

A STUDY ON THE INTERNATIONAL NEWS COVERAGE
IN THE U.S. MEDIA

By

HEUNGSEOK KOH

A THESIS

Submitted to
Michigan State University
in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree of

MASTER OF ARTS

Journalism

2012

ABSTRACT

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By

Heungseok Koh

This study aims to explore how U.S. news media represents international issues. This study examines how the Associated Press and the *New York Times* cover foreign events, and what and how many news sources they use. In addition, this study examines which country's news stories are more relevant to the U.S. For this purpose, the study examines 582 international stories, each of which had over 400 words and which collectively involved 3,204 news sources

This study found that intra-country issues were most frequently represented by the U.S. news outlets. In addition, main topics of foreign news stories were differently represented under three nation categories: core countries, semi-peripheral countries, and other countries. Second, with regard to the use of sources, this study finds that AP and the *New York Times* used government sources for 47.9 percent of their international news stories. AP depends more on official sources than on non-official sources, while the *New York Times* uses official and non-official news sources almost evenly. Last, results show that U.S. involvement was lower in news stories on core countries than in news stories on semi-peripheral and other country groups.

This study has limitations in terms of data sets and measurement of geographical origin. Nevertheless, this study helps expand mass communication theories and widens the understanding of international coverage. Moreover, this study suggests that there is need to more research about additional media outlets.

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To my family like my shadow
For the happiness and health of my family

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank Professor Eric Freedman, my thesis committee chairman, for support and guidance. I would also like to express appreciation for insightful comments and encouragement of my thesis committee members, Dr. Stephen Lacy and Dr. Folu Ogundimu. I will remember the reason why I am here is Dr. Frederick Fico, my advisor, you are here at MSU. Thank you, Dr. Fico.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Many news stories about the Middle East, the European Union, and China are covered by the media every day. When the uprising in Egypt in February 2011, many American media outlets extensively reported on the issue. Likewise, the great earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan in March and April of 2011 became highlights of international news coverage for several weeks. The current international conflicts in Afghanistan, Iran, and Syria are showing no signs of decline, and news about these issues is continually reported in the U.S. In fact, international news coverage by the U.S. media declined following the Cold War in the 1990s (Norris, 1995, 1997; Arnett, 1998). However, the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks have led to subsequent increases in the news coverage of foreign concerns, including anti-terrorism issues (Kim, 2002).

International conflict issues are frequently presented by the U.S. media because information from such coverage contains details that influence the U.S. In other words, certain international issues, such as those related to armed conflict or global environment problems, are more likely to be presented in the media than other events because of their newsworthiness. Newsworthy international events are verified by several determinants and basic factors, such as deviance, impact, level of interest, timeliness, proximity, and so on (Shoemaker, Chang, & Brendlinger, 1987; Shoemaker, Danielian, & Brendlinger, 1991).

Considering these factors, it is easy to understand how reports on world events exert direct and/or indirect influences on the U.S. in terms of political, economic, and

environmental issues. For example, the earthquake in Japan is directly related to its auto exports to the U.S. because Japan is one of its largest economic trading partners. The conflict between countries in the Middle East directly influences oil prices around the world, and oil price increases affect the economic situation in the U.S. As well, North Korea's nuclear policies and Iran's military practices also directly or indirectly affect policies on national security in the U.S.

Of the many world events that occur daily, only several issues become news. The procedure of determining which events become news is called news selection or news gatekeeping (Shoemaker & Reese, 1996). It means that newsrooms have general and unique criteria for news selection. Graber (2010) noted, for example, that news selection of international stories has stricter criteria than domestic events because of time and space restraints. Likewise, news selection of international news coverage depends on the relation of a certain country to the U.S. Therefore, it is possible that, to be represented in international media, foreign events must have a close relationships with the political, economic, or cultural concerns of the U.S. rather than other domestic events (Graber, 2010, p. 289).

As communication technologies are developed, international news stories are more likely to become distributed to a wider audience, and geographical and cultural obstacles to using news information do not seem to exist. Technological environments for news flow allow people to access information on foreign issues whenever and wherever they need to. A number of scholars, however, have pointed out that technological advancement is one reason for the decline of foreign news bureaus (Hachten & Scotton, 2007; Kim, 2002; Arnett, 1998; Norris, 1997). Given the current state of news consumerism, the public

generally obtains information through the Internet rather than from print media or cable TV, regardless of the news topic. Despite these observations, traditional news media, including wire agencies, still play a main role in the news industry. Internet portal news providers, such as *Google News* and *Yahoo News*, receive a substantial amount of news content from news agencies and major news organizations, including the Associated Press, the *New York Times*, *BBC*, *CNN*, and so on. Thus, traditional media including news agencies should still be considered important news providers to understand the overall attributes of international news coverage.

International events are initially reported by news agencies and/or a major news media that have foreign bureaus. Substantial information on foreign news is collected and sold by four major news agencies: AP, Reuters, Agence France-Presse (AFP), and ITAR-Tass (Graber, 2010). AP, AFP, and Reuters reporters are so-called initial gatekeepers (Graber, 2010). They make up a “news pool,” which includes almost all of the news gathered around the world. Other gatekeepers (e.g., major newscasters in individual countries) select reporters or find leads to pursue stories. Wire news coverage is widely considered as either well balanced or bland because of its varied selection of clients throughout the world. Instead of presenting wide political viewpoints, wire coverage provides a string of fast and adequate stories of current events (Graber, 2010).

With regard to the news content, numerous studies on foreign news coverage have found that Western media, including the U.S. media, are generally negative in their coverage of Third World countries (Igartua, Cheng, & Muniz, 2005; Fair & Parks, 2001; Atwood, 1987; Berkowitz, 1990; Jaehnig, Weaver, & Fico, 1981; Stone & Grusin, 1984). Such studies show that the presentation of international news depends on whether a

country is a core nation in the world system or merely a peripheral one (Galtung & Ruge, 1965; Chang, 1998). Another characteristic revealed by many studies is that only specific issues of international news events are mainly covered. In other words, while international news coverage is important and necessary in maintaining international relations, previous studies are limited by their focus on only specific issues, such as the war in Iraq (e.g., Carpenter, 2007; Luthe & Miller, 2005). Clearly, war issues are important in the news agenda, but an overall approach toward international issues is also an essential point of study.

This study of international news coverage makes two assumptions. First, foreign events are reported by the U.S. media in various ways based on certain attributes. Second, wire news agencies and major news outlets serve as initial gatekeepers and key news providers in terms of news selection of international issues.

Based on these assumptions, this study explores how U.S. news media represents international issues. Specifically, the study examines the key characteristics of international news stories based on the world-system and news flow framework, how much information is provided, and what news sources are used. Additionally, the study compares international news attributes in terms of the relevance of an issue to the U.S. through content analysis of a major U.S. newspaper (*New York Times*) and U.S.-based a wire news agency (*Associated Press*).

This study aims to expand the use of various theories of mass communication, such as agenda-setting theory and framing theory of international events, because news coverage is “selected” by editors (or via newsroom routines) of media outlets. The study has a practical implication for popular understanding of the news characteristics of U.S. media because

international news stories are analyzed to determine how news media reports on foreign events based on their specific attributes of source use and viewpoints.

CHAPTER II

II THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Gatekeeping in International News

The concept of a “gatekeeping model” suggested by Lewin states that news stories flowing in a channel are controlled by gatekeepers (Lewin, 1947, p.144). In the fields of journalism and mass communication, White (1950) explores the gatekeeping model in his research of newspapers and asserts that specific news selection patterns were controlled by a newspaper’s editors. Bass (1969) considers individuals as gatekeepers and added two major functions, namely, “news gatherers” and “news processors,” as double-action internal news flows (Bass, 1969). Although White (1950) and Bass (1969) focus on editors’ personal subjectivity when it comes to decision-making, Gieber (1964) argues that gatekeeping is not just an individual process involving editors. Similarly, Epstein (1973) and Dimmick (1974) find that the media owner’s ideology, media routines, and official sources could also affect editors and prevailing procedures related to news decision-making.

Gatekeeping is routine to the process of news selection in delivering the news. According to Shoemaker (1991) and Shoemaker and Vos (2009), five levels of analysis affect the gatekeeping (or news selection) process: the individual (e.g., characteristics of gatekeepers), communication routines level (e.g., judging newsworthiness), the organizational level (e.g., organizational socialization), the social institution level (e.g.,

markets, audience, advertisers, and government, etc.), and the social system level (e.g., social structure, ideology, and culture, etc.).

More specifically, the study by Shoemaker and Vos (2009) shows that news selection could be influenced by the personal preferences of a journalist; moreover, in terms of the routines at a working level, gatekeeping decisions are based on a pre-established and generalized set of practices in judging newsworthiness, including accuracy, appropriate length, visuals, human interest, novelty, negativity, conflict and violence, loss of lives, and timeliness. Berkowitz (1990, 1991) similarly indicated that television news was selected by media routines.

At the organizational level, news coverage is related to group's decision-making strategies by journalists and/or editors within news organizations (Shoemaker & Vos, 2009). Donohew (1967), Epstein (1973), and Larson (1979, 1984) similarly indicate that several factors, such as news editors' political viewpoints, media owners, and differences in budget allocations and bureaus, can influence coverage at the organizational level.

At the social institution level, Shoemaker and Vos (2009) point out that several factors shape the news, such as markets, audiences, advertisers, financial markets, sources, public relations, government, interest groups, other media, and news consultants. However, it is not always clear which factors are more important in the level of influence they exert on the news (Lee, 1997; Gandy, 1982; Sigal, 1973).

Finally, Shoemaker and Vos (2009) add social system, social structure, and ideology as factors influencing gatekeeping.

Therefore, gatekeeping could be understood as something that occurs at several levels of the media structure—from an individual reporter to a social system of external media, and

each level of gatekeeping has an independent influence on deciding what news is represented as their news information, regardless of national and international issues.

