

How Media Partisanship Aggravates Conflicts between Human Rights and Social Justice: A Study on News Objectivity of Capital Punishment

Paper presented at the OIDA Summer Congress 2010
Sudbury, Canada, 22-25 June, 2010

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Pros and Cons of Capital Punishment

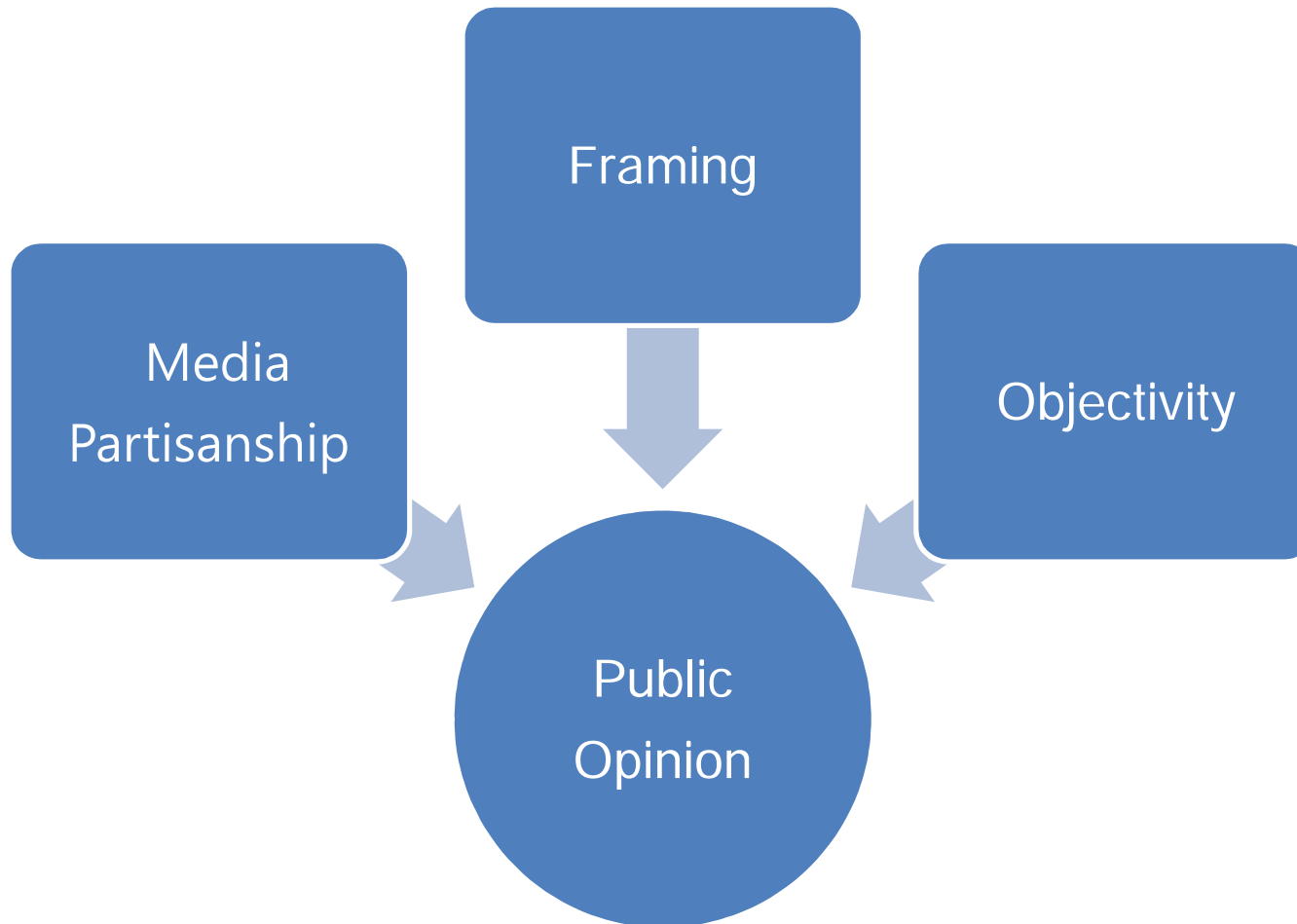
Proponents: Social Justice

- Seriousness of crime
- Social justice and public security

Opponents: Human Rights

- Humane execution
- Abolitionism

The Impact of News on Public Opinion



How news media aggravate social conflicts

News objectivity and ostensible balance

