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### FEELING THE PAIN YET KEEPING HOPING: EMOTION AND DISCOURSE IN CRISIS JOURNALISM

#### ACIYI HİSSETMEK AMA YİNE DE UMUT ETMEK: KRİZ GAZETECİLİĞİNDE DUYGU VE SÖYLEM

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#### ABSTRACT

The earthquakes in Kahramanmaraş, which occurred on February 6, 2023, caused serious losses of lives and property in Turkey. This disaster, in which more than 38 thousand aftershocks were experienced, deeply affected people's moods and caused them to feel the pain for their losses. As in all times of crisis, communication has been among the primary needs of the society after this natural disaster, and the media has played a significant role in this regard. From this point of view, this research, which aims to reveal how emotion is included in the scope of newspaper news through discourse, makes use of Teun Adrian Van Dijk's critical discourse analysis. In this context, the first pages of 6 national newspapers with the highest circulation published in Turkey between 7th of February and 13th of February in 2023 were analyzed. As a result of the analysis, it was determined that emotions were conveyed in the news both through the experiences of the people in the earthquake region and from the perspectives of the journalists. In the study, it was concluded that it is not possible to say that crisis reporting is completely apolitical. The effects of the ideological view of the media organ are felt in the victim/criminal opposition established in the newspapers. In addition, it is seen that the ideological views of the newspapers / their relations with the government also affect the positive or negative emotions in the news. When the findings are evaluated within the framework of objectivity, which is one of the normative principles of journalism, it has been shown that newspapers that are not purified from politics and that highlight political actors violate the principle of objectivity. On the other hand, the news that focuses only on human stories and conveys the pain that occurs as a result of a dramatic event with all its reality, is not considered to be against objectivity, and in this context, the research supports previous research which has stated that emotions are not against objectivity in journalism.

**Keywords:** *News, Emotion, Discourse, Crisis Reporting, Objectivity*

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## ÖZ

6 Şubat 2023 tarihinde meydana gelen Kahramanmaraş merkezli depremler, Türkiye’de ciddi oranda can ve mal kaybına neden olmuştur. 38 binden fazla artçı sarsıntıya neden olan bu felaket, insanların duygu durumlarını derinden etkilemiş ve kaybettikleri için acı hissetmelerine yol açmıştır. Tüm kriz zamanlarında olduğu gibi bu doğal afet sonrasında da iletişim, toplumun öncelikli ihtiyaçları arasında yer almış ve medya bu hususta önemli işlev görmüştür. Bu noktadan hareketle, duygunun söylem aracılığıyla gazete haberlerinin kapsamına nasıl dâhil edildiğini ortaya koymayı amaçlayan bu araştırma, Teun Adrian Van Dijk’ın eleştirel söylem çözümlemesinden yararlanmaktadır. Bu kapsamda 7-13 Şubat 2023 tarihlerinde Türkiye’de yayımlanmış tirajı en yüksek 6 ulusal gazetenin birinci sayfaları analiz edilmiştir. Analiz sonucunda, haberlerde gerek deprem bölgesindeki insanların deneyimleri aracılığıyla gerekse gazetecilerin bakış açılarından duyguların aktarıldığı tespit edilmiştir. Araştırmada kriz haberciliğinin tamamen apolitik olduğunu söylemenin mümkün olmadığı sonucuna ulaşılmıştır. Gazetelerde kurulan mağdur/suçlu karşıtlığında yayın organlarının ideolojik görüşünün etkileri hissedilmektedir. Bununla birlikte gazetelerin ideolojik görüşleri/hükümetle olan ilişkilerinin, haberlerde yer alan duyguların olumlu ya da olumsuzluk içermesini etkilediği görülmektedir. Elde edilen bulgular gazeteciliğin normatif ilkelerinden olan nesnellik çerçevesinde değerlendirildiğinde ise siyasetten arındırılmamış, siyasal aktörleri öne çıkaran gazetelerin nesnellik ilkesini ihlal ettiği gösterilmiştir. Buna karşın, yalnızca insan hikâyelerine odaklanan, dramatik bir olay sonucu ortaya çıkan acıyı tüm gerçekliğiyle aktaran haberlerin ise nesnellığe aykırı olmadığı düşünülmekte ve bu bağlamda araştırma, gazetecilikte duyguların nesnellığe aykırı olmadığını söyleyen önceki araştırmaları desteklemektedir.