According to Graber (2010), news selection as a gatekeeping procedure depends on a news organization's norms. Specifically, five factors influence how newspeople choose stories: strong impact; violence/conflict/disaster/scandal; familiarity; proximity; and timeliness/novelty (Graber, 2010, p. 85-87). Among these, Graber (2010) points out that conflict, proximity, and timeliness are most important.

In sum, the gatekeeping process can be understood as a sort of news selection at the individual newspeople level; when they choose what is publishable, they generally comply with several criteria, such as newsworthiness. At the same time, gatekeeping could be affected by internal or external factors regardless of news media types (Shoemaker & Reese, 1996; Shoemaker & Vos, 2009). Moreover, international coverage is also affected by media routines during gatekeeping procedures. Therefore, it can be assumed that the international news coverage would be differently presented by gatekeeping procedures of different news outlet.

International News Flow

Some previous studies present implications in terms of theoretical frameworks on international coverage study. Prominent works that focused on international news depend on the study by Galtung and Ruge (1965), who explored the structure of foreign news, focusing on presentations about the Congo, Cuba, and Cyprus crises in four Norwegian newspapers. Based on the chain of news communication, the authors demonstrated that world events are perceived as media images with some distortion, and that these images

create the personal image through selective distortion occurring at each level of interpersonal relationship and collective perception (Galtung & Ruge, 1965). According to Galtung's (1971) study, the international system can be divided into spheres of central and peripheral countries; the core is composed of Western industrialized nations and the peripheral areas are the Third World countries. In line with Galtung's (1971) study, Rosengren (1977) investigates possibilities of foreign news' structure and finds that a nation's geographic size and population are positively related to a number of its news stories, but only in media units in some European countries and not in others.

In a similar context, Chang (1998) asserts that all countries are not presented equally in U.S. media. His study is based on the theoretical framework of world system and international communication viewed in terms of news flow. Chang's (1998) theoretical basis states that foreign and international events usually originate in one country; if they move from there to another country, the path is determined by some structural divide. Shannon (1996) also notes that geographical areas in the world system can be divided into core, peripheral, and semi-peripheral countries. Thus, according to this world system categorization (Galtung, 1971; Wallerstein, 1974; Shannon, 1996), certain news or issues containing stories about what core nations do toward semi-peripheral and/or peripheral countries would have an effect on news delivered in peripheral countries (Chang, 1998). Empirically, by exploring Reuter news coverage about the first four days of a WTO conference in 1996, Chang (1998) found network patterns in the way Reuter covers news in different countries. Regarding WTO coverage, several key nations, including the U.S., members of the European Union, Japan, and Canada, employed a news gateway approach to link core and other peripheral nations (Chang, 1998).

Chang, Shoemaker, and Brendlinger (1987) explored international news coverage by U.S. media to find the determinants of foreign news coverage, using several major news factors based on two theoretical and operational approaches.

First, they suggested the context-oriented perspective, which looks at the origin of foreign news and its relationships with contextual factors, such as economic relations, cultural similarity, political affiliation, social distance, and geographical proximity. The assumption behind this perspective is that foreign coverage is determined by the context—both national and international—in which news events occur (Chang, Shoemaker, & Brendlinger, 1987).

Second, the event-oriented approach suggests that, irrespective of such external factors, some characteristics inherent in foreign events, such as the degree of deviance and the negative nature of the events, tend to determine whether a foreign event would be covered in the mass media (Chang, Shoemaker, & Brendlinger, 1987).

In a study of the determinants of international news flow through meta-analysis, Wu (1998) tests the hypothesized determinants of international news flow and asserts that these factors can be divided into two broad categories; the gatekeeper perspective and the logistical perspective. The factors of the gatekeeper perspective include traditional newsworthiness, socio-cultural structure, and organizational constraints influence on international news flow. In contrast, logistical factors include the GNP of each nation, volume of trade, regionalism, population, geographic size, geographic proximity,

political/economic interests of host countries, “eliteness,”¹ communication resources and infrastructure, and cultural affinity (Wu, 1998).

In Hester’s (1971, 1974) studies of news flow into the U.S. via AP, he asserts that direct involvement of U.S. interests is a major criterion of newsworthiness for selecting international coverage. Many previous studies find that the economic, social, political, and geographic characteristics of a nation also determine the amount of coverage a country receives in the media outlets of another country (Galtung & Ruge, 1965; Hester, 1974; Ostgaard, 1965; Rosengren, 1974). These factors include GNP per capita, index of economic development, population or size of country, cultural and geographic proximity, former colonial ties, language, regionalism, elite status of a nation, and media infrastructure (Ahern, 1984; Chang, 1998; Galtung, 1971; Larson, 1984; Ostgaard, 1965).

¹ Wu (1998) explains that “eliteness” is one of the characteristics of a nation, indicating that there exists some sort of charisma associated with certain countries attracting foreign press’ attention.

CHAPTER III

LITERATURE REVIEW

This study is based on two major theoretical frameworks, gatekeeping at the hierarchical levels and international news flow in the world system. This chapter reviews studies about determinants of international news coverage and international news sources.

Determinants of International News Coverage

With regard to international news, Gans (1979) identifies seven of the most prevalent types of stories in U.S. traditional media: (a) U.S. actions abroad, including major wars and presidential visits; (b) foreign activities that affect the U.S.; (c) relations with totalitarian countries; (d) foreign elections and transfers of power; (e) major wars; (f) disasters with great loss of lives; and (g) oppression under dictators.

Several previous studies suggest that international news is dominated by crisis, conflict, and disaster (Lent, 1977). Specifically, Weaver and Wilhoit (1981) report that reliance of international news coverage on crisis and conflict domains increased from 14 percent in 1979 to 27 percent in 1981. According to Kirat and Weaver (1984), however, it declined to 12 percent in 1983. At the same time, the focus on conflict- and crisis- oriented coverage decreased of developing countries from 47 percent in 1979 to 28 percent in 1981 and down to 10 percent in 1983 (Wilhoit & Weaver, 1983).

Based on the studies of Weaver and Wilhoit (1981) and Wilhoit and Weaver (1983), which compare the foreign news coverage patterns of two media companies, news stories

about Third World countries are more related to violence, conflict, or fatal events. The study conducted in 1981 especially found that *AP* and United Press International (UPI) carried significantly more foreign news stories from less developed countries than the more developed countries in the two-week sample period; moreover, on average, coverage tended to be longer when they involved less developed countries than their more developed counterparts (Weaver & Wilhoit, 1981). With regard to story topic, the results of their research support the notion that Western news agencies do not report much about social and economic development as compared to political and military events (Weaver & Wilhoit, 1981). In their updated study in 1983, they demonstrated that about 60 percent of all newswire stories contain some form of violent conflict and related stories that are twice as likely to feature Third World countries compared with developed countries (Wilhoit & Weaver, 1983).

Whitney and Becker (1982) also find that the news copy carried by international newswires is similar to what is actually published in newspapers or those broadcast on television. The study by Kirat and Weaver (1985), which examines a decline in the proportion of crisis and conflict stories based on three newswires, namely, *AP*, *UPI*, and the Non-Aligned News Agencies Pool (NANAP), demonstrate similar results as those reported by Wilhoit and Weaver (1981).

With regard to determinants of news coverage, “deviance” is considered an important factor in evaluating newsworthiness (Golan, 2010; Chang & Lee, 2010; Shoemaker, Danielian, & Brendlinger, 1991; Chang, Shoemaker, & Brendlinger, 1987). For the deviance of news coverage, Chang, Shoemaker, and Brendlinger (1987) find that relevance to the U.S. and deviance of an event are the best predictors for U.S. media’s coverage of

international news. Chang and Lee (1992) note that threats to the U.S. and world peace, anticipated reader interest, timeliness, and U.S. involvement are all important factors as well. Shoemaker, Danielian, and Brendlinger (1991) examine the coverage of international events in the U.S. media in light of various conceptualizations of the constructed deviance. They argue that an assessment of deviance underlies many of the indicators of newsworthiness in international events coverage. For example, “social change deviance” interacted with the amount of economic aid the U.S. gives to event countries and “normative deviance” interacted with the number of U.S. businesses in event countries (Shoemaker, Danielian, & Brendlinger, 1991).

Wu (2000) demonstrates that the systemic factors influencing international news coverage include traits of nations (i.e., population and degree of press freedom), magnitude of interaction and relatedness among nations in terms of trade and shared language, and logistics of news gathering. With regards the geographic regions of foreign news, Beaudoin and Thorson (2001a) find that in terms of the rates of coverage given to foreign continents by the *Los Angeles Times*, Asian countries obtained 29 percent, those from the Middle East and Latin America obtained 15 percent each, countries from Western Europe gained 10 percent, and Russia obtained 9 percent share of the coverage. Their study is based on the concepts of “topic domains” and “frames.” Topic domains are divided into politics, government, environment, culture, science and technology, and so on. Researchers have determined “what topics are common” and “what types of news (good or bad, etc.) surface most often in foreign news coverage.” According to the study, the *Los Angeles Times* offered more context than expected, with its coverage focused heavily on Asian and Latin American affairs. This finding seems to reflect the high populations of Asians and

Latinos in its circulation area (Beaudoin & Thorson, 2001a). Another study by Beaudoin and Thorson (2001b) sufficiently suggests that the characteristics of international news topic are relevant to regional traits, including the foreign country's economic status.

In addition, international news usually focuses on certain issues, such as economic crises and political conflict (e.g. Hart, 1966; Goodman, 1999). Beaudoin and Thorson (2001b) also demonstrate an opposite relationship between the value of national power and a story's negativity, showing that positive values and conflict values are more common in two distinct clusters. Moreover, conflict value clusters appear more frequently in the developing world, such as the Middle East and Africa, than in the developed world (Beaudoin & Thorson, 2001b).

