

An analysis of how free speech through journalism is conferred on
minority groups:
a comparison of Sudanese refugees in Australia and Syrian refugees in
Turkey

by

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Declaration

This study, as my Minor Thesis, was undertaken in partial fulfilment of the requirements at The University of Melbourne for the degree of Master of International Journalism. The views and comments are those of the author and might not reflect the views of The University of Melbourne and its Centre for Advancing Journalism.

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Abstract

This study examines how journalism practices in Australia and Turkey affect refugee groups in those countries by reference to the concept of belonging, the way their voices are heard and their media representation.

It analyses the *Herald Sun* and *Hurriyet* newspapers' content on Sudanese refugees in Australia and Syrian refugees in Turkey by utilising a mixed method content analysis.

The evaluation includes grouping the content under 10 topics, identifying their perspective --whether they are positive, neutral or negative-- and analysing whether those articles included the three elements: whether the voice of refugees was heard or not, sense of belonging and the way the refugees were represented.

Despite the a priori hypothesis that the majority of coverage was negative about refugees, the study found out that almost half of the coverage was positive in both countries. Despite this assessment of the findings also showed that there is still room for improvement in both countries to include all three elements in their reporting.

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CHAPTER 1

Introduction

The world has been going through the toughest times with political unrests, social conflicts, economic downturns and wars. The refugee crises that involve African and Syrian migration is considered to be the world's most significant crisis since World War II (Ramírez Plascencia, 2017). More than 68 million people were forcibly displaced as of the end of 2017 and the figure continues to be the highest ever recorded. 25.4 million of those are considered to be refugees. Turkey has the largest number of refugees driven mainly by the current Syrian refugee crisis hosting 3.5 million Syrian refugees. According to the latest 2016 census, there are 17,031 Sudan-born people in Australia (Department of Home Affairs, 2018). Australia hosted over 48,000 refugees by the end of 2017 (UNHCR, 2018). However, most of the refugee communities are hosted by developing countries mainly with a border to the conflicted regions. In that regard, according to the UNHCR Global Trends 2017 analysis, in 2017, 85% of the world's refugees were hosted by developing regions (2018).

The scale of the current massive refugee crisis, and the populist politics against those refugee communities, created a negative discourse in the majority of host countries' media. They argue that those refugee communities extensively use public funds and taxpayers' money, access resources that the citizens of the host societies can't such as shelter, employment, and education and training. The Hacettepe University Migration and Politics Research Center's report indicated that Turkish society's social acceptance towards Syrians was significantly high according to their research in early 2014 (Erdogan, 2014). On the other hand, the survey data from a study

undertaken by Kadir Has University's Center for Turkish Studies, the intolerance towards refugees in Turkey increased from 54.5% in 2017 to 66.6% in 2018 (Aydin et al., 2019).

According to Van Vuuren and Hebbani (2015), the majority of Australians gain their knowledge about ethnic communities using the mainstream media that also shapes their perceptions on wider community issues in Australia. Kolukirik argues that media has a power to influence public opinion on refugees as a reflector and a supporter (2009). In that regard, different aspects of the Syrian refugee crisis -- political, economic and social -- create different reactions in the public (Karakus & Goktuna Yaylaci, 2015).

This study aims to show how free speech operates through the media in Australia and Turkey by assessing the articles that were published in *Herald Sun* (Australia) for Sudanese refugees and in *Hurriyet* (Turkey) for Syrian refugees. The study provides an evaluation of journalism practices by referencing to the sense of belonging, whether those articles included refugees' voices and the way they represented refugees. The study also presents a comparison between Australia and Turkey by examining the media narratives of Sudanese and Syrian refugees in respective countries.

I had experienced the Syrian refugee crisis in Turkey as an individual and as a professional working for international NGOs with a focus on education. When I first arrived in Australia, I completed a Graduate Diploma in International Community Development where I was exposed to the challenges of Sudanese refugees in Australia. Therefore, I was motivated to explore the differences and similarities of those refugees' experiences in their host countries and assess this through the media

discourse in Australia and Turkey. In fact, it is quite a challenge for both refugees and host societies to engage with each other. The media plays a significant role in portraying refugees and how they are perceived in the wider host societies.

Therefore, this study focused on how the refugees are represented in the media, whether they had the ability to be heard and how those experiences affected their sense of belonging to their host societies.



CHAPTER 2

Literature Review

The world is going through the biggest refugee crisis recorded in its history. From the journalism point of view, there are many approaches towards how the crisis is reported and how the refugees are described as they settle in their host countries and their communities. Although the literature covers a wider range of perspectives, this review will focus on three main areas. Those areas are: conferring free speech which is one of the most debated topics in journalism and whether the refugees' voices are heard, the impact of belonging for refugees integrating into their host cultures and the media representation of the refugees. The primary focus of this study will be how those three elements are utilised in journalism practices with a focus on Sudanese refugees in Australia and Syrian refugees in Turkey.

Even though it is clearly communicated in the 1951 Refugee Convention (UNHCR, n.d.) that the host countries should make every effort to undertake necessary processes to assimilate and naturalise refugees in their respective countries, it hasn't always been the case for those refugees to become part of the host societies. For those exiled from their home, there is the inevitable loss of belonging and feeling of 'home'. For example, Hovil (2016) describes the term belonging in the context of citizenship and nationality. Even though they are accepted as equals in international law, there is a fundamental difference that an individual may gain all the rights while, as a citizen, those rights may not be transferrable to being part of the host nation. In the context of refugees, it remains a real problem. Furthermore, Marlowe (2017) argues that the concept of belonging is somewhat limitedly theorised in the literature although it has become gradually more important in the past few decades

due to the large proportion of displaced people globally. Therefore, even though it is extensively defined, it still lacks in-depth critical analysis (Marlowe, 2017).

Despite the challenges in defining ‘belonging’, number of authors argue that there is a strong correlation between sense of belonging and people’s experience in places and with others (Karataş, 2015; Webb & Lahiri-Roy, 2019; Wilding & Gifford, Sandra, 2018). In the context of refugees, it becomes more crucial, taking into consideration that they have no other option than being part of the host society compared to those willingly move to another country by their choice.

Freedom of Speech is one of the key elements of democracy. According to the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights (2015), Freedom of expression is one of the basic rights outlined in Article 19:

“Article 19.

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.”

However, the limits of free speech were also defined in Article 29 (United Nations, 2015):

“(2) In the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society.”

There is no simple definition of freedom of speech and that it needs to be assessed within its context, rules, regulations and law. Therefore, freedom of speech doesn't give individuals, groups or, in the context of this study, journalists and their news channels the ultimate power to express a view without consequence. Harry Melkonian (2012) argues that even though a small group of US Supreme Court judges has made rare interpretations to this effect, free speech doesn't mean the right to say whatever we want. More importantly, it becomes more important for journalists to include the voice of minorities for an impartial and accurate reporting (Henkel, 2012). However, the perception of accuracy and objectivity also depends on domestic and international politics. Johan Snel (2013) also mentioned that free speech is politically driven therefore for journalists it is also crucial to be aware of this fact.

There is also debate about what makes 'good journalism', According to de Zuniga & Hinsley (2013), accuracy, objectivity and factual news are valued by the public. It is widely acknowledged by the authors that media is predominantly influential in how wider public perceives the refugees in the society and how they are reflected in the public policy (Karakus & Goktuna Yaylaci, 2015; Kolukirik & Aygul, 2009; Marlowe, 2017; Muller, Farquharson, & Nolan, 2018). Therefore, journalists and their outlets play a significant role in creating narratives about minorities, for this particular study, about refugee communities.

Media representation has been one of the most popular fields of research relating to minority groups (Perovic, 2016). The majority of those studies suggested that the media representation of minorities in the coverage are mostly negative (Dijk, 1991; Klocker & Dunn, 2003; Rasinger, 2010; Sundin, De Cock, & Mistiaen, 2019). As

part of this study, an analysis of published articles is made to assess the coverage of two popular newspapers in Australia and Turkey without focusing on the usage of terminology but the overall content of those articles.



CHAPTER 3

Methodology

This study adopted a case study approach to analyse published news about Syrian refugees in Turkey and Sudanese refugees in Australia. Two major mainstream newspapers were selected from Turkey and Australia, *Hurriyet* and *Herald Sun* respectively. They are both within the top three largest-circulating newspapers targeting similar reader profiles being lower-middle socio-economic groups. Even though they have quite strong online presences, only the articles that were published on those newspapers' printed editions were analysed in order to maintain the consistency and reliability of the data. As the news may be updated, removed or archived on online platforms, the printed versions offer less discrepancy as once printed and published they may not be amended.

Hurriyet newspaper was founded in 1948 (PwC, 2018) and it has been one of the oldest national newspapers in Turkey. It has a populist approach in delivering news and conveying the current government messages on policies. Despite its broadsheet format, which is common in Turkey, *Hurriyet* has a mix of serious and sensational approaches in delivering news, making it like tabloids in style. This study focused on the news published about Syrian refugees. The articles that were heavily political and directly related to international affairs that involved Turkey – EU relations and negotiations in the current refugee crisis were excluded. This approach was adopted in order to focus on how Syrian refugees are covered and portrayed in *Hurriyet*. There was access to the articles only from January 2013 to December 2018, and all genres of articles from that period were included in the study. The challenges faced to access *Hurriyet* data are explained later in this section.

