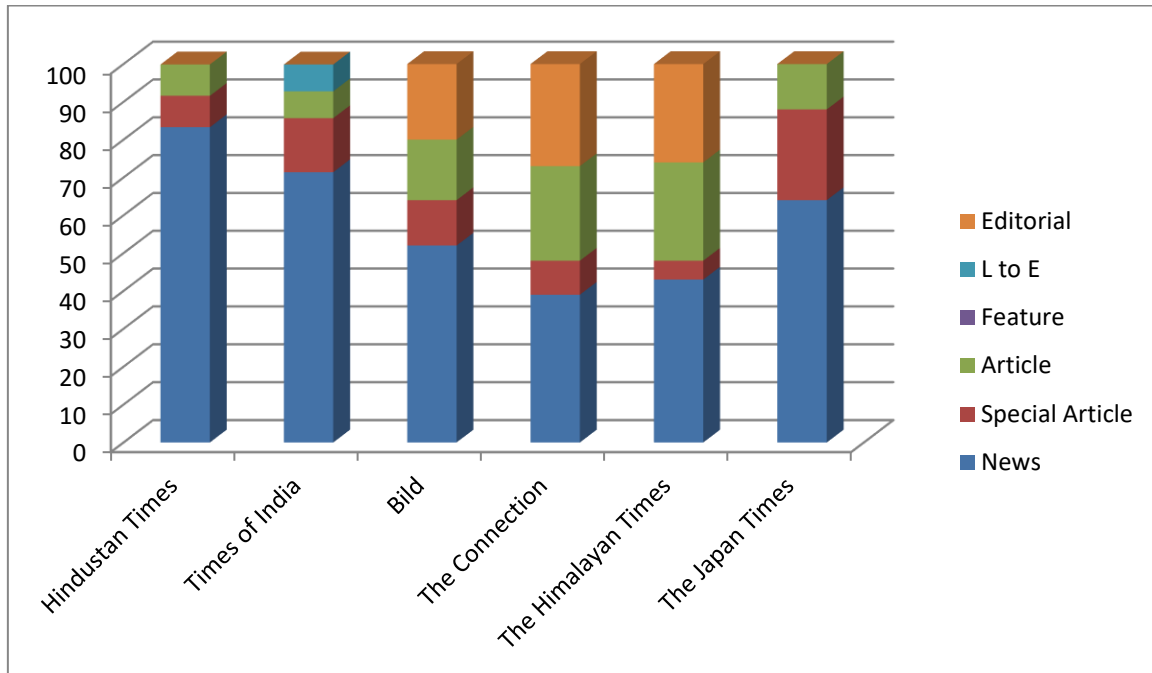
The years for which both a good sample of editorials and valence events were accessible are listed in Table II. For each of the five country/year combinations, a total of five editorial paragraphs from relevant sources (those addressing the issue country) were selected.

The data analysis used a total of 654 paragraphs: 1 paragraph for 1 year from each of the Bild, Japan Times, and Times (for a total of 25 for each of these two), 5 paragraphs for 1 year from the Himalayan Times (for a total of 130), plus 7 years with fewer than 5 relevant paragraphs each (for a total of 24).

For each newspaper, each topic nation, and each year, mean complexity ratings were computed. In the data analysis that followed, these means were employed.

Table 1.1 Format of News

| Format of News   | Hindustan Times | Times India | Bild | The Connection | The Himalayan Times | The Japan Times |
|------------------|-----------------|-------------|------|----------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| News             | 83.3%           | 71.4%       | 52   | 39             | 43                  | 64              |
| Special Articles | 8.3%            | 14.28%      | 12   | 9              | 5                   | 24              |
| Articles         | 8.3%            | 7.1%        | 16   | 25             | 26                  | 12              |
| Features         | 0               | 0           | 0    | 0              | 0                   | 0               |
| L to E           | 0               | 7.1%        | 0    | 0              | 0                   | 0               |
| Editorial        | 0               | 0           | 20   | 27             | 26                  | 0               |
| Others           | 0               | 0           | 0    | 0              | 0                   | 0               |