**Anahtar kelimeler:** *Haber, Duygu, Söylem, Kriz Haberciliği, Nesnellik*

## Introduction

In order for an event to be considered news, it must meet some certain criteria. Exclusivity, bad news with negative implications, events that can be transmitted visually and audibly are some of them (Harcup and O’Neill, 2017, p. 1482). Therefore, socio-political events such as terrorist attacks, assassinations, armed attacks, kidnappings; technological and environmental disasters that trigger crises such as fire, a train derailment, flood, earthquake; Military conflicts and wars (Kramp and Weichert, 2014, p. 21) are important for journalism as events that cause people to experience hard times, losses and damages.

“Crises are sudden and unpredictable events that can pose a danger to society, creating high levels of uncertainty and time pressure.” A crisis situation that requires rapid intervention indicates a real or perceived discomfort in society (Garcia-Aviles, 2021, p. 1241). Therefore, in times of crisis, the media plays a key role in both responding to the event and its consequences in a timely manner and ensuring that people receive information about other people and events. However, the gravity of the current situation may lead to deviations from the traditional practices of the media. The understanding of fast journalism that emerged especially in these periods, while providing the information

needed by the society, can also feed the ambition of journalists to be the first to give striking details, depending on the competition in the media, and may cause exaggeration, speculation, misinformation or intense emotional content in the news. (Ghersetti and Johansson, 2021, p. 1818).

The scope of disasters, unlike traditional journalism practices, makes room for incorporating emotions into the news text and contributes to the formation of collective emotions. The aim of this study, which deals with the news about earthquake disasters by centered on emotions, is to determine how emotions take place in crisis news and to contribute to the literature. For this reason, in this research, which makes use of Teun A. Van Dijk's critical discourse analysis, the front pages of 6 national newspapers with the highest circulation published between 7th of February and 13th of February in 2023 were analyzed. The findings support the studies which propose that the stories produced within the scope of crisis journalism do not contradict with the principle of objectivity, but rather express reality by mediating the transfer of the emotions of others. However, when the relationship between earthquake and politics is in question, the situation may differ and the ideologies of newspapers and their relations with political actors and organs may result in a violation of the principle of objectivity in the production of news.

In the study, the literature on objectivity and emotion studies in journalism will be mentioned first, and the research findings and results will be presented subsequently.

### **Objectivity as a Normative Principle in Journalism**

Objectivity, which is one of the basic principles of journalism, includes the content produced by journalists to be free from their own subjectivity. This means that journalists separate their views and values from reality when reporting (Tong and Zuo, 2021, p. 154). Referring to the epistemological dimension of objectivity, Munoz-Torres (2012, pp. 569-570) draws attention to the meanings of objectivity, "balance", "justice" and "non-distortion". In line with these principles, journalists are expected to include different views equally in their news and not to make any comments.

Objectivity, which is also considered as a "touchstone" in journalism, expresses an ideal for journalists. Nevertheless, some researchers claim that it is not possible to ensure objectivity in some types of journalism such as investigative journalism or environmental journalism (Tong and Zou, 2021, p. 155), and similarly, Tong and Zou (2021) also state that data journalism is a type of journalism in which objectivity cannot be applied. they show. Recent academic studies show that there is a change in the way journalists working in the field also view objectivity. As the journalist Martin Bell expresses below;

Let me start with a heresy. I was trained in a tradition of objective and dispassionate journalism. I believed in it once. I don't believe in it anymore ... What I do believe in still, and hold fast to more than ever, is fairness and impartiality and a scrupulous attention to the facts and a determination to pay heed to the unpopular spokespeople of unfavoured causes (Bell, 1998, s.102'den akt. Munoz-Torres, 2012, s.570).

It can be seen in his speech that the place of objectivity in journalism is being discussed “again”.

Another issue addressed within the framework of objectivity is related to the representation of emotions in journalism. Recently, there has been a trend in research on the subject that its relationship with objectivity and acceptance of the representation of emotions in the news, which traditional journalistic norms reject, points to harmony rather than opposition.

### **Emotions in Journalism**

In the early days, emotion studies in journalism included various topics such as the reflection and construction of emotions through news texts, the analysis of journalistic practices, the emotional interaction of the audience with the news, and these issues were mostly discussed within the framework of commercialization, sensationalism and infotainment (Schmidt, 2021, p. 1175). At the same time, debates on emotions in journalism were frequently brought up in the context of principles such as objectivity and impartiality. While Tudor (2003, p. 243) refers to the individuality of emotions; Berezin (2002, p. 45) pointed out the difficulty of understanding and objectively conveying the emotions of crowds due to the individuality of emotions. For this reason, emotions were excluded from public discussion (Orgeret, 2020, p. 293).

Objectivity in journalism constitutes one of the basic normative and ethical values of professionalism. Hence, while creating a news text, it is expected that the journalist can clearly draw the boundaries between reality and values, and by adhering to these boundaries, only report the facts as they are free of emotions (Kositova, 2020, p. 1713).