Despite its long history as The Herald, *Herald Sun* was established after the merge of The Sun News-Pictorial and The Herald in 1990. The Herald had been founded in 1840 and the Sun in 1910 (Young, 2019). It is the largest-circulating daily tabloid newspaper in Australia ('15.5 million Australians read newspapers in print or online', 2019). The articles analysed here were all published between January 2007 and December 2012. This period was chosen because it coincided with a period when the issue of Sudanese refugees was high on the political agenda both in Victoria and federally, and because it was also the period covered by a separate research project about Sudanese representation in Australian news media (Farquharson & Nolan, 2018). According to Farquharson and Nolan that was the only period where both printed and television news data were available for their study (2018). The articles were extracted that were published in the printed *Herald Sun* from that period for the qualitative and quantitative content analysis.

The Factiva database was used to access the *Herald Sun* printed news including Saturday and Sunday issues. "Sudan" and "Refugee" keywords were used with asterisk (*) as a wildcard. Furthermore, in order to maintain consistency throughout the study, both Sudanese and South Sudanese were referred as Sudanese. In order to access *Hurriyet* printed news, the EMIS database (n.d.) was used that mainly provides research and analytical data about emerging markets. In order to obtain more reliable and accurate data, more keywords in Turkish had to be used as more descriptive words are used to deliver news about refugees in Turkish language. One of the reasons is that the majority of Syrian refugees are given "temporary protection" status by Turkey (Directorate General of Migration Management, n.d.) while they wait for an official status outcome. Therefore, in the news coverage, newspapers including *Hurriyet* tend to use "Gocmen" (Immigrant), "Multeci"

(refugee) and “Siginmaci” (asylum seeker). In order to identify the articles, those terms and “Suriye” (Syria) were used as the keywords with asterisk as a wildcard on the EMIS database.

It was more difficult to access *Hurriyet* articles about Syrian refugees than the *Herald Sun*’s articles about Sudanese refugees. On Factiva, 51 articles were identified from *Herald Sun* to analyse. However, some challenges had to be overcome to access *Hurriyet* coverage. A media tracking company in Turkey was contacted to ask for a quote for the supply of stories fitting the requirements of printed *Hurriyet* newspaper coverage from January 2011 to December 2018. The study originally was going to focus on 2011 as the first small cohort of Syrian refugees arrived in Turkey in April that year. Five university libraries and the State Library in Istanbul were visited in July 2019. Four of those university libraries had limited access to their online databases and they were only available to their staff members. The State Library had all the printed issues of *Hurriyet*, including its supplements, bound for the full period. However, because of the limited time in Turkey, it was not feasible to go through all issues. In the end, the coverage was found at Bahcesehir University Library database, EMIS. When the original research period was put in, it only brought up the coverage from January 2013 through to December 2018 to analyse; therefore, the assessment period was updated for Turkey due to availability of data. The initial search identified 346 articles, 61 of which were met the main criteria for Syrian refugees’ coverage in Turkey.

A mixed-method content analysis was used in order to analyse the media content of *Herald Sun* in Australia and *Hurriyet* in Turkey. In the quantitative analysis, all articles were listed and their genres, topics, and perspectives were identified.

Additionally, each article was assessed according to three elements; whether there was voice of refugees heard or not, included sense of belonging and the way the refugees were represented in terms of favourable or unfavourable. If they included all elements those articles were graded with three and those that didn't include any of the elements graded with zero. The charts three, six and eight reflect that data. In the qualitative analysis, three main sections were created according to the perspectives of positive, neutral and negative. Both newspapers' articles were grouped and assessed under 10 topics for consistency – Arts & Culture, Business, Crime & Safety, Education, Employability, Health, Personal Accomplishment, Population, Profile and Welfare. Some of those articles fell under multiple topics that were reflected on the charts two and five. Of those 10 topics, Herald Sun didn't have any articles that fell under Business while Turkey had four articles assessed under Business.

CHAPTER 4

PART I

Brief Overview of Sudanese Refugees in Australia

There has been a long history of civil wars in South Sudan and Sudan. In addition to that those people went through natural disasters such as famine and drought but also war damages therefore those Sudanese refugees fled to other countries in big numbers. In 2008, UNHCR revealed that Sudanese refugees were the second largest cohort in the history of the world with 1.2 million people following Uganda that year with 1.8 million people (UNHCR, 2008).

According to the latest 2016 Census, there are 17,031 Sudan-born people in Australia and 72% of those arrived in Australia before prior to 2007 (Department of Home Affairs, 2018). It was the peak period when they arrived in Australia under humanitarian programs. According to the Department of Home Affairs; after the peak period, another 13.2% arrived between 2007 and 2011 and another cohort of 10.3% arrived between 2012 and 2016 (2018). The Sudanese community in Australia was quoted as ‘Australia’s fastest growing newly emerging community’ (Hatoss & Huijser, 2010; Milner & Khawaja, 2010).

The fast growth of the Sudanese community created challenges in integrating into the society. In 2007, The Age published an article about a survey that was undertaken by Victoria University’s Institute for Community, Ethnicity and Policy Alternatives and the head of the institute, Prof Alperhan Babacan, was quoted that 70% of Sudanese refugees hadn’t received any information about Australia as part of their resettlement process (Jackson, 2007).

Therefore, the assessment period of this study, between 2007 and 2012, is the period when the majority of Sudanese refugees had arrived in Australia and when the settlement processes were in progress.



Quantitative analysis of Sudanese news coverage in *Herald Sun* in Australia

Between January 2007 and December 2012, there were 51 articles published in *Herald Sun* that met the criteria. Out of those 51 articles; 25 were written with a positive perspective, 10 neutral and 16 negative (**Chart 1**). There were four genres majority of which were recorded under Feature. There were 27 articles which constituted 53% of overall number of articles. It was followed by 16 News Stories, 7 Opinion pieces and 1 Editorial piece that were published during the assessment period.

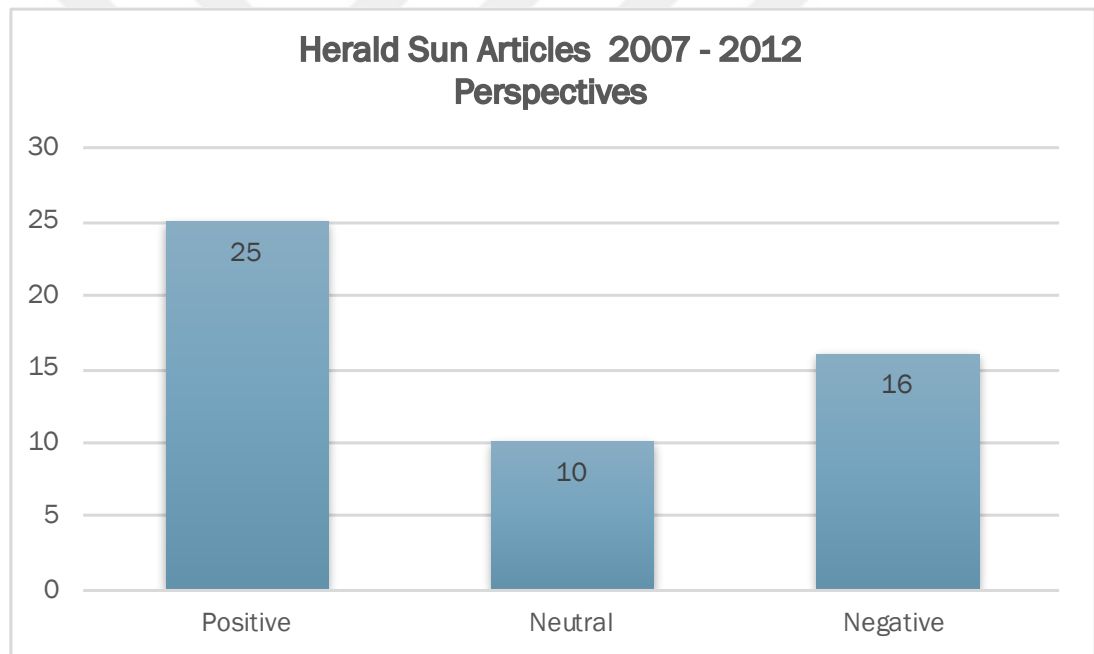


Chart 1 Perspectives *Herald Sun*

All articles in the study were grouped under 10 topics and the breakdown of those topics were included in the **Chart 2**. The *Herald Sun* had a multipronged approach towards topics in its coverage, therefore, the articles are counted under more than one topic. The *Herald Sun* didn't include any articles under Business.