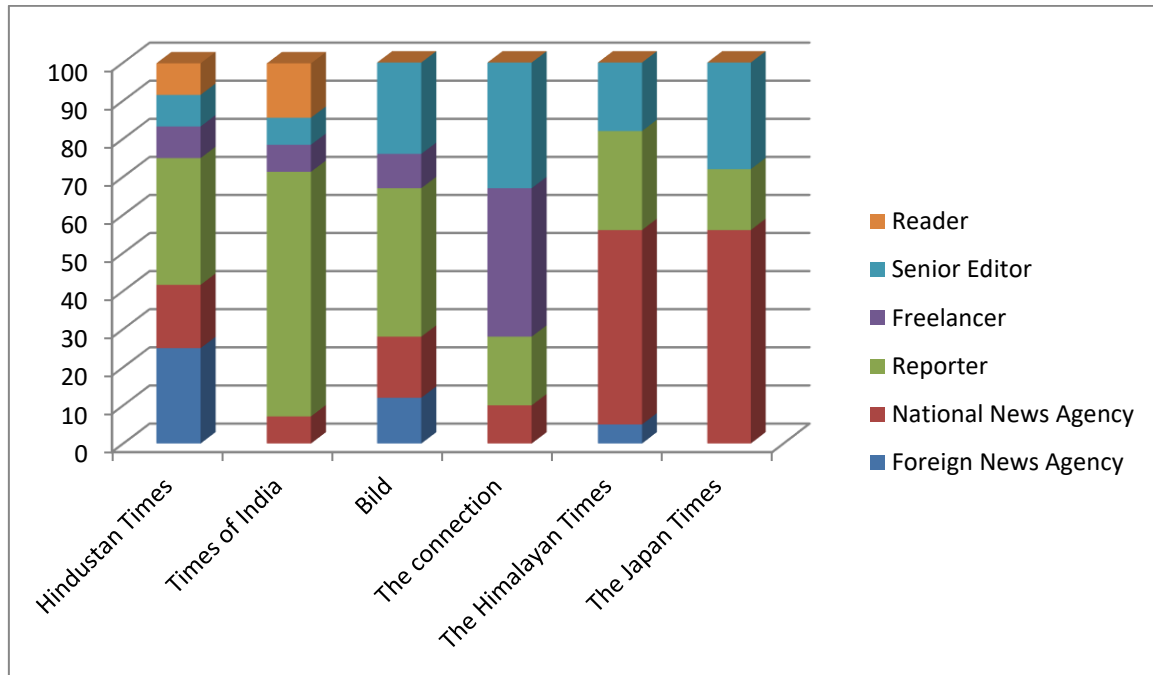
**Data Interpretation:** There are various ratios of material forms in each newspaper. News is the format that appears the most frequently in all publications, followed by regular articles and special pieces. None of the newspapers on the list have features. The distribution of other formats, including editorials and language to English translations, varies amongst publications.

In the **Table 1.1**, the format of news in different publications, the data indicates that various publications present news in different formats. The Times of India comes in second with a proportion of news stories of 71.40%, followed by the Hindustan Times with 83.30%. The percentages of news stories in Bild, The Connection, The Himalayan Times, and The Japan Times are comparatively lower, with 52%, 39%, 43%, and 64%, respectively. The Times of India is in the lead when it comes to special pieces with 14.28%, followed by Hindustan Times with 8.30%. The remaining magazines have special article percentages that range from 5% to 12%. Hindustan Times and The Times of India both have comparable percentages for regular articles, with 8.30% and 7.10%, respectively. The numbers for Bild, The Connection, The Himalayan Times, and The Japan Times, however, range from 12% to 26%. Features, L to E (Letter to the editor), and editorial sections don't appear to be present or are just marginally represented in any of the magazines.

