



How does the language used in mainstream media affect public perceptions of immigration?

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Executive summary

This research project aimed to explore how particular inflammatory linguistic devices used in mainstream media have the potential to perpetuate negative public perceptions of migrants.

Overall, this research project demonstrated that even single word variations in the description or modification of phrases can result in minor yet detrimental differences in the way migrants are perceived.

We utilised a triangulation of both corpus and questionnaire methodology. Our corpus analysis revealed some key linguistic devices that were used to misrepresent migrants: the term *migrants* to assimilate many individuals under one generalised identity, *illegal* to label irregular entrants and the term *crisis* as an inflammatory label for migration. Our three surveys were informed by the prominent linguistic features identified through corpus analysis and aimed to investigate changes in public perceptions caused by the alternation between *event/ crisis*, *people/ migrants* and *unconventionally/ illegally*. Through isolating and manipulating one linguistic variable per survey, we identified that inflammatory language led to more negative perceptions regarding qualities or characteristics such as migrants' likeliness to conform to cultural customs or laws and their eligibility to become UK citizens.

From the results of our investigation, we hypothesise that when these terms are presented in mainstream media, the potential for harmful public perceptions will increase beyond the effects we have observed. Language used in immigration discourse is instrumental in the creation of false and damaging stereotypes that can have serious repercussions for migrants seeking refuge in the UK, as well as those living here already. Our report emphasises the responsibility of journalists to remain neutral and factual when discussing this topic and we outline recommendations on how to achieve this. For the purpose of accessible distribution, we have created infographics and resources which emphasise our key recommendations.

Introduction

This report aims to investigate the causal relationship between inflammatory language used by journalists and negative public perception of migrants. From the outset, we established Adam Pipe, immigration barrister, as the primary user of our research, with journalists as secondaries. This means that, while the Charter of Good Practice will be aimed at journalists, the main body of our research aims to provide evidence of negative bias in mainstream media that has a direct effect on how readers perceive migrants. Public perception is a factor that permeates the field of immigration law; the proverbial court of public opinion relies on ‘evidence’ published in the media and has the power to influence immigration policy (Smets & Bozdağ, 2018).

Previous corpus analyses of immigration discourse have explored the representations of refugees and asylum seekers and how these labels position them in the wider discourse (O'Regan & Riordan, 2018; Baker & McEnery, 2018). Van Leeuwen's (1996) theoretical framework outlines socio-semantic categories for the representations used to describe “social actors.” Representations can either assimilate or nominate; assimilations (e.g., mass noun *migrants*) group people together as one and withdraws individual identities while formal nominations (e.g., proper noun *Priti Patel*) affords people their personal identity. Exploring social actor representations can identify who is assigned blame and reveal the ideologies that underpin the text.

Methodology

We established the problem statement: *immigration lawyer, Adam Pipe, needs empirical linguistic evidence on how language in the mainstream media affects public perception of migrants, in order to provide journalists with a charter of good practice.*

We therefore analysed prominent linguistic representations of migrants in the media, investigating how these affected participants' perceptions of a fictional group in a survey. The results gathered were used to produce our Charter of Good Practice.

In response to the employer brief, we gathered a corpus (dataset) of 100 online newspaper articles (hereon: Online newspaper corpus) on the topic of the migrant Channel crossings, which was relevant at the time of data collection. Using LexisNexis, data was collected through the key term search parameters *immigration / migrant / immigrant (UK or Britain or United Kingdom)*. News outlets were selected from the top twelve newspapers in the UK (YouGov, 2022). Only articles published between 1st November to 31st December 2021 were collected; a timeframe that correlates with a spike in reported channel crossing fatalities (Easton, 2021). For brief analysis of other news sources, we gathered a second corpus of 65 print and online newspaper articles combined (hereon: General newspaper corpus) using similar search parameters. We also gathered Tweets from Priti Patel MP to observe any shared patterns.

We carried out a collocation analysis, which shows the words most associated with a target word in a corpus (in this instance, the target word was *migrant(s)*). This suggested what attitudes might be most associated with migrants. In analysing, we applied the social actor framework to demonstrate how Us/Them dichotomies were constructed.

Analysis revealed the prominence of *migrant, crisis* and *illegal*.

To investigate how these linguistic features affected perception, we created three surveys using Qualtrics (see Appendix C). Effects of each linguistic feature were investigated in their own survey to avoid priming effects, using in-between subject design.

Participants first read a control passage about a fictional group of migrants (to reduce the effects of biases against real groups of migrants), containing a neutral term (e.g., *migrant event*), and responded to statements about the passage. Statements concerned the fictional migrants, such as whether or not they deserved citizenship of the country they entered and participants

responded using six-point disagree-to-agree Likert scales (to avoid neutrality). Participants then read a passage containing the same structure but with an inflammatory term in place of the neutral (e.g., *migrant crisis*) and responded to more statements. We compared responses between the different conditions.

Table 1: Conditions for passages between surveys

Survey	Neutral condition (control) passage	Inflammatory condition (target) passage
Survey 1	1,002 <u>people</u> have unconventionally entered the country in the last month.	1,002 <u>migrants</u> have unconventionally entered the country in the last month.
Survey 2	1,002 people have <u>unconventionally</u> entered the country in this recent migrant event.	1,002 people have <u>illegally</u> entered the country in this recent migrant event.
Survey 3	1,002 people have unconventionally entered the country in this recent migrant <u>event</u> .	1,002 people have unconventionally entered the country in this recent migrant <u>crisis</u> .