Depending on the objectivity norm, a journalist takes care to include all sides of the event in a news report. This method, which is based on rationality, also directs the journalist not to comment on the event and not to distort the event. Professional objectivity is an approach that opposes journalists being influenced by the environment in which they report or empathizing with the people in the story (Kositova, 2020, p. 1713). Rational journalism, which is free from emotions, was named as 'quality journalism', and emotional news aimed at arousing good feelings in people was seen as a regression in the standards of journalism (Pantti, 2010, p. 169).

At the same time, objectivity was considered as a protective principle for journalists, and journalists thought that if they were objective, they could eliminate many pressures and dangers through objectivity. In this context, Tuchman (1972, p. 660) defined objectivity as a 'strategic ritual' that protects journalists from the risks of the profession and attributed the mission of being a tool for journalists to maintain their existence in the profession.

However, in recent years, the views of academicians on the relationship between journalism and emotion point to the change in approaches in terms of the place of emotions in journalism and are a source of inspiration for future studies. For instance,

Karin Wahl-Jorgensen (2012, p. 130), who explains the "strategic ritual of emotionality" based on Tuchman's theory, is one of these leading researchers. According to her, journalists are not always in harmony with objectivity while performing their jobs, and they even experience tension from time to time as they feed their news with emotions and this situation is at the center of the profession as much as strategic objectivity. Nonetheless, the sentimentality pointed out by Wahl-Jorgensen is not that the journalist includes her own feelings in the news. Journalists describe the feelings of others and, in doing so, base them on facts, in which they act in harmony with the strategic ritual of objectivity. Therefore, the researcher does not exclude objectivity. On the contrary, s/he proposes to see emotions as a complement to news production.

The purpose of a news text is not only to allow the message conveyed by the recipients to be understood. Moreover, it is also expected that the receiver believes in what is conveyed through a news text. For this reason, journalists apply some strategies while producing a news. Emphasis on the true nature of the event, creating a strong correlated structure for facts and providing information with attitudinal and emotional dimensions are the strategies at stake. If the facts contain and activate strong emotions, the representation of the facts is transmitted more successfully and is retained in the memory. Natural disasters are also emotionally rich facts and have a greater impact on a large number of people compared to other types of news (Özer, 2015, pp. 232-236).

Reporting disasters, unlike traditional journalism practices, places emotions in the news and assumes the role of a space to express the feelings of those who have feelings about the event that is the subject of the news. Emotions, which are at the center of disaster reporting, thus draw the audience into the news, allow the audience to empathize and facilitate the understanding of the news by the audience (Boelle and Wahl-Jorgensen, 2022, p. 1). Emotions that "nurture the climate of collective rational opinion formation" (Hendy, 2013, p. 38) can create a "sense of grieving community" throughout the country (Pantti and Wieten, 2005, p. 301). At the same time, since it allows the actors of the news to have their voices heard, it also causes the victims to feel comfortable (Hendy, 2013, p. 38). Emotions, which are deemed necessary for the formation of social unity with objectivity, are not as a challenge to objectivity and rationality. Contrary to popular belief, it is considered as a part of the news in order to convey the facts completely and as they are (Huan, 2017, pp. 476-477).

The emotional turn in journalism also points to the cultural change in newsrooms. Especially in times of crisis such as conflicts, natural disasters and epidemics, the priority of journalists is to reach the area where the crisis took place as quickly as possible. For this reason, journalists, who were among the first to arrive on the scene, "witness the dead and injured, people in distress and shock, and great property damage in the worst cases" (Ghersetti and Johansson, 2021, p. 1818). This situation leaves the place of callous and objective journalists to journalists who experience physical and emotional resentment in the face of crises; newsroom managers also have to face the experiences and feelings of

journalists (Beam and Spratt, 2009, p. 421). These changes have also led to changes in scientists' understanding of the role of the media. Scholars representing the culturalist tradition refer to the role of the media as representing socially shared beliefs, understandings and feelings in any circumstance, celebration or mourning, and thus, preserving those beliefs, understandings and feelings. Furthermore, as they discuss the social functions of journalism, they focus on its meaning-creating function rather than reporting (Riegert and Olsson, 2007, p. 144). According to Liebes et al. (2005, pp. 188-189), "... major devastating events, paradoxically, unite the collective, albeit through shared fear and shared mourning. Both types of events pour symbolic meanings into society, and some of these transcend social boundaries to become universal symbols." Hence, the researchers emphasize the function of journalism in ensuring social cohesion.

Emotions can be a mediator between message frames and references in storytelling, as well as a mediator that affects information processing or reasoning. Emotion frames can be used to make narratives interesting while they can manipulate the emotions of the recipients of the message by activating emotions directly (Zhang and Borden, 2023).

