

Rymma Maiboroda

Senior Lecturer of the Department of Special Language Training  
Military Institute of Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Kyiv, Ukraine  
[rimma.mayboroda@gmail.com](mailto:rimma.mayboroda@gmail.com)  
<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7490-8471>

## Lexical and Metaphorical Aspects of the Concept of War on the Material of the Russian War Against Ukraine and Its Representation in the Contemporary American Media

**Abstract.** The article deals with the problem of lexical and metaphorical aspects of the concept of war on the basis of the Russian war against Ukraine (2022–present) and its representation in the contemporary American media. Throughout the history, individuals have been in conflict with one another over territories, political ideologies, and spiritual beliefs. Experts from various fields study the problem of war exploring its causes and dynamics, attempting to predict the course of conflicts, prevent the horrific actions of warring parties, and understand the consequences. They also examine the impact of war on the economy, the environment, international relations, and the population of a country. Therefore, the concept of war remains a highly debated topic. Jonathan Littell, Timothy Snyder, Jacobus Delwaide, and others provide a nuanced analysis that touches upon various viewpoints and interpretations related to the war in Ukraine, namely geopolitical struggle, information warfare, hybrid warfare, power dynamics, national identity, and resistance, unintended consequences, strategic chessboard, global implications, and impartial ambitions. The lexical and metaphorical aspects of the concept of war are analyzed on the chosen material. Metaphorically, the articles present the war as a strategic chessboard where different players make calculated moves to achieve their objectives. It becomes a geopolitical chess match, a struggle for influence akin to a tug of war, and a narrative battlefield where media narratives play a decisive role. The lexical choices and metaphorical nuances collectively weave a complex tapestry that invites readers to delve into the intricate layers of the ongoing war in Ukraine.

**Keywords:** war; concept; metaphorical verbalization; metaphorical language; linguistic feature; conceptual map.

## 1. Introduction

The theme of conflicts, wars, and confrontations always occupies an important place in the mind of men, and it can be said without exaggeration that the history of the humanity as a whole and the history of each individual civilization is the history of wars.

Throughout history, and continuing into the present day, individuals have been in conflict with one another over territories, political ideologies, and spiritual beliefs. Frequently, this animosity surpasses mere hostility and evolves into more extensive confrontations involving the use of weapons. When we reflect on the past, it becomes evident that nearly every country or its populace encountered war in some form. That is why the topic of war is relevant on a global scale in almost every modern civilization (Balyuta, 2013, p. 6). The phenomenon of war is not a simplistic concept, contrary to initial perceptions. Armed conflict should be perceived as a complex phenomenon that has far-reaching consequences for all parties involved and various aspects of social life. Specifically, we observe a distinct influence of conflict on politics, morality, economy, ideology, and the legal system of a state (Lavrynenko, 2017, p. 14).

The concept of war is universal, present in all cultures, and languages. However, its interpretation varies across different linguistic and cultural contexts. Media play a crucial role in reporting armed conflicts, especially in countries directly involved or geographically/culturally adjacent to the conflict zones.

The concept of war is investigated by the Ukrainian scholars through various linguistic and cultural lenses: lexical choices and semantic nuances in the cinematic narrative (Boiko N.), foundational ideas shaping English-language representations of war (Brozovska L.), the structural, semantic, and psycholinguistic dimensions of the concept of war (Vasianovych Ye.), the philosophical and linguistic dimensions of war and peace in contemporary media (Lots T.), insights into the visual and textual elements used in social media discourse in the connection of Russian war against Ukraine (Zornytskyi A.), a linguistic representation of the concept of war in modern Ukrainian media discourse (Melnyk S., Nazarenko O., Sikorska V.), key

constituents of the concept war in British media discourse (Pavlenko V.), associative field of the concept of war in the perspective of Ukrainian youth (Blyzniuk K.), the linguistic portrayal of war in print media (Vilchynska T.). These scholars collectively contribute to a deeper understanding of the concept of war through diverse methodologies and perspectives, enriching both linguistic and cultural studies.

Foreign scholars have made significant contributions to the study of the concept of war. Johan M. G. van den Dennen examines war; concepts, and definitions, providing foundational insights into the various interpretations and definitions of war. Richard Ned Lebow explores international relations, theory, and the Ukrainian war, analyzing how the Ukrainian war fits within broader international relations theories. Noemi Gal-Or and Laus-Gerd Giesen discuss the concept of war, delving into the complexities and multifaceted nature of war as a concept. Dickson Keith considers how post-modernist perspectives reshape the understanding of war. T. Clifton Morgan investigates the concept of war and its impact on research and policy, focusing on how conceptualizations of war influence academic research and policy-making. Benjamin A. Host and Harvey Starr offer insights in conceptualizing of 'war' and its consequences for theory and research, discussing the implications of different conceptual frameworks on theoretical and empirical studies. Christopher Greenwood examines the concept of war in modern international law. Joseph Margolis explores the concepts of war and peace, comparing and contrasting the conceptual underpinnings of both war and peace. These scholars collectively enhance our understanding of the concept of war through diverse theoretical frameworks, historical contexts, and interdisciplinary approaches, contributing to the fields of international relations, law, and peace studies.

The aim of the study is to analyze the peculiarities of the verbalization of the concept of war on the basis of the Russian war against Ukraine in the contemporary American media resources.

The subject of the study is the linguistic means of verbalizing the concept of war, with a specific focus on the conceptualization of war through the lenses of vocabulary and metaphorical expressions present in the analyzed articles. The analysis explores how different authors employ language to convey their perspectives on the causes, nature, and consequences of the war. It involves an examination of the lexical choices and metaphorical language used by the authors to articulate their views on the war in Ukraine.

## 2. Research methodology

The methods of research employed in addressing the problem of the Russian war against Ukraine in the analyzed article include: theoretical – the study, analysis and synthesis of linguistic sources on the researched problem; textual analysis (to uncover specific words, phrases, and linguistic choices related to the concept of war; to identify key terms, assessing their connotations, and understanding their role in shaping the narrative); lexical analysis (to identify and categorize words and phrases related to the concept of war in the article; to group the vocabulary into semantic clusters, such as war-related words, words-substitutions of the word “war”, weaponry, and strategies, geopolitical concepts, and conceptual terms); linguistic analysis (to examine the author’s use of language, including syntax, discourse structures, and rhetorical devices; to identify linguistic strategies employed to shape the narrative and influence the reader’s perception of the war); metaphorical analysis (to uncover metaphors and symbolic language used to depict the Russian war against Ukraine; to explore the underlying meanings, associations, and emotional nuances conveyed through metaphors); semantic grouping (to categorize words and phrases into thematic clusters, which helps in organizing and understanding the vocabulary associated with war, revealing patterns and connections within the discourse); conceptual mapping (to create a conceptual map or topic to visually represent interconnected structures and themes associated with the concept of war in the article); discourse analysis (to conduct discourse analysis to understand how language constructs power relationships, ideologies, and social realities in the context of the war); the methods of comparative analysis (to contrast the author’s perspective on the Russian war against Ukraine with alternative viewpoints or historical contexts; to investigate how different voices and perspectives contribute to the overall discourse on the war); synthesis, abstraction, generalization; classification and systematization; forecasting, design to clarify the state of research and development of the problem; definition of fundamental concepts; theoretical and methodological principles of intelligence, which became the basis of the methodological system of lexical, metaphorical, and linguistic aspects of the concept of war on the material of the Russian war against Ukraine (2022–present) and its representation in the contemporary American journalism.

Thanks to these methods, the study aims to provide a nuanced and in-depth understanding of how the concept of war is linguistically framed and

metaphorically verbalized in the specific context of the Russian war against Ukraine, as presented in the analyzed articles.