The surveys were disseminated on social media via snowball sampling using one link, encoded with a randomiser to alternate between the three surveys equally. To expand our demographic, surveys were publicly shared on a variety of platforms: Instagram, LinkedIn, and Facebook. The study was pilot tested to ensure data protection and randomisation were sufficient (see Appendix C for more information on ethics), and surveys were live for a total of 20 days. Results were collated, with a total of 121 responses across all three. These results were used to inform the Charter of Good Practice.

Findings

NEWSPAPER ANALYSIS

i. Individuals are assimilated under the group classification ‘(Channel) migrants’

Both the general and online newspaper coverage frequently collocates ‘migrants’ with ‘channel.’ As shown in the examples below, the label ‘Channel migrants’ (or even ‘migrants’) assimilates these individuals and collapses their unique reasons for and experiences of migrating under one stereotyped identity, allowing readers to generalise from one ‘(Channel) migrant’ to another. The assimilation ‘migrants’ itself presents these people as Others, grouping them solely on the basis that they have a different national identity from Us.

Table 2: ‘Migrants’ + ‘channel’ collocations in Online and General newspaper corpora

	Frequency of ‘migrants’ + ‘channel’ collocation (Raw count)	Example collocations
Online newspaper corpus	160	<p>‘Record number of <u>Channel migrants</u> reach UK on Christmas Day’ (Bird, 2021)</p> <p>‘the Prime Minister sent a letter, … to the French president in which he called on him to take back <u>Channel migrants</u>’ (Samuel, 2021a)</p> <p>‘Mr Johnson also urged a bilateral agreement for <u>Channel migrants</u> to be returned’ (Hymas and Boycott-Owen, 2021)</p> <p>‘Britain and France are in talks to mount joint sea patrols to stop and return <u>Channel migrants</u>’ (Hymas, 2021a)</p> <p>‘The number of <u>Channel migrants</u> reaching the UK in small boats has hit a record 20,000’ (Hymas, 2021b)</p>

General newspaper corpus	70	<p>‘Only five <u>Channel migrants</u> returned to Europe this year’ (Wyatt, 2021)</p> <p>‘Eyes in sky stem the tide of <u>Channel migrants</u>’ (Barnes, 2021)</p> <p>‘<u>Channel migrants</u>: Around 50 people make journey after deadly boat sinking’ (Sullivan and Bancroft, 2021)</p> <p>‘PM must take responsibility for <u>Channel migrants</u>’ (Burford, 2021)</p> <p>‘Ministers are hoping to seal an agreement to fly <u>Channel-crossing migrants</u> to Albania’ (Dunn, 2021)</p>
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ii. Migration is presented as a ‘crisis’

General and online newspaper coverage frequently collocates ‘migrant’ with ‘crisis’ to create the phrase ‘migrant crisis’. While it is used to refer to the deaths of migrants at sea, some instances of ‘migrant crisis’ are more removed from this context (as shown in the examples below). In these instances especially but also generally, connotations of catastrophe from ‘crisis’ could portray migration as catastrophic and as a detriment to Us.

Table 3: 'Migrant' + 'crisis' collocations in Online and General newspaper corpora

Corpus	Frequency of 'migrant' + 'crisis' collocation (Raw count)	Example collocations
Online newspaper corpus	82	<p>'Sir Edward Leigh, Tory MP for Gainsborough, said it was clear "we have lost control," as he urged Ms Patel to declare the Channel <u>migrant crisis</u> a national emergency so she could enact powers to override the human rights act and put the migrants in "secure accommodation".' (Hymas, 2021a)</p> <p>'The French prime minister has blamed Britain for the <u>migrant Channel crisis</u>, ... Jean Castex said Britain needed to deport more failed asylum seekers ...if it was to ... make itself less "attractive" as a destination.' (Hymas and Fisher, 2021)</p> <p>'The <u>migrant crisis</u> has become a key issue on the doorstep in the Old Bexley and Sidcup by-election campaign, the Reform UK candidate has said, ... Richard Tice, the leader of Reform UK and the party's candidate for Thursday's by-election, said illegal migration had become a major issue for voters.' (Diver, 2021)</p>
General newspaper corpus	46	<p>'Boris Johnson warned <u>migrant crisis</u> could 'destroy' Tory party as hundreds more cross Channel to UK' (Atkinson, 2021)</p> <p>'One senior Red Wall MP said the <u>migrant crisis</u> cut through more than almost any other issue, whether sleaze, climate change or national insurance rises. "It is all about taking back control of our own borders," he said.' (Hymas, 2021c)</p> <p>'The French government has accused Britain of treating France as a "punch ball" over the mounting <u>migrant crisis</u> as relations between the two countries deteriorated further last night. ... Almost 4,000 migrants crossed the Channel in the first 11 days of November.' (Dathan, 2021)</p>

Priti Patel MP also uses this phrase in her Tweets (2021), reflecting the damaging effects that negative perception may bring to UK law and politics (e.g. The Nationality and Borders Act, Gov.UK, 2022) and a fearful representation of migrants online.

Figures 1 and 2: Screenshots of Priti Patel's Tweets from 17th and 28th November 2021, respectively

The screenshot shows a Twitter search results page with the query 'crisis (from:pritipatel)' in the search bar. Below the search bar are navigation buttons for 'Top' (which is selected), 'Latest', 'People', 'Photos', and 'Videos'. Below these are engagement counts: 2,203 replies, 225 retweets, and 639 likes. The tweet itself is from Priti Patel (@pritipatel) on 17 Nov 2021. The text reads: 'Today I arrived in Washington DC to hold talks with @SecMayorkas. We agreed to strengthen our cooperation on combatting terrorism and the global migration crisis. International collaboration on these global issues is vital for the safety and security of the British people.' Below the text are two photographs: one of Priti Patel shaking hands with a man in a suit, and another showing them seated at a conference table during their meeting. At the bottom of the tweet are interaction counts: 1,781 replies, 288 retweets, and 754 likes.

