Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences Studies

ISSN: 2663-7197 DOI: 10.32996/jhsss

Journal Homepage: www.al-kindipublisher.com/index.php/jhsss



RESEARCH ARTICLE

Comparison of News Reports on Public Health Events in Mainstream Media in China and the West: the 2022 Shanghai COVID-19 Outbreak as an Example

Jingyi Zhu¹ ✓ Qinyi Chen¹ and Xiaotong Ma¹

¹Yantai Institute, China Agricultural University, Yantai 264670, China

²International Studies, University of Nottingham Ningbo China, Ningbo 315000, China

³School of Art and Literature, Shihezi University, Shihezi 832061, China

Corresponding Author: Jingyi Zhu, E-mail: zhujy@cau.edu.cn

ABSTRACT

In today's era, the media is the main way to promote world exchange and communication and to achieve an in-depth understanding of multiple subjects. Since the outbreak of Covid-19 in 2020, public health events have become an important part of mainstream media coverage in Chinese and Western countries. The media affects the public's perception of the current situation of the epidemic. Due to the strong correlation between the epidemic and production and life, it will, in turn, produce greater social benefits. This requires the media to uphold an objective, fair and scientific attitude and to convey truthful information to the public. This article takes the influential Shanghai epidemic in 2022 as an example, takes the news reports of CNN and China Daily as the entry point, analyzes and compares the differences and commonalities between Chinese and Western mainstream media, and analyzes the main reasons for the differences.

KEYWORDS

Frame theory, Covid-19, Ideology, Media, Social Construction

ARTICLE INFORMATION

ACCEPTED: 11 September 2022 **PUBLISHED:** 18 September 2022 **DOI:** 10.32996/jhsss.2022.4.4.4

1. Introduction

1.1 General Overview of COVID-19 and Conceptual and Theoretical Items

The first part of this essay mainly focuses on numerous conceptual and theoretical items, including the executive summary, the definition of the public health crisis, what constitutes the crisis, and detailed information about frame theory and the content analysis method that we will apply in this essay.

1.1.1 Executive Summary of COVID-19

The World Health Organization (WHO) identified Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) as the second pandemic of the twenty-first century on March 11th, 2020. The COVID-19 outbreak can be characterized as a "pandemic" because the virus is spreading increasingly worldwide (World Health Organization, 2020). In these two years of development, the virus is evolving at an unprecedented rate, and nations have created measures to address this. However, according to Nyberg et al. (2022), the evolution of the virus now shows the characteristics of high transmissibility and low severity of infection. In April 2022, Shanghai, which is the economic center of China, suffered a periodical prolonged closure, and the entire city's development was put on hold. The Chinese government's rigid policy has received criticism from multiple media outlets. This article will focus on the Chinese and Western media coverage during this period and summarize the differences between the two media frameworks.

1.2 Definition of a Public Crisis

First, it is necessary to understand what is 'crisis' is; according to Oxford Learner's Dictionaries (2022), there is one meaning that

Copyright: © 2022 the Author(s). This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC-BY) 4.0 license (https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). Published by Al-Kindi Centre for Research and Development, London, United Kingdom.

refers to 'crisis': a time when a problem, a bad situation, or an illness is at its worst point. The public health crises are just as important to understand as their origins and antecedent circumstances. When the health repercussions of a situation threaten to outweigh the regular community's capacity to handle them, the situation is said to be emergent (Nelson et al., 2007). Returning to Shanghai in April this year, the outbreak was characterized by suddenness and an explosive increase in the number of infections (Chen & Chen, 2022). The Shanghai government was not able to solve this difficult situation in a period of time, and as the number of cases increased, it had to choose the more extreme method of strictly controlling the entry and exit of people, which resulted in unexpected consequences. Most of the residents in the center of the epidemic were unable to go out for a long time at home. The long-closed administration restricts the personal freedom of civilians, people cannot work and lose their source of income, and they have to wait for the government to send them daily supplies, which are sometimes unevenly distributed. Such a desperate situation already meets the definition of a crisis.

