Comparative Analysis of Metaphor Usage and Lexical Structure: A Case Study of Shiori Ito and Kris Wu Events

Wenqian Shi[1,a], Yuke Shu[2,b], and Qinxuan Zhu[3,c,*]

[1]*School of Drama, Film, Television and Media, Dalian Academy of Arts, Dalian, Liaoning, 116120, China*
[2]*Information and Communication, Meiji University, Tokyo, 101-8301, Japan*
[3]*College of Communication, Boston University, Boston, MA, 02215-2422, USA*
a. 1739400703@qq.com, b. 1193537538@qq.com, c. qinxuanz@bu.edu
*corresponding author

Abstract: In light of the growing influence of the #MeToo movement, the portrayal of female victims of sexual assault has gained significant attention in the media. This research paper undertakes a comparative analysis of language structures and metaphors employed in news coverage, specifically examining the cases of Shiori Ito and Kris Wu. The objective of this study is to investigate the linguistic components used in news reports from various Chinese and Western media outlets, such as The New York Times, China Daily, The Global Times, and the BBC. Through the examination of six carefully selected news stories, the aim of this paper is to gain insight into the overall framework of these articles and discern the media's stance towards incidents of sexual assault. On top of that, from the research, most of victims dare to narrate the details and processes of the cases. Meanwhile, the Chinese and Western mainstream medias have distinctive approaches to report news about sexual assault case, as well as to anti-sexual assault reports especially for #MeToo movement that received increasing attentions from global world.

Keywords: sexual assault, women, mainstream media

1. Introduction

Sexual shame is a prevalent psychological phenomenon observed in Asian countries, often stemming from restrictive educational practices in schools and families, insufficient sexual knowledge in educational curricula, and the influence of a patriarchal society [1]. These factors contribute to self-blame, self-doubt, anxiety, and fear experienced by victims of sexual assault [2]. Concurrently, movements addressing sexual assault, including the widely recognized #MeToo hashtag, have garnered substantial attention on modern online social media platforms. The hashtag gained prominence following the high-profile sexual harassment case involving Harvey Weinstein in 2017 [3]. Social activists and celebrities further propagated and encouraged the use of the hashtag, prompting individuals to share their own experiences of sexual assault and condemn such acts of misconduct [3].

In an era characterized by rapid information exchange and internet development, the media plays a crucial role in disseminating information, implicitly shaping readers' perceptions and attitudes toward sexual assault [4]. Additionally, different mainstream media outlets in China and the West

represent distinct perspectives on sexual assault. Therefore, the primary research objective is to analyze the varying approaches and effects of Chinese and Western media in covering incidents of sexual assault. Within news texts, the term "rape myth" frequently arises, referring to the phenomenon of diminishing the culpability of the perpetrator while directing scrutiny and bias towards the victim who suffers harm and trauma. This blurring of lines between coercion and consent during sexual acts perpetuates misguided rationalizations. Consequently, this study aims to explore the theory of victim guilt as portrayed in reports on sexual assault cases, while remaining vigilant against misleading justifications of sexual behavior to foster self-advocacy and rights protection.

Moreover, this paper seeks to comprehend the disparities in media coverage and perspectives between the two cultural contexts of China and the West concerning sexuality. Furthermore, the authors aim to investigate how the direction of public opinion influences attitudes towards sexual assault among the general public. By undertaking this research, the authors aspire to contribute to the understanding of sexual assault dynamics, victim experiences, and the role of media in shaping public discourse surrounding these crucial issues.

2. Theory

2.1. Analysis of Lexical Structure

The language structure analysis method comes from linguistics and aims to analyze the structure scientifically through language aspects. The language system is composed of four parts: phoneme, morpheme, word, and sentence [5]. In the analysis of language structure, it is also developed from these four elements. The language unit is the interrelationship between sound, coincidence, and meaning, and finally make a scientific language analysis [6]. There are two important parts in language symbols, namely content and expression [7]. These two aspects can help structure analysis very well. Among them, language structure analysis can be used not only from individual sentences, but also through the overall. For a general analysis of the framework, the authors chose to use some news reports about Ito's case and Kris Wu case, analyzed the language structure, and understood the overall framework of the article, as well as the media's attitude towards sexual assault.

2.2. Metaphor Methodology

Metaphor analysis refers to the unconventional understanding of the meaning of a category and interpretation through another field [8]. It is usually implied in some phrase expressions, which can emphasize or weaken the emotional communication and influence of the text through the given metaphors [8]. Many news reports use metaphors to express their understanding and attitude towards events in order to express their positions.

3. Method

There are several reasons accounting for the topic. First of all, this paper addresses the difference between Chinese and Western mainstream media with the views of several news reports. Secondly, it seeks out the potential influences that are associated with public's thoughts and sentiments by means of the content of news reports. Thirdly, it pays attention to rights protection. A majority of news reports tend to mention human right, which will be available for us relating to the protection and struggle of rights by virtue of current legislation about sexual violence and the coverage depictions of sexual assault cases.

According to these points that are above mentioned, the authors select Chinese and Western media to investigate Shiori Ito's case and Kris Wu's case as the research examples of cases. the authors choose six news reports content to analyze and compare: New York Times in the United States, China

daily in China and BBC in England that are all coverage about English. In addition to this, there are two points that the authors utilize these news reports: firstly, the three mainstream media are from different nations, China, America and England, representing distinct views, especially for the directions with regard to Chinese as well as Western media. As a result, it is beneficial to compare. Secondly, to avoid bias involving politics, the authors excluded newspapers with political stances such as FOX. NYT and BBC were relatively neutral and therefore the best choices that are valuable and imperative medias about reporting news messages in Western countries.