Amplifying public perception of conflicts

Reducing the possibility of consensus building

Frame of Comparison

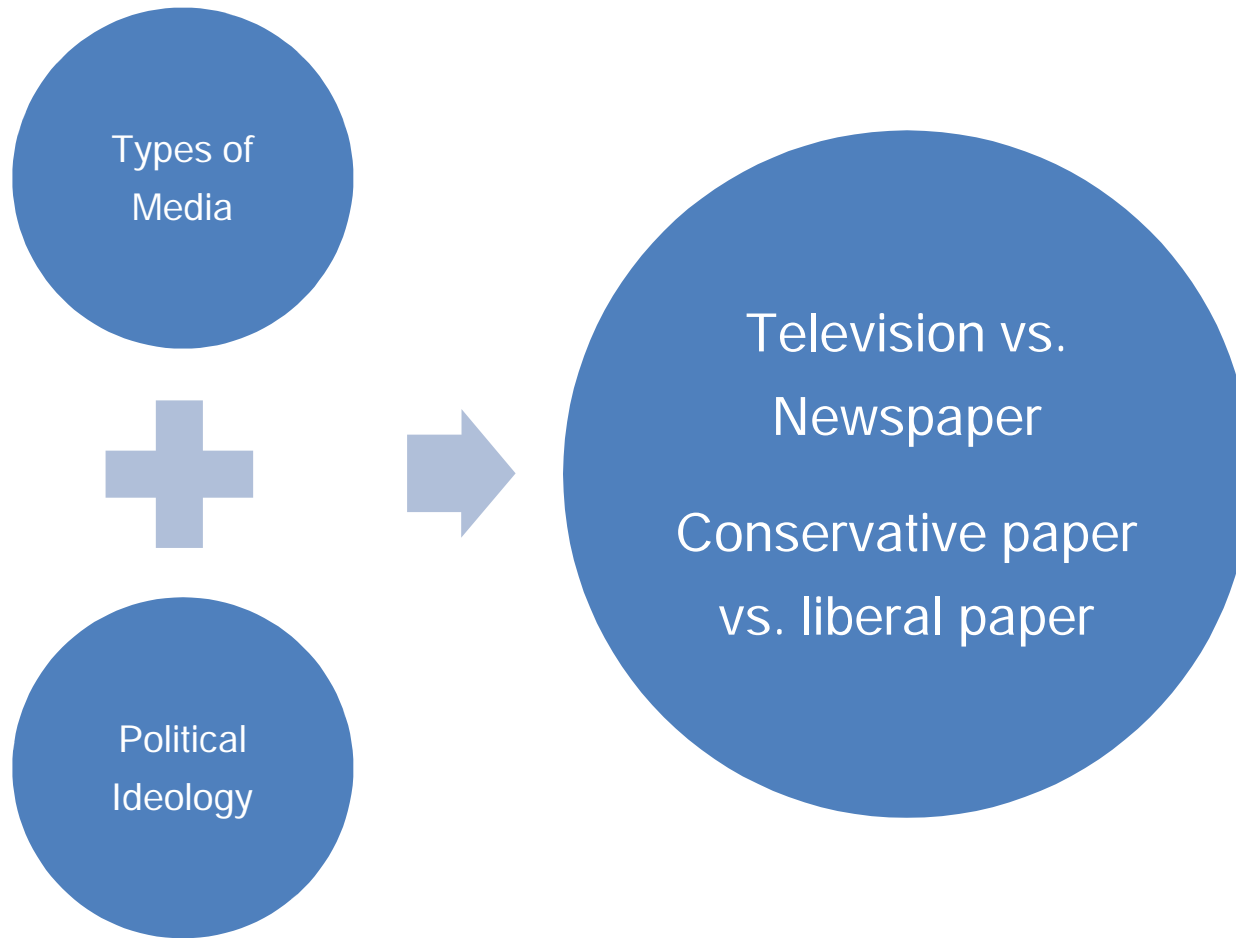


Table 1.
Crosstabs of types of media and four categories of objectivity

Categories	Y/N	Television	Newspaper	X ²
Factuality	Y	73(72.3)	159(62.1)	3.291
	N	28(27.7)	97(37.9)	
Total		101	256	
Quantitative Balance	Y	40(39.6)	120(46.9)	1.548
	N	61(60.4)	136(53.1)	
Total		101	256	
Qualitative Balance	Y	42(41.6)	147(57.4)	7.292**
	N	59(58.4)	109(42.6)	
Total		101	256	
Neutrality	Y	59(58.4)	133(52)	1.217
	N	42(41.6)	123(48)	
Total		101	256	

