

Transitivity Analysis of the Representation of Putin in CNN Reports before and after the Ukraine Invasion: A Critical Discourse Analysis

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Abstract

This paper investigates the representation of Vladimir Putin in CNN online news reports before and after the Ukraine invasion. By combining critical discourse analysis with Halliday's transitivity approach, the present study aims to explore different ideologies used in CNN's discourse to depict the Russian President.

The current study seeks to answer the following questions: 1. What types of transitivity processes were used to represent Putin before the Ukraine invasion? 2. What types of transitivity processes are used to represent Putin after the invasion? The aims of this paper are: 1. To detect the transitivity processes utilized to represent Putin before the invasion? 2. To reveal the transitivity processes used to represent Putin before the invasion?

The researcher employs Halliday's (1994) transitivity approach to investigate the representation of Vladimir Putin in CNN online news reports' discourse before and after the Ukraine invasion.

Based on the data analysis, the results showed that the portrayal of Vladimir Putin is corresponds with a negative representation in CNN's discourse after the invasion than before.

Key words: Media, Critical Discourse Analysis, Transitivity.

المستخلص

الدراسة الحالية عبارة عن تحليل خطاب نقدي لهياكل الانتقال في تمثيل بوتين في التقارير الإخبارية لشبكة سي ان ان قبل وبعد غزو أوكرانيا. تسعى هذه الدراسة للإجابة على الأسئلة التالية:

1. ما هي الخيارات اللغوية في عمليات التحويل المستخدمة لتمثيل بوتين قبل غزو أوكرانيا ؟ 2. ما هي الخيارات اللغوية في عمليات التحويل المستخدمة لتمثيل بوتين بعد غزو أوكرانيا ؟ أهداف هذا البحث هي: 1. التعرف على عمليات التعدي المستخدمة لتمثيل بوتين قبل الغزو الروسي لأوكرانيا؟ 2. الكشف عن عمليات التعدي التي استخدمها بوتين قبل الغزو الروسي لأوكرانيا؟

يستخدم الباحث نموذج هاليداي Halliday's (1994) transitivity للتحقيق في تقارير CNN ومعرفة كيفية تمثيل بوتين. بناءً على تحليل البيانات ، أظهرت النتائج ان صوره بوتين اقترنت بالتمثيل السلبي في التقارير الإخبارية لشبكة سي ان ان بعد الحرب أكثر مما موجود في التقارير قبل الحرب.

1.1 Background

The media has a vital role in influencing public opinion and may ideologically reinforce and reproduce social power relations and dominance (van Dijk, 1993). It has an impact on what and how readers should think (Cohen, 1963). According to Nacos and Reyna (2003), media frequently use explanatory frames while reporting news, prompting readers and listeners to place events, problems, and individuals into contextual frameworks of reference. Fairclough (1992) confirms that news discourses not only reflect or depict social entities and relations but also create and maintain them. He further states that "the representation of media discourse can be seen as an ideological process" (Fairclough, 1995, p.65). Therefore, by means of linguistic choice, media discourses can impose a system of values and ideas about objects of reality to construct or shape images of nations, states, and their political leaders that are fixed in people's minds. (Seliverstova, 2021). In this respect, it is significant to study the linguistic means used in the media to form the image of the Russian leader's representation, Putin, regarding the Ukraine invasion.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

On February 24, 2022, Putin, the president of Russia gave the green light for a special military operation to invade Ukraine (Mankoff, 2022). This invasion created the most dangerous situation since World War II. As a result, it triggered a global food shortage (Strubenhoff, 2022) and caused the largest refugee crisis ever, with more than 6.3 million Ukrainian refugees (Daniel & Elly, 2022).

As a result, the invasion has garnered extensive global disapproval, prompting large protests throughout several nations (Briar et al., 2022).

The current invasion poses a significant challenge to peace and security in Europe, surpassing any other threat since 1991, when the Cold War was over (Mankoff, 2022).

The purpose of the study is to examine the representation of Vladimir Putin in CNN online news reports' discourse before and after the Ukraine invasion. Hence, the objective of this research is to generate novel insights and address the existing research gap that has not been explored in prior studies.

1.3 Research questions.

The research attempts to seek answers to the subsequent questions:

1. What types of transitivity processes were used to represent Putin before the Ukraine invasion?
2. What types of transitivity processes are used to represent Putin after the invasion?

1.4 Research objectives.

The research aims to achieve the following:

1. To identify the transitivity processes used to represent Putin before the invasion?
2. To reveal the transitivity processes used to represent Putin before the invasion?

2. Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA)

The aim of this section is to present a comprehensive understanding of several facets of CDA, encompassing its historical context, definitions and characteristics, objectives, principles, methodologies, and pertinent terminology associated with the subject of CDA research.

2.1 The Historical Context of Critical Discourse Analysis

The emergence of CDA may date back to the 1990s in Amsterdam, when a group of esteemed researchers, namely Theo van Leeuwen, Gunther Kress, Teun van Dijk, Ruth Wodak, and Norman Fairclough, played a pivotal role in its introduction (Wodak & Meyer, 2001). These scholars have developed various approaches for the critical analysis of discourse, drawing on their different fields of research or areas of study. The phrase suggests that CDA is a methodology that facilitates interdisciplinary collaboration among academics from many fields, such as historians, politicians, and others, in order to analyze societal challenges within their respective domains (Bloor & Bloor, 2007).

CDA stems from critical linguistics (CL) that is formulated to identify ideological expressions in the grammatical and semantic patterns of written speech and how these patterns of speech create meaning and categorize entities, social actors, and events (Simpson & Mayr, 2009).

In spite of its widespread use and effectiveness, Fairclough (1992) states that CL has many drawbacks. It pays little attention to the processes of interpretation and focuses a lot of stress on the production of text. It considers discourse to have only one impact on the reproduction of existing social structures and relationships in society, while changes in discourse and discourse as a domain are ignored. Critical linguistics ignores spoken discourse in favour of focusing on written discourse. Also, vocabulary and grammar are the primary focus, while aspects of discourse such as general narrative and argumentative structures are overlooked.

Van Leeuwen (2006) argues that CDA addresses the limitations of CL by adopting a more explicit dialogue between social theory and practice, enhancing contextualization, promoting interdisciplinary approaches, and emphasizing the multimodality of discourse.

2.2 Transitivity

Language has a pivotal function in facilitating the exchange of ideas and articulating concepts, rendering it an indispensable tool for human communication. Halliday (1994) proposed that systemic functional grammar (SFG) posits three distinct roles of language. The functions encompassed within language can be broadly categorized into ideational, interpersonal, and textual functions. The different functions of language are interconnected with the diverse elements of the text. The ideational function is depicted through the utilization of transitivity structures, while the interpersonal function is conveyed through the use of mood and modality. The textual function, on the other hand, is communicated through the implementation of topic (Halliday, 1994).

Based on Halliday's SFG, the clause is considered the primary linguistic unit offered by the grammar. It encompasses two fundamental aspects of lexico-grammar: the experiential meaning inside the clause itself, and the logical meaning that exists between different clauses. The expression of experiential meaning is accomplished through the utilization of the transitivity system or process type, as discussed by Eggins (2004). Transitivity patterns refer to the linguistic representation of experiential meanings pertaining to our perception and experience of events. In essence, the transitivity analysis of patterns in discourse involves the explication of the subject matter under discussion (Eggins, 2004).

Halliday (1985) distinguishes three components of the transitivity process: the process itself, participants, and conditions. Verbal groups indicate the process; nominal groups—agent and patient—identify the participants; and adverbial groups or prepositional phrases explain the circumstances. The agent starts with a grammatical subject. Syntactic forms can express socially good active or negative passive sentiments (Hamilton and Trolier, 1986).

The categorization of sentences as active or passive is important in this research since it indicates how the different process types are utilized by CNN's online news reports to portray Vladimir Putin. Six process types exist in English, including three major ones; (1) material, (2) mental, (3) relational, and minor process types: behavioral, verbal, and existential (Eggins, 2004). However, only four types of processes will be employed in the current study: material, mental, relational, and verbal. For many reasons, first, the major processes of the transitivity system in English are material, mental, relational, and verbal processes (Halliday, 1985). Second, this research will only examine the transitivity structures with regard to the representation of Putin in CNN's online news reports' discourse. It is more likely that these processes will occur around these search terms. Furthermore, it is essentially difficult to study the transitivity structures of all these concepts due to a lack of time and space. The selected processes will subsequently be analyzed.

2.2.1 Material Process

Halliday and Matthiessen (2014) propose that material processes play a crucial role in instigating a measurable alteration in the progression of events through the infusion of energy. The conveyance of an action from one entity to another is achieved through the process of doing (Halliday, 1985). The process involves two inherent participants' roles: the obligatory actor, which is assigned to the doer, and the optional goal, which is assigned to the entity affected by the process. (Halliday, 1985).