### **3. Highlighting of the current research problems. Theoretical basis for the concept research**

Experts from various fields study the problem of war, exploring its causes and dynamics, attempting to predict the course of conflicts, prevent the horrific actions of warring parties, and understand the consequences. Scholars in specific fields also examine the impact of war on the economy, the environment, international relations, and the population of a country.

Since the issue of war has been widespread for an extended period, it has left its mark on the literature of all nations. Armed conflict has become the central idea and theme of numerous works across various genres. Therefore, the concept of war remains a highly debated topic. While the term “concept” is often equated with the term “notion”, they are not the same. The concept has its distinctiveness and peculiarities in each linguistic-cultural context, and the concept of war is no exception.

The term “concept” is more complex than it initially appears, involving various elements that demand careful scrutiny. These elements differ based on the author, genre, the work’s theme, writing style, the temporal setting of the conflict, and the linguistic-cultural context associated with the work. Each author brings a unique viewpoint to the concept of war, emphasizing aspects they find most crucial. Some delve into the psychological dimension, offering intricate portrayals of characters’ experiences and emotions as they engage in or witness armed conflicts. Conversely, others prioritize factual details, reconstructing historical events and depicting the realities of life in times of war.

The exploration of the concept of “war” and the broader phenomenon of warfare is frequently a subject of discussion among experts from diverse fields, including historians, philosophers, philologists, translators, political scientists, and linguists. They endeavor to identify the causes and mechanisms of war, devise strategies for preventing it, and delve into the consequences for nations. Additionally, they study the transformations occurring in the minds of individuals and society in the face of such tragic circumstances. Armed conflicts have repercussions not only on a country’s and the

world's economy but also on the human psyche. This is unsurprising, as individuals commonly experience anxiety, fear, and constant tension during war.

When discussing the linguistic dimension of the concept in general, there exists potential confusion regarding its understanding and proper usage. This confusion primarily arises from the diverse interpretations of the term and its subjective nature among different researchers, coupled with an incomplete comprehension and a lack of clear distinctions. Furthermore, the tendency to equate the term with others contributes to its ambiguous use. Many individuals do not have a comprehensive grasp of what a concept entails and often mistake it for a "notion". One key distinction is that a notion is an intellectual or logical construct, whereas a concept is a reconstruction – the result of reproducing and restoring an idea, essentially in its embryonic state for communicators (Andrienko, 2002, p. 22). Y. S. Stepanov also draws a line between these ideas, asserting that a concept is an idea that encompasses emotional and associative features. In contrast to a "notion", a concept is not solely a mental construct but something we also experience (Stepanov, 2001, p. 43). Another viewpoint suggests that a concept is the content of a notion, signifying its substance (Markova, 2007, p. 318). Analyzing this perspective, it becomes apparent that the concept holds a broader significance and plays a pivotal role in fully understanding the notion. To comprehensively explore the concept and gain a more thorough understanding, it is essential not only to highlight its key characteristics but also to analyze its origin and development (Plotnikova, 2013, p. 166).

Scholars' interest in the concept of war is primarily driven by its diverse interpretations, influenced by national and temporal characteristics (Khomenyuk, 2018, p. 22). The portrayal of the concept of war is directly shaped by the author's worldview and age, cultural background, and community to which they belong, and, at times, even the style of information presentation. Furthermore, the interpretation of the concept may hinge on the specific events in question, timeframe, and location of those events, as attitudes and perceptions of the phenomenon of war tend to vary based on the region, period, and the economic and political situation in countries. In general, the concept plays a role in shaping our emotions, perspectives, and attitudes (Lakoff & Johnson, 1980).

The socio-political phenomenon of "war" plays an exclusively important role in human life and society. Separate linguistic and philosophical studies are dedicated to this phenomenon, and it is especially relevant nowadays regard-

ing the war which Russia started against Ukraine. In the study an attempt is made to consider the *linguo-philosophical* aspect in understanding the concept of “war”, which is most often represented by an abstract name, distinguished by the diversity and heterogeneity of the extension. It is associated with the nouns (war, peace, victory, defeat, warrior, battle), adjectives (militant, hostile, peaceful, deadly), and verbs (fight, struggle, win, die, survive).

The linguistic examination of the concept of war involves pinpointing significant features related to the concept of war, encompassing the phenomenon and the subject. This analysis is conducted with consideration for the culture of the ethnic group to which the work belongs. Scholars employ historical facts, knowledge from psychology, philosophy, sociology, and various other disciplines to identify these features. Notably, metaphorical analysis is frequently utilized by linguists during the study of the concept of war to understand how metaphors contribute to revealing and emphasizing specific aspects of the concept (Vasyanovych, 2018, p. 5). Linguists also commonly employ critical analysis to explore methods of influencing public opinion and identify unresolved problems in previous studies of the structure of the war concept (Chystyak, 2016, p. 101).

The universality of the war concept is evident across all languages and cultures worldwide, given its presence in the aftermath of two World Wars and the global consequences of conflicts, even in regions without direct hostilities. However, the understanding of the concept varies in the linguistic consciousness of different nations, reflecting changes in the economic and social spheres, international relations, and societal norms. During wartime, individuals reevaluate life values and alter their perspectives on ordinary matters.

As noted earlier, each nation interprets the concept differently, and this diversity is particularly noticeable when comparing its representation in Ukrainian and English linguistic cultures. Analyzing the lexical units used to express the concept, known as verbalization, provides insight into the linguistic embodiment and disclosure of the concept's content (Kovalenko, 2018, p. 62). Given the extensive experience of prolonged armed conflicts, the concept of war has a multifaceted system of verbalization means, offering a comprehensive understanding of its linguistic and cultural nuances.

The concept can be elucidated not only through linguistic means but also through non-linguistic methods. This refers to various means that, in one way or another, directly or indirectly contribute to developing the content of

the concept (Vilchynska, 2017, p. 110). These lexical units exhibit polysemy, encompassing multiple meanings.

In both English and Ukrainian, numerous concepts describe various types of war. For instance, the term “civil war” is used in English to denote a conflict between social classes, political groups, or people either supporting or opposing a particular political regime or dictatorship (Vovk, 2012, p. 5). Another example is the Cold War, referring to a conflict where information serves as the main weapon. In the 21st century, a new type of warfare known as hybrid warfare has emerged, defined as the simultaneous use of different types of actions by the enemy, including weapons, guerrilla warfare, and information warfare (Tryhub & Misyats', 2019).

Let us explore the meanings of the lexical unit “war” to draw a comparison between the semantic cores of these lexemes. In the explanatory dictionary of the Ukrainian language, the term “war” carries two meanings. Firstly, it signifies an organized armed struggle between states, social classes, etc. (Zinevych & Krasavina, 2017, p. 70). For instance, a nuclear war involves the use of nuclear weapons as the primary means of destruction. The second figurative meaning denotes a state of enmity between individuals, involving disputes, quarrels, or struggles with someone (Busel, 2005, p. 186). An example of this is a price war, representing a prolonged reduction of prices by enterprises or firms for their products, functioning as a noun in Ukrainian.

Now, let us delve into the meaning of the core concept of war in English. Unlike Ukrainian, the English lexeme “war” can function as a noun, adjective, and verb. Regarding the noun “war”, it is primarily used to describe armed fighting between two or more countries or groups. Alternatively, it can denote any situation characterized by strong competition between opposing sides (Cambridge Dictionary). As a verb, “to war” means engaging in or carrying on war, and, as an adjective, it relates to things associated with, used in, or resulting from war (Dictionary: meanings and definitions). Additionally, the English word “war” is frequently employed in a metaphorical sense. For instance, concepts like “the war on drugs” or “the war on terrorism” in English-speaking countries utilize the lexical unit “war” to convey the idea of a determined struggle.

In summary, a lexical unit “war” is used to reference armed conflicts and situations where individuals are in conflict with each other, even in the absence of weapons.



