

MASTER'S THESIS

News about news: a re-framing analysis of Chinese reports of foreign coverage about China

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ABSTRACT

This study examined the *Global Times*'s reports during the early stages of the China–US trade war to understand the role of Chinese media's propaganda in the surge of nationalism. Specific attention was paid to the tailoring and reproduction of foreign news by the *Global Times* as a form of providing international media reports about the China–US trade war. A content analysis was conducted on the news published between January 2018 and June 2018 from the section that reprinted foreign media reports, called "Focusing on China." The concept of re-framing was proposed to describe the reproduction of political news by the state-controlled media that transcribe and reproduce overseas coverage in the Chinese context. The research concluded that the *Global Times* selected news from world-renowned agencies located in the US for re-framing. The *Global Times* also re-framed negative articles about China to have a positive valence. Cluster analysis showed two dominating frames in the *Global Times*'s reports: (1) special features of economic effects (2) a "Chinese proposal" for the US-started problem. Meanwhile, articles from the source showed two other frames: (1) mutual retaliation in Thucydide's trap (2) civilians' pain as the economic consequence of the trade war. Comparison and cluster analysis showed that the *Global Times* tailored foreign media reports about China to serve frame-building purposes; this finding was different from that stated in the predominant literature, which found that Chinese media directly criticized the reports of foreign media.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1:INTRODUCTION	1
Rise of Nationalism and Media Propaganda in China	3
Emergence of News Reproduction in International Reports	4
The Transforming Role of Chinese Media and the <i>Global Times</i>	6
The Trade War as a Case Study	11
CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW	15
Conceptualization of “News About News”	15
Media Indexing in China	25
A Framing Perspective of “News about News”	30
Exploring the Re-Framing Process from Overseas to Chinese Coverage	35
Significance of Research	46
CHAPTER 3: METHODOLOGY	48
Content Analysis as an Approach to News Framing	48
Sampling Procedures	50
Code Scheme Formation	52
Clustering in Frame Identification	61
Analysis	63
CHAPTER 4: RESULTS	66
Selection of Foreign Reports	66
Frames Formed by Clusters	69
Variation of Frames in the Reframing Process	75
CHAPTER 5: DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS	78
Summary of findings	78
Contributions	79
Limitations	86
Directions for future reserach	92
REFERENCES	95

APPENDIX A: THE SAMPLED GLOBAL TIMES ARTICLES AND THE SOURCE INFORMATION	123
CURRICULUM VITAE	131