

Pictorial Framing of Farmer-Herder Conflict in Nigeria by Daily Trust, Nigerian Tribune and the Sun Newspapers

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Abstract

This study examined pictorial framing of farmer-herder conflict in Nigeria by Daily Trust, Tribune and the Sun newspapers for the period of six months June 2018 to December 2018. The objectives of the study are to identify issues of farmers-herders conflict portrayed in Daily Trust, the Sun and Tribune newspapers. Identify types of pictures the newspapers used in framing farmers-herders conflict in Nigeria. Examine tone of the pictures used by Daily Trust, the Sun and Tribune in framing the farmers- herders' conflict in Nigeria. The study is situated within the arguments of framing and conflict theories which served as theoretical framework. The study adopted content analysis research design to fill the knowledge gap on how newspapers use pictures in framing the farmers-herders conflict in Nigeria during the period of study. Findings from the study indicated that Daily Trust, Tribune and the Sun used accompanied pictures with positive tone in the coverage of the farmers- herders' conflict pictorially throughout the period selected for the research. The study concluded that, even though diverse media organizations paid attention to the coverage of the conflict pictorially, Daily Trust, Tribune and The Sun were able to show the different sides to the conflict (Resolved/ Rescued efforts, Mild, Grievous and Farmers Attack) but predominantly focused on village attack, herders with weapons and the physically traumatised angle to the story thereby showcasing more of a situation with devastating impact that is yet to be resolved. The study concluded that, in spite of the mild reports and footages about the issue, Daily Trust, Tribune and The Sun newspapers pictorially framed the conflict as and physically traumatizing, impacts community negatively thus downplaying the mild or commodification perspective of the situation in pictures. The study recommends that similar study should be conducted using the same newspapers but different period of study in order to ascertain if there is a paradigmatic shift in relation to issues of farmers and herders' conflict pictorially framed by Daily Trust, Tribune and The Sun newspapers. There is need for Daily Trust, Tribune and the Sun to adopt the use of both accompanied and unaccompanied pictures in their pictorial reportage of the farmers and herders' conflict. Further research should be conducted on the tone of pictures used by Daily Trust, Tribune and the Sun newspapers. This largely because, it is extremely unusual to see all the pictures have positive tone.

Background of the Study

Media as an institution and instrument is interested in conflict reporting along many other issues related to politics and economy. Globally, conflict has been central to human existence. Varied interests and opinions have often led to conflicts that have degenerate to violence [1]. Hence, there are different kinds of conflict in the world that are nearly synonymous to every continent of the world. The conflicts include clashes over resource, land and tussle for power. Farmer-herder conflict is part of the conflicts that Africa has been battling with, especially Nigeria. Media are believed to have given substantial coverage to such conflicts [2]. Although it is not the only conflict in Nigeria, there were communal and religious conflicts that are visible in the country. However, farmer-herder conflict is unique because it has multifarious history and takes many forms.

Explained that since the beginning of the 21st century, disputes among pastoralist and sedentary farmers have always occurred. However, as the country continues to evolve, such conflicts transformed and turned into violent conflicts [3].

The Fulanis are foremost for breeding cattle [4]. They own over 90% of the nation's livestock and are dominant in the Sahel region. While they move around in search of greener pasture to feed their cattle, farmers in communities often bear the brunt as their crops are being destroyed in the process. Posits that land, crops, livestock, water resources and vegetal resources play significant roles in the expansion, preservation and prognostication of socio-economic strength of a society [5]. Hence, resource ownership and its use have resulted to disagreements among humans just as being portrayed by herdsmen-farmers.

The disagreement and its intensity between farmers and herders in Nigeria are context based as it varies from one community to another. But the common factor that is synonymous to all is the fact that the disagreements are fuelled by economic and social factors.

Holds that the unresolved disagreements have constituted threats to survival and means of livelihood of the parties involved. Added that the major trigger of the conflicts between herders and farmers is the straying cattle that devour crops without the consent of the farmers while the farmers harm the cattle out of anger. Currently, the conflict has degenerated to fierce violence in states such as Benue, Taraba, Plateau and some parts of Adamawa states. As a result of these kind of conflicts, hundreds of lives and properties have been destroyed which is why efforts by relevant stakeholders are being channelled to resolve the conflict in order to restore lasting in the affected states.

It is within this context, on the other hand, the media constitute and serve as sources of knowledge for citizens about public occurrences such as farmers-herders' conflicts. The media, according to contribute immensely to the construction of social reality about different issues that could include conflicts [6]. Noted that media construct social realities through framing of stories in relation to happenings that are of interest to the public [7]. Therefore, news media content does not only portray unknown to varieties of audience but also affirms and disaffirms reality on what they have knowledge of and some events they may have witnessed. Also hold that media are strong forces in constructing social reality of conflicts and selectively represent these realities through the process of news framing of which pictures are utilized [8].

the news media shape social phenomena such as farmer-herder conflicts in ways and much of it is done through framing and constructing people's collective knowledge and perceptions of reality about politics and conflicts, and subsequently their opinions and behaviour [9]. As herders still practise the free, open (grazing) by moving from one place to another in search of pasture and water, the intensity of conflict keeps increasing as well as its coverage by the media across the nation.

The media being the conscience of the society present stories using diverse frames through editorials, features, news stories, cartoons and pictures in order to guide readers' perception towards different issues such as farmer-herders conflict. Hence, pictures are crucial elements that are being used to portray different issues such as conflicts in the society. For instance, print media utilize pictures to frame events in different ways. Therefore, pictures are instruments that narrate, illustrate and complement text. Cited in pointed out that the increased investment in the use of photographic images in press is evident from the quantity of space given to photographs on front and other pages of daily newspapers or the number of photographs published in online news platforms. This elaborates the role of pictures in news framing in the media [10, 11].

Noted that the highly selective use of press photographs, along with their brief captions, may present a strong, forceful idea

about a distant conflict. Noted that pictures are very essential components of newspapers because they enhance trustworthiness to news and take the readers to the scenes so reported.

The pictures could, therefore, provide explanations about farmer-herder conflict that took a violent dimension. Since then, over 5000 people have been killed while others have been forced to flee their communities [12]. Since the conflict began, citizens have depended on the media for information. The media have given significant attention to its coverage [13]. This can be affirmed bearing in mind the kinds of headlines casted by diverse print media [14]. Example of such headlines are; 'Stopping Nigeria's Spiralling Farmer Herder Violence' 'Herders-farmers Clash: In search of lasting solution to age-long conflict' farmers'/herders' conflicts: ECOWAS must curb movement of foreign herders in the region-Ganduje.

Therefore, the farmers-herders conflict, being a burning issue should have been covered over years by the Daily Trust, Tribune and the Sun newspapers using text and pictures. Connotes that picture are extremely indispensable in newspaper stories because they take the readers to the event being reported.

Newspaper photos are the most salient hooks which draw a reader into a story, their captions anchor these photos in relation to a story. Photo captions feed a reader with information on people, time and places, tantalizing snippets of detail which make a reader wants to read more. Caption transmutes a photo into a news photo. Furthermore, they place a particular interpretation on the image, shaping the readers understanding of that image.

The above gives credence to the place of pictures in newspaper news. It goes to show that in the coverage of the farmer-herder conflict, pictures have been used to communicate information to readers. Considering the power of pictures, they can be effectively portrayed to tell stories in a particular way.

Bearing in mind the impact of the farmers-herders conflict and the attention given to its coverage both by the media, different pictorial frames must have been used in the coverage of the conflict. Most media organizations pictorially frame events and stories based on their disposition [13].

Like other news media in Nigeria such Daily Trust Nigerian Tribune and the Sun newspapers as national dailies seem to have also covered farmers-herders conflict. To better understand print media reportage of the conflicts, it is imperative to examine how pictures have been used to frame the farmer-herder conflict by three national dailies. Daily Trust, Nigerian Tribune and the Sun newspapers seem to have been at the forefront of coverage.

Statement of Problem

The farmer-herder conflict in Nigeria, which has destroyed lives and properties, has attracted the attention of the media such as newspaper. It is observable that different newspapers have since the conflict began, channelled appropriate attention to the coverage of the conflict. The practice of the coverage by newspapers might not be the same thus there could be particular methods of coverage. Some newspaper could decide to deploy pictures as

crucial element in news stories to complement text stories. That is why a number of studies have been conducted on framing in relation to the farmer-herder conflict from some perspectives. For instance, scholars have investigated areas such as framing of the farmer- herder conflict and peace building in Nigeria and media framing of farmer-herder conflict in Nigeria [15]. It, however, appears little has been done in relation to pictorial framing of the farmer-herder conflict. In order to contribute in filling the gap in knowledge related to pictorial framing, this research assessed pictorial framing of the farmers-herders conflict by Daily Trust, Nigerian Tribune and the Sun newspapers.