As evident, the central lexical unit (core) representing the concept of war is a noun. The verbal expression of this concept encompasses a state, procedural components, and various verbal elements. Therefore, war is perceived in the collective consciousness as a mass-scale action affecting society at large (Veryovkin, 2013, p. 8).

In the realm of fictional works, authors depict and explore war in diverse contexts. Within fictional texts, the term “war” can encompass both armed conflicts and conflicts of opinions, ideas, and beliefs. War may manifest not only between two or more individuals, social movements, or entities, but also within the internal struggles of a hero, battling their own thoughts, emotions, beliefs, desires, and feelings.

Synonymous units contribute to the conceptual field of the concept, serving as alternative terms people use to refer to war based on different circumstances. These synonyms provide additional nuances to the predominant lexical unit “war”. Examining the synonymous range in the Ukrainian language, dictionary entries list synonyms such as armor, bloodshed, struggle, conflict, rivalry, battle, etc. (Karavansky, 2014, p. 55). In English, synonyms include warfare, combat, conflict, fighting, clash, hostilities, battle, struggle, engagement, encounter, and strife (Urdang, 1991). A comparison of these dictionary synonyms in the two linguistic cultures reveals their nearly equivalent semantics (Stadnik, 2016, p. 315).

Scholars are increasingly exploring the verbal expression of the concept through metaphors, particularly in artistic language, but also in everyday usage (Marchuk, 2015, p. 79). R. Kovalenko, examining the concept of war in English consciousness, identified its primary semantic components, such as “hostility”, “warfare”, “competition”, “fight”, and “struggle” (Kovalenko, 2011, p. 62). In Ukrainian linguistic culture, V. Mishchenko notes that metaphors involving the concept of war are prevalent in political discourse, including metaphors like “war is a weapon”, “war is an attack”, “war is an explosion”, and “war is warriors” (Mishchenko & Dubyk, 2013, p. 193), serving as tools of political influence.

In both linguistic cultures, the concept of war is conveyed not only through the lexeme “war” and synonymous units, but also through various associative words and phrases. Authors may employ personal names and noun phrases to describe conflict parties, as seen in examples like “We will fight on, says Zelensky, as Russia renews offensive in the east” (BBC: Newsday, 2022). Numerals and references to territories, such as “thousands of sol-

diers”, “five hundred civilians”, or “Mariupol” and “Eastern Ukraine”, are used to highlight the scale and geographic extent of conflicts.

Descriptions of the parties involved often include mentions of weaponry such as “tank”, “hand grenade”, “fighter jet”, and “armoured personnel carrier” (Zornyts'kyy & Mosiyenko, 2018, p. 47), reflecting advancements in technology and changes in tactics. Linguistically, people’s perception of war in English and Ukrainian cultures often exhibits a clear “friend or foe” division, expressed through pronouns like “our – their” or “we – they”.

Positive vocabulary is typically employed when describing military personnel aligned with the author’s perspective, such as “our heroes”, “brave”, “powerful”, and “real warriors”. Nonetheless, the term “war” universally conveys negative connotations, evoking emotions like sadness, fear, death, sorrow, panic, and tragedy.

In cognitive linguistics, scholars differentiate between a concept and a notion, emphasizing emotional and associative features unique to concepts that can vary across cultures, countries, and people. Despite advancements, the concept of war remains relevant in the 21st century, often expressed through the lexeme “war”. The metaphorical use of this lexical unit has become a trend in both fiction and everyday speech, complemented by a synonymous and associative range of lexemes that enrich the conceptual field of the concept of war. These include proper names characterizing conflict subjects, numerical data indicating the scale of war, and names of weapons and tactics.

The concept of war is implemented in the language with the help of various means and occupies an important place in the linguistic picture of the world, in which there are universal binary oppositions represented by lexemes “war – peace”, “evil – good”, “death – life”. These dual aspects are closely intertwined in history of language and world culture in general.

The concept of war as a multidimensional semantic formation will be modelled in the form of a frame as a model for measuring and describing knowledge (mental representations) stored in the memory of people.

The war emerges in German literature as a socio-political phenomenon playing an exceptionally significant role in human culture. It is an experience shared by the entire nation and has shaped the creative paths of many German writers in the post-war years. The interdisciplinary application of the term “concept” has led to various definitions. For our purposes, we can adopt the definition formulated by D. S. Likhachev, who interprets the con-

cept as the “result of the collision of the word’s dictionary meaning with an individual and collective human experience” (Likhachev, 1993, p. 4).

The concept’s structure comprises an internal form, core, and an actual layer. The internal form, developed historically, includes etymological, historical, and associative features. The core of the concept is linked to its dictionary meaning and encompasses cognitive potential. The actual layer of the concept conveys the immediate response of the viewer, listener, or reader to the notions and representations embodied in the concept. The semantic additions to the actual layer lead to changes and evolution of the concept as a whole.

The internal form and core of the concept of war have been clearly defined. By the internal form and core of the concept of war, we understand a “large-scale protracted conflict between political entities (states, tribes, political groups, etc.) occurring in the form of armed actions between their armed forces”.

For the analysis of the actual layer structure of the concept of war, we have identified primarily its figurative system, including images of militarists, fascist criminals, and their silent accomplices – all those who served the Hitlerian dictatorship or simply accepted it. These are contrasted with images of good and honest people unwilling to reconcile with injustice. Within the framework of the issues related to the relationship between human beings and war, as disclosed by this concept, we primarily highlight the problem of the senselessness and inhumanity of war, the problem of accountability for tolerating fascism, the problem of the “irreversibility of military past”, and the problem of redemption from guilt.

#### **4. The analysis of the concept of war on the basis of the American media**

To analyze the concept of WAR by the American journalists on the example of the Russian war against Ukraine is the centre of our attention.

The article “Ukraine as a Pawn: the Contentious Causes of Russia’s War”, written by Jacobus Delwaide in December 2022, delves into the contentious causes of Russia’s war against Ukraine (Delwaide, 2022). Jacobus Delwaide is a political scholar who studied at the University of California, where he received the B.A. in history, and at Harvard University where he received the M.A. and Ph.D. in political science.

Delwaide argues that Russia's war against Ukraine is not a reaction to an increasingly threatening West but an attempt to retrieve the key European part of the lost Soviet empire. The goal is to decapitate Ukraine's government, establish a puppet regime, annex strategically vital regions, and render Ukraine a vassal state. The article mentions that some Moscow-friendly perspectives, often found in realist approaches to international relations and among political extremes in Europe (particularly in France and Germany), tend to deny Ukraine agency. They blame the West, ignoring domestic factors, and portray Ukraine as a helpless pawn pushed by outside forces. The article explores how both the radical right and left, including figures like Jean-Luc Mélenchon and Marine Le Pen, find common ground in their views on Russia. It suggests that the far left may view Russia's actions as a counterforce against US' imperialism, while the far right is drawn to Moscow as an autocratic power. The article discusses the challenges in understanding the conflict, which may involve elements of historical grievances and ideological biases.

The journalist notes a change in Germany's stance after Russia's invasion, with Chancellor Olaf Scholz emphasizing the need to stand up to Russia's revanchist imperialism. The article mentions a historic turning point and increased assertiveness in German defense policy.

The author suggests that Putin's popularity in Russia is influenced by factors such as economic stability during his rule, media control, and anti-Western sentiment among Russians who feel that the West imposed capitalism on Russia. The article points out paradoxes in Russian perceptions, including a sense of being reduced to a colony by the West despite Russia's history as a vast colonial empire. It emphasizes the lack of reckoning with Russia's imperial and Soviet past, hindering a proper understanding of the conflict.