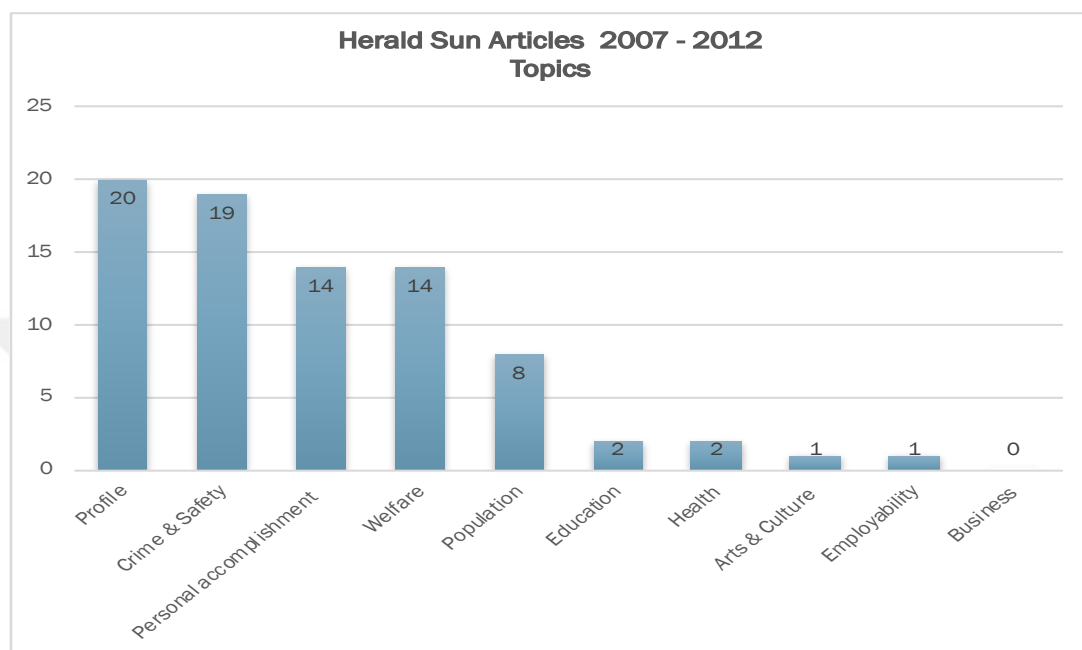


Chart 2 Topics *Herald Sun*

The ranking of the top 3 topics covered during the assessment period were Profile, about portraying one or more Sudanese refugees as individuals (39%), Crime & Safety (37%) and Personal Accomplishment that shared the same ranking as Welfare (27%). There were 20 articles assessed under Profile. The majority of those articles under this topic fell also under Personal Accomplishment that focused on achievements of the Sudanese refugees in the Australian society. 63% of the 19 Crime & Safety articles had a negative perspective and only one of them included the voice of a refugee.

The topics, Arts & Culture, Employability, Health and Education had significantly fewer items than did other topics. There was only one article published under each

topic of Arts & Culture and Employability while there were two articles each under Education and Health. There were no articles written under Business in the *Herald Sun*; however, it was included to keep consistency of assessment with the articles in *Hurriyet*.

Regarding the frequency of articles published per year, it was significantly higher in 2007 with 23 articles, or 45% of overall number of articles published over the six years 2007-2012. 2007 was the also the peak year that the highest number of Sudanese refugees arrived in Australia. There were five articles related to then-Minister for Immigration Kevin Andrew's decision to slash the refugee intake from Africa arguing that especially Sudanese refugees were having challenges in settling in Australia. In terms of the perspective of those articles in 2007, there were eight positive articles, eight neutral and seven negative.

Regarding voice of refugees heard, all articles were also assessed according to whether they were conferring free speech on refugees and provided media access for them. Of the 51 articles, 21 included quotes and views from the members of the Sudanese refugee community. The remaining 30 articles didn't include any comments from the community and 14 of those were negative, six neutral and 10 positive.

Finally, as part of this study, those 51 articles were also considered according to whether they included the voice of refugees, elements of belonging and the way the refugees were represented. Of those 51 articles, 16 of them (31%) didn't include any of those elements, while 18 (35%) included all three elements. **(Chart 3).**

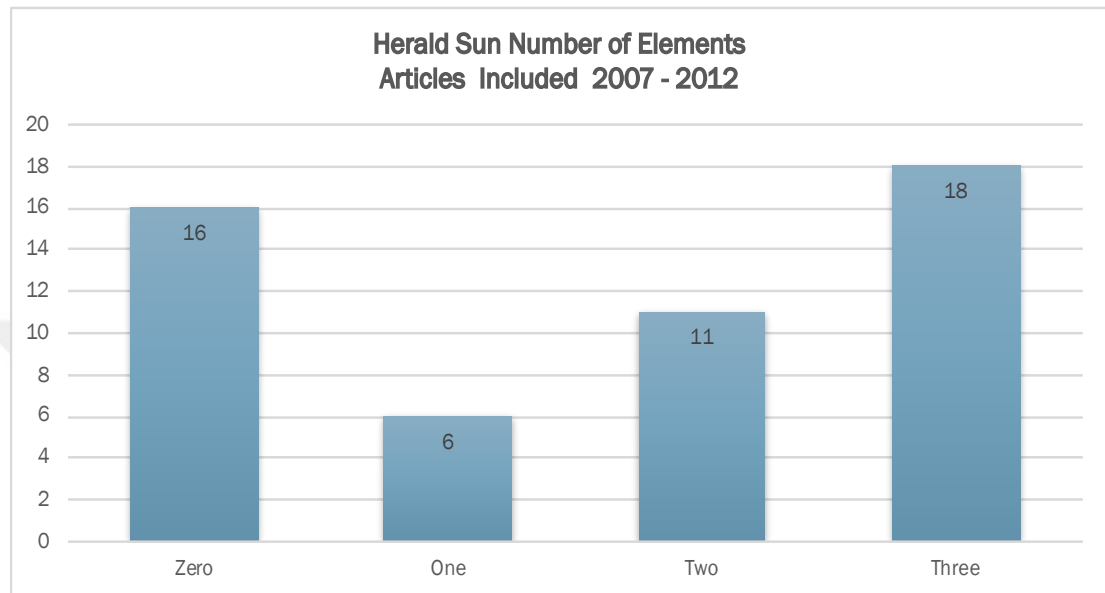


Chart 3 Number of elements included (voice of refugees heard, sense of belonging & favourable refugee representation) *Herald Sun*

Qualitative analysis of Sudanese news coverage in *Herald Sun* in Australia

During the assessment period (January 2007 – December 2012), the *Herald Sun* covered those topics with a multipronged approach that majority of those articles fell under more than one topic. When those 51 articles were gone through for a deeper qualitative analysis according to their perspective, some of the articles appeared under multiple topics. As also mentioned in the quantitative assessment, there were no articles considered under Business but there were articles under the remaining nine topics. Those articles were examined under three main sections according whether they were Positive, Neutral and Negative from a refugee perspective. They were organised according to the assessment criteria of conferring free speech on refugees, belonging, media access and media representation. In order to be considered under one of the perspectives as the main section, the articles had to match with one or more of those criteria. Additionally, under each main section, sub-sections were created according to their topics.

Positive Stories

Of the *Herald Sun* articles, more than half were positive and fell under seven topic headings.

Arts & Culture

The number of articles that appeared under the topic of Culture was limited. There was only one article, about a refugee youth who studied music and who used music to help other refugees to adapt to the Australian society. His appreciative comments about the welcoming Australian community were quoted as

“...Landid is grateful to the many ``open and supportive" Australians who have given him the courage to give voice to those who need it...” (Gill, 2009)

The article also fell under Profile, Education and Personal Accomplishment.

Crime & Safety

There were nineteen articles assessed under Crime & Safety which was 37% of the overall number of articles. Under this topic only two articles were considered to be positive.

One of the two positive articles was a letter by the Multicultural Youth Action Group in Dandenong. Because the letter was published without being edited it was assessed as neutral. The content was positively portraying Sudanese refugees as belonging with the wider Australian society with the following words:

“...Sudanese young people have demonstrated kindness, respect and great courage and motivation to achieve positive things in life, despite adversity. Further, there is no evidence that crime rates among people from Sudan are higher than the community average,” said the spokesperson of the group. (Vecellio, 2007)

The second positive article was about a Sudanese family, one of whose children was killed when a drunk driver drove his car into their front yard. The approach to their story was positive in terms of communicating this family’s journey in Australia. They arrived in Australia in 2005 as refugees, became citizens in 2007. They had decided to change their suburb in 2008 to protect their children from gang violence and crime. The article was acknowledging the existence of gang violence using a voice from the Sudanese community, while at the same time portraying an ideal refugee family integrating into Australian society (Dowsley, 2009).

Education

In Education, I identified 2 positive articles one of which was covered under Arts & Culture. Both articles were about the power of education transforming lives of the refugee youth to become part of the Australian community. The article also fell under Personal Accomplishment and Profile. It was one of the positive examples where an individual was feeling sense of belonging to her host society. Despite the fact that it was a story about a homework centre based within Fitzroy Library, its approach of seeing the story through the eyes of a refugee youth created a positive profile about their integration (Hill, 2010).

Personal Accomplishment

It was one of the most popular topics with 13 articles. Despite the fact that each article was offering a positive profile of Sudanese refugees in Australia, they were repeatedly portraying the same few people in fashion and sports. In that regard, fashion model Ajak Deng was mentioned in an editorial piece in 2009 as an exemplary model with a reference to Australia's Sudanese refugee intake with the following words:

“...From Sudan to Melbourne to New York. Ajak Deng, 19, fled her troubled homeland seven years ago. She is one of the 13,500 refugees to be given new hope in Australia each year...” (‘Herald Sun [Editorial]’, 2009)

Ajak, then, was covered in 2010 and, twice, in 2011 and featured with a quote once in 2011.

“I thank God every day for helping us come to Australia, said Ajak...”
(Byrne, 2011)

It was offering sense of appreciation that was raised by the person with Sudanese background.

Another positive example was about David Nyuol Vincent, an author, who was recruited as a child soldier in South Sudan and came to Australia as a refugee in 2004 when he was 26. The piece was creating a positive picture a refugee becoming part of the Australian Society with quotes such as:

“...People talk of paradise when you die, if you believe in that, but for me I thought Australia was paradise. When I was living in the camp I had nothing

to compare my life with. Until I landed at Melbourne. (I realised) I'd been living a nightmare..." (Wilmoth, 2012)

It was ticking all the boxes of giving the Sudanese refugee a voice, to tell his story of appreciation, his sense of belonging to the host society in an emotional piece.