### **Research**

This research focuses on the Kahramanmaraş earthquakes since after the 1939 Erzincan earthquake, the Kahramanmaraş-centered earthquakes, which had the highest losses of lives and property in Turkey, affected 10 cities around it, causing thousands of people to die, thousands of buildings to be destroyed and damaged. Therefore, these events, filled with the pain of humans, offer the opportunity to embed emotions in the contents of the news media.

### **Method**

The method used in the research is the critical discourse analysis put forward by Teun A. Van Dijk. "Critical discourse analysis is an interdisciplinary approach that examines how the dominant discourse in a text or speech is constructed through language." (Şimşek, 2015, p. 181).

Teun A. Van Dijk explains the thematic and schematic structure in news analysis. Van Dijk also divides thematic analysis into two. According to this, in the macro structure, "the main or the main title, the title, the subtitle, the spot, the news entries, the news, the stories or the chain of events follow each other hierarchically." (İnceoğlu and Çomak, 2009, p. 32). Thus, the cause and effect relationship is tried to be revealed. In macro structure analysis, it is aimed to reveal what the text means. In the schematic structure, contingency and interpretations are taken into consideration. In microstructure analysis, the sentence structures of the news are emphasized. In sentence structures, simple sentences and complex sentences, active/passive sentences in terms of structure, long or short structures of sentences in the analysis of news in terms of mood and tense (such as Simple Past Tense or Past Perfect Tense) The choice of phrases is structured

systematically and hierarchically, rhetorically (such as pictures, photographs, numerical data, quotations) (İnceoğlu and Çomak, 2009, p. 32; Devran, 2010, p. 65).

<b>Macro Structure</b>		
<b>Thematic Structure</b>	Titles	
	News Introduction	Spot (When there is no spot, the first paragraph of the news text should be taken. If the news consists of a single paragraph, the first sentence can be considered as an introduction to the news)
	Photograph	
<b>Schematic Structure</b>	Situation	Presentation of the Main Event
		Results
		Background Knowledge
		Context Information
	Interpretation	News Sources-Citation Usage
		Interpretations of the Parties to the Incident
<b>Micro Structure</b>		
<b>Syntactic Analysis</b>	Active or Passive Sentence Structures	
	Simple or Complex Sentence Structures	
<b>Word Choices</b>	The Use of Synonyms	
	Making Repetitions	
	The Use of Stereotypes	
<b>News Rhetoric</b>	Photograph	
	Credible Information	
	Statements of Eyewitnesses	

**Table 1:** Teun A. Van Dijk's Model of Critical Discourse Analysis (Özer, 2011, p. 85).

### The Importance of the Study

Discussing emotions in journalism is new. However, while the literature on the subject is expanding day by day with researches conducted abroad, there are few studies dealing with the issue of emotions in journalism in Turkey. These publications conduct the discussion of emotion in journalism within the framework of immersive journalism (Çaba, 2018; Demir, 2023; Yetkin, 2022; Yetkin, 2023), emotional intelligence (Yılmaz, 2008) and constructive journalism (Budak, 2022). For this reason, it is thought that this study will contribute to the literature due to its subject being new and the number of studies concentrating on the subject in Turkey being scarce.

## **Universe, Sample and Limitations**

The universe of the research consists of all national newspapers published in Turkey. However, a one-week period in which the newspapers gave wide coverage to the earthquake news and the event kept its freshness was seen appropriate for the examination. Having considered the place and word restrictions, the first pages of the 6 newspapers with the highest circulation published between 7th of February and 13th of February in 2023 were analyzed within the scope of the research. The newspapers examined in this framework are Akşam, Hürriyet, Milliyet, Posta, Sabah and Sözcü. Among these newspapers, Akşam, Hürriyet, Posta and Sabah have a right-wing ideological view. Milliyet newspaper publishes in a center-right and nationalist line. Sözcü newspaper, on the other hand, is a newspaper that publishes in the Kemalist line. Sabah newspaper is in close relationship with the government, and Sözcü newspaper adopts the approach of publishing opposition to the government. The sample of the research consists of the news on the first pages of the newspapers. The exclusion of the inner pages from the scope of the research reveals the limitations of the study. In addition, crisis reporting does not only include earthquake news. The results of this study are only related to the news about Kahramanmaraş-centered earthquakes that occurred in 2023 in the context of crisis reporting. Newspaper pages were accessed from the website gazeteoku.com. Hence, the findings obtained as a result of the analysis of the first pages of 6 national newspapers in a total of 1 week time period, are provided in the following part.