Delwaide argues that Russia's war has united and motivated Ukrainians, while Russia has experienced a decline in power and prestige. The article suggests that Russia's war is more about regime survival than national survival. He concludes by advocating for maximal support for Ukraine from Europe and substantial investments in European security. The focus should be on countering Russian aggression and promoting democratic development.

The article encourages a nuanced understanding of the conflict, taking into account historical context, domestic factors, and the complex dynamics between Russia and Ukraine. It calls for a united European response in

support of Ukraine and emphasizes the importance of addressing the root causes of the conflict.

In summary, Jacobus Delwaide's article provides a comprehensive analysis of the causes of Russia's war against Ukraine, considering historical, geopolitical, and ideological factors, while critically examining various perspectives on the conflict.

The article employs a diverse range of **lexicon** to discuss the concept of war, delving into geopolitical, historical, and political terminology. Key terms include:

- **war terminology** (the article frequently uses terms such as "war", "invasion", "conflict", and "aggression" to describe the situation between Russia and Ukraine);
- **geopolitical terminology** (phrases like "European part", "regional hegemony", and "vassal state" contribute to the geopolitical analysis of the conflict);
- **political and ideological terminology** (the article discusses various political ideologies, such as "realism", "extremism", and "isolationism", to explain different perspectives on the war);
- **conceptual terminology** (terms like "puppet regime", "annexation", and "revisionist powers" contribute to conceptualizing the motives and actions of the involved parties).

It should be noted that metaphorical analysis involves examining the symbolic language used in a text or expression to uncover deeper layers of meaning, revealing the underlying metaphors that convey abstract concepts in a more vivid and relatable manner. So, let us pay attention to the metaphorical analysis of the article in the connection of the concept of war:

- **chess metaphor** (the article employs a chess metaphor when describing Ukraine as a "pawn on the geostrategic chessboard", suggesting a lack of agency and vulnerability to strategic moves by external forces);
- **economic metaphor** (phrases like "romance with Russia is over" and "economic toll" metaphorically represent the changing economic and political dynamics between countries);
- **political spectrum metaphor** (the mention of the "red-brown consonance" metaphorically captures the alignment or convergence of extreme left and extreme right perspectives on Russia).

The importance of linguistic analysis lies in its ability to unveil the intricate details of language, offering valuable insights into communication pat-

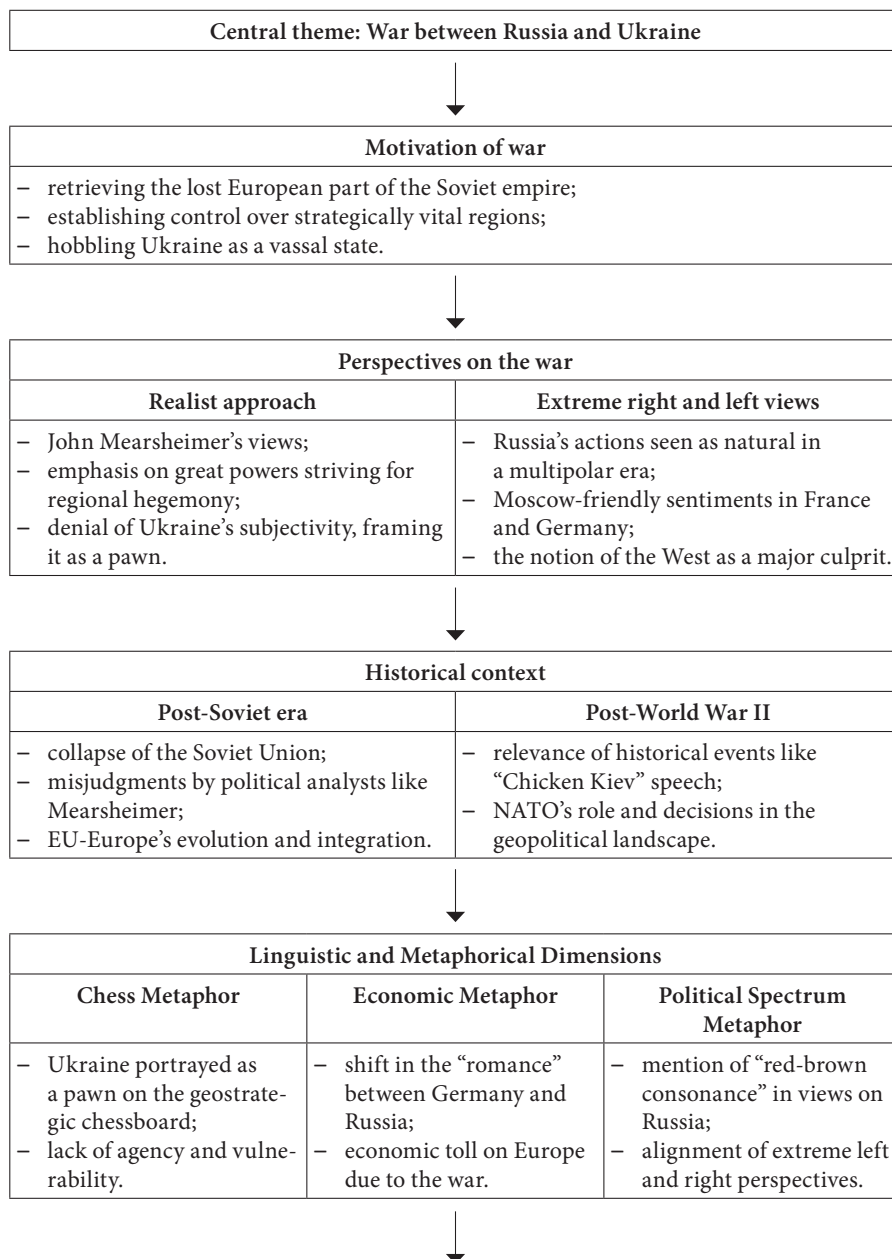
terns, cultural nuances, and the subtle dynamics that shape human interaction. The key points of the **linguistic analysis** are the following:

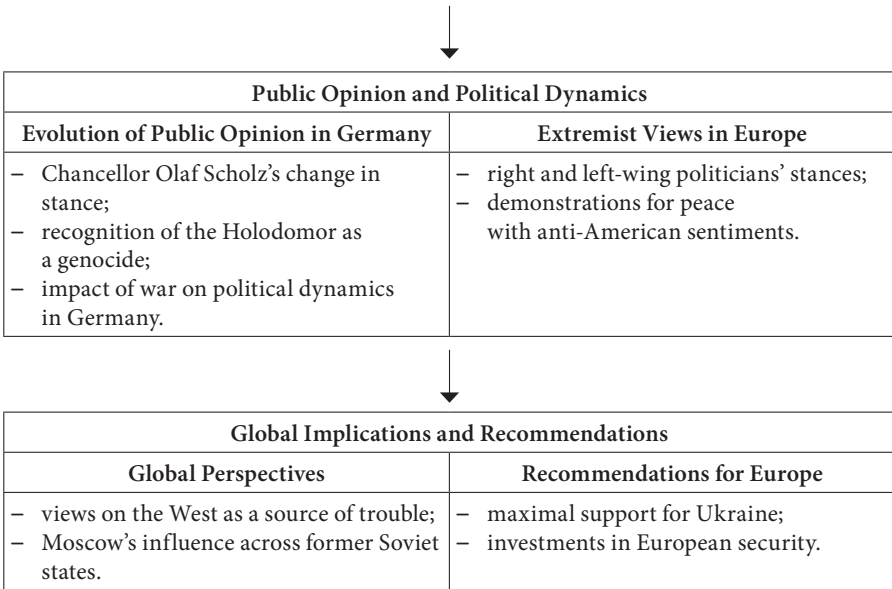
- **causal language** (the article uses causal language to explain the reasons behind Russia's war, employing phrases such as "attempt to retrieve", "decapitating", and "annexing" to articulate the sequence of events and motives);
- **historical references** (the use of historical references, such as the mention of the Soviet Union's disintegration, President George H. W. Bush's "Chicken Kiev" speech, and NATO's historical decisions, adds a layer of historical context to the analysis);
- **quotations and attribution** (the article includes direct quotations, attributing statements to scholars like John Mearsheimer and politicians like Jean-Luc Mélenchon, providing authority and context to the arguments presented);
- **comparative language** (comparative language is used to juxtapose different perspectives, such as contrasting the realist approach with the viewpoints of Europe's political extremes).

