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Araştırma makalesi/Research article

An Analysis of Cultural Heritage News after the Kahramanmaraş Earthquakes in the Context of Framing Theory

Çerçeveleme Kuramı Bağlamında Kahramanmaraş Merkezli Depremler Sonrası Kültürel Miras Haberlerinin Analizi

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"Heritage is our legacy from the past, what we live with today, and what we pass on to future generations" UNESCO (https://www.unesco.org/en/world-heritage)

Abstract

In this study, we analyze the representation of cultural heritage in Turkish media following the devastating earthquakes on 6 February 2023, which struck Kahramanmaraş, Türkiye and impacted 11 provinces. This research focused on the portrayal of cultural heritage newswithin the context of framing theory,

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aiming to examine how historical artifacts and sites were discussed in the media post-earthquake. We employed content analysis to review 158 articles from three major newspapers (Cumhuriyet, Milliyet, and Yeni Şafak), selected for their diverse ownership and ideological perspectives. In the analysis, we explored various aspects such as the presentation style, framing techniques, use of visual materials, and the actors featured in the news. Findings highlight the frames used by the media, including responsibility, event impact, human interest, and economic perspectives, revealing differing narrative approaches based on the newspapers' editorial policies. The results underscore the media's role in shaping public awareness, the decline in coverage over time, and the lack of international engagement in preserving cultural heritage. The study offers insights into the media's social responsibility in highlighting the preservation and restoration of cultural assets, emphasizing the need for sustained sensitivity beyond disaster events.

Keywords: cultural heritage, earthquake, news analysis, framing theory

Öz

Bu çalışmada, 6 Şubat 2023 tarihinde 11 ili etkileyen Kahramanmaraş merkezli depremlerin ardından, kültürel miras haberlerinin medyada nasıl temsil edildiğini inceledik. Bu araştırmada çerçeveleme teorisi bağlamında kültürel mirasın medyadaki yansımalarını ele alarak, tarihi eserler ve sit alanlarının deprem sonrası medyada nasıl ele alındığını analiz etmeyi amaçladık. Bu nedenle, farklı sahiplik yapılarına ve ideolojik bakış açılarına sahip olmaları nedeniyle seçilen üç farklı gazeteden (Cumhuriyet, Milliyet ve Yeni Şafak) toplam 158 haberi içerik analizi yöntemiyle inceledik. Analizde, haberlerin sunum biçimi, çerçeveleme teknikleri, görsel materyallerin kullanımı ve haberlerde yer alan aktörler gibi çeşitli unsurları ele aldık. Bulgular, medyada sorumluluk, olay etkisi, insani ilgi ve ekonomik perspektifler gibi farklı çerçevelerin kullanıldığını ortaya koymuş ve gazetelerin editoryal politikalarına bağlı olarak değişen anlatım yaklaşımlarını göstermiştir. Sonuçlar, medyanın kamuovu farkındalığını sekillendirmedeki rolünü, zamanla azalan medya ilgisini ve kültürel mirasın korunması konusunda uluslararası angajmanın yetersizliğini vurgulamaktadır. Çalışma, kültürel varlıkların korunması ve restorasyonu konusunda medyanın sosyal sorumluluğuna dair önemli çıkarımlar sunmakta ve afet olaylarının ötesinde sürdürülebilir bir duyarlılığın gerekliliğini vurgulamaktadır.

Anahtar sözcükler: kültürel miras, deprem, haber analizi, çerçeveleme kuramı

Introduction

Cultural heritage consists of tangible and intangible assets which tell us who we are and teach us about our past. They establish and deepen the bond between us and all other societies with whom we have collectively written the history of humanity. As unique treasures preserving all our experiences throughout history, they shape our memory and carry it into the future. Due to their significance, this subject has been addressed internationally and several efforts have been put to use to protect them. Our country, rich in unique treasures, has been home to countless civilizations from the earliest periods of history to the present. As a result, Anatolia is often regarded as the cradle of these diverse cultures. As stated by Engin (2023) this land of ancient civilizations and a rich cultural heritage, but it is located at the intersection of three tectonic plates and has been prone to strong and influential earthquakes throughout history.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) seeks to encourage the identification, protection, and preservation of cultural and natural heritage around the world, which is considered to be of outstanding value to humanity. This is underlined in an international treaty called the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, adopted by UNESCO in 1972, making the concept of World Heritage exceptional as a universal application becasue the World Heritage sites belong to all the peoples of the world, irrespective of the territory on which they are located.

As of 2023, there are a total of 1,199 World Heritage Sites, which belong to 195 Member States within UNESCO. Of these, 933 are cultural, 227 are natural, and 39 are mixed properties. Türkiye has 21 heritage sites on this list, 19 of which are cultural and two are mixed (UNESCO, 2024). In addition, Türkiye has a total of 79 sites on the Temporary List, updated in 2023, comprising 72 cultural, four mixed, and three natural sites (UNESCO Türkiye National Commission, 2024).

Natural and man-made disasters, including earthquakes, landslides, floods, heat waves, and fires, can severely impact cultural heritage. They can seriously damage or even completely destroy monuments, historical and archaeological sites or cultural landscapes. In addition to the endangerment of people who visit those places and people who live by these sites, the degradation of heritage has a negative socioeconomic impact on local communities and involves a loss of identity-generating values and of cultural diversity (EUR-OPA, 2024). The devastating impact of natural disasters is most evident in residential areas, leading to significant material and emotional losses. Beyond the loss of human life, one of the most irreplaceable losses is cultural heritage (Ünal, 2014).

This study aims to examine how the media portrays historical artifacts damaged by earthquakes and seeks to assess the extent of public awareness generated by media coverage in the aftermath of such events. Following the earthquake-widely referred to as the "disaster of the century"-we analyze Turkish media coverage related to cultural heritage. Using content analysis within the framework of framing theory, we aim to highlight the media's role and social responsibility in addressing this critical issue. News in the media, along with the information provided about events and phenomena, affects how individuals and societies form their awareness. Therefore, it is important to understand the frames used to present "cultural heritage" in earthquake news, the perspectives from which the media discusses the issue, and how social perception is constructed in this context.