4. Result

4.1. Word Frequency Analysis
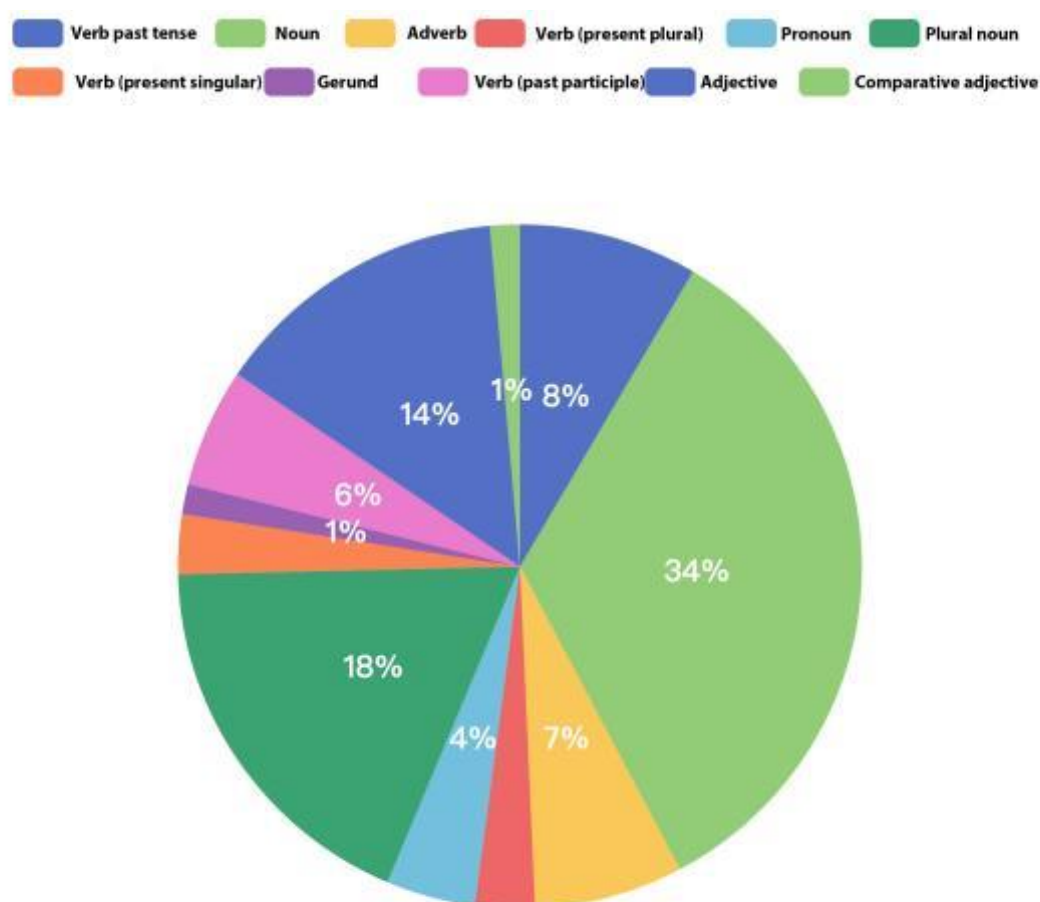
4.1.1. New York Times (NYT) – Kris Wu

Figure 1: Word usage percentage of Kris Wu's event by NYT. (Picture credit: Original).

As Figure 1 shows, the story published by The New York Times predominantly employed nouns (52%), verbs (20%), and adjectives (14%) as part of its linguistic composition. This frequency distribution reveals the central theme of the article, which primarily revolved around the detention of Kris Wu, a Chinese Canadian singer, on charges of alleged rape, and the ensuing #MeToo controversy that unfolded in China.
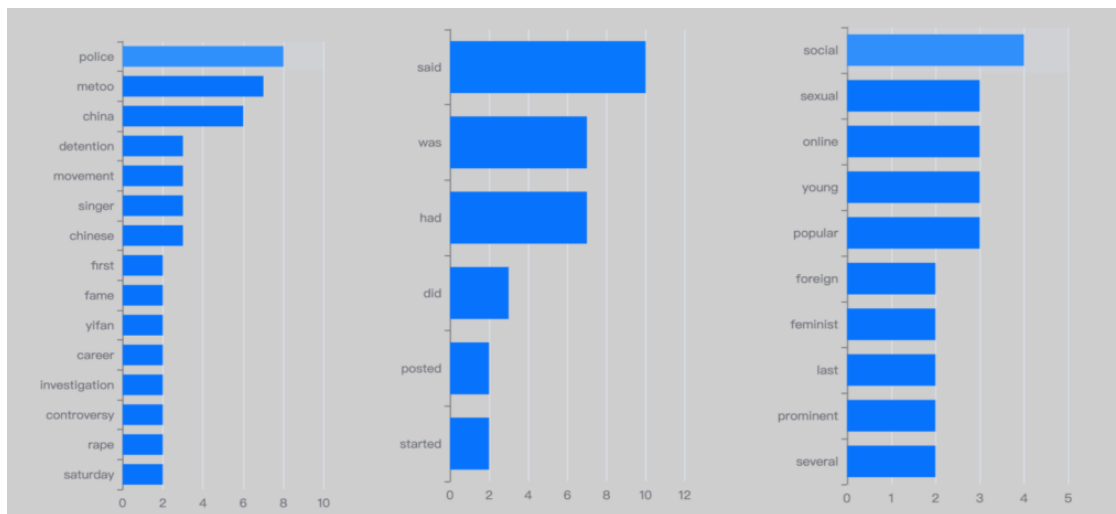
Figure 2: Word usage percentage of nouns, verbs, and adjectives in Kris Wu's event coverage by NYT. (Picture credit: Original).

Figure 2 demonstrates that the article primarily focuses on providing detailed accounts of the individuals implicated in the incident, shedding light on their backgrounds, professional beginnings, and the intricate connections among personnel within the legal sphere. The frequency distribution suggests that there may be a heightened level of public scrutiny and condemnation toward public figures involved in cases of rape, with an accompanying demand for them to serve as better role models.

