

Content analysis of select Nigerian newspapers' Reportage of #EndBadGovernance Protest



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Abstract

The study examines the newspaper reportage and frequency of the August 2024 #EndBadGovernance protests in Nigerian newspapers, focusing on reportage by *Daily Trust* and *The Sun*. A quantitative analysis of 200 articles was conducted to examine the genres, placement, framing types, and tonal variation in the reportage. Findings reveal that 82.76% of the articles appeared in the inside pages, suggesting limited strategic visibility. News reports dominated with 55% of the total publications. Within the articles examined, Motivational Frame served as the most used frame, 42.5% while the Diagnostic Frame ranked second 39%, and Prognostic/Causal Frame trailed behind with 18.5%. The media deliveringly employed a critical tone throughout their reportage, with less supportive 31% and neutral 22% reports than critical 47%. Even though the news media covered the protests extensively, their strategic visibility remained low, and reporters mainly used a critical approach. Through a quantitative analysis approach, the study systematically examined news reports, editorials, features, opinions published between August 1 and 10, 2024. Articles were coded and categorised according to genre. Data were analysed using frequency counts and percentages to establish trends in coverage and identity patterns of media reportage. The context of the study rests on the media framing role in shaping public discourse on protest and governance. The discussion of findings indicates that, although the protests attracted widespread media attention, the reportage was superficial, critical in tone, and limited in visibility. The heavy use of inside-page placement meant the issues received less prominence, and the dominance of critical frames over supportive coverage reinforced narratives of confrontation rather than engagement. By rarely employing prognostic or causal frames, the reportage overlooked the chance to report constructive pathways for resolving the issues raised in the protests. The study affirms that although *Daily Trust* and *The Sun* newspapers devoted significant coverage to #EndBadGovernance protests, their reportage strategy limited the media's ability to enhance democratic participation and civic understanding. The study recommends that

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newspapers enhance front-page visibility, maintain balanced tones, and adopt broader framing approaches to offer more inclusive and insightful reportage of protests in Nigeria.

Keywords: *#BadGovernance protest, Newspaper coverage, Nigeria, Media framing, Content analysis.*

Introduction

Major political, economic, and societal changes have always been associated with protest movements throughout history. The French Revolution, alongside the American Civil Rights Movement, together with the Arab Spring and Occupy Wall Street protests, brought people together to fight existing authority while seeking new visions for public betterment (Célia, 2020). In Nigeria recently, the government has witnessed widespread public discontent over issues of insecurity, fuel subsidies removal, corruption, unemployment, police brutality, and poor governance. These issues culminated in various protest movements such as #EndSARS in October 2020 and expanded into broader social and political movements under the hashtag #EndBadGovernance protest. These hashtags have become symbols of collective outcry against systemic governance failure and encapsulate the widespread youth frustration with poor leadership, economic stagnation, and institutional decay (Akinbolola, 2021; Ojebuyi & Salawu, 2022).

Nigeria demonstrates this emerging protest culture because it is both a major democratic nation of 200 million citizens in Africa. Nigeria exhibits a frequent protest phenomenon caused by political instabilities, economic mismanagement, and ethno-religious tensions throughout the decades. During democratic rule after 1999, Nigerians initiated frequent protests to voice discontent about policing irregularities, electoral misconduct, economic obstacles, and energy price policies (Igwe and Amadi, 2021).

The 2020 #EndSARS protests and the 2024 #EndBadGovernance protests represent significant recent protest movements that have emerged in Nigeria. The first sought to curb police brutality, while the second demanded good governance. The 2024 #EndBadGovernance protests offer an extensive framework through which scholars can analyse the governmental relationship with protests in addition to media portrayal during modern Nigerian activism (Ohia & Salawu, 2020).

#EndBadGovernance protests erupted across Nigeria from 1 to 10 August 2024 as people reacted to intolerable conditions caused by President Bola Tinubu's economic reform initiatives. The administration made economic reforms that eliminated long-lasting fuel subsidies while enabling the Naira currency to float to promote economic liberalisation and draw foreign investment. Higher costs hit millions of Nigerians immediately after these reforms were put into practice. Record levels of inflation took hold in the nation, while essential goods vanished from stores as food prices soared past what average residents could afford. The BBC labeled this economic situation as the "worst crisis in a generation" (Bassey, 2024).