1. Cultural heritage

Global cultural and natural values, transmitted from generation to generation throughout the historical process, are known as heritage. Heritage encompasses the values passed from the past to the future related to the regions and identities of societies. The concept of cultural heritage and the necessity of its preservation have been approached from different dimensions and expanded over time. All value systems that exist worldwide, embody cultural diversity, and trace the footprints of the past are discussed based on fundamental human rights and with an emphasis on equality.

In this context, the first document highlighting the right of everyone to participate in cultural life, and the importance of culture and cultural participation for society (Calis, 2010: 6) is the Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), which is a milestone document in the history of human rights. Drafted by representatives with different legal and cultural backgrounds from all regions of the world, the Declaration was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in Paris on 10 December 1948 as a common standard of achievements for all peoples and all nations. Article 27 specifically states: "1. Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits. 2. Everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author" (www.un.org). Accordingly, the right to freely participate in cultural life is explicitly recognized; however, what participation in cultural life means and what freedom entails are not explained. The concretization of the content of this right and the identification of cultural heritage rights have been made possible through the recommendations and commentaries issued by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the United Nations Human Rights Council. Article 15 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, adopted within the UN in 1966, also regulates the right to participate in cultural life and explicitly guarantees this issue as a human right (Türkbay, 2021: 1453).

Preserving cultural and natural heritage originated in common values and increasing public awareness about this heritage enables improved mutual understanding among different communities. Therefore, there are significant international organizations and treaties to protect cultural assets and heritage globally, based on shared principles. The destruction experienced in Europe following World War II brought about new needs in the field of preservation. The agenda of the Second International Congress of Architects and Technicians of Historic Monuments, held in Venice in 1964, was determined in line with these issues. The Venice Charter, which has been implemented for nearly half a century and is a fundamental international document concerning the preservation and restoration of cultural properties, was formulated at this congress. The resolutions intended to protect cultural heritage contained in this document, later implemented worldwide under the leadership of UNESCO, which is one of the leading organizations aiming to protect cultural heritage were established (Emekli, 2005: 102; ÇEKÜL Foundation, 2010).

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights has played a triggering role in UNESCO's cultural activities and it showed its influence in early 1960s. Initially, in UNESCO's history, cultural development was considered in connection with tangible heritage (Çalış, 2010). The "Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage" signed at UNESCO's General Headquarters in Paris, 1972, emphasized that the protection of unique and irreplaceable cultural properties, regardless of which nation they belong to, is important for all the peoples of the world. The convention came into force in 1975.

At UNESCO's 17th General Conference, during the adoption of the "Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage", many member countries emphasized the importance of protecting intangible cultural heritage. They proposed that a similar convention should be created for intangible cultural heritage, highlighting the need to protect not only tangible but also intangible heritage. Consequently, at UNESCO's 32nd General Conference in 2003, the "Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage" was adopted (Oğuz, 2007).

Türkiye became a party to UNESCO's "Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage" in 1983 and to the "Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage" in 2006. In the 2000s, there have been fundamental institutional changes, and academics, intellectuals, non-governmental organizations, and local governments have started to play a more active role in the struggle for preservation (ÇEKÜL, 2010).

Despite the measures and legal regulations taken worldwide and in our country for the protection of cultural heritage, these treasures have suffered damage and destruction due to human activities or natural disasters. Earthquakes are among the most significant of these natural disasters.

Today, cultural heritage is no longer defined solely as structures with historical significance but as a combination of all cultural values associated with humanity, encompassing both tangible and intangible values. In the context of tangible values, cultural heritage refers to movable and immovable assets such as monuments, historical buildings, artworks, and books. UNESCO defined intangible heritage in the Convention Concerning the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2003:

The 'intangible cultural heritage', as defined is manifested inter alia with these domains: oral traditions and expressions, including language as a vehicle of the intangible cultural heritage; performing arts; social practices, rituals and festive events; knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe; and traditional craftsmanship. (Jokilehto, 2005: 43)

Cultural heritage is "*a treasure that tells the members of a society about their common past, strengthening their sense of solidarity and unity*". Cultural heritage, which establishes the connection between the past and the present, also serves as a reference point for building the future and spiritually enriches people's lives (Ünal, 2014). Cultural heritage connects people to their past and serves as unique sources of information about the development of humanity.

2. Effects of natural disasters on cultural heritage and the 6 February 2023 earthquake

Disasters are defined as the consequences of natural, technological, and human-induced events that cause physical, social, and economic losses for people, affect communities by disrupting or halting normal life and human activities, and cannot be managed using the affected community's local resources and capabilities (Kadıoğlu, 2014: 10). The destructive effects of natural disasters are especially evident in residential areas, causing significant material and immaterial losses. Among these losses, after human life, the most irreplaceable value is cultural heritage (Ünal, 2014: 8).

Heritage is vulnerable to damage from both natural disasters-such as earthquakes, fires, and floods-and human-induced disasters, including wars, conflicts, and invasions. Among these, earthquakes are particularly devastating for archaeological heritage sites located on or near fault lines (Uzunel, 2023: 63).

The tangible and intangible values that constitute cultural heritage, which form the collective memory of humanity, include monuments, examples of civil architecture, rituals performed in these structures and areas, and intangible values such as special traditional productions that create the spirit of a place. These elements add depth and richness to our lives and serve as common points of reference for societies in shaping the future (Ünal, 2014: 8). Heritage is evidence of the identity, diversity, and social and cultural life of the places where they are located, having been formed over thousands or hundreds of years. Throughout this long historical process, they have been exposed to numerous disasters (Uzunel, 2023: 61).

However, the loss or deterioration of cultural heritage due to natural disasters adversely affects not only the society to which it belongs but also other societies by impacting their identities, cultures, historical knowledge, and socio-economic values (Bozkurt, 2023: 125). In recent years, severe natural events have increasingly turned into disasters, with their frequency rising, as these events threaten significant architectural and natural heritage sites worldwide (Ünal, 2014:17).

Anatolia, known as ancient lands rich in cultural heritage, has been home to numerous civilizations from the dawn of humanity to the present day. This geography, which has been home to many important cultures and civilizations in human history, is also a region where destructive earthquakes occur. The Dead Sea Fault, starting from the Sinai Peninsula in the south and extending to Kahramanmaraş, along with the East Anatolian and North Anatolian faults, are the most significant evidence that we live in a seismologically active region (Engin, 2023).

Due to Türkiye's geographical structure, many earthquakes have occurred from past to present. Our country has experienced a significant loss of life due to earthquakes. In addition, all components of social life, primarily health, education, the economy, and the cultural structure, have suffered severe damage. One of these threats is the potential loss of cultural heritage.