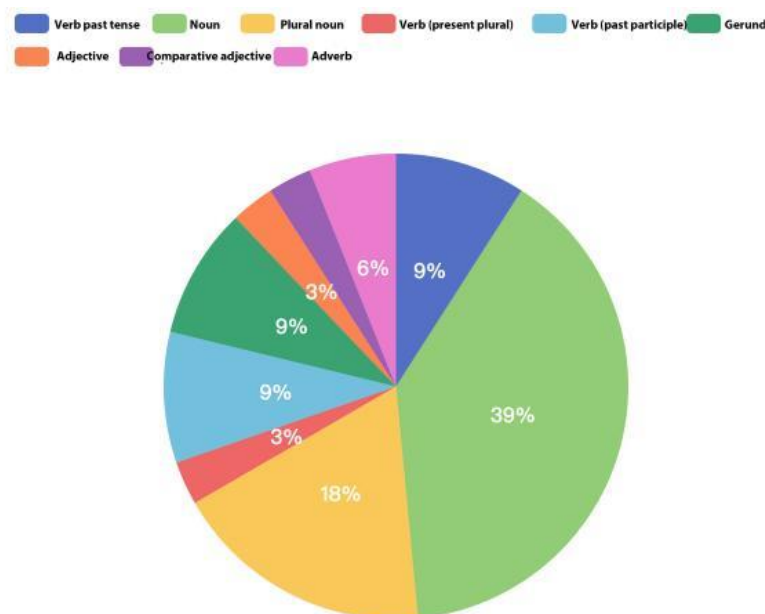### 4.1.2. British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) - Kris Wu

Figure 3: Word usage percentage of Kris Wu's event by the BBC. (Picture credit: Original).

As Figure 3 displays, the report by the BBC predominantly employs nouns (39%), followed by verbs (21%) and adjectives (3%). This frequency distribution signifies that the article is not heavily infused

with emotional catharsis. Instead, it primarily presents the incident's details and facts in an objective manner, refraining from excessive emotional commentary. As a result, the report maintains a relatively neutral and fact-oriented approach in presenting the event.
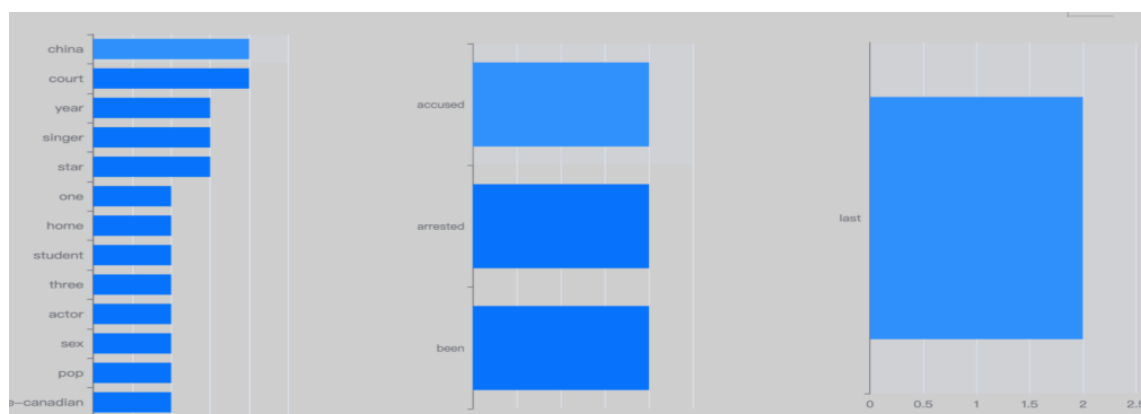

Figure 4: Word usage percentage of nouns, verbs, and adjectives in Kris Wu's event coverage by BBC. (Picture credit: Original).

According to Figure 4, the BBC prioritized reporting on Kris Wu's criminal liability and the associated repercussions, including potential imprisonment and restitution. The coverage might have been limited in terms of addressing the victim's perspective and experience. It is possible that the BBC made a deliberate choice to concentrate on the outcome of the case and the legal process, rather than delving extensively into the victim's narrative. Consequently, the article's emphasis appears to lean more towards condemning the suspect rather than providing comprehensive coverage of the victim's viewpoint.
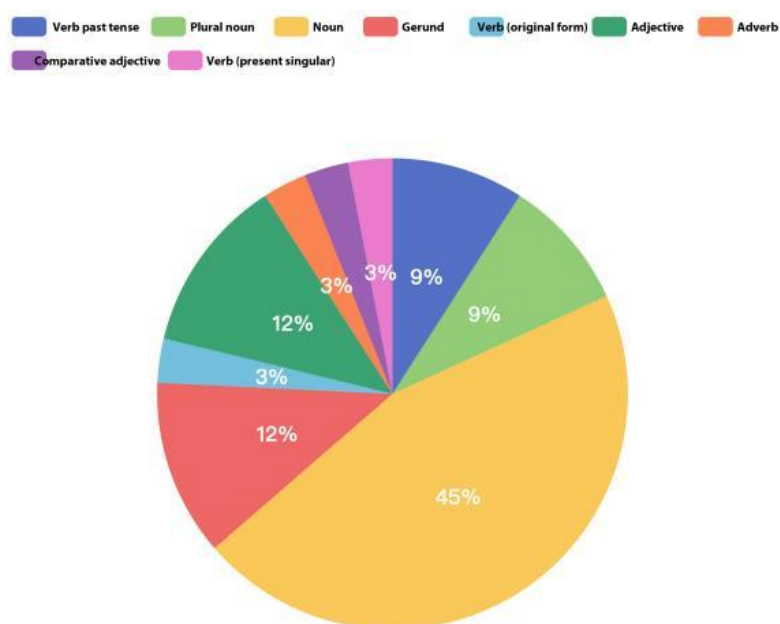
4.1.3. China Daily – Kris Wu

Figure 5: Word usage percentage of Kris Wu's event by the China Daily. (Picture credit: Original).

