Political Awareness in Fictional Digital Journalism: A Lexical Analysis of *Radical* Newspaper Agency as a Left-libertarianism Archetype in Torpor's Games *Suzerain*

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Abstract

Information could have multiple interpretations. Media organisations often frame information to reflect their beliefs and agenda. Topor's game Suzerain is a political strategy game that puts the player in the shoes of Anton Rayne, the 4th President of the Republic of Sordland. The game is text-based, and the player must make multiple decisions to progress the story. The Republic of Sordland is a developing nation and has many problems that the player must navigate and give the best possible outcome. Sordland is a democratic nation; however, it has suffered under an authoritarian regime for a couple of decades. Past regimes are also a circumstance that will interact with the player. Media is an important part of democracy; the Republic of Sordland proves this by allowing multiple media organisations. The Media organisation mechanic interacts with the player and the story progression. The Radical Newspaper Agency is one of six media organisations that the player could interact with. Their coverage is often very critical of the government and champions the working class. This shows a political position to the left of the political compass. This could be seen through the use of language and how the Radical applies certain words. Language serves as a tool to frame the information it presents. This is then used to support a certain group and becomes an identifier of the Radical's positioning. This research explores the fictional world of Torpor's Games Suzerain. The research focuses on the political stance behind the Radical Newspaper Agency through stylistic analysis.

Keywords: Left-libertarianism; Newspaper; Media; Radical

Introduction

Video games as narrative tools offer many ideas to players. The interactive mechanics give players firsthand experience of how a system works. Bogost (2007) argues that video games represent how real and imagined systems work. They invite players to interact with those

systems and form judgments about them. The system could refer to political, economic, cultural, etc. The players are then expected to be aware of the ideology within the system. This is required to make an unbiased decision within the games. The awareness also provided a catalyst for further discourse. Bogost (2007) states that, unlike verbal discourse, which relies on deeply ingrained metaphors that most people take for granted, video games deploy more abstract representations of the way the world does or should function. The abstract representations expand the discourse between players and narrative.

The newspaper as informative media plays an important role for the public. Their role as one of the pillars of democracy establishes them as a political actor. Media might claim to be a neutral voice, but their role as a political actor will create a political position. “The expression of ideology in discourse is usually more than just an explicit or concealed display of a person’s beliefs, but mostly also has a persuasive function (Fairclough 1993).” The media often hide their position within the framing of a story. The framing of stories often reveals whether the newspaper agency is critical of or in support of the establishment. This revelation often uncovers ideologies behind the newspaper agency. The discovery of a newspaper agency’s political position will give the audience awareness. This could be beneficial in preventing echo chambers and improving political understanding.

Topor Game’s Suzerain is a political strategy game based on a fictional world. The game lets players play as Anton Rayne, the 4th president of Sordland. The game uses decisions to progress the story. The Republic of Sordland is a developing nation located on the fictional Eastern Markopa. They are a democracy with freedom of speech and journalism. There are six newspaper agencies that the player could interact with. They are Holsord Post, Sordland Today, Economist, Lachaven Times, The *Radical*, and Geopolitico. These newspaper agencies have their own political position. The newspaper agencies, as game mechanics, are responding to players' decisions and policies. This marks them as political entities with their own perspective and ideology.

The *Radical* positions itself as an anti-establishment newspaper agency. Founded after the first president's coup. They position themselves as a critical news agency. “Their unchecked voice was mostly not welcomed by government officials, who often tried to silence the newspaper, but they still have not managed to do so (Torpor Games, n.d.).” The backlash from the government led to many arrests during Soll’s presidency. *the Radical* retains its position during Rayne’s presidency and often challenges the government. This research analysis on the *Radical* will focus on uncovering the hidden ideology behind its anti-establishment policy.

Libertarian-left as a political group promotes more freedom for the people. Under the idea of freedom, the Libertarian-left proposes that government should open up more representation, provide more rights for minorities, and oppose centralization. Left-libertarianism, by contrast, holds that unappropriated natural resources belong to everyone in some egalitarian manner (Vallentyne & van der Vossen, 2023). Their approach towards the economy is also directed towards decentralisation. They oppose natural resources being held by companies or governmental entities. Linguistically, the libertarian-left are closely associated with freedom.

Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) as a field of study helps ground this research. Chouliaraki and Fairclough (1999) state that CDA brings critical social science and linguistics together within a single theoretical and analytical framework, setting up a dialogue between them. This is relevant to examining the political positioning of the *Radical* through their framing and lexical choices.