In early 2023, two devastating earthquakes with magnitudes of Mw 7.7 and Mw 7.6 which was described as the disaster of the century, hit Pazarcık and Elbistan in Kahramanmaraş, causing tremendous loss of life and severe damage across multiple cities including Kahramanmaraş,

Hatay, Adıyaman, Gaziantep, Malatya, Kilis, Diyarbakır, Adana, Osmaniye, Şanlıurfa, and Elazığ. The earthquakes caused widespread destruction in both urban and rural areas, impacting this culturally and historically significant region (ODTÜ TAÇDAM, 2023).

Immediately after the disaster, the primary focus must be obviously on saving lives through search and rescue operations. In addition to the profound grief and trauma caused by the loss of lives, the damage to cultural assets, accumulated over centuries in this historically rich region, has deeply affected societal morale (Güler, 2023: 22). Major earthquakes like these lead to extensive human and economic losses, with profound and lasting impacts on society (Shinki et al., 2023). The region, inhabited since ancient times, hosts UNESCO World Heritage sites such as Göbeklitepe, Arslantepe, Mount Nemrut, Diyarbakır Fortress, and Hevsel Gardens Cultural Landscape. Other sites like Anavarza, Harran, Karatepe Aslantaş, Hatay St. Pierre Church, Yesemek Quarry and Sculpture Workshop, Vespasianus Titus Tunnel, and Zerzevan Castle are on the Tentative List (Güler, 2023:22). The monumental structures and examples of civil architecture in the earthquake-affected provinces suffered varying degrees of damage; some were partially, others completely destroyed. There were significant losses in urban and rural textures and cultural landscape components (Uzun, Somuncu, 2023: 11).

Disasters, especially those causing significant material and emotional damage, remain in the public eye for an extended period thanks to mass media (Aslantaş, 2023: 783). It is entirely natural for media coverage to initially focus on the loss of lives following a disaster. Subsequently, attention shifts to material losses (such as collapsed buildings), the needs of the people living in the affected region, the aid provided to the area, and developments in search and rescue operations. Additionally, the extent to which cultural heritage has been affected by the disaster also becomes a topic of media interest. This study specifically examines the content of media reports on cultural heritage during this period, questioning the dimensions in which the issue is addressed by the media.

3. The role of media in the preservation of cultural heritage

The transmission of all material and intangible values that constitute a society's identity, culture, and history to future generations is crucial for maintaining and perpetuating societal identity. Muşkara (2017) emphasizes that this transmission significantly contributes to the social cohesion and integrity of the community.

Mass media are among the most critical tools for directing and persuading society through the news and content they publish. With the advancement of technology and the resulting changes in communication environments and opportunities, people now shape their lives and lifestyles through media messages. In this context, as with any topic, media content plays a significant role in informing and raising awareness within society about cultural heritage.

The media publications regarding the nature, value, meaning, and importance of cultural heritage, information on the damage cultural heritage sites suffer after disasters, and the restoration efforts contribute to understanding and preserving cultural heritage. These

publications help raise awareness about cultural heritage within society. Cereci (2019: 13) also highlights that efforts to protect cultural heritage through the press and media are observed in almost all countries that value cultural heritage.

Recent developments in disaster management and the work of international organizations emphasize the importance of a community-based disaster management approach. The media, as a critical source used in community education, provides significant advantages in reaching the target audience with the resources it has (Kadıoğlu, 2014: 29). Considering the media's educational and informative functions, the discourse it produces regarding risks, the agenda it creates, and the awareness it generates have a significant impact. Given Türkiye's geographical location and physical history, risk communication activities related to earthquakes, a risk factor that always remains relevant, carried out through the media, are critically important (Vural et al., 2022). Providing information about cultural heritage damaged after disasters, emphasizing the value, preservation, and restoration stages of these historical and monumental structures, will increase public awareness of these values. These values are indicators of historical and cultural unity that bind people together.

These historical and monumental structures are carriers of tangible cultural heritage. Pierre Nora refers to this as "sites of memory".

Among these sites of memory, museums, archives, cemeteries, collections, festivals, anniversaries, treaties, sacred places, monuments, and commemorative ceremonies, speeches of praise, and dictionaries. These sites of memory enable societies to differentiate themselves from other societies and carry a sense of belonging to the group. If memories were not preserved in memory, history would have long erased them. But if the preserved things were not in danger, there would be no need for them to be constructed. (Nora, 2006: 9-23, cited in Zelan, 2022: 20)

These memory sites, which play a leading role in the formation of cultural and collective memory, link the past to the future through the information and forms of representation conveyed by the media.

Collective memory is also an essential building block for nation-building and national identity. It creates a bond that generates an image of temporal continuity between generations and legitimizes the existing socio-political order (Gross, 2002: 342). According to Başaran İnce (2010), the mediated nature of media-produced knowledge, its undeniable importance in shaping past and future knowledge, and its role as one of the primary sources used to meet current needs all contribute to the significance of the media in memory construction (Başaran İnce, 2010: 17).

At this point, the factors that shape the forms of representation in the media become important, as it plays a central role as a primary agent in the reconstruction of culture. The information produced in the media is retold based on numerous factors, such as the media's ownership structure, its ties to economic and political circles due to its commercial nature, its general editorial policy on an ideological level, journalists' perspectives on events and phenomena, their adherence to professional ethical principles, their awareness of social responsibility, the characteristics of the target audience, their relationships with news sources, and the level of use of the technology and opportunities it provides.

4. The purpose of the study

This study aims to reveal the ways in which the impact of the earthquakes on cultural heritage is presented to the public in the news, and to determine the level of media awareness and information dissemination to the public following an earthquake within the framework of framing theory. The specific aim of the study is to examine how the Turkish media handled the issue of cultural heritage, which forms the unity of history, culture, and identity following the 6 February 2023 earthquake in Türkiye, to question its integrative effect, and to discuss the social responsibility of the media in this regard.

In accordance with the purpose of the research we examine the frames of news articles covering cultural heritage, including their hierarchical positioning, presentation styles, editing methods, use of visual elements, sources of information, the actors mentioned in the news, quality and features of the content, and communication direction.