Figure 5 reveals that China Daily predominantly employed nouns (54%), followed by adjectives (16%) and verbs (15%). This distribution suggests that a significant portion of the story is dedicated to describing specific entities, including people, places, and events.
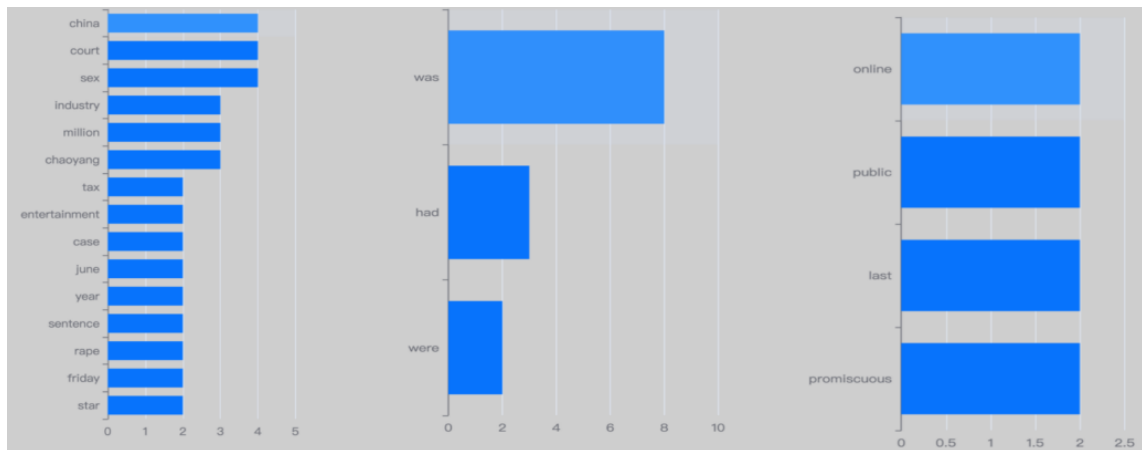

Figure 6: Word usage percentage of nouns, verbs, and adjectives in Kris Wu's event coverage by China Daily. (Picture credit: Original).

Figure 6 not only provides fundamental details regarding the case, such as the cause of the criminal sexual assault and the subsequent criminal detention, but also points out China Daily elevated the issue to encompass the broader relationship between celebrities and the state. The report highlights the actions taken by China's regulators in the online, radio, and television. However, it is noteworthy that the topic of women's rights was not mentioned in the report, indicating that it might not have been a central focus of this particular article.
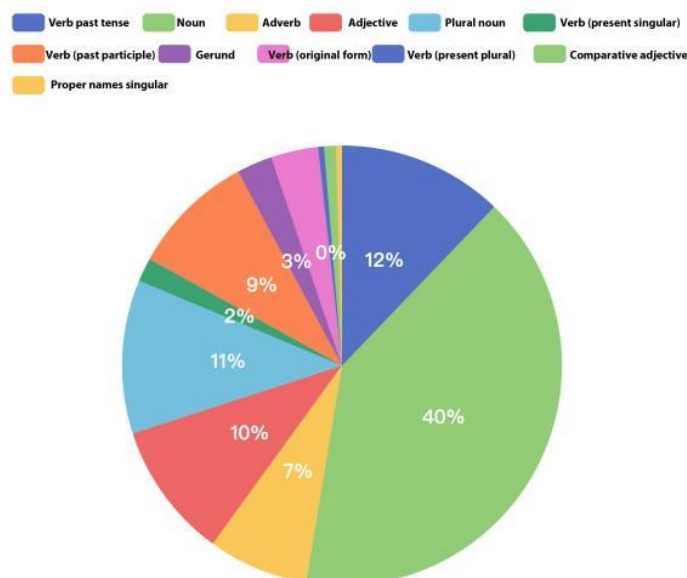
4.1.4. NYT – Shiori Ito

Figure 7: Word usage percentage of Shiori Ito's event by the NYT. (Picture credit: Original).

Figure 7 illustrates that NYT employed a substantial proportion of nouns (40%), with verbs (23%) and adjectives (10%) ranking as the second and third most frequently used word categories, respectively. This linguistic composition suggests an intentional utilization aimed at offering precise characterizations and meticulous portrayals of individuals, actions, and intricate event particulars.
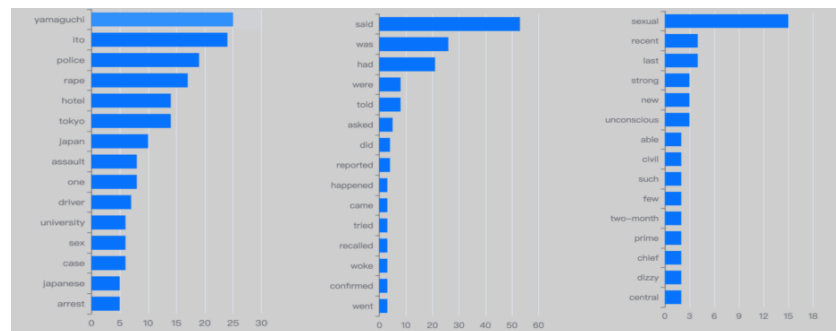

Figure 8: Word usage percentage of nouns, verbs, and adjectives in Shiori Ito's event coverage by NYT. (Picture credit: Original).

According to Figure 8, the NYT employs a substantial portion of its textual content to depict the identities and interconnections of the characters involved in the narrative. Through the explicit mention of individuals such as journalist Noriyuki Yamaguchi, victim Shiori Ito, and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's biographer, the readers are provided with enhanced comprehension of the character identities and their relational dynamics. Moreover, the NYT's focus extends towards delineating the nature, conduct, and intricacies of the incident, encompassing elements such as rape, hotel, and drunkenness.

