

Newspaper Framing of Fubara-Wike Political Crisis in Nigeria's Fourth Republic: A Comparative Analysis of *Daily Sun*, *The Punch* and *Vanguard* Newspapers



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Abstract

Political crisis is a major impediment to Nigeria's national development. With the restoration to democratic rule in 1999, high expectations were raised that the new democratic dispensation would resolve the risk of Nigeria's political crisis, while speeding the country's economic and social transformation. The politics of godfatherism, which is seen in this study, has been the focal point of political gangalism in Africa and other developing countries around the globe, and has remained one of the greatest glitches facing the Nigerian political system since the country's return to democratic rule in 1999 to date. Although party machine politics is not an unfamiliar phenomenon in Nigerian political history, the country has seen an increase in it since its return to democratic rule, which continues to weaken government authority and render citizens' voting value meaningless. Its practice has not only retarded the process of democratic consolidation in Nigeria, but also undermines effective state governance and restricts rather than broadens democratic representation. The fundamental thrust of this paper is to analyse the newspaper framing of the three national dailies: The Sun, Punch, and Vanguard newspapers on the political crisis in Rivers State between Governor Siminalayi Fubara and his predecessor, Nyesom Wike, in Nigeria's fourth republic. The key objectives of the study are to analyse how the selected national newspapers have framed the Fubara-Wike political crisis, to identify the dominant themes and narratives in each newspaper's coverage, and to identify the genre of stories on the Fubara-Wike political crisis. The content analysis method was adopted. This approach was used because of its appropriateness in dealing with press coverage of various events. The use of comparative content analysis to measure political trends has proven to be most effective. The findings revealed that the selected newspapers used photos, a straight news format, mainly in the reportage of the crisis. The three newspapers highlighted the intense power struggle between Governor Siminalayi Fubara and the former governor Nyesom Wike, and also the potential benefits of the peace deal, emphasizing the need for stability in Rivers State. The selected newspapers used frames such as conflict frames, political power play frames, peace and reconciliation frames, and consequences frames. It is recommended that Nigerian Newspapers should emphasize in-depth investigation and

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interpretative coverage of crises on conflict issues, give detailed reports that will educate the public more, and use positive solution frames when covering crisis-related matters.

Keywords: *Crisis, Nigerian politics, Frames, Newspapers, Fubara-Wike, Power play.*

Introduction

Newspapers have, among others, the responsibility to strengthen democracy through political coverage. The political turmoil between Rivers State Governor, Siminalayi Fubara, and his predecessor, Nyesom Wike, has significantly impacted Nigeria's political landscape. By employing a comparative content analysis, we aim to understand the role of media in shaping public perception and influencing political discourse. This is one of the powerful tools of the mass media – shaping the audience's perception/opinion on a particular issue. This is supported by what Yeric (2001, p. 103) said, quoted by Agbanu (2014, p.3) that what is presented as news has not been tainted by human judgments, values, or orientations, and that journalists simply report what has occurred to the public. Journalists frequently argue that their reporting is objective because they only reflect what is occurring in society and do not alter events. Agbanu (2014) went further to explain that common sense shows that given the vast number and complexity of events that journalists cover, juxtaposed with the limitations of time, space, resources, interest, and other considerations, news selection and slanting become inevitable.

Holding the above assertion, the media influences public opinion in so many aspects of societal discourse. The public, in return, also determines the media's news gathering and presentation. Publics significantly influence media discourse by shaping what is discussed, how it is framed, and whose voices are given a voice. They do this through their consumption patterns, feedback, and participation, which in turn, impacts media content and coverage. This influence can lead to both positive and negative outcomes, affecting the diversity of perspectives and overall quality of public debates.

Some newspaper headlines, captions, and news placement and frequency also depict the impact a particular discourse will have on society. Agbanu (2014) asserts that it is clear and understandable that one of the factors that determines what the media say on political issues is the desire or expectation of readers, listeners, or viewers to be told certain things and not others.

The rift between Wike and Fubara escalated following the 2024 Local Government elections in Rivers State. Wike accused Fubara of inciting post-election violence, while Fubara alleged that Wike was undermining his governance. This conflict intensified with clashes between their supporters and the suspension of Fubara by President Bola Tinubu, who appointed a retired naval officer as interim administrator.

