



Investigating the discursive newsworthiness of selected newspaper reports on the 2017 Marawi City Siege

PAPER PRESENTATION

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The Marawi City crisis: A brief explanation

- ❑ Launched by jihadist groups Abu Sayyaf and the Maute in retaliation to a thwarted arrest attempt of Islamic State (IS) leader Isnilon Hapilon
- ❑ **Panzo (2018):** Exposure of numerous concerns such as local citizen welfare, exposure of poverty and security lapses, and the perpetuation of jihadism
- ❑ **Effects:**
 - ❑ a citywide encounter that left almost 1,000 casualties; 300,000 displaced citizens, and 17-million pesos worth of infrastructure damages
 - ❑ declaration of Martial Law throughout Mindanao

Social importance of the news in terror situations

❖ **How terrorist attacks are reported in the press could likely shape the way their audiences understand terrorism.**

❑ **Bhatia (2009):** Terrorism coverage in the media tend to be not only simplistic and subjective, but these reports also appear to become avenues of struggle that can evoke emotions.

❑ **There is no consensus on what constitutes “terrorism” (Easson & Schmid, 2011; Ramsay, 2015).**

Social importance of the news in terror situations

- ❖ **The news media is not completely objective or impartial.**
 - **Richardson (2004):** “an argumentative discourse genre” (p. 227)
 - **Pertierra (2012):** Philippine newspapers are often maintained by prominent families with links to powerful individuals, making them “free but partisan” (p. 13).
 - **Facchinetti (2012):** News reports are reconstructions of events that rely on meaningful semiotic resources while dealing with various publication constraints.

Social importance of the news in terror situations

- ❖ Journalistic decisions are **semiotic choices** that often prioritize “**a different meaning and emphasis to the event and the corresponding news story**” (Staab, 1990, p. 429).
- ❖ How do journalists package contentious events in news reports? How do these events become newsworthy?

Research Objectives

- ❖ **Main objective:** To identify how the 2017 Marawi Crisis is constructed in news reports as newsworthy
- ❖ **Specific objectives:**
 - ❖ To determine the linguistic and visual resources that construe news values, and
 - ❖ To identify the news values employed to construct the event's newsworthiness

Newsworthiness

- ❖ A concept widely discussed in journalism studies and linguistics
- ❖ **Bednarek and Caple (2017):** Broad dimensions of newsworthiness
 - ❑ **MATERIAL:** What physical aspects of events make them newsworthy?
 - ❑ **SOCIAL:** What guidelines do media groups have to determine newsworthy events?
 - ❑ **COGNITIVE:** What internalized newsworthiness criteria do individual journalists have?
 - ❑ **DISCURSIVE:** How do journalists present events as newsworthy?

Theoretical Framework: Discursive News Values Analysis

- ❖ **The discursive news values framework enables us to determine how an event is constructed to be newsworthy.**
- ❑ **Newsworthiness** is seen as a discursively constructed concept.
- ❑ **News values** refer to the different factors or qualities that shape an event's newsworthiness.
- ❑ Conducting discursive news values analysis (DNVA) is believed to be an "interpretive piece of research" (Caple & Bednarek, 2015, p. 17) because of the importance of context in its consideration.

Theoretical Framework: Discursive News Values Analysis

1. Consonance
2. Eliteness
3. Impact
4. Personalization
5. Positivity
6. Negativity
7. Proximity
8. Superlativeness
9. Timeliness
10. Unexpectedness
11. Aesthetic Appeal (of images)

Research Methods

- ❖ This study is a part of a larger discursive news values analysis.
- ❖ Design:
 - ❖ Corpus-assisted multimodal discourse analysis (CAMDA)
*For this presentation: **collocation analysis + visual analysis***
 - ❖ Intertextual and intersemiotic

Research Methods

- ❖ **Corpus design: 60 news reports on the Marawi Crisis**
 - ❑ Three broadsheets: *The Manila Bulletin*, *The Philippine Star*, and *The Philippine Daily Inquirer*
 - ❑ **Scope:** May 23, 2017 – October 31, 2017 (Four reports / month)
 - ❑ **Word count:** 350-1,350 words per article (49,535 words total)
 - ❑ **At least one image (60 news images total)**

Research Methods

❖ Collocation analysis

- Lancaster University Corpus Toolbox (LancsBox 4.0)
- Node words:** MARAWI and MAUTE
- Settings:**
 - Span:** Four words on both left and right sides
 - Minimum collocation frequency:** 9
 - Statistical measures:** MI3 and Log-likelihood (LL)
- Focused on content words present in both MI3 and LL**
- Examined further through concordance analysis**