In addition to encompassing the specific incidents covered within the narrative, the NYT also addresses certain terminologies related to social concerns pertinent to Japanese women, such as sex education, women's rights, and female victims. The utilization of such terms aids in elucidating the societal issues explored in the story, particularly those related to gender inequality, thereby broadening the narrative's perspective.
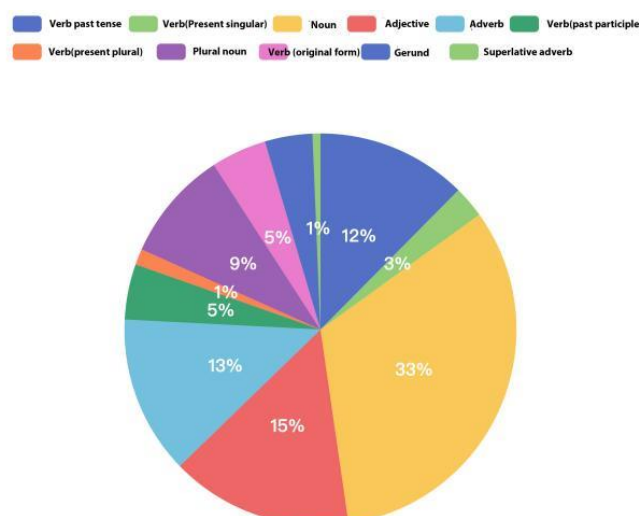
4.1.5. BBC – Shiori Ito

Figure 9: Word isage percentage of Shiori Ito's event by BBC (Picture credit: Original).

Figure 9 exhibits a notable prevalence of nouns (33%), adjectives (15%), and verbs (26%). This distribution highlights the relative significance placed on providing descriptive accounts of specific facts and events within the coverage. These linguistic choices encompass descriptions and generalizations pertaining to the fundamental attributes of the event, followed by the depiction of behavioral aspects and actions associated with it.
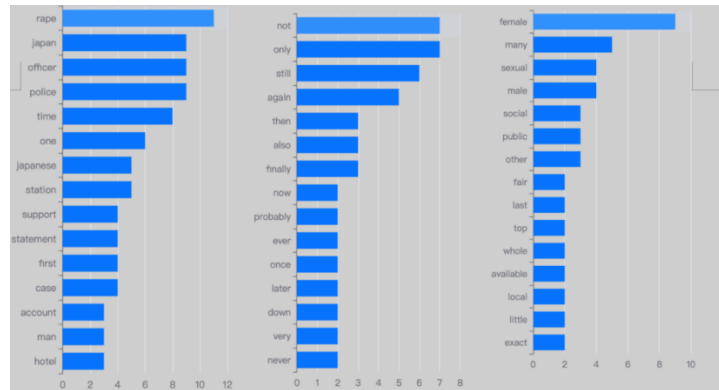

Figure 10: Word usage percentage of nouns, verbs, and adjectives in Shiori Ito's event coverage by BBC. (Picture credit: Original).

According to Figure 10, similar to The New York Times, the BBC dedicates a significant portion of its textual content to the description of character identities, their relationships, the unfolding of events, and the underlying social issues. Notably, this article assumes the form of a first-person perspective dialogue. The inclusion of personal narratives not only enhances the authenticity and credibility of the account but also reveals the author's personal stance and advocacy. Hence, the higher percentage of adjectives employed by the BBC as compared to The New York Times is attributed to the author's use of descriptive language to vividly articulate her position and appeals.

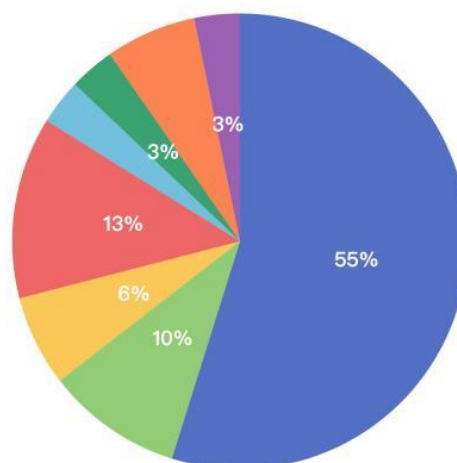### 4.1.6. China Daily – Shiori Ito

Figure 11: Word usage percentage of Shiori Ito's event by China Daily. (Picture credit: Original).

Figure 11 shows, in its coverage of the Ito incident, China Daily predominantly employed nouns (55%), with verbs (13%) and adjectives (6%) ranking as the second and third most frequently used word categories, respectively. The substantial frequency of noun usage is indicative of the newspaper's focus on providing descriptions of individuals, events, and organizations. However, it is noteworthy that the coverage may lack sufficient representation for the description and evaluation of specific individuals or events.
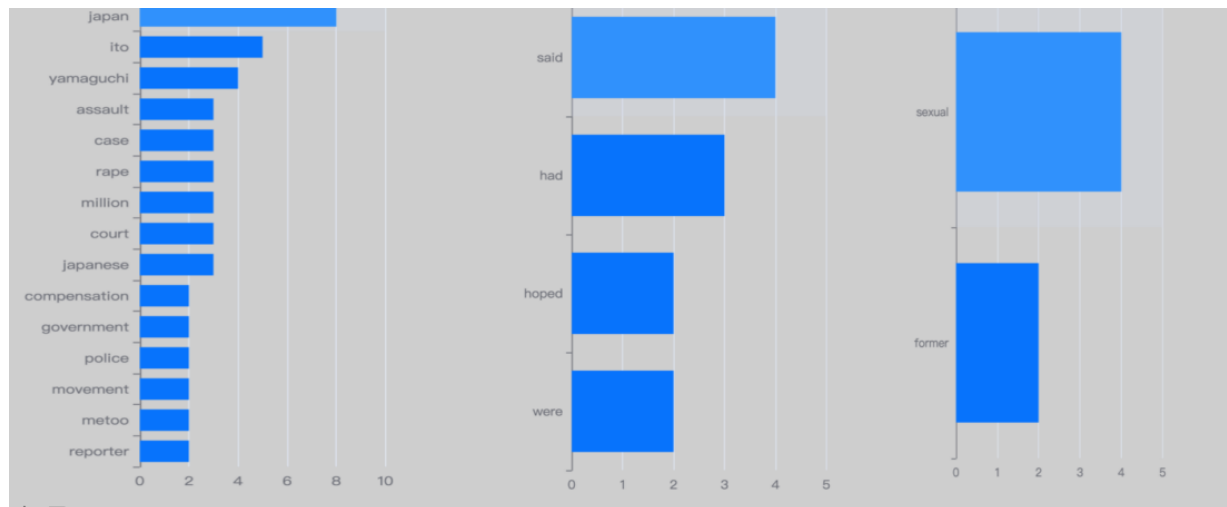

Figure 12: Word usage percentage of nouns, verbs, and adjectives in Shiori Ito's event coverage by China Daily. (Picture credit: Original).