Reports also have it that Fubara recently visited Wike seeking reconciliation amid their protracted feud. However, Wike conditioned reconciliation on Fubara taking responsibility and making the right decisions to restore calm in Rivers State. Despite the reconciliation efforts, the two parties have yet to come to terms. This research work is aimed at analyzing or comparing how the three prominent Nigerian National Newspapers – The Sun, Punch, and Vanguard – have framed the political crisis between Fubara Siminalayi and Nyesom Wike in Rivers State. Using a comparative content analysis approach, the study examines media narratives from 2023 to 2025, focusing on themes of legitimacy, governance, and federalism.

Statement of the Problem

The political crisis between Governor Siminalayi Fubara of Rivers State and his predecessor, Nyesom Wike (now FCT Minister), remains a significant issue in Nigerian politics. While there have been reports of reconciliation efforts, the underlying tensions and power struggle persist.

The crisis has raised concerns about adherence to constitutional provisions and the potential for political maneuvering to undermine democratic processes. That is to say that the rule of law and political expediency prevail.

The prolonged political instability has undoubtedly affected governance and development in Rivers State.

The situation highlights the challenges of “godfatherism” in Nigerian politics, where powerful individuals seek to maintain control over their successors. The crisis stems from a fallout between Wike, who was instrumental in the emergence of Fubara as the governor, and Fubara himself. Wike has accused Fubara of disloyalty, while Fubara’s camp views Wike’s action as an attempt to control the state’s political structures.

There is a problem with public sentiment. While initial public confrontation appears to be waning, the crisis has deeply divided the state, with supporters of both camps previously engaging in heated rhetoric.

Objective of Study

1. To analyse how *The Sun, Punch, and Vanguard* newspapers have framed the Fubara-Wike political crisis from October 1st, 2024, to April 1st, 2025.
2. To identify the dominant themes in each newspaper’s coverage.
3. To identify the genre of stories on the Fubara-Wike political crisis in Nigeria fourth republic.

Literature Review

Political crisis

Political crisis has been an endemic feature of many developing countries like Nigeria (Ogar et al, 2018). It was a great achievement that Nigeria attained its independence with minimal violence, but it is worrisome that since independence, the political crisis has reached a dangerous dimension. It is imperative to note that the political crisis associated with godfatherism and electoral processes in Nigeria commenced with the 1959 federal elections designed by the British to facilitate the transition from colonial rule to independence (Ogundiya & Baba, 2005). According to Nweke (2006, p. 14), “the emergence of political crisis in Nigeria is sourced through the nature of party formation, which was ethno-regionally based. This was followed by the regionalization of Nigeria as created by Richards Constitution of 1946”. Since attainment of independence, Nigeria has witnessed unprecedented political violence which is a serious impediment to National Development. Ani and Nwanaju (2011, p.2) observed that “at independence, political conflicts took over the centre stage of nation building in Nigeria and its multiplier effect gave birth to factors that led to the Nigerian civil war of 1967 – 1970”.

With the return of civilian government in May 1999, hopes were high that the new democratic order would tackle the incidence of political crisis in the country, thereby facilitating economic and social progress. It is a sad commentary that since the return of civil rule, the political crisis has reached a dangerous proportion. The Nigerian state and

its fledgling democracy have been beset with phenomenal crises and atrocities ranging from those that come in the form of religious crises, like sharia, Niger-Delta militancy, ethno-religious conflicts, Boko Haram insurgency, electoral violence, and politically motivated assassinations, all with alleged political undertones (Omodia, 2009; Omotola, 2010).

News Framing

Framing refers to the way events and issues are organized and made sense of, especially by the media, media professionals, and their audience. Tiung (2009) views framing as part of a skill used in producing effects or understanding a certain issue. Ofori (2010) contends that through news framing, the media provide knowledge to their audiences, and such knowledge, in return, exerts crucial influence in deciding the direction of citizens' understanding and possible actions they take.

Lippmann (quoted in Papacharissi and Oliveira, 2008, p. 52) notes that news is responsible for providing the "pseudo-environment" upon which people rely to experience and understand events they cannot observe directly, and that news frames are important in how these events are reported since they reflect a process of recurring selection and emphasis in communicating perceived reality. They conclude that frames in media are key components in the study of the selection and interpretation of news.