5. Methodology

In this study, we used qualitative and quantitative analysis methods with regard to framing theory. First, following the 6 February 2023 Kahramanmaraş earthquakes, we performed content analysis on the newspaper articles published between 7 February 2023, and 7 April 2023, on the internet portals of Cumhuriyet, Milliyet, and Yeni Şafak newspapers, which have different ownership and ideological structures within the Turkish press sample; Cumhuriyet represents a national left-wing perspective, Milliyet represents a liberal-right stance and Yeni Şafak represents an Islamist-conservative viewpoint. We have foreseen that these newspapers, which have different editorial strategies and appeal to different readership groups within society, will also diverge in their representations of cultural heritage.

The news articles on these internet pages were queried using the keywords "historical artifact," "cultural heritage", and "memory", resulting in a total of 1250 articles from these newspapers. The selected period covers the densest publication of news on the scope of this study. We excluded news not directly related to the research topic. For example, if a news article contained the word "memory" but its content was not relevant to the research scope, it was not included in the analysis.

Ultimately, we examined 158 news directly related to the research topic using a content analysis coding form. We queried Cultural heritage news based on their topics, presentation styles, arrangement methods, use of visual materials supporting the news, news sources in terms of production, actors featured in the news, and the quality of the news employing the content analysis method. We interpreted the data after we collected them. Content analysis, particularly in communication studies, was first defined and used by Bernard Berelson, who described it as a 'research technique for the objective, systematic and quantitative description of the manifest content of communication' (Berelson, 1952: 18, as cited in Macnamara, 2018). Fiske emphasized that content analysis is used to provide an objective, measurable, and verifiable explanation of the manifest content of messages (Fiske, 1996: 176).

Media content analysis draws on the rich heritage of content analysis within both the quantitative and qualitative traditions of this research method. Given the important role of media in societies as sources of information and influence, as well as reflections of spokespersons' and public opinions, media content analysis provides a non-intrusive method for identifying views, concerns, and discourses (Macnamara, 2018). This technique is frequently used and considered a reliable method for determining and analyzing the nature of social reality in communication studies.

In the study, we also examined which frames were used to present the relevant news to the readers. Erving Goffman is widely regarded as the creator of framing analysis, particularly with his book *Frame Analysis*, which has become the foundation of contemporary framing theory. Goffman (1974) states that frames influence people on how to understand and create meaning about a specific issue or event. In the field of mass communication and journalism, the concept of framing is an important consideration. Particularly, in journalism, the theory of framing has strong roots in the principles of the theory of mediation. This theory states that 'media' have the role of a mediator between man and society, between the outside world and the audience. In this sense, it is important to clarify that the role of mediators between reality and individuals is not reduced to a simple transmission of messages, but it is important to consider that media messages are created when making news (Gavilán, 2011: 50-52).

By its nature, the concept of framing finds a place in almost every field of social sciences, but it draws particular attention in communication sciences for how it is applied to news texts (Erdem, 2022: 47). The restructuring and reconstruction of news in the media can be explained through the concepts of framing and highlighting. A news frame is the general context created to make the news meaningful, determining what is included in the news and what is excluded (Atabek & Uztuğ, 1998: 104). Frames in news can affect how topics and events are learned, interpreted, and evaluated (Erdoğan, 2014: 36). The information provided in the media about events and phenomena influences the consciousness of individuals and societies in this context. Therefore, the frames in which news is handled and the perspectives from which the media discusses the topic also shape public perception.

According to Entman (1993: 52) framing essentially involves selection and salience. To frame is to select some aspects of a perceived reality and make them more salient in a communicating text, in such a way as to promote a particular problem definition, causal interpretation, moral evaluation, and/or treatment recommendation for the item described. Frames, then, define problems-determine what a causal agent is doing with what costs and benefits, usually measured in terms of common cultural values; diagnose causes-identify the forces creating the problem; make moral judgments-evaluate causal agents and their effects; and suggest remedies-offer and justify treatments for the problems and predict their likely effects. A single sentence may perform more than one of these four framing functions, although many sentences in a text may perform none of them. And a frame in any particular text may not necessarily include all four functions. Framing is an

indispensable narrative device for news media because even the same facts may lead to conflicting understandings if deliberate framing is employed. Therefore, identifying media framing is a crucial step to understanding how news media influence the public (Kwak, An & Yeol Ahn, 2020: 305).

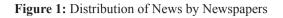
The major task of determining textual meaning should be to identify and describe frames; content analysis informed by a theory of framing would avoid treating all negative or positive terms or utterances as equally salient and influential (Entman, 1993: 57). Based on Entman's findings, this study supports content analysis with framing. The news published after the earthquake was framed during the coding process. According to the nature of the news, the identified frames include explanation, claim, criticism, expectation, solution proposal, support, information, and routine.

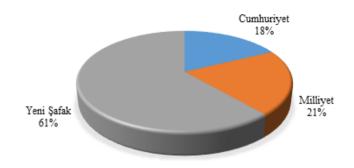
For the presentation of cultural heritage in news headlines, the "Responsibility Frames, Event Impact Frames, Human Interest Frames, and Economic Frames" were determined based on Entman (1993). Each frame was further examined with unique sub-themes according to the content of the news. In the Responsibility Frames for the presentation of cultural heritage/ historical artifacts in news headlines, the sub-themes identified were predictions about the future of cultural heritage, warnings and solution proposals from scientists. In the context of Event Impact Frames, the sub-theme identified was damage to cultural heritage. In the context of Human Interest Frames, the sub-themes were preservation and sustainability of cultural heritage and urban belonging, ownership, and urban attachment. In the Economic Frames, the sub-themes identified based on the news content were supported by the President and Government representatives, Turkish Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) and international organizations.

In addition to the previously mentioned frames, the tone of the news was also coded as positive, negative, or neutral. According to Boydstun (2013), tone is classified into three categories: positive, negative, and neutral. The tone of a certain issue or topic is positive if the construction about the issue is positive. It is negative if the construction is negative and neutral if it is ambiguous (Boydstun et al., 2013). We interpreted all data related to content analysis and framing of the topic by creating tables and graphs.