Moreover, Figure 12 demonstrates China Daily's coverage of the incident extends beyond mere factual description by emphasizing the underlying social phenomenon and related issues associated with the event. Notably, the newspaper critically scrutinizes the patriarchal system prevalent in Japanese society, while actively exploring women's rights and the #MeToo movement. This style of reporting underscores the media outlet's concern for and advocacy of social issues, specifically pertaining to gender equality and women's rights.

4.2. Mainstream Media Angle of View

As to news report of Shiori Ito's case from New York Times, there is a sentence that "I have visited more than 60 countries and have been to many places that are considered dangerous, but the real danger I experienced happened in Japan, which is known for its safety." Ito said. Here, the victim herself pointed out the number of countries she visited, and expressed the so-called danger by means of mentioning the number of dangerous districts where she had gone, paving the way for the appearance of the last sentence. The turning point of the last sentence can better reflect this dangerous situation that is unbelievable. In addition to this, the danger here refers to the sexual assault injury suffered by the victim of the incident, and the heroine did not have any predictions about this injury. From the words "Japan is known for its safety", it more manifests an ironic feeling by taking advantage of the phrase "safety", and it is in contrast to the previously mentioned dangerous country itself, which is even more ridiculous. It also expresses the deep influence and disappointment of the victim's injury.

In another article by The New York Times, the focus is on Kris Wu, a renowned Chinese singer. The newspaper highlights his background and associations with various influential brands, which subsequently severed ties with him. This sudden shift is portrayed in a dramatic and sarcastic manner. Furthermore, there are numerous testimonies, particularly from women who have experienced

injuries related to sexual assault that are presented. These testimonies delve into the specific details and progression of the case. A pivotal sentence states, "She said that she was pressured to drink cocktails until she passed out, and later found herself in his bed," emphasizing a crucial aspect of the case. Apart from The New York Times' coverage, the BBC also addresses Ito's case, with a focus on the testimonies. Most of these accounts employ the first-person narrative, effectively conveying the case's details and circumstances, while also evoking emotions in the public [9].

In the sentence "In recent years, Chinese authorities have moved aggressively to clean up the industry-wide problem of tax evasion and to cap salaries for the country's biggest movie stars," the verb "clean up" explicitly conveys that China prioritizes addressing these illegal issues and is committed to taking significant measures, even when it involves well-known individuals.

Furthermore, another text states, "In June, the country's internet watchdog began a crackdown on what it called the country's 'chaotic' online celebrity fan clubs." The use of the word "chaotic" indicates the seriousness of the issue regarding online celebrity fan clubs, emphasizing the need for immediate resolution.

Based on the examples above, most of the reports also provide additional context related to sexual assault news. This includes insights into the attitudes of local authorities and relevant laws and regulations, as well as details about the personal situations of the victims and the incidents of sexual assault. Such comprehensive information aims to enhance readers' understanding of the news and underscore its value and significance.

4.3. #MeToo Movement Angle of View

#MeToo is a hashtag that has been widely spread and discussed on modern online social media. After #MeToo was spread and encouraged by social activists and celebrities, many people used the hashtag to speak out about their experiences of having been sexually assaulted and to denounce sexual assault and harassment [10].

The authors chose two news report from the BBC on #MeToo to analyze the linguistic structure of this issue in order to study the trends and progress of #MeToo.

4.3.1. Five Years of #MeToo: What Really Changed

The first news report is "Five Years of #MeToo: What Really Changed" from BBC News Chinese [11]. The story is divided into five main sections: introduction, how #MeToo started, global impact, impact beyond the #MeToo hashtag, and what to do next.

In terms of content sections, the story belongs to the international section of BBC News. The distribution of the segments to which the story belongs can reflect the significance, value, and impact of the event. The story reads, "#MeToo began with a single tweet, which in turn sparked a global conversation about women's experiences of sexual assault and harassment." and "While the movement began in the United States, its impact has been global." The use of the word "global" and the examples of feminist movements in Brazil, China, India, South Africa, Nepal, and Iran in the context of the widespread attention to #MeToo further argue for the impact of #MeToo in the world. Both quotes reflect the fact that #MeToo started with one tweet and one country, and gradually gained more and more discussion and participants, and has been followed by many countries around the world to date.

In terms of information sources, the story is mostly a description of the event and quotes from Professor Boyle, Director of Gender Studies and Lecturer in Feminist Media Studies at the University of Stathclyde, and his views. The choice of sources can reflect the attitudes and tendencies of the media and the content of their stories.

For example, Professor Boyle is quoted in the story: "The #MeToo hashtag was not the first hashtag about sexual assault and sexual violence, and it was not the first to explode in popularity. But in many places around the world, #MeToo gave global visibility to efforts that were perhaps already well known only in their own regions."

The first sentence begins with a clarification and explanation for those who have misconceptions about the nature of #MeToo and when it emerged. It also reflects the fact that before the #MeToo hashtag appeared, there were already many people who were denouncing sexual assault and harassment or campaigning against sexual assault and women's affirmative action by creating hashtags to send tweets. The large amount of interest in this type of hashtag and content also reflects the fact that there are few victims of sexual assault. In the second sentence, the word "but" emphasizes the difference between #MeToo and other hashtags and explains why #MeToo is so popular today. While there is a limit to how far information can spread and how much people can receive it, #MeToo allows people to learn about sexual assault and the feminist movement around the world, while also allowing victims to feel that they are not alone in their struggle against the harm caused by sexual assault. Professor Boyle's quote echoes what the reporter writes later about the massive protests that have erupted in South Africa, Iran and other places that have received worldwide attention.