CDA has been extensively used to analyse books, poems, speeches, etc. The application of CDA within video games has only developed recently. CDA within video games has been used to uncover propaganda, visual style, and political representation. This research observes that less attention has been given to fictional journalism in video games. This research addresses video game journalism and how they construct political discourse.

This research aims to delve into fictional journalism: what lexical choices the Radical uses in Anton Rayne Policy; How these lexical choices reflect the Radical's libertarian-left position. This research contributes to video game discourse through the analysis of how fictional news media could construct political position through language. This research also contributes to political awareness by highlighting how lexical choices can be used by the media to frame certain ideological and political positions.

Methodology

1. Research Design

This research uses a qualitative approach and Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) to examine the lexical choices in The *Radical*, a fictional newspaper in Suzerain. A qualitative approach is appropriate because this study focuses on interpreting the contextual meanings and discursive functions of language rather than quantifying lexical occurrences (Bryman, 2012). CDA is employed to investigate the language, particularly lexical choices and how they represent political issues (Fairclough, 2010). This approach allows the researcher to identify and interpret lexical items in a selected article from The *Radical*. Furthermore, the findings are examined in relation to the libertarian-left political position to investigate the political orientation of The *Radical*.

2. Data Gathering Procedure

The data are collected from a single reformist playthrough of Suzerain. The reformist playthrough provides a narrative context for examining how The *Radical* reports on policy, cultural issues, and economic issues. The data are collected in the form of screenshots of the articles as they appear during the playthrough. The data will be collected as they appear during the playthrough. Where multiple screenshots capture different portions of the same article, they are treated as parts of one article rather than as separate data sources. After the data collection, the screenshots will be organised into two thematic categories. The first category is cultural. This will be based on articles with ethnic, religious, and traditional talking points. The second category is the economic factor, which talks about class economic issues, employment, etc. This will

establish context for examining lexical choices within each article. Following categorization, the research employs sampling to select articles for further analysis. The selection will be based on two criteria. First is the thematic relevance based on the category mentioned above. Second is the urgency, which refers to the significance of an issue represented within the narrative. The articles are intended to provide the basis for lexical analysis of The *Radical* and context for The *Radical's* political libertarian-left orientation.

3. Data Analysis

The researcher first identifies significant lexical items and expressions within the selected article. The researcher examines these items in their textual context to determine their meaning and their roles in representing events, actors, government, and economic issues. This will answer the first research question. The researcher then examines the lexical patterns in The *Radical* that show a libertarian-left orientation. This step examines whether the linguistic evidence supports, complicates, or challenges the interpretation. This moves the analysis into the political context. This allows the researcher to engage with the second research question.

Results and Discussion

1. The Radical and Left-libertarianism

Lexical items in this particular analysis will be based on both words and phrases. Baldwin and Kim's (2010) discuss that multi-word lexical expressions can contain multiple lexemes. The lexical item will be examined through its discourse context and how each lexical item contributes to its framing. Fairclough (2010) mentions that discourse impacts those of power, social structure, social groups, and ideology within a media context. The *Radical* newspaper actively reports on contemporary issues and cannot escape from political or ideological discourse. The lexical data play a role in how The *Radical's* articles frame certain issues. Moreover, Fowler (1991) argues that word choices play a large role within the context of newspapers. They act as a medium for newspapers to express their political position through framing and word choices.

This segment will apply CDA to analyse the data. This will be directed to answer the first research question. Furthermore, this segment will act as the basis for this research analysis on The *Radical's* relation to the libertarian-left political orientation. Fairclough (2010) notes that lexical patterns can help examine how newspapers represent social and political issues. The lexical item then examines the principle of left-libertarianism. The political orientation of left-libertarianism is often in support of nature, individual agency, and against centralization of power. The libertarian-left could be understood as individual ownership combined with natural resource management in an egalitarian manner. Left-libertarianism emphasizes full self-ownership, and thus places limits on what others may do to one's person without one's permission Vallentyne (2000). This means that the idea of individual freedom should be treated as one with the idea of equality. Left-libertarianism is promising because it coherently underwrites both some demands of material equality and some limits on the permissible means of promoting this equality Vallentyne (2000).