Population

Under Population, there were three positive pieces, one of which was telling the story of Sudanese refugees' challenges and poverty while living in Australia. It drew attention to the racism they were facing in a clever way;

"...When a drunk, unlicensed Sudanese driver injures six Dandenong schoolchildren, it's a Sudanese issue.

When a drug-crazed Sudanese man rapes several women, it's a Sudanese issue.

Sadly, people get killed by drunk drivers and raped by violent thugs fairly regularly.

Most of these criminals aren't refugees, Sudanese or otherwise.

But no one talks about an Aussie problem when a young white bloke, called Johnson or Jones, kills or rapes someone..." (Tanner, 2007)

Therefore, this piece communicated a very positive message to *Herald Sun* readers about those refugees' efforts to integrate in the Australian society with a statement and a strong quote:

"...When you see a negative story about African refugees, remember Akoch's passion for Australia. This is what becoming Australian means to him:

"There are no words to truly express how it feels for a stateless person to receive the privilege of citizenship in a country like Australia", he said. "It is a gift from God of priceless value."..."

Profile

In the majority of the cases, Profile and Personal Accomplishment topics overlapped. However, there were four articles fell only under Profile, telling the story of individual Sudanese refugees, portraying their life experience and how they integrated into the wider society since they arrived in Australia. Timing of those articles in 2007 was important as the then-Howard Government's Immigration Minister, Kevin Andrews, announced dramatic cuts in the refugee intake from Africa. Andrews argued that those Africans, especially Sudanese, were having difficulty settling in and adjusting to the Australian way of life, mentioning that their level of education is lower than other cohorts of refugees (Packham & Jean, 2007). In the same article, a former Vietnamese refugee and chairman of a community organisation had a quote criticising the decision by comparing the similar attitudes that Vietnamese refugees had faced in 70s:

"It is simply inhumane for the Australian Government to close the door on these people based on perceptions that some African refugees are not integrating into the Australian community," (2007)

Furthermore, one of the remaining articles was portraying a family, a mother and her 5-year old son, telling how they become part of the Australian society. In the article, the son was referred as a little "Aussie" enjoying what a typical Australian child did (Kearney, 2007b). Those two articles, in contrast to the Government's comments,

were giving a positive voice to those Sudanese refugees' integration despite facing hardships.

Welfare

There were nine positive articles considered under Welfare topic. There were five articles also assessed under Profile and Personal Accomplishments while four were solely considered under Welfare. There was one article, a feature story, about baby book clubs getting popular. One of those was run by a child and family resource centre for refugee, migrant and asylum seeker mothers and their babies. It was a typical Australian way of providing a community activity, and it was giving a voice to a Sudanese refugee mother (Doherty, 2011)

The other article, that was published in the *Herald Sun*, was a letter to then, Minister of Immigration Kevin Andrews. It was written by a group of Year 11 students with diverse backgrounds including Sudanese and they were criticising Andrews' negative comments about African refugees' integration. Its significance was that it was giving voice to those with diverse backgrounds to share their views in the newspaper ending with the following questions:

“...If we can live peacefully together at our school, why can't the Government lead Australia, following our example?

How can we “advance Australia fair” when Australia is not a fair place?”

(‘Youthforum’, 2007)

Neutral Stories

There were 10 articles written with a neutral perspective and the topics were limited to Crime & Safety, Personal Accomplishment, Profile and Welfare according to the criteria.

Crime & Safety

There were five articles under Crime & Safety that constituted the majority of the neutral articles. There was one about the correlation of crime and Sudanese refugee community. It was delivering the message of the Refugee Council of Australia that there was no evidence of higher rates of crime committed by Sudanese refugees than the overall average. The article presented two high-profile cases where crimes were committed by Sudanese refugees in order deliver the message that those cases shouldn't have been used to blame the whole community, with the following words by the CEO of the Council, Paul Power;

“...There is no evidence that crime rates among people from Sudan or the Horn of Africa are higher than the community average," Mr Power said.

"No group or community deserves to have its reputation and its future put in jeopardy because of the worst actions of small numbers of people..." (Ross, 2007)

Another example was the court report article of the Australian drunk driver who drove into a front yard of a refugee family's house killing one of their children. As a court case, it was providing impartial information the court room and killer's remorse that was acknowledged by the judge. Furthermore, it was also giving the father of refugee family a voice with a quote about their disappointment:

“...“This country now has turned into a prison for me and my family,” he said.

“I lost my son. I lost my hope for this country.”...” (Anderson, 2010)

Personal Accomplishment

There was only one article under this topic that also fell under Welfare and Profile. It was about a Sudanese refugee child who had a successful performance in sports at the Victorian All Schools Championships. It was delivering the fact that the child was successful in the running race mentioning his refugee background with the following line:

“...Harik spent the first four years of his life in Sudan before his family fled to Egypt, where he spent four years in a refugee camp. He has lived in Australia for four years....” (‘Schoolsports’, 2007)

Profile

There were two articles portraying Sudanese refugees in a neutral perspective that one of which was covered under Personal Accomplishment. The second one was a feature story about the history of immigration in Australia by portraying two Sudanese refugees having a completely different experience in Australia. One of them committed multiple crimes and went to prison to serve 17 years and the other one is a family man working for a political NGO in Australia for his community. Despite the controversy, the article was drawing attention to the ongoing debate about integration of refugees providing historic evidence in an impartial way by ending with the following quote by an Australian woman defined as a resident of western suburbs:

“...Australia has a 200-year history of refugees not adjusting to the Australian way of life. Look at the mess we've made of the place and our failure to settle in with the original occupants....” (Robinson, 2007)

Welfare

There were four articles demonstrating Welfare one of which was presenting multiple Sudanese refugees' life experience. The article was giving them a voice to tell the readers about how they lived, how they interacted with authorities and their expectations to efficiently integrate into Australian society. On the other hand, it was also providing a point of view from the authorities in order to present both sides of the story. The following lines are one of examples how the article was structured:

“...The Tamworth council in NSW at one point refused to add another five families to 25 living in their city of 50,000, saying the Sudanese "don't respect authority".

Such comments enrage the African Community Development Council, which believes it betrays fear based on wilful ignorance...” (Wilson, 2007)

The second article was about the new comer Sudanese refugees and how they were welcomed by the settled members of the refugee community. It was portraying those who had previously gone through the process of settlement and their way of life in Australia. It was providing an overview on how they support new arrivals and their welfare in a new country. (Kearney, 2007a)

Negative Stories

According the criteria, one third of the articles were written in a negative perspective.

Crime & Safety

Out of 16 negative articles, 12 were considered under Crime & Safety. One of the article's lead was a quote by a law enforcement officer;

“...He knew what he was saying was dangerous and there was no way he would put his name to it.

But it had to be said: "The Sudanese kids are a real problem...." (Mitchell, 2007)

It was positioning Sudanese refugees at the heart criminal activity in the country. The quote from the chairman of the Sudanese Community of Victoria acknowledging the fact that there was problem was used to make a comparison between the victims of the Nazi Germany to emphasize that Australia didn't have any extreme issues until Sudanese had arrived with the following lines:

“...Their trauma could hardly have been more extreme but how many turned to rape?

How many joined gangs and roamed the streets looking for ethnic warfare?...” (Mitchell, 2007)

The article was also criticizing then-new Immigration Minister Kevin Andrews' evaluation of Sudanese Community's problem and it was concluded with the following lines;

“...How he reacts is crucial. For the right reasons, this Government welcomed these people to Australia, but it must now recognise it has imported with them an unexpected degree of dislocation, violence, and danger.

Obviously, the rapists, drunk drivers and street thugs must face punishment. But government policy has caused this danger. It must find answers...”

(Mitchell, 2007)

The second article was an assault to a man on a business trip in Melbourne from Sydney. It started as one of the street violence stories telling readers about the victim’s experience, therefore, irrelevant for this study. However, towards the end, the news story included the assailant’s background from his statement created negative representation of the individual:

“...The County Court heard Gatwech-Chouil had an intellectual disability and suffered a traumatic childhood as a refugee from Sudan....” (Hunt, 2011)

Employability

There was one article under Employability that also fell under Welfare. Therefore, it was only assessed under Employability. It was about Sudanese Australians who were former refugees using fake English names to land jobs. In the discourse of belonging, it shed light to an important social issue of discrimination by race in Australia. The article had the elements of giving voice to those refugees and presenting acknowledgement of the issue by the government body, The Australian Human Rights Commission. It was considered negative as there was factual experience of an individual getting interview calls after using fake names.

“...He sent out hundreds of resumes for jobs he was qualified for, but only received callbacks on applications with the fake names.

Of the six applications with the fake name, he got five callbacks....”

(Michael & Thompson, 2011)

Health

Both negative articles under Health were covering the same issue of a HIV-positive man who had unprotected sex with a young woman who didn't know about his HIV status. Both articles also fell under Crime & Safety. In the first article, despite the fact that it was irrelevant to the story, his race was revealed towards the middle of the article with the following line:

“...Kuoth, who arrived in Australia as a refugee in May 2006, was diagnosed as being HIV-positive in October 2006....” (Hadfield, 2008)

In the second article, it was a short court report that also mentioned his Sudanese background:

“...Kuoth, who came to Australia from Sudan in 2006 and lives in Geelong, pleaded guilty to two counts of recklessly endangering another person....”