6. Findings and comments

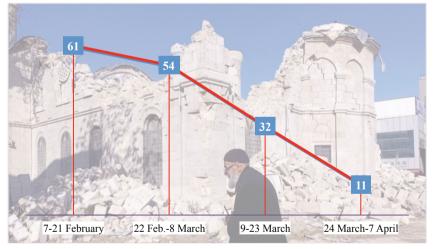
We queried the keywords "historical artifact," "cultural heritage," and "memory", within time limit set from 7 February 2023 to 7 April 7 2023 (these keywords will be collectively referred to as cultural heritage) on the internet pages of the newspapers. We harvested 1250 news articles that form the sample of the study. Of these, 158 news directly related to the research topic were analyzed using the content analysis coding form. We interpreted the findings obtained from the analysis within the framework of framing theory, accompanied by graphs, tables, and photographs.





When examining the distribution of the total 158 articles published on the newspapers' internet pages, we observe that the highest number of articles related to the research topic appeared in Yeni Şafak newspaper (97 articles), while the lowest number of articles appeared in Cumhuriyet newspaper (28 articles).





In the temporal distribution of the articles published in the newspapers, it is particularly noticeable that the number of articles addressing "cultural heritage" topics was higher during the first week after the earthquake. By the week of March 24 – April 7, 2023, the number of articles decreased to 11. This situation is actually connected to the concept of news value. In the context of temporal proximity, news about the event tends to be more quantitatively dense in the initial weeks, while the number of articles decreases in the subsequent periods.

Page Name	Number of Articles	Percentage
Agenda	104	65,8
Culture-Art	10	6,3
Economy	5	3,2
Life	26	16,5
Authors	8	5,1
Special Cases	4	2,5
World	1	0,6
Total	158	100,0

Table 1:	Pages	Containing the News	
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When examining on which webpages the articles were presented to the readership on the newspapers' websites, it is noteworthy that the majority of the articles (104 articles) were published on the "Gündem-Son Dakika" (Current Affairs - Breaking News) page. Articles published on the "Yaşam-Hayat" (Life) page accounted for 16.5% of the total, making it the second most common page for these articles. It was observed that topics related to cultural heritage in the context of "urban belonging" and "urban attachment" were predominantly featured on these pages. The number of articles published on the culture and arts pages of the newspapers was the third highest.

Presentation Style	Number	Percentage
News	119	75,4
Columns	10	6,3
Interview	4	2,5
News-Interview	9	5,7
Research-Analysis	7	4,4
Photo Gallery	7	4,4
Video News	2	1,3
Total	158	100,0

Table 2: Presentation Style of the News

A significant portion, 75.4%, of newspaper content related to "cultural heritage" is presented to readers in the format of news articles. As seen in Table 2, opinion columns (6.3%) and news-interviews (5.7%) are also notable presentation formats. It is noteworthy that the "research-analysis" presentation format, which allows for a comprehensive examination of the topic, is limited to only 7 articles. Although it is possible to produce multi-dimensional research-analysis articles that include cultural accumulation, past civilizations, and future projections, this presentation format remains quite restricted.

Another point to highlight is the minimal number of "video news" presentations, with only 2 articles utilizing this format. Despite the advancements in technology and the frequent use of video news on news websites, this format is underutilized in this context. Video journalism, which gained popularity after the 1990s, is particularly important for conveying the atmosphere of an event to the target audience with full intensity.

Arrangement Style	Number	Percentage
Investigative News	4	2,5
Compilation News	1	0,6
Thematic News	13	8,2
Information News	63	39,9
Case News	60	38,0
Narrative News	8	5,1
Comment	9	5,7
Total	158	100,0

Table 3: Arrangement of News

When examining the distribution of cultural heritage news according to their arrangement styles on the pages, it is found that the "informative news" category, created using expert opinions or written sources on science/technology, appears most frequently (39.9%). This indicates a positive aspect in terms of educating the readership about the topic. The number of "event news," which is driven by breaking developments, totals 60 articles (38.0%). "Topical news," which focuses on a specific topic and is composed of similar content, accounts for 8.2% of the articles. Opinion columns, categorized as "commentary," make up 9.0% of the news. The "story news" arrangement style, where events are narrated to the readers, constitutes 5.1% of the articles. It is noted that story news is generally published in the context of urban belonging and urban attachment "Investigative news," which involves special work by a reporter to report on a situation, appears only 4 times in the sample newspapers. Lastly, "compilation news," which combines elements of the topic from different historical processes using primary and secondary sources, was featured only once.

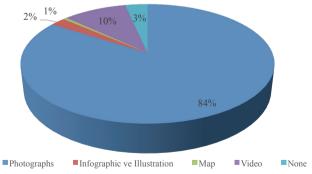


Figure 3: Distribution of Visual Materials Supporting the News

Note: Multiple selections made on this question

When examining the distribution of visual materials supporting the news, it is noted that some articles use more than one type of visual material. As seen in Figure 3, the use of

"photographs" ranks first in the visual material category with a rate of 84.0% (148 articles). The photographs generally highlight the damage to the historical heritage.

In Photo 1, the Habib-i Neccar Mosque, which was built in Antakya in 638 when it was captured by Muslim Arabs, is featured. It is considered to be the first mosque built within the current borders of Türkiye. After being completely destroyed in the 6 February earthquakes, reconstruction work has begun under the supervision of the General Directorate of Foundations to restore the Habib-i Neccar Mosque to its original form.



Photo 1: Hatay-Habibi Neccar Mosque (İhlas News Agency)

In the photographs, people experiencing profound traumas are often depicted alongside historical heritage, creating a powerful narrative within the news content. In Photo 2, for instance, the historic Hacı Yusuf Mosque in Malatya, which was supported by Sultan Abdulhamid II, is among the places damaged by the earthquake. The photograph, capturing both the damaged historical artifact and an elderly earthquake survivor in the same frame, conveys deep meanings.



Photo 2: The historic Hacı Yusuf Mosque in Malatya (Anadolu Agency)

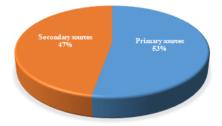
One can notice that the "before-and-after" theme is emphasized in the photographs featured in the news. In Photo 3, the structure known among the public as \$ih Mosque was built by Sheikh Hüseyin Dede. It is estimated that the mosque was constructed before 1681. The minaret of the mosque, where a cannonball fired by the French during the National Struggle period became embedded, was completely destroyed in the earthquakes described as the "disaster of the century." This mosque is one of the rare ones that was entirely demolished in the earthquake.