Objectives of the study

- The objectives of this research are to;
- Identify issues of farmers-herders conflict portrayed in Daily Trust, Nigerian Tribune and the Sun and newspapers.
- Identify types of pictures the newspapers used in framing farmers-herders conflict in Nigeria.
- Examine tone of the pictures used by Daily Trust, Nigerian Tribune and The Sun in framing the farmers- herders conflict in Nigeria

Research Questions

This study provides answers to the following research questions in order to achieve the set objectives.

- What are the issues of farmers-herders conflict portrayed in the Daily Trust, Nigerian Tribune and the Sun newspapers?
- What are the types of pictures Daily Trust, Nigerian Tribune, the Sun newspapers used in framing the farmers-herders conflict in Nigeria?
- What are the tones of pictures Daily Trust, Nigerian Tribune and the Sun newspapers used to frame the farmers- herders conflict in Nigeria?

Scope of the study

The study covers three Nigerian newspapers Daily Trust, Tribune and the Sun. These newspapers are among the major newspapers in the country. They are national newspapers, with national circulation and are from the three major regions affected by the farmer and herders' conflict (Daily Trust owned by a northerner, Nigerian Tribune: owed by a westerner and The Sun owed by a Southerner). Furthermore, they are listed among the prominent and top 50 newspapers in Nigeria. And have maintained consistency in the coverage of the conflict.

For the purpose of analysing contents of the selected newspapers, the study spanned for six months (June 2018 to December 2018; which are periods that severe attacks were recorded). Photographs of the selected newspapers were observed in relation to the farmer and herders' conflict within the period selected for the study.

The delimitation of the study is the use of three newspapers as many others cannot be studied as result time and resources constraints. Also, only homebased newspapers were adopted thereby excluding foreign based Nigerian newspapers especially the online ones.

Significance of the Study

The media plays multifaceted roles in conflict. Depending on how it is harnessed, the media can either propel the escalation or resolution of conflict. However, framing of its content is central to the portrayal of information disseminated and meaning audience attach to it. The study, which is aimed at assessing how newspaper organizations cover the farmers-herders conflict using pictures, would expand discourse on conflict resolutions and further provide information that can improve understanding of conflict resolutions and media practitioners of the significance of pictures to conflict resolution or escalation.

The study also serves as a document that would enhance photo-journalism teaching and practice in relation to the use of pictures for framing of issues in the society. It would further serve as a document that will help newspapers to identify areas to improve upon and address possible challenges especially in regards to balanced and objective framing using pictures.

As different mechanisms are being explored to find lasting solution to the crisis between farmers and herders in Nigeria. Findings of the study will provide a guide on how best the media can utilize pictorial framing in deescalating conflict.

Operational Definitions

Farmers: stands for people who grow crops in their farmlands either for subsistence or commercial purposes.

Herders: Stands for people who look after a herd of livestock or make a living from keeping livestock, especially in open country.

Pictorial: In this study pictorial stands for illustration or expression of the farmers-herders conflict in Nigeria in news stories using pictures.

Conflict: is the ongoing protracted disagreement between farmers and herders that has destroyed lives and properties.

Media: are the communication outlets (print media, publishing, the news media, photography, cinema, broadcasting, digital media and advertising) used to store and deliver information or data.

Newspaper: is a serial publication which contains news in forms of text and pictures on current events of special or general interest. In this study, newspaper stands for Daily Trust, Nigerian Tribune and The Sun Newspapers.

Literature Review

This chapter looks at relevant literature on media, pictorial framing, and farmer-herders conflict. The reviews in the chapter are based conceptual, empirical and theoretical works to provide different paradigms and research gaps from the different studies related to this work.

Conceptual Review

Communication and media: Communication has been in existence for time immemorial. It is considered a complex concept deserving to be examined, or a tautology not deserving to be

accounted for. In our effort to sort out what communication is, and what communication scholars believe that communication is regard communication as the fundamental concept in building and reinforcing all relationships and terms because it facilitates mutual understanding [16]. Bradbury added that individuals need to communicate with each other in an efficient manner to enrich their lives. Conceptualize communication as the means by which one is related to one another through established process that involves source, channel, receiver and feedback [17].

Understand communication as a process by which meaning is shared [18, 19]. According to them, it is a phenomenon deeply rooted in technology. Opine that communication is a pervasive phenomenon, identifiable in humans as well as animals, in all times and all places which means that, it is not purely technology based. However, maintain that communication is the basis of individual and social formation and transformation in the society [20, 21].

While communication is the lifeline that promote human interactions, posit that there are number of ways through which human interactions takes place [17]. These include, talking to family members, friends, relatives, neighbours, community members, instructors, supervisors, employers etc.; reading and writing books, pamphlets, periodicals, journals, reports, letters, memos, newspapers etc.; listening and giving lectures, speeches, presentations; listening to radio, or watching television programs and movie. Communication takes place through different channels some of which are modern and the rest traditional [17].

Posit that the gradual evolution of technology has enhanced the manner and methods through which communication is done. According to them, communication and the media are two inextricable phenomena that can be used to establish facts on how significantly technology has impacted communication. Explained that the need to share thoughts, ideas and feelings cannot be overemphasized hence the need for platform to facilitate it [22]. Miller added that the media are fundamental tools for creation of mutual understanding especially among different groups of people since it provides platform for interaction. Is of the opinion that media is mass communication enterprise that can be categorized into print, broadcast and the new media fundamentally used as channels harnessed in reaching vast audience [23]. On the other hand, communication is delivering and receiving messages through media and also a mechanism for studying and understanding the political, cultural and social issues in a milieu.

Prior to the information age, old media or legacy media, dominated the communication institutions [24]. Information was sourced and disseminated through either the print or broadcast media. Radio, television and newspapers served as important sources of news that people depended on. Posit that radio and television including hard copy newspapers formed the concept of old media [25]. He added that, although old media are technologically based, the future holds a better perspective to media operations looking at the pace at which technology evolves. affirmed the assertion of by explaining how technology has impacted media so much so that new media is gradually taking over the media space by replacing the old ways of news sour-

ing, processing and dissemination in both print and broadcast media[25].

Posits that new media has impacted print media immensely [26]. Years ago, people depended on hard copies of newspapers for news. Presently, newspapers have virtual versions that people can explore to access news stories from the comfort of their rooms using gadgets such smart phone, tabs and computer once internet connection is available. opined that, even though significant changes have been recorded in the print media as a result of technological growth, one important feature that is synonymous to both hard copy and that of online newspapers (digital) is the use of frames[27].

Believe that the evolution of societies has increased knowledge and made communication more sophisticated as people are gradually becoming accustomed to virtual news platform [26]. He added that, this has made especially newspaper organizations to develop and operate online sites. Notes that, digital media has taking over the media atmosphere as people prefer to read or watch news online. This has given newspaper organizations more readers who depend on the virtual platforms for news and entertainment [28].

According to newspaper whether digital or old use frames categorized as feature, editorial, column and pictures [27]. He added that, through frames, news is shaped and portrayed in a way that influence readers' perception. Similarly, posit that, the media is the conscience of the society [29]. Through their reports, they give people what to think about and how to think it especially in regards to happenings in the society. Onakpa added that how media frame the farmers and herders' conflict can either escalate or contribute to the resolution of the conflict. Since people are inclined towards the use of online newspapers and since newspapers use pictures to compliment text more than the broadcast media, examining how online newspapers frame news stories using pictures would give important illustrations on how frames influence media audience in relation issues in the society such the farmers and herders conflict.

Farmer-Herders Conflict

Different scholars have defined conflict in multiple note that conflict is perceived to rise from disparate interests involving limited resources, goal deviation and frustration [30, 31, 32]. While Bacharach and Kochan and Walton and understand conflict as a phenomenon that occurs as a result of mixed-motive relationships where persons have both competitive and cooperative interests [33, 34, 35]. They added that the competitive elements degenerate to conflict while the cooperative elements facilitate the incentives for negotiation in order to reach an agreement.