The screenshot shows a Twitter search results page with the query 'crisis (from:pritipatel)' in the search bar. Below the search bar are navigation buttons for 'Top' (selected), 'Latest', 'People', 'Photos', and 'Videos'. Below these are engagement counts: 2,203 replies, 225 retweets, and 639 likes. The tweet is from Priti Patel (@pritipatel) on 28 Nov 2021. The text reads: 'This morning I held discussions with @ankiebroekers, my counterpart from the Netherlands, about my proposals to deal with the global migration crisis. We agreed more coordinated action was needed. I will continue to press this point with my European counterparts this week.' Below the text is a graphic showing two circular profiles: 'UK Home Secretary Priti Patel' and 'Netherlands Minister for Migration Ankje Broekers-Knol'. A telephone icon is between the profiles, indicating they were in a video call. At the bottom of the tweet are interaction counts: 2,203 replies, 225 retweets, and 639 likes.

iii. Migrants are indiscriminately labelled as ‘illegal’

Online newspaper coverage collocates ‘migrants’ with ‘illegal’ and ‘illegally.’ ‘Illegal’ carries connotations of criminality and defiance, causing ‘migrants’ to be associated with such connotations. As shown in the examples below, migrants are indiscriminately labelled as ‘illegal’ even though they may have a legal right to claim asylum (Reland, 2019), potentially causing readers to generalise all illegal entrants as having no legal right to stay.

Table 4: '*Migrants*' + 'illegal' and '*migrants*' + 'illegally' collocations in Online newspaper corpus

Collocation	Frequency of collocation (Raw count)	Example collocations
'migrants' + 'illegal'	28	<p>'Ms Patel has urged that "pull factors" that draw <u>illegal migrants</u> to the UK must be addressed.' (Price, 2021)</p> <p>'Processing <u>illegal migrants</u> offshore is the only way to end the crisis' (O'Flynn, 2021)</p> <p>'The mayor of Calais has blamed Britain for fuelling the Channel small boats crisis because a failure to tighten its laws means it has remained an "El Dorado" for <u>illegal migrants</u>' (Hymas and Samuel, 2021)</p>
'migrants' + 'illegally'	5	<p>'Failure to prosecute <u>migrants</u> arriving <u>illegally</u> leaves UK looking like 'soft touch'" (Hymas, 2021d)</p> <p>'He claimed the crisis could be resolved if Mr Darmanin and Ms Patel negotiated an agreement to take back <u>migrants</u> who had <u>illegally</u> reached the UK from France.' (Hymas, Gardner and Barnes, 2021)</p>

iv. Migrants' issues are backgrounded

v. Migrants are presented as an overwhelmingly large group

vi. Migrants are presented as a 'flow' of water

See Appendix A for a discussion of the three previous points.

vii. Language may be more inflammatory in online newspaper coverage

Online newspaper coverage collocates 'migrants' with 'illegal(ly)', 'record,' quantifiers and 'flow' relatively more frequently than general newspaper coverage (as shown in Table 4).

Table 5: Frequencies and relative frequencies of collocates of ‘migrants’ across Online and General newspaper corpora

Collocate	Online newspaper corpus: Frequency of collocate (Raw count)	Online newspaper corpus: Relative frequency of collocate (per million collocates of ‘migrants’, rounded to the nearest integer)	General newspaper corpus: Frequency of collocate (Raw count)	General newspaper corpus: Relative frequency of collocate (per million collocates of ‘migrants’, rounded to the nearest integer)
illegal	28	3583	3	810
illegally	5	640	0	0
record	26	3327	5	1351
number	21	2687	5	1351
numbers	11	1408	6	1621
thousands	15	1919	4	1080
flow	18	2303	4	1080

SURVEY RESULTS

Figure 3: Comparison of responses to 'relocated' and 'citizens' statements across all 3 surveys



i. Labelling entrants as ‘migrants’ generally results in greater negative perception than labelling entrants as ‘people’

Figure 4: Comparison of responses to ‘relocated’ and ‘citizens’ statements in Survey 1