Photo 3: Kahramanmaraş- Historical Şıh Mosque Before/After (Yeni Şafak)

Videos were used in a total of 17 news articles. It is noteworthy that these videos generally originated from news agencies. "Infographics and illustrations," which make the news more understandable, were presented to readers in 4 articles, while 'maps' emphasizing the concept of the event's location were featured only once. Additionally, six articles did not include any visual materials.

Figure 4: Distribution of News by Sources in Terms of Production



Note: Multiple selections made on this question

The distribution of sources in cultural heritage news shows that 'primary sources' which involve the reporter being on-site and interviewing news sources, constitute 53.0% of the articles. The use of secondary sources, which include press releases, documents, reports, and other media content from news agencies, accounts for 47.0%. In the use of secondary sources in cultural heritage news, it is particularly noteworthy that agency news, documents related to the management of the post-disaster process, and reports on future disaster preparedness and risk planning are frequently utilized.

News Sources	Number	Percentage	
Domestic Official Sources	43	24,9	
International Official Sources	1	0,5	
Domestic Private Sources	43	24,9	
International Private Sources	0	0	
Domestic News Agencies	68	39,3	
International News Agencies	0	0	
Not Available	18	10,4	
Total	173	100,0	

Note: Multiple selections made on this question

In the creation of cultural heritage news, some articles utilize multiple internal and external news sources. The most frequently used sources are "internal news agencies", which account for 39.3% of the articles. As shown in Table 4, "internal official sources", which include official sources like the President, government officials, and public servants, and "internal private sources", which consist of private sector members, NGO representatives, and experts, equally contribute to 24.9% of the news. A notable point highlighted in the results is that "external official sources" were cited in only one article, while "external private sources" and "external news agencies" were not cited in any articles.

Actors	Number	Percentage
The President of Turkish Republic	6	2,7
Turkish Government Authorities	25	11,2
Ministry of Culture and Tourism	36	16,0
Opposition Party Representatives	4	1,8
Foreign Country Official	1	0,4
Turkish Scientist	38	16,9
Foreigner Scientist	2	0,8
Local Governments	9	4,0
Union of Chambers of Turkish Engineers and Architects	5	2,2
Turkish NGO	16	7,1
Foreign NGO	2	0,8
UNESCO	8	3,6
Religious Official	9	4,0
Citizen	52	23,2
Other	12	5,3
Total	225	100,0

Table 5: Distribution of Actors Featured in the News

Note: Multiple selections made on this question

An analysis of the distribution of actors "citizens" (52 articles), "Turkish scientists" (38 articles), and the "Ministry of Culture and Tourism" (36 articles) occupy the top three positions. The frequent appearance of earthquake-affected citizens as the most common actors in the news reflects a strong connection between cultural heritage and urban belonging, ownership, and life. A notable point in Table 5 is the low visibility of foreign actors in the news. Considering the idea that cultural heritage is a borderless global wealth, it is important to highlight that "foreign government officials," "foreign scientists," and "foreign non-governmental organizations" are very rarely featured in the news. Foreign actors appeared in only 5 articles in total. This situation is a concrete indication that the topic of cultural heritage, which represents universal wealth and suffered significant damage in the earthquake, is not sufficiently embraced or supported by foreign actors.

This situation can be seen as a result of the macro perspective and homogenization brought about by globalization, which leads to the erosion of local cultures. The cultural erosion triggered by globalization and technology has caused a decline in international interest in cultural heritage, which serves as the footprints of the past. Consequently, this situation can be regarded as a weakness in the preservation of cultural heritage and its transmission to future generations in the global context.

Quality	Cumhuriyet	Milliyet	Yeni Şafak	Total
Statement	7	19	42	68
Claim	1	2	8	11
Critic	5	0	0	5
Expectation	2	1	8	11
Solution Proposing	4	8	15	27
Support	0	0	5	5
Informing	11	19	36	66
Standart	4	0	7	11
Total	34	49	121	204

Table 6:	Distribution	of News	by	Quality
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Note: Multiple selections made on this question.

As one can see in Table 6, the most common type of news is "explanation" (68 articles). Typically, this category highlights statements from accredited sources regarding the damage to cultural heritage, its preservation, and sustainability. In terms of news type distribution, "informative" articles account for 32.3%, and "solution proposals" make up 13.2%. Informative articles and solution proposals generally rely on statements from scientists, representatives of non-governmental organizations, and officials from public institutions.

When evaluating the nature of the news in the context of newspapers, it is observed that

Milliyet and Yeni Şafak did not feature any "critical" articles, while 14.7% of Cumhuriyet's articles were of a critical nature. Another noteworthy finding is related to the "support" type of news. While Cumhuriyet and Milliyet did not publish any support-related articles, Yeni Şafak published 5 articles of this nature.

When examining which type of news the newspapers prioritized the most after the earthquake in relation to cultural heritage, it is noted that Cumhuriyet prioritized "informative" articles, Milliyet equally prioritized "explanation" and "informative" articles, and Yeni Şafak primarily focused on "explanation" articles.

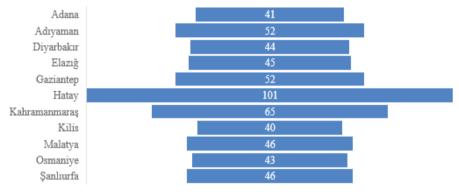
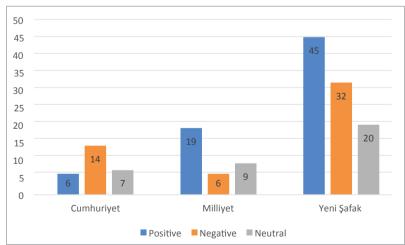


Figure 5: City Featuring the Cultural Heritage/Historical Artifact in the News

As seen in Figure 5, the top three cities most frequently mentioned in the news are Hatay (101 articles), Kahramanmaraş (65 articles), and Adıyaman (52 articles). This situation can be attributed to two reasons: firstly, the high number of historical artifacts in these cities, and secondly, the more intense destructive impact of the earthquake on cultural heritage in these locations.

Figure 6: Tone of Communication in the News



After the earthquake, one of the elements that adds a qualitative dimension to the content

Note: Multiple selections made on this question

analysis method used in this study, which analyzes cultural heritage news, is questioning the news in the context of "tone of communication." As seen in Figure 6, a significant portion of the news published in newspapers, about 44.0%, falls into the "positive" quality category. Of the remaining news, 33.0% are negative and 23.0% are neutral and have been communicated to the target audience.