Argued that conflict is often broadly defined. However, they see conflict as a "perceived deference in interest, or a confidence that the parties' current aspirations cannot be achieved simultaneously" [36]. Concurring with Rubin, argued that there exist multiple ways of conceptualizing conflict and suggested a similar definition which is "the interaction of interdependent people who perceived unsuited goals and interference from each other in achieving those goals" [37]. Detailed the definition of

by defining conflict as “a dynamic process that occurs between interdependent parties as they experience negative emotional reactions to perceived disagreements and interference with the attainment of their goals” [37, 38]. Furthermore, defined conflict as “perceived incompatibilities or discrepant views among the parties involved [39]. argued that conflict involves “the tension an individual or group experiences because of perceived differences between him or herself and another individual or group” [40].

The term farmer has been defined in different ways. See farmer as someone who grows plants and raises animals for human use [25]. Argued that, a farmer is someone who cultivates and harvest crops for either subsistence or commercial purpose. Added that the term farmer is broad in terms of conceptualization, but the major connecting factor of most definitions in the fact that farming entails growing and harvesting crops. These definitions can be tied to the concept of the farmers involved in the conflict with herders in Nigeria. While farmers have been defined by different scholars, it imperative to examine the concept of herders, according to a person who looks after a herd of livestock or makes a living from keeping livestock, especially in open country [41]. Is of the opinion that a person who takes care of a large group of animals of the same type. Therefore, herders have been conceptualized and those rearing cows that have been involved in conflict with farmers across Nigeria.

The conflict between herdsman and farmers has Lingard for decades now. Defined the farmer and herders’ conflict as disputes over land between crop growers and cattle rarer [42]. Opine that the farmer and herders’ conflict is a dispute over land and power [5]. He added that, power to control resources is the major element that escalates the conflict. However, having pinpointed different definitions of the farmer herders’ conflict, for the purpose of this study, the conflict is defined as dispute over land and power.

The conflict has impacted Nigeria most especially in the North Central states of Taraba, Nasarawa, According the herder-farmer conflicts in 2004 resulted in ‘near-mutual genocide’ of Christians and Muslims in Plateau State, with more than 20,000 refugees fleeing to Cameroon [43, 44].

Explained that fights resulting from cattle grazing reported for 35% of all the crises between 1991 and 2005 in Nigeria. More specifically, reported episodes pointedly amplified from 15 in 2011 to 27 in 2012, almost doubling the numbers [45]. Between June 2006 and May 2014, added that “about 111 fierce attacks by Fulani herdsman were reported by the press across the 36 states of Nigeria with seven episodes in 2006, nine in 2007, six in 2008, 13 in 2009, nine in 2010, 15 in 2011, 17 in 2012, 27 in 2013, and eight as at May 2014” [45]. According to a report published by SMB Intelligence, over 2,000 people have been murdered in struggles between the herdsman and different host communities in 2015 alone [46].

In Benue State, not less than seven local government areas including And these attacks are continuing in Benue, Adamawa and Kaduna States and now assume more sophisticated dimen-

sions with the use of new types of weapons and communication devices [45].

Posit that herdsman-farmer or herder-farmer struggles are conflicts occurring between farmers and livestock keepers. According to there exist variances amongst ‘herder-herder’ conflicts and ‘farmer-herder’ conflicts. He maintained that herder-herder conflicts are misunderstandings between nomadic keepers that arise between receiving clusters over their territory’s properties and incoming groups looking for water, pastures, and cattle raiding. Herder conflict fallouts from theft of cattle or other animals among the Fulani herdsman. See farmer-herder conflicts as comprising different types of conflicts, including ethnic conflicts, interest conflicts, resource disputes, political action, evictions, killings, cattle raiding and cattle rustling.

Conducted a study on the prevalence of herdsman and farmers conflict in Nigeria [47]. The research was anchored on frustration-aggression and conflict theories as philosophical framework. Findings from the study revealed that limited or unavailability of sufficient resources like grazing fields, farm lands, destruction or grazing on crops, long-standing disagreements, lack of access to farm or grazing fields and scarcity of fresh water are factors responsible for the clashes. Accordingly, loss of human and animal lives, destruction of crops and properties, displacement of persons and animals, distrust between herdsman and farmers, rising anti-Fulani sentiment and breakdown of peaceful relationship with many communities in some parts of the country were amongst the uncivilized effects of the conflict.

The study recommended that cattle grazing fields should be established by the government in the six geopolitical zones of the country and out-law open grazing of cattle. This must be done through due consultation, dialogue or appeal to some aggrieved regions of the country which may oppose or resist the strategy. Also, water management strategy and practice should be strengthened by Federal Ministry of Water Resources. This is linked to the fact that climate change triggers water shortage and drought which are the major reasons herdsman migrate southward in search of fresh water and grass for their cattle. The study further suggests that, herdsman should be adequately sensitized or re-oriented on the sanctity of human lives, and taught how to practice the use of better channels of communication to bear their grievances than resorting to violence. Any form of aggression due to past issue(s) should be dejected and anyone found inadequate in that respect should be arraigned.

Picture and Framing

Pictures are important media content that can be used to portray different issues in the society including conflict. pointed out that the increased investment into the use of photographic images in press evident from the quantity of space given to photographs on front and other pages of daily newspapers or the number of photographs published in online news platforms, exhibit press photography’s role in the pictorial portrayal of news [26, 10].

Picture, photograph and image have been conceptualized in different ways, for example, view photograph as an image or depiction formed by the capture of light from the subject on

a light-sensitive medium, originally glass plates, then film, now usually an electronic sensor. While a picture can include drawings, paintings, or computer-generated images. They added that photography, is always taken with a camera while a picture is the most general term for any representation of a person, an object or a landscape. Pictures are important elements of illustration. Note that pictures are very essential components of newspapers because they are visuals used to complement text [48]. Believe that the importance of pictures cannot be overemphasized which is why they sometimes used without text to illustrate stories.

Write that “Whether it is about events, places or people, in fact, whatever it is, the picture tells it loud and clear. Corroboratively, posit that, newspaper photos are the most salient hooks which draw the reader into the story, their captions anchor these photos in relation to the story. Captions feed the reader with information on people, time and places, tantalizing snippets of detail which make the reader want to read more. Caption transforms a photo into a news photo. Furthermore, they place a particular interpretation on the image, shaping the readers understanding of that image.

Framing is in important element of news coverage. Whether text or pictures, framing is applied to shape and modify meaning. Picture is an essential aspect of the print media, a side adding aesthetics to newspaper, it complements text and aid swift comprehension. A survey piloted by revealed that images and design are the focal points in reading newspaper [29]. Corroboratively, studied the colour versus greyscale effect for photos in four manipulated newspaper pages, which 32 subjects were allowed to look at for 10 seconds per page. The findings indicated that the position of the photo on the page is more important than the colour/greyscale factor.

Conducted a study to examine the effect of local design influences on reader’s visual behaviour. It was documented that areas in the newspaper with pictures attracted more readership than those with less pictures. Their result also showed that large pictures are looked at significantly earlier than medium and small pictures. The survey also pointed out that the type of picture used and how it is framed also affects readers’ fascination. In the same survey, the researchers alienated pictures into information graphs, maps, drawings and photos. All but photos were found to contribute to early fixations. Whatever is the case, pictures and how they are framed influence readership and the meanings attached the story.

Empirical Review

Quite a number of studies have been conducted on farmers- herder conflict from different purviews such as media framing, economy, security and religion. For example, examined farmer herder conflict: the politics of media discourse. The study shows that the construction of the conflict draws on the political and ideological dispositions of the papers. It argues that the link between the newspapers’ representation of the conflict and the strategies they proposed for curbing the dispute is weak. Thus, while media representations of the conflict can reveal the various contestations in

the framing of the conflict in Nigeria, it might be insufficient to establish the link between discourse, identity and policy. Further, it argues that developing a sustainable strategy for the resolution of the crisis requires among other things, a national dialogue.

Examined the newspapers’ coverage of Fulani herdsmen attacks on host communities in Nigeria to determine the frequency of news coverage, establish the level of prominence, depth and direction of coverage of the Fulani herdsmen attacks on host communities [49]. The study explained that the coverage is often inauspicious and argues that newspaper should focus more on de-escalation of the conflict by using soft words and balanced coverage or reportage of the conflict independent of political and ethno-religious sentiments. A study by concentrated on three major issues, namely the newspapers’ level of attention, the language of reporting and readers’ evaluation of the reportage [43].