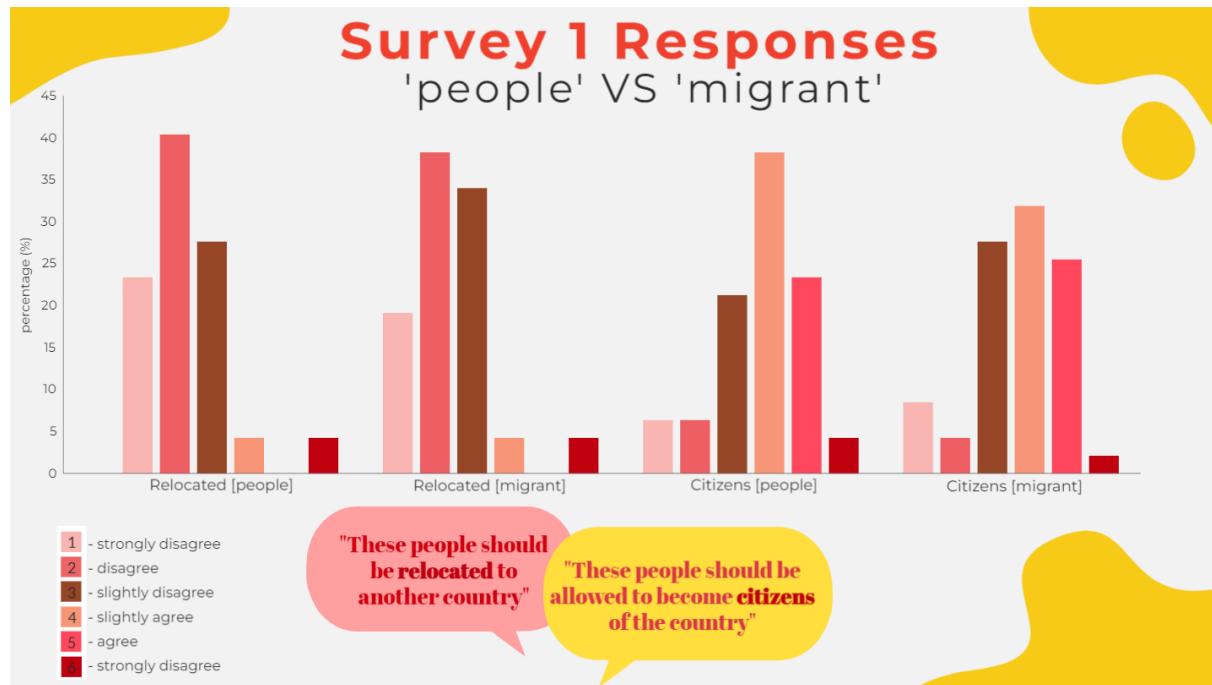


Table 6: Average rating responses in Survey 1

<p>“1,002 [people]/[migrants] have unconventionally entered the country in the last month.”</p> <p>1-Strongly disagree, 2-Disagree, 3-Slightly disagree, 4-Slightly agree, 5-Agree, 6-Strongly agree</p>			
Statement	Average Rating Response in “People” Condition [1 to 6]	Average Rating Response in “Migrant” Condition [1 to 6]	Change in Average
I can imagine this group of people as individuals.	4.38	4.38	0
These people all have the same intention for entering the country.	2.49	2.85	+0.36
These people should be relocated to another country.	2.30	2.40	+0.10
These people should be allowed to become citizens of the country.	3.79	3.68	-0.11

ii. Labelling migration as ‘illegal’ generally results in greater negative perception than labelling migration as ‘unconventional’

Figure 5: Comparison of responses to ‘relocated’ and ‘citizens’ statements in Survey 2

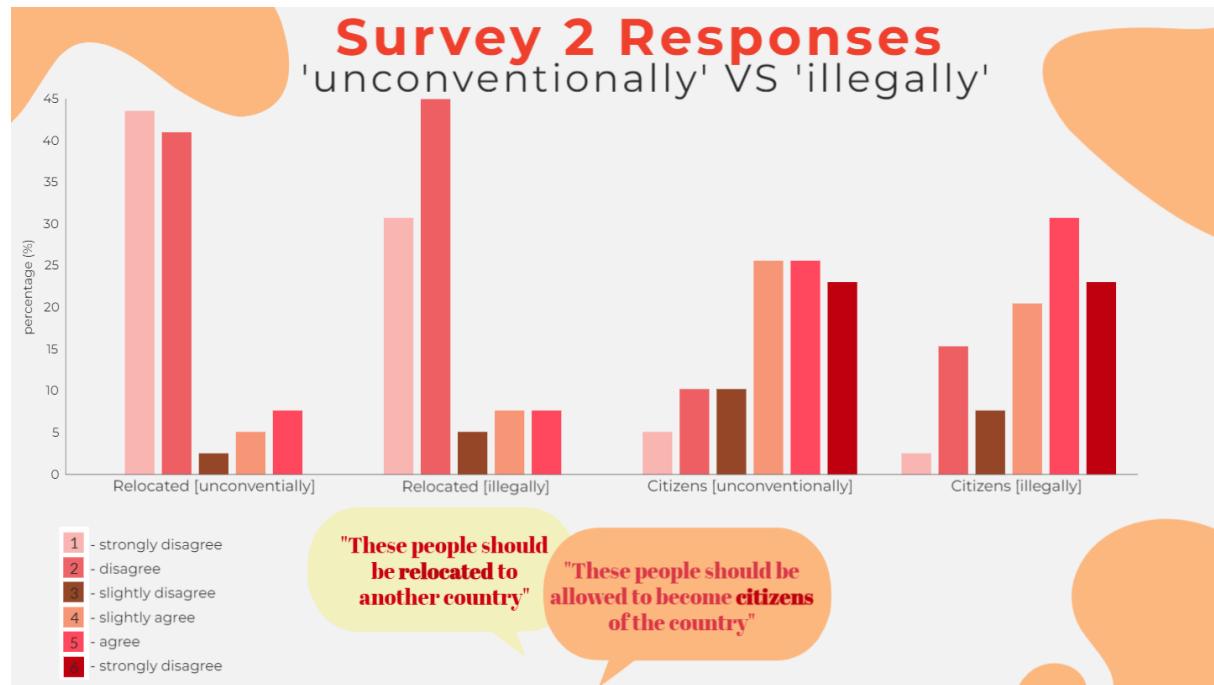


Table 7: Average rating responses in Survey 2

<p>“1,002 people have [unconventionally]/[illegally] entered the country in this recent migrant event.”</p>			
<p>1-Strongly disagree, 2-Disagree, 3-Slightly disagree, 4-Slightly agree, 5-Agree, 6-Strongly agree</p>			
Statement	Average Rating Response in “Unconventionally” Condition [1 to 6]	Average Rating Response in “Illegally” Condition [1 to 6]	Change in Average
These people will conform to the laws of the country.	4.46	4.31	-0.15
These people will reject the cultural customs of the country.	2.64	2.72	+0.08
These people should be relocated to another country.	1.92	2.13	+0.21
These people should be allowed to become citizens of the country.	4.26	4.31	+0.05

iii. Labelling migration as a 'crisis' does not generally result in greater negative perception than labelling migration as an 'event'

