Frame analysis of the discourse of Polish weekly magazines on the so-called “migrant crisis” on the Polish-Belarusian border in 2021 based on the example of “Sieci” and “Przegląd”

Wiktoria Nylec
University of Warsaw
wnylec50@gmail.com
ORCID: 0009-0003-5117-2136

ABSTRACT
The study conducted is a comparison of two media representations during the so-called migration crisis on the Polish-Belarusian border. The aim of the article is to find answers to the following research questions. What media frames dominated from mid-August to November 2021 in the two weekly opinion magazines – the conservative “Sieci” (“Network”) and the left-wing “Przegląd” (“Review”)? Can we follow the course of the debate on the “migration crisis” and the formation of the media discourse through media frames? Does the use of specific frames reflect the ideological profile of the studied media and reveal their political sentiments? The research method used is frame analysis, which is a component of content analysis. A total of 65 journalistic texts were examined. The analysis led to the following conclusions: 1. The dominant frame in the weekly «Sieci» is the frame of conflict (internal), which appeared 18 times. In the case of «Przegląd», the dominant frame was responsibility, which occurred 7 times. 2. Media frames, as part of media discourse, make it possible to follow the migration debate. 3. The use of specific frames reveals the political sympathies of the media, as well as the values they promote. The research value of the text is the observation of the correlation of media and migration in the context of recent events on the Polish-Belarusian border. At the same time, the article makes a limited contribution to the discussion of these global problems.

KEYWORDS
framework analysis, migration, “Sieci”, “Przegląd”, 21st century, Poland
In August 2021, a group of Afghans appeared at the Polish-Belarusian border in Usnarz Górnny and tried to cross into Poland, but were stopped by the Polish Border Guard. The event is considered the beginning of the so-called migration crisis in Poland, rapidly developing over the following months, in which uniformed services recorded more and more attempts to illegally cross the border. As early as September 2, Polish authorities decided to impose a state of emergency in the border region – in 115 localities in Podlaskie Voivodeship and 68 localities in Lubelskie Voivodeship (Grupa Granica, 2021, p. 7). This involved prohibitions that included “staying in an area under the state of emergency, recording by technical means the appearance or other features of places, objects or areas that include border infrastructure, as well as restricted access to public information” (Grupa Granica, 2021, p. 7). At the same time, the media and social organizations were excluded, which provoked great opposition from these circles.

However, the topic of the so-called “border crisis” was widely reported in electronic and print media. It should be noted that the media interest in the issue of migration, as well as the politicization of this topic is not a new phenomenon, and has been ongoing since 2015, that is, since the European migration crisis at that time. As Monika Trojanowska-Strzęboszewska (2019) writes:

“The relevance of the immigration issue in political discourse was expressed first of all in media discussions with representatives of political groups. This was fostered by the exponential growth of this issue’s presence in all types of domestic media, which, following the lead of foreign media since mid-2015, devoted more and more time and attention to these issues from month to month. The migration media discourse, which was then developing at a rapid pace, was fueled by ‘new’ reports from the EU borderlands” (p. 28).

The researcher notes how the media covered stories of migrants trying to get across EU borders where barriers were erected, or showed the tragedies of those crossing into Europe by sea. The media information had emotional overtones, “on the one hand contributing to the deepening state of social unrest, and on the other reflecting the growing tension between the waning public support for the humanitarian position and the increasingly expressed skeptical or anti-immigrant stance (CBOS, 2015; CBOS, 2016)” (p. 28).

As in the case of the events of 2015, in the face of the situation on the Polish-Belarusian border, European countries have mostly dealt with migrants from Muslim countries. The issue of ethnic difference plays a role in the narratives of politicians and attitudes of societies. This is indicated, among other things, by the reaction to the migration of refugees from Ukraine – a country from the same cultural background – to Poland, as a result of the Russian aggression of February 24, 2022, and framed by politicians as a narrative of hospitality and care, as well as a show of solidarity on the part of Poles offering assistance to their eastern neighbors fleeing the war. Faced with two migratory phenomena on Poland’s two borders, unequal standards of dealing with the crisis were applied, and Polish attitudes toward refugees were also perceived by some as different (Chrzczonowicz, 2022).