Did a study on Media Framing of Herdsmen-Farmers Conflict in Nigeria [15]. The study examined the story genres and the dominant frames employed by the four selected newspapers. Okeke, found that Daily Sun had the highest stories on farmers-herdsmen clash and the story genre that was mostly used was the straight news format. It was concluded that the newspapers gave the farmers-herdsmen clash enough coverage and therefore recommended that grazing reserves should be built for the herdsmen. Analysed the reportage and framing of farmer-pastoralist conflicts in the newspapers to ascertain the nature of issues covered, the frequency of reportage, allotted space, frames and placement [50]. The study revealed that the present framing of the conflicts in the newspapers could strengthen the already existing ethnic tensions in the country.

Contends that newspapers reportage of the conflict gets more strong opinions of politicians which portend the propensity for propaganda and politicisation of the disputes [51]. Argues that newspapers’ articulation of Fulani people, including the Fulani herdsmen as conflict mongers increases the sensitivity of Fulani-phobia which hinders the resolution of the conflict [5].

Even though the work of concerns the representation of the conflict in newspapers, it focused only on how the Fulani tribe are articulated as conflict mongers ignoring other discourses. Besides, existing studies just looked at what the papers are reporting about the conflict not necessarily discourse—how meanings and identities are ascribed to subjects and objects in reportage of the conflict. Also, they lack theoretical traditions consistent in politics which makes them not to reveal the power relations in the discourse of the conflict in media.

Posit that herder conflicts have become sophisticated in dimensions through the use of new weapons and communication devices [52]. The study revealed that, north central region of Nigeria is the epicentre of the conflicts even though the spread remains spread in the different parts of the country. Ciboh opines that, the nature

of media reports of inter group conflict has been grounded in acts of unprofessionalism resulting to sensationalism, context consideration, inaccuracy, completeness, integrity and responsibility. The study found that, the issues of unprofessionalism as mentioned above are products of framing. The study concludes, framing has a direct relationship with how media contents are interpreted by the audience especially in relation the ongoing farmers and herders' conflict which is the focus of the study. Ciboh added that, framing can be harnessed as a veritable tool for peace building, maintenance of national security and development.

In their study, investigated newspaper coverage of the herdsman–farmers conflict in central Tiv Land, Benue State, Nigeria [2]. It was established that newspapers in Nigeria covered the farmers and herders' conflict. However, the coverage was episodic because the newspapers covered the conflicts as they occur and paid little or no attention to the victims of the conflicts. The study also revealed that 71.3 percent of the stories on the conflict were published on the inside page. The authors therefore recommended that Nigerian newspapers should refrain from episodic reportage and set a proper agenda for the Nigeria public on conflicts [53].

Conducted a survey on glamorization of Fulani herdsmen's criminality and its implications on national security in Nigeria. The study discovered that the government is responsible for the ill activities of herdsmen. This is evident using the inaction of the government to caution, arrest, prosecute or punish the Fulani herdsmen. Furthermore, the silence portrayed by the government has inert motive which is far from expansionist ideology. Therefore, the study proposed that government must channel adequate effort to ensure that the activities of Fulani herdsmen are checked for the purpose of realizing peace and security across the country.

A study on effective strategies for resolution and management of farmers-herdsmen conflict in the north central region of Nigeria was conducted by [53]. The research selected 60 respondents from the six states in the North Central Region of Nigeria. The respondents were selected from the local government areas which have recorded more and frequent conflict between Farmers and Herdsmen in their respective state.

The study found that, demarcation of farming sites and grazing routes in the region will serve as a guide for farmers who often claim that there are no actual indications that distinguish grazing and farming sites. Also, it was established that, there is need for a strong community policing system in LGA's across the region. The absence of the system is the reason why communities are extremely vulnerable to herdsmen attack. Concluded that the establishment of conflict management and resolution mechanisms that will promote religious and ethnic tolerance would suffice as strategies for the resolution and management of Farmers-Herdsmen conflict in the North Central Region of Nigeria [52]. The research recommended that local or traditional methods of conflict resolution should be adopted by revitalizing existing traditional institutions across the region as it will help in resolving the conflict.

Carried out a study on anti-grazing policy and conflict resolution between Fulani herdsmen and farmers in Ekiti state [54]. The study revealed that the Ekiti State Government passed into Law Anti Grazing Bill to resolve various conflicts between Fulani herdsmen and Farmers in Ekiti State. It also revealed that the Government set up Ekiti Anti-Grazing Enforcement Marshal who implements the Law. The State government partner with the 16 Local Governments in allocation of land to herdsmen for cattle's grazing. It was established that the government also collaborates with the herdsmen association in Ekiti to maintain peaceful implementation of the law. The study resolved that it is apparent that this Anti-grazing policy has thrived in resolving conflict between Fulani herdsmen and Farmers in Ekiti State. It suggested the creation of grazing zone; private ownership of ranch; border should be secured; training of Ekiti State Grazing Marshal and proper monitoring of their operations. Although this study by Sylvester claimed that the anti-grazing policy has succeeded in resolving the conflict between herdsmen and farmers in Ekiti state, news reports have proven otherwise.

In addition, conducted research on demography of nomadic herdsmen and farmers clashes in Nigeria. The research focused on the demographic implications of the clashes. It was established that the population of Nigeria is dynamic and the rate at which it is growing is rapid compared to land that is static. This constitutes pressure and demand for food resources, Chukwuechefulam further explained that violent clashes occur as a result of contest for grazing fields and water. It was also discovered that this contest has resulted to tribal, ethnic, regional, religious and political sentiments that threaten the corporate existence of Nigeria. The research recommended that, the allocation of land for farming should be done logically and responsibly in a way that cattle route and grazing lands won't be close to farm lands to avoid encroachment by nomadic herdsmen. Doing so, will enhance agricultural productivity and further strengthen the achievement of sustainable developments Goals 2 and 6 which states the need to achieve food security and sustainable management of resources for the growing Nigerian population.

A study by on Fulani herders and communal conflicts: climate change as precipitator revealed the relationship among communal conflicts, climate change and herdsmen. The survey resolved that, reliance of herdsmen on pasture which was found in the Sahel region before its depletion due to desertification is one of the major reasons why they go out in search of pasture. This triggers disagreement as farmers want to protect their crops while herdsmen want to feed their castles. The study recommends that policies for the creation and maintenance of grazing reserve and dams for pasture should be enacted especially as regards to states dominated by cattle breeders in order to restrict or limit their movement.

A study was conducted by on herdsmen/farmers conflict and its impact on socio-economic development in Nigeria. The research found that herdsmen-farmers conflict occurs 3.2 times in a month, while at least 2 Nigerians die daily as a result of conflict. The study established cause of the conflict as: vengeance or reprisal attacks, disagreements over destruction of farmlands and crops, Grazing rights dispute, decades – long history of violence

competition for land resource, reactions to Anti-Grazing law in Benue State, Cattle rustling, and violence habit of the herdsmen. The socio-economic effects of the conflict are: loss of human lives, dislodgment of persons, destruction of houses, obliteration of farmlands and crops, distrust, unemployment, threat to National security, and threat to food security in Nigeria. Government and security institutions are yet to be approachable in resolving the dangerous enmeshment, which in turn occasioned break of law and order, as many Nigerians now take law into their hands protecting themselves and protecting their belongings against professed enemies.

Examined the herdsmen and farmers conflicts in North-Eastern Nigeria investigating its causes, repercussions and resolutions [55]. The study described the traditional relationship between Fulani herdsmen and farmers within the purview of incessant resource conflicts observed in Yoba State and how it affected livelihood security of those involved and resource sustainability for the local communities. Alhassan declared that the necessity to provide food of crops and animal origin, as well as raw materials for industry and export in order to meet ever-growing weights, has led to widespread use of land. Also, he maintained that conflicts have confirmed high likeliness to aggravate the insecurity and food crisis particularly in rural communities where most of the fights are confined, with nationwide consequences. The study resolved that the scuffle for scarce ecosystem resources is what had worsened into violent conflicts in Yobe State between Fulani herdsmen and farmers. The conflicts are extremely intense, widespread and critical. This is related to the fact that most herdsmen do not own or possess the rights to land which propels their dependence on open land to feed their livestock. Ecological, climate change and of course government policies on agriculture, especially the all-year Fadama farming, are threats to herdsmen access to pasture.

Carried out a survey in Delta state where they investigated the triggers, impact and mechanisms for resolving the farmers and herders' conflict [56]. The study established that destruction of crops, contamination of streams by cattle, zero grazing land, disregard for local traditional authorities, female harassment, harassment of nomads by host communities' youths and bush burning are major triggers of the conflict. Ofuoku and Isife recommends that local mechanisms and structures should be established to reduce occurrence and impact of the conflict. They also suggested that adequate compensation and a platform to dialogue at local level is important.

