

Abstract

The term "Melilla tragedy" is usually used to refer to the events of the 24th of June 2022, when the attempted crossing to the Spanish side of the Melilla border by a group of around 2.000 Sub-Saharan migrants resulted in at least 25 deaths. Hoping to contribute to the understanding of the coverage of migration in polarized media environments, the present study looks at articles focused on these events published by Spanish national media across the political spectrum. Through a Multimodal Critical Discourse Analysis approach, 16 opinion pieces published by *El País*, *El Mundo*, *El Confidencial*, and *elDiario.es* were critically examined in search of relevant conclusions on the influence of media partisanship in the media's reporting on the Southern border, and differences between the short and long-term reporting on the events. Results of this analysis point to ideology-based differences in the portrayal of migrants and the border and an overall tendency to talk about migration from a political standpoint, even more so in the long term.