In summary, the article employs a rich and varied lexical, metaphorical, and linguistic toolkit to analyze and articulate the complexities of the concept of war in the context of the Russia-Ukraine war.

A comprehensive scheme for the concept of war based on the article "Ukraine as a Pawn: the Contentious Causes of Russia's War" by Jacobus Delwaide involves highlighting different structures, relationships, and key elements discussed in the text and is presented to your attention.

**Scheme 1.** The concept of war based on the article “Ukraine as a Pawn: the Contentious Causes of Russia’s War” by Jacobus Delwaide





This scheme provides a visual representation of the interconnected structures, perspectives, and elements associated with the concept of war as discussed in the article.

These categories encompass vocabulary related to various aspects of war, including political concepts and strategies, military and warfare terms, geopolitical concepts, and ideological perspectives.

The article “How to think about war in Ukraine” by Timothy Snyder, IWM Permanent Fellow, analyzes Russian military escalation against Ukraine (Snyder, 2020). This essay reflects on the current situation in Ukraine, its roots, and potential consequences. Snyder discusses the uncertainty surrounding Russia’s intentions and highlights the significant risks and potential horrors of a new invasion. He notes that while Russia’s propaganda efforts were more effective in 2014, this time they seem less impactful.

Snyder also delves into the motivations behind a potential invasion, suggesting that it could be a strategic move linked to Russia’s geopolitical goals. He explores President Putin’s historical narrative, pointing out its inaccuracies and the underlying uncertainty about Russian identity. The essay emphasizes the importance of understanding the present and future aspirations of the Ukrainian people, arguing that nationality is about how people think about their future together.



**Table 1.** War-related terms used in the article “Ukraine as a Pawn: the Contentious Causes of Russia’s War” by Jacobus Delwaide

| Words – substitutions of the notion WAR  | War-related terms  | Verbs associated with war  | Conceptual Terms  | Weapons and Military  | Geopolitical Concepts  |
|--|--|--|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– invasion</li><li>– conflict</li><li>– aggression</li><li>– battle</li><li>– military</li><li>– troops</li><li>– full-scale war</li><li>– war against Ukraine</li><li>– hostilities</li><li>– combat</li><li>– confrontation military action</li><li>– campaign</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– siege</li><li>– offensive defeat</li><li>– armistice truce</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– to wage</li><li>– to fight</li><li>– to invade</li><li>– to confront</li><li>– to attack</li><li>– to defend</li><li>– to resist</li><li>– to mobilize</li><li>– to deploy</li><li>– to conquer</li><li>– to retreat</li><li>– to surrender</li><li>– to bomb</li><li>– to occupy</li><li>– to negotiate</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– geostrategic chessboard</li><li>– realist approach</li><li>– European part of the Soviet empire</li><li>– puppet regime</li><li>– vassal state</li><li>– Moscow-friendly</li><li>– revisionist powers</li><li>– Monroe Doctrine</li><li>– NATO enlargement</li><li>– hegemony</li><li>– imperialism</li><li>– neutrality</li><li>– Moscow’s post-Soviet toolbox</li><li>– Color revolution</li><li>– propaganda</li><li>– censorship</li><li>– media control</li><li>– civic society</li><li>– Kremlin propaganda</li><li>– civic society</li><li>– sovereignty</li><li>– self-determination</li><li>– national identity</li><li>– resistance</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– troops</li><li>– Ukrainian artillerymen</li><li>– military power</li><li>– weapons</li><li>– anti-tank weapons</li><li>– military strong</li><li>– security architecture</li><li>– hybrid warfare</li><li>– tactics</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Russia’s war against Ukraine</li><li>– revisionist, vindictive Russia</li><li>– Moscow-friendly takes</li><li>– coalition supporting Ukraine</li><li>– international relations</li><li>– regional and global hegemony</li><li>– multipolar era</li><li>– European integration</li><li>– Kremlin’s war against Ukraine</li><li>– West as the source of Russia’s woes</li><li>– annexation</li></ul> |

The author notes that negotiating a solution is necessary but challenging, given the complexities and Russia's specific claims. He suggests broad-based negotiations to address the larger issues in the European security system, acknowledging that different capitals may have different perspectives. Snyder concludes by proposing that diplomats from the United States and Russia, whose roles have been downgraded in recent years, should be given a serious task to work on, potentially making history through meaningful negotiations.

The center of our analysis is the lexical, metaphorical, and linguistic aspects of the concept of war based on Timothy Snyder's article:

### 1. *Lexical Analysis:*

- **war-related terms:** The article is rich in war-related lexicon, including terms such as "invasion", "escalation", "front lines", "forces", "strategy", and "casualties";
- **geopolitical language:** It utilizes geopolitical terms like "European security system", "NATO", "global cause", and "U.S.-Russia relations";
- **propaganda terminology:** It discusses "propaganda", "memes", and "cyberwarfare", highlighting the information warfare aspect of contemporary conflicts;
- **identity and nationality:** It explores terms related to identity and nationality, such as "brotherly nations", "imperialism", and "identity crisis";
- **negotiation vocabulary:** It introduces terms associated with negotiations, such as "diplomats", "draft treaties", and "sovereignty".

### 2. *Metaphorical Analysis:*

- **war as a horrifying event:** The article utilizes metaphors to convey the potential horrors of war, describing an invasion as a "horror for Ukrainians" and highlighting the "terrifying level of destruction";
- **war as a political move:** It describes a potential invasion as an "incredibly stupid move" by Russia, drawing a parallel to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979;
- **identity crisis as a battle:** It describes Putin's posture regarding Russian identity crisis with the metaphor "if you won't be my brother, I'll beat your skull in";