Similarly, assessed the resource conflict among farmers and Fulani herdsmen and the implication for resource sustainability [57]. The assessment determined the relationship between farmers and Fulani herdsmen and the conflict of resource sustainability for the communities. Tenuche and Ifatimehin contend that squashing crops in farmlands by the hooves of herds of cattle often leads to the compressing of farmland soil and destruction of crops which triggers agitations between the two parties. The researchers understood that the ongoing farmer herders' conflicts are deeply rooted in land tenure system, where indigenes and settlers contest over land and the misdirected development strategies of the government. The survey settled that a clear pol-

icy for grazing land as well as proper land tenure system should be put in place.

Theoretical framework

The study is anchored on framing theory and conflict theory. The theories are suitable, relevant and seem to best explain the prevailing issues of conflicts between herdsmen and farmers in Nigeria.

Framing theory is an extension on the agenda setting theory of the mass media. Framing theory provide a better justification for this study; the theory provides justification on the types of frames, differences in frames, the dominant frames and the tones of frames used by news media.

Noted that Entman is regarded as the father of the framing theory, which is a sprout of the agenda setting theory [58]. Defined framing as a process by which the media "select some aspect of a perceived reality and make them more salient in a communicating text in a way that promote certain definition, interpretation, moral evaluation or treat recommendation [59]. Added that framing "centres on how the press focus attention on certain issues and then place meanings to such issues" through different frames [60]. These frames are capable of shaping individual existing ideas and knowledge; by this, the media gives a setting on how media audience should think about the political communication they disseminate. Identified two; frame-building and frame-setting [61]. While frame-building refers to the development of the various frames and their inclusion in newspaper contents such as news stories cartoons etc., frame-setting describes the media audience consumption of pictorial newspaper contents with frames and members' consequent adoption of these frames as ways to understand graphics representation to the farmer and herders' conflict in Nigeria.

According to Cappella and Jamieson in that these "frames must have identifiable conceptual and linguistic characteristics and be commonly observed in journalistic practice [62]." These in turn could have implications on the pictorial framing of the farmers and herders' conflict in Nigeria. While the news media has the power to fit political stories into different frames, these frames are usually unique during farmers and herders' conflict – that is, the pictorial frames used in the portraying the farmers and herders' conflict in a given region by a specific newspaper may not be the same. Cited in added that media framing aid in "shaping the news which are provided by newspapers [63]. The basic assumptions of framing theory are:

- The media select the information they will present and decide how they will be presented.
- Frames are reinforced every time they are evoked, whether positively or negatively.

This goes to show that Daily Trust, Nigerian Tribune, the Sun Newspapers harness the assumptions of the theory in terms of their content. Using newspaper illustrations to frame the farmers and herders' conflict by journalists give the print media the ability to not only serve as gatekeepers, but to choose from many – that striking pictorial patterns, styles and format and sometimes combined with words, sentences, image or phrase to communicate the perceive essence of the farmer and herders' conflict.

The constant reinforcement of these frames in the minds of the audience could align with pre-existing positive or negative beliefs the audience have on a crisis situation on the northeast. Like every other theory, the framing theory of media which has the power to influence public opinion through its style and manner of presentation of events or issues, some of the weaknesses of the of the framing theory according

- Each media audience already has its different pictorial mind frames on the humanitarian crisis in the northeast;
- The effect of particular pictorial illustration on the farmer and herders' conflict has negative or positive impact on the only the media audience that expose themselves to these pictorial frames [64].

Conflict Theory

This study adopted conflict theory as its theoretical orientation in effort to unfold the dynamic of farmers and herdsmen conflict in Nigeria. The basic tenet of the theory is that two disparate clusters in the society always scuffle for limited or infrequent resources. Each group scuffles to achieve or obtain more possessions and because they are scarce, scuffle arises between them. Each cluster tries to guard its own interest, thus blocking the growth of another in having accessing that. Conflict theory pin points that pressures and conflicts come to fore when resources, status, and power are disproportionately spread between groups in a given milieu and that these tussles become the apparatus for social change. In this context, power can be grasped as control of material resources and accrued affluence, resistor of policies and the establishments that make up society, and one's social status relative to others (determined not just by class but by race, gender, sexuality, culture, and religion, among other things).

Conflict theory emanated from the work of Karl Marx, who concentrated on the triggers and penalties of class skirmish between the bourgeoisie (the owners of the means of production and 20 the capitalists) and the proletariat (the working class and the poor). Concentrating on the monetary, social, and partisan inferences of the rise of capitalism in Europe, Marx conjectured that this system, prefaced on the survival of an influential marginal class (the bourgeoisie) and an burdened popular class (the proletariat), fashioned class conflict because the welfares of the two were unequal, and possessions were unfairly spread among them. Within this scheme an unsatisfactory social order was sustained using philosophical coercion which formed agreement and reception of the standards, hopes, and circumstances as determined by the bourgeoisie. Marx conceived that the work of creating compromise was done in the "superstructure" of society, which is comprised of social establishments, political assemblies, and culture, and what it formed consensus for was the "base," for commercial relations of manufacture.

Marx thought that as the socio-economic situations deteriorated for the proletariat, they would form a class awareness that showed their exploitation at the hands of the affluent capitalist class of bourgeoisie, and then they would rebel, in demand for changes to level plane the conflict. According to Marx, if the changes made to pacify conflict sustained a consumerist system,

then the cycle of conflict would recur. However, if the changes made fashioned a new system, like socialism, then peace and stability would be realised. Many social theorists have built on Marx's conflict theory to strengthen, grow, and improve it over the years. In providing answers to why Marx's theory of revolution did not become apparent in his lifetime, Italian scholar and activist Antonio Gramsci contended that the strength of philosophy was tougher than what Marx had apprehended and that extra work required to be done in order to overcome cultural hegemony, or rule via common sense. Max Horkheimer and Theodor Adorno, critical theorists who were part of The Frankfurt School, channelled their work on how the emergence and growth of popular culture, popular produced art, music, and media countersigned the conservation of cultural hegemony.

More recently, C. Wright Mills drew on conflict theory to pronounce the upsurge of a tiny "power elite" composed of military, pecuniary, and partisan figures who have ruled America from the mid-twentieth century. Numerous others have strained on conflict theory to develop other categories of theory within the social sciences, including feminist theory, critical race theory, postmodern and postcolonial theory, queer theory, post-structural theory, and theories of globalization and world systems. While conflict theory was initially for the description of class conflicts, unambiguously, it has lent stationed itself over the years to studies of how other types of conflicts, like those prefaced on race, gender, sexuality, religion, culture, and nationality, among others, are a part of modern societal assemblies, and how they touch our existence. The land resources (such as farm lands, crops, grass/pasture, fresh water etc.) are rare in Nigeria and required by both farmers and herdsmen for nourishment of their several sources of livelihood. Conflict, however, would not only transpire between herdsmen and farmers as both go all-out with another in search of these resources; but as either of the clusters attempts to encroach or exploit another's already tenable and long developed resources. Herdsmen could have their cattle feed on farm crops and would customarily encounter hostility for desecration and annihilation of crops. Similarly, conflict would likely erupt when farmers who are in need of farm lands trespass into grazing reserves or felons in the host communities attempt to forcefully acquire cattle for economic gains. This is in tandem with who indicated that the quest for access to a diverse limited resources such as grasslands and water spots for animals gives rise to conflicts.

Gap in Literature

Since the farmers and herdsmen conflict began, studies have been conducted in relation to media for different purposes, examined farmer herder conflict: the politics of media discourse. Examined the newspapers' coverage of Fulani herdsmen attacks on host communities in Nigeria to determine the frequency of news coverage, establish the level of prominence, depth and direction of coverage of the Fulani herdsmen attacks on host communities [49]. Concentrated on three major issues, namely the newspapers' level of attention, the language of reporting and readers' evaluation of the reportage [43]. Okeke, did a study on Media Framing of Herdsmen-Farmers Conflict in Nigeria [15]. The study examined the story genres and the dominant frames em-

ployed by the four selected newspapers.