Table 1.2 Sources of News

| Sources of News      | Hindustan Times | Times of India | Bild | The Connection | The Himalayan Times | The Japan Times |
|----------------------|-----------------|----------------|------|----------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Foreign News Agency  | 25%             | 0              | 12   | 0              | 5                   | 0               |
| National News Agency | 16.6%           | 7.1%           | 16   | 10             | 51                  | 56              |
| Reporter             | 33.3%           | 64.2%          | 39   | 18             | 26                  | 16              |
| Freelancer           | 8.3%            | 7.1%           | 9    | 39             | 0                   | 0               |
| Senior               | 8.3%            | 7.1%           | 24   | 33             | 18                  | 28              |

|        |      |        |   |   |   |   |
|--------|------|--------|---|---|---|---|
| Editor |      |        |   |   |   |   |
| Reader | 8.3% | 14.28% | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Others | 0    | 0      | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |



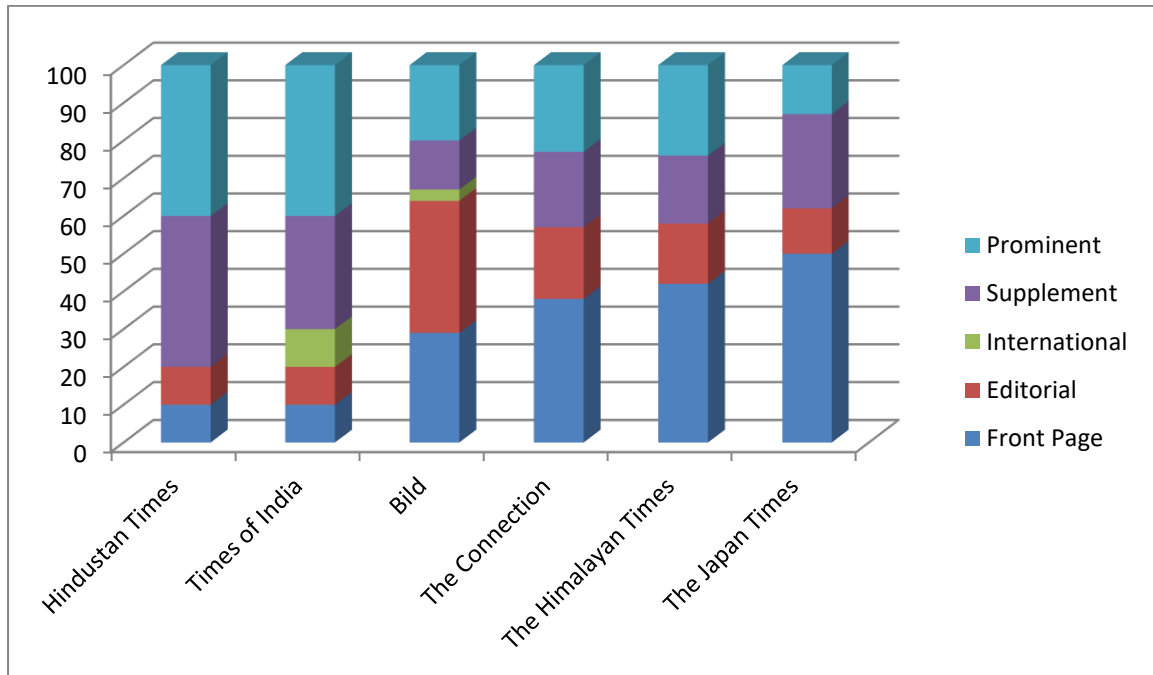
In **Table 1.2**, the sources of news in different publications, The Hindustan Times primarily relies on reporters for its reporting, attributing a sizable 33.30% of its news to reporters. Senior editors (8.30%), freelancers (8.30%), and readers (8.30%) have also contributed. The remaining 41.8 percent can originate from unidentified or unrelated sources. The Times of India similarly significantly relies on reporters, attributing 64.20 percent of its stories to them. Senior editors (7.10%), freelancers (7.10%), and readers (14.28%) have also contributed to them. There is a part (7.32%), like the Hindustan Times, that could originate from other sources. Reporters are responsible for 39% of the news in Bild, a newspaper not mentioned in the inquiry, in addition to contributions from national news agencies (16%), freelancers (9%), senior editors (24%), and international news agencies (12%). Another unidentified journal, The Connection, receives contributions from senior editors (33%), freelancers (39%), national news agencies (10%), and international news agencies (0%). The Himalayan Times obtains a large percentage (51%) of its news from local news organizations. Senior editors (18%), independent contractors (0%), and international news organizations (5%), in addition, have contributed to them. The Japan Times sources 56% of its news from local news organizations. Senior editors (28%), independent contractors (0%), and international news organizations (0%), in addition, have contributed to them.