(‘Freedom too harsh’, 2008)

Population

There was only one article, an opinion piece by Andrew Bolt, under Population topic that was also considered under Crime & Safety. It was comparing the data on correlation between crime rates and Sudanese community and the way those rates were used in the federal election. It was making accusations to then-Chief Commissioner of

Police, Christine Nixon, that her crime figures showing African refugees law-abiding than law-breaking that allegedly led to the election loss of then, Minister for Immigration, Kevin Andrews' with a reference to his statement a year ago about cutting in refugee intake from Africa:

“...African refugees, particularly Sudanese, seemed to have serious trouble settling here, he said....” (Bolt, 2008)

The article continued including a statement from, then, Queensland Premier Anna Bligh's about finding Andrews' comments racist. It also included that when she had checked the data, she found out that Sudanese refugees were under-represented. Bolt included a personal note about how he verified the data with the following words:

“...And, stupid me, I believed them. Perhaps tired of being on the hard end of another race debate, and knowing of fine African boys who'd volunteered to coach local basketball teams, I gratefully joined in hammering Andrews. Sure, I didn't call him a racist, but I still kicked hard....” (Bolt, 2008)

Profile

It was the court report of a Sudanese Refugee who raped multiple women and killed an elderly woman that his background was mentioned in the introduction;

“...A Sudanese refugee who embarked on a three-day rape spree and sliced an elderly woman's throat a month after reaching Australia will serve at least the next 17 years in jail....” (Roberts, 2007)

and was linked as a reason for those crimes in the article:

“...Justice Kellam noted in his sentencing that Hakeem had endured a violent and unstable childhood in Sudan and Egypt and been forced to leave his girlfriend and infant son behind in Egypt....” (Roberts, 2007)

It was one of the examples that strongly emphasised the correlation between Sudanese refugees and crime.



PART II

Brief Overview of Syrian Refugees in Turkey

Since 2011, Syria has been the site of one of the World's biggest refugee crises, and Turkey hosts the largest number of Syrian refugees. As of 2018, Turkey accommodates 3.5 Million Syrian Refugees.

The first cohort of Syrian refugees arrived in April 2011 as that country descended into civil war. Despite the fact that Turkey is one of the signatories of the 1951 United Nations Convention on the Status of Refugees ("Refugee Convention"), Turkey had made reservations aligned with the Convention's Article 42 (UNHCR, 2010). In UN 1967 Protocol, the scope of "geographical limitations" were lifted to include non-European refugees (UNHCR, 2010). Turkey remained one of the few countries to maintain the limitation (Yildiz, 2016) that only the people from Europe are considered to be refugees; therefore, those people coming from other parts of the world are offered temporary protection to move to host countries including United States, Canada and Australia (Kolukirik & Aygul, 2009). Therefore, since the Syrian refugee movement towards Turkey started in April 2011, those Syrian people have been granted temporary protection.

Despite their temporary protection status, those Syrian refugees are becoming part of the Turkish society by utilising social and educational resources. Given the size of the refugee population, it comes with consequences in terms of how they are perceived in Turkey as their temporary stay extends into the indefinite future.

Quantitative analysis of Syrian news coverage in *Hurriyet* in Turkey

Between January 2013 and December 2018, there were 61 articles published in *Hurriyet* Newspaper that met the criteria. Of those 61 articles, 27 had positive perspective, 18 neutral and 16 negative (**Chart 4**). There were 3 genres observed News story, Feature and Opinion. More than half (57%) of those articles were written as News Stories followed by Feature by 39%. Only 2 articles were Opinion pieces about Syrian refugees.

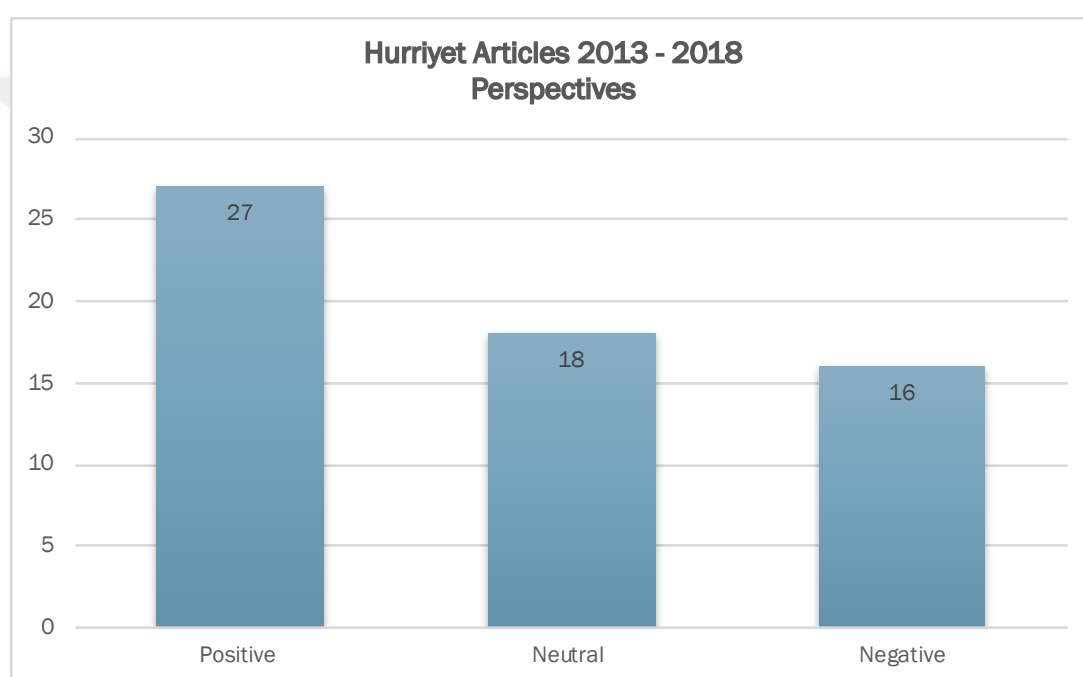


Chart 4 Perspectives *Hurriyet*

There was at least one article under each of the 10 topics identified for this study.

91% of those articles were covered under single topic. The breakdown of those topics is shown on **Chart 5**.

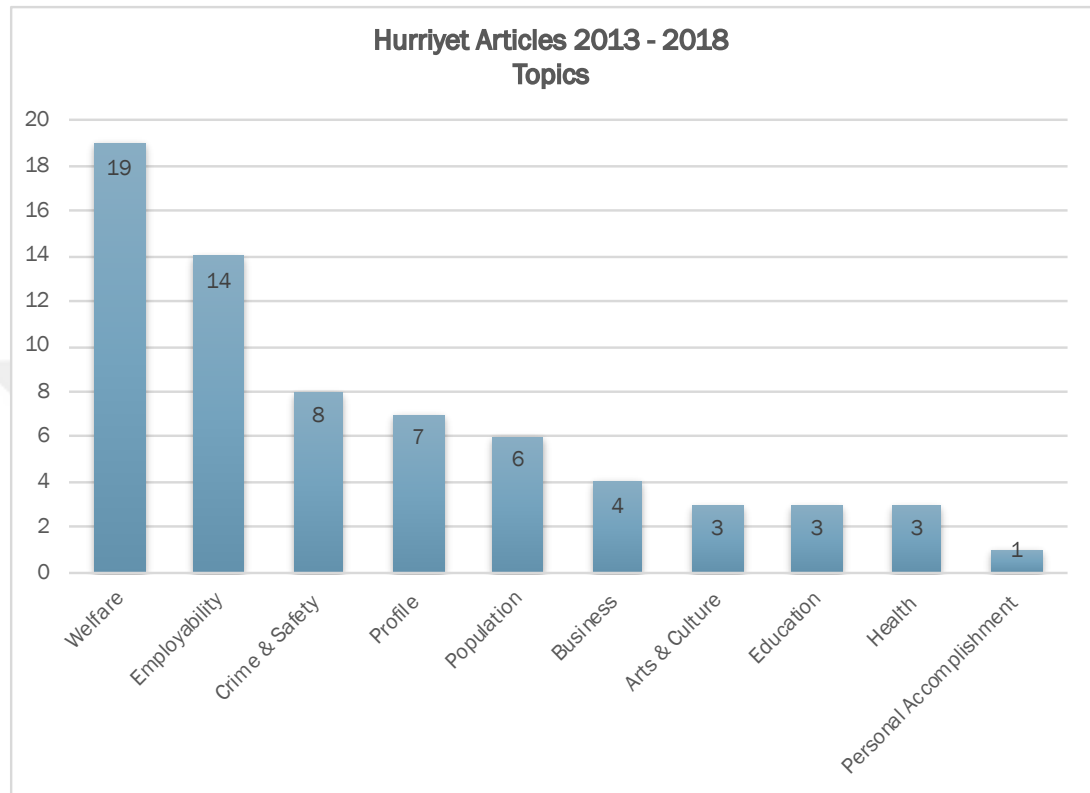


Chart 5 Topics *Hurriyet*

The topics Welfare and Employability were dominating the coverage during the assessment period. 31% of those 61 articles were written under Welfare followed by 22% under recorded under Employability. Almost half those articles assessed under Welfare had positive perspective. Under Employability 42% were positive and the remaining were equally split between neutral and negative. The coverage under Crime & Safety, Profile and Population was relatively modest by 13%, 11% and 10% respectively. The topic Personal Accomplishment was recorded at the bottom of the ranking with only one article.