Analysed the reportage and framing of farmer-pastoralist conflicts in the newspapers to ascertain the nature of issues covered, the frequency of reportage, allotted space, frames and placement. Analysed the main themes and essential speakers in newspapers' narratives of the conflict. Investigated how newspapers' reportage of the conflict depict Fulani people as obstinate and 'conflict mongers. However, the research by should have used a theory of how meaning Fulani tribe as conflict mongers' is discursively articulated in the media, e.g., the dominant-ideology model or the cultivation theory.

While it is true that a number of studies have been conducted on media coverage of the farmers and herders conflict looking at depth of coverage and the manner of coverage, there exist a gap in relation to pictorial framing of the conflict, this gap in literature is what this study tends to fill by examining pictorial framing of the farmers and herders' conflict by Daily Trust, The Sun and Nigerian Tribune newspapers.

Methodology

Research Method:-The study used content analysis as the research method. Content analysis is the study of documents and communication artefacts, which might be text or various formats, pictures, audios or videos. Social scientists used contents analysis to examine patterns in communication in a replicable and systematic manner. One of the key advantages of using contents analysis is to analyse social phenomena, its non-invasive nature, in contrast to stimulating social experiences or collecting survey answers. Content analysis has been categorized into two; quantitative and qualitative. Quantitative content analysis aims to develop numerical data that can be studied statistically while qualitative content analysis focuses on the characteristics of language as communication with attention to the content or contextual meaning of the text.

In this study, content analysis enabled the researcher to carefully examine the content of Daily Trust, Nigerian Tribune and the Sun newspapers coverage on the issue of farmers and herders' conflict. It also helped in determining how the issue is being framed. Defined Manifest content as the visible, countable components of newspapers [65]. They further explained that manifest content is evidence that is directly seen such as pictures or the words in an interview while latent content refers to the underlying meaning of content such as the interpretation of an interview. To give room for detailed examination of the study, the manifest aspect of the selected newspapers was adopted and not the latent aspect which centres on the meaning aspect of the pictures.

Universe of the Study

The universe represents the entire group of units which is the focus of the study. Nigeria has more than 50 online newspapers but only one fifth of that is recognised and highly regarded newspapers with no less than 60,000 national daily circulations [66]. Out of the 50 newspaper organizations across the country, three (Daily Trust, the Sun, and Nigerian Tribune) were selected purposively because they meet the aforementioned criteria. Fur-

thermore, Choice of newspapers for this study sought a North, South and West ownership for the purpose of balance. Nigerian Tribune belongs to a Yoruba, the majority ethnic group in south western Nigeria. This Day is owned by an Igbo, the majority ethnic group in South-eastern Nigeria. Daily Trust is owned and controlled by members of the Hausa-Fulani of Northern Nigeria.

Sampling Technique

Sampling is a technique of selecting individual members or a subset of the population to make a statistical inference from them and estimate characteristic of the whole population. The online version of Nigerian newspapers was used for the study because it is easily accessible. Moreover, both online and print versions have the same content, and their audiences do not consume the contents differently [67]. As a study shows, more newspapers' readers now pass from print to online versions [68]. Firstly, purposive sampling technique was used to select Daily Trust, Nigerian Tribune and the Sun newspapers from the universe. They were purposefully selected for the study because of the attention the newspapers have given to the farmers-herders conflict in terms of coverage. Secondly, a census method was used to collect and analysed all the pictures within this timeframe.

The researcher identified contents published from June – December 2018 by Daily Trust, Nigerian Tribune and The Sun Newspapers in various forms of specialized editions. This period was chosen because it was the peak of attacks and counter attacks between farmers and Fulani herdsman. Thus, a google search and websites search of Daily Trust, Nigerian Tribune and The Sun Newspapers were used to search for available pictures used by the newspapers during the period under study. Keywords of Farmers herders' conflict - Daily Trust, and farmers-herders' clashes - The Sun newspaper were specifically used to guide the search.

Sample Size

The continuous week formula was used in selecting the days of posting contents and pictures, making 140 days from which 102 were drawn and used. A total of 68 pictures were realized from the 102 days of posting contents and pictures by the three newspapers.

Unit of analysis

The unit of analysis for this study was pictures. Thus, this study focused on pictures as unit of analysis. The pictures included both independent and dependent pictures were used in the study. This is because there were many studies such as that conducted different studies and focused on textual aspect of farmer herders' conflict (editorial, straight news, features and opinion). They neglected that pictures as units of analysis. This therefore opened a methodological gap that this study attempted to fill [53].

Content Categories

One of the basic elements in a research order is the content category where data are grouped and fixed into a given category for accuracy, precision and validity of findings. In this study, the contents are categorized according to the nature of the data. States that content categories are defined for classifying message contents, and the content of the sample is coded according to

objectives and rules [69]. Observe that content categories must be mutually exclusive and exhaustive [14]. Mutually exclusive categories exist when no unit falls between two data points and each unit is represented by only one data point.

The categories are derived from literature with modification to

capture the purpose and objectives of this study. There are also some categories that emerged from observation of the media content. These categories are:

1. Accompanied pictures: have supporting stories/text
2. Unaccompanied pictures: do not have supporting stories/text

Table 1: List of Content Categories and Conceptualisation

S/No.	Frame categories	Conceptualisation
1.	Farmland destruction pictorial frames	These are pictures of farmlands destroyed by cattle.
2.	Grievous pictorial frames	These are pictures that portray very severe or serious, horrifying scenes of people affected by farmers and herders' conflict. The victims are torture, physical unstable and are crying based on the picture.
3.	Incapacitated and prone to death pictorial frames	These are picture that show victims of attack that are severely injured, bleeding and almost death.
4.	Chronic conditions pictorial frames	These are pictures that show people living in a personal or host communities with their houses burnt, dirty environment, half naked or dressed in dirty old cloths).
5.	Villages attacked oriented frames	These are pictures of villages owned by farmers attacked.
6.	Dehumanised pictorial frames	These are picture that are horrifying in which the people affected by the crisis are camped in unhealthy facilities or insecure open location.
7.	Cattle attacks pictorial frames	These are pictures of cattle attacked as a result of the conflict.
8.	Physically traumatised pictorial frames	These are pictures that show visible marks of injuries as a result of the farmers and herders' conflict. The affected people are looking starved and emaciated.
9.	Resolved/ Rescued efforts pictorial frames	These are pictures that show how people affected by the herders' conflict are repatriated, resettled with hand luggage boarding plane, in queue being led by relevant agencies, getting medical attention.
10.	Farmer attacks pictorial frames	These are pictures of farmers attacked by herders.
11.	Herder attack pictorial frames	These are picture of herders attacked as a result of the conflict.
12.	Herders with weapons pictorial frames	These are pictures of herders having weapons during pasturing their cattle.
13.	Farmers with weapon pictorial frames	These are pictures of farmers with weapons.
14.	Mild Pictorial frames	Not severe, serious, or harsh picture of people that have been affected by farmers and herders' conflict. They should be looking indifferent, fairly ok, look badly dressed, no injuries.
15.	Security operative pictorial frames	These are pictures of security operatives in the conflict.
16.	Others	These are pictures that does not fall into any of these categories.

Research Instrument

The instrument used for data collection was Coding Sheet, which was carefully designed in line with the research objectives.

Validity and Reliability

Inter-coder reliability was determined by using Holsti's formula: $2m/N1+N2$. Each of the two coders who are lecturers and extremely conversant with content analysis identified 10 pictures from the three different newspapers (Daily Trust, Nigerian Tribune and The Sun newspapers) and coded them separately in line with the frame categories designed and conceptualized for this study. The coders' decision agreed on 8 pictures that fitted into the frame categories leading to a reliability coefficient of 0.8 which tells that both the coders are in agreement. This clearly indicates that the findings and conclusion of this study would be 80-90 percent valid and reliable.

Methods of Data Analysis

One key technique that is often adopted for data analysis is frequency tables. Quantitative analysis was also employed by the researcher to item-by-item count the different variables that appear in each of the content category as mentioned above; the coding units were counted and their percentage taken. Analysis of data is the process of inspecting, cleaning, transforming and modelling data, with the goal of highlighting useful information, suggesting conclusion and supporting decision-making [70]. He added that tables greatly facilitate data presentation. A table summarizes information that a thousand words may not adequately explain. Unless a table is properly arranged, it cannot be interpreted correctly. Therefore, knowing which of the variable to be presented in the independent and which is the dependent understanding the nature of the variable is perhaps the most crucial factor in using table as a medium of data presentation.