The following article seeks to answer what media frames dominated the period from mid-August to November 2021 in two political weeklies – the conservative “Sieci” and the left-wing “Przegląd”. August marked the beginning of the so-called migration crisis on the Polish-Belarusian border. Over the following months, the situation developed rapidly. By the end of November, the migration crisis was no longer a leading topic in the Polish media, so the November 2021 editions of both weeklies were considered to close the time frame of the survey.
In addition, the aim of the study was to answer whether the debate on the “migration crisis” and the formation of media discourse can be traced through media frames, and whether the use of specific frames reflects the ideological profile of the media studied and reveals their political sentiments. The analysis conducted will be at the same time a comparison of two media representations.

At the outset, it should be noted that the phrase “migration crisis” is an adoption of the point of view of the media, which describe events on the Polish-Belarusian border in this way. As Łukasz Łotocki (2019) notes, “in the middle of the second decade of the 21st century, mass migration movements and, above all, the de facto loss of control over these movements on the part of the host countries, caused terms such as ‘migration crisis’, ‘immigration crisis’ or ‘refugee crisis’ to become permanent in the global, European, including Polish public discourse” (p. 117). Such phrases became more firmly entrenched in public discourse as a result of the aforementioned European “migration crisis” of 2015.

The method used in the study conducted was content analysis, precisely designed for studying media frames. It was assumed that one journalistic report corresponds to one, at most two (when both frames are strongly exposed) dominant frames. The most representative materials were qualified for analysis. Short journalistic forms, such as notes or “scribblings” were excluded. All texts analyzed were journalistic in nature. The journalistic materials were examined up to the point of saturation, i.e. exhaustion of the possibility of a given media frame emerging in texts dealing with events on the border. The study assumed the presence of the following frames: conflict, human interest, responsibility, moral values, economics, victim, danger, and then looked for their examples. It was assumed that the weekly newspaper “Sieci” – due to its political sympathies with the ruling party Law and Justice – would more often use frames that coincide with the narrative of right-wing politicians (e.g., the frame of danger). In contrast, “Przegląd” was assumed to adopt frames with positive connotations toward refugees, as well as frames critical of the government’s actions.

**Background of events**

Beginning in July 2021, Belarusian services transported migrants from the Middle East and Africa – who declared a desire to cross further into Western countries – first to the Lithuanian and then to the Polish and Latvian border. The events turned out to be an operation against the European Union organized by Alexander Lukashenko called “Sluice”, since the former had previously questioned the legitimacy of elections in Belarus, assisted politically persecuted Belarusian citizens (Dyner, 2022, pp. 4-5) and imposed sanctions on Belarus following Lukashenko’s hijacking of a Ryanair airliner in May 2021 and the detention of opponent Roman Protasiewicz on board (Grupa Granica, 2021, p. 11).

According to the authors of the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights report – referring, among other things, to the article *See Minsk and die. How Belarusian firms smuggle refugees* (Dauksza, Morozova, & Reszka, 2021):

> “Belarus, through and in cooperation with travel agencies located in Syria, Iraq and Lebanon, among others, offers paid tourist visas to migrants from destabilized and war-affected countries. Travel was arranged with the help of unofficial intermediaries, in cooperation with Belarusian embassies located in the respective countries of departure” (Czarnota & Górczyńska, 2022, p. 7).

Later in the report, the authors stress that the migrants were often misled into believing that crossing the border would not be illegal. Once they were in Belarus, they were sent by the country’s officials to border zones and then forced to cross into Poland, Lithuania or Latvia.
At further stages, middlemen collected significant sums of money from them. In the border zone, migrants and migrant women were treated instrumentally and used by Belarusian services to commit provocations (Czarnota & Górczyńska, 2022, p. 7).

Poland, Lithuania and Latvia decided not to allow the migrants into their territory, and the Belarusian services did not allow them to return. As a result, the migrants were stranded at the borders and forced to camp out in the woods. Newly erected barbed wire fences were designed to prevent them from entering EU countries. Human rights organizations stress the humanitarian dimension of the events described. The authors of the Border Group (Grupa Granica) report (2021) write:

“The current dramatic situation of people trapped in the border forests is a humanitarian crisis. It is the result of the strategy that the Polish government has adopted in response to Alexander Lukashenko’s actions towards the migrants and forced migrants who have already crossed the Polish border. The strategy is to get rid of those crossing the border as quickly as possible and at all costs – to send them back to Belarus. Given the type of terrain (dense forests, swamps and rivers) and the fact that temperatures are now dropping below zero, this strategy could never possibly be fully effective – and it is not. This is evidenced not only by the Border Guard’s data on people already detained after crossing the border (and sent back), but also by information on those who were detained at the Polish-German border” (p. 3).