The left dimension includes egalitarian concern, specifically regarding the distribution of resources. This aims to reduce the material gaps that exist within the status quo. According to one version of left-libertarianism, natural resources are jointly owned in the sense that authorization to use, or to appropriate, is given through some specified collective decision-making process (e.g., by majority or unanimous decision) Vallentyne (2000). This means that individual property rights correlate with the interests of society. This research examines the characteristics of the left-wing through expressions concerning labour rights, minority protection, and public opportunities.

This research applies the aforementioned characteristics of left-liberalism as a framework to analyse the *Radical's* article. The article's lexical choices and framing will be examined using both the libertarian aspect and the left-wing aspect. The libertarian expression includes civil liberties, individual autonomy, freedom of belief, and resistance to coercive authoritarianism. The left-wing aspect includes labour rights, minority protection, and public opportunities.

a. The Radical and Culture

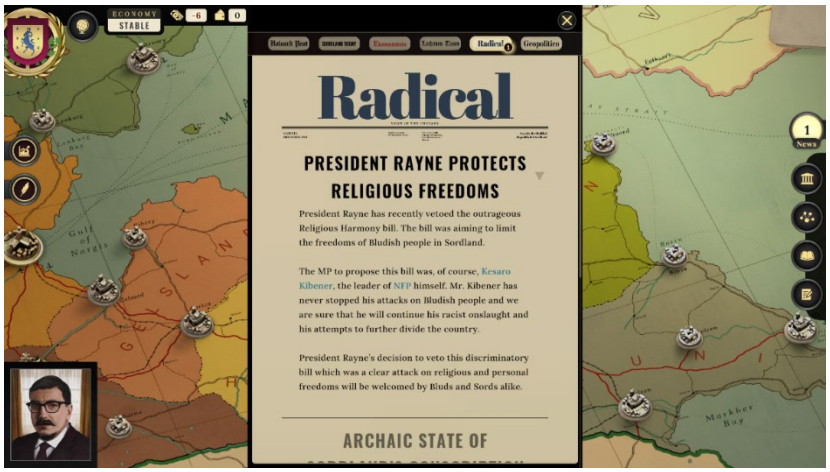


Figure 1. The *Radical's* article on Religious Freedom (Suzerain 2020).

Table 1. The *Radical's* lexical analysis

Lexical Item	Discursive function
"Protects Religious Freedoms"	The article frames President Rayne's veto as something positive that protects religious rights and freedom for minority.
"Outrageous"	The article is framing the "Religious Harmony Bill" as something negative. They also frame the bill as directly attacking freedom and minority rights.
"Limit the freedoms"	The article further discusses the Religious Harmony Bill as something harmful. They frame it as something that limits freedom for minority.
"Racist onslaught"	The article frames Mr. Kibener as the man responsible for stoking racial conflict. They also frame Mr Kibener as a racist who will continuously attack minorities.

Lexical Item	Discursive function
"Discriminatory"	The article frames the bill as unfair and discriminatory against minority specifically the Bludish population of Sordland.

The *Radical* frames itself in support of the Bludish people. The article uses lexical items such as " protects religious freedoms " and " limit the freedoms to highlight the urgency of the matter. The article also frames the nationalists as the antagonist using lexical items such as racist onslaught and discriminatory to reflect the character of the parties and the bill they propose. Left-libertarianism argues that individuals should have autonomy to decide what they believe or want. "Freedom of association, of cultural and religious expression, and sexual liberation (Vallentyne, 2009)." The *Radical* position in defending this right from the Religious Harmony Bill showcases their political orientation.

The *Radical* lexical choices and framing of the article are consistent with the expressions of individual autonomy and freedom of belief. This reveals the *Radical* left-liberalism pattern highlighted through its lexical choices and framing.