The structure of the sentence utilized in these process types comprise of an *agent* (subject), an *action* (transitive or intransitive verb), and a *recipient* (only in the case of transitive verbs). The clause exhibiting a transitive verb *subject-verb-object* structure exemplifies an action that encompasses both the agent and the goal, as demonstrated in the first line. Fairclough (2001) posits that a sentence containing a *subject-verb* structure with only one participant can function as a representation of either an event or a non-directed action. As demonstrated by the second and third occurrences, correspondingly:

Table (2.1): Material Processes

1	The soldier	killed	the enemy
	actor	process (transitive)	goal
2	The woman	died	
	actor	process (intransitive)	
3	The train	arrived	
	actor	process (intransitive)	

2.2.2 Mental Processes

Mental processes manifest inside the cognitive faculties of an individual. Concrete or tangible activities are not involved in these occurrences, as they manifest solely within our consciousness (Halliday and Matthiessen, 2014). The mental processes may be further categorized into four separate sorts based on the verbs that denote them. These categories encompass various types of verbs, including perceptive verbs (e.g., see, taste,), cognitive verbs (e.g., think, believe, suppose), desiderative verbs (e.g., want, wish, desire), and emotive verbs (e.g., like, love, dislike, hate) (Halliday and Matthiessen, 2014).

These processes comprise two distinct participants: a *senser*, who is habitually a human being, and a *phenomenon*, which encompasses a wide range of entities including creatures, institutions, objects, or abstract concepts. The term *senser* refers to an entity that possesses the ability to sense, feel, think, wish, or perceive. An illustrative example of a senser can be observed in the sentence Mary liked the gift, where *Mary* is the entity that possesses these cognitive and perceptive faculties (Halliday and Matthiessen, 2014).

Table (2.2): Mental Processes

1	Mary	liked	the gift
	senser	mental process	phenomenon

2.2.3 Relational Processes

These types, according to Halliday and Matthiessen (2004), have the function of characterizing and identifying. They are distinguished by their utilization of the verb *be*. They suggest the presence of some relationship between two participants. The two subcategories of relational actions are attributive and identifying.

The process of identification is employed to define the nature or characteristics of something, whereas attribution is utilized to provide descriptive information about it. They only have two participants, namely the identifier and the attribute. These categories can be possessive (x has a), intensive (x is a), or circumstantial (x is at a), as stated by Halliday and Matthiessen (2004). For example:

Table (2.3): Relational Processes

		Attributive	Identifying
1	Intensive (x is a)	Mary is talented	Mary is the leader
2	Possessive (x has a)	John has a gun	the gun is John's
3	Circumstantial (x is a)	The show is on Monday	Yesterday was the 10 th of April

2.2.4 Verbal Processes

These processes serve as fundamental resources for diverse forms of speech. Narrative construction is facilitated by their assistance and covers any type of exchange of meaning. According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2004), verbal clauses serve the purpose of enabling reporters to attribute information to specific sources in the context of news reporting.

The roles assumed by participants in the verbal process include: The term *sayer* refers to the individual who performs or assumes responsibility for the verbal process. The *receiver* is the addressee of the speech, the one to whom the verbal process is directed, and the *target* of the verbal process. *Verbiage* represents the content of what is said, or a statement of the verbal process (Eggins, 2004). For example

Table (2.4): Verbal Processes

1	I	told	her	how to play the piano.
	Sayer	Verbal	Receiver	Verbiage
2	John	asked	his sister	to clean the rug
	Sayer	Verbal	Receiver	Verbiage

3. Analytical Framework

The study use Halliday's (1994) concept of transitivity to analyze the syntactic and linguistic characteristics of online news reports from CNN. According to Perez (2007), there exists a connection between language and reality in the context of transitivity.

The study employed Halliday's (1994) concept of transitivity to examine the syntactic aspect of CNN's online news reports' discourse. This involved analyzing the material, mental, relational, and verbal processes

to get insights into the characteristics of the agent role and the role of the affected at the clausal level. Consequently, this yielded a response to the primary inquiry of the study, namely: 1. What are the linguistic choices of the transitivity processes used to represent Putin before the Ukraine invasion? 2. What are the linguistic choices of the transitivity processes used to represent Putin after the invasion?