Figure 1.
The level of objectivity compared between TV and Newspaper

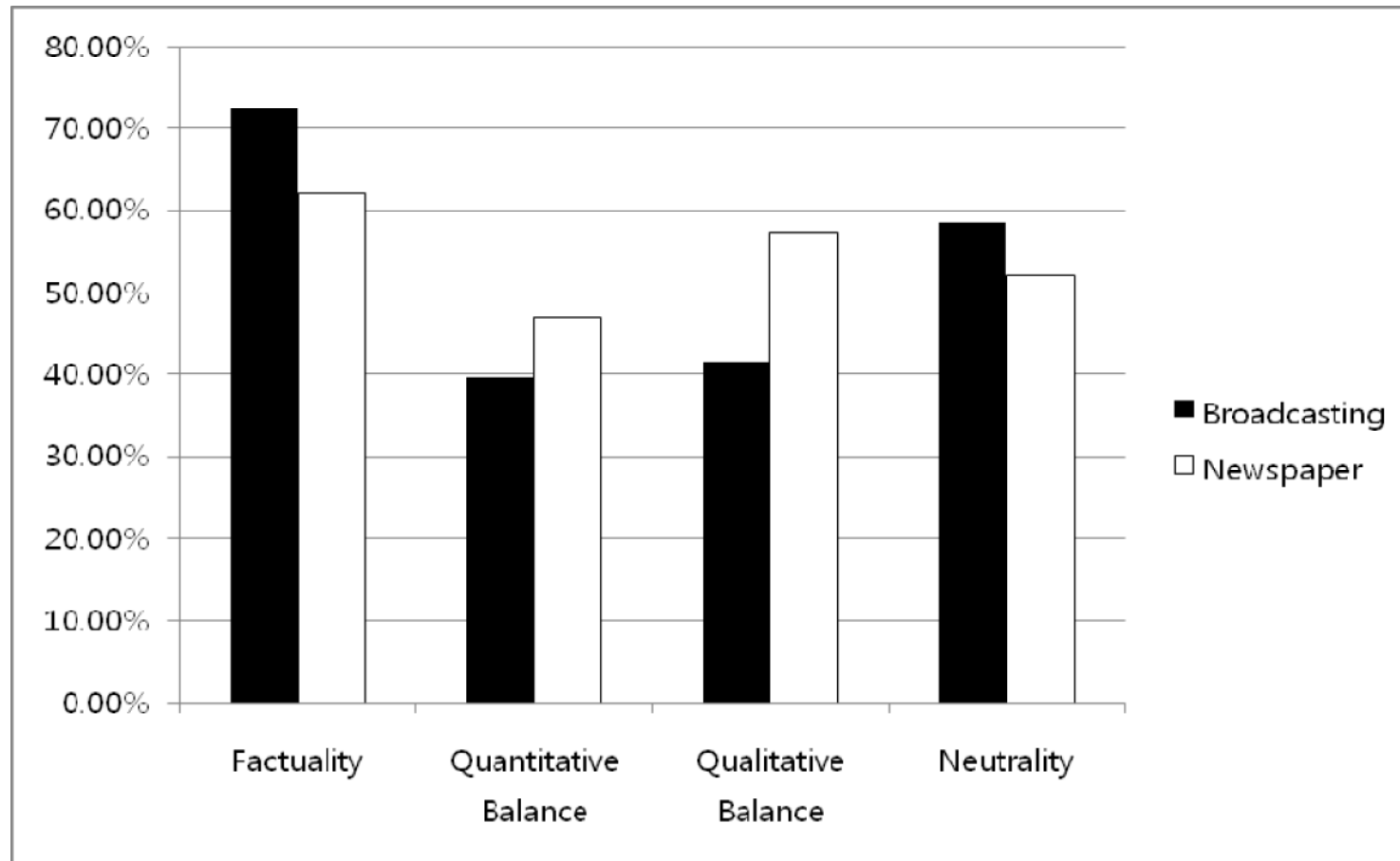
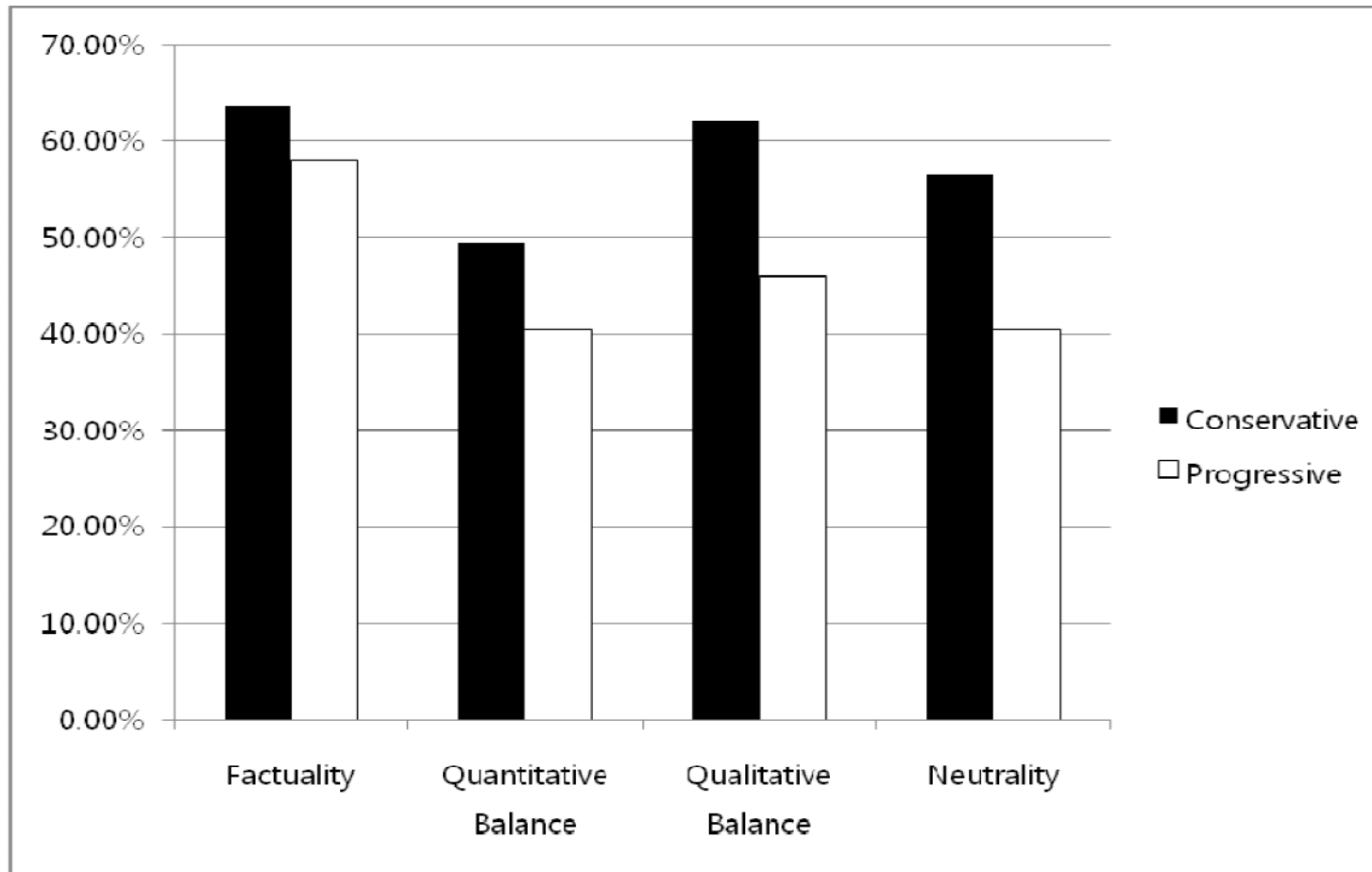


