

PORTRAYING THE UKRAINE CRISIS IN THE NEWS AGENCIES OF CHIȘINĂU AND TIRASPOL

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Abstract: This paper represents a study on the portrayal of major events related to the Ukraine war within two news agencies – „Pervii pridnestrovskii” (well-known by the population on the left bank of the Dniester) and „Jurnal TV”, the first news television channel in the Republic of Moldova and still popular on the right bank. This study was conducted using comparative methods, quantitatively and qualitatively analyzing the coverage of the Ukraine crisis in daily news bulletins, with a focus on its early period - the first calendar month from 24.02.2022 to 24.03.2022.

Researching the precise formulations chosen and the presentation methods of events used by both news agencies has revealed how easily public opinion formation can be guided by focusing on certain dimensions, implicitly pursued through the goals of news portals. Thus, an information bubble was observed that opted to omit the existence of an aggression event, focusing strictly on campaigns and humanitarian missions (especially local ones). In contrast, another information space highlighted the aggressive and violent aspect faced by Ukrainian citizens, in addition to the humanitarian and rescue dimensions.

The paper concludes with some relevant findings and presents an argumentative framework for the necessity of conducting such a study, both for the national and international context.

Keywords: aggression; Chișinău; news; propaganda; Republic of Moldova; Russian Federation; Tiraspol; Transnistria; Ukraine; war

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