In July 2024, some Nigerian citizens began showing the first signs of protest through demonstrations with signs reading "Hardship Is Unbearable," "We Are Not Slaves in Our Country," and "Enough Is Enough," according to Francis and Lucas (2023). The national wave of protest spread across major cities between August 1st to encompassed Lagos, Abuja, Port Harcourt, Kano, and Kaduna. The protests gained considerable symbolic magnitude when they evoked several political and social reactions across the nation. President Tinubu delivered his address to the country, where he spoke about

public dissatisfaction and requested dialogues, but this failed to reduce citizen discontent. The demonstrations reached their most powerful point when the "One-Million-Man March" took place on August 10, as citizens exercised complete civil opposition to the government. The demonstrations produced long-lasting effects, which included heightened national grief, accompanied by reform advocacy and sustained digital protests throughout the nation (Omeni, 2022).

The role of national newspapers as a watchdog of society gained exceptional emphasis as Nigeria faced this political turmoil. The media acts as an arena of struggle while monitoring political tensions in societies that experience political disruptions. The Nigerian newspapers *Daily Trust* and *The Sun* possess substantial influence in shaping public perception. Publication decisions about headlines, along with language choices, image usage, selected sources, and voice representation in articles, enable media outlets to make stories stronger or weaker. Public sympathy and government reactions, as well as international involvement, depend strongly on how protesters are portrayed as "patriotic citizens," "angry mobs," or "foreign-influenced anarchists." When the media places government declarations in front of direct witness accounts or conceals aggressive actions, they shape the historical narrative (Edema & Ogwezi, 2023).

The present research conducts a thorough content analysis of *Daily Trust* and *The Sun* to investigate their reportage of the #EndBadGovernance protests. Media analysis goes beyond academic inquiry about media studies because it reveals protest legitimacy construction alongside democratic defense and narrative authority battles within contemporary Nigerian politics.

Statement of the Problem

Albeit Nigeria's constitution guarantees press freedom, the practical realities of state repression, ownership influence, editorial policy, and commercial interests often undermine the autonomy of the media. This contradiction becomes most salient during moments of civic unrest, such as protests, when the press is expected to function as a watchdog, amplifying citizens' voices as an instrument reinforcing dominant power structures. The #EndBadGovernance protests of August 2024 provide a critical case for investigating how Nigerian newspapers navigated these competing pressures. Existing scholarship emphasizes that the Nigerian press frequently negotiates an uncertainty balance between serving public interest and succumbing to institutional and political constraints (Uche, 1989; Akinfeleye, 2003). However, there remains insufficient empirical evidence on the extent to which contemporary reportage of protest movements reflects these tensions. This study, therefore, seeks to investigate whether newspaper reportage of the #EndBadGovernance protests challenged the narratives of state power and how such reportage informs the broader discourse on media responsibility in Nigeria's democratic governance.

Objectives of the Study

The main objective of the study is to analyse how *Daily Trust* and *The Sun* reported the #EndBadGovernance protest during the first ten days of August 2024.

Specific Objectives are to:

1. Examine the frequency of reportage of #EndBadGovernance protests by *Daily Trust* and *The Sun* newspapers.

2. Analyse the framing methods employed by newspapers in their reportage of the protest events.
3. Evaluate the tone used in the reportage of the protest - whether positive, negative or neutral.

Research Questions

The following research questions guide the study.

1. To what extent did *Daily Trust* and *The Sun* report the #EndBadGovernance protests in their publications?
2. What forms of framing did the newspapers employ in reporting the protests?
3. What main tone of framing did the newspapers adopt when covering the protest events?

Significance of the Study

This study contributes to media scholarship on protest coverage in Nigeria. The findings hold significance for academia, media practitioners, and civil society by offering critical insights into the role of the media in framing and reporting protest events.

Scope and Delimitation

This research focuses only on *Daily Trust* and *The Sun*, covering the period August 1-10, 2024. Only articles that explicitly mention the #EndBadGovernance protest are analysed.

Literature Review

Review of Concept

This section reviewed concepts on content analysis, newspapers reportage, media framing and #EndBadGovernance as they relate to the study.