International News Sources

According to Shoemaker and Reese (1996), sources subtly influence news content by providing the context within which all other information is evaluated. A source becomes one major element for news framing when reporters tend to emphasize certain facts (Berkowitz & Beach, 1991). In the book *Reporters and Officials*, Sigal (1973) defines channels or news sources as the paths by which information reaches a reporter. Channels are classified into three categories: routine, informal, and enterprise.² According to his

² Informal channels include background briefings, leaks, non-governmental proceedings, news reports, and interviews with reporters from other news organizations. Enterprise channels are interviews conducted using a reporter's own initiative. These include spontaneous events, independent research involving quotes from books and statistical data, and the reporter's own conclusions or analysis. See Sigal, L. V. (1973). *Reporters and Officials: The Organization and Politics of News Making*. Toronto: D.C. Heath and Company, p. 120.

study, routine channels include four subcategories: 1) official proceedings, such as trials, legislative hearings and election tabulations; 2) press releases and reports monitored over official radio programs; 3) press conferences, including daily briefings by “official spokesmen” and broadcast interviews; and 4) non-spontaneous events, such as speeches, ceremonies, and staged demonstrations. Sigal (1973) also points out that 58.2 percent of information channels in the *New York Times* and *Washington Post* are routine. Similarly, after analyzing 175 stories comparing business crisis reports in the six major American newspapers (*Atlanta Journal*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Los Angeles Times*, *New York Times*, *Seattle Times*, and *Washington Post*), Powell and Self (2003) find that newspapers primarily rely on government sources while consumer sources are used sparingly. Gans (1979) also argues that public officials are the most frequent and regular sources due to their articulateness, reliability, availability, past suitability, and authoritativeness. Gans also stated that the general run of political news consists of major political parties, some minor ones, the spokespersons for the other groups likely to be affected by the story, and representatives of various positions found within the ideological spectrum (Gans, 1979).

Choi (2009) compared the period before and after the Iraq War,³ which began March in 2003 and occurred in 2003, in terms of foreign news quality and diversity. She found that in 2003, when the Iraq War was at its height, U.S. government sources were used for 21 percent of items in *New York Times* and 25 percent in the *Los Angeles Times*. Her study shows that the foreign news could increase after the Iraq War, even though it occurred outside the U.S., because these issues are more likely to be related to the U.S. media and

³ It seems that the Iraq War in this study was defined as the first invasion, “Operation Iraqi Freedom,” from March 20th to April 14th in 2003.

audience. She also asserts that newspapers inevitably rely on other official sources during a crisis, such as the Iraq War, because they have no alternative sources.

Robinson et al. (2009) tested the model of media performance in wartime United Kingdom's TV news and used the stories' actors and sources as independent variables. These two separate measures provide a meaningful assessment of the type of actors prioritized by different media outlets during the war and the airtime they received when directly quoted. Sources quoted in each story were identified and the length of quotations recorded. All factors were grouped into one of 14 main categories, such as coalition, expert, or antiwar: Using these measures, the authors assumed that actors were most successful at accessing media, illustrating the extent to which journalists achieved balance among competing sources.

Furthermore, Carpenter (2007) studied the international issue of U.S. elite and non-elite newspapers' portrayal of the Iraq War, focusing on a comparison of frames and source use, in which the use of frames and source types in both elite and non-elite newspaper stories about the Iraq War were examined. The author set up three main variables: newspaper types, news sources, and news frames. As an independent variable, the author separated two types, elite and non-elite newspapers. The author selected these based on circulation and geographically balanced distributions. Next, the author explained the news source categories of official/unofficial sources and whether military sources were included. In addition, the origin of news sources was defined as having local, national, or international origin and these categories were measured at the ratio level. To be considered a source variable, the source provider was identified with a verb of attribution, which referred to a statement of direct or indirect communication.

CHAPTER IV

HYPOTHESES AND RESEARCH QUESTIONS

This study begins with the issue of how U.S. news media organizations present foreign events. Using two main theoretical frameworks (gatekeeping in international news and international news flow under the world system) and a literature review of the determinants of international news coverage and news sources, it is clear that key points influence news selection and that the U.S. media depend more on official sources.

This study has two assumptions based on previous work. First, numerous international events occur daily, and as a result, some selected stories may be affected by certain underlying factors related to reporters and editors. Thus, international news coverage may be selected by news gatekeepers focused on the specific issue or event in a certain country that has high newsworthiness and/or relevance to political and economic matters in the U.S. Second, major U.S. media outlets tend to use varied sources to maintain balanced coverage as much as possible, and their pattern of source use would relate to the characteristics of the events being covered.

This chapter presents research questions based on the preceding discussion. Also, it presents related hypotheses based on the theoretical framework and the literature review.

International news topic

As noted previously, this study examines characteristics of foreign events presented by U.S. media. The study focuses on the relationship between news topics and the hierarchical

position of a nation; in other words, although many events have the potential to become news stories, only few selected events are presented in the media. In addition, each topic is selected differently and presented based on the international relations of a country to the U.S. Therefore, this study poses the first research question:

RQ1. What are the main topics of news stories about foreign countries presented in the U.S. media?

The study reviews some parts of the world system and news flow to formulate a detailed hypothesis. As noted by Chase-Dunn and Grimes (1995) and Chase-Dunn and Hall (1993), countries are categorized into three interactive spheres (core, semi-peripheral, and peripheral) in terms of political, economic, social, and cultural relations.

According to Chase-Dunn and Grimes (1995), “one of the most important structures of the current world-system is a power hierarchy between core and periphery in which powerful and wealthy ‘core’ societies dominate and exploit weak and poor ‘peripheral’ societies.” Between the core and the periphery lies an intermediate layer of countries referred to as semi-peripheral (Chase-Dunn & Grimes, 1995). Simply, so-called advanced or developed countries make up the core, while less developed countries are in the periphery (Chase-Dunn & Grimes, 1995).

In this study, each country presented in U.S. media is categorized using the world system concept; based on Chang’s (1998) study that all countries are assumed to be presented unequally in news coverage.

The detailed lists of the three types of countries (core, semi-periphery, and periphery) are based on previous studies (Barnett et al., 1996; Bollen, 1983; Smith & White, 1992; Snyder & Kick, 1979; Kim and Barnett, 1996). The core countries are the Western industrialized nations, such as members of the European Union, Japan, the U.S., and so on. Most African, Asian, and Latin American countries are then classified as peripheral. Semi-peripheral countries are defined as having relatively advanced economies compared with the peripheral countries.

Kim and Barnett (1996) find that eight networking-grouped countries are present in the international news flow, and that the news stories related to each country are presented differently in the media. While the multiple-network analysis of Kim and Barrett (1996) is based on the source centrality, this study focuses on the main topic of international news coverage in the U.S. news media. In other words, this study aims to find characteristics of international coverage of U.S. media by investigating how these media organizations represent other countries in relation to the world system categorization (i.e., core vs semi/peripheral countries).

This study assumes that news topics making up international news coverage by U.S. media are represented differently by the world system viewpoint. Some topics need to be more simply categorized in order to compare the main topic between the core and peripheral countries. Therefore, the following hypothesis is posited:

H1. International news coverage in the U.S. media differs among the core, semi-peripheral, and peripheral nations. In particular, the main topics about core nations are presented more frequently, focusing on economic and business, science, and

technology and human interest, while the main topics about semi-peripheral and peripheral nations focus on political conflict, military/defense, crime, and disasters.

News sources of international news

The use of sources is a fundamental part of making news (Tuchman, 1978); thus, the study of the relationship between news sources and issues has major implications. The news sources classified by source type are explored to provide insights on the stereotypes prevailing in U.S. media dependent on official sources. This study poses the second research question as follows:

RQ2. What types and how many sources are used for international news coverage in the U.S. media?

News sources influence news content by providing differently evaluated information (Shoemaker & Rees, 1996). Most news stories originate through routine channels, such as news conferences and press releases (Sigal, 1973). The study by Brown (1982) on the news sources and diversity investigating the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and four local newspapers published in North Carolina demonstrate that news stories by staff members and newswire companies depended on government sources (i.e., primarily men in executive positions).

Comparing the kind and number of sources of the newswire service and general newspapers, Fico (1984) asserts that the wire service reporters are more pressed in terms of

deadline and news product; thus, they rely more on a single source. Therefore, another hypothesis is as follows:

H2. International news coverage depends more heavily on official sources than unofficial sources.

Issue relevance and involvement of the U.S.

Some deviant variables of previous studies (e.g., Shoemaker, Danielian, & Brendlinger, 1991) about international news coverage can be understood as newsworthiness because people pay much attention to deviant events as basis for newsworthiness. The authors also indicated that U.S. involvement in an event would make it more newsworthy to U.S. media. Chang, Shoemaker, and Brendlinger (1987) tested “relevance to the U.S.” as an independent variable distinct from other variables, such as geographical distance and language affinity. In terms of cultural affinity, some scholars find that independent countries under formerly the same colonial group are more likely to cover each other (e.g., Atwood, 1985, Dupree, 1971, Skurnik, 1981, etc.). In line with prior studies, this study generates a third research question as follows:

RQ3. In terms of relevance to and involvement with the U.S., what are the differences in presentation in the U.S. media among nation groups?

The third research question focuses on the concept of “relevance.” Relevance to the U.S. has been measured with regards very different types. At the same time, many related

concepts have been tested by previous empirical studies. For example, Shoemaker, Danielian, and Brendlinger (1991) suggest three categories to define event characteristics: potential for social change deviance, normative deviance, and U.S. involvement. These concepts are more detailed than those presented in their previous study (Chang, Shoemaker, & Brendlinger, 1987). In line with this, Chang and Lee (2010) use the definition of deviance to explore international news determinants in the U.S. news media in the post-Cold War era.

With regards to the relationship between economic relevance and news coverage, Rosengren (1997) demonstrates that the volume of news coverage is positively related to economic trade among media outlets of Germany, the Netherlands, and the U.K. The study of Ahern (1984), which examines a U.S. newspaper, also supports previous results. Such results are also supported by previous and recent studies (Charles et al., 1979; Kariel & Rosenvall, 1984; Wu, 2000). It seems that the economic capacity of a nation is a key factor in considering economic relevance in international news flow, such that countries with higher GDP are more often represented in U.S. coverage (e.g., Ahern, 1984).