1.3 Elements of a Crisis

Apart from certain objective reasons, for instance, the appearance of the COVID virus and the governmental policies, the crisis could be regarded as a kind of social construction. Social constructivism firstly was mentioned in sociological studies. According to Berger and Luckmann (1991), the sociological theory of "social constructionism" refers to social processes and behaviors that can historically and culturally construct knowledge and meaning. In this book, they argued that society could be divided into subjective and objective parts, "society as objective reality" and "society as subjective reality," the latter of which applies our understanding of the level of subjective consciousness and thus creates a theoretical link to the issues in social psychology. The former contains our fundamental understanding of the issues in the sociology of knowledge (Berger & Luckmann, 1991). Scott and Marshall (2009) also demonstrate that explaining how social actors come to describe, explain, or account for the crisis is a key focus of social constructionist approaches to crisis communication. Consequently, social construction can be understood as a process in which people's perceptions of reality are shaped by the meanings they give to those perceptions. The opposite perspective on social construction is as a social product, one that is created as a result of interactions between intricate and varied factors (Zhao, 2020). To be more specific, a group of people may assert the existence of a social phenomenon that is unsatisfactory, promotes a new claim, stirs up controversy, and creates an issue; the official body recognizes the validity of the claim and investigates, responds, and proposes a solution, but the original claimant continues to express new dissatisfaction with the official response and wants a new solution, then more people will pay attention to it and perceive the danger of the original event. Finally, the crisis is constructed by people's interactions in society; people may actively assign some meaning to an event through their own words and descriptions, when the description of an event becomes more and more dangerous and cautionary, the 'crisis' comes. When we bring the perspective back again to the April epidemic in Shanghai, it was because people are constantly perceiving the seriousness of the epidemic, perhaps they don't personally experience it, specifically here they don't get sick because of the virus, but they perceive and produce it through a series of interactions with very strict government controls, other people who are extremely scared, it's a crisis they constructed through numerous interactions, with different actors in the society.

1.4 Frame Theory and Framing

This part will introduce the origin, definition, usefulness, and characteristics of frame theory and the effectiveness of framing in the research of media studies. The idea of the frame and the examination of how we categorized our own experiences by Erving Goffman in 1974 is partially responsible for the origins of framing. He suggested that frames shape how we experience life in terms of how we see, understand, and interact. The frames we use to examine, analyze, and comprehend the world around us affect what we define as "reality." Fundamentally, frame theory holds that choices people make regarding how to absorb information are influenced by the way something might be presented to an audience. Frames are abstract and are used to shape or arrange the meaning of messages. The most frequent application of frames is in the context of the framing that the news or media give to the content they present. They are believed to affect how the audience interprets the news (Goffman, 1974; (Entman, 1993). A vibrant research program in the area of communication is focused on the idea of the media frame. A communicator employs a media frame, which can be written, spoken, graphic, or visual, to contextualize a topic, such as a person, event, episode, or issue, within a text that is delivered to receivers through mediation (D'Angelo, 2017). According to Entman (1993), the idea of framing consistently provides a way to describe the persuasiveness of a text; the analysis of frames reveals the precise mechanism by which the transmission of information from one place—such as a speech, utterance, news report, or novel—exert their influence on that consciousness.

Frames can be divided into issue-specific and generic frames. Issue-specific frame means that there is a separate frame for describing a specific event; since generic frames are recognizable across a variety of issues, they transcend thematic restrictions. According to Semetko and Valkenburg (2000), there are mainly five generic frames: conflict, human interest, economic consequences, morality, and responsibility. Besides, methodological approaches are difficult to summarize systematically, so it is suggestible to distinguish and choose them based on the research (Matthes, 2009). This article will mainly focus on text-content-based and non-quantitative analysis.