4. Analysis of the Data

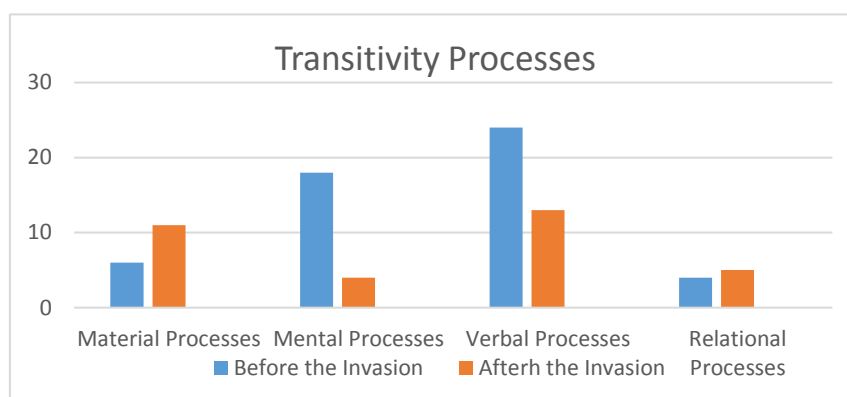
Transitivity structures are considered fundamental components within the theoretical framework of critical discourse analysis. According to Halliday's (1985) proposal, the clause can be divided into two separate components: the experiential meaning contained inside the clause itself, and the logical meaning that connects different clauses. The communication of experiencing meaning is achieved by employing the transitivity system or process type, as elucidated by Eggins (2004). As per Halliday's (1985) framework, the transitivity process encompasses three key elements: the process, denoted by verb phrases; participants, represented by noun phrases, specifically the agent and patient; and the circumstances associated with the process, expressed through adverbial or prepositional phrases.

The researcher will focus on the four predominant transitivity structures in the English language, namely material, mental, relational, and verbal, despite the existence of six distinct processes including material, mental, relational, verbal, behavioral, and existential (Halliday and Matthiessen, 2004). Following the inclusion of the transitivity processes, a thorough analysis was conducted to uncover the deeply ingrained ideological mechanisms within the online news reporting discourse of CNN. Moreover, the data will be displayed in tabular form to facilitate easy referencing. The frequency of transitivity processes in the research data is presented in the table below.

Table (4.1) Transitivity Analysis in the CNN reports before and after the invasion

No.	Transitivity Processes	Before the invasions	After the invasion
1.	Material	6	11
2.	Mental	18	4
3.	Verbal	24	13
4.	Relational	4	5

The following chart shows the frequency of the transitivity processes before and after the Ukraine invasion.



4.1 Material Process

Material processes in both transitive and intransitive clauses can also be denoted as happening or doing processes. Matthiessen and Halliday (1997) state that material processes include activities, acts, and events. Hence, a material process comprises both a process and actors who actively participate in an action. Halliday (1985) emphasizes that materials, as physical processes, are established in order to depict occurrences and behaviors—doings and happenings. The subsequent table illustrates the material processes observed in CNN news coverage before the occurrence of the Ukraine invasion. The following table shows some example of the material processes in the reports that are posted before the Ukraine invasion.

Table (4.2) Material Processes before the invasion

No.	Utterance	Date
1.	After all, Putin backs up his tough-guy attitude with actual muscle.	Fri September 18, 2015
2.	Midway through March, Putin will be competing for reelection with a program that highlights his leadership skills.	Thu March 1, 2018
3.	In the fall of 2015, Putin sent his air force to Syria to support Bashar al-Assad's forces, changing the tide of the conflict in his favor.	Thu March 1, 2018

4.	Putin made the kind of direct remarks that many Russians hoped to hear on September 11, 2001.	Sat August 10, 2019
5.	Soon after assuming the role of acting president, Putin took a flight to Chechnya's capital city of Grozny.	Sat August 10, 2019

The table presented above illustrates the material processes involved in the portrayal of Russian President Putin in CNN news coverage before the invasion of Ukraine. CNN assigns the role of agent to the Russian President. The text endeavors to provide a characterization of Putin without explicitly expressing an attitude towards the Russian President.

However, as the following table shows, the material processes after the war are utilized in a manner that refers to the reign of Putin.

Table (4.3) Material processes after the invasion

No.	Utterance	Date
1.	Nobody can stop Putin from creating havoc in Ukraine.	2-7-2022
2.	Putin continues to direct events.	2-7-2022
3.	Putin is relying on the indifference of the world	Jun. 6, 2022
4.	Putin described the current conflict as a smaller battle for Russian survival.	Wed. Sep. 21, 2022
5.	In front of a crowd waving flags, President Vladimir Putin appeared at Moscow's Luzhniki stadium.	Wed February 22, 2023

It is evident that CNN makes an effort to portray the Russian President in a neutral manner. There is no evidence of animosity or antipathy towards the president of Russia in any of the examples included in the aforementioned table.