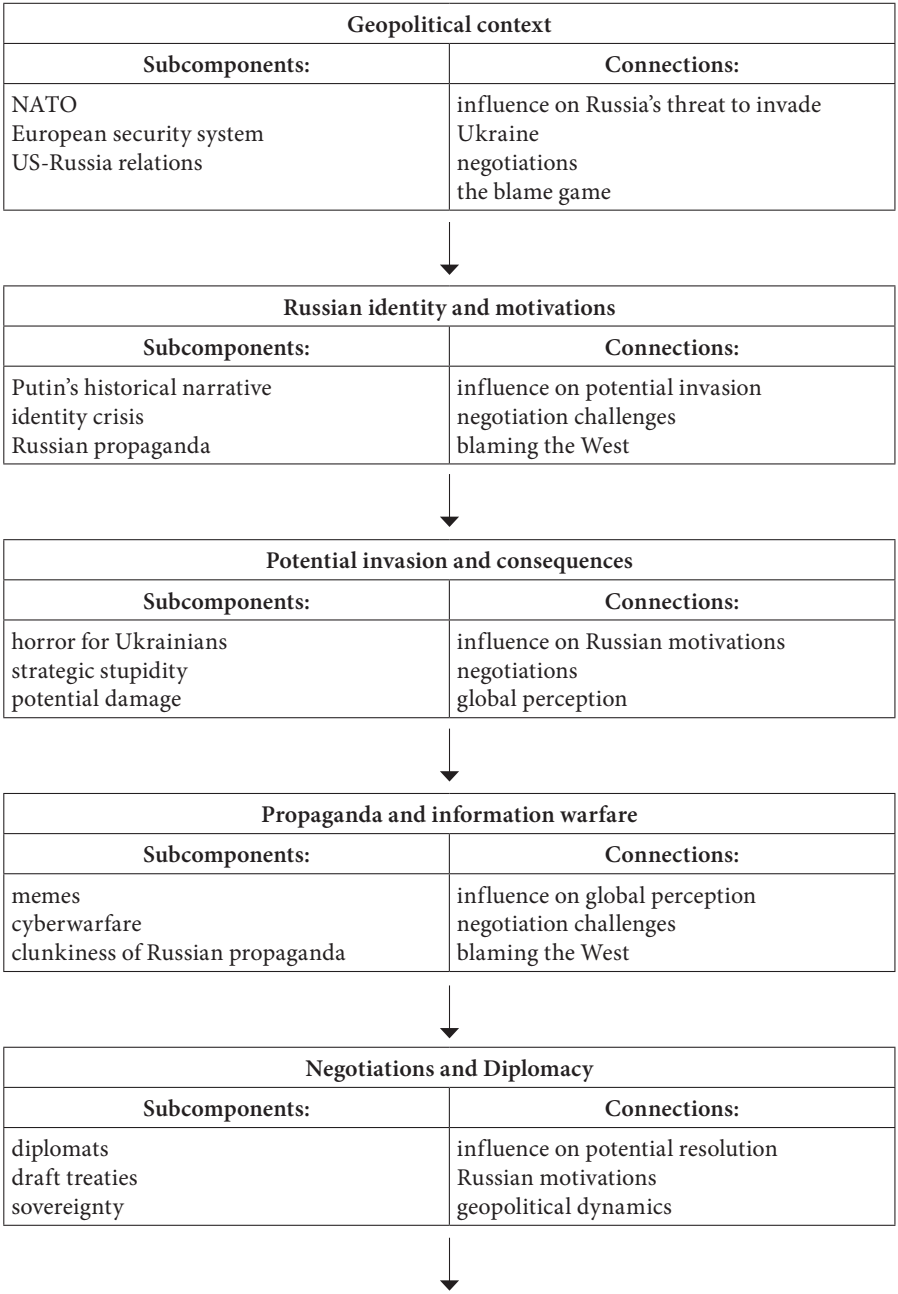
- ***propaganda as a weapon***: It views propaganda as a weapon, noting the contrast between the effectiveness of Russian propaganda in 2014 and its current perceived clunkiness;
- ***negotiations as a battlefield***: It describes negotiations as necessary but difficult, suggesting a broader basis for negotiations to address the “battlefield” of European security.

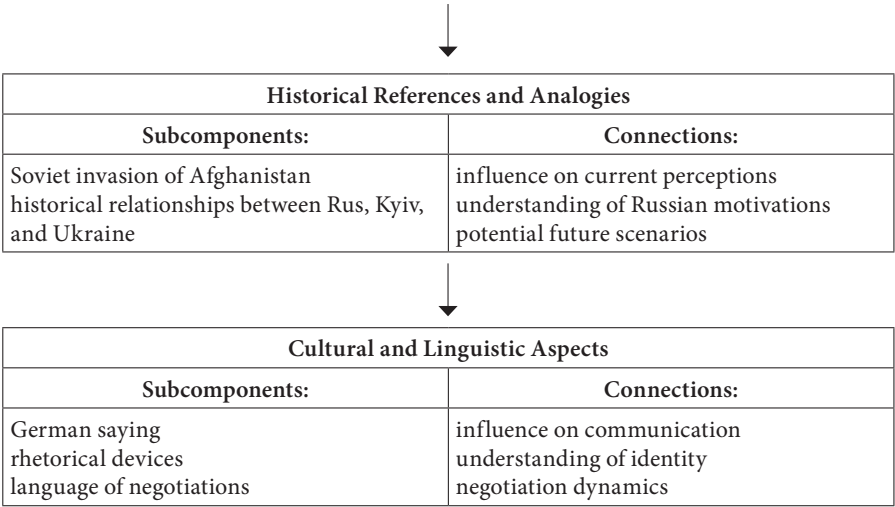
### 3. *Pragmalinguistic Analysis*:

- ***tone***: The tone of the article is analytical and reflective, evaluating the current situation and speculating on possible motivations and outcomes.
- ***rhetorical devices***: The article employs rhetorical devices such as parallelism in the phrase “I don’t know. The last time...”, emphasizing uncertainty.
- ***historical references***: It references historical events and analogies (Soviet invasion of Afghanistan) to provide context and convey the potential consequences of actions.
- ***cultural references***: It incorporates cultural references, such as the German saying about brotherhood, to illustrate and emphasize points about Russian identity.
- ***political language***: It utilizes political language, discussing the preferences of Moscow for a Trump administration and the complexities of U.S.-Russia relations.
- ***narrative structure***: It follows a narrative structure, starting with the current situation, delving into historical context, and exploring potential future scenarios.

In summary, Timothy Snyder’s article employs a diverse range of lexical choices, metaphors, and linguistic devices to convey the complex and multifaceted nature of the concept of war. The use of historical, geopolitical, and cultural references enriches the language and helps articulate the nuances of the Ukrainian-Russian war.

**Scheme 2.** The concept of war based on the article “How to think about war in Ukraine” by Timothy Snyder





To sum up, we are to mention the interconnections of these elements. The geopolitical context influences Russian motivations, shaping potential scenarios for invasion and affecting negotiation dynamics. Russian identity and motivations contribute to the potential invasion, influence propaganda strategies, and impact negotiations through blaming the West. Potential invasion and consequences are influenced by geopolitical dynamics, Russian motivations, and historical references, while also affecting global perception and negotiation outcomes. Propaganda and information warfare play a role in shaping global perception, influencing negotiation challenges, and reflecting the current state of Russian motivations. Negotiations and diplomacy are influenced by geopolitical context, potential invasion scenarios, and Russian motivations, with outcomes impacting the resolution of the conflict. Historical references and analogies contribute to understanding Russian motivations, shaping perceptions, and influencing potential future scenarios. Cultural and linguistic aspects impact communication strategies, understanding of identity, and dynamics within negotiations.

This scheme is a simplified representation, and the interconnections between these components are intricate and multifaceted, reflecting the complexity of the concept of war as discussed in Timothy Snyder’s article.

**Table 2.** War-related terms used in the article “How to think about war in Ukraine” by Timothy Snyder

| Lexical Analysis:  |  |   |  | Metaphorical analysis:  | Linguistic analysis:  |
|--|--|---|--|---|---|
| War-related Terms:   | Geopolitical Terms:  | Propaganda and Diplomacy:   | Historical and Cultural References:  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- war as horror (invasion as a horror for Ukrainians, forces capable of a terrifying level of destruction,</li><li>- war as a system-destroying force</li><li>- war as stupid move (incredibly stupid move by Russia, invasion would be like the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan)</li><li>- war as propaganda (Russian propaganda victory in 2014, clunky and dull propaganda, Russian propaganda focuses on the West)</li></ul> | <p>Conditional statements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- If Russia invades Ukraine</li><li>- If the Kremlin knows what will happen next</li><li>- If the conditions under which the war ends</li></ul> <p>Rhetorical questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- What is it all about?</li><li>- Why now, and why Ukraine?</li></ul> <p>Contrast and comparison:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Unlike Russia, Ukraine is a democracy</li></ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- invasion</li><li>- military escalation</li><li>- troops</li><li>- defense</li><li>- counter-offensive</li><li>- ceasefire</li><li>- missile campaign</li><li>- military aid</li><li>- tribunal for crimes of aggression</li><li>- wartime economy</li><li>- foreign reserves</li><li>- Russian armed forces</li><li>- cyberwarfare</li><li>- nuclear disarmament</li><li>- global cause of nuclear non-proliferation</li><li>- escalated war</li><li>- concern</li><li>- suffering</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Russia</li><li>- Ukraine</li><li>- Europe</li><li>- United States</li><li>- NATO</li><li>- Kremlin</li><li>- Moscow</li><li>- Kyiv</li><li>- European Union</li><li>- Western media</li><li>- President Biden</li><li>- Trump administration</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Russian propaganda</li><li>- Western media</li><li>- geopolitics</li><li>- negotiations</li><li>- diplomats</li><li>- treaties</li><li>- sovereignty</li><li>- European security system</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Soviet invasion of Afghanistan</li><li>- Russian identity</li><li>- Russian history</li><li>- Russian imperialism</li><li>- historical relationship</li><li>- ship</li><li>- national identity</li><li>- Russian speakers</li><li>- antisemitic territory</li><li>- Soviet Union</li></ul> |   |   |