Figure 6: Comparison of responses to 'relocated' and 'citizens' statements in Survey 3

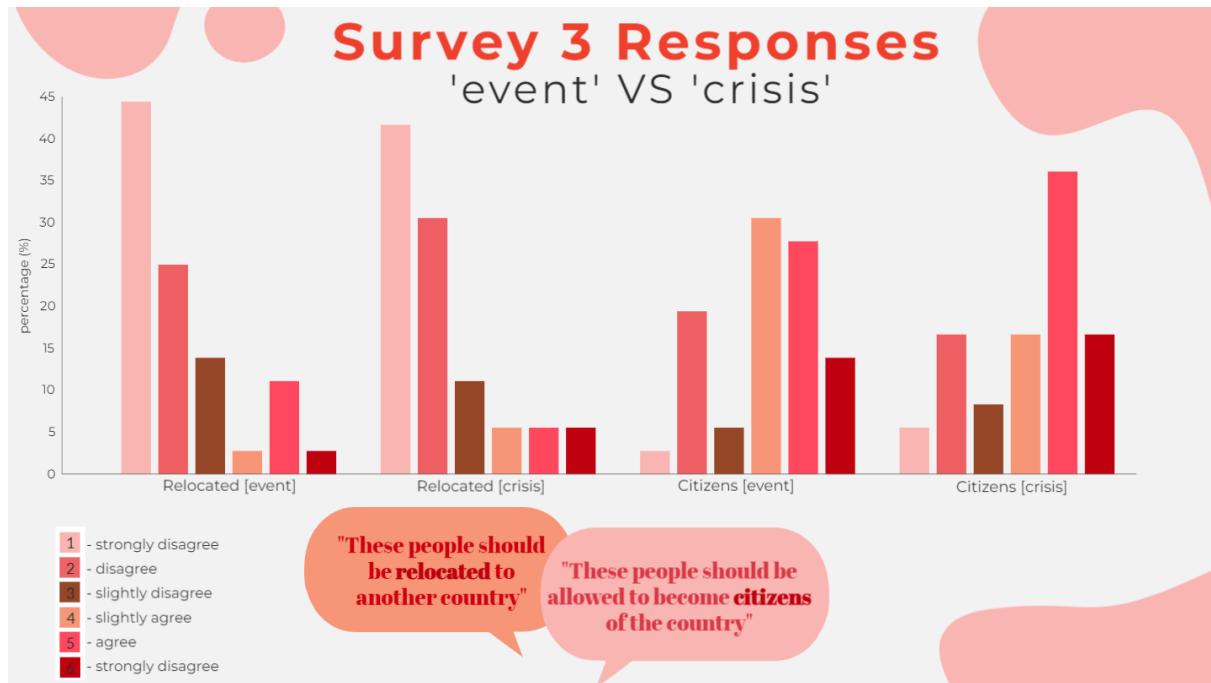


Table 8: Average rating responses in Survey 3

<p style="text-align: center;">“1,002 people have unconventionally entered the country in this recent migrant [event]/[crisis].”</p>			
1-Strongly disagree, 2-Disagree, 3-Slightly disagree, 4-Slightly agree, 5-Agree, 6-Strongly agree			
Statement	Average Rating Response in “Event” Condition [1 to 6]	Average Rating Response in “Crisis” Condition [1 to 6]	Change in Average + Increased agreement with statement - Increased disagreement with statement Bold red numbers indicate a change to a more negative perception
This migrant event is a milestone in the country’s history.	3.28	3.47	+0.19
This migrant event has a negative impact on the country.	2.55	2.64	+0.09
These people should be relocated to another country.	2.19	2.19	0
These people should be allowed to become citizens of the country.	4.03	4.11	+0.08

Unexpectedly, only in response to 1 out of the 4 statements was there an observed change to a negative perception. We infer that these participants may have interpreted ‘migrant crisis’ not in the sense that migration is a crisis but that migrants undergo a crisis; in the corpora, ‘migrant crisis’ was used to refer to the deaths of migrants who attempted to cross the Channel. As a result of this context, ‘crisis’ may not have caused a negative perception but a sympathetic one, noting in particular that this survey was disseminated during the Ukraine ‘crisis.’

iv. In this survey, minor use of inflammatory language caused slight changes in perception – implying that greater use of inflammatory language would cause greater changes in perception

As seen in the tables above, changes toward negative perception (due to inflammatory language) were very slight. We believe this is because participants read passages where only one linguistic feature varied; a slight change in language would inevitably cause only a slight change in perception. However, we theorise that if participants engaged in a wider discourse on migration with more instances of inflammatory language (e.g., a news article), the representation of and participants’ perceptions of migrants would be more negative.

v. Consumption of online (potentially more inflammatory) news may result in negative perception of migrants

As tested, inflammatory language about a group of people can result in a negative perception of those people. Therefore, inflammatory language in online newspapers about migrants can contribute to a public negative perception of migrants. In our survey, 67.8% of our participants ($n=82$) used online newspapers (as shown in Fig. 7). Since our corpus analysis revealed that online newspapers may have more inflammatory language about migrants, our participants’ consumption of online newspapers may have caused them to have a general negative perception of migrants, which may be reflected in some of the words and stigmas that they associated with ‘migrant’ (shown in Fig. 8 and Table 9).