However, in their study of U.S. business magazines, Mayo and Pasadeos (1991) assert that the relationship between U.S. trade and international coverage is relatively weak. Wu (2007) also argues that national traits, such as the geographic size, GDP, population, and press freedom rating, are not systematically related to the quantity of coverage foreign nations receive in the U.S. media.

Therefore, this study categorizes such variables as “threatening to the U.S.” and “involvement with the U.S.” based on two previous studies (Shoemaker et al., 1987; Chang and Lee, 2010).

Thus, this study explores international news articles in the U.S. media, focusing particularly on varying degrees of relevance of foreign countries to the U.S. Specifically, even though various international events occur daily, some underlying factors influence on reporters and editors in selecting stories; these factors are called the gatekeeping or news selection procedures. In this framework, each country would be more likely to be represented differently by relevance to and/or involvement with the U.S. Therefore, with regards RQ3, the following hypothesis is tested:

H3. Involvement with the U.S. would be observed differently in international news stories in the U.S. media among the core, semi-peripheral, and peripheral countries.

CHAPTER V

RESEARCH METHOD

The research design of this study uses the content analysis method. Content analysis is a useful method, not only in testing hypotheses of message characteristics but also in describing news content (Riffe, Lacy & Fico, 2005). This chapter discusses detailed research methodological procedures, including those for sampling, data collection, and measurement of each variable.

Research object

This study selects two news organizations from among many U.S. news media outlets: The AP and *New York Times*. AP is the oldest and largest newswire service in U.S. The news collected by the AP is published and republished by more than 1,700 newspapers, in addition to more than 5,000 television and radio broadcasters (Graber, 2010). Approximately 3,700 AP editorials, communications, and administrative employees work at more than 300 locations worldwide.⁴

The *New York Times* was chosen because it is the leading elite national newspaper as well as one of the most-circulated newspapers with an immensely influential organization (Lee, Li, & Lee, 2011; Choi, 2009; Meraz, 2009; Winter & Eyal, 1981; Peterson, 1981). More importantly, according to Lacy, Fico, and Simon (1991), the *New York Times* is one of the best-balanced news outlets in the U.S., along with *Washington Post*, and others.

⁴See: <http://www.ap.org/pages/about/about.html> (accessed February 09, 2012)

Most of all, regarding inter-media agenda setting effects, these media outlets have a strong influence, and their news stories are reproduced by other media outlet throughout the world. As Graber (2010) notes, AP reporters are initial gatekeepers who find stories worldwide; in addition, these reporters work for a variety of clients throughout the world. AP news stories comprise an important news pool for other media reports and have the function of agenda setting. According to Atwater, Fico, and Pizante (1987), a high correlation exists between wire media and newspapers in terms of general news topics. Golan (2006) also demonstrates that significant correlations exist between the *New York Times* and evening television network news programs in the U.S. with regards to the international news agenda. This means that the international news stories broadcast on networks closely resemble the news agendas of the *New York Times*.

Sampling

This study focuses on the main topics, source usage, and an issue's relevance to the U.S. in international news coverage. Each news story is considered a unit of analysis. With regards to the term of news coverage, the most recent news stories are most suitable for the analysis, because this study does not intend to compare specific periods of foreign coverage. Therefore, only the most recent news items were selected from 2011 because news stories for at least one year were needed to represent the general characteristics of news media. In addition, the most efficient sampling period is two constructed weeks (Riffe, Lacy, & Fico, 2005; Riffe, Aust, & Lacy, 1993). With regard to the constructed week sampling method, Stempel (1952) found that two constructed weeks or about twelve days are sufficient to represent a year's contents. Several studies (Davis & Turner, 1951;

Jones & Carter, 1959) demonstrated similar results. One constructed week can adequately predict the population of six months of lead editorials, and two constructed weeks yield even better results (Riffe, Aust, & Lacy, 1993). According to Riffe, Lacy, and Fico (2005), in the case of a year of daily newspapers, the efficient sampling period for inferring content is two constructed weeks (fourteen days) from that year. Thus, this study adopted two constructed weeks of sample stories as the data collection period.

The sampling process is detailed as follows: Using constructed two-week samples, the two weeks (fourteen days) were first set up, and each month was randomly distributed by each day and week. The selected months and days were January 7 (Fri); February 27 (Sun); March 14 (Mon); April 19 (The); May 5 (Thu); June 11 (Sat); June 22 (Wed); July 6 (Wed); August 16 (Tue); September 17 (Sat); October 27 (Thu); November 4 (Fri); November 27 (Sun); and December 12 (Mon) (See Table1).

Table 1 Sample days

1st week	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Month (1~6)	March	April	June	May	January	June	February
Day	14	19	22	5	7	11	27
2nd week	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Month (7~12)	December	August	July	October	November	September	November
Day	12	16	6	27	4	17	27

Next, based on the selected days, news stories were retrieved from the *LexisNexis* online archive from the specified section and using key words, such as “international” or “foreign.” News stories were defined as all non-advertising materials except brief news, editorial columns, and reader opinion. In addition, this study defined news coverage as longer than 400 words to analyze more investigative stories, in terms of the concept of relevance with the U.S. Thus, total news stories were 651, with 453 from AP and 198 from the *New York Times*.

Coding procedures

For data coding, two graduate students at the College of Communication Arts and Sciences at Michigan State University were recruited as coders. The researcher explained all coding guidelines to the coders before the data were coded. First, about 10 percent of the sample articles (sixty stories) were randomly selected to analyze for intercoder reliability. Intercoder reliability was measured using *Cohen’s kappa* computation, adhering to the higher than .80 agreement. In case of low intercoder reliability, the researcher re-trains the coders and revises the coding scheme if it had an ambiguous category. Finalized average of intercoder reliability was 0.87 (*Cohen’s Kappa*) and it was acceptable.⁵

This study defined the articles and excluded irrelevant articles, such as editorials, letters to the editor, classified ads, “Q&A” articles, opinion pieces, obituaries, and correction notices, to ensure validity. All data coding were independently handled.

⁵ Detailed intercoder reliability is as follow: ‘main topic’ was 0.90, ‘source type’ was 0.82, ‘source numbers’ was 0.83, and the degree of ‘relevance’ was 0.92.

Measurements

Topic category Some earlier studies divided international news topics into many detailed categories, such as military defense; foreign relations; domestic government-related politics; crime, justice and terrorism; economy and business; human interest features; disasters (ten or more deaths); prominent persons; sports; race relations; art, culture and entertainment; education; labor; agriculture and fisheries; accidents (fewer than ten deaths); religion; science, health and medicine; and miscellaneous (Hester, 1973, 1978; Weaver, Porter, & Evans, 1984). In contrast, Galtung and Ruge (1965) classify news stories into only four types: economic, political, social, and cultural based on the main focus.

International news seems to be operationalized by research goals. For example, Choi (2009) investigated diversity in foreign news in U.S. newspapers before and after the Iraq War and found that main topics divided into nine categories: politics; military/defense; economics; international/aid; social services/public health; crime/police/judicial/legal matters; disaster/accident; personalities/culture/ecology/religion; and others. In addition, themes classified within military/defense news were placed in seven sub-categories: nuclear arms; politics independence/rebel; religious/ethnic conflict; terrorism; peace moves/negotiation; war in Iraq; and others.

The goal of this study is to explore the characteristics of U.S. media, with a focus on international news coverage. Therefore, extensively detailed categories are not appropriate. Thus, the main topic of each story is measured by “news title” (lead and sub-lead) and the first three paragraphs. If the story includes several topics, the most dominant was chosen. The categories of main topics are as follows:

- (a) **Intra-country political issue:** An issue related to countries' internal issues, such as general election, local protest, and so on
- (b) **Military defense:** An issue related to the armed conflict in between states, such as nuclear arms, terrorism, peace move/negotiation, war, and so on
- (c) **Crime and judicial matters:** An issue related to criminal (sexual matters, drugs, spying etc.) events, and so on
- (d) **Disasters and accidents:** An issue related to earthquakes, tsunamis, explosions of nuclear power plants, and so on
- (e) **Economy and business:** An issue related to economic problems, such as financial crisis, international oil prices, and so on
- (f) **Public services:** An issue related to social services, public health, education, new technology innovations, social services, , and so on
- (g) **Others:** Topics which are not included above categories

Geographic origin The variable of geographic origin is measured using two steps. First, coders placed the name of the country appearing in the headline or first two paragraphs in the coding sheet. Next, each country was coded as 1 (core countries), 2 (semi-peripheral countries), or 3 (other countries) based on the world system concept (Galtung & Ruge, 1965; Wallerstein, 1974; Chase-Dunn & Grimes, 1995) and amount of trade (export and

import) with the U.S. in 2011.⁶ Previously, detailed lists of each category were provided to the coders to ensure more accurate coding

A core country can be defined as a country with greater economic and political/military power, such as the U.S., members of the European Union, and Japan. In contrast, peripheral countries are defined as less developed countries that are economically poor; most countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America are peripheral (Chase-Dunn & Grimes, 1995). A semi-peripheral country is defined as a country with large economic/geographic size but not a dominant power in international trade, such as Brazil, Mexico, India, South Korea, and Taiwan (Chase-Dunn & Grimes, 1995). Additionally, this study includes an economic factor, the amount of import and export trade with the U.S. in 2011. It makes clear geographic category and helps to consider most recent data classifying the geographic origin of international coverage. The detailed country list follows:

- (a) **Core countries:** United Kingdom, Germany, France, Canada, Netherlands, Italy, Japan
- (b) **Semi-peripheral countries:** China, Mexico South Korea, Brazil, Saudi Arabia, India, Taiwan
- (c) **Other countries**

News source News sources are conceived conceptually as comprising specific information, a firsthand document, or primary reference work (Fico, 1984; Freedman &

⁶ The source comes from U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Foreign Trade. <http://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/statistics/highlights/topcurmon.html> (accessed February 09, 2012)

Fico, 2005). News sources are important, especially with regard to the relationship between news content and sources. For example, a journalist's personal judgment about source use affects controversial news content (Powers & Fico, 1994; Cozma, 2006). Lee and Koh (2010) divide news sources into eight types: Experts; Judicature; Administration; Parliament; NGOs; Business; Citizens; and Others. McCombs, Lopez-Escoba, and Llamas (2000), Detjen, Fico, and Kim (2000), and Yoon (2005) use similar source categories.