Over the following months, and later with the outbreak of war in Ukraine in February 2022, it was recognized that Belarus’ actions on the borders of European countries were part of a broader plan outlined in Moscow. The following message appeared on the Polish government website:

“Over the past few months, the Belarusian regime has been stepping up hybrid warfare activities against the European Union. This is part of the scenario outlined in Moscow, which includes Russia’s direct military aggression against Ukraine. Violating its borders and undermining its sovereignty undermines the social, political and economic order established so far. These actions also directly threaten the security of Poland and the entire European Union” (“Oświetlenie: Źródło informacji,” n.d., acc. 1).

Methodology
For the purpose of the article, the media frames appearing in two weekly newspapers – “Przegląd” and “Sieci” – were examined – so as to then compare their respective discourse on the migrant crisis on the Polish-Belarusian border. The study covered the period from mid-August, the initial phase of the border crisis, to the November 2021 editions of both magazines – the moment when the situation began to stabilize and the crisis itself was no longer a leading topic in the media.

The analyzed media outlets were chosen for their different left- and right-wing affiliations. The two magazines can be situated at opposite poles in terms of their ideological profile. “Przegląd” is a weekly that presents itself as “oriented toward readers with left-wing and centrist views, democratic, pro-European, tolerant, supporting the separation of Church and state” (“Przegląd”, n.d., acc. 1). “Sieci”, on the other hand, is a magazine with conservative views. Its editors write about themselves as follows:

“We are the largest conservative weekly political magazine in Poland. In Poland, which is proud of its heritage, and which is ready with all its strength to fight for fundamental conservative values. Values such as respect for tradition, courage and honor, respect for community and social solidarity, as well as religion and natural law. And also for fundamental human freedom expressed in independence of thought, speech and media” (“Sieci – największy konserwatywny tygodnik opinii w Polsce,” n.d., acc. 4).
In the first quarter of 2022, “Sieci” (print and digital editions) had an average circulation of 32,081, while “Przegląd” had 13,052 (print edition only) (Kurdupski, 2022).

It should be noted that in the context of the “migrant crisis” (from 2015) at the time, the weekly “Sieci” adopted an anti-refugee narrative. This thesis is confirmed, *inter alia*, by a study conducted by media scholar Jacek Wasilewski (2019), the results of which were published in the *Media Narratives on Refugees in the Polish Press* text. In addition, the magazine’s negative attitude toward the issue of migration from Muslim countries is indicated by a number of controversial covers. One example is the 2016 cover of issue 7, with the caption “Islamic rape of Europe”, which was loudly commented on by international media (“Międzynarodowa prasa komentuje okładkę »wSieci«. Rasizm ma długą historię”, 2016)\(^1\).

**Definition of framing**

Contemporary frame research uses the theoretical basis formulated by Erving Goffman (1974) in his famous publication *Frame Analysis*. Since the sociologist did not strictly define frames, researchers often create their own definitions.

Media frames have become a methodological tool for many media scholars. The basic definition they refer to is the one formulated by Tod Gittlin (1980), who claims that frames are “persistent patterns of cognition, interpretation, and presentation, of selection, emphasis, and exclusion, by which symbol-handlers routinely organize discourse” (p. 7).

Gittlin’s approach was further developed by Robert Entman (1993). The American researcher claims that “to frame is to select some aspects of a perceived reality and make them more salient in a communicating text, in such a way as to promote a particular problem definition, causal interpretation, moral evaluation, and/or treatment recommendation” (p. 52). According to Entman, the frame has four functions: “define problems – determine what a causal agent is doing with what costs and benefits, usually measured in terms of common cultural values”; “diagnose causes – identify the forces creating the problem”; “make moral judgments – evaluate causal agents and their effects”; “suggest remedies – offer and justify treatments for the problems and predict their likely effects”. The researcher points out that a single sentence in a text may perform more than one function, and a single frame may not necessarily include all four functions (1993, p. 52).