## **Findings**

The findings obtained in the research will be discussed under two headings as macro analysis and micro analysis. Findings will be displayed in accordance with the alphabetical order of the newspapers.

### *Macro Analysis*

#### *Akşam Newspaper*

The title in a news is the determinant of the first meaning that will be formed in the minds of those who read that news. The titles of the news in the headlines of the evening newspaper in the examined period can be seen in table 2.

<b>Date</b>	<b>News Titles</b>
07.02.2023	Disaster of the Century
08.02.2023	85 Million Mobilized
09.02.2023	Earthquake Migration
10.02.2023	Headline on the Wall
11.02.2023	Biscuit Miracle
12.02.2023	Evidence of Destruction
13.02.2023	Came out of the Wreck on Day 6 and Said 'I'm not Hungry'

**Table 2:** The news titles of Akşam newspaper



Akşam applied deduction of information, which means not including information such as place, time and period in the main headlines. Information deletion can manipulate readers as well as making it difficult to understand what is being said by readers. The headlines of the evening newspaper become more understandable with the introduction and photographs of the news. The newspaper supports the headlines with subheadings. With subheadings such as "She was in the Wreckage of an 8-Storey Building", "She was under Treatment in the Hospital", more precise information is given about the meaning indicated in the main title. In Akşam newspaper, headlines based on indirect quotations are used as well as headlines based on interpretation.

The Akşam newspaper gives a summary of the events in its news entries, thus establishing and clarifying the meaning presented in the title. "The headline is on the Wall", and "The note 'Don't lose hope' written on the wall by the young man who was pulled out of the wreckage 64 hours later became a source of resistance on these bitter days." can be regarded as examples of those expressions.

Background and context information is not included in the news of Akşam newspaper. When we look at the people or institutions on which the news is based, we witness that stories are created based on the statements of those who were damaged in the earthquake in the headlines of the newspaper Akşam. This preference of the newspaper conveys to the readers what the people in the earthquake region experienced and felt. However, photographs and statements of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan are frequently encountered in the news around the headline.

All of the other news on the first pages of the newspaper are about earthquakes. With the headlines it uses, the newspaper focuses on hope, state-nation unity, and punishment of contractors who are shown to be responsible for the destruction. In the headlines of those news, there are expressions showing the comment of the journalist. In the news titled "The Greedy couldn't Escape" in the issue of the newspaper published on February 13, the phrase "greedy people" referred to the landlords of the buildings destroyed in the earthquake, who demanded high rents from the contractors, looters and tenants. It is seen that the expressions "Responsible Contractors", "Unscrupulous Looters" and "Opportunistic Landlords" are used in the articles added under the 3 photographs used in the news.

### *Hürriyet Newspaper*

The headlines used by Hürriyet newspaper are as follows:

<b>Date</b>	<b>News Titles</b>
07.02.2023	Disasters in Chain
08.02.2023	A Giant Despair
09.02.2023	The 7 Most Distraught Spots
10.02.2023	All of them Deserve the Nobel Prize
11.02.2023	Field Report

12.02.2023	Helin Tells 102 Hours
13.02.2023	The Same Question Everywhere

**Table 3:** The news titles of Hürriyet newspaper

When the headlines of Hürriyet newspaper's during the 1-week period covered in the study are examined, it is seen that there are expressions that both emphasize desperation and are difficult to understand when only the headline is read. For this reason, there is a loss of information in the Hürriyet newspaper, as in the Akşam newspaper, and the meaning intended to be given in the title of the news is understood with the introduction of the news. Apart from the headline news, the titles of other news announced on the front page include "National Struggle", "The Biggest Volunteer", "Hero Bikers", "We have Seen Our People's Ability to Organize", "Turkey is Talking about this Baby", "All Dormitories are Earthquake Victims", "The 3 Most Urgent Needs in 8 Days", "Beautiful People of a Beautiful Country", "Brother, How Long will it Take", "They do not Collapse when Built Properly", "Emotions are under the Ruins" has been detected that there are expressions based on interpretation.

In addition, as in the title "Brother, How Long will it Take", titles are created without using double quotes and without giving the name of the speaker, and the discourse is transformed into the discourse of the text. This usage is the result of a conscious choice by the media since the journalist shows that he agrees in the statements in that discourse with the headlines created in this way.

Hürriyet mostly refers to national unity and solidarity in its news about the earthquake. Examples of this are the "National Struggle" analogy given with the "Millions Running to Aid" label, the definition of motorcycle riders who went to help the region as "Hero Bikers", and the use of the phrase "All of them Deserve the Nobel Prize" for rescue specialists and volunteers. At the same time, in the newspaper, which conveys the statements that will strengthen national unity and solidarity through experts, the title of the news, which was announced with the headline "We Have Seen Our People's Ability to Organize", It is given by quoting the words of Prof. Dr. İlber Ortaylı. In the news, which also includes Ortaylı's photograph, the title was quoted directly in quotation marks, thus it was aimed to strengthen the message intended to be given to the society through an expert.