Table- 1.3 Placements of News Articles

| Placements of News Articles | Hindustan Times | Times of India | Bild | The Connection | The Himalayan Times | The Japan Times |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|----------------|------|----------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Front Page                  | 10%             | 10%            | 29   | 38             | 42                  | 50              |
| Editorial page              | 10%             | 10%            | 35   | 19             | 16                  | 12              |
| International Page          | 0               | 10             | 3    | 0              | 0                   | 0               |



|            |     |     |    |    |    |    |
|------------|-----|-----|----|----|----|----|
| Supplement | 40% | 30% | 13 | 20 | 18 | 25 |
| Prominent  | 40% | 40% | 20 | 23 | 24 | 13 |
| Others     | 0   | 0   | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  |

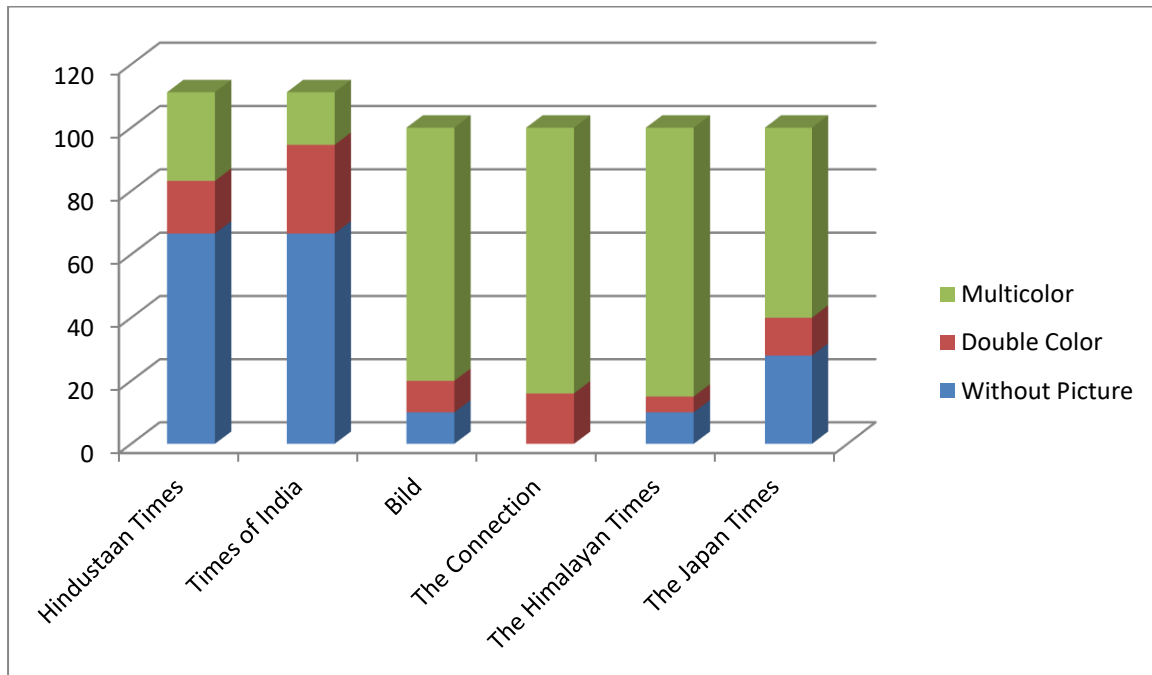


In **Table- 1.3**, the placements of news articles in different publications, 10% of the news pieces in The Hindustan Times and The Times of India are on the front page. The editorial page receives 10% of the news pieces from both periodicals, similarly. Another daily noted, Bild, allocates 35% of its news pieces on the editorial page while placing 29% of them on the main page. Additionally, the foreign page hosts 3% of their news items. The top page of The Connection does not have news pieces designated for it, but 38% are posted there. The international page is devoid of news items. The top page of The Himalayan Times features 42% of news stories, the editorial page 16%, and the international page 0%. The top page of The Japan Times features 50% of its news pieces, the editorial page 12%, and the international page 0%. The Hindustan Times devotes the biggest percentage of news items (40%) to supplements, followed by the Times of India at 30%. The percentages for Bild, The Connection, The Himalayan Times, and The Japan Times range from 13% to 25%. The Hindustan Times and the Times of India place 40% of their news pieces in prominent locations, according to prominent placement data. The percentages allocated by Bild, The Connection, The Himalayan Times, and The Japan Times range from 13% to 40%.

Table-1.4 Visuals

| Visuals         | Hindustan Times | Times of India | Bild | The Connection | The Himalayan Times | The Japan Times |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|------|----------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Without Picture | 66.6%           | 66.6%          | 10   | 0              | 10                  | 28              |
| Double Color    | 16.6%           | 16.6%          | 10   | 16             | 5                   | 12              |