Figure 7: Percentages and raw counts of votes on types of media consumed

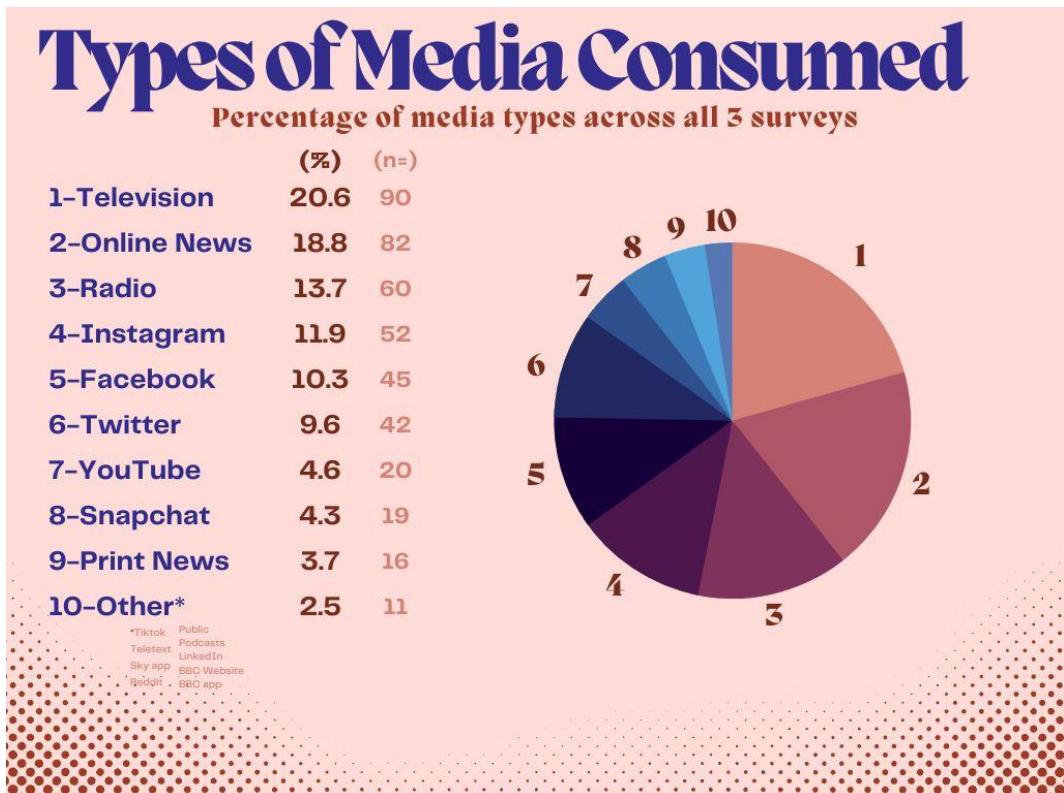


Figure 8: Word Cloud of most frequent words listed in association with 'migrant'



Table 9: 25 most frequent words listed in association with 'migrant'

Word	Frequency (Raw count)
Refugee	21
Foreign	20
War	16
Desperate	13
People	10
Homeless	8
Help	6
Travel	6
Person	5
Asylum seekers	5
Asylum	5
Scared	5
Move	5
Illegal	5
Foreigner	4
Human	4
Brave	4
Helpless	4
Relocation	4
Movement	4
Economic	4
Change	4
Immigrant	4
Hopeful	4
Danger	3

Recommendations

As demonstrated in previous literature (e.g., Thibodeau and Boroditsky, 2011) and in this report, language can influence perception about groups of people, and these perceptions can influence how those groups of people are treated. Thus, journalists must ensure that the language they use does not misrepresent or background migrants; otherwise, the public may vilify migrants, trivialise their issues and unknowingly contribute to the judicial oppression of migrants.

Below is a list of recommendations for journalists:

- Avoid creating broad classifications (e.g., ‘Channel migrants’) to prevent readers generalising → Refer to individuals through ways that highlight their individuality (e.g., names)
- Avoid indiscriminately using the term ‘illegal’ to prevent readers from inferring that illegal entrants do not have a legal right to stay → Use consequential terms like this sparingly and for the appropriate cases
- Avoid focussing on politicians’ debates on responsibility of migration to prevent backgrounding migrants’ issues → Focus on the migrants to foreground their issues and their reasons for migrating
- Avoid emphasis on the quantity of migrants (e.g., ‘more than hundreds of migrants’) → Refer to the quantity of migrants neutrally (e.g., ‘389 migrants’)
- Avoid dehumanising metaphors (e.g., ‘a tide of people’) → Use more literal representations (e.g., simply ‘people’)
- Use online resources, such as the UN Refugee Agency’s Glossary of Terms, to learn more appropriate ways to write about migration

More information can be found in our Charter of Good Practice (see Appendix B1).

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Appendices

Appendix A: Discussion of points iv-vi in Newspaper Analysis

Appendix B: Charter of Good Practice and Resource Page

Appendix C: Blank survey

Appendix A: Discussion of points iv-vi in Newspaper Analysis

iv. Migrants' issues are backgrounded

General and online newspaper coverage frequently collocates ‘migrants’ with ‘France’ and ‘French’ and they generally use the words ‘France’ and ‘French’ frequently (as shown by the tables below), suggesting that the articles focus on France’s role (or supposed responsibility) in preventing migration to Britain. This is supported by the examples in Table A1. Focusing on France backgrounds (and potentially causes readers to background) the reasons for why migrants are making the Channel crossing; rather, migrants themselves are foregrounded as problems for countries (like France) to solve.