Bullock (2001), quoted by Ezegwu et al (2021), observed that framing affects how a story is told and influences public perception. Norris, Kern, and Just (2003, as cited in Chime-Nganya, Ezeji, & Ezegwu, 2017) opine that the idea of news frames refers to interpretive structures that journalists use to set particular events within their broader context; they explain further that news frames bundle key concepts, stock phrases, and iconic images to reinforce certain common ways of interpreting developments. The essence of framing is selection, to prioritize some facts, images, or developments over others, thereby unconsciously promoting one particular interpretation of events.

The Genesis of the Crisis

This hint has become necessary because, the avalanche of political crisis that rocked Rivers State, which has spiraled into a state of emergency. Many people have lost track of how it began. This gap has caused some inadvertent misconceptions about the roles played by the various actors in the crisis.

It all started in 2022 when the tenure of Governor Nyesom Wike was winding down to an end. The need to find a suitable replacement became a bothersome issue for him. Two things were his worries:

1. Wike has stayed in power for too long, so the idea of staying out of power was now traumatizing and a huge concern to him, because his party, PDP, was not holding power at the centre. We should note that Wike has been in power since the year 2000 up till date that point in 2022. That's 22 years straight in power. From a two-term Local Government Area Chairman, to a Chief of Staff, to a Minister, and then became a governor of the most powerful states in Nigeria.
2. Aside from looking for a suitable surrogate who can keep him in power after his tenure, Wike was equally looking for someone to cover his tracks for his financial malfeasance for the eight (8) years he's been in charge of Rivers state's government. We should also note that Wike has been the most financially imprudent governor the state has had.

According to Daniel (2025), Sir Siminalayi Joseph Fubara is a name that was never mentioned in the political books of Rivers State before the 2023 general elections. He had been in the finance sector all his life. But in a desperate search to have a cool-headed governor for Rivers people, the then governor, Nyesom Wike, braced all odds and placed the ticket of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Fubara's hands without a fight.

From the ticket purchase to the campaign train, Wike shouldered all the responsibilities as if he were actively canvassing for a third term in office. Fubara was relegated to the underground of the political game. He spent no money of his own. He never campaigned. The election was contested, and he won. But that was just a phase. In August 2023, what started on a sweet note began to witness some sour taste over financial issues. While it may be true that Wike's anger with Fubara was blamed on the usurpation of the former governor's political structure by his arch opponents under Fubara's watch, the sharing formula of political appointees was the main vector that tore things apart.

The Crisis

Just a few months after Fubara was sworn in as a governor, he began to pitch a tent with Wike's political rivals, particularly those who supported the PDP presidential candidate in the 2023 general elections, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar. Wike had earlier chased these people to Abuja, only to return home when Wike resumed work as Minister of the FCT.

The fear of trading off his structure and the disagreement in the sharing formula triggered mutual suspicion between the two political leaders. This snowballed to the formation of the state cabinet, with insistence on having all the commissioners and other key appointees nominated by him. While the initial 14 of the commissioners came from the minister, Fubara was authorized by his "maker" to nominate only one.

Trouble heightened when Fubara forwarded two nominees to the House of Assembly with Rt. Hon. Martins Amaewhule as Speaker for screening. Wike was immediately informed of the development, and heaven was literally let loose. At this point, no party could hold back verbal emission.

According to him, the commissioners never respected the governor, adding that it got to a point where the governor could not make an approval exceeding thirty million naira (N30,000,000) without authorization from Abuja. Unbearably frustrated, Fubara told those who could listen to him that rather than tolerate such despicability, he would rather resign as governor. Several nocturnal meetings were held to save the embarrassing situation both in Nigeria and outside the country. It only went from bad to worse.

The cloud of war became thickened on October 29, 2023, the Dome edifice of the House of Assembly on Moscow road was riddled with dynamite, and the next day, October 30th, the complex was mercilessly demolished on the allegation that it had some "structural defects". It soon became exposed that through intelligence, the governor was informed, rightly or wrongly, that there was a grand plot to commence an impeachment process against him the next day. With that information, the governor stormed the complex in the early hours of the morning to supervise the display of bulldozers on the walls of the blue and white colour structure.

Sensing that the two gladiators in the political fight were not willing to back down and knowing the politico-economic importance of Rivers State, President Bola Tinubu reached out to them for a possible truce. The crisis did not de-escalate despite the president's intervention.