Content Analysis

Burton (1990) defines content analysis as a way of analysing the meaning and significance of media material by breaking it down into units and measuring how many times each type of unit appears. Content analysis enables the researcher to clearly and explicitly define the categories of analysis used in classifying the content of the study for further verification of the results by other researchers who may be interested in replicating the same study (Wimmer and Dominick, 1994). Also, Kerlinger (1986), cited in Wimmer and Dominick (1983:163), explained content analysis as a "method of studying and analyzing communication in a systematic, objective, and quantitative manner for the purpose of measuring variables."

(Berelson, 1952; Neuendorf, 2017), explained content analysis as a systematic, replicable technique for compressing many words of text into fewer content categories based on explicit rules of coding. It is used to quantify and analyse the presence, meanings, and relationships of certain words, themes, or concepts within texts. In mass communication research, content analysis helps in understanding how media frames events and shapes public perception (Wimmer and Dominick, 2014).

Newspaper Reportage

A newspaper is a lightweight and disposable publication (especially, a periodical), usually printed on low-cost paper called newsprint. It may be general or special interest

and may be published daily, weekly, biweekly, monthly, bimonthly, or quarterly (Rabiu, 2013).

Newspaper coverage refers to how print and online newspapers report, interpret, and prioritise issues or events. The nature of media coverage influences public understanding of political issues and social movements (McCombs & Shaw, 1972). Reportage aims to present a vivid, realistic depiction of the events, often incorporating descriptive and narrative elements to engage the audience. This can be found across various forms of media, including newspapers, magazines, television broadcasts, and increasingly, online platforms (Allan, 2010). Key variables often considered in assessing newspaper reportage include frequency, placement (e.g., front page or inside page), length of articles, use of visuals, and editorial tone (Okoro & Odoemelam, 2013). In this study, newspaper reportage is analysed to evaluate how Nigerian press outlets represented the #EndBadGovernance protest.

Media Framing

Media framing consists of news content arrangement methods that determine public understanding and interpretation of information (Khanya, 2024). In 1974, Goffman first presented frames as tools that guide people to process and react to what they perceive as real in social situations. Several aspects of a news event determine its prominence through media framing because journalists use these components to shape how their audiences receive information (Van Dijk, 2023). Framing is the process by which media organise and present events in a way that conveys a particular meaning or interpretation (Entman, 1993). Media frames influence how audiences understand and react to news stories. According to Goffman (1974), frames help individuals locate, perceive, identify, and label events within their environment. In the context of this study, framing is assessed to determine whether the protest was portrayed as legitimate civic action, a threat to national order, or otherwise. Previous studies have shown that African media often adopt state-centric frames, especially during political protests (Obadare, 2006; Egbunike & Olorunnisola, 2015)

#EndBadGovernance Protest

The #EndBadGovernance protest of August 2024 was an offshoot of the #EndSARS movement that began in October 2020, initially as a call to end police brutality by the now-defunct Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS). However, it evolved into a broader socio-political agitation against systemic corruption, unemployment, insecurity, bad governance or policies in Nigeria (Adegoke, 2021; Akinbobola, 2021). The hashtag #EndBadGovernance became a rallying cry for youth-led demands for democratic accountability, transparency, and socio-economic justice (Ojebuyi & Salawu, 2022).

The term or phrase is used here to mean a series of protests or organised demonstrations and public actions conducted between August 1 and August 10, 2024, across some major cities in Nigeria, aimed at protesting against bad governance and governmental policies and actions such as fuel subsidy removal, costs of transportation, and hunger perceived as ineffective or corrupt. These protests involve the #EndBadGovernance organisers and various activities such as matches, speeches, placards, and social media campaigns, to advocate for economic reforms and improved governance.

Theoretical Framework

This study was anchored on Framing Theory.

Framing Theory

Framing theory, according to McQuail (2005), cited in Asemah et al (2017), is a philosophical postulation that explains the way in which news content is typically shaped and contextualized by journalists.

Framing theory was initially developed by Erving Goffman in his book *Frame Analysis* (1974). He examined how people organised experiences in their minds. Scholars such as Robert Entman (1993) and others expanded the theory to focus on how media frames affect or influence public opinion and social behaviour. The media selects or chooses which facts or aspects to highlight, making certain aspects more noticeable or important to the audience.