**State of the art**

Media frames are used, among others, by researchers of migration issues, especially in the context of the so-called migration crisis of 2015. Victoria Yantseva, a Swedish researcher who analyzes media discourses on migration in her country, presented in the text *Migration Discourse in Sweden: Frames and Sentiments in Mainstream and Social Media* (2020) the results of an analysis of frames in various media – the press, Twitter and the Flashback forum. The study covered the period 2012-2019. Yantseva divided frames into three big groups: politically oriented frames (e.g., “Swedish politics,” “The European refugee crisis,” “International relations”), economically oriented frames (e.g., “The cost of immigration”) and socially oriented frames (e.g., “Crime”, “Racism and multiculturalism”, “Religion”, “Media”, “Migration debate”, “Integration”) (p. 5). The interpretation emphasized that “the professional media were more inclined to use the politically oriented frames of the migration issue, which can be associated with the fact that they were found to primarily represent the voices of political elites” (p. 10).

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\(^1\) Until 2017, the weekly operated under the name “wSieci” (see Małkowska-Szozda, 2017).
Other researchers, Michał Wenzel and Marta Żerkowska-Balas (2019), conducted an analysis of the content about the 2015 migration crisis published by “Gazeta Polska” (which has a negative attitude toward it) and “Gazeta Wyborcza” (which presents a compassionate attitude) and the framework they use. In conclusion, the authors stressed that “fear generated by placing stories about negative consequences of migration is a stronger factor than sympathy elicited by highlighting humanitarian factors and positive or neutral consequences” (pp. 60-61).

Tobias Heidenreich, Fabienne Lind, Jakob-Moritz Eberl and Hajo G. Boomgaarden (2019) analyzed the national media discourses in Hungary, Germany, Sweden, the United Kingdom and Spain from January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2016. The researchers focused on print and online materials. In the analysis, they showed that the frameworks used in the media were influenced by factors such as geography and status as receiving country (p. 172).

Frame theory has also been applied to research on visuality. Javier J. Amores, Carlos Arcila Calderón and Mikołaj Stanek (2019) analyzed 500 photographs depicting a migrant in digital versions of selected media in Germany, Spain, France, Italy and the UK. The analysis covered the years 2013-2017, with 2015 proving to be a watershed moment. In their conclusions, the authors highlighted that German media more frequently represented the refugee as a threat or burden, which may have had something to do with the fact that the country was most affected by the migrant crisis at the time (p. 151).

**Framework analysis**

The primary method in media studies for frame analysis is content analysis (Wasilewski, 2018, p. 103). The research conducted for this article was based primarily on identifying the previously mentioned Entmanian functions of frames. The following frameworks described by Holli A. Semetko and Patti M. Valkenburg (2000), as well as W. Russell Neuman, Marion R. Just and Ann N. Crigler (1992):

1. Conflict frame – “this frame emphasizes conflict between individuals, groups, or institutions as a means of capturing audience interest” (Semetko & Valkenburg, 2000, p. 95);
2. Human interest frame – “this frame brings a human face or an emotional angle to the presentation of an event, issue, or problem” (p. 95) and “refers to an effort to personalize the news, dramatize or ‘emotionalize’ the news, in order to capture and retain audience interest” (p. 96);
3. Responsibility frame – “this frame presents an issue or problem in such a way as to attribute responsibility for its cause or solution to either the government or to an individual or group” (p. 96);
4. Morality frame – “this frame puts the event, problem, or issue in the context of religious tenets or moral prescriptions. Because of the professional norm of objectivity, journalists often make reference to moral frames indirectly – through quotation or inference, for instance – by having someone else raise the question” (p. 96, as cited in Neuman, Just, & Crigler, 1992);
5. Economic consequences frame – “this frame reports an event, problem, or issue in terms of the consequences it will have economically on an individual, group, institution, region, or country” (Semetko & Valkenburg, 2000, p. 96).

The above division was also used and described by Polish researcher Marek Palczewski (2011) in the context of analyzing news stories on TVP1 and TVN news services.