Operationally, news sources are defined as persons, publications, or other recorded documents that provide reliable information. News sources come in different forms, such as government officials, professors, ordinary people, and so on. These are measured by the number of people or documents that are quoted or paraphrased in the story. Repeated sources are counted as only one.

- (a) **Government official:** Government persons or documents coming from officials
- (b) **International institution:** International organizations, such as the United Nations (UN), World Trade Organization (WTO), Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), International Monetary Fund (IMF), Organization Economic Cooperation and Development) OECD, and so on.
- (c) **Experts:** Professional and independent persons who are not affiliated with government and/or certain business groups (e.g., professors, economists, researchers, journalists, columnists, and so on)
- (d) **NGO:** Nongovernmental organizations and nonprofit organizations such as Greenpeace, UNICEF, Amnesty International, and others

- (e) **Business sector:** Business members and/or documents belonging to industry, trade organizations, or business-related associations; individuals affiliated with trade organizations
- (f) **Citizens:** Ordinary people who are not included in the previous categories
- (g) **Others:** Not included in the categories listed above (e.g., critic, cleric, pilgrim, Hamas, and Hezbollah, etc)

Relevance In studies about the determinants of international coverage, Chang, Shoemaker, and Brendlinger (1987) measured relevance to the U.S. as a dichotomous variable (0/1) based on involvement or noninvolvement of the U.S. in the story. They refer to the study of Galtung and Ruge (1965), which relates “relevance” to elite nations, elite people, persons, or something negative. Hicks and Gordon (1974) similarly consider the involvement of nations in the news coverage as akin to ethnocentrism.

In a study by Shoemaker, Danielian, and Brendlinger (1991), international news events are assessed as being more newsworthy than events that are not covered. In addition, Chang, Shoemaker, and Brendlinger (1987) use seven deviance variables, “potential for social change”; “normative deviance”; “relevance to U.S.”; “geographical distance”; “language affinity”; “press freedom”; and “economic system”, as independent variables. The selection of these variables represents several dimensions underlying some of the influencing factors mentioned previously. Shoemaker and her colleagues seem to have conceptualized normative deviance and potential for social change as key factors determining international news coverage (Shoemaker, Danielian, & Brendlinger, 1991; Chang, Shoemaker, & Brendlinger, 1987; Shoemaker, Chang, & Brendlinger, 1986).

However, Golan (2010) argues that these operational definitions are likely to result in error because “they are very subjective and require a high degree of expertise concerning international politics from the coders.” Golan (2010) operationalizes the definition of “deviance” as the level of instability in a nation based on the international conflict report published by the National Defense Council Foundation (1999). His study uses the definition of deviance by separating “relevance to the U.S.” and “cultural affinity” as main independent variables, among others (Golan, 2010). Golan operationally conceptualizes relevance to the U.S. using four detailed measurements: (1) trade with the U.S. (i.e., the sum of imports from and exports to the U.S.); (2) physical geographic distance from the U.S.; (3) foreign aid from the U.S. (i.e., the total amount of U.S. military and economic aid); and (4) U.S. private investment in a nation (i.e., the total amount dollars that U.S. residents invested in the nation).

These studies are different from one another in terms of the purpose of research. Moreover, they used different units of analysis. In other words, Golan (2010) dealt with the country as a unit of analysis focused on the relationship of national characteristics, while Shoemaker et al. (1991) examined international news based on the event characteristics. Thus, the units of analysis used by Shoemaker et al. (1991) represent each event in the news story.

In sum, relevance can be conceived as a certain relationship between two or more countries. It may be defined as whether the issues have relevance to the U.S. in terms of political, economic, and cultural aspects. The concept of relevance of international news story needs to be considered with regard to both event characteristics and country characteristics. However, this study focuses on the characteristics of international news

coverage in the U.S.; thus relevance can be measured using the degree of involvement with the U.S. based on earlier studies (Chang & Lee, 2010; Shoemaker, Danielian, & Brendlinger, 1991).

Specifically, relevance is measured by the degree of involved relevance. The degree of involved relevance is defined as relevant to the interest of the U.S. This variable is measured by four point-scales. The scales are as follows: (1) no involvement (if the U.S. is not mentioned in a story); (2) low involvement (if the U.S. initially appeared after the third paragraph in a story); (3) high involvement (if the U.S. appeared in the first three paragraphs in a story); and (4) very high involvement (if the U.S. appeared in the headline or news lead).

CHAPTER VI

RESULTS

Descriptive results

In this study, two representative U.S. news organizations; AP and the *New York Times*, were analyzed. There were 582 stories selected as news data from a constructed two-week sampling. AP stories accounted for 386, while those from the *New York Times* accounted for 196. In the stories, 3,204 news sources were identified.

The results showed that in 2011, these two major U.S. media outlets reported about ninety-five country-related issues that included global events closely related to the U.S. and the United Nations (See Appendix 4). Besides, 51.6 percent of all stories concentrated on thirteen countries (See Table 2).

Most frequently reported countries were Libya, the United Kingdom, Afghanistan, China, Japan, and Pakistan. There were forty news stories, accounting for 6.9 percent of the total, involving Libya. The stories on Libya focused on the intra-country political conflict involving President Qaddafi and anti-government riots. The next frequently reported country was the United Kingdom with thirty-four stories accounting for 5.8 percent of the total. The news coverage about the United Kingdom included theme, such as military defense, economic and business, and public service. The country that accounted for the next largest foreign news coverage in the U.S. media was Afghanistan with twenty-nine stories accounting for 5.0 percent of the total. These stories closely related to the U.S.

military defense issue. Likewise, the foreign news coverage of Pakistan, Syria, and Iraq focused on U.S. security.

Among other Asia countries, China was the most frequently reported in the U.S. media outlets with twenty-five stories accounting for 4.3 percent of the total. They related to economic and business issues, as well as conflicts with other countries. With regard to Japan, news about it mostly centered on problems involving its nuclear power plant caused by a tsunami that hit the country in March 2011.

Table 2

The list of most frequently reported countries in two major U.S. news outlets in 2011

No	Nation	Reported stories	Percent	Cumulative Percent
1	Libya	40	6.9	6.9
2	UK	34	5.8	12.7
3	Afghanistan	29	5.0	17.7
4	China	25	4.3	22.0
5	Japan	24	4.1	26.1
6	Pakistan	24	4.1	30.3
7	Israel	22	3.8	34.0
8	Syria	19	3.3	37.3
9	Iraq	18	3.1	40.4
10	Egypt	17	2.9	43.3
11	Mexico	17	2.9	46.2
12	Russia	16	2.7	49.0
13	Iran	15	2.6	51.6
...	...	...	...	...
Total story		582	100.0	100.0

Many countries, regardless of the volume of their trade with the U.S., were reported about two to five times in the two major U.S. media outlets. For example, news on Poland,

Haiti, Ivory Coast, Colombia, Malaysia, Congo, and Thailand involved inter-country political matters. News on Ireland, Hungary, and a few others involved public service issues.

Stories on global issues were reported four times (0.7 percent of the total), of which two stories (0.3 percent of the total) related to the United Nations. There were fourteen news stories, accounting for 2.4 percent of the total, on the U.S. reported in the international section of the media outlets. Moreover, several other countries were each covered in two to five news stories, some of which had headlines using the words Africa, Arab, Asia, etc. There were five stories, accounting for 0.9 percent of the total, on Africa.

Geographic origin of news story

Dividing the country category into sub-categories of core countries, semi-peripheral countries, and others, results of the study showed that news stories were reported ninety-two, sixty-six, and 397 times, respectively (See Table 3). In other words, ninety-two stories, accounting for 15.8 percent of the total, involved core-country issues. There were sixty-six stories, accounting for 11.3 percent of the total, on semi-peripheral countries. Foreign news stories involving the “other country” group accounted for 68.2 percent of the total. Stories on the United Nations, the United States, and other global issues accounted for 4.6 percent of the total.

Table 3

The number of news story on each country group

Country groups	Frequency	Percent
Core countries	92	15.8
Semi-peripheral	66	11.3
Other countries	397	68.2
World Issue	27	4.6
Total	582	100.0

Main topic of international news coverage

With regard to the main topic of foreign news, results for the two U.S. media outlets were similar. Intra-country issues were reported in 204 news stories, accounting for 52.8 percent of the total of 386 stories, by AP. The second most frequently reported issue was military defense, accounting for 14.5 percent of the total foreign news stories by AP (See Table 4). In the *New York Times*, intra-country issues accounted for about 49.5 percent of the total 196 foreign news stories. The *New York Times* also covered foreign news stories related to U.S. military defense, which accounted for about 20 percent of its international news stories in 2011 (See Table 4). The public service issue was similarly reported by AP (10.4 percent) and the *New York Times* (8.7 percent).

Table 4

Main topic of news stories

	News outlet		Total
	AP	<i>New York Times</i>	
Intra-country issue	204	97	301
	52.8%	49.5%	51.7%
Military defense	56	39	95
	14.5%	19.9%	16.3%
Crime/judicial matters	36	5	41
	9.3%	2.6%	7.0%
Disasters/accident	18	17	35
	4.7%	8.7%	6.0%
Economy/business	20	18	38
	5.2%	9.2%	6.5%
Public services	40	17	57
	10.4%	8.7%	9.8%
Others	12	3	15
	3.1%	1.5%	2.6%
Total	386	196	582
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

With regard to the first research question, this study finds that the main topics of foreign news stories were divided into three national categories: core countries, semi-peripheral countries, and other countries

This study compares eight main topic categories by issue countries to test the first hypothesis: International news coverage in the U.S. media differs among the core, semi-

peripheral, and other countries. Results of the analysis of the main topic and geographic origin of news coverage using the Chi-square method showed a statistically significant difference in coverage involving the three categories (Chi-Square=190.50, df=18, p<.001).