The choice of language provides the direction of the news content consumption by the public. However, the choice of those words depends on the content producers, their media outlet, and of course, their perception about an issue (Baran and Davis, 2012), cited in Asemah et al (2017).

While attempting to explain further what framing theory is all about, Asemah et al (2017), conceived the idea that communication itself comes with a frame and frames are contained in the language tone of the communication. The choice of language is, of course, vital, but it is vital because language evokes moral and conceptual frames. Thus, media framing is seen as the way in which information is presented to its audiences. They further explained that in framing, there are issues of frame building and framing setting. The former is associated with internal and external factors in the media organisation, such as owners, editorial policy, and reports' ideological and political leanings that, in one way or the other, influence the structural qualities of media content and portrayal of issues. Therefore, framing theory, just like the agenda-setting theory, also comes under the powerful effect theory. The study identified and analysed motivational, diagnostic, and prognostic framing types.

Review of Empirical Studies

This section reviewed a few previous works of other scholars in line with the field of study to including:

Okoro (2013), *Print Media Framing of Boko Haram Insurgency in Nigeria: Content Analytical Studies of the Guardian, Daily Sun, Vanguard, and This Day Newspaper*. Being a Dissertation submitted to the Department of Mass Communication, University of Nigeria, Nsuka, in partial fulfillment for the award of M.Sc. in Mass Communication.

The study set out to identify the pattern of frames adopted by Nigerian newspapers in the coverage of the Boko Haram insurgency. Four newspapers (*The Guardian, Daily Sun, Vanguard, and This Day*) were analysed to find out the framing patterns in the reportage of the Boko Haram insurgency. The research method was content analysis; Inter-coder reliability was tested using Holsti's formula, which showed an overall 0.86 percent agreement. Findings indicate that Nigerian newspapers reported the Boko Haram insurgency in a predominantly policy response frame. The pattern was conspicuously manifest in *The Guardian, This Day, and Vanguard* newspapers. However, this contrasted with the pattern identified in the *Daily Sun* newspapers, which emphasised ethnic and religious frames. Findings also showed that there was a 60%

prevalence of the 10-frame categories used in the study. From this finding, it was clear that Nigerian newspapers reported government intervention in positive terms. Such positive framings are germane to minimizing insurgencies like that of Boko Haram, while on the other hand, coverage that emphasised ethnic and religious frames is negative and is detrimental to peace initiatives in a secular and multi-cultural State like Nigeria. Okoro's work is relevant to this study in the sense that it portrays the value at which framing is considered a pivotal practice in journalism.

Normeshie (2018) carried out a study, "Media coverage of social protest in Ghana: a qualitative study of the *Daily Graphic* and *Daily newspapers*." The objective of the study was to find out the nature of the portrayal of protest events and protesters, the factors that informed news selection decisions, the consideration of protest story sources, and the tone employed in such coverage. The study employed content analysis, using qualitative content analysis and individual in-depth interviews. A total of 57 news stories were analysed, and nine media practitioners were interviewed. The study found that the protesters were sometimes portrayed as violent, disruptive, and lawless. They were also represented as people with ulterior motives who used the protests to pursue their hidden agendas. The findings also showed that the media employed both negative and positive tones during coverage of the events. The reviewed study and the pioneer study are related, as both studies focus on media coverage and social protest. But whereas the reviewed media coverage of social protest in Ghana: a qualitative study of the

Daily Graphic and *Daily newspapers* are similar to this study, while this study focuses on Nigerian newspapers' reportage of #EndBadGovernance protest. Both studies adopted content analysis to study the research questions to address the research problem in the study.

Methodology

Research Design

The study adopted content analysis methods together with a quantitative data collection process to systematically code news items. The systematic and objective research method of content analysis enables analysis of communication contents to study media representations about the #EndBadGovernance protests in Nigeria. A quantitative research design fits the study because it enables counting how often certain content appears in newspapers, which provides a comprehensive understanding of news media coverage about the protests. The selected method fits well when investigating the degree of emphasis and editorial direction displayed by media outlets.