When a detailed analysis is carried out, it is also seen that background knowledge and context information is included in the news from time to time. When we look at the people or institutions on which the news is based, it is seen that the news of Hürriyet newspaper is based on the statements of those who were damaged in the earthquake, benefactors, experts and President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. Some media organs produce stories with positive and solution-oriented information in order to reduce the negative effects of negative events in crisis situations (Overgaard, 2021, p. 1876) and fulfill their duties within the framework of constructive journalism approach. In this context, it is possible

to say that Hürriyet has assumed the role of constructive journalism in its news about the earthquake. The newspaper prefers the use of adjectives in its news headlines.

*Milliyet Newspaper*

Date	News Titles
07.02.2023	Apocalyptic
08.02.2023	Hope on One Side, Pain on the Other
09.02.2023	Army of Life
10.02.2023	Rebirth
11.02.2023	Have Life
12.02.2023	Our Only Consolation
13.02.2023	Faithful Hope

**Table 4:** The news titles of Milliyet newspaper

Milliyet is the newspaper that puts the most emphasis on hope. This emphasis in the headlines is supported by the entries and photos of the news. When the titles are evaluated within themselves, it is seen that they are compatible. Arousing positive emotions in the readers is targeted with the news titles.

The newspaper also included news that informed the readers about the government's disaster policy. The headlines of these news are as seen in the examples of "Investigation for Each Signatory", "Rent and Moving Support", "Quick Response for Looters" and "Contractor of the Renaissance Caught". The message given to the readers under these headings is that the government will hold those responsible for the disaster accountable, and the state will lend a hand and support to the victims of the earthquake. In these news, the statements of government officials such as President Erdoğan and the Minister of Justice, through direct quotations, were included.

In the introduction parts of the news in the headlines of Milliyet, emotional content is included by the use of-expressions such as below:

"Thousands of destroyed houses... Thousands of people who lost their lives... The number of injured people is increasing day by day... Schools without students... Hospitals that cannot admit patients because they are destroyed... Mass funerals... Souls reminding us that we need to stand up again with solidarity by resisting the cold and stubbornly against time, while a deep sadness surrounds us... Here are the pictures of the disaster that left 6 days behind, that makes people say "What really matters is life".

The newspaper calls for social solidarity by activating people's feelings with its news introduction based on emotional expressions.

On the contrary to the previous newspaper, Milliyet did not include background knowledge and context information in its earthquake news. When the people or institutions on which the news is based are taken into consideration, it is seen that Milliyet creates its news based on the journalists' own discourse or the statements of public officials.

*Posta Newspaper*

Date	News Titles
07.02.2023	What a Great Pain
08.02.2023	One Life A Thousand Hopes
09.02.2023	Race Against Time
10.02.2023	Until the Last Voice is Heard
11.02.2023	Anonymous...
12.02.2023	Sixth-Day Miracles May your Name Be Hope
13.02.2023	Have a Life like a River

**Table 5:** The news titles of Posta newspaper

Posta included headlines highlighting "sadness, hope and struggle" in its news on its front page. There is a lack of information in news headlines. The titles are in harmony with each other. Posta newspaper includes information explaining the expression in the title in its news introductions.

The first word of 8-year-old Ahmet, who was rescued from the rubble of the Narlıkuyu Site in Adiyaman at the 152nd hour of the earthquake, was "Is there water, uncle?" is seen. However, words that add drama are direct quotes in double quotes.

Background and context information is not included in the news of Posta. When the people or institutions on which the news is based are considered, it is noticed that Posta creates its news based on the statements of the journalists or the members of the rescue team and earthquake victims.

*Sabah Newspaper*

Date	News Titles
07.02.2023	Disaster of the Century
08.02.2023	Pain Hope Salvation Together
09.02.2023	We will not Leave Anyone on the Street
10.02.2023	Wounds are Healed
11.02.2023	1 Year Rental Support for Earthquake Victims
12.02.2023	All Dormitories for Earthquake Victims
13.02.2023	There's Always Hope

**Table 6:** The news titles of Sabah newspaper

Sabah newspaper mostly included the discourses of the government in its news headlines in the analyzed period. It is seen that it is desired to encourage social unity and solidarity with these titles that are in harmony with each other. Furthermore, it is clearly seen that information has been removed in the titles.