Research Methods

❖ Visual analysis

- ❑ MAXQDA Analytics Pro 2018

- ❑ **Visual units:**

- ✓ **CONTENT:** Represented participants, attributes, and setting

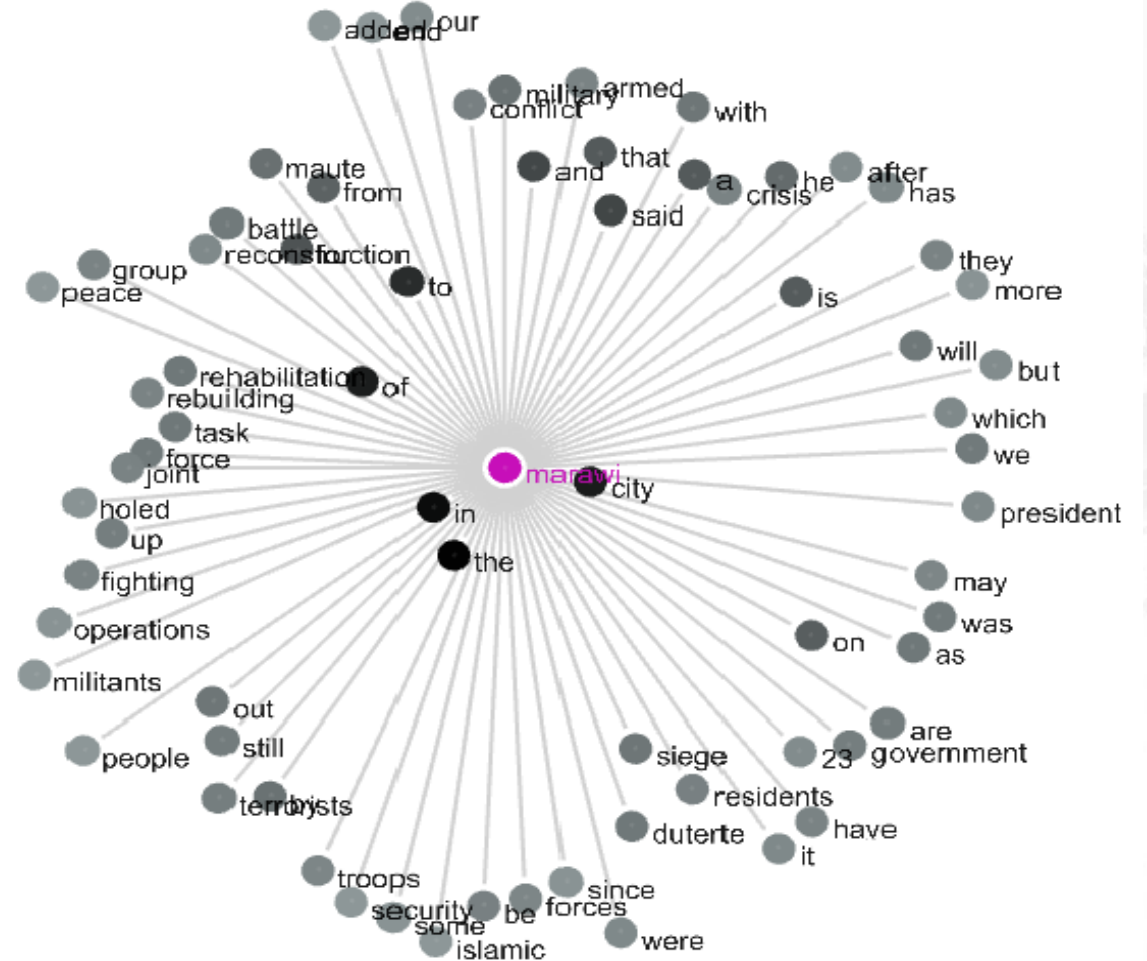
- ✓ **CAPTURE STRATEGIES**

- **Image composition:** Saliency, shot length, cropping, camera angle, dynamic asymmetry, interrupted symmetry

- **Technical affordances:** Depth of field (through the aperture), sharpness (through the shutter speed) and noise (through the ISO scale settings)