Sample Size and Sampling Technique

A purposive sampling technique was adopted due to the large volume of published articles during this period. This approach allowed for the deliberate selection of articles that specifically addressed #EndBadGovernance protests, ensuring the inclusion of only relevant content. All articles from *Daily Trust* and *The Sun* that focused on or were relevant to the protests, regardless of their news category, were included in the analysis. In total, 200 news articles were sampled from both newspapers. This sample size was deemed practical while providing comprehensive coverage and multiple perspectives on the #EndBadGovernance protests.

Unit of Analysis

Any news articles, editorial, or opinion piece, interview mentioning the #EndBadGovernance protest, constitute the unit of analysis.

Method of Data Analysis

The researchers adopted a quantitative approach, employing statistical analysis and frequency counts to identify patterns in the coverage of the protests. Instances of different framing approaches and tonal choices in the articles were systematically recorded, while variations between the newspapers were examined. Tables and charts were used to present the findings, enabling readers to easily observe trends in media coverage of the protests.

Data Presentation and Analysis

This section provided an analysis of data collected from the coding sheet of *Daily Trust* and *The Sun* newspapers were used in the study. A quantitative investigation of 200 articles was involved by applying a detailed coding system to discover framing methods along with highlighting the covered content.

Table 1: Genre of reportage of the August 2024 #EndBadGovernance Protests

Newspaper	News Report	Editorial	Feature Story	Opinion/ Column	Interview	Photo/ Illustration	Total
<i>DailyTrust</i>	68(58.62%)	0%	14(12.07%)	15(12.93%)	4(3.45.%)	15 (12.93%)	116
<i>The Sun</i>	42(50.00%)	1(1.19%)	12(14.29%)	13(15.48%)	6(7.14%)	10 (11.90%)	84
Total	110(55%)	1(0.5%)	26(13%)	28(14%)	10 (5%)	25(12.5%)	200

Source: Content analysis, 2025

Table 1 above shows the different reportage genres relating to the #EndBadGovernance protests as found in selected issues of the two newspapers. The results indicate that *Daily Trust* published 68 news reports, representing 58.62%, without a single editorial and have 14 feature stories representing 12.93% but did editorial on other important national issues affecting the nation other than the protest. This was mainly the decision of its editorial board. The news coverage in *The Sun* consisted of 42 news reports, representing 50% as their main publication, along with editorials 1 (1.19%) as minor content. In total, news reports amounted to 110 (55%) of the articles among the analytical units in both newspapers.

Analysis of Research Questions

1. To what extent did *Daily Trust* and *The Sun* report the #EndBadGovernance protests in their publications?
2. What forms of framing did the newspapers employ in reporting the protests?
3. What main tone of framing did the newspapers adopt when covering the protest events?

Research Question 1: To what extent did *Daily Trust* and *The Sun* report the #EndBadGovernance protests in their publications?

Table 2: Prominence Given to the reportage of the August 2024 #EndBadGovernance Protest

Newspaper	Front Page Coverage	Inside Page Coverage	Back Page Coverage	Total
<i>Daily Trust</i>	14 (12.07%)	96 (82.76%)	6 (5.17%)	116
<i>The Sun</i>	15 (17.86%)	68 (80.95%)	1 (1.19%)	84
Total	29 (14.5%)	164 (82%)	7 (3.5%)	200

Source: Content analysis, 2025

Table 2 shows how the #EndBadGovernance protests were reported across the front, inside and back pages of both newspapers. The majority of the articles appeared on the inside pages. Results indicate that the two newspapers dedicated a total of 164 (82%) news report on the #EndBadGovernance protest to the inside pages. *Daily Trust* published 96 (82.76%) of its articles on the inside pages, while *The Sun* featured 68 (80.95%) on its inside pages. Both newspapers gave minimal attention to the front pages and back pages. *Daily Trust* published 14 (12.07%) articles on the front pages and 6 (5.17%) of the articles on the back pages. *The Sun* allocated 15 (17.86%) of its articles to the front pages slightly higher than the *Daily Trust* and published only 1 (1.19%) article on its back pages. This distribution may reflect the level of importance or lack thereof that the two newspapers attributed to the protests. It could also have influenced by the editorial policies of the papers during that period.

Research Question 2: What forms of framing did the newspapers employ in reporting the protests?