With the actors returning to the trenches, Fubara found his cabinet depleted as Wike's loyal commissioners resigned their appointments in droves. It was then it dawned on the governor to withdraw Dr. Edison Ehie, who by then had become the speaker of the House of Assembly, and made him his Chief of Staff. The appointment of Ehie as the Chief of Staff was a strategic maneuver to seal the gap through which government-sensitive information was leaked to the minister. Edison Ehie was replaced as a speaker in the house by Rt. Hon. Victor Oko-Jumbo with only three men to form a new House.

This happened when 27 lawmakers loyal to the FCT Minister, Nyesom Wike, also chose to toe the path of the commissioners by announcing their defection from the PDP to the APC, having deposed to an affidavit in the Federal High Court, Abuja. In December 2023, Chief Tony Okocha, Abdulkarin Kana, legal adviser of the APC, and other national leaders of the APC officially received them at the Port Harcourt Polo Club.

The battle became more intense when Wike realized that Fubara was gaining more support across Nigeria, with groups and privileged Nigerians volunteering support to the governor. In the course of that, the House of Assembly was operating on a parallel basis, with Amaewhule leading the 26 belligerent lawmakers while Oko-Jumbo piloted the Fubara-backed Assembly with only four men.

Local Government Polls Brouhaha

In a desperate push to consolidate his grip on the political soul of the state, Fubara, through the instrumentality of the Rivers State Independent Electoral Commission, RSIEC, conducted a local government election on October 5, 2024. In view of the injunction against the PDP, the governor could not field any PDP candidates for the election, even as he did not vote in the exercise.

In a smart move, Fubara used the court in Rivers State to sweep out Wike's loyalists in the 23 Local Government Councils and instructed his men to join the Action People's Party (APP), with all of them winning the entire Local Government Areas. This infuriated Wike the more, and the battle only escalated.

Judicial Bias

When the battle shifted to the court, it turned out that in any case that had to do with the governor, he won in all the courts in the state. On the other hand, Wike was always winning in any case that went to Abuja. For instance, it was the State High Court that gave a judgment that Fubara could present the 2024 budget to a four-man House of Assembly. It was also the same court that gave the authorization that the government could spend the budget as long as it was for the betterment of the Rivers people. It was equally the state court that pronounced that the 27 lawmakers had defected and that the governor was at liberty to transact government business with the Oko-Jumbo-led House. Wike, on his part, was always certain of legal victory in Abuja. The minister was too sure of what he wanted and did not hide it from anybody that he would get justice from the Supreme Court when the chips were down, and he did.

Supreme Court

The climax of the political crisis that had dragged on for two years was finally defined and settled on February 18, 2025. It was the day the Supreme Court ruled on four consolidated cases brought before it, and the whole four went against Fubara. The state

allocation was stopped. He was ordered to represent the 2025 budget before Martins Amaewhule, among other decisions that triggered a wide range of condemnation, even by right-standing lawyers across the country.

Most condemned was the fact that the defection case of the 27 lawmakers, which was never brought before the apex court, found its way into the certified true copy (CTC) of the judgment. This development made people to wonder if that was an independent judgment or an afterthought to appease some gods.

Emergency Rule

To many Rivers people and millions of Nigerians, the Supreme Court judgment became a fuel that energized the 27 lawmakers barely 24 hours after the judgment, the Assembly issued a 48-hour ultimatum to Fubara to present the budget. A few days later, they issued another 48-hour ultimatum to the Governor to forward a fresh list of commissioners for screening and sack the 19 commissioners who were never screened by the House.

Less than a week later, the Amaewhule Assembly served the Governor and his deputy with letters of gross misconduct and was set for a probe. Not done, the House called on the Department of Security Service (DSS) to investigate alleged age falsification by the Chief Judge of the State, Justice Simeon Amadi.

Before this time, a warrant of arrest was issued on the Chairman of the State Independent Commission, Justice Adolphus Enebeli (Rtd). Events happened in quick succession, which gave everybody, including the Governor, the understanding that he was getting to the dark end of his political career.

The Final Nail

Shockingly, on Tuesday, March 18th, 2025, exactly one month after the Supreme Court judgment, President Bola Tinubu announced a state of emergency in Rivers State by suspending the Governor, his deputy, and the House of Assembly. The proclamation has brought to an end, albeit temporarily, the raging political fire in the state.