Table 1: Distribution of Publications

Publication	No of days used	Distribution of days
Daily Trust	102	44(43.1%)
Nigerian Tribune		32(31.4%)
The Sun	102(100%)	26(25.5%)
Total		102(100%)

Source: Content Analysis 2022

Table 1 shows the distribution of the newspapers daily that were identified during the period of study that is June 2018 to December 2018. A total of 102 days were found to have posted stories and pictures in relation to the farmers and herders' conflict by Daily Trust, Nigerian Tribune and The Sun. Out of a total of 102 days found during the period of study, 43.1 percent represents the number of days Daily Trust posted stories and pictures while 31.4 percent represents the number of days postings and pictures

were shared by Nigerian Tribune. 25.5 percent represents the number of days postings were made by The Sun. Findings from table 1 shows that, Daily Trust having the highest percentage of 43.1 paid more attention to the coverage of the farmers and herders' conflict, Nigerian Tribune with a percentage of 31.4 also allocated less attention to the farmers-herders conflict while The Sun paid least attention to the conflict with a percentage of 25.5.

Table 2: Issues of Farmers-Herders Conflict

Frames	Newspapers			
	Daily Trust	Nigerian Tribune	The Sun	Total
Farmland destruction pictorial frames	2 (3.03%)	3 (4.54%)	0 (0.00%)	5(7.57%)
Grievous pictorial frames	5 (7.57%)	1 (1.51%)	1 (1.51%)	7(10.60%)
Incapacitated and prone to death pictorial frames	0 (0.00%)	1 (1.51%)	3 (4.54%)	4(6.06%)
Physically traumatized pictorial frames	0 (0.00%)	8 (12.12%)	2 (3.03%)	10(15.15%)
Villages attacked oriented frames	10 (15.15%)	1 (1.51%)	4 (6.06%)	15(22.72%)
Dehumanised pictorial frames	2 (3.03%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	2(3.03%)
Cattle attacks pictorial frames	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0(0.00%)
Cattle attacks pictorial frames	0 (0.00%)	1 (1.51%)	0 (0.00%)	1(1.51%)
Chronic condition pictorial frames	4 (6.06%)	0 (0.00%)	2 (3.03%)	6(9.09%)
Resolved/ Rescued efforts pictorial frames	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0(0.00%)
Farmer attack pictorial frames	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0(0.00%)
Herder attack pictorial frames	1 (1.51%)	5 (7.57%)	0 (0.00%)	6(9.09%)
Herders with weapons pictorial frames	2 (3.03%)	0 (0.00%)	7 (10.60%)	9(13.63%)
Farmers with weapon pictorial frames	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0(0.00%)
Mild Pictorial frames	0 (0.00%)	1 (1.51%)	0 (0.00%)	1(1.51%)
Security operative pictorial frames	0 (0.00%)	1 (1.51%)	0 (0.00%)	1(1.51%)
Others	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (1.51%)	1(1.51%)
Total	26(39.39%)	22(33.33%)	20 (30.30%)	68(100%)

Source: Content Analysis 2022

Table 2 above shows the different issues framed using pictures by Daily Trust, Nigerian Tribune and The Sun newspapers on the farmers-herders conflict during the period of this study June 2018 to December 2018. A total of 68 pictures were identified in the selected newspapers. Daily Trust had the highest number of pictures with 26, representing 39.39 percent followed by Nigerian Tribune with 22 pictures representing 33.33 percent. While The Sun had the least pictures which stood at 20 representing 30.30 percent. Furthermore, table 2 has revealed that village attacked oriented frame had the highest number of 15 pictures representing 22.72 followed by Chronic conditions pictorial frames

with 10 pictures representing 15.15 percent while herders with weapons pictorial frame had 9 pictures representing 13.63 percent. Findings from table 2 shows that, Daily Trust focused on village-oriented frame. Nigerian Tribune concentrated on physically traumatised conditions frame while The Sun focused on herders with weapons pictorial frame. Further findings reveal that the newspapers concentrated on the coverage of attacks on villages followed by chronic conditions and then herders with weapons- this may be connected to the fact that villages are often attacked by herders.

Table 3: Nature/Types of Pictures Framed on Farmers- Herders Conflict

Newspapers	Types of Pictures		Total
	Accompanied	Unaccompanied	
Nigerian Tribune	22(32.35%)	0 (0.00%)	22 (32.35%)
Daily Trust	26(38.24%)	0 (0.00%)	26 (38.24%)
The Sun	20(29.41%)	0 (0.00%)	20 (29.41%)
Total	68(100%)	0(0.00%)	68 (100%)

Source: Content Analysis 2022

Table shows the format of pictures used to illustrate the farmers and herders' conflict by Daily Trust, Nigerian Tribune and the Sun newspapers during the period of this study. 68 pictures were drawn from the three newspapers in tandem with the conceptualized frames. Daily Trust had 26 pictures with text representing 38.24 percent and 0 pictures without text. Nigerian Tribune had 22 pictures with text representing 32.35 percent and 0 pictures without text while The Sun had 20 pictures representing 29.41

percent with 0 pictures without text. Findings from table 3 indicates that, all the pictures used within the period study by Daily Trust, Nigerian Tribune and the Sun were found to be accompanied by text. This goes to show that in the coverage of the farmers and herders conflict the three newspapers focused on pictorial illustration accompanied by text and paid no attention to pictures without text.

Table 4: Tone of Pictures on Farmers-Herders Conflict

Newspapers	Tone of Picture			Total
	Positive	Negative	Neutral	
Daily Trust	26(38.24%)	0(0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	26(38.24%)
The Sun	20(29.41%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	20(29.41%)
Nigerian Tribune	22 (32.35%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	22(32.35%)
Total	68(100%)	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)	68(100%)

Source: Content Analysis 2022

Table 4 shows the tone in the pictorial illustration of the farmers and herders' conflict by Daily Trust, Nigerian Tribune and the Sun during the period of the study. Out of the 68 pictures used, Daily Trust had 26 pictures with positive tone representing 38.24 percent and 0 pictures with negative or neutral tone. Nigerian Tribune had 22 pictures with positive tone representing 32.35 percent and 0 pictures with negative or neutral. While The Sun had 20 pictures with positive tone and a percentage of 29.41 with 0 picture that had either negative or neutral tone. Findings from this table reveals that all the pictures used were found with positive tone which shows that Daily Trust, Nigerian Tribune and the Sun illustrated the farmers and herders' conflict pictorially in positive tone. This could be as a result of the sensitivity of the issue.

Discussion of Findings

Newspapers and issues of Picture Frames of Farmers-Herders Conflict

Picture is a significant component in news production procedure because it helps in bringing out salience of episodes and issues [70]. The farmers and herders' conflict in Nigeria is a worrisome event that has for years captured the attention of the media. In such happenings, the media focus on key moments in order to mould and profile the opinion of people in the society. To effectively achieve that, frames and pictures remain essential components in illustration and portrayal while providing visual evidence to support textual and audio contents. [70]. Framing of news stories using photographs provide good backdrop for exploring and explaining events.

Media espouse diverse frames for disseminating information. However, it is important to understand that, each frame is being used for a specific motive. A study by Wilson (2022) on pictorial portrayal of the humanitarian crises in north east Nigeria revealed that even though other frames such as chronic condition, mild and commodification were part of frames adopted for the study, grievous (52%), physically traumatized (39%) and dehumanized (35%) frames were predominantly used by Daily Trust and This Day newspapers to portray the humanitarian crises in north east Nigeria which showed that the two newspapers focused on shaping public opinion towards the serious angle of the horrifying humanitarian issues. Furthermore, Wilson and Abubakar (2018) did a study on pictorial framing of migrant slavery in Libya. Findings showed that, even though the event was horrifying, Daily Trust newspaper framed the event as mild. However, what lied outside the frame showed that, Daily Trust pictorial frame slanted more on shaping public opinion towards the less serious angle of the horrifying slavery issue.

In this study village attack oriented (22.72%), physically traumatised (15.15%) and herders with weapons (13.63%) frames were principally used by Daily Trust, Nigerian Tribune and The Sun newspapers. However, the frames mentioned above are not the only ones used for the purpose of this study, other frames like, farmers attack, commodification, grievous and physically traumatized were used. It is therefore appropriate to posit that, village attack, chronic condition and herders with weapons pictorial framing of the farmers and herders' conflict in Nigeria by the three newspapers focused on shaping public opinion towards the brutal and perplexing angle of the conflict.

This finding corroborates with the position of which states that the mass media use reporters to place figurative pictorial frames around issues, events and actions, thus focusing audience atten-

tion on particular issues, ideas, and individuals while obfuscating other frames and what lies outside the frames.