1.5 The Relationship between Frame and Social Construction

It is worth noting that the frame and the social construction have various similarities. According to Gamson et al. (1992), the frames can be seen as the cultural and cognitive bridge; Goffman (1974) also highlights the relationship between frames and culture rather than considering them as independent of the individual as feasible. Culture could be defined as an organized set of shared beliefs, codes, myths, stereotypes, values, norms, frameworks, and other ideas that are part of a group's or society's collective memory (Van Gorp, 2007). The frame will address information that becomes noticeable, more significant (giving it meaning), impresses the reader or viewer, and is processed independently. It will highlight certain key information in the communication's subject. Such information-highlighting techniques are connected to certain cultural symbols. The receiver is more likely to take their time seeing, considering, digesting, and receiving this information because it has been purposefully highlighted and controlled by the communicator, especially if it is extremely important to their schemata (Entman, 1993). It is also because of this informational selection and highlighting in different frames that the communicator's emphasis on the selected parts may subconsciously change the way the receiver of the information processes the information received. It is by assigning importance and different meanings to the information that the communicator gains access to subjective communication with the receiver of the information, which is similar to the process of the social construction of the crisis.

2. Analyze Dimensions

This study of the 2022 Shanghai COVID-19 outbreak uses the literature review method and case study to trace the framing of reporting from March 31 to May 31, when Shanghai locks inside. To analyze the differences between Chinese and Western media in reporting the epidemic situation in Shanghai, we take examples and use a large number of cases to analyze the characteristics of the differences between Chinese and Western media. We analyze their differences in four dimensions, including Coverage of the reports, news sources, Slant and Keywords, and Opinion.

It analyzes and compares news coverage by the media from two different countries, China, where the epidemic breaks out, and the United States, which is the representative of the Western world, respectively, with China Daily and CNN as the representative news outlet. The publication dates and titles are listed below.

Table 1: Selected news reports of the 2022 Shanghai COVID-19 outbreak

News outlet/date	Headline/Titles
CNN (6)	
April 12	Pressure builds as Shanghai, a city of 25 million, remains locked inside
May 13	Leaving locked down Shanghai for a 'whole new world' outside China
April 12	Opinion: We're locked down in Shanghai with 25 pounds of mangoes and some very helpful neighbors
April 12	US State Department orders departure of non-emergency personnel from Shanghai consulate amid Covid-19 restrictions
April 16	Opinion: Why no one dares tell China's Xi the awful truth zero-Covid isn't working
March 31	A Covid-19 spike like the one in China is unlikely in the US, experts say. Here's why
China Daily (6)	
May 26	Getting Shanghai back on track after lockdown
April 11	Shanghai strives to enhance access to daily necessities
April 13	Some Shanghai communities were allowed to ease the lockdown
April 13	Shanghai deliveryman empties his own pocket for others
April 16	Shanghai improves care for those left homeless by virus
May 7	China's effective anti-pandemic efforts bespeak institutional strength

Source: Information collection and collation by authors.

2.1 Coverage of the Reports

The choice of the media about what kind of news to report is the basis for forming and embodying the media framing. Analyzing the themes of reports helps to understand the agenda setting and frame presentation of the media. In Table1 above, the topics covered by CNN include epidemic lockdown, a departure from Shanghai, zero-Covid, and a comparison of the epidemic in China and the United States.

CNN's news reports present the chaotic urban life in restrictions, and Covid-control measures impact not just the Chinese economy but also world trade. Stories with details talk about a life full of conflict and hopelessness in lockdown, the uptick in infections, and public frustration running across the country due to the absence of individual well-being and liberty of ordinary Chinese citizens.

The topics covered by China Daily include: resuming social operations after lockdown, ease of lockdown, the action of kindness in lockdown, the government's concern for people, and the provision of daily necessities. The themes in China Daily are positive, at least neutral.

China Daily chose to avoid the primary issue; instead of describing the local life under lockdown, it emphasized the efforts of the community to fight against the epidemic. Under this construct, go back to the West's questioning of the Covid-control measures.