Findings: Collocates of MARAWI

City, said, siege, task, rehabilitation, force, rebuilding, crisis, joint, battle, conflict, reconstruction, residents, still, Duterte, maute, military, 23, armed, fighting, may, government, terrorists, forces, group, president, operations, troops, end, security, peace, added, Islamic, militants, people



Findings: Collocates of MARAWI

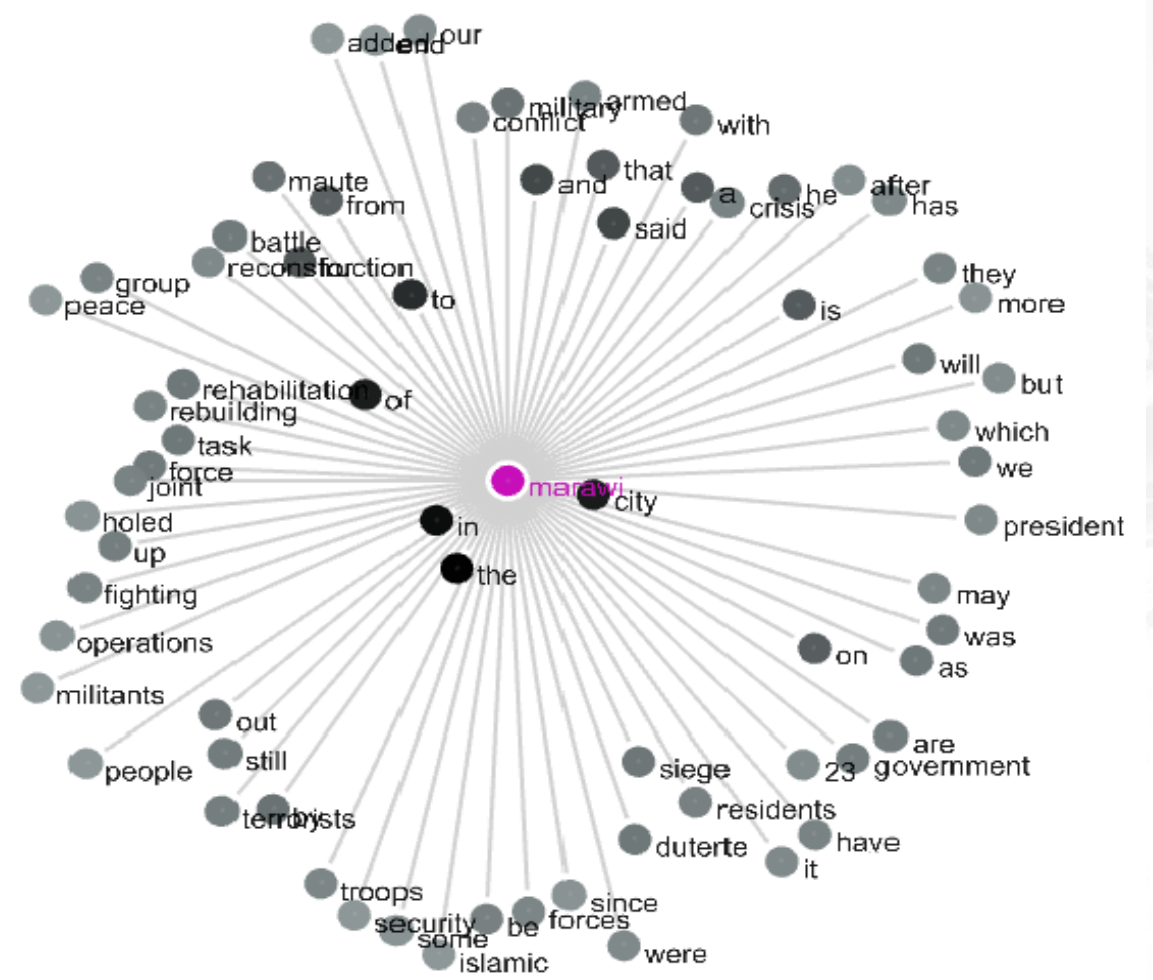
Eliteness: task, force, joint, Duterte, military, armed, government, forces, president, troops, security