Theoretical Framework

This study is anchored on the media framing theory. The framing theory states that the volume of coverage devoted to a particular issue is not as important as the frame the media adopt (Druckman 2001). Media framing theory suggests that the way information is presented can influence public interpretation and opinion. Previous studies have examined media framing in various political contexts, but limited research has focused on Nigerian newspapers' portrayal of intra-party conflicts and governance issues. This study aims to fill this gap by providing a comparative analysis of three major Nigerian Newspapers.

According to the theory, people make sense of their experiences using interpretational packages called frames. To frame means to slant a story towards a particular direction. This theory suggests that the way information is presented (framed) determines the way people understand such a message. Baran & Denis (2009), as cited in Ezegwu, Ezeonyejiaku, & Asidike (2018), further explained that this theory examines the idea of how people use expectations to make sense of their lives. Social constructivists have argued that at the heart of framing is framing analysis, Ngwu, Ekwe, and Chiaha (2015). Here, a researcher is expected to construct and categorize frames identified in the

course of the coding. In other words, the choice of words and sentences used in reporting a story may influence how the audience thinks about the issue, not by making an aspect of the issue more salient, but by invoking interpretive schemas that influence the interpretation of the incoming information. This theory is relevant to this study because it explains how media reportage of an event contributes to shaping the perception of the people. Thus, the way the media frame the Fubara-Wike Political Crisis, the pictures they gather and present, and the logical account of the event that transpired have some influence on the readers of the newspapers.

Unit of Analysis

The unit of analysis for this study is the newspapers' articles in the form of news, features, editorials, photos, opinion articles, and letters to the editor that showed the kinds of frames and themes used by the three newspapers studied, in framing of Fubara-Wike political crisis in the Nigerian Fourth Republic within the period under study.

Methodology

This research adopted a comparative content analysis approach. Comparative analysis was used because of its appropriateness in dealing with press coverage of various events. The use of comparative content analysis to measure political trends has proven to be most effective.

Three newspapers were selected for the study they are *The Sun*, *The Punch*, and *Vanguard* newspapers. These newspapers were selected because they are listed among the major newspapers in Nigeria, with online versions. These papers have maintained visibility in print and online for a considerable period of time and are still active (Amobi, 2010; BBC, 2011; World Press, 2012; Nigeria master web, 2012) as cited in Ezegwu, Ezeonyejiaku, & Asodike (2018)

The population of the study is all the editions of *The Sun*, *The Punch*, and *Vanguard* newspapers published from 1st October 2024 to 1st April 2025, excluding Saturdays and Sundays' editions of the selected newspapers, bringing the total to 390. Each of the newspaper publications has a total of 130 multiplied by the number of newspapers under the study ($130 \times 3 = 390$)

A stratified random sampling technique was used for the sampling procedure. To get at the exact editions to be studied, the publications were stratified into weeks. There are 26 weeks covering the stipulated months to study. The 26 weeks were divided into five strata, each Stratum containing five weeks, and the last 5th stratum contains 6 weeks. In stratum (I), Monday publications of the three newspapers (The Sun, Punch, and Vanguard) were selected. In stratum (II), Tuesday publications of the same newspapers were selected. Stratum (III) has Wednesdays, stratum (IV) has Thursdays, why Stratum (V), which is the remaining 6 weeks that complete the 26 weeks, has Friday publications. The researcher purposively picked the days within the week so as to have an even distribution of the days of the week selected. This sampling technique was chosen because of its flexibility, efficiency, representativeness, and unbiasedness.

Table I-indicating selection of sample editions/ days

Days	Week 1-5	Week 6-10	Week 11-15	Week 16-20	Week 21-26	Total	%
Monday	15					15	19.23
Tuesday		15				15	19.23

Wednesday			15			15	19.23
Thursday				15		15	19.23
Friday					18	18	23.10
Total	15	15	15	15	18	78	100

Data Presentation and Analysis

Table 2: Analysis of how the selected newspapers framed the Fubara/Wike's political crisis.

Kinds of frames	Vanguard	Punch	The Sun	Total	%
Conflict	8	4	7	19	24.4
Political Power play	6	6	5	17	21.8
Peace and reconciliation	4	7	8	19	24.4
Accountability	2	4	4	10	12.8
Consequences	5	5	3	13	16.7
Total	25	26	27	78	100

The Table (2) above reviews the kinds of frames used by the selected newspapers in their coverage of the Fubara-Wike's political crisis in Nigeria's fourth republic. The frames where: Conflict frame, political power play frame, peace and reconciliation frame, accountability frame, consequences frame. From the table, we realized that conflict and peace, and frequency frames have the highest percentage which is 24.4%

Table 3: Dominant themes and narratives in each of the selected newspaper Coverage on the Fubara- Wike's Political crisis.