Table 5

Main topic by geographic origin of news coverage

	Geographic origin of news coverage				Total
	Core countries	Semi-peripheral	Other countries	Around World	
Intra-country issue	29	28	243	1	301
	31.5%	42.4%	61.2%	3.7%	51.7%
Military defense	7	2	77	9	95
	7.6%	3.0%	19.4%	33.3%	16.3%
Crime/judicial matters	6	13	20	2	41
	6.5%	19.7%	5.0%	7.4%	7.0%
Disasters/accident	24	4	6	1	35
	26.1%	6.1%	1.5%	3.7%	6.0%
Economy/business	11	4	16	7	38
	12.0%	6.1%	4.0%	25.9%	6.5%
Public services	14	14	22	7	57
	15.2%	21.2%	5.5%	25.9%	9.8%
Others	1	1	13	0	15
	1.1%	1.5%	3.3%	.0%	2.6%
Total	92	71	392	27	582
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Pearson Chi-Square=190.50, df=18, p<.001

The most frequently reported topic under the core country category was intra-country issue (31.5 percent). Disasters and accident issues were reported about 26.1 percent in the U.S. foreign news coverage. Economic (12.0 percent) and public service issues (15.2 percent) also were frequently reported. With regard to semi-peripheral countries, about 42.4 percent of stories on them were intra-country issues. Stories on public service accounted for 21.2 percent of the total. Crime and judicial matters were also frequently reported (19.7 percent). Stories under the “other countries” category were focused on the intra-country issue (61.2 percent) and military defense issue (19.4 percent). Global issues reported in the U.S. media organizations were military defense, world economic crisis, and public service.

News sources of international news coverage

In this study, a total of 3,204 sources for the two news outlets were identified. Among them, 2,012 news sources were identified in the 386 stories by AP, and 1,192 news sources were found in 196 stories by the *New York Times*. All news sources were analyzed in terms of seven source categories and categorized either as official or non-official sources.

Results showed that the two U.S. media outlets used 5.5 sources on average for each foreign news story. The means of source use per story were 5.22 for AP and 6.09 for the *New York Times* for their international news stories.

Table 6

Number of news sources

		News outlet		Total
		AP	<i>New York Times</i>	
News story		386	196	582
News sources		2,012	1,192	3,204
Source use per story	Mean	5.22	6.09	5.52
	Std. Deviation	2.88	2.97	2.94

The second research question is whether news stories used official sources more than unofficial sources. Also, the second hypothesis of this study is: International news coverage depends more heavily on official sources than on unofficial sources.

Results showed that 47.9 percent of the stories by AP and the *New York Times* used government sources (43.9 percent of stories by AP and 45.6 percent of stories by the *New York Times*). They also tapped experts, such as professors, analysts, and researchers, in 19.3 percent of their stories, as sources. Common people sources were used in 13.7 percent of the stories (13.2 percent for AP and 14.4 percent for the *New York Times*). There is a statistically significant difference in the use of source between AP and the *New York Times* (Chi-Square=33.19, df=6, $p<.001$). Especially, the type of citizen sources is the third large portion next to government and experts sources.

Table 7

Source use by media outlets

	Media outlet		Total
	AP	<i>New York Times</i>	
Government	992	544	1536
	49.3%	45.6%	47.9%
International institution	135	43	178
	6.7%	3.6%	5.6%
Expert	351	266	617
	17.4%	22.3%	19.3%
NGO	110	75	185
	5.5%	6.3%	5.8%
Business sector	44	41	85
	2.2%	3.4%	2.7%
Citizen	266	172	438
	13.2%	14.4%	13.7%
Others	114	51	165
	5.7%	4.3%	5.1%
Total	2012	1192	3204
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Pearson Chi-Square=33.19, df=6, p<.001

Results showed that on one hand, AP depended more on official sources, which accounted for 56 percent of its stories, than on non-official sources, which accounted for the balance of 44 percent. On the other hand, the use by the *New York Times* of official

sources (49.2 percent) and non-official sources (50.8 percent) was almost balanced. The difference in the use of official and non-official sources by AP and the *New York Times* was statistically significant (Chi-Square=13.79, df=1, $p<.001$).

Table 8

Difference source use between official and non-official source

Source type	Media outlet		Total
	AP	<i>New York Times</i>	
Official source	1127	587	1714
	56.0%	49.2%	53.5%
Non official source	885	605	1490
	44.0%	50.8%	46.5%
Total	2012	1192	3204
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Pearson Chi-Square=13.79, df=1, $p<.001$

Involvement in the news story

The third research question is on the degree of U.S. involvement in foreign news coverage and the third hypothesis is: there is a high degree of U.S. involvement in foreign news coverage of the U.S. media organizations. Involvement was measured based on a four-point ratio scale ranging from 0 ('no involvement') to 4 ('very high involvement').

Results of the one-way ANOVA (analysis of variable) based on the categorized geographic origin showed that stories by AP and the *New York Times* on core countries

involved the U.S. the least (Mean=1.4, SD=.79). News stories on semi-peripheral countries and other countries involved the U.S. more than stories on core nations. Results further showed that involvement of the United States in stories on semi-peripheral countries got a score of 1.67 points based on the use of the word “U.S.” and other related terms, such as “America(n).”

The degree of involvement of the United States in foreign news coverage of other country group’s issues registered the highest score (Mean=1.84, SD=1.05). Involvement of the United States in stories on core countries had the lowest score (Mean=1.40, SD=.79). The score for semi-peripheral countries was 1.67 points, while that for other countries was 1.84 points. Therefore, there was a statistically significant difference among country groups ($F=7.367$, $df=2$, $p=.001$) in terms of U.S. involvement in the news stories. Based on the results of the analysis, the third hypothesis of this study cannot be accepted. This is because the assumption was that U.S. involvement in core-country news stories would be higher than in “other country” news stories.

Table 9

ANOVA test on involvement among country groups⁷

	N	Mean	SD	SE	df	F	Sig.
Core countries	92	1.40	.79	.08	2	7.367***	.001
Semi-peripheral	66	1.67	1.09	.13			
Other countries	397	1.84	1.05	.05			

* $p \leq .05$, ** $p \leq .01$, *** $p \leq .001$

⁷ Analyzing ANOVA test, 27 stories about the around world were excluded to more simply compare between each country group.

In addition, results of the post-hoc tests, through the Tukey B^{a,b}, showed that the involvement of the U.S. was significantly different among three groups: core countries, other countries, and around the world. However, no statistically significant difference was found between core countries and semi-peripheral countries, and between semi-peripheral countries and other countries.

Table 10

Post-hoc test on the degree of involvement

Country	N	Subset for alpha = 0.05	
		1	2
Core countries	92	1.40	
Semi-peripheral	66	1.67	1.67
Other countries	397		1.84

Summary of research questions and hypotheses test results

This study has three research questions and three hypotheses focusing on the international news coverage by U.S. media outlets. To achieve the research objective, two U.S. news outlets, AP and the *New York Times*, were selected as the subjects of research. For this study, 582 international news stories were collected based on the two constructed weeks sampling method. Moreover, 3,204 news sources used in the stories were analyzed.

With regard to the first research question, this study finds that the main topics of foreign news stories fell under three national categories: core countries, semi-peripheral countries, and other countries. Stories on core countries were concentrated on several topic categories: intra-country issue, disaster matter, economic issues, and public services matters. Half of

the stories on semi-peripheral countries focused on intra-country issues, while the other half focused on criminal and judicial issues. Stories under the “other country” group were slanted towards intra-country issues. Stories on the “other country” group featured the issue of military defense more than stories on the core country and semi-peripheral country groups did. Nations of “other country group” were more frequently featured in military defense stories than any other group. Moreover, there is a statistically significant difference among the three country groups in terms of frequency of main topics in international news coverage by U.S. media outlets. Moreover, the frequency of international news coverage’s main topics in the U.S. media is statistically significant difference among three country groups. Therefore, the first hypothesis is supported.

With regard to the second research question, this study finds that AP and the *New York Times* used government sources in 47.9 percent of their international news stories. Moreover, this study found that there is a statistically significant difference between AP and the *New York Times* in terms of use of official and non-official sources. Results showed that AP depended more on official sources than on non-official sources, while the New York Times used official and non-official sources almost evenly. Therefore, the second hypothesis also is supported.

To answer the third research questions, the degree of involvement of the U.S. in news stories was analyzed through the one-way ANOVA. Results showed that stories on core countries recorded the lowest U.S. involvement. On the other hand, stories on semi-peripheral countries and other countries involved the U.S. more than stories on core nations did. The difference in U.S. involvement in stories under the three categories was statistically significant. However, hypothesis 3: Involvement with the U.S. would be

observed differently in international stories in the U.S. media among the core, semi-peripheral, and peripheral countries, cannot be accepted because the assumption was that the core country group would show higher U.S. involvement than the two other groups.

CHAPTER VII

DISCUSSION

This study explores how U.S. media outlets represent foreign events. In terms of their international news coverage, this study focuses on these general aspects: main topics, source use, and U.S. involvement in the news stories. This study has three research questions and relevant hypotheses.

International news topic

The findings of this study indicate specific empirical evidence about foreign news coverage by the U.S. media outlets by showing the characteristics of main topic and source use. Specifically, this study found that international news coverage by the U.S. media outlets commonly featured intra-country issues regardless of a country's economic and political ties with the U.S. However, in the case of core countries, public service issues and disasters were frequently reported than other issues. Criminal justice issues were mainly found in more stories on semi-peripheral countries, and military defense issues were frequently reported in news stories on other countries.

Disaster-related matters were frequently featured in news stories on core countries. This may be due to the fact that the Tohoku earthquake and the tsunami, which occurred in the east coast of Japan in March 2011, caused disruption in nuclear power plants that posed threats to other countries. Tsunamis and nuclear accidents had been reported continually and with prominence in U.S. media for several weeks.