Negativity: siege, crisis, conflict, fighting, armed, terrorists, militants

Positivity: rehabilitation, rebuilding, reconstruction

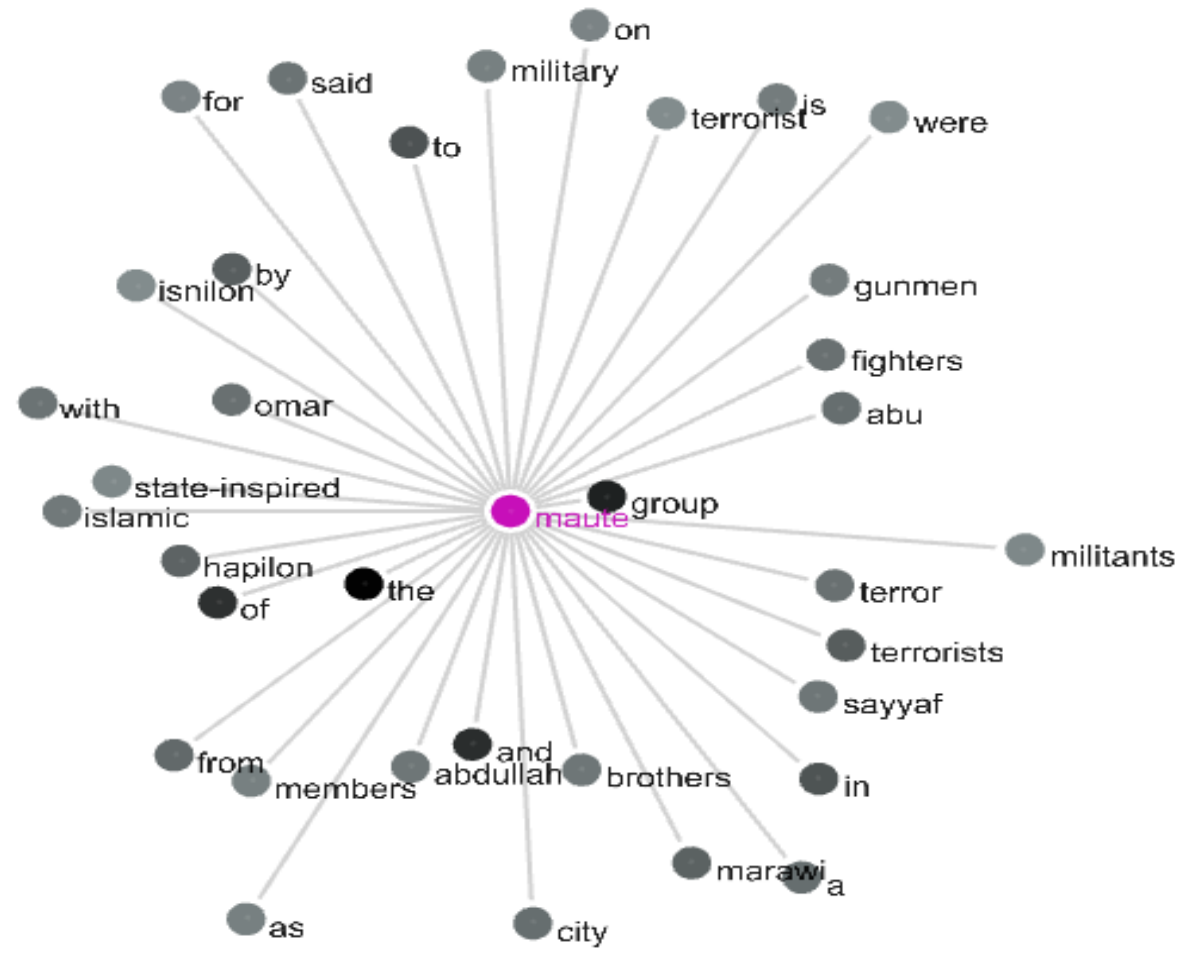
Timeliness: still, may, 23

Personalization: residents, people



Findings: Collocates of MAUTE

group, omar, Hapilon, brothers, Abdullah, terror, terrorists, abu, fighters, sayyaf, state-inspired, members, gunmen, Islamic, marawi, Isnilon, city, terrorist, militants, military, said