Whether China Daily or CNN, their social construction is one-sided. The media reports construct a completely opposite world. Combining both of them could assemble a complete Shanghai society, of course, based on the authenticity of the news reports. Objectivity and authenticity are two basic requirements for a news report (Zhang, 2017). However, driven by different ideologies and media properties, both CNN and China Daily tend to deliberately emphasize some elaborately-selected "fact".

2.2 The News Sources

In the news production process, the reporters obtain information depending on the sources. Sources are the primary constructors of the event, and the journalist is the integrator on the basis of them. Therefore, the source influences the news frame from the outset, thus influencing the construction of social reality. In the process of analyzing CNN, we found that its sources include: journalist experience, government, The general public, the official, experts, and scholars. The most significant part is the journalist experience, direct records of journalists.

As for China Daily, we've summarized other sources, which include: enterprise vendors and employees, Government and officials, Shanghai residents, Shanghai deliverymen, Chinese and foreign volunteers, and scholars. The specific items and categories of the sources are shown in the following table.

Table 2: Items and categories of the sources quoted by the coverage of CNN and China Daily

New Outlet David Culver, a journalist for CNN Shanghai vice mayor Zong Ming the flight attendant the passengers David Culver met Shanghai residents Rodrigo Zeidan and Melissa Noqueira The US State Department advisory Source the video of Shanghai Andy Pekosz, a virologist at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health Abram Wagner, a research assistant professor of epidemiology at the University of Michigan Justin Lessler, an epidemiologist at the University of North Carolina's Gillings School of Global Public Health Dr. Davidson Hammer, a professor of global health and medicine at Boston University Dr. Ian Lipkin, a professor of epidemiology at the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University New Outlet China Daily Rajat Agarwal, president of Henkel China, a chemical and consumer goods company Siemens Healthineers, a German healthcare equipment developer Kong Jun, general manager of Siemens Healthineers China Jim Hughes, vice-president of Product Creation Enterprise at Ford China Fabrice Megarbane, president of L'Oreal North Asia Zone and CEO of L'Oreal China a company's Senior Vice-President Xiao Shuixian Wang Wenbo, vice-president of JD Liang Changlin, founder and CEO of Dingdong Maicai Source Shanghai resident Li Xiaofang Dakota Cronin, a United States native, living in Shanghai Peter Legner, a German living in Shanghai

Source: Information collection and collation by authors.

Yang Yaosen, a delivery man in Shanghai

Peng Chenlei, Shanghai's vice-mayor

Vice-Premier Sun Chunlan

Jiang Rui, director of the Shanghai Civil Affairs Bureau

Cavince Adhere, Kenya-based international relations scholar

Sources selection of CNN and that of China Daily appear to be differentiated from each other in terms of the type of sources the reporters mainly relied on. They present lockdown from different perspectives.

One of the most significant sources for CNN is David Culver, a journalist of CNN, who spent three years in China and also experienced the 2022 Shanghai COVID-19 outbreak. He has just gone through two-month-long restrictions from April to May 2022. Here are two reports documenting his lockdown days and escape from China, and a feeling of despair and tension always pervaded his essay.

China Daily, as a comparison with CNN, they have captured the views of many entrepreneurs to demonstrate the government's actions in lockdown. China Daily did not deny the stressful and breathless life when the residents were locked down. Rather, it goes to express some positive matters, such as the kindness of citizens in Shanghai, government support for enterprises, and so on.

2.3 Slant and the Keywords

By observing the slant of the media, we can analyze its communication position and ideology (Abbas, 2022). According to the general slant, this paper divides the articles into: Neutral: information release, objective description of the current situation; Positive: emphasis on affirming experience, practices, and achievements; Negative: questioning, exposing problems. The tone used in the media's delivery of information is examined by us to assess the slant of news coverage.