| Lexical Analysis:   |                     |                           |                                     | Metaphorical analysis:  | Linguistic analysis:   |
|---|---------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| War-related Terms:  | Geopolitical Terms: | Propaganda and Diplomacy: | Historical and Cultural References: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– war as identity crisis (Putin's essay reflects an underlying uncertainty about Russian identity, claiming neighbors as brothers signifies an identity crisis, nationality is about the future, and Russia lacks a future in Putin's view)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– In Ukraine, presidents have lost elections; that has not yet happened in Russia</li> <li>– Ukrainian president can be a "Russian speaker"</li> </ul> <p>Temporal references:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Last Russian invasion in 2014</li> <li>– Eight years ago</li> <li>– Now, as opposed to historical references</li> </ul> <p>Causal Relationships:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Russia's past invasions harm the global cause of nuclear non-proliferation</li> <li>– Russia's threat of an escalated war in response to Zelens'kyi's gestures of reconciliation</li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– invasion</li> <li>– provocation</li> <li>– folly</li> <li>– identity crisis</li> <li>– democracy</li> <li>– propaganda</li> <li>– global implications</li> <li>– negotiations</li> </ul> |                     |                           |                                     |   |  |

These analyses provide insights into the various dimensions of the concept of war as discussed in the article, including the lexical choices, metaphorical expressions, and linguistic features used by the author.

The next series of analyzed articles are combined by the title “Think Tank reports on the invasion of Ukraine” (Think tank reports on the invasion of Ukraine, 2024). Atlantic Council focuses on the importance of active defense for Ukraine in the face of Russia’s invasion, emphasizes the lessons learned from the dominance of defensive warfare over offensive operations, mentions Russia’s initial blitzkrieg failure in the first month of the war. European Council on Foreign Relations discusses wartime politics in Ukraine and the challenges in reflecting changing society during the war, proposes EU support for pluralism in Ukraine through strong reform conditionality, addresses the impossibility of holding elections during wartime. European Policy Centre highlights the human security crisis unleashed by Russia’s war in Ukraine, criticizes the international community’s failure to protect people despite global policies in place, stresses the need for collective action by the EU, NATO, OSCE, and UN. The other organizations and institutions explore the concept of a ticking clock for Russia’s endless war, emphasizing temporal limitations for both sides, argue that a ceasefire is unlikely in the near future, emphasizing the need for Ukraine to strengthen its negotiating position, assess the dangers and limitations of Russia’s missile campaign against Ukraine, identifies a fundamental weakness in Russia’s strategy, emphasizing the expensive nature of missiles compared to cheap bombs, explore the impact of ending military aid to Ukraine, raise questions about the necessity of military aid, its components, and the potential consequences of reducing aid and so on.

These reports collectively provide a comprehensive overview of various aspects related to the invasion of Ukraine, including military strategies, political implications, economic effects, and environmental consequences. The think tanks offer diverse perspectives, contributing to a nuanced understanding of the complex situation.

Let us pay attention to the lexical, metaphorical and linguistic analysis of the concept of war based on these series of articles:



### 1. *Lexical Analysis:*

- **active defense:** This term is emphasized in the Atlantic Council's report, suggesting a proactive military strategy by Ukraine in response to Russia's invasion.
- **blitzkrieg:** It is referenced in the Atlantic Council's report, it denotes a rapid and intense military campaign intended to quickly incapacitate the enemy.
- **ceasefire:** It is explored by the German Council on Foreign Relations, it refers to a temporary suspension of hostilities between Ukraine and Russia.
- **human security crisis:** It is used in the European Policy Centre's report, it signifies the severe threat to the well-being of individuals in Ukraine due to Russia's war.
- **social contract:** It is mentioned by Egmont, it pertains to the implicit agreement between the Russian government and its citizens regarding their passive support during the war.
- **wartime politics:** It is discussed in the European Council on Foreign Relations' report, it addresses the political dynamics within Ukraine amid the ongoing conflict.

### 2. *Metaphorical Analysis:*

- **ticking clock:** It is used metaphorically in Egmont's report, it symbolizes the limited time for both Russia and Ukraine to achieve their objectives before facing potential consequences.
- **silent turmoil:** It is employed in the title of the Egmont report, it metaphorically describes the internal challenges and uncertainties faced by Russia.
- **dominance of defensive warfare:** It metaphorically implies the strategic advantage gained through a defensive military stance, as discussed in the Atlantic Council's report.
- **front lines:** It refers metaphorically to areas directly affected by the war, contrasting with the normalcy in central and western Ukraine, as described in the Atlantic Council's report.

### 3. *Pragmalinguistic Analysis:*

- **complexity:** Words like "delicate balance", "layer of complexity", and "enigma" (Egmont) convey the intricate nature of the situation.

- **consequences:** Phrases such as “risks dangerous conclusions” (Carnegie Endowment) and “emboldens Russia to defeat freedom” (European Policy Centre) highlight the potential outcomes and impacts of actions.
- **recommendations:** Terms like “lessons” (Atlantic Council) and “reform conditionality” (European Council on Foreign Relations) suggest proposed actions or changes.
- **temporal advantage:** The use of “temporal advantage” (Egmont) involves linguistic exploration of time-related elements in the conflict.
- **human dignity:** The reference to “defeat freedom, security, and human dignity” (European Policy Centre) employs powerful language to emphasize the gravity of the impact on individuals.

The combination of lexical, metaphorical, and linguistic elements in these reports contributes to a rich and nuanced understanding of the concept of war in the context of the invasion of Ukraine. The language used reflects the complexities, challenges, and potential outcomes associated with the ongoing war.

Based on the provided information from the Think Tank reports on the invasion of Ukraine, here is a breakdown of vocabulary based on different semantic groups related to war:

**Table 3.** War-related terms used by the series of analyzed articles combined under the title “Think Tank reports on the invasion of Ukraine”