Regarding the frequency of those articles, the number of articles were at their peak in 2015 and 2016. Of those 61 articles, 23 were published in 2015 and 20 were published in 2016 that made the 70% of overall number of articles published in *Hurriyet*. It was the period that significant number of international and Turkish government initiatives were launched including work permits, education and financial aid targeting Syrian refugees in Turkey. During 2015 & 2016 period, almost half of those 43 articles had positive perspective while Neutral and Negative had an equal share. There were 11 articles recorded under each of those perspectives.

Regarding giving voice to refugees, 75% of those articles didn't include a quote or view of Syrian refugees. Of those 61 articles, 46 of those were published without any comments by a Syrian refugee. It was one of the important criteria as it indicated whether it was conferring free speech on refugees in Turkey. Therefore, during the assessment period, only 15 articles included a quote or view from a Syrian refugee. Regarding perspective of those 15 articles, 7 of them were positive, 4 neutral and 4 negative.

Finally, those 61 articles were assessed according to the elements of giving voice to refugees, belonging and how they were represented. 25% of those articles had none of those elements and only 16% of them included all three elements (**Chart 6**).

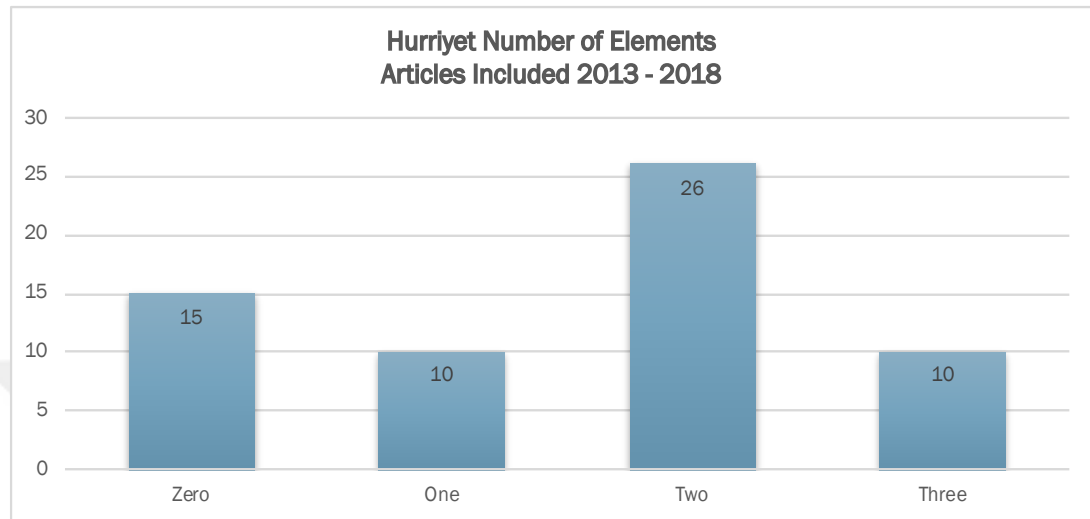


Chart 6 Number of elements included (voice of refugees heard, sense of belonging & favourable refugee representation) *Hurriyet*

Qualitative analysis of Syrian news coverage in *Hurriyet* in Turkey

During the assessment period (Jan 2013 – December 2018), *Hurriyet* Newspaper covered variety of topics as outlined in the quantitative analysis section. For this study, they were grouped under 10 topics and 61 articles were gone through for a deeper qualitative analysis. The study adopted the method of analysing selected articles according to perspective Positive, Neutral and Negative from a refugee point of view. Majority of those articles in *Hurriyet* were written focusing on single topic that they were covered as the sub-sections under each perspective.

Positive Stories

Arts & Culture

Under Arts & Culture, there were three articles that were all positive. They were feature articles and one of them was also assessed under Profile and Personal Accomplishment. One those articles was the story of a district in Istanbul densely populated by Syrian refugees. The article was introducing the district with its Syrian restaurants, coffee shops, radio channels and bookshops as a culturally diverse location. It gave a voice to one of the Syrian refugee restaurant owners, Muhammed Nizar Bitar, about his experience in the district and the diversity of his customers with the following quote:

“When we first opened 90% of our customers were Syrian and 10% were Arabs. Now, 35% of our customers are Turkish....”

His quote also included elements of belonging and feeling home:

“...We could find even those vegetables, herbs and spices that we thought we wouldn’t.... Turkey is like a beautiful dream for us...” (‘Syrian neighborhood with its culture, arts and restaurants in Istanbul’, 2015)

The article also revealed the fact that Syrian refugees had started their own media platforms and, despite low circulation, newspapers in Turkey that was directly related to media access. It was one of the positive examples demonstrating how the refugees operate in the Turkish society. The article also covered one of the Istanbul based Syrian radios, Sout Raya (Voice of Raya), where 15 journalists and reporters worked. The Radio Manager, Alisar Hasan, said

“...We don’t take sides of any political parties. We are trying to raise awareness to Syrian civilians conditions and challenges. We criticise whoever does wrong; this could be be the Regime or the opponents” (‘Syrian neighborhood with its culture, arts and restaurants in Istanbul’, 2015)

The other positive article was about the photography exhibition portraying Syrian refugee women. Despite the fact that the article didn’t include a quote from refugees, it aimed to create awareness about their on-going challenges to attract support from the wider Turkish society (‘“Women in limbo” exhibition’, 2016).

Business

There were two positive articles under Business. One of them was about the analysis of Standard and Poor’s (S&P) Financial Services company projecting the Syrian refugee flow’s contribution to the Turkey’s economic growth. According to the article, those over 3 million Syrian refugees entering into Turkey since 2011, when

Syrian Civil War started, brought in their savings and had been earning and spending in Turkey contributing to its GDP ('Syrians will have doping effect on economy', 2016).

The other positive article was about the business value of those Syrians asylumed in Turkey. Those Syrians' companies export transaction with Syria from two border gates reached to USD 5 million per day. It was also an important element that the news was referring to Syrian Chamber of Trade and Commerce and the voice of its Syrian president about those exports and the Chamber's 600 members with the following quote;

"...We aim to increase our current export volume valued at USD 5 Million daily. While we meet those people's needs controlled by the opponents in Syria, we bring in flow of foreign currency to our host, Turkey..." ('Exporter refugees', 2016)

Crime & Safety

The only positive article under Crime & Safety was about the biometric IDs that were created for the Syrian refugees. It was also considered under Welfare. It aimed to integrate those refugees to the Turkish society and to ease their processes to receive financial support, employment and education. It was considered under Crime & Safety as those IDs were also mentioned as a tool to chase those law-breaking refugees ('1.5 million Syrians with "biometric" identity (cards)', 2015).

Education

Under Education topic, there was one article about an NGO providing entrepreneurship training for Syrian refugees in cities densely populated with them. Despite the content had references for those refugees to feel belonging to the Turkish society, the article didn't include any quotes from the refugees but the deputy head of the NGO:

“...Our aim is to support participants to create their business ideas.”

(‘Entrepreneurship training for Syrian refugees’, 2017)

Employability

There were six articles assessed under Employability. They were mainly about the work permit process to recruit Syrian refugees to control illegal working. One of the articles was about a mining association asking the government to ease processes to employ Syrian refugees. The head of the association said that they couldn't find Turkish workers, so why wouldn't Syrians come and work (‘We can't find Turkish workers, let Syrians come and work’, 2013). This article was considered under positive perspective as it was about the intention to offer opportunities for Syrian refugees be part of the workforce in Turkey. It didn't include a voice of refugee about how they perceive the offer.

Those six articles, from the period of 2013 through to 2016, were mainly providing the readers with an update on work permit processes and the need raised by the Turkish employers. Another example to the Turkish employers' need was an article about a project proposal by the Turkish Business Women Association to create a textile city in Sanliurfa, one of the major host cities to the Syrian refugees, and train

and recruit Syrian refugees so that they could join the workforce ('Textile city proposal for Syrians', 2015).

The commonality of all those articles was that they were all about the Syrian refugees to become employed and how government and private sector were keen to make those initiatives work. However, there was no quote from refugees in any of those articles.

Health

There were two articles in Health. One of which was about volunteer doctors visiting Syrian refugees door to door for free examination and supplying medicine in Izmir. It was one of the few good examples that included a quote from the Syrian refugees. It was an anonymous quote however it was presenting an honest opinion about their conditions living out of camps, their needs and views about the poor conditions of camps ('Health screening for Syrians by volunteers', 2015).

The second article was about an 8-year-old Syrian girl who had who was born with a disability in her legs operated in Istanbul to walk. It was a short feature news article however didn't include a quote from the girl ('She will take her steps with medical prosthetics', 2018).

Personal Accomplishment

There was only one article under Personal Accomplishment that was portraying a Syrian refugee studying at a Turkish university. It also fell under Arts & Culture because it was about his photography exhibition. He captured Syrian refugees, especially children, and their living conditions in different parts of Turkey to raise awareness about the crisis. His voice was also heard in the article:

“...I aimed to express how people are forced to leave their countries, homes and families and are made to start a new life as well as their challenges during those hard times. Especially, I wanted to share how it affected children...” (‘The drama of a war through the lens of the young Syrian’, 2015)

Profile

There were four articles assessed under Profile. However, they were relatively generic, therefore, only one of them was analysed. One of the articles was portraying Syrian refugees staying near an Aegean village where they temporarily stay in the hope of finding a boat to sail to a Greek island. Despite the fact that it was a sad and an emotional story, it was considered under the positive perspective as it had a message to the readers about the tragedy that the refugees were going through (‘Last stop to hope’, 2015).