Table 3: Items and categories of the slant of CNN and China Daily

Slant	Headline/Titles
CNN (6)	
Neutral (4)	US State Department orders departure of non-emergency personnel from Shanghai consulate amid COVID-19 restrictions
	A COVID-19 spike like the one in China is unlikely in the US, experts say. Here's why
	Opinion: We're locked down in Shanghai with 25 pounds of mangoes and some very helpful neighbors Leaving locked down Shanghai for a 'whole new world' outside China
Negative (2)	Pressure builds as Shanghai, a city of 25 million, remains locked inside
3	Opinion: Why no one dare tell China's Xi the awful truth zero-COVID isn't working
China Daily (6	
Neutral (3)	Getting Shanghai back on track after lockdown
	Shanghai strives to enhance access to daily necessities
	Some Shanghai communities allowed to ease lockdown
Positive (3)	Shanghai deliveryman empties his own pocket for others
	Shanghai improves care for those left homeless by virus
	China's effective anti-pandemic efforts bespeak institutional strength

Source: Information collection and collation by authors.

Of CNN's six news coverage, neutral coverage accounted for four of them, while the remaining two were negative. The language is critical, criticizing 'the restrictions are more distressing than the threat of the virus.' Negative words that carry strong connotations are used in the reports; words and phrases such as distressing, panicked, desperation, fatigue, frustration, unrelenting, oppressive, and crisis are clearly used in the reports. These words are used to negatively refer to the Chinese Covid lockdown.

China Daily published three positive reports and three neutral news reports. In terms of language, the prominent image of China is associated with measures to support business and local life resumption.

In major crisis events, the media's agenda-setting largely determines the direction of public opinion. This requires the media not only to undertake the task of reporting information objectively and authentically but also to assume a certain function of relieving social emotions. China Daily and CNN play the game of international public opinion through their respective reports.

2.4 Opinion

Unlike news reports, which are generally considered objective, fair and balanced, opinions generally reflect the newspaper's position. Both are significant because they can also influence public opinion. We have collected an opinion from CNN and China Daily, respectively.

Table 4. T	he opinion	report	summary
I able 4. I	HE OPHINGH	1 EDOLL	Sullillial y

CNN: publi	ished April 26, 2022		
Headline	Why does no one dares tell China's Xi the awful truth zero-COVID isn't working		
Length	866 words		
Key features	The report focuses on the invalid zero-COVID strategy and gives more emphasis and prominence to the dramatic		
	increase in cases as BA.2 rips through Shanghai. The report also focuses on China's mastery of censorship,		
	propaganda, and social control, which hinders the flow of information.		
China Daily	y: published May 7, 2022		
Headline	China's effective anti-pandemic efforts bespeak institutional strength		
Length	828 words		
Key features	The report focuses on these efforts that China to restrict the spread of the virus and minimize the epidemic's impact,		
	and counterattack some Western negative bigots chout Chinese anti-pandemic efforts and epidemic control		
	policies.		

Source: Information collection and collation by authors.

The government's failure in controlling the virus is presented clearly on CNN, and the only reason why China still insists on zero-COVID is the very rigidities of the political system built by the government. The discourse "China's mastery of censorship, propaganda and social control checked COVID-19's initial spread" is used to invite readers to doubt social control under the Chinese government rather than acknowledging China's initial achievements in Anti-epidemic. The Chinese government is described as an autocratic social control mechanism. The report also describes the government as an autocratic network, which blocks and filters Internet information, and infringes on the individual well-being and liberty of ordinary Chinese citizens.

China Daily is an English language daily newspaper published in China since 1981, aiming both at a Chinese and an international audience (Veneti et al., 2016). It's China's only newspaper that has effectively entered the western mainstream society, published an opinion in late May to respond to the question of Western media. According to China Daily, China has struck a fine balance between pandemic control and economic development; its way of taming the virus has proven to be scientific and effective and has testified to the country's institutional strength. The report also emphasized the guidance of the Chinese central government and support from the people make a difference in the anti-epidemic response. The conclusion ends with the response (On the basis of the experience, China is now taking the right steps for its densely populated cities and around. China's epidemic control strategy is the right choice that can stand the test of history) to doubt of zero-COVID strategy.