Figure 1: Village attack pictorial frame



Daily Trust, November, 2018.

Figure 2: Village attack pictorial frame



Nigerian Tribune, September 2018

Figure 3: Village Attack Pictorial frame



The Sun, December 2018

Figure 4: Herders with Weapons Pictorial Illustration.



The Sun, November, 2018

Pictorial framing of the farmers and herders' conflict in village attack (22.72%), physically traumatised condition (15.15%) and herders with weapon (13.63%) is a clear likeness of the frames. This showed that, pictures used by Daily Trust, Nigerian Tribune and the Sun predominantly defined the conflict as unresolved issue with pictures showcasing villages burnt down, victims with severe injuries and herders carrying weapons which they use in

attacking farmers, villages and the residents. This finding relates slightly to the position of that modern conflicts are characterized by the efforts of parties to shape public perceptions of events in ways that favour their disposition. However, in this case it is about moulding public opinion towards the impact of the crises and efforts made to resolve it.

Figure 5: Herders with weapons pictorial illustration



Daily Trust, October 2018

Figure 6: Herders with weapons



Nigerian Tribune, December 2018

Figure 7: Physically Traumatized Pictorial Illustration



Nigerian Tribune, October, 2018

Figure 8: Physically Traumatized Pictorial illustration



Daily Trust, October 2018

Figure 9: Physically Traumatized Pictorial illustration



The Sun, July 2018

Types of Pictures on Farmers and Herders conflict

Different types of pictures are used by newspaper houses in the coverage of events and issues. In this study pictorial framing of the farmers and herders' conflict in Nigeria, Daily Trust, Nigerian Tribune and the Sun newspapers were studied within the period of six months (June – December 2018). 68 pictures were used. All the 68 pictures from the three newspapers were accompanied by text. Similar studies were conducted [10]. Findings from

both studies indicated that in the coverage of migrant slavery issues in Libya and the humanitarian crises in north east Nigeria, accompanied and unaccompanied types of pictures were used in the framing and portrayal of the issues. Even though the findings are different, there seems to be a connection. However, why Daily Trust, Nigerian Tribune and the Sun newspapers used only accompanied pictures could be due to the sensitive nature of the farmers and herders' conflict

Figure 10: Accompanied picture



Daily Trust, December 2018

Figure 11: Accompanied picture



The Sun, July 2018

Figure 12: Accompanied pictures



Nigerian Tribune, June 2018

Tones of pictures on Farmers and Herders conflict

The tone of the pictures used in framing the was positive. Out of a total of 68 pictures on the conflict, the entire 68 had positive tones [71]. This supports the findings of that carried out a study on the tone of reports but in relation cartoon. Furthermore, the positive tone of pictures harnessed by the newspapers was in line with the social responsibility as well as the surveillance

function of media which stipulates that the media must at all times report issues objectively especially in relation to conflict and must also work towards its resolution. Further findings from the study revealed that all the 68 pictures from the three newspapers were accompanied by text. This showed that, the newspaper organizations focused more on reporting the issue using pictorial illustration but with the support of text.

Figure 13: Positive Tone of Picture



The Sun, November 2018

Figure 14: Positive tone of picture



Nigerian Tribune, June 2018

Summary, Conclusion and Recommendations

Summary:-This study investigated pictorial framing of the farmers and herders' conflict in Nigeria by *Daily Trust*, *Nigerian Tribune* and *the Sun* newspapers. The study specifically sought to answer questions about what are the issues of farmers-herders conflict portrayed in the *Daily Trust*, the *Sun* and *Nigerian Tribune* newspapers. What are the types of pictures *Daily Trust*, the *Sun* and *Nigerian Tribune* newspapers used in framing the farmers-herders conflict in Nigeria? What are the tones of pictures *Daily Trust*, *Nigerian Tribune* and the *Sun* newspapers used to frame the farmers- herders conflict in Nigeria?

The introductory chapter of this study briefly introduced the concept of media, pictorial framing and farmers and herders' conflict within the context of Nigeria. The chapter also discussed the research problem that form the basis for this study followed

by the aim and objectives which are to; Identify issues of farmers-herders conflict portrayed in *Daily Trust*, *The Sun* and *Nigerian Tribune* newspapers. Identify types of pictures the newspapers used in framing farmers-herders conflict in Nigeria. Examine tone of the pictures used by *Daily Trust*, the *Sun* and *Nigerian Tribune* in framing the farmers- herders' conflict in Nigeria.

Chapter two provided conceptual clarification and reviewed relevant literatures. Theoretical framework was also provided in this chapter, with a critical look at theories that explains framing and conflict in detailed perspectives.

Chapter three described the methods employed for the study. The chapter provided a detailed description of both qualitative and quantitative procedures used in the study.

Chapter four dwelt on the presentation and interpretation of the

research results and the findings were used as bases for informed discussion.

As identified in chapter five, the study found that village attack was the dominant frame showing burnt houses, destroyed government infrastructures and other valuables found the communities. The Study also found that, physically traumatised frame was also used to portray the conflict the newspaper while herders with weapons also formed the least dominant frame. This finding shows that Daily Trust, Nigerian Tribune and the Sun newspapers illustrate a conflict that is ongoing using pictures.

The study also found that, Daily Trust, Nigerian Tribune and the Sun newspapers used accompanied types of pictures, that is, pictures accompanied by text to illustrate the farmers and herders' conflict. This is so as all the 68 pictures used with the period of this study were found accompanied by text.

The study also found that, Daily Trust, Nigerian Tribune and the Sun newspaper used positive tone in framing the farmers and herders conflict pictorial. All the 68 pictures were found to be positive in terms of tone.

Summary of Key Findings

- Village attack oriented frame, physically traumatized and herders with weapons are the dominant frames used by *Daily Trust*, *Nigerian Tribune* and *the Sun* newspaper in their reportage of the farmers and herders' conflict in Nigeria.
- *Daily Trust*, *Nigerian Tribune* and *the Sun* newspapers portrayed the farmers and herders' conflict pictorially as unresolved with devastating impacts on villages and residents while the herders freely move around with weapons.
- *Daily Trust*, *Nigerian Tribune* and *the Sun* newspapers used pictures accompanied by text while downplaying those without text in their framing of the farmers and herders' conflict pictorially.
- *Daily Trust*, *Nigerian Tribune* and *the Sun* used positive tone pictorially in the framing and coverage of the farmers and herders' conflict in Nigeria.

Conclusion

The aim of the study was to examine pictorial framing of the farmer herders' conflict in Nigeria by *Daily Trust*, *Nigerian Tribune* and *the Sun* newspapers for a period of six months; June 2018 to December 2018 which is the heat period of the conflict characterized by massive clashes and destruction of properties. Based on the descriptive research method employed through the use of quantitative content analysis. The study indicated that *Daily Trust*, *Nigerian Tribune* and *the Sun* used accompanied pictures with positive tone in the coverage of the farmers and herders' conflict pictorially throughout the period selected for the research.

The study concluded that, even though diverse media organizations paid attention to the coverage of the conflict pictorially, *Daily Trust*, *Nigerian Tribune* and *The Sun* were able to show the different sides to the conflict (Rescued efforts, Mild, Grievous and Farmers Attack) but predominantly focused on village attack, herders with weapons and the physically

traumatized angle to the story thereby showcasing more of a situation with devastating that is yet to be resolved. Focusing only on the frames, audience are likely to form opinion that the situation impacts villages negatively and physically traumatizes victims while the herders are left to freely carry weapons to carry out attacks on farmers and communities. The study concluded that, in spite of the mild reports and footages about the issue, *Daily Trust*, *Nigerian Tribune* and *The Sun* newspapers pictorially framed the conflict as physically traumatizing, impacts community negatively thus downplaying the mild or commodification perspective of the situation in pictures.

Recommendations

- Similar study should be conducted using the same newspapers but different period of study in order to ascertain if there is a paradigmatic shift in relation to issues of farmers and herders' conflict pictorially framed by *Daily Trust*, *Nigerian Tribune* and *The Sun* newspapers.
- There is need for *Daily Trust*, *Nigerian Tribune* and *The Sun* to adopt the use of both accompanied and unaccompanied pictures in their pictorial reportage of the farmers and herders' conflict.
- Further research should be conducted on the tone of pictures used by *Daily Trust*, *Nigerian Tribune* and *The Sun* newspapers. This largely because, it is extremely unusual to see all the pictures have positive tone.

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