Welfare

There were nine positive articles under Welfare, one of which was also covered under Crime & Safety earlier. The majority of those articles were about donations

and aid campaigns targeting Syrian Refugees. There were three articles specifically about Syrian refugee children. One of them was a mayor's campaign to offer winter clothes, toys and supplies for children whose parents are working in a mandarin processing factory that it was featuring not only the campaign but also the Syrian refugees in workforce ('They made the Syrian children smile', 2016).

Another article was about UN Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Ursula Mueller's, visit to Turkey. After visiting a refugee camp in Midyat near the border of Syria, she said;

“...I visited a school where 1,500 children are studying. Schooling is one of the most important opportunities for the future. We thank to Turkey for its generosity towards those 3.5 Million people who left their homes to survive. The world owes a ‘thank you’ to Turkey that they have good conditions...”
(‘The world owes a “thank you” to Turkey’, 2017)

Neutral Stories

Business

The neutral article under Business topic was factual. It was to reveal the research data on Syrian SMEs in Turkey that was undertaken by an US originated NGO and Syrian Economic Forum operating in Turkey. In that regards, it provided the readers with the profile of those Syrian business owners, insights into their sectors, challenges they had been facing and their contribution to the Turkish economy. Furthermore, it was written in a plain and impartial language giving voice to the Syrian businesspeople ('Refugees at “work”', 2017).

Education

There were two neutral articles under Education. One of them was about the schooling rates of Syrian refugee children. It was mainly providing data about school aged children and the efforts to place those children at various levels of education ('200 thousand Syrian children without school', 2014).

The second article was about implementation of double shift schooling for those Syrian refugee children to study at schools in Gaziantep. It was considered neutral as it was providing information about the change in system ('Turks in the morning, Syrians in the afternoon (Double-shift schools for Turkish and Syrian pupils)', 2015).

Employability

Three articles were considered under Employability. One of the articles was about a research report published by the Hacettepe University Migration and Politics Research Center in 2015. The report revealed the significant difference in registered and unregistered workers with Syrian refugee background. It also included the findings that showed that majority of those refugees do not have qualifications. The article included the recommendations of the report that were compiled through the responses from the business leaders. It indicated that the government should make necessary regulations for those refugees to legally integrate into the workforce (Registered: 3,686 Unregistered: 400,000, 2015).

Another article was about the 'work permits' for Syrian Refugees providing guidance and Q&A about the process. The article also had elements for Syrian

refugees eligibility becoming part of Turkish workforce. It was considered neutral as it only revealed why the process was implemented and how the system can be utilised ('Syrians are getting work permits, here are things to know', 2016).

Health

The only article under Health was a short news story about measles epidemic vaccination campaign implemented in 17 cities for Syrian refugee children under the age of 15 ('Measles vaccine for refugees under 15', 2014).

Population

The majority of the articles under Population were providing demographic data updates about the Syrian refugees in Turkey. One of the articles was about Turkey ranking 3rd in its contribution to humanitarian aid after USA and UK with USD 1.6 Billion hosting over 1.5 million Syrian refugees ('Syrians in Turkey has exceeded (population of)77 countries', 2014).

None of the articles included voices from the refugees but statistical analysis mainly to present the scale of the crisis.

Profile

There were two articles considered under Profile. One of them was about a refugee woman who lost her life on a sinking illegal boat to a Greek island. She was found by her relatives in a graveyard where unknown refugees are buried. It was one of the rare examples revealing the tragedy of Syrian refugees with a voice by her relatives saying;

“...Turkey has also become home. Our loved ones are buried here. We will always visit here and we didn’t want to her from here. Her children will visit her in the future....” (‘Sad story of Syrian woman lawyer Farran’, 2016)

The second article was portraying a Syrian refugee father asking Norwegian authorities to send his children and wife back to Turkey. He and his family were sent to Norway by the UN and due to his disability, osteolysis, he was separated from his family and sent back to Turkey. The article included his voice revealing his effort to have his family back in Turkey.

“...I went to the Embassy of Norway in Ankara. I wasn’t let in. I was told to go to Istanbul to resolve the issue. I came to Istanbul and waited in front of the Consulate building. No one talked to me (there). I want my family and my children back....” (‘Syrian refugee wants his family back from Norway’, 2016)

Welfare

There were four articles assessed under Welfare that included one feature story about their accommodation and three news stories about their access to international aid payments, a job fair for qualified Syrian refugees and a report published by IPSOS and the Humanitarian Development Foundation, respectively (‘Poor but hopeful!’, 2017; ‘Syrian ISKUR (Turkish Employment Agency)’, 2016; ‘Syrians’ confluence for 50 lira aid’, 2015; ‘When the hotels were not enough, the houses started to turn into guesthouses’, 2015). Only one of the articles included the voice of a refugee who attended the career fair that included his perspective who is qualified as a pharmacist in Syria and arrived in Turkey a year ago;

“I would do whatever I could here. Finding jobs is difficult for everyone.

But, it is even more difficult for people who fled war and living here as foreigner.” (‘Syrian ISKUR (Turkish Employment Agency)’, 2016)

Negative Stories

Business

There was only one negative article assessed under Business. It was giving a strong voice to Syrian businesspeople operating who moved their business to Turkey due to the civil war in Syria. It was mainly about how they were perceived in Turkey and internationally that they are confused with Syrian refugees in need of shelter.

“... Despite being Syrian, I am not able to visit many Arab countries. We can’t accept business invitations from other countries. We face problems with banks. Not all Syrians are refugees in need. This misconception prevents investors doing business,” says one of Syrian company managers based in Turkey referring to USD1.5 Million turnover of his company (‘We are not refugees, we are businessmen’, 2017).

Even though this was a negative article, it was one of the rare examples that provided the readers the real view of those Syrian people legitimately living and running business in Turkey.

Crime & Safety

There were six articles under Crime & Safety. One of them was about a deadly assault to a woman that a witness said the killer with a balaclava had chased the woman into an apartment and killed her with a rifle. In the news story, there was one

line referring to the Syrian refugees that was leaving a question mark about whether the assailant was a Syrian refugee or not;

“...The assault happened in Yesilyuva district, where is densely populated by Syrian refugees, around 8 pm...” (‘Balaclava-clad assailant chased a woman on street and killed with 3 bullets at the entrance of an apartment building’, 2015)

There was only one article that included voice of the refugee. The article was about illegal exchange and jewellers that are offering trade for gold and foreign currency for Syrian refugees. One of the refugees said

“...We can’t sell our gold in Europe...” (‘Refugee-jeweler-money changer triangle in Basmane’, 2016)

As a reason to use those illegal exchange offices. Despite the mention of Arabic signage that are not understood by local authorities, there was uncertainty about those offices operated by other refugees.

Employability

There were four articles under Employability. None of the articles included voices from the refugees. Three of those articles were about the increased unemployment rate in the same period in 2015. Despite reporting an analysis of the unemployment rates, they were also relaying the message that unregistered Syrian refugee workers was one the reasons for raising unemployment rates (‘Reuters: Syrians impacted the rise of the unemployment’, 2015; ‘Syrian refugees’ labour force participation rate reached to 51.6 percent’, 2015).

The fourth article was a short news story about the background of the Syrian Refugees. The article revealed that, according to the government data, out of 2.4 million registered Syrian refugees only 3% was ‘educated-qualified’ as of 2015. It was portraying those refugees arriving from Syria could contribute to farming and seasonal jobs (‘Only 3 percent of incoming immigrants are qualified workers’, 2016).

Welfare

There were five articles under Welfare. One them was about the government authority’s assurance about not permitting Syrians to purchase property in Turkey (‘Syrian nationals do not have permits to buy real estate’, 2014).

In another article, it was presenting the difficult conditions of four Syrian refugee families living in a thin tent preparing for the tough winter conditions. It included a quote of one of the family members

“...We are happy to be here but if the conditions are resolved we want to return immediately. We have our lands and everthing there...”

While the article also mentioned the difficult conditions in the camps, it also included that those refugee children living in the city centres were begging as a problem for the authorities (‘Don’t assume they are fine as they laugh (with joy)’, 2015).

CHAPTER 5

Conclusion

There were dramatic differences in the way the articles in *Herald Sun* and *Hurriyet* were written. The majority of those articles in *Herald Sun* included the human element and started with an individual's story to provide its readers with an illustration of a broader story. By contrast, the majority of articles in *Hurriyet* covered those stories without including any perspectives from the refugees.

Therefore, they were delivering the broader story directly to its readers. There were two main reasons for this. Firstly, the majority those refugees in Turkey have the status of 'Temporary Protection' while, in Australia, those people arrived as refugees under various humanitarian programs. According to the UNHCR, those people under 'Temporary Protection' require a formalised identification process before they are considered for alternative statuses, including transition to refugee status (n.d.). In the meantime, their public exposure is closely monitored and limited, while once they obtain refugee status or other alternatives including resettlement status, they have more freedom to speak to the media. Secondly, the scale of the crisis is considerably different in Australia and in Turkey. As of the end of 2017, there were 3.5 million Syrian refugees hosted in Turkey. According to the 2016 Australian Census, there were over 17,000 Sudanese refugees in Australia. Furthermore, geographical convenience plays a part in border controls of those refugees arriving in a country. Turkey has its longest border with Syria. Therefore, entry without border control is inevitable. In Australia, the arrival of refugees, including Sudanese, is strictly controlled prior and during their entry which leads to better identification of those people in terms of their integration to the host country.