Although news related to destruction after a negative event like an earthquake is present, positive news focuses on two main points. The first is cultural heritage that "did not suffer damage" during the earthquake, and the second is efforts and projects related to restoring cultural heritage damaged during the earthquake to its former state. When questioning the tone of communication in the context of newspapers, it is noteworthy that Milliyet (19 news articles) and Yeni Şafak (45 news articles) newspapers prominently feature positive news. Cumhuriyet newspaper, on the other hand, appears to predominantly cover negative news in terms of communication tone. About 51.9% of this newspaper's cultural heritage-related news articles consist of negative news. In general evaluation of the tone of communication in the raumatic environment after the earthquake, the prevalence of positive news regarding cultural heritage, which individuals often relate to their lives, can be considered as a morale-boosting factor.

Frames	Presentation of Cultural Heritage/Historical Artifact News in Headlines	Cumhuriyet	Milliyet	Yeni Şafak	Total
-	Predictions about the Future of Cultural Heritage	4	9	6	19
Frames of Responsibility	Warnings from Scientists	4	2	1	7
1 5	Scientists' Proposals for Solutions	3	6	9	18
Impact Frames of the Event	Damage to the Cultural Heritage	17	10	33	60
Frames of	Preservation and Sustainability of Cultural Heritage	11	19	51	81
Human Interest	Urban Belonging, Ownership, and Urban attachment	6	5	16	27
Economic	Support of the President and Government Representatives	-	1	7	8
Frames	Support Provided by NGOs in Türkiye	2	4	1	7
	Assistance from International Organizations	-	1	1	2
Total		47	57	125	229

Table 7: Framing of	Cultural Heritage/I	Historical Artifact in	News Headlines

Note: Multiple selections made on this question

The framing of headlines in cultural heritage/historical monument news has been

evaluated within the frameworks of responsibility, impact, human interest, and economic aspects.

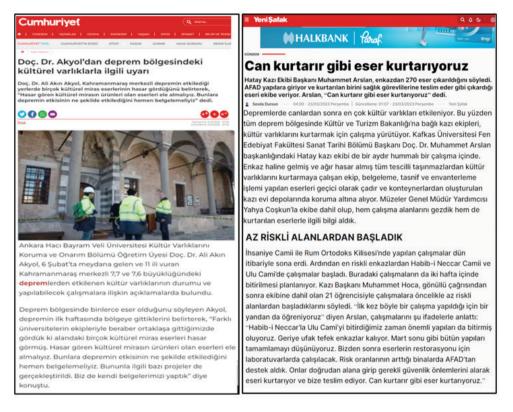


Photo 4: Examples of News Related to Responsibility Frameworks

Within the frameworks of responsibility, it is observed that predictions about the future of cultural heritage (19 headlines) and solutions proposed by scientists (18 headlines) are highlighted. Additionally, warnings from scientists (7 headlines) are also included in this framing of headlines. Examples from newspapers are provided in Figure 4 under the responsibility frameworks. Headlines such as "Warning from Assoc. Prof. Akyol regarding cultural assets in earthquake zones" in Cumhuriyet newspaper and "Rescuing monuments as if saving lives" in Yeni Şafak newspaper are evaluated within the responsibility frameworks.



Photo 5: Examples of News Regarding Impact Frameworks

Examples related to the impact frameworks of the event can be seen in Figure 5. The focus is on the damage suffered by cultural heritage within the impact framework of the event. A total of 60 news headlines have been conveyed to readers within this framework. Examples of this framing include headlines like "Earthquakes also hit cultural heritage" in Milliyet newspaper and "Our memory also suffered damage: historical structures before and after the earthquake" in Yeni Şafak newspaper.



Photo 6: Examples of News Related to Human Interest Frames

Human interest frameworks constitute another category of framing news. Within the framework emphasizing the importance of preserving and sustaining cultural heritage for future generations, there are a total of 81 news headlines. This framing category is observed to be the most prominently featured presentation in all news headlines.

"Urban belonging, ownership" and "urban attachment" is another category within human interest frameworks, encompassing 27 news headlines conveyed to readers. Examples of headlines in this category include "Current situation in Antakya buried in silence captured from the air" in Cumhuriyet newspaper and "We will stand together: All religious leaders in Hatay mobilized" in Yeni Şafak newspaper (see Figure 6). These headlines serve as examples of this category, with notable emphases on human interest within their texts. In Cumhuriyet newspaper's article, phrases such as "Thousands of buildings, historical structures, and businesses collapsed. Many stories of losing childhood friends, neighbors, memories due to earthquakes..." are included. In Yeni Şafak newspaper, the statement "Hatay, hosting the historical sites of three Semitic religions, once again came together with the earthquake. No matter what happens, we will rise together again, we will repair our streets steeped in history" is conveyed to the readership. These statements emphasize both the sustainability of cultural heritage and the relationship between cultural heritage and life.



Photo 7: Examples of News Related to Economic Frameworks

Under the economic framework category of headlines, there are several sub-categories: "Support from the President and Government representatives" (8 headlines), "Support from NGOs in Türkiye" (7 headlines), and "Aid from international organizations" (2 headlines). Examples related to this framing can be found in Figure 7.

In a news article titled "Rebuilding the destroyed historical sites" published by Milliyet newspaper (see Figure 7), it was stated: "Immediately after the earthquake, on 7 February 2023, UNESCO announced that an inventory of historical and cultural sites destroyed or damaged in Türkiye and Syria would be compiled, and efforts for repairs would commence soon. It was expressed that there is great sorrow over the damage suffered by historical monuments dating back to the Roman, Sassanid, Byzantine, Islamic, and Ottoman periods listed on UNESCO's World Heritage List, and urgent mobilization with experts and collaborating organizations was emphasized."

Cumhuriyet's article titled "Türkiye City Councils Union announced a 25-point disaster action plan: EMASYA call" included a section on "Establishing the 'Cultural and Natural Heritage Guardians System' for the preservation of cultural and natural heritage."

When evaluating the quantitative findings related to economic frameworks in Table 7, it is noteworthy that Yeni Şafak newspaper prominently covers the category of "Support from the President and Government representatives." Cumhuriyet newspaper, on the other hand, did not publish any news on this topic. Milliyet newspaper is most visible in covering "Support from NGOs in Türkiye." The category of "Aid from international organizations" is the least represented within the economic frameworks.