Table 3: Frame Types for Newspapers Under Investigation

Newspaper	Motivational Frame	Diagnostic Frame	Prognostic/Causal Frame	Total
<i>Daily Trust</i>	55 (27.5%)	40 (20%)	21 (10.5%)	116
<i>The Sun</i>	30 (15%)	38 (19%)	16 (8%)	84
Total	85 (42.5%)	78 (39%)	37 (18.5%)	200

Source: Content analysis, 2025

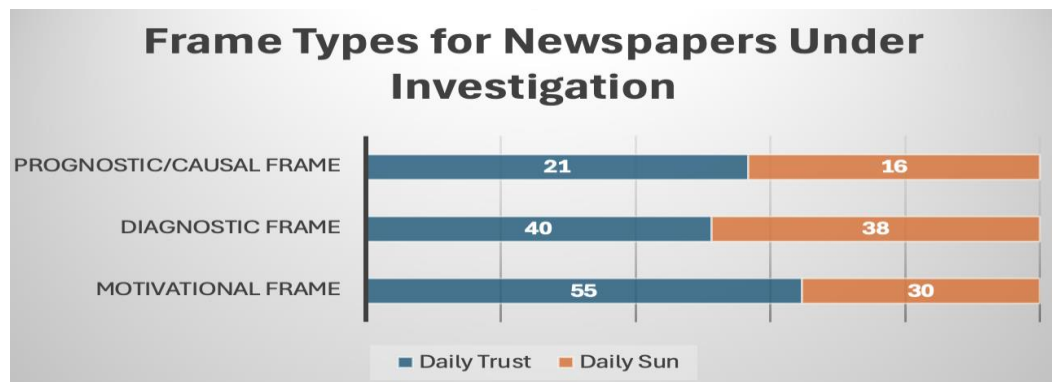


Figure 1: Frame Types for Newspapers Under Investigation

Table 3 and figure 1 show the usage of various presentation types during protest news reportage by *Daily Trust* and *The Sun* newspapers. It indicates that both newspapers

primarily used Motivational Frames 85 representing 42.5% followed by Diagnostic Frames followed at 78 representing 39%, while Prognostic/Causal Frames accounted for 37 (18.5%). The Motivational Frame appeared in 27.5% of *Daily Trust* articles but only in 15% of *The Sun* articles.

Research Question 3: What main tone of framing did the newspapers adopt when covering the protest events?

Table 4: Distribution of Tone of Framing in Newspapers

Newspaper	Supportive Tone	Neutral Tone	Critical Tone	Total
<i>Daily Trust</i>	40 (20%)	30 (15%)	46 (23%)	116
<i>The Sun</i>	22 (11%)	14 (7%)	48 (24%)	84
Total	62 (31%)	44 (22%)	94 (47%)	200