Table 2.
Crosstabs of types of newspapers and four categories of objectivity

Categories	Y/N	Conservative	Progressive	X ²
Factuality	Y	116(63.7)	43(58.1)	0.708
	N	66(36.3)	31(41.9)	
Total		182	74	
Quantitative Balance	Y	90(49.5)	30(40.5)	1.677
	N	92(50.5)	44(59.5)	
Total		182	74	
Qualitative Balance	Y	113(62.1)	34(45.9)	5.607**
	N	69(37.9)	40(54.1)	
Total		182	74	
Neutrality	Y	103(56.6)	30(40.5)	5.431*
	N	79(43.4)	44(59.5)	
Total		182	74	

Figure 2.
The level of objectivity compared between conservative and progressive paper



Conclusion

TV news is higher in factuality and neutrality

Newspaper is higher in quantitative and qualitative balance

- Tendency of media placing two opposing perspectives in contrast is stronger in newspapers

Conservative newspapers are higher in all dimensions of objectivity

- Ostensible balance between the two perspectives in objective coverage of conservative newspapers appears to be a factor enhancing public perception of conflicts concerning capital punishment discourse

Discussion

News Objectivity

- More attention needs to be paid to 'how' objectivity is pursued in news coverage on controversial issues

Harmonization

- Harmonization between media objectivity and partisanship
- Harmonization between social justice and human rights

Policy

- Focal policy to enhance such harmonization and to reduce social conflicts and to contribute to build consensus