As the official said in the recording, "This pandemic has become a political issue". In other words, the two selected newspapers, namely CNN from the United States of America and China Daily from China, politicized the pandemic to serve the interests and ideologies of the countries they represent.

3. Comparison of Eastern and Western Media Reports

3.1 Differentiating Features and the Reasons

The first is because of the different characteristics brought about by political systems and cultural traditions. According to our observation and analysis, it is found that the topics chosen by the western media are more focused on discussing the malignant consequences and economic and political impacts of precognitive facts. For example, the article "Pressure builds as Shanghai, a city of 25 million, remains locked inside." Chinese media, taking China Daily as an example, have more humanistic care, encourage people in the epidemic area to bring new hope, and often pay more attention to talking about political advantages. For example, in the article "Getting Shanghai back on track after lockdown," "China's effective anti-pandemic efforts bespeak institutional strength". The most fundamental reason for the above conclusion is the difference between political systems and cultural traditions. Over the past few thousand years until today, Chinese people have been deeply influenced by Confucianism, and their expressions of malignant events are more subtle, which is also reflected in the articles written by the media. In addition, China is a country ruled by one party, the Communist Party of China has absolute authority, and the news media shoulders a strong mouthpiece role. Therefore, Chinese media generally maintain a unified political position and a unified ideology. The United States, on the other hand, is a relatively liberal and democratic capitalist country with a relatively weak cultural foundation, and the American language expression is relatively straightforward. In addition, the United States implements multi-party governance and does not have a unified political and ideological position, so friction between political parties will affect the opinions expressed by the media. In addition, the United States is trying to maintain its position in the world, so the media will become an important tool for it to maintain international public opinion. Affected by this aspect, the American media is more inclined to discuss the most core and acute issues.

The second difference is reflected in the number of reports. Since the outbreak of the new crown epidemic in Shanghai in the first half of 2022 is a public health event within my country, the Chinese media, China Daily, has been carrying out extensive and long-term reports on the epidemic in Shanghai during the closure of the city. The main form is reflected in the update of the latest data, as well as the prediction and analysis reports of relevant experts. Through the above methods, it is possible to maximize the objectivity of the media through the combination of factual data and scientific analysis. For the American media led by CNN, because the new crown epidemic in Shanghai has little impact on the United States itself, CNN's media reports will show periodic and irregular outbreaks. In order to attract readers, CNN often digs deep into China's economy, policies, and other aspects, such as the article "Why no one dares tell China's Xi the awful truth -- zero-COVID isn't working." To a large extent, these articles will bring about the intensification of contradictions and the opposition of positions, bringing about more unpredictable problems and changing situations. Moreover, the reporting process of Western media will be advanced along with China's policies, forms, and other changing reality factors. The number of reports is essentially a matter of the degree of correlation, which is closely related to political factors, geographical factors, and other factors.

The third manifestation of the difference lies in the choice of language and position of the article. China's media, represented by China Daily, often express a very unified and firm position, which is explained in the first paragraph, so I won't go into details here. However, the point to be added is the expression of national emotions. In my country, for both media practitioners and readers, the expression of national emotions often reflects the characteristics of diversity, that is, the coexistence of rational thinking and perceptual thinking. Therefore, the expressions of national sentiments by Chinese media are often linked to political positions, which are concise and defend sovereignty. The media represented by CNN in the United States are more objective and neutral in terms of wording, rational thinking is far greater than emotional thinking, and the emotional color is very weak. In their reports on the outbreak of COVID-19 in Shanghai, Western media tend to be more obscure about their political stance. These media often conduct relevant observation, research, and analysis from the perspective of a third party, and through the interpretation of relevant policies and official speeches, they can delve into the deep-seated reasons behind the superficial phenomenon. The political factor in CNN's analysis is not very strong, but there are many doubts.