Themes/Narratives	Vanguard	Punch	The Sun	Total	%
Reconciliation	8	4	7	19	21.4
Division	6	6	5	17	19.1
Commitment to peace	4	5	4	13	14.6
Consequences	5	5	3	13	14.6
Power Struggle	6	6	5	17	19.1
Accountability	2	4	4	10	11.2
Total	31	30	28	89	100

The Table(3) above reveals That out of the six themes used by the three national dailies studied, reconciliation was dominant, accounting for 21.4% of the total report, while accountability theme was less dominant with 11.2%.

Table 4: The genre of stories on Fubara/Wike's Political crisis In Nigeria fourth republic.

Genre of Stories	Vanguard	Punch	The Sun	Total	%
Straight News	10	9	9	28	28.6
Opinion articles	6	7	6	19	19.4
Features	4	3	5	12	12.3
Editorial	3	2	2	7	7.1
Photos	7	9	7	23	23.5
Letter to Editor	5	3	1	9	9.2
Total	35	33	30	98	100

The above data on table (4) shows that the most pre dominant genre of report on the Fubara-Wike's political crisis in Nigeria Fourth Republic was reported mainly as straight news having up to 28.6% followed by photo news with 23.5% while the least is editorial with 7 items amount into 7.1%. This reveals that the Fubara-Wike's political crisis was mainly reported as straight news.

Discussion of Findings

This study examines newspaper framing of Fubara- Wike political crisis in the Nigeria's fourth Republic. In actualizing that, attention was paid on genres of stories, kinds of frames and dominant themes and narratives used in the coverage. The results reviewed the following under these frames;

- i. **Conflict and power struggle:** all three newspapers highlighted the intense power struggle between Governor Siminalayi Fubara and former governor Nyesom Wike, now Minister of the Federal Capital Territory. Vanguard newspaper Reported on Wike's statement that "Heavens won't fall if Fubara is impeached ", Framing the crisis as a battle for political control.
- ii. **Peace and Reconciliation:** Punch newspaper and The Sun newspaper covered the reconciliation efforts between Fubara and Wike, brokered by president Bola Tinubu, Framing the Crisis as a challenge to peace and stability in Rivers state. Punch highlighted the agreement between Fubara and Wike quoting sources close to the negotiations, why Sun questioned Fubara's Commitment to peace, citing Wike's doubts.
- iii. **Accountability:** Vanguard newspaper reported on Wike's criticism of Fubara's commitment to peace, questioning whether the governor's actions aligned with his words.
- iv. **Division and consequences:** The Sun newspaper highlighted the potential consequences of the crisis, including the impact on Rivers states economy and stability: punch newspaper also reported on the disagreement among Fubara's supporters regarding the Reconciliation.

Summarily, *The Sun* focuses on the potential benefits of the peace deal, emphasizing the need for stability in Rivers State. *Vanguard* critically examines the president's role in the crisis, questioning the boundaries between federal and state powers feud, emphasizing the human cost of the conflict. Objectively, Vanguard and Punch Newspapers maintain critical tone, providing balanced coverage of the crisis. *The Sun* reporting focuses on the potential solutions and benefits of the peace deal.

Conclusion

The study concludes that the media framing of the Fubara-Wike's Political crisis In Nigeria's Fourth Republic was reported mainly as straight news. The study has revealed evidence on the different frames used by The Sun, The Punch and Vanguard newspapers in framing of Fubara-Wike Political Crisis in Nigeria's fourth republic. The studied Newspapers used political power struggle and conflict frames more in reporting the issue in River State. The study reveals that framing plays an important role in media coverage of an event and the use of framing can influence the perception of the news audience during crisis.

Recommendations

Based on the findings and conclusion of the study, the researcher recommends among the followings:

1. Nigerian newspapers should emphasize in-depth investigative and interpretative coverage of crisis on conflict issues.
2. Nigerian newspapers should give detail reports that will educate the public more and positive solution frames should be used when covering crises related matters like the Fubara-Wike Crisis in River state.
3. Further study should investigate the media framing of Fubara-Wike political crisis in the Nigeria's fourth Republic and in-depth interview/ focus group discussions could be combined to know how the audience feel about such issue.

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