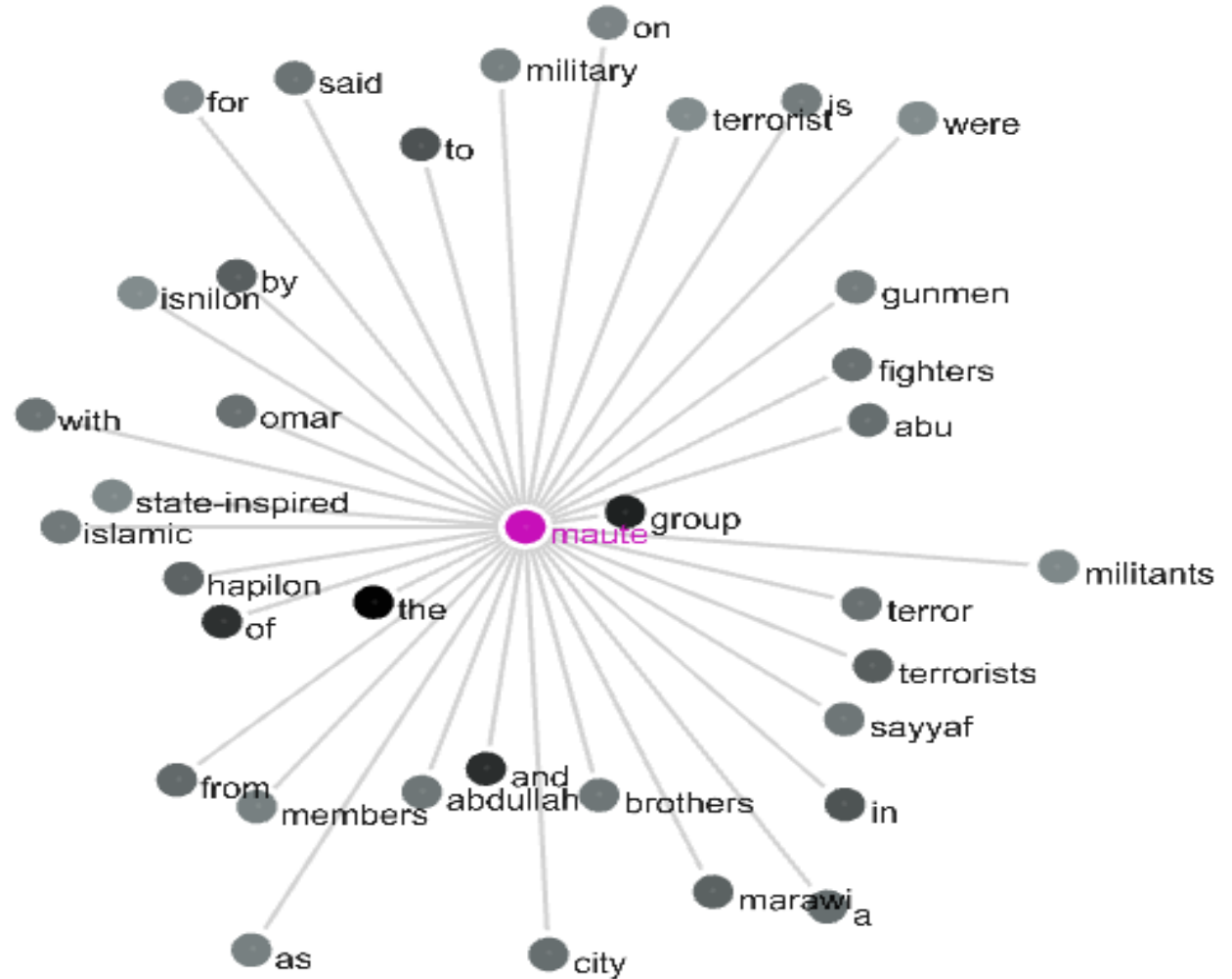


Findings: Collocates of MAUTE

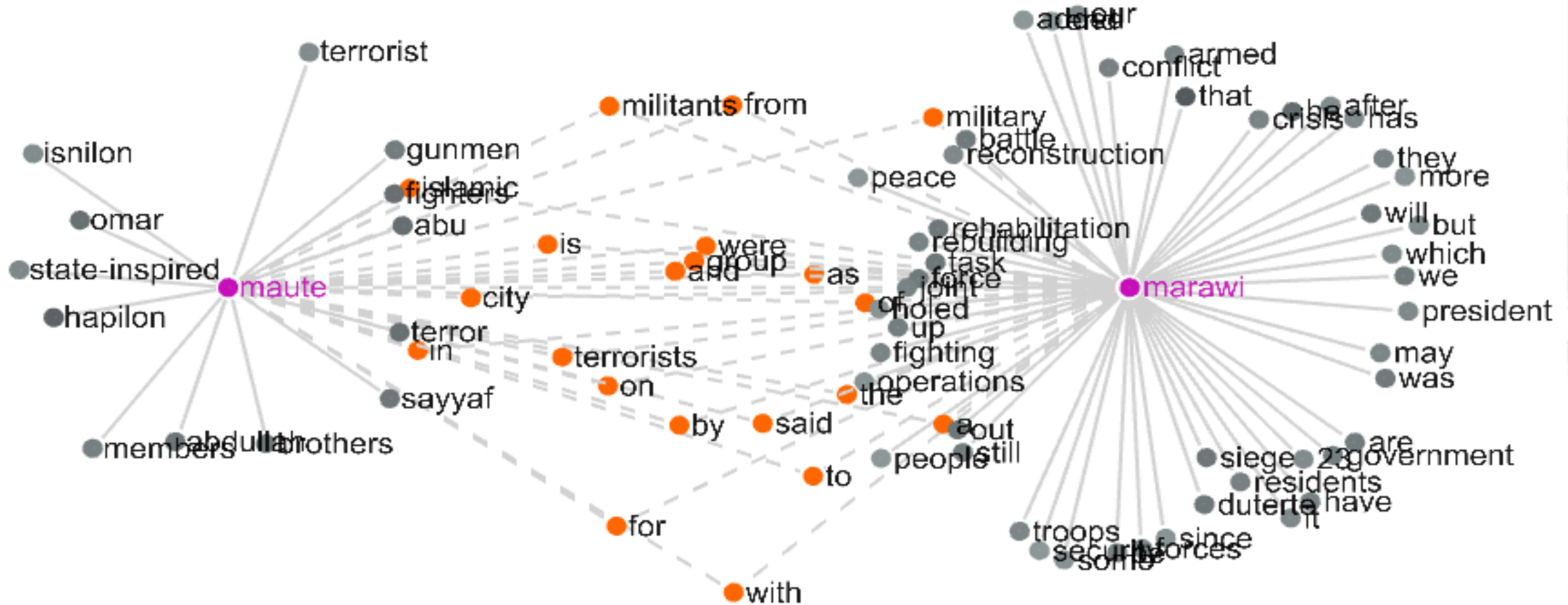
Eliteness: *military*

Negativity: *terror, terrorists, fighters, gunmen, terrorist, militants*

Proximity: *marawi*



Findings: Shared Collocates



Findings: Visual analysis

NEWS VALUE	Clear	Doubtful	Not Observed
Consonance	0	24	36
Eliteness	10	44	6
Impact	24	0	34
Positivity	13	3	44
Negativity	32	3	25
Personalization	39	1	20
Proximity	6	11	43
Superlativeness	11	1	48
Timeliness	15	0	45
Unexpectedness	1	0	59
Aesthetic appeal	0	0	0

Findings: Visual analysis



Represented participants:

Ordinary evacuees (e.g., the mother with a baby and two other news actors in the background)

Setting:

Evacuation center as indicated by relief goods

Camera setting:

Reduced depth of field to blur the background

Findings: Visual analysis



*Represented
Participant: Fr.
Teresito
Sujanob, a
hostage victim
who escaped
from the
terrorists*

*Capture strategy:
Use of medium
close-up as a
means of limiting
the image's
composition*

Never ordered EJK'

Troops still clearing Marawi of bombs

By JAIME LAUDE

Even as the five-month-old armed conflict in Marawi City is finally over, government forces have yet to clear the bombs and booby traps left by the Islamic State-inspired Maute group. Armed Forces of the Philip-

pires (AFP) chief Gen. Eduardo Año said that despite the semblance of normalcy, soldiers are still doing damage assessment and physical clearing within the main battle area.

"There's no reported fighting as of this time. And the first
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Photo shows bombed-out buildings and a damaged mosque in what was the main battle area in Marawi, days after the military declared the end of fighting against Maute terrorists.



Findings:
Visual
analysis

19 BODIES OF CIVILIANS RECOVERED IN MARAWI

NEWS / 4/19



**Findings:
Visual
analysis**

Findings: Visual analysis



Findings: Visual analysis



Preliminary Conclusions

- ❖ **VERBAL DIMENSION:** Dominant discourses of negativity, proximity, and eliteness were constructed through content words.
 - ❑ Other discourses present: Positivity and timeliness
 - ❑ Requires further investigation through a manual analysis of **each** text
- ❖ **VISUAL DIMENSION:** The news images mostly concentrate on the unwanted effects of the conflict on ordinary citizens. The recent work of authorities to deal with this crisis is also reported but perhaps only to a lesser degree.
- ❖ **We could draw insights on how Philippine journalists present critical events in the form of consumable news products.**



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