Table A1: ‘Migrants’ + ‘France’ and ‘migrants’ + ‘French’ collocations in Online and General newspaper corpora

	Frequency of ‘migrants’ + ‘France’ collocation (Raw count)	Example ‘migrants’ + ‘France’ collocations	Frequency of ‘migrants’ + ‘French’ collocation (Raw count)	Example ‘migrants’ + ‘French’ collocations
Online newspaper corpus	50	<p>‘<u>France</u> remains hesitant to see <u>migrants</u> returned’ (Andrews, 2021)</p> <p>Natacha Bouchart urged Emmanuel Macron ... to "strongarm" Britain into overhauling the treaty that gives <u>France</u> responsibility to stop <u>migrants</u> before they cross the Channel.’ (Hymas and Samuel, 2021a)</p>	35	<p>‘the <u>French</u> intercepted just 99 <u>migrants</u> – fewer than one in 10 of the 1,284 who attempted to cross the Channel’ (Hymas, 2021e)</p> <p>‘London has accused Paris of failing to stem the flow of <u>migrants</u> from the <u>French</u> side’ (Wright, Gross and Mallet, 2021)</p>

General newspaper corpus	29	<p>‘Mr Johnson infuriated Mr Macron when he posted an open letter on Twitter calling for ... the return to <u>France</u> of <u>migrants</u> who succeed in making the dangerous Channel crossing’ (Forrest, 2021)</p> <p>‘there has been no formal arrangements to facilitate deporting <u>migrants</u> back to <u>France</u>’ (Wyatt, 2021)</p>	28	<p>‘PM must take responsibility for Channel <u>migrants</u>, say the <u>French</u>’ (Burford, 2021)</p> <p>‘Ms Patel had not secured strong enough agreements with the <u>French</u> government to prevent <u>migrants</u> crossing the Channel’ (Atkinson, 2021)</p>
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Table A2: Words from the 50 most frequent word types in Online newspaper corpus (omitting grammatical and irrelevant items)

Word	Frequency (Raw count)	Word list rank
people	822	8
channel	662	12
UK	514	18
French	464	24
France	390	30
migrants	375	31
boat	270	42

asylum	246	48
government	241	49
boats	214	50

Table A3: Words from the 50 most frequent word types in General newspaper corpus (omitting grammatical and irrelevant items)

Word	Frequency (Raw count)	Word list rank
UK	910	19
people	820	22
migrants	783	28
French	616	33
channel	611	34
France	576	36
government	452	42
minister	427	46

v. Migrants are presented as an overwhelmingly large group

Online newspaper coverage collocates ‘migrants’ with ‘record’, ‘number(s)’ and ‘thousands’. As shown in Table A4 below, these collocates are used to state high record-breaking numbers of entrants. The emphasis on quantification presents migrants as a large group, and the focus

on record numbers of entrants presents migrants as an overwhelmingly large group (one that We cannot accommodate).

Table A4: 'Migrants' + 'record', 'migrants' + 'number(s)' and 'migrants' + 'thousands' collocations in Online newspaper corpus

Collocation	Frequency of collocation (Raw count)	Example collocation
'migrants' + 'record'	26	' <u>Record</u> 853 <u>migrants</u> reach UK in single day' (Hymas and Samuel, 2021b)
'migrants' + 'number'	21	' <u>Number</u> of Channel <u>migrants</u> to reach UK hits record 20,000' (Hymas, 2021b)
'migrants' + 'numbers'	11	'Record <u>numbers</u> of <u>migrants</u> are arriving on our shores and being rewarded with free pizza - it's clear that the rules are far too soft' (Pearson, 2021)
'migrants' + 'thousands'	15	' <u>Thousands</u> of <u>migrants</u> crossing from French shores to England this month despite a deal to stop them' (Samuel, 2021b)

vi. Migrants are presented as a 'flow' of water

Online newspaper coverage sometimes collocates 'migrants' with 'flow' and 'tide' to create metaphors of MIGRANTS AS WATER (as shown by the examples in Table A5 below). Representing migrants as forceful types of water dehumanises them and vilifies them as natural disasters and as entities which force entry. Previous academic literature shows how people can perceive matters through the ideological lens of metaphor (Thibodeau and Boroditsky, 2011). These metaphors can therefore cause the public to perceive migrants as forceful entrants and as disastrous for Our country.

Table A5: 'Migrants' + 'flow' and 'migrants' + 'tide' collocations in Online newspaper corpus

Collocation	Frequency of collocation (Raw count)	Example collocation(s)

'migrants' + 'flow'	18	<p>'the French president, on Friday accused Britain of swinging "between partnership and provocation" over the <u>flow of Channel migrants</u>' (Hymas, Crisp and Wright, 2021)</p> <p>'He implied that the <u>flow of migrants</u> seeking to cross the Channel illegally was partly Johnson's fault' (Sage, 2021)</p>
'migrants' + 'tide'	4	<p>'On board the EU spy planes helping to stem the <u>tide of Channel migrants</u>' (Hymas and Barnes, 2021)</p>

Appendix B: Charter of Good Practice and Resource Page

Figure B1: Charter of Good Practice



Figure B2: Resource Page

RESOURCE PAGE

It is important to educate ourselves on how to discuss events such as migration. Listed below are some supportive terms and resources we can use to get started:

Recommended Terms or Phrases:

1. 'Unauthorized' (instead of, for example, 'illegal').

2. 'Irregular movement' or 'irregular situation' when describing an individual's placement in another country.

3. 'Vulnerable' to describe such individuals, rather than 'criminal'.