The government discourse in the headlines of the earthquake news is detailed in the news entries. "The state, which went down to the field with all its might in the earthquake regions that were shaken by the disaster of the century, did not leave its citizens on their own from the first moment.", "The Turkish Nation showed a great solidarity from 7 to 70 in order to bind the wounds hand in hand with the state in the disaster of the century."

Erdogan listened to the citizens, shared their pain and gave clear messages as in the following examples: “The institutions of the government are at work. We are in control of the situation. The wreckage work is progressing very quickly.” The newspaper, which included the positive activities of the state, avoided using dramatic expressions in the headlines and news entries, and highlighted the state's support for earthquake victims.

Drawing attention to the cooperation between the state and the nation, the newspaper uses a positive language in the presentation of the news, and chooses the images of children in the photographs as non-dramatic and similar to the images one is accustomed to seeing under normal conditions. There are messages that instill hope throughout the news.

In terms of background knowledge and context information, there is no information provided in the news of Sabah on the front page. When the people or institutions on which the news is based are taken into account, it is seen that Sabah creates its news based on the rhetoric of the benefactors or the statements of President Erdoğan.

### *Sözcü Newspaper*

Date	News Titles
07.02.2023	Save
08.02.2023	Ayşe Baby Came Out of the Wreck After 29 Hours
09.02.2023	Is There a State Vote Time?
10.02.2023	This Is Destiny!
11.02.2023	You Forgive For Money And Votes But Earthquake Doesn't Forgive
12.02.2023	From where to where
13.02.2023	This is how Erdogan announced the Peace of Reconstruction 4 Years ago

**Table 7:** The news titles of Sözcü newspaper

Sözcü newspaper deals with earthquake news by focusing on two points. The first of these is personalized and promising stories, and the second and weighty one is criticism of the government. At the beginning of the news titled “Baby Ayşe Came out of the Wreck after 29 Hours”, the following statements appeared:

“While Turkey mourns those who died in the two major earthquakes that took place in Kahramanmaraş the previous day, it rejoices for every life saved. Teams work day and night with a superhuman effort in 10 cities hit by the earthquake. They are bringing miracles out of the wreckage. One of those miracles was the baby Ayşe. 6-month-old baby Ayşe and her mother Hülya Yılmaz were trapped under the destroyed apartment building in Antakya, Hatay. Detecting a noise from the wreckage, the teams rescued baby Ayşe and her mother 29 hours later.”

At the beginning of the news titled “Does the Government Exist Only during Elections?”, the following statements were expressed: “Sözcü TV reporters witnessed the drama in Kahramanmaraş, Hatay and Gaziantep, which were hit by the earthquake. A citizen asked, “Does the government exist only during the election time?” and revolted by saying “You are good at asking for votes. My child, my husband are under the wreckage. Where are you?” While some of the headlines have a clear meaning when read alone, some make it necessary to read them together with the introduction of the news.

On the other hand, it has been observed that the newspaper covers the activities of the main opposition party CHP in the earthquake zone and uses a positive language in these news.

There is no background knowledge and context information in the news of the newspaper. When the people or institutions on which the news is based are considered, it is noteworthy that Sözcü newspaper has relied its news on the discourses of earthquake victims and expert opinion.

### Micro Analysis

In micro analysis, newspapers will be evaluated under the same title. It was detected that the newspapers applied similar strategies while giving earthquake news.

It has been observed that newspapers use the names of people in the news that convey the stories of those who were damaged by the earthquake. The reason of this is owing to the fact that personalized storytelling causes readers to show more interest in that story and empathize with the person mentioned.



Image 1: 8.2.2023 Sözcü



Image 2: 12.2.2023 Hürriyet



Image 3: 13.2.2023 Sabah



Image 4: 11.2.2023 Milliyet



Image 5: 13.2.2023 Akşam



Image 6: 13.2.2023 Posta

The pain of those who lost their loved ones is also conveyed in the news and the meaning is strengthened with the use of photographs that reveal the same feeling. While more positive expressions are preferred in the headlines and news entries, the photos of those who cry for their relatives make you feel the pain. The fact that women are the ones screaming and wailing evokes the relationship of a mother and a daughter.



Image 7: 08.02.2023 Akşam



Image 8: 13.02.2023 Milliyet

The disaster of the earthquake resulted in quite dramatic stories. The reality of the stories and the feelings they contain are enough to leave a strong impression on the readers. However, it has been detected that increasing the emotionality by using figures of speech in order to make the stories more dramatic than they are, is aimed in journalism. Thus, it is targeted to leave a greater impact on the reader, to attract the attention of the reader or to increase the memorability.