The crime and judicial stories on semi-peripheral countries focused on immigration matters and drug smuggling in Mexico. Many intra-country issues in China and South Korea also were reported. International news stories under the other countries group involved African and Middle Eastern countries. A number of stories, about 80.4 percent, were related to intra-country and military defense issues. Examples are the uprising in Libya and military conflict between protestors and the Syrian government, both of which had prominence in the news coverage of U.S. news outlets.

The topics featured in media were based on the criteria for newsworthiness as determined by news editors. Shoemaker, Danielian, and Brendlinger (1991), who studied the newsworthiness of world events, point out that represented news is highly related to the deviance level and social significance level of the events. In addition, they argue that political and economic significance to the U.S. are more likely to be covered by the media. Likewise, specific determinants, such as normative deviance of an event, relevance to the U.S., and potential for social change could be considered important variables for news coverage (Chang et al., 1987). In relation to these assertions, results of this study make it safe to assume that events in peripheral countries could more likely be reported by the U.S. media if the events are highly deviant, such as protest riots. Because this study divides the country category based on the world system and amount of economic trade with the U.S., the criteria potentially includes the degree of economic relevance with the U.S. In other words, the core country group is more relevant to the U.S. than the semi-peripheral country group and the other country group. Nevertheless, the score for U.S. involvement in international news stories is highest in the “other country group.” This result may be interpreted as saying that determinants or kinds of newsworthiness could be better

understood using detailed sub-dimensions. For example, Canada, a core country, is especially close to the U.S. in economic, cultural, and geographic terms. However, there were no news stories on Canada in the sample, whether positive or negative. On the other hand, peripheral countries like Libya and Syria, which are relevant to the U.S. in economic and cultural aspects, were frequently featured even if issues on them did not involve the U.S. Therefore, results showed the need for future study on detailed sub-dimensions of newsworthiness or international news determinants.

News sources of international coverage

All media outlets might not have sufficient number of correspondents. Also, they do not have enough time and space to report all events. Therefore, news articles, including those involving international issues, are assumed to be prepared using limited resources.

With regard to sources used in foreign news coverage, results of this study confirm those of a number of previous studies (e.g., Sigal, 1973) pointing to the dependence of news outlets on official sources. In AP, frequency of the use of official and non-official sources is different. In the *New York Times*, the frequency of the use of official sources is almost the same as that of non-official sources. Comparing domestic and foreign stories, it seems that journalists are able to access a greater variety sources for domestic coverage than to report foreign news because of the limitations of news bureaus. Results showed, however, that the *New York Times* used official sources almost as frequently as it used non-official sources. Many of the non-official sources tapped by the *New York Times* were experts and common people. In addition, this means the *New York Times* had more diverse

news sources.⁸ This is an advantage because stories based only on a single source may prompt audience to question news credibility (Voakes, Kapfer, Kurpius, & Chem, 1996). Thus, there is a potential problem of heavy dependence on a single official source, even if the source normally should be credible among an audience. That is because in journalism, truth is more likely to be distorted if news comes only from one source. For instance, after the September 11 attacks in 2001, U.S. journalism underwent a noticeable change as media outlets, in their expression of “patriotic fervor” and inclination to rally behind government sources, presented more of the U.S. government’s negative frames on Middle East violence and terrorism (Aday, Livingston, & Hebert, 2005; Ross & Bantimaroudis, 2006).

Relating the news story and its sources, Lacy, Fico, and Simon (1991) point out that “fairness and balance are the heart of journalistic concerns about the social responsibility, the professional performance and the public credibility of the press.” In addition, news source diversity increases credibility, especially, when involving disasters like hurricanes (Cozma, 2006). In other words, stories with multiple sources are perceived as more credible than single-sourced stories. For this reason, this study finds that the *New York Times* complies with the journalism criteria well. Compared with the *New York Times*, AP depends more on official than non-official sources given its nature as a news wire service. Because wire services have to provide a number of stories fast, they cannot avoid depending heavily on official sources (Graber, 2010).

Issue relevance and involvement

⁸ A total number of stories using single source in this study are fourteen. AP is eleven and the *New York Times* is 3. All of these stories use single official source.

With regard to the involvement with the U.S., Martin-Kratzer and Thorson (2010) point out that “the American media don’t extensively cover international news, but U.S. involvement in international topics makes it more likely for stories to appear.” This study supports Martin-Kratzer and Thorson (2010) in some ways. However, this study showed that the highest involvement of the U.S. in news stories fits neither under the core-country nor the semi-peripheral country groups. Instead, U.S. involvement in news stories was highest under the “other country group.” It seems that despite the political and economic ties of peripheral countries with the U.S., no prompting issue led to a higher degree of involvement of the U.S. in news on peripheral countries. However, it is possible to discuss that many intra-country issues look like to be similar for audiences who don’t know context of events. For example, in the case of Libya and Syria coverage about the conflict between government and anti-government groups, it is not easy to understand clearly for common people what news stories have different points, in terms of all contextual situation with the U.S. It also means that a lot of international news coverage about intra-country issues need to be understood with contextual meaning of episodic nature of foreign news coverage.

Implication for theory and journalism

This study may help expound on mass communication theories, such as agenda-setting theory and framing theory about international events. The agenda-setting function of media is based on the perception of readers toward news stories, topics (McCombs, 2004; McCombs & Ghanem, 2001) selected by editors and through newsroom routines. Selection of topics for news reporting and their presentation reflect agenda setting by the media.

Therefore, a country that is frequently featured in stories with negative topics, such as terrorism and poverty, in the U.S. media is likely to be negatively perceived by U.S. audiences. For example, in terms of amount of trade with the U.S., this study shows that less relevant countries with the U.S., such as Libya, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Syria, Iraq, and Egypt, are very frequently reported in the U.S. media outlets. In contrast, several countries, which have a large economic size, such as Germany, France, and Italy, except U.K., are not reported more frequently than above mentioned countries. In other words, with regard to the agenda-setting function of media and international news reporting, political context of each country could be considered as one of the most important factor in agenda-setting of media as well as economic relevance with the U.S.

Moreover, this study has an implication for the understanding of framing of international news coverage based on the perception by U.S. news outlets of core and peripheral countries. Editors may choose an event to report and decide on its prominence in coverage based on its economic and political relevance to the U. S. Therefore, stories always have the probability of biased media framing. Because international news coverage may depend on limited news sources, such as solely on officials, media framing could be prone to biased contexts.

Practically, this study contributes to the understanding of the characteristics of news produced by U.S. media outlets, including wire services. This study finds that intra-country issues, whether of core or peripheral countries, comprise a large proportion of stories by the U.S. media outlets. However, international news coverage of core countries also focuses on economic and public service issues, such as health care and new technology,

while coverage of semi-peripheral countries focuses more on issues related to crime and justice.

The actual international coverage allows news readers to get information about world events. As Martin-Kratzer and Thorson (2010) point out, understanding international news has a positive effect on world knowledge. At the same time, international news consumption affect perception of people about what is important in the world. Furthermore, international news coverage is commonly used for key information in making political decisions and in forming attitudes toward U.S. foreign policy.

Limitations

Despite its contributions, this study has limitations. First, the data set was collected through the constructed two-week sampling method and from only two U.S. major news outlets, AP and the *New York Times*. Moreover, only foreign news stories involving the U.S. that were at least 400 words were analyzed. Thus, stories with less than 400 words, regardless of their newsworthiness, were excluded from the analysis. This limitation could have influenced the finding that more than fifty percent of foreign stories involved intra-country issues. Furthermore, data gathering focused on the “International section” of the AP and the “Foreign section” of the *New York Times*. This study thus excluded international stories from other sections, such as arts and culture, which could involve the U.S. Especially, even though some business events about crisis of economy in a few European countries would be considered as a high relevant topic with the U.S., these stories were not sufficiently included in this study. Presumably, it is because international

economy crisis news might be reported in business or economy section of the AP and the *New York Times*, not international or foreign section.

Second, this study categorizes news stories based on a subject country's ties with the U.S. Therefore, several countries considered as core under the world system theory were placed under the "other country" group. Additionally, classification of country based on the concept of the world system and international system by previous studies need to be changed in some ways because economic status of international countries fluctuates from year to year. Thus, careful interpretation of the results is needed.

CHAPTER VII

CONCLUSION

Conclusion

This study explores how U.S. news media presents international issues. For this purpose, the study examines how AP and the *New York Times* cover foreign events, and what and how many news sources they used. In addition, it examines which country's news stories are more relevant to the U.S. It uses content analysis to answer three research questions and to test three hypotheses. For these objectives, 582 international stories, each of which had more than 400 words and which collectively cited 3,204 news sources, were analyzed using the SPSS 17.0 statistical tool.

First, it finds that intra-country issues were most frequently presented by the U.S. news outlets. In addition, main topics were differently represented under the three nation categories: core countries, semi-peripheral countries, and other countries. Main topics about core countries were mainly intra-country issues, disaster matters, economic issues, and public services matters. For news stories on semi-peripheral countries, intra-country issues accounted for half of the stories, while criminal and judicial stories accounted for the other half. Main topics under the other country group were slanted toward the intra-country issues and military defense stories. There was a statistically significant difference among three country groups in terms of the number of main topics of international news coverage by the U.S. media outlets. However, these results should be carefully interpreted with understanding contextual meaning of episodic nature of events.

Second, with regard to the use of sources, this study finds that AP and the *New York Times* used U.S. and foreign government sources for 47.9 percent of their international news stories. Results also showed a statistically significant difference between AP and the *New York Times* in use of sources. Specifically, AP depends more on official sources than on non-official sources, while the *New York Times* uses official and non-official news sources almost evenly.

Last, results show that U.S. involvement was lower in news stories on core countries than in news stories on semi-peripheral and other country groups. However, despite the statistically significant difference, the hypothesis that there is a high degree of U.S. involvement in foreign news coverage the U.S. media organizations cannot be accepted because the assumption used is that U.S. involvement would be higher in stories under the core country group than under the other country groups.

Suggestion for the future research

This study has limitations in terms of data sets and measurement of geographical origin.