3.2 Similarity

One of the most important characteristics of the media's news communication is objectivity and fairness. The objective publicity is reflected in the performance of COVID-19 in Shanghai in the number of confirmed cases, people's livelihood and relief supplies, public responses from citizens, and nucleic acid testing. Although the national conditions and political positions of each country are different, the excavation and elaboration of the above-mentioned issues are still highly consistent. The outbreak of COVID-19 in Shanghai, the number of materials, the coverage and frequency of nucleic acid testing, and the public response of citizens mainly reflect the discussion of people's livelihood issues at the public level. The changes in the number of confirmed cases, the distribution of medical resources in the whole society, the number of shelters, and the level of assistance for confirmed cases reflect the government's ability to handle public crises. Although Chinese media are full of humanistic emotions in the process of reporting, while Western media's explanation of events is more from a rational third-party perspective, both Chinese and Western media follow the principle of objectivity and fairness in the specific data and content of the report. Respect objective facts and data to carry out relevant reports on different national structures and capacity systems.

COVID-19, the second pandemic of the twenty-first century, is a public health crisis faced by countries all over the world. As a community with a shared future living in the same era, the timeliness and openness of media reports on COVID-19 have been guaranteed in a timely manner. Therefore, although the media of various countries are scrambling to report the Shanghai COVID-19 outbreak, they will complete the localized translation of the news and then complete the integration of the news with global characteristics and the local. Such practices not only generate enough talk but are all about calling for victory over this world public crisis event. Therefore, at this time, the media has formed the role of a bond, which is the common point of Eastern and Western media.

4. Conclusion

Our article collected a big account of news about the Shanghai COVID-19 outbreak. Over this news, we made full analysis in science and serious method. Through our partners' discussion and research, we had these conclusions. First, in the view of emotion, we found the similarity that the media reported the fundamental narration in fact. Because of the different attitudes and standards of COVID-19 in different countries, the emphasis of this news appeared differently. Compared with CNN, China Daily's report is closer to objective facts, and the article also has a stronger presence and authenticity. Since the global outbreak of COVID-19 in 2020, the Chinese government has been adhering to the principle of safeguarding the health of its citizens and has devoted a lot of resources to ensure the safety and health of its citizens. As a result, the novel coronavirus in China is largely under control. However, the situation of the novel coronavirus pneumonia in the international community is still difficult. This is a big challenge for many international cities, including Shanghai. In addition, we also found that China's media construction pays more attention to the

exposition of facts, while Western media pays more attention to the interpretation and analysis of the political factors behind news events.

Based on the common analysis, discussion, and unremitting efforts of our team members, we first described the conceptual, basic principles from a macro perspective: and then we analyzed and compared a large number of reports, and strictly verified news sources in different articles ranges, so as to summarize the most representative keywords, and put forward our own opinions based on objective reality and the most scientific data; finally, through the above concepts and analysis, we compare the similarities and differences between Eastern and Western media and explore the reasons for each similarity and difference in cultural traditions, technology, politics, and international situations. We hope this article can provide some references for the most relevant practitioners. In addition, other public crisis events related to COVID-19 found in this analysis and discussion are also worthy of our follow-up exploration.

Funding: This research received no external funding.

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Publisher's Note: All claims expressed in this article are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of their affiliated organizations, or those of the publisher, the editors and the reviewers.