Useful Websites:

UNHCR Master Glossary of Terms
(2019) [Available at:
<https://www.unhcr.org/glossary/>]

Home Office Glossary of Terms (2011)
[Available at:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/116013/immigration_glossary.pdf]

Migrant and Refugee Children's Legal Unit (2019) [Available at:
<https://mrcu.org/glossary>]



Appendix C: Blank Questionnaire

Figure C1: Consent and ethics page displayed at the top of all three surveys

Information . UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH PROJECT SURVEY.

You are being invited to participate in a research study being undertaken by Lucy Robson, Eleanor Streatfield, Connie Jones, Gemma Nailer and Idris Malik at the University of Birmingham, under the supervision of Dr Ruth Page (R.E.PAGE@bham.ac.uk). Your participation in this study is entirely voluntary and you can withdraw at any time by closing your browser window.

The following survey will take approximately 6 minutes. You will see two different short texts followed by some statements. We will then ask you to say whether you agree or disagree with these statements. Finally, there will be some questions about the topic in the short texts.

Use your first intuition to respond to each statement.

We believe there are no known risks associated with this research study. However, as with any online related activity the risk of a data breach is always possible. To the best of our ability your answers in this study will remain anonymous. Your data will be stored on a secure file server at the University of Birmingham and will only be used for the purpose of research. By supplying this information, you are consenting to the University storing your data for the purpose stated above. The information will be processed by the University of Birmingham in accordance with the provision of the Data Protection Act 1998.

No identifiable personal data will be required nor published over the course of this research.

Figure C2: Required consent agreement across all three surveys

No identifiable personal data will be required nor published over the course of this research.

If you have any questions about this survey, please email Eleanor at EJS028@student.bham.ac.uk

Please confirm and click on the statements below to participate.

I confirm that I am aged 18 years or older and a UK resident.

I confirm that I have read and understood the participant information for this study (as above) and have had the opportunity to ask questions and, if so, they have been answered satisfactorily.

I understand that my participation is voluntary and I am free to withdraw my results up to 7 days after participation without giving any reason. I understand the only way for my data to be removed and destroyed is by voluntarily providing my email address at the end of this survey and thus contacting student researcher Lucy Robson (LXR906@student.bham.ac.uk).

Based on the information above, I agree to take part in this study.



Figure C3: Survey 1 (people/migrants) neutral passage (Q1)

Q1. Please read the short text below:

"1,002 people have unconventionally entered the country in the last month."

Below are some statements about the short text. Please say whether you agree or disagree with each statement on the rating scale.

	Rating Scales					
	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Slightly disagree	Slightly agree	Agree	Strongly agree
I can imagine this group of people as individuals.	<input type="radio"/>					
These people all have the same intention for entering the country.	<input type="radio"/>					
These people should be relocated to another country.	<input type="radio"/>					
These people should be allowed to become citizens of the country.	<input type="radio"/>					



Figure C4: Survey 1 (people/migrants) target word passage (Q2)

Q2. Please read the short text below:

"1,002 migrants have unconventionally entered the country in the last month."

Below are some statements about the short text. Please say whether you agree or disagree with each statement on the rating scale.

	Rating Scales					
	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Slightly disagree	Slightly agree	Agree	Strongly agree
These people all have the same intention for entering the country.	<input type="radio"/>					
These people should be allowed to become citizens of the country.	<input type="radio"/>					
I can imagine this group of people as individuals.	<input type="radio"/>					
These people should be relocated to another country.	<input type="radio"/>					



Figure C5: Survey 2 (unconventionally/illegally) neutral passage (Q1)

Q1.

Please read the short text below.

"1,002 people have unconventionally entered the country in this recent migrant event."

Below are some statements about the short text. Please say whether you agree or disagree with each statement on the rating scale.

Figure C6: Survey 2 (unconventionally/illegally) target word passage (Q2)

Q2.

Please read the short text below.

"1,002 people have illegally entered the country in this recent migrant event."

Below are some statements about the short text. Please say whether you agree or disagree with each statement on the rating scale.

Figure C7: Survey 3 (event/crisis) neutral passage (Q1)

Figure C8: Survey 3 (event/crisis) target word passage (Q2)

Figure C9: (All surveys) Question 3, Question 4 and Question 5

Q3. Please list three words that you associate with 'migrant'

Word 1
Word 2
Word 3

Q4. Below is a list of different mediums of news. Please click on the mediums that you use as sources of information on a weekly basis.

Television
Radio
Print newspapers
Online newspapers
Twitter
Youtube
Facebook
Instagram
Snapchat
None
Other (please specify)

Q5. Using the open space below, please list exactly which outlets you use weekly as sources of information (if any).

If you use the television, please list which news programmes you watch. If you use newspapers, please list which newspapers you read. If you use social media, please list which social media accounts or persons you look at or follow. If you use the radio, please list which radio news programmes you listen to.

Figure C10: (All surveys) Question 6 and Question 7

Q6. What did you vote for in the 2016 Brexit referendum? Please click your response.

Leave
Remain
I did not vote, but I would have voted Leave
I did not vote, but I would have voted Remain
Prefer not to say

Q7. Please state your age (this is optional).

Figure C11: (All surveys) Question 8 (right to withdraw from survey)

Q8. If you think that you may want your results in this study deleted in the future, you can voluntarily provide your email address in the space below, and email Lucy Robson (LXR906@student.bham.ac.uk) - up to 7 days after participation - to have your results deleted. This information will NOT be used as part of the research.

Please state your email address (this is optional):

. Continue to the next page to complete the survey.



We thank you for your time spent taking this survey.
Your response has been recorded.