Nevertheless, it helps expand mass communication theories and widens the understanding of international coverage. Moreover, it is possible to study on foreign events reported in different media outlets, such as cable news outlets and other print media. Use of more media outlets would have allowed better comparison of media traits. For instance, comparison of the news coverage by the *New York Times* with that by CNN would have been interesting.

APPENDIX

APPENDIX

1. CODING PROTOCOL

A. **Story ID:** an assigned unique number

B. **Date:** put in the eight digit number like that May 28, 2011 is “20110528”.

C. **Day of Week:** 1.Mon 2.Tue 3.Wed 4.Thur 5.Fri 6.Sat. 7.Sun

D. **Story length:** the number of words in the story after the byline

E. **Topic Category**

The main topic of each story is measured by “news title” (lead and sub-lead) and the first 2 paragraphs. If the story includes several topics, decide only one topic, which is presented as the most dominant of the story.

1. **Intra-country issue:** An issue related to countries’ internal issues, such as general election, local protest, and so on
2. **Military defense:** An issue related to the armed conflict between states, such as nuclear arms, terrorism, peace move/negotiation, war, and so on
3. **Crime and judicial matters:** An issue related to criminal (sexual matters, drug, etc.) events, and so on
4. **Disasters and accidents:** An issue related to earthquakes, tsunamis, explosions of nuclear power plants, and so on
5. **Economy and business:** An issue related to economic problem, such as financial crisis, international oil prices, and so on
6. **Public services:** An issue related to social services, public health, education, new technology innovations, and so on
7. **Others:** Topics which are not included above categories

F. **Geographic origin**

A story’s geographic origin is the country name appearing in the headline or first two paragraphs.

Each country is coded by 1 (core countries), 2 (semi-peripheral countries), or 3 (peripheral countries) based on the world system concept and amount of trade (import and export) with the US during the year in 2011. Detailed country list is as follows.

1. **Core country:** United Kingdom, Canada, Germany, France, Netherlands, Italy, Japan,

2. **Semi-periphery country:** Brazil, Mexico, China, Taiwan, South Korea, India, Saudi Arabia
3. **Other countries:** All other countries do not include above lists

G. Sources

Sources are defined as external suppliers of materials, whether speeches, interviews, corporate reports, government hearings, etc. These are measured by whom or what is the subject of quoted or paraphrased sentences in the story. Repeated same sources are counted as only one.

1. **Government official:** Government persons or documents coming from officials
2. **International institution:** Conjoined international organizations, such as the United Nations (UN), World Trade Organization (WTO), Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), International Monetary Fund (IMF), Organization Economic Cooperation and Development) OECD, and so on.
3. **Experts:** Professional and independent persons who have no interest in government and/or certain business groups (e.g., professors, economists, researchers, journalists, columnists, and so on)
4. **NGO:** Non government organizations and nonprofit organizations such as Greenpeace, UNICEF, Amnesty International, and others
5. **Business sector:** Business members and/or documents belonging to industry, trade organization, companies or business-related associations; individuals affiliated with trade organizations
6. **Citizens:** Ordinary people who are not included in the previous categories
7. **Others:** Not included in the categories listed above (e.g., Cleric, Pilgrim, Hamas, and Hezbollah, etc)

H. Relevance

Involvement: The degree of relevance with the U.S. is defined as the involvement of US in a news story. It is measured by relevant to the interest of the U.S. but in a positive or neutral manner (versus negative or threatening).

- (1) No involvement (if the US is not mentioned in a news story)
- (2) Low involvement (if the US appeared after the three paragraphs in a news story)
- (3) High involvement (if the US appeared in the three paragraphs)
- (4) Very high involvement (if the US appeared in the headline or news lead)

APPENDIX

2. CODING SHEET

Coder ID: 1. 2.

A. Story ID: _____

B. Date: _____

C. Day of week: 1.Mon 2.Tue 3.Wed 4.Thur 5.Fri 6.Sat 7.Sun

D. Story length: _____

E. Topic category

1. Internal-country issue
2. Military defense
3. Crime and judicial matters
4. Disasters and accident
5. Economy and business
6. Public services
7. Others

F. Geographic origin: _____ 1.core 2.Semi-periphery 3.Periphery

G. Sources

- Total number of sources: _____ Number of source types: _____
- Each source

No	Source type	Source numbers	•Source types (1~7) 1) Governmental Official 2) International institute 3) Experts 4) NGO 5) Business sector 6) Citizens 7) Others
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			

H. Relevance

The degree of involved relevance

- (1) No involvement (if the US is not mentioned in the story)
- (2) Low involvement (if the US appeared after the fifth paragraph in a newspaper story)
- (3) High involvement (if the US appeared in the first two or five paragraphs)
- (4) Very high involvement (if the US appeared in the headline or news lead)

APPENDIX

3. Two constructed weeks sampling

1st week	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Month (1~6)	March	April	June	May	January	June	February
Day	14	19	22	5	7	11	27
2nd week	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Month (7~12)	December	August	July	October	November	September	November
Day	12	16	6	27	4	17	27

day of week	month	week	Random-number	day of week	month	week
Mon	1	1	0.269224455	Mon	3	2
Tue	2	2	0.32386451	Tue	4	3
Wed	3	3	0.626086653	Wed	6	4
Thu	4	4	0.241070416	Thu	5	1
Fri	5	1	0.995752726	Fri	1	1
Sat	6	2	0.883672108	Sat	6	2
Sun	7	3	0.457921107	Sun	2	4
Mon	8	4	0.907617579	Mon	12	2
Tue	9	1	0.963314084	Tue	8	3
Wed	10	2	0.702899985	Wed	7	1
Thu	11	3	0.472366361	Thu	10	4
Fri	12	4	0.553987184	Fri	11	1
Sat	1	1	0.929124324	Sat	9	3
Sun	2	2	0.622178531	Sun	11	4
	3	3	0.864646884			
	4	4	0.554240576			
	5		0.830502743			
	6		0.441667969			
	7		0.432427149			
	8		0.426950734			
	9		0.293952854			
	10		0.289728919			
	11		0.994155294			
	12		0.999366313			

APPENDIX

4. The list of all countries and numbers of news stories

Table 11
Country and a number of its news coverage

No	Country	News stories	Percent	Cumulative Percent
1	Libya	40	6.9	6.9
2	UK	34	5.8	12.7
3	Afghanistan	29	5.0	17.7
4	China	25	4.3	22.0
5	Japan	24	4.1	26.1
6	Pakistan	24	4.1	30.3
7	Israel	22	3.8	34.0
8	Syria	19	3.3	37.3
9	Iraq	18	3.1	40.4
10	Egypt	17	2.9	43.3
11	Mexico	17	2.9	46.2
12	Russia	16	2.7	49.0
13	Iran	15	2.6	51.6
14	US	14	2.4	54.0
15	Yemen	13	2.2	56.2
16	Germany	12	2.1	58.3
17	S. Korea	11	1.9	60.2
18	France	9	1.5	61.7
19	Palestine	9	1.5	63.3
20	Turkey	9	1.5	64.8
21	Cuba	7	1.2	66.0
22	India	7	1.2	67.2
23	Italy	7	1.2	68.4
24	Nigeria	7	1.2	69.6
25	Greece	6	1.0	70.6
26	Kenya	6	1.0	71.7
27	N. Korea	6	1.0	72.7
28	Nederland	6	1.0	73.7
29	Philippine	6	1.0	74.8
30	Somalia	6	1.0	75.8
31	Africa	5	.9	76.7
32	All	5	.9	77.5
33	Bahrain	5	.9	78.4
34	Haiti	5	.9	79.2
35	Ireland	5	.9	80.1

Table 12
Cont'd: Country and a number of its news coverage

36	Malaysia	5	.9	81.0
37	Sudan	5	.9	81.8
38	Venezuela	5	.9	82.7
39	Zimbabwe	5	.9	83.5
40	EU	4	.7	84.2
41	Thailand	4	.7	84.9
42	Colombia	3	.5	85.4
43	Congo	3	.5	85.9
44	Hungary	3	.5	86.5
45	Ivory coast	3	.5	87.0
46	Morocco	3	.5	87.5
47	Saudi Arabia	3	.5	88.0
48	Spain	3	.5	88.5
49	Algeria	2	.3	88.9
50	Arab	2	.3	89.2
51	Argentina	2	.3	89.5
52	Asia	2	.3	89.9
53	Australia	2	.3	90.2
54	Bosnia	2	.3	90.6
55	Chile	2	.3	90.9
56	Guatemala	2	.3	91.3
57	Jordan	2	.3	91.6
58	Lebanon	2	.3	92.0
59	New Zealand	2	.3	92.3
60	Niger	2	.3	92.6
61	Oman	2	.3	93.0
62	Panama	2	.3	93.3
63	Poland	2	.3	93.7
64	S. Africa	2	.3	94.0
65	Taiwan	2	.3	94.4
66	UAE	2	.3	94.7
67	UN	2	.3	95.0
68	Vietnam	2	.3	95.4
69	Balkan	1	.2	95.6
70	Bangladesh	1	.2	95.7
71	Belarus	1	.2	95.9
72	Belgium	1	.2	96.1
73	Bhutan	1	.2	96.2
74	Brazil	1	.2	96.4

Table 13
Cont'd: Country and a number of its news coverage

75	Cambodia	1	.2	96.6
76	Croatia	1	.2	96.8
77	Finland	1	.2	96.9
78	Ghana	1	.2	97.1
79	Guinea	1	.2	97.3
80	Indonesia	1	.2	97.4
81	Kazakhstan	1	.2	97.6
82	Kyrgyzstan	1	.2	97.8
83	Lithuania	1	.2	98.0
84	Malawi	1	.2	98.1
85	Myanmar	1	.2	98.3
86	Nicaragua	1	.2	98.5
87	Scandinavia	1	.2	98.7
88	Singapore	1	.2	98.8
89	Srilanka	1	.2	99.0
90	Sweden	1	.2	99.2
91	Swiss	1	.2	99.3
92	Tunisia	1	.2	99.5
93	Ukraine	1	.2	99.7
94	Uruguay	1	.2	99.9
95	Vatican	1	.2	100.0
Total		582	100.0	100.0

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