The aim of this study was to compare the journalism practices in Australia and Turkey with a focus on media narratives of refugees. It was based on articles published in *Herald Sun* and *Hurriyet*. The assessment periods for each country included the times of peak inflow of refugees for Sudanese people in Australia and Syrian people in Turkey. Therefore, the coverage in both countries were comparable. It was particularly interesting that almost half the articles published in *Herald Sun* and *Hurriyet* were positive according to the criteria. It was hypothesised that the coverage would be more negative than positive because of the political discourse concerning refugees in both countries. It was one of the key findings that the in-depth analysis showed the opposite (**Chart 7**).

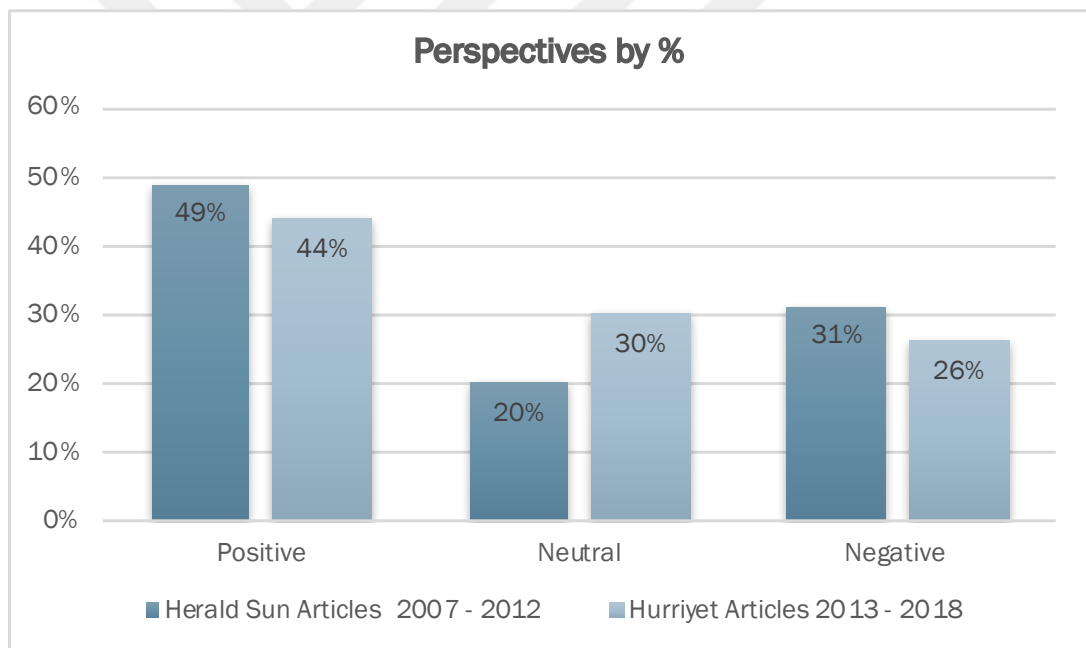


Chart 7 Perspectives *Herald Sun* & *Hurriyet* comparison

Another finding of this study concerned the extent to which the sense of belonging was included in the articles. According to the criteria, 59% of those articles published in *Herald Sun* included references to “sense of belonging” for refugees as being part of the Australian society. Despite the fact that the way those articles were structured in *Hurriyet* was different, the incidence of “sense of belonging” was

higher at 67%. While there is a massive gap between the number of refugees in Australia and Turkey, the sense of belonging ratio is higher in Turkey. While this may seem surprising, cultural similarity is one of the most significant factors for Syrian refugees to integrate and develop the sense of belonging in Turkey. In Australia, the cultural difference between Sudanese and the Australian society is likely to be a factor behind the lower incidence of “sense of belonging” in the news coverage.

In this study it was considered whether those articles included refugees’ voices with quotes and views. In Australia, when the articles published were gone through in *Herald Sun*; of those 51 articles, 41% included quotes from the Sudanese refugees. In Turkey, the *Hurriyet* rate was dramatically lower -- 24% of the 61 articles assessed. The majority of those articles with a refugee voice in the *Herald Sun* had a positive refugee perspective, while in *Hurriyet* only half of them were positive. It was another important aspect that those articles meant that the refugees were able to raise their voices relatively more readily in Australia than in Turkey. The evaluation of refugee voices heard also meant conferring on them free speech to share their opinion, on topics that were related to them. *Hurriyet*, despite almost half of its overall number of articles were positive, did poorly in giving voice to the refugees.

In terms of the way that the refugees were represented in the media, both Australia and Turkey had a similar rate around 60% observed as favourable. It meant that those articles were covering the cases of refugees positively. However, *Herald Sun* articles covering Sudanese refugees unfavourably was 33% while in Turkey the rate for coverage of Syrian refugees was 18%. Even though there is a massive difference in the number of Sudanese refugees in Australia and in Turkey, unfavourable

coverage in Australia was significantly higher than in Turkey. Once again, the cultural difference between Sudanese and Australian societies is likely to be a factor behind it.

All articles both in the *Herald Sun* and *Hurriyet* were assessed according to whether they included the sense of belonging, voice heard and favourable media representation. The **Chart 8** below shows that how many of those elements were included in those articles from both countries in percentages. Those articles having all three elements were considered to be ideal in terms of journalism practice. However, one of three articles in *Herald Sun* and one of four articles in *Hurriyet* didn't include any of the elements in their coverage.

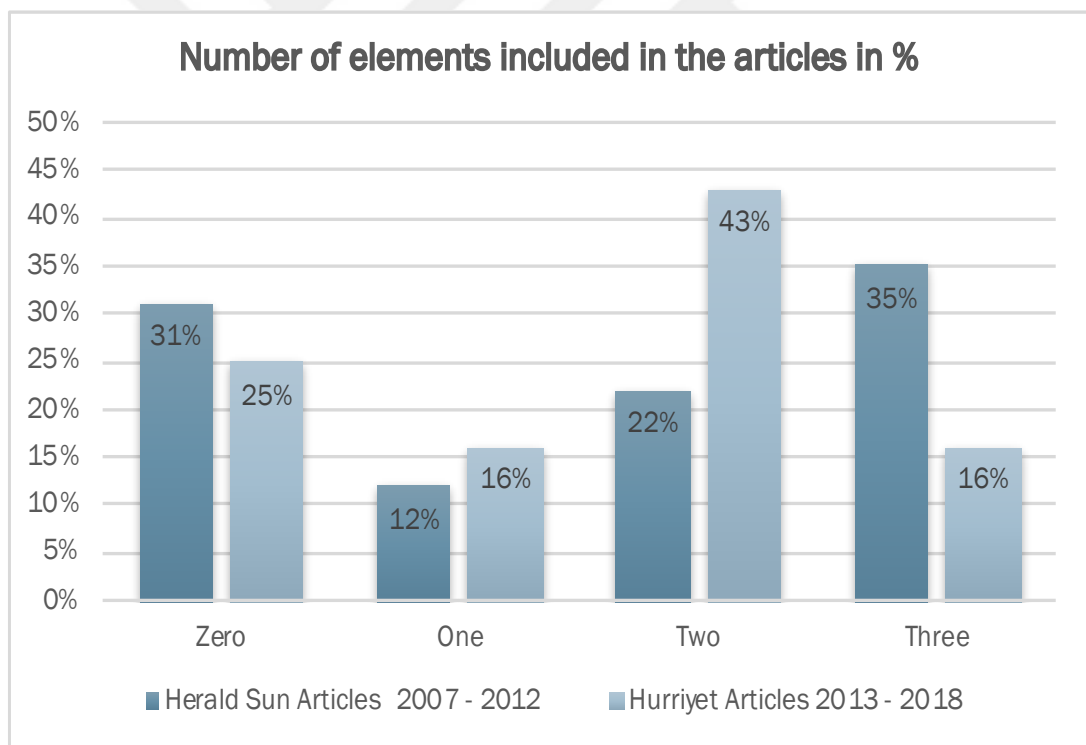


Chart 8 Number of elements included (voice of refugees heard, sense of belonging & favourable refugee representation) *Herald Sun* & *Hurriyet*

To sum up, the integration of people from different cultural, social and ethnic backgrounds is a very complex process. It takes time, motivation and patience to achieve positive results. Particularly, in the case of refugee crisis, it becomes more sensitive for both the refugees and the host societies. As mentioned in the beginning of this study, journalists play a big part in creating a reliable narrative about those people from diverse backgrounds. This study revealed that, in the cases of Sudanese refugees in Australia and Syrian refugees in Turkey, there are still space for improvement to create an impartial perspective. *Herald Sun* in Australia and *Hurriyet* in Turkey are the most popular newspapers in their respective countries by circulation rates. Those newspapers are powerful outlets in influencing public opinion. Therefore, in relation to this study's findings, they have a responsibility to portray the refugees impartially in their journalistic practices. According to this exploratory study, this can be achieved by including the perspective of the refugees in their articles. However, the study findings show that one in three articles in *Herald Sun* and one in four articles in *Hurriyet* didn't include any quotes or views of refugees. Given that the refugee crisis is highly likely to continue mobilising people to the host countries, it is necessary for those outlets to adopt a more holistic and inclusive approach in their journalistic practices. On the other hand, journalism, like many other professions in communication, has been evolving. One of the studies from Australia in 2003 concluded that the media representations of asylum seekers are mostly negative in Australia (Klocker & Dunn, 2003). In this study in 2019, it was found out that almost half of the articles had a positive perspective. It shows that, in the globalised world, the host countries' tolerance and acceptance of refugees can be influenced by the power of journalism.

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