At the end of the story, the reporters still quote Professor Boyle: "#MeToo movement which are all the rage has created space and momentum for an important discussion, but there is more that needs to be done. For the #MeToo movement to be truly trans-formative, there needs to be an ongoing structural transformation of workplaces, schools, stadiums, and everywhere and anywhere. This work has been underway for decades, but it is still just beginning."

The use of the term "all the rage" to describe the #MeToo movement in the first sentence suggests that the #MeToo movement is very popular at this stage, but not for long. #MeToo has encouraged victims of sexual assault and some protests, however, it may face the possibility of being forgotten as time passes. Therefore, the second sentence mentions how the #MeToo movement should evolve in the future, which is to continuously improve the social fabric. The third sentence mentions "decades" and "just beginning", indicating that the anti-sexual assault movement and the women's equal rights movement will not be achieved overnight, but will require the unremitting efforts and dedication of generations. It also reflects that women still face many difficulties in a patriarchal society, and sexual assault can occur anywhere in the workplace and school. It is a long, hard, but necessary task to change and improve the social structure in such a context.

4.3.2. What Has #MeToo Actually Changed?

The second news report is "What has #MeToo actually changed?" from BBC News [12]. The article was published on May 12, 2018, the second year of #MeToo.

"Some abuse survivors have cited #MeToo as a stressful influence, saying it resurfaced the pain of their abuse. Others have reported feeling less alone, saying it encouraged them to address past trauma by talking to loved ones, counsellors, or people with similar experiences."

This passage illustrates two very different attitudes and perceptions of #MeToo, suggesting that it is difficult to judge subjectively whether #MeToo has helped victims of sexual assault seek support and help by weighing the weight of the two attitudes. So later in the article, the reporter gives examples and data to give a more objective picture of the impact of #MeToo, and quotes Sian Brooke of the Oxford Internet Institute, who studies gender and sexism online to confirm the case.

Brooke says: "It's brought the idea of sexual harassment and assault into the public consciousness, even if the discussion around the movement is criticism, you are still bringing about an awareness that this happens."

This passage shows the evolution of #MeToo in 2017-2018. The word "even if" reflects the fact that #MeToo faced a lot of controversy, discussion, and even criticism at the time, but the positive

effects of #MeToo cannot be ignored, which is to raise awareness that sexual assault and harassment is not a rare event, and that there are many victims who suffer from sexual assault.

As with the first story, the second story concludes with a thoughtful attitude and opinion on what #MeToo should do in the future: "#MeToo is not an endgame - but a clarion call to something bigger. A reminder for people to seek change in their communities, and push to make damaging systems better - especially for those who lack the power to fight alone."

In the first sentence, the reporters indicate that #MeToo requires persistence and effort from people. In the second sentence, two goals of #MeToo are identified that need to be pursued and maintained all the time: to change and improve social constructs, and to protect and encourage those who are oppressed and hurt by issues such as sexual assault and sexism.

4.4. Metaphor Methodology

Drawing on a news report from The New York Times regarding the Ito case, a notable example is highlighted: "Ms. Ito, 28, who has filed a civil suit against Mr. Yamaguchi, agreed to discuss her case in detail to highlight the challenges faced by women who suffer sexual violence in Japan." Examining the usage of the word "challenge" in this context, it becomes apparently that numerous women in Japan have experienced sexual assault cases similar to Ito's. The term "challenge" underscores the feelings of guilt and shame that many Japanese women encounter when discussing the harm caused by sexual violence. It further emphasizes the difficulties they face in seeking protection for their rights after being victimized. To underscore the gravity of the situation, immediate action is required to address the issue of safeguarding women's rights.

In analyzing the Kris Wu case using the metaphorical approach, a sentence from the text can serve as a valuable example: "Censorship and limits on dissent have also stymied efforts among feminist activists to organize, even as trolls are given cover to spew abuse." Upon reading this sentence, one can observe the explicit use of the term "trolls" with certain adjective properties. Originally, the term "troll" denotes an evil deity or creature, carrying a negative connotation. Here, the term "trolls" can be understood metaphorically to liken certain individuals to demons, emphasizing a negative evaluation. This comparison signifies the grave and lasting harm caused by sexual assaults and their abhorrent consequences for the victims. The passage also highlights the ongoing cover-up of these sexual abuses, emphasizing the severity of the issue. Under the umbrella of cover-ups, the rights and interests of sexual assault victims are not only left unprotected but are also susceptible to continuous infringement, having a profoundly negative impact on society as a whole. This problem demands acknowledgment and action from society as a whole.

In another news report from the BBC regarding the case involving Mr. Wu, a prominent media outlet in England, the authors pay attention to a particular sentence that employs metaphorical expressions: "Mr. Wu denied the claims, but at least 24 more victims accusing him of predatory behavior." The metaphorical term "predatory" used in this sentence seems somewhat incongruous. Normally, "predatory" is associated with describing animal behaviors where one preys upon another animal that is inferior to them. However, when applied in the context of sexual assault news, it strongly suggests that Kris Wu treated these victims as his prey, vividly conveying the acute and abhorrent nature of his criminal acts. It reflects a complete disregard for the well-being of the victims who have suffered at his hands, demonstrating an utter lack of respect.

"In Japan, sexual assault is akin to an iceberg lurking beneath the sea. Many women are silenced by shame, fear, and invisible social constraints, but there are courageous individuals who refuse to stay silent." This quote originates from China Daily, one of China's mainstream media outlets. By likening sexual assault to an iceberg, it underscores the deep-rooted and long-standing nature of the problem. Furthermore, the latter part of the sentence highlights the burdens imposed by societal norms on women, treating the infringement of women's rights and interests as oppressive shackles. This

implication emphasizes the gravity of the issue, making it even more challenging to overcome. Ito's courageous stance demonstrates her fearlessness and provides a powerful impetus in the ongoing struggle for rights and interests.