The primary focus of the pre-war material processes centers around the 'emphasis placed on the presidency of Putin'. The statement suggests that Putin is inclined towards maintaining his position in office. The table above demonstrates the presence of this topic through the utilization of terms such as '*Putin continues to direct events*', '*Nobody can stop Putin from creating havoc in Ukraine*'.

4.2 Mental Processes

According to Barke and Galasinski (2003), the concepts of 'feeling, thinking, or seeing' pertain to cognitive processes (p. 70). Mental processes can be seen as the internal perception of one's circumstances, responses, and reflections on external events, as emphasized by Halliday and Matthiessen (2004). The following table reveal mental processes in CNN news reports before the Ukraine invasion:

Table (4.4) Mental processes before the invasion

No.	Utterance	Date
1.	"You want to say that we are the aggressors when there are American bases all over the world?"	Thu December 18, 2014
2.	They did not want the truth to come to light, thus Russia tried to establish normal international ties.	Thu December 18, 2014
3.	He desired reform for Russia and was a true liberal and democrat.	Fri October 9, 2015
4.	Every good story needs a villain, and the 2016 presidential hopefuls have found the ideal one in Vladimir Putin.	Fri October 9, 2015
5.	"You want to say that we are the aggressors when there are American bases all over the world?"	Fri September 18, 2015

The mental processes are also used in the reports after the invasion, but in a slightly different way, as clarified in the following table.

Table (4.5) Mental processes after the invasion

No.	Utterance	Date
1.	In 2024, Putin will have to at least formally run for reelection.	March 8, 2022
2.	Putin is deliberately attacking civilians, which is illegal under international law.	March 21, 2022

3.	Additionally, Putin referred to the West's efforts to "crush" the Russian economy through harsh sanctions as "not successful."	June 17, 2022
4.	Putin has publicly threatened Europe with nuclear weapons.	Wed September 21, 2022

CNN's portrayal of the Russian president can be seen in its mental processes both before and after the invasion. Putin is described before the invasion as a villain in the example 'Every good story needs a villain'. Such descriptions are also found in the reports that are written after the invasion, such as '*Putin is deliberately attacking civilians*, which is illegal under international law.' and '*Putin has publicly threatened Europe with nuclear weapons*. This demonstrates that despite minor linguistic distinctions, CNN has a negative attitude of the Russian president.

4.3 Verbal Processes

The following table exhibits the linguistic processes that were directly quoted by CNN from Putin's speech prior to and subsequent to the invasion.

Table (4.6) Verbal processes before the invasion

No	Utterance	Date
1.	Putin said that the rocket would be powered by a nuclear bomb and showed a video of how it would fly.	Thu March 1, 2018
2.	Putin said, "Any use of nuclear weapons against Russia or its allies, or any kind of attack, will be seen as a nuclear attack against Russia, and we will respond right away, no matter what the results."	Fri March 2, 2018
3.	"No one listened to us, even though Russia still has the most nuclear power in the world," he said.	Fri March 2, 2018
4.	Putin told us. "We have made new strategic weapons that have nothing to do with ballistic trajectory, so missile defense will not work against them."	Fri March 2, 2018

5.	Putin asked, "What would the Americans do if we put our missiles on their border with Canada?" It is a matter of safety, and you know where we draw the line."	Thu December 23, 2021
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The aforementioned table presents instances of verbal processes employed by Putin prior to the invasion of Ukraine. The examples show that the most frequent themes revolve around the idea that Russia is still a great country and that Putin is going to restore and maintain Russia's role and its military posture. The aforementioned instances illustrate Putin's emphasis on the concept of 'self' by ascribing positive attributes to both himself and Russia.

Table (4.7) Verbal processes after the invasion

No	Utterance	Date
1.	According to Putin, governing Russia might require a firm hand.	30-6-2022
2.	According to me, a brief era of totalitarianism in our nation is possible, as depressing or terrifying as that may sound, Putin stated.	30-6-2022
3.	There are numerous ways to destroy our nation. In a speech, Putin declared that he would employ every tool at his disposal.	Wed September 21, 2022
4.	According to Putin, he intends to use tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus.	Wed September 21, 2022
5.	According to Putin, governing Russia might require a firm hand.	Sun March 26, 2023

The statements made by President Putin are received in oral form. This observation highlights the efforts made by the Russian President to communicate information regarding the nation's armament to Europe and the West, both prior to and subsequent to the invasion. Illustrated by previous instances preceding the

invasion, for instance, in a public address, Putin said in a speech that he would utilize *'every tool at his disposal..* and he also said *'governing Russia might require a firm hand.*

4.4 Relational Processes

Relational processes are used to denote the processes of being (Halliday, 1994). Relational clauses consist of two distinct entities. They refer to some relationship that exists between the two participants. Relational processes can be differentiated from material processes; they involve the representation of internal feelings, while material processes comprise the performance of actions (Halliday, 1994).