Image 9: 7 Şubat 2023 Sabah



Image 10: 10 Şubat 2023 Sözcü



Image 11: 10 Şubat 2023 Sabah



Image 12: 8 Şubat 2023 Sözcü

It is also seen that newspapers have established a relationship between politics and earthquake, either explicitly or implicitly. The messages given in the news featuring politicians are more concrete and free of emotions. However, when all the pages are examined, implicit messages have emerged. It is possible to say that the ideological structure of the newspaper and its relations with the government are effective in the tone of the emotional content in the news of the newspapers, in other words, the positive or negative emotions. In this context, while the media organs close to the government gave information about the positive actions of the government in the earthquake; It is witnessed that Sözcü newspaper, which publishes the oppositional views, touches on the issue of "construction amnesty" and regards the government as "criminal" in this aspect. Thus, it should be noted that the other issue that earthquake news focuses on, is politics.

It is seen that sometimes context information is included in the transfer of stories. It allows the readers to make a comparison by presenting what happened before and after the event. This feature reveals how 'terrifying' the truth is.



Image 13: 07.02.2023 Hürriyet



Van Dijk talks about the "ideological square" he developed in order to reveal the meanings of the mental processes of news text producers. What is meant by the ideological square is that the producers of the text make their own presentations in a positive way and the others in a negative way. In other words, they establish an opposition between "us and them" (Richardson, 2005, p. 53). It is clear that it does not create the opposition of "us and them" on the front pages of the newspapers. However, even though the earthquake is a natural disaster, the news emphasizes that there are some negligence, creates an opposition between the guilty and the victim, and especially the contractors who do not build in accordance with the regulations are "deviled".

In order to be able to increase the impact of the stories they convey, the newspapers allocated plenty of space to the photographs of the victims. The content was supported by the use of photographs while the pain experienced was being described. Highlighting the stories of children, who are in need of help and in need of protection in society, also makes this dramatic event more dramatic. For this reason, the images of children and babies removed from the wreckage were extensively used in the photographs.

The languages used in all the newspapers examined were simple and understandable. In the news that the newspapers highlight the pain, they aimed to help the society take action and give hope. It has been noticed that the discourse conveyed messages such as "The society is sensitive to the disaster and there is no situation that social unity and solidarity cannot overcome." or "Everyone is playing their parts."

### **Conclusion and Evaluation**

The study focuses on how emotional storytelling takes place in crisis journalism. In order to achieve this purpose, news about the earthquakes of February 6, 2023, as an example of crisis journalism, were analyzed with the use of critical discourse analysis. The reason why the Kahramanmaraş-centred earthquakes were chosen for the analysis is that they are the most striking and devastating earthquakes seen in Turkey since the 1939 Erzincan earthquake in terms of both their intensity and effects. Generally, emotional content seems to concentrate on two aspects of earthquake disaster. These are the grieving people who lost their loved ones and the promising people who survived the wreckage. The stories are mostly about the fear felt at the time of the earthquake, the loss of loved ones, and the joy of survivors.

The newspapers used various techniques in order to make emotions prominent and increase emotionality in earthquake news. In this context, the technique mostly preferred by the newspapers is to include the stories of those who suffered from the earthquake. However, it is seen that these stories are structured in a way that will guide the society not to the feeling of despair but to the struggle for life and hope. The fact that the photographs used by the newspapers are chosen in a way that reflects the pain and the joy also shows that the newspapers avoided creating 'pessimistic' content.

In addition to this, it has been noticed that newspapers undertook the role of providing and maintaining unity and solidarity in the society in this process. All of the newspapers made news emphasizing social assistance. Another technical feature detected in the news is the use of emotional expressions. These findings show how emotions take place in crisis journalism.

Having considered the findings, it is clearly noticed that the contents created by the newspapers so as to highlight the emotions, ensure social integration and direct the society to unity in the face of the disaster are similar in terms of the techniques they use.

In this study, which examines the 6 newspapers with the highest circulation, newspapers other than Sözcü, have a right-wing ideological view. Since Sözcü has a left-wing view, it displays an oppositional stance against the government. It has been seen that the ideological difference and the relationship with the government or other political actors and organs have an impact on both the outsourcing of the newspapers on which they base their news and the positive or negative emotions in their news.

This situation approves that crisis journalism, particularly the news about natural disasters, is not apolitical and contributes to the renewed debate on emotional turn and objectivity in journalism. Consequently, it is thought that the fact that the content provided by the journalists based on the experiences of people in the earthquake area and especially the content that is directly quoted includes "the pain experienced in reality" is not against objectivity, but when it comes to politics, the content in which emotion is included should be subjected to an objectivity filter.

Future research may be needed to focus on studies dealing with how different types of journalism involve emotions in Turkey, as well as giving importance to the emotional labor of journalists in the production process of stories.

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