When employing the metaphorical approach, Western mainstream media often focuses on conveying the severity of the problems at hand, whereas Chinese media tends to prioritize evoking emotional responses and fostering positive momentum among the authorities. By exploring news reports from different countries using the metaphorical method, numerous crucial points of consideration emerge, deserving our attention.

5. Discussion

From the perspective of producers, NYT, BBC and China Daily effectively capture accurate depictions of character identities and relationships. They meticulously portray the design and conduct of events, as well as address social issues that hold significance for Japanese women in the narrative. This comprehensive approach facilitates readers in attaining a deep understanding of the story's content and themes [13]. However, there are slight differences in the coverage of Chris Wu's event.

In comparison to the NYT and BBC, China Daily succinctly portrays the victim by providing minimal information regarding her gender and age. This limited exploration of her experience and perspective within the article indicates that her position is not thoroughly examined. Furthermore, the article does not extensively delve into the #MeToo movement, suggesting that the discussion of women's rights is not the primary focus or intention of this particular article. It is important to acknowledge that China Daily's decision to highlight these issues within the context of this specific story may potentially be influenced by ideological, propagandistic, or public opinion-driven motives.

China Daily utilizes more positive emotional language to indicate or commend the victim's courage to speak out in the case of Ito. On the other hand, the NYT and BBC tend to emphasize the seriousness of the problem and advocate for an immediate solution.

China Daily attaches importance to the supplementation of evidence and prefer to believe in the final structure of the investigation, compared to the attitude of the Chinese media, the Chinese media attach importance to the testimony of important objects appearing in the case, especially the expression of the victim's testimony, similar to the supplementation of the details of the case, and prefer to stand.

6. Conclusion

This paper delves into the coverage of sexual assault cases and the #MeToo movement, examining the valuable insights provided by analyzing lexical structure and metaphor usage. The analysis of lexical structure reveals the gravity of the situation and highlights the authorities' seriousness in addressing these issues. Metaphor analysis further amplifies the impact of news reports, underscoring the deeply rooted and long-standing nature of the problem, and emphasizing the social challenges faced by women.

Furthermore, this paper specifically focuses on the differences in reporting sexual assault news among three authoritative news industries in distinct countries. Apart from articulating the event details to a similar degree, this paper identifies variations in narrative perspectives, content emphasis, and underlying discussions. For instance, China Daily tends to relate sexual issues to national concerns, such as the lack of sex education, while BBC tends to urge the government to take steps in addressing the problems.

While this paper demonstrates the diverse approaches taken by different publishers in reporting sexual assault cases and exploring women's rights through metaphorical analysis, it is important to acknowledge some controversies. Readers often need to consider their cultural background for a

comprehensive understanding. As non-native Japanese authors, it is challenging to deeply grasp the underlying phenomena in Japan and provide an entirely objective analysis in relation to Japanese culture. Additionally, this paper selected six prominent coverage examples rather than using random samples. While this convenient method cannot fully represent the entirety of news reporting in real life, it does provide valuable insights into general tendencies. Given these limitations, this topic necessitates more well-established methods to analyze different viewpoints in news reports and explores the impacts on women's right and #MeToo movement in the future.

Authors Contribution

All the authors contributed equally and their names were listed in alphabetical order.

References

[1]   Schooler, D., Ward, L. M., Merriwether, A., & Caruthers, A. S. (2005). Cycles of shame: Menstrual shame, body shame, and sexual decision-making. Journal of Sex Research, 42(4), 324–334.

[2]   Strickland, N. J., Tang, K. T., Wekerle, C., & Stewart, S. H. (2022). Fostering resilience and countering stigma: A qualitative exploration of risk and protective factors for negative psychological consequences among alcohol-involved sexual assault survivors. Psychological Trauma: Theory, Research, Practice, and Policy.

[3]   Rottenberg, C. (2019). # MeToo and the prospects of political change. Soundings, 71(71), 40-49.

[4]   Silverblatt, A., Miller, D. C., Smith, J., & Brown, N. (2014). Media literacy: Keys to interpreting media messages: Keys to interpreting media messages. ABC-CLIO.

[5]   Hockett, C. F. (1961). Linguistic elements and their relations. Language, 37(1), 29–53.Rottenberg, C. (2019). # MeToo and the prospects of political change. Soundings, 71(71), 40–49.

[6]   Pustejovsky, J., Bergler, S., & Anick, P. (1993). Lexical semantic techniques for corpus analysis. Computational Linguistics, 19(2), 331–358.

[7]   Barsalou, L. W. (2019). Flexibility, structure, and linguistic vagary in concepts: Manifestations of a compositional system of perceptual symbols. In Theories of memory (pp. 29-101). Psychology Press.

[8]   Cameron, L., & Maslen, R. (2010). Metaphor analysis. London: Equinox.

[9]   Retrieve from https://www.facebook.com/bbcnews. (n.d.).

[10] Wertz, M. S., Nosek, M., McNiesh, S., & Marlow, E. (2011). The composite first person narrative: Texture, structure, and meaning in writing phenomenological descriptions. International Journal of Qualitative Studies on Health and Well-Being, 6(2), 5882.

[11] Li, M., Turki, N., Izaguirre, C. R., DeMahy, C., Thibodeaux, B. L., & Gage, T. (2021). Twitter as a tool for social movement: An analysis of feminist activism on social media communities. Journal of Community Psychology, 49(3), 854–868.

[12] Five years of #MeToo: What has really changed?. BBC News. Retrieved June 7, 2023, from https://www.bbc.com/zhongwen/simp/world-63256653/embed

[13] What has #MeToo actually changed? (2018, May 12). BBC News. https://www.bbc.com/news/world-44045291