According to Laffut (2006), the third domain within our experiential framework is characterized by relational processes that involve the classification, identification, and interconnection of various entities. The following tables reflect the relational processes described in CNN reports before the invasion.

Table (4.8) Relational processes before the invasion

No.	Utterance	Date
1.	The deceased opposition leader's daughter claims that Putin is a "Soviet man" and nothing more.	Fri October 9, 2015
2.	However, the advancements happened while Dmitry Medvedev was the president and Prime Minister Vladimir Putin presided in the background.	Fri September 18, 2015
3.	Putin was the first international leader to contact Bush following the 9/11 tragedy.	Fri September 18, 2015
4.	The deceased opposition leader's daughter claims that Putin is a "Soviet man" and nothing more.	Sat August 10, 2019

CNN's reports prior to the invasion employed the usage of the relational process known as "attribution". The portrayal of the Russian president involves ascribing certain characteristics such as *leader*, *prime minister*, *gangster*, and a *soviet man*.

Relational Processes after the Invasion

In the period after the invasion, the most used relational processes in CNN reports are of the possession.

Table (4.9) Relational processes after the invasion.

No.	Utterance	Date
1.	Vladimir Putin is the exception, as he has access to all the images.	Mon March 21, 2022
2.	As we have always stated, he will remain entrenched until the government turns against him.	Fri September 23, 2022
3.	He is currently involved in a battle that he will ultimately lose.	March 7, 2022
4.	Putin marketed his conflict in Ukraine as a kind of crusade.	March 7, 2022
5.	Vladimir Putin is the exception, as he has access to all the images.	Wed February 22, 2023

By attribution of all related things to Russia to President Putin himself, the relational processes that followed the invasion demonstrate how the construction of self and other is exemplified in detail.

The purpose of this discourse is to portray a negative representation of Vladimir Putin, characterizing him as a war criminal who is obsessed with war and has a desire for absolute dominance.

6. Conclusion

Halliday's (1994) transitivity structures are used in the syntactic dimension to examine how Putin is portrayed in CNN reports both before and after the Ukrainian invasion.

The material processes of CNN's online news reports' discourse before the invasion depict Vladimir Putin as an agent. It just portrays Putin's personality without expressing an opinion. CNN attempts to represent the Russian president objectively. Hence, Vladimir Putin was not the target of any of the instances. However, the post-invasion is more negative than the pre-invasion, as in, *Putin is wreaking carnage in Ukraine, and no one can stop him*. The material processes after the war focus on Putin: *Putin is still dictating events*, and *Putin framed the ongoing fighting as part of a larger struggle for Russian survival*.

In both instances of mental processes, Putin is viewed as the evil villain. A report prepared prior to the war uses the example *Every good story needs a villain*, to define the Russian president as a *villain*. The reports

that were written after the invasion also contain such descriptions, such as *Putin is intentionally targeting civilians*. This proves that the American media have a negative opinion of the Russian president despite minor linguistic differences.

Regarding verbal processes, as illustrated by instances from prior to the invasion, such as when Putin said in a speech that *Russia still has the greatest nuclear potential in the world and missile defense will be useless against it*. Along with a few examples from after the invasion that speak to the same problem of armaments and military force, like *he would use all the means at our disposal*, Putin said *he aims to put tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus*, and *our country also has numerous methods of destruction*.

Prior to the invasion, CNN reported using relational processes as "attribution". The image of the Russian president includes attributes such as leader, prime minister, gangster, and Soviet man. However, the relational processes that occurred after the invasion show in great detail how the self and the other are built. This is done by portraying Putin as a war criminal who is obsessed with fighting and wants to rule the world.

Consequently, reports presented by CNN regarding the Russian President prior to the war show a distinct perspective compared to the reports following the invasion. In the post-invasion coverage of CNN, the portrayal of the Russian president exhibits a more negative disposition compared to the pre-invasion period.

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