Source: Content analysis, 2025

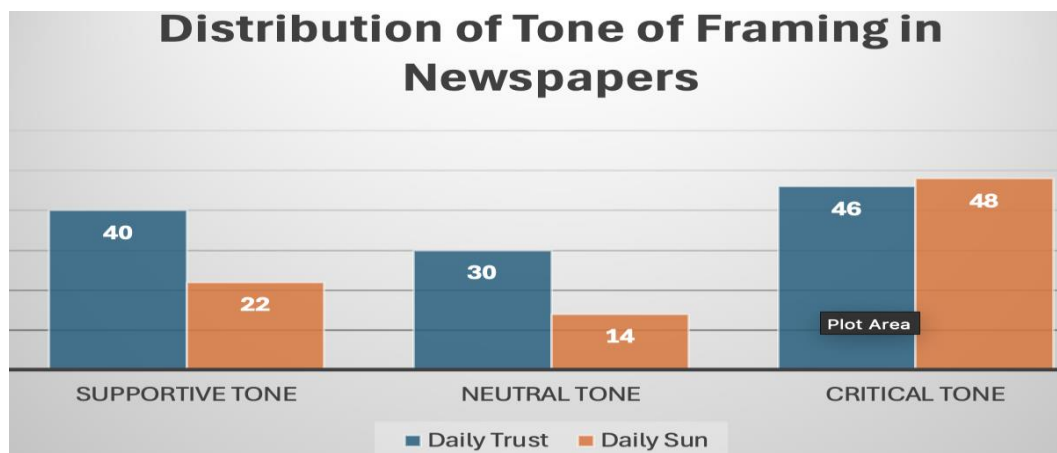


Figure 2: Distribution of Tone of Framing in Newspapers

Table 4 and figure 2 presents how both newspapers reported the protest using various tones. Both *Daily Trust* and *The Sun* newspapers adopted Supportive, Neutral and Critical tones in their reportage - likely in an effort to appear objective and maintain balanced reporting. *Daily Trust* published 40 articles (20%) with supportive tone, 30 (15%) neutral, and 46 (23%) critical - possibly due to political considerations. In contrast, *The Sun* was less supportive of the protest with 22 articles (11%) supportive, 14 (7%) neutral, and 48 (24%) critical. The newspaper may have a more critical stance due to the South East's decision not to participate in the protest and its role as a regional outlet representing the interests of the region. While both newspapers featured critical articles, *Daily Trust* published 23% critical content, compare to *The Sun's* 24%. The data reveals how the two newspapers constructed differing perspectives in their reportage of the 2024 #EndBadGovernance protests movement in Nigeria.

Summary, Conclusion, and Recommendations

Discussion of Findings

The *Daily Trust* and *The Sun* newspapers published a modest number of articles about the August 2024 #EndBadGovernance protests, which primarily appeared within the

inside pages of their daily editions. The #EndBadGovernance protest received front-page recognition in only 29 (14.5%) of articles, even though these national protests occupied a total of 164 (82%) of inside sections of Nigeria's newspapers. While the newspapers acknowledged the significance nature of the protests, they did not select them for main headlines. The limited front-page presence of protest suggests editorial staff either chose to downplay them or presented them in non-emergent terms. A majority of the published content was news-oriented accounting for 110 (55%) of all articles. *Daily Trust* dedicated more space to news production than *The Sun* did, using 116 (58%) of its content for news reporting, compared to *The Sun's* 84 (42%). *Daily Trust* showcased information-based news content as its main reporting method, perhaps aiming to create neutral, informative news narratives. Feature stories and opinion pieces appeared infrequently, accounting for only 26 (13%) and 28 (14%) of the total content, respectively. This statistical imbalance between factual and analytical content suggests that Nigerian newspapers emphasised straight reporting over opinion-based perspectives during the protests. Most of their reportage focused on explaining protest motivators, with Motivational Frame being the most used at 85 (42.5%). The Diagnostic Frame followed closely with 75 (39%), while the Prognostic/Causal Frame made up of 37 (18.5%). This suggests that the newspapers concentrated on the causes and motivations behind the protest, but paid less attention to exploring socio-political implications and potential solutions that could enriched the narrative. For future events, since the Prognostic/Causal frame made up only 37 (18.5%) of their coverage. Forty-seven percent (47%) of the articles in the studied, adopted a critical tone toward the protests. The coverage included 31% supportive tones and 22% neutral tones. Reports about the protests appeared predominantly in critical forms, including a clear stance by the newspapers against the protests, according to Francis and Lucas (2023). The overall critical tone may have undermined positive perspectives on protest activities, even though critical reporting serves an essential role fostering accountability.

Conclusion

The study revealed that although the #EndBadGovernance protests received wide coverage, the newspapers failed to prioritise them on their front pages. Newspaper coverage extensively examined the reasons for the protests while overlooking future outcomes and possible solutions. The dominant critical tone within the media coverage suggests a preference for investigative over educational reporting, potentially distorting public perception. This study highlights the need for more balanced and transparent media coverage of major social events.

Recommendations

1. Increase Front-Page reportage: Newspapers should give important societal events greater prominence to ensure their coverage achieves public visibility.
2. Ensure Balanced Tone: Media outlets should strive for balanced reporting by presenting both critical and supportive perspective, to offer realistic and inclusive depictions of protest movement in Nigeria.
3. Broaden Framing Approaches: A more in-depth understanding of protest coverage emerges when analyses extend beyond standard framing approaches to incorporate the socio-political implications and future trajectories of protests.

Contributions to knowledge: The findings of this study will add to the existing body of knowledge in the field of media and communication especially in the area of protest reportage by newspapers.

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