References

- [1] Abbas, A. H. (2022). Politicizing the pandemic: A schemata analysis of COVID-19 news in two selected newspapers. *International Journal for the Semiotics of Law, 35*(3), 883–902. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11196-020-09745-2
- [2] Berger, P. L., & Luckmann, T. (1991). The social construction of reality: A treatise in the sociology of knowledge. Open Road Media.
- [3] Chen, J. M., & Chen, Y. Q. (2022). China can prepare to end its zero-COVID policy. *Nature Medicine*, *28*(6), 1104–1105. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41591-022-01794-3
- [4] D'Angelo, P. (2017). Framing: Media frames. In (pp. 1–10). Wiley. https://doi.org/10.1002/9781118783764.wbieme0048
- [5] Entman, R. M. (1993). Framing: Toward clarification of a fractured paradigm. *Journal of Communication*, 43(4), 51–58. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1460-2466.1993.tb01304.x
- [6] Gamson, W. A., Croteau, D., Hoynes, W., & Sasson, T. (1992). Media images and the social construction of reality. *Annual Review of Sociology*, 18(1), 373–393. https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev.so.18.080192.002105
- [7] Matthes, J. (2009). What's in a frame? A content analysis of media framing studies in the world's leading communication journals, 1990-2005. *Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly*, 86(2), 349–367. https://doi.org/10.1177/107769900908600206
- [8] Nelson, C., Lurie, N., Wasserman, J., & Zakowski, S. (2007). Conceptualizing and defining public health emergency preparedness. *American Journal of Public Health*, *97*(S1), S9–S11. https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2007.114496
- [9] Nyberg, T., Ferguson, N. M., Nash, S. G., Webster, H. H., Flaxman, S., Andrews, N., Hinsley, W., Bernal, J. L., Kall, M., Bhatt, S., Blomquist, P., Zaidi, A., Volz, E., Aziz, N. A., Harman, K., Funk, S., Abbott, S., Hope, R., Charlett, A., Chand, M., Ghani, A. C., Seaman, S. R., Dabrera, G., De Angelis, D., Presanis, A. M., Thelwall, S., Nyberg, T., Ferguson, N. M., Nash, S. G., Webster, H. H., Flaxman, S., Andrews, N., Hinsley, W., Lopez Bernal, J., Kall, M., Bhatt, S., Blomquist, P., Zaidi, A., Volz, E., Abdul Aziz, N., Harman, K., Funk, S., Abbott, S., Hope, R., Charlett, A., Chand, M., Ghani, A. C., Seaman, S. R., Dabrera, G., De Angelis, D., Presanis, A. M., & Thelwall, S. (2022). Comparative analysis of the risks of hospitalization and death associated with SARS-CoV-2 omicron (B.1.1.529) and delta (B.1.617.2) variants in England: a cohort study. *The Lancet*, 399(10332), 1303–1312. https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(22)00462-7
- [10] Oxford Learner's Dictionaries. (2022). crisis_1 noun Definition, pictures, pronunciation, and usage notes. https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/us/definition/english/crisis_1
- [11] Scott, J., & Marshall, G. (2009). Oxford dictionary of sociology. Oxford University Press.
- [12] Semetko, H. A., & Valkenburg, P. M. V. (2000). Framing European politics: A content analysis of press and television news. *Journal of Communication*, 50(2), 93–109. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1460-2466.2000.tb02843.x
- [13] Van Gorp, B. (2007). The constructionist approach to framing: Bringing culture back in. *Journal of Communication*, *57*(1), 60–78. https://doi.org/10.1111/i.0021-9916.2007.00329.x
- [14] Veneti, A., Karadimitriou, A., & Poulakidakos, S. (2016). Media ecology and the politics of dissent: Representations of the Hong Kong protests in the Guardian and China Daily. Social Media + Society, 2(3), Article 205630511666217. https://doi.org/10.1177/2056305116662175
- [15] World Health Organization. (2020, March 12). WHO director-general's opening remarks at the mission briefing on COVID-19 12 March 2020.

 . Www.who.int. https://www.who.int/director-general/speeches/detail/who-director-general-s-opening-remarks-at-the-mission-briefing-on-covid-19---12-march-2020
- [16] Zhang, B. (2017). Pursuit of power: A critical discourse analysis of the CNN and China Daily South China Sea reports. Cross-Cultural Communication, 13(8), 17–22. https://doi.org/10.3968/9916
- [17] Zhao, H. (2020). Explicating the social constructionist perspective on crisis communication and crisis management research: a review of communication and business journals. *Journal of Public Relations Research*, 32(3-4), 98–119. https://doi.org/10.1080/1062726X.2020.1802732