In addition to the above-mentioned frames, the study considered the possibility of a victim frame (refugees/migrants portrayed as victims to be cared for, and as victims of the Belarusian regime) and a threat frame (threat coming from the East; threat posed by migrants).
Sample selection
As already mentioned, the study covered the period from mid-August to the end of November 2021. The assumption was made that one text corresponds to one or, at the most, two dominant frames. In the case of the weekly newspaper “Sieci”, frames were examined in 49 journalistic materials – articles (21), commentaries (9), columns (9), interviews (7) and reports (3). The first of the materials is from issue 33 of August 16, 2021. In the case of “Przegląd”, frames were identified in 16 journalistic materials, primarily columns (10), in addition to articles (5) and commentary (1). The first of the analyzed materials comes from issue 35 of August 23, 2021.

Survey results
At the outset, it should be noted that some frames performed different functions. Table 1 shows the frames that occurred in the surveyed journalistic materials in the weekly “Sieci”.

Table 1: Media framework in the weekly newspaper “Sieci”.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Function</th>
<th>Frequency of occurrence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Responsibility frame</td>
<td>The responsibility for causing the crisis and the situation on the border lies with Belarus.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(external)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Responsibility frame</td>
<td>The opposition bears responsibility for weakening Poland by, among other things, criticizing the actions of the government and the Border Guard.</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(internal)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conflict frame</td>
<td>Two parties to the conflict: Poland (often along with other EU countries) and Belarus (often also Russia).</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(external)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conflict frame</td>
<td>Two sides in the conflict: the government and the Border Guard, and the broader opposition (political, media, artistic, activist).</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(internal)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Threat frame</td>
<td>The threat is posed by migrants at the border who have come from Middle Eastern and African countries.</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Threat frame</td>
<td>The threat coming from the East, from Belarus.</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morality frame</td>
<td>Appeal to moral precepts – exceptional unity across political divides during the Polish-Belarusian border crisis.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human interest frame</td>
<td>Putting a human face on Border Guard officers and uniformed services.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human interest frame</td>
<td>Giving a human face to migrants exploited by smugglers.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: own study. N=49.

The frames of responsibility, conflict, threat and human interest fulfilled the two functions described above. The victim frame and the economic consequences frame, which were also sought, did not appear once in the analyzed material. The total number of frames appearing in the weekly “Sieci” was 56.

In the case of the weekly “Przegląd”, the analysis is as follows.

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2 The results shown in Table 1 were also presented in the author’s master’s thesis.
Table 2: Media framework in the weekly “Przegląd”.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Function</th>
<th>Frequency of occurrence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conflict frame</td>
<td>The conflict between Poland (and the Western world more broadly) and Belarus.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Responsibility frame</td>
<td>The Law and Justice party and the Border Guard bear responsibility for stirring up public fears and creating a humanitarian crisis.</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morality frame</td>
<td>The context of moral judgments and duties.</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frame of the victim</td>
<td>Immigrants are the victims of the crisis at the border.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human interest frame</td>
<td>Presenting the fate of migrants.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic consequences frame</td>
<td>The imposition of a state of emergency is a disaster for the Podlasie tourist industry.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


The total number of frames appearing in “Przegląd” was 16.

Discussion

The results of the survey show that the dominant frame in the weekly “Sieci” was that of internal conflict (occurring 18 times), in which the parties to the conflict are, on the one hand, the government and the Border Guard, and on the other, the broad opposition, which includes political, media and artistic circles, as well as activists and activists. For example, Konrad Kołodziejski (2021) wrote: “This is not the first time that the anti-subscriptionists have played with human death for political gain” (p. 45). Jakub Augustyn Maciejewski (2021) assessed that “when celebrities sick with hatred for Poland organize alleged aid for immigrants attacking our border, a spontaneous reflex of gratitude for the Polish uniform is awakened in Poles” (p. 3). The frame of internal conflict, which is a certain cognitive schema, became a tool for deepening political polarization. A similar function was served by the frame of internal responsibility (8 times), in which the opposition is held responsible for weakening Poland through behavior such as criticism of the actions of the government and the uniformed services. Wojciech Reszczyński (2021) stated that “bidding for humanitarian gestures and at the same time accusing the government of cruelty, callousness is a typical behavior of the opposition” (p. 100). Other frequently used frames were the external conflict frame (12 times), in which the parties to the conflict are Poland (often together with other EU countries) and Belarus (often together with Russia), and the threat frame, in which the threat is posed by immigrants at the border (7 times). It is this frame, among others, that has been used in anti-immigrant rhetoric, in which immigrants have been portrayed as violent and dangerous, storming the border with dangerous objects.