| Multicolor      | 16.6%           | 28             | 80   | 84             | 85                  | 60              |

|        |  |   |   |   |   |   |
|--------|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| Others |  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|--------|--|---|---|---|---|---|



In **Table-1.4**, the use of visuals in different publications, Sixty-six percent of the material in The Hindustan Times and The Times of India is composed primarily of visuals without photos. Additionally, double colors images are used in 16.60% of the material in both magazines. Unidentified magazine Bild employs visuals without photos in 10% of its material, as well as visuals in double and multiple colors in 10% and 80%, respectively. The Connection doesn't use visuals without photos, but double-color visuals are used instead (16%), and multicolor visuals are used most frequently (84%). The Himalayan Times employs double-color graphics in 5% of its content and visuals without pictures in 10% of its output. Their graphics are displayed in multicolor in most cases (85%). In 28% of its articles, The Japan Times uses visuals without photos. Additionally, they utilize multicolor images (60%) and images with two colors (12%).

**4. CONCLUSION**

The relationship between integrative complexity and world unrest was as anticipated. This finding supports past studies that linked less complexity to decreased international stress. The situations studied here, in contrast to past studies, were generally ordinary or routine events, such as multinational business dealings and political negotiations. Even in such mundane situations, event-related fluctuations in complexity may indicate how well the measure captures the consequences of global events. Our findings do not reveal the extent to which editorial writers are really processing information differently as opposed to attempting to deliberately sway the tone of public conversation (Tetlock & Manstead, 1988).

This discovery has several important implications, one of which is the surprising pervasiveness of tension-related complexity decreasing even when the circumstances that lead to it are typical in terms of international relations. Although the current findings are unusual in that they suggest a large domestic influence of very slight changes in the interplay between pairs of states, it may have been less surprising that society's opinion leaders are changed in this way by imminent or actual conflict.

This research based on the coverage of bilateral events and researcher took Germany, France, Nepal, and Japan and compared with India. Visited countries' newspapers have given good coverage to the bilateral events. There is no doubt Prime Minister's popularity is very high all over the world and every newspaper gave huge amount of news.

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