| War-related lexicon  | Weapon-related lexicon  | Terms related to Ukrainian soldiers  | Terms related to Russian soldiers   | Political aspects  | Human security   | Legal and judicial aspects  |
|--|---|--|---|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– War</li> <li>– invasion</li> <li>– conflict</li> <li>– battles</li> <li>– strategy</li> <li>– defense</li> <li>– offense</li> <li>– ceasefire</li> <li>– tribunal</li> <li>– campaign</li> <li>– Russian</li> <li>– invasion</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– missile</li> <li>– military</li> <li>– aid</li> <li>– defensive</li> <li>– warfare</li> <li>– blitzkrieg</li> <li>– strategic</li> <li>– calculus</li> <li>– human</li> <li>– security</li> <li>– crisis</li> <li>– arms</li> <li>– ceasefire</li> <li>– costs</li> <li>– expensive</li> <li>– missiles</li> <li>– cheap</li> <li>– bombs</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Ukrainian</li> <li>– military</li> <li>– military</li> <li>– leadership</li> <li>– wartime</li> <li>– objectives</li> <li>– ceasefire</li> <li>– negotiations</li> <li>– wartime</li> <li>– economy</li> <li>– active</li> <li>– defense</li> <li>– lessons</li> <li>– learned</li> <li>– tribunal for</li> <li>– crimes of</li> <li>– aggression</li> <li>– wartime</li> <li>– politics</li> <li>– identity in</li> <li>– wartime</li> <li>– defensive</li> <li>– warfare</li> <li>– active defense</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Russian invasion</li> <li>– Russian aggressor</li> <li>– Putin’s objectives</li> <li>– social contract in</li> <li>– Russia</li> <li>– Putin’s second</li> <li>– front</li> <li>– endless war</li> <li>– Russian weakness</li> <li>– silent turmoil</li> <li>– temporal advance</li> <li>– tag</li> <li>– ceasefire likelihood</li> <li>– sanctions</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– politics in</li> <li>– Ukraine</li> <li>– political</li> <li>– leadership</li> <li>– Parliament</li> <li>– elections</li> <li>– reform</li> <li>– conditionality</li> <li>– over-</li> <li>– centralization</li> <li>– of power</li> <li>– EU</li> <li>– involvement</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Human</li> <li>– security crisis</li> <li>– war crimes</li> <li>– international</li> <li>– community</li> <li>– freedom and</li> <li>– security</li> <li>– human dignity</li> <li>– NATO, OSCE,</li> <li>– and UN</li> <li>– involvement</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– crimes of</li> <li>– aggression</li> <li>– international</li> <li>– tribunal</li> <li>– legal and</li> <li>– political</li> <li>– obstacles</li> <li>– wartime</li> <li>– tribunal</li> <li>– ceasefire</li> <li>– alternatives</li> </ul> |

These terms are a good starting point for understanding the lexicography related to war, weapons, Ukrainian soldiers, and Russian soldiers, political aspects, human security, legal and judicial aspects in the context of the provided articles.

The article “Nothing will change in Russia until it’s defeated in Ukraine”, based on an interview with French-American writer and journalist Jonathan Littell, explores his perspective on Russia’s actions in Ukraine and reflects on the 2008 war between Russia and Georgia (Littell, 2023). He emphasizes the need for a decisive defeat of Russia in Ukraine to bring about political change within the country. The author criticizes the West’s historical handling of Russian aggression, pointing to mistakes made after the 2008 war between Russia and Georgia. Littell argued that the West, particularly Europe, failed to understand the true nature of Russia, citing commercial interests and a lack of unity among European nations. His insights touch upon historical events, military behavior, and the geopolitical landscape, offering a nuanced view of the challenges and mistakes in dealing with Russia.

Let us consider the lexical, metaphorical and linguistic analysis of the concept of war based on this article:

### 1. *Lexical Analysis:*

- **aggression and conflict terms:** Phrases such as “Russian aggression”, “war between Russia and Georgia”, and “full-scale invasion of Ukraine” highlight the lexical field of conflict and aggression.
- **military terminology:** Terms like “troops”, “special forces”, “occupation”, “war crimes”, and “invasion” contribute to a strong military lexical component.
- **political terminology:** Words like “regime”, “president”, and “leaders” indicate a political dimension in the discussion of war and conflicts.
- **diplomatic vocabulary:** Phrases such as “West’s dealings with Russia” and “appeasing the situation” introduce diplomatic language.

### 2. *Metaphorical Analysis:*

- **war as a game:** The use of phrases like “defeating the regime” and “pull the teeth from Russia” metaphorically portrays war as a strategic game.
- **time as a weapon:** Expressions like “wake up” and “too late” metaphorically treat time as a weapon, implying that delayed responses can be detrimental.

- **political landscape as a battlefield:** The metaphorical use of “battlefield”, “defeat”, and “collapse of the regime” portrays political struggles as warfare, using battle-related terms to describe political events.

### 3. *Pragmalinguistic Analysis:*

- **emotive language:** Phrases like “shameful”, “completely fake”, and “absolutely shameful” evoke strong emotions, reflecting the author’s subjective stance.
- **historical references:** Referring to historical events like the “First Chechen War” and the “2008 war between Russia and Georgia” adds a historical context to the linguistic fabric.
- **conditional language:** Use of conditional terms like “if”, “unless”, and “until” in statements such as “unless there is a complete defeat” and “nothing will change politically until Russia is defeated in Ukraine” introduces a sense of contingency.
- **comparative language:** Phrases like “horrible and criminal things” (referring to American actions) and “complete misunderstanding” emphasize a comparative aspect, evaluating different nations’ actions.

This linguistic analysis reveals a narrative that combines military, political, and diplomatic lexicons, using metaphorical expressions to shape the author’s perspective on war and international relations. Emotive language and historical references add depth to the linguistic portrayal of the events and issues discussed in the article.

## 5. Conclusions

To sum up, the collective analysis provides a comprehensive understanding of the multifaceted aspects of the war in Ukraine. It emphasizes the need to consider both international and domestic factors, avoid oversimplified perspectives, and recognize the agency of nations involved. The evolution of views in Europe and the role of media are crucial elements in shaping the narrative around the war.

The articles collectively present a diverse range of perspectives on the Ukrainian war. Vocabulary and metaphors are influenced by the authors' attitudes, shaping the narrative in terms of support, criticism, or analytical assessment. Emphasis on empowering terms, critical language, or strategic metaphors contributes to the overall tone and stance of each article. The analysis reflects the complexity of the war, highlighting how language and discourse contribute to the portrayal of events and actors involved.

The concept of war is rich in lexical diversity, metaphorical nuances, and distinctive linguistic features. The authors employ a spectrum of metaphors and language choices to convey their perspectives on the contemporary war in Ukraine.

Let us draw a conclusion connected with the concept of war by synthesizing these aspects:

1. Lexical diversity:

The vocabulary across the articles is diverse, reflecting the complex nature of the conflict. Terms such as “geopolitical chessboard”, “tug of war”, and “puppet regime” showcase the lexical richness employed by the authors.

2. Metaphorical nuances:

Metaphors act as powerful tools to conceptualize the war. The geopolitical chessboard metaphor implies strategic calculations and power dynamics. The tug of war metaphor signifies the ongoing struggle for dominance. The puppet strings metaphor suggests external control, questioning Ukraine's autonomy.

3. Linguistic features:

The linguistic analysis reveals a range of tones and perspectives. Some authors adopt a more neutral, analytical tone, employing terms like “realist approach” and geopolitical “actors”. Others use emotionally charged language, describing the conflict as a “storm” or highlighting the “tragedy” of great power politics.

4. Attitudes of authors:

The attitudes toward the war vary among authors. Some lean toward realism, emphasizing power dynamics and historical contexts. Others adopt more critical stances, pointing to the aggression of certain actors and the need for a nuanced understanding of the conflict.

5. Common threads:

Despite differences, common threads emerge. There is a recurring theme of external influences shaping Ukraine's fate, whether through geopolitical maneuvers or media narratives. The war is often framed as a struggle for influence, both regionally and globally.

#### 6. Evolving narratives:

The use of metaphors like the "media battleground" highlights the evolving nature of narratives in the war. Information warfare and the role of media in shaping perceptions emerge as crucial aspects.

In conclusion, the concept of war, as portrayed in these articles, transcends a mere clash of arms. It becomes a geopolitical chess match, a struggle for influence akin to a tug of war, and a narrative battlefield where media narratives play a decisive role. The lexical choices, metaphorical nuances, and linguistic features collectively weave a complex tapestry that invites readers to delve into the intricate layers of the ongoing war in Ukraine. The use of metaphors helps convey the intricacies, power struggles, and evolving dynamics involved in this geopolitical and military confrontation. It adds depth to the narrative, offering readers a more comprehensive view of the ongoing war.

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