These findings highlight how different newspapers frame and prioritize economic aspects related to the preservation and restoration of cultural heritage in their reporting.

Торіс	Number	Percentage
Cultural- Cultural Heritage	42	12,6
Memory- Cultural Memory	17	5,1
Civilization	10	3,0
History- Historical Artifacts	54	16,2
Museum	18	5,4
Mosque-Tomb	55	16,5
Church-Synagogue	26	7,7
Castle-Walls	22	6,6
Bazaar-Caravanserai	20	5,9
Historical Street	10	3,0
World Heritage Site	9	2,7
Urban Conservation Area	3	0,9
Restoration	14	4,2
Post-Disaster Process Management-Coordination	28	8,4
Future-Oriented Disaster Preparedness and Risk Planning	5	1,5
Others	1	0,3
Total	334	100

Table 8	: The	main	topic	of the	news
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Note: Multiple selections made on this question.

In Table 8, distributions based on the primary topics of the news articles are examined. It is observed that some articles cover multiple topics. Among the primary topics, the top three most covered subjects in the news are "mosque-mausoleum" (55 articles), "history-historical monument" (54 articles), and "culture-cultural heritage" (42 articles). Besides these primary topics, the topics of Church-Synagogue (26 articles), Castle-Walls (22 articles), Bazaar-Caravanserai (20 articles), Museum (18 articles), and Historical Street (10 articles) are also prominent in the news, indicating the rich cultural fabric of the earthquake-affected region.

Another noteworthy point is that cultural heritage is indeed the memory of a nation, a fact reflected in the topics covered in the news. The topic of Memory-cultural memory is addressed in 17 articles. Learning lessons from earthquakes and planning for the future correctly are crucial for post-earthquake actions. It is observed in the examined articles that information on "Disaster Post-Process Management-Coordination" (28 articles) and "Future-oriented Disaster Preparedness Risk Planning" (5 articles) is shared with the readers.

Results

In the context of framing theory, the first study conducted in Türkiye analyzing postearthquake cultural heritage news has crystallized the following results based on the research objectives and questions. First of all, news related to cultural heritage shows a rapid decline over time, indicating a diminishing sensitivity from the media and a decrease in the topic's on the media agenda. Besides, the content concerning cultural heritage is generally presented in a news format aimed at the target audience. On the other hand, opinion articles or analytical columns, which could present deeper thought and have intellectual impacts on the masses, have limited coverage of cultural heritage.

Investigative news stories involve the journalist's special effort to explore cultural heritage in different contexts. Our findings show that investigative news stories are insufficient in our sample.

Another interesting finding is about the post-earthquake cultural heritage photography that three main themes stand out: damage to cultural heritage, the relationship between humans and cultural heritage, and pre-earthquake versus post-earthquake cultural heritage.

It is also notable that newspapers frequently rely on news agencies for cultural heritage stories, potentially leading to homogenization of coverage in this field. On the contrary, the absence of foreign official sources, private sources, and foreign news agencies in these stories indicates insufficient international attention to Türkiye's cultural heritage post-earthquake. This argument is supported by the limited visibility of foreign actors such as foreign officials, foreign scientists, and foreign NGOs in the news. We read this as the homogenization created by globalization and the cultural erosion triggered by technology leading to a decrease in international interest in cultural heritage, which represents the footprints of the past.

It is clearly observed that the newspapers in the sample, which appeal to different readership groups, exhibit distinct responses in their representations of cultural heritage. This divergence has emerged in both quantitative and qualitative dimensions in the news analyses. Notably, Yeni Şafak, which represents an Islamist-conservative perspective, featured the most content related to cultural heritage. On the other hand, it is important to highlight that Cumhuriyet, which represents a national left-wing stance, primarily adopted a critical tone in its coverage of cultural heritage, producing content with a predominantly negative communicative direction. This "negative mirror image" is seen in the news content of Yeni Şafak and Milliyet. In contrast to Cumhuriyet, the communicative direction of the news in these two newspapers is largely positive. This outcome in the study can be attributed to the focus of Yeni Şafak and Milliyet on the efforts related to cultural heritage in the aftermath of the earthquake. In the context of cultural heritage reporting, following explanatory news, it is important that informative and solution-oriented content has a prominent place, providing readers with high-quality information. Emphasizing positive news related to cultural heritage in communication is important, especially as it can serve as a morale booster for individuals who often relate their personal experiences to this subject, particularly in the traumatic aftermath of earthquakes. Headlines in cultural heritage news tend to adopt one of four main framing perspectives: (i) responsibility frames, (ii) event impact frames, (iii) human interest frames, and (iv) economic frames.

In the aftermath of an earthquake, cultural heritage news highlights three critical aspects which are cultural heritage serves as the memory of a nation; there is an inseparable link between cultural heritage and individual lives; and lastly, Türkiye boasts a rich and diverse cultural heritage.

As a result of our our findings, we recommend the following:

First of all, the media should maintain consistent sensitivity towards cultural heritage over time. Furthermore, cultural heritage issues should be addressed more frequently in opinion columns, which have the potential to influence public opinion effectively. The inclusion of more research-based articles is also necessary to provide a more integrated and comprehensive perspective on cultural heritage. Additionally, media coverage should aim to attract greater international attention to cultural heritage issues, particularly in the context of post-disaster recovery.

Strengthening the presence of news about cultural heritage on the agenda is critical, as it can raise societal awareness and influence policy decisions. We also expect future researchers to expand this research by including other forms of media, such as television and radio, which would provide a multidimensional understanding of the representation of cultural heritage in the Turkish media landscape. This broader approach could further enrich the findings and contribute to a deeper analysis of media practices related to cultural heritage preservation.

The media, playing a pivotal role in society, should serve as a bridge in managing postdisaster processes, coordinating efforts, announcing future disaster preparedness plans, and preserving cultural heritage. Media's emphasis on cultural heritage should not be limited to post-disaster scenarios like earthquakes but should maintain significant importance across all times and conditions.

Abbreviations

UDHR: Universal Declaration of Human Rights

UNESCO: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

NGO: Non-Governmental Organizations

EMASYA: Safety-Security-Assistance Protocol (Emniyet-Asayiş-Yardımlaşma Protokolü)

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