The dominant frame of responsibility in “Przegląd” was that of the ruling Law and Justice party and the Border Guard, in which the ruling party bears responsibility for whipping up public fears of the Other, treating migration in terms of war, and creating a humanitarian crisis. For example, Jakub Dymek (2021) wrote:

“However, Poland has already joined the global trend. And we increasingly treat borders as fortifications, the people crossing them as weapons, and consider migration as a kind of war. […] Migration movements described as shifts on the front line, border guard posts like redoubts under fire, healthy and strong men reaching the north of the continent like the vanguard of an invading army.
Thanks to a persistent campaign of reversing meanings, it has succeeded in making victims into perpetrators. People fleeing terrorism and wars – in the instigation of which the West had a direct part – were cast in the role of aggressors” (p. 25).

Through the frequency of the framework used, it can be seen that both weeklies focused primarily on criticizing political options with which they do not sympathize and which do not conform to the worldview of their editors. The left-wing “Przegląd” criticized the ruling party, pointed out that the refugees were starving, sick and intimidated by uniformed officers – treating them as victims. The conservative “Sieci” supported the government’s actions, used anti-refugee rhetoric, criticized those who opposed the government and opposition activists and politicians who tried to bring aid to refugees at the border. The weekly manifested its political views, and its editorial line coincided with the political line of the Law and Justice party. The use of frames by both media outlets therefore revealed their ideological profile.

Based on the frequency of framing and taking up the topic of the border crisis (“Sieci”: 49, “Przegląd”: 16), it can be concluded that these issues aroused more interest among conservative readers and viewers of the right-wing media.

Summary

The above discussion aimed to show how two ideologically different weeklies focus on reporting on political events at a specific time, more specifically, the so-called migration crisis on the Polish-Belarusian border from mid-August to the end of November 2021. The topic of migration had already become politicized after 2015 and the then European migration crisis – in Poland, as Michał Krzyżanowski (2018) noted, “mainly as a token of right-wing populism and political opportunism” (p. 92). The survey shows that the events on the Polish-Belarusian border were much more often written about by the conservative weekly “Sieci”, which sympathizes with the political right, which is also linked to arousing and sustaining emotions around this topic among the right-wing electorate.

To analyze media representations, frame theory was used as a research perspective. Jerzy Biniewicz (2017) emphasizes that:

“the essence of mediatization is to impose a relatively coherent image of the world on the viewers, to make them find the reality in which they live. In order to achieve this effect, the media reach for a narrative that is comprehensible to a mass audience that does not require complex mental procedures, often turns to stereotypes and is accustomed to repetitive feeder patterns and reproduced images specific to certain communication communities” (p. 71).

Choosing the right narrative to suit them, the media pick a framework through which they depict reality. The conducted study proves what political sentiments the analyzed weeklies reveal, as well as the values they hold dear. The indicated elements consequently influence the choice of stories. The weekly “Sieci” supports the decisions of the authorities and the actions of the Border Guard. It emphasizes the need to defend the Polish border and build a wall so that migrants cannot enter Polish territory. The authors of the material make double use of the threat frame, including pointing out that migrants at the border pose a threat. In turn, the left-wing “Przegląd” criticizes the right-wing government and emphasizes the need for humanitarian aid. According to the “Przegląd”, the actions of those in power often amount to contempt for strangers, as well as arousing social fears.

Frame analysis has been successfully used by media scholars to study the content of messages. In addition, as shown above, through media frames, which are part of the media discourse,
migration debate can be followed, and frame analysis can be used to study important socio-political topics.

From today’s perspective, the themes of migration and mediatization are important elements of global processes and flows of peoples or goods. As Arjun Appadurai (2005) points out, both phenomena “coconstitute a new sense of the global as modern and the modern as global” (p. 10). The study of new media, but also, as in this article, traditional media in the context of the topic of migration is universal, stemming from both the increasing scale of mass migration (especially to Europe) and its mediatization. The discourse described is therefore part of a global discussion, as evidenced, among other things, by the frames that appear in it.

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