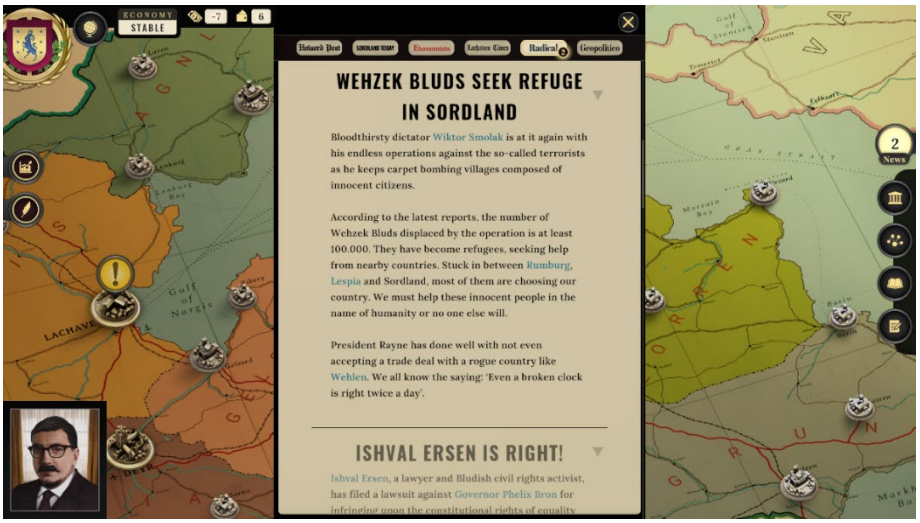


Figure 2. The *Radical's* Article on Bludish Refuge (Suzerain 2020).

Table 2. The *Radical's* lexical analysis

Lexical Item	Discursive function
Bloodthirsty dictator	The article frames the operation as violent, serving nothing but the violence of President Smolak. The article also frames the operation as serving no purpose but to bring carnage towards the Bludish people.
carpet bombing	The article is framing Wehlen's military action as violent and does not concern any civilian casualties. This framing is intended to paint the Republic of Wehlen as a danger to the region.
innocent citizens	The article frames the refugees as vulnerable and depicts them as directly affected by "Operation Bear Trap."

	The article also puts an emphasis on international involvement in aiding the refugees.
In the name of humanity	The article is calling on the international community to act and help the refugees and victims of war.
A rogue country like Wehlen	The article frames Wehlen as a country with no regard to international order. The article condemns the actions of the Republic of Wehlen. They also encourage isolating the country for acting against international law.
Even a broken clock is right twice a day	The article is offering praise for President Rayne's refusal to make a deal with President Smolak. The article, at the same time, limits its praise to this particular event.

The article also frames the Republic of Wehlen as a warmonger and a violent state. The framing of Wehlen as the antagonist of this event creates a stark contrast between the Bludish Wehlen citizen and the Smolak's Wehlen. Fowler (1991) mentions that transitivity is the foundation of representation. This highlights how language plays a role in assigning responsibility for a certain event.

Left-Libertarianism believes that equality is to be shared beyond borders. This means human rights are not limited to a certain border. Vallentyne (2006) mentions that most contemporary left-libertarians hold that all natural resources in the world are owned by all the agents in the world. Funds generated by natural resources should be shared (e.g., equally, or to promote equality) among all individuals in the world. This mirrors the *Radical's* framing that Bludish Wehlen should be protected from oppression and appeal for action through their articles. The *Radical's* framing and lexical choices are consistent with the expressions of individual autonomy and resistance towards coercive authoritarianism. This reveals the *Radical* left-liberalism pattern highlighted through its framing.

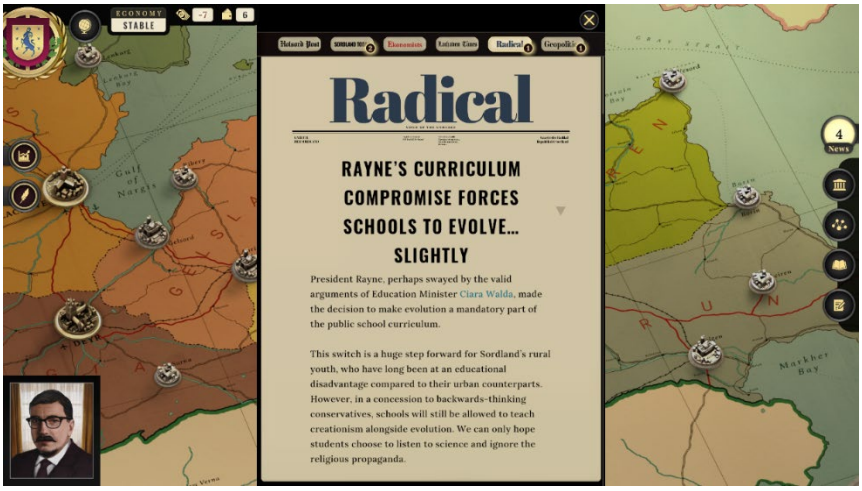


Figure 3. The *Radical's* Article Regarding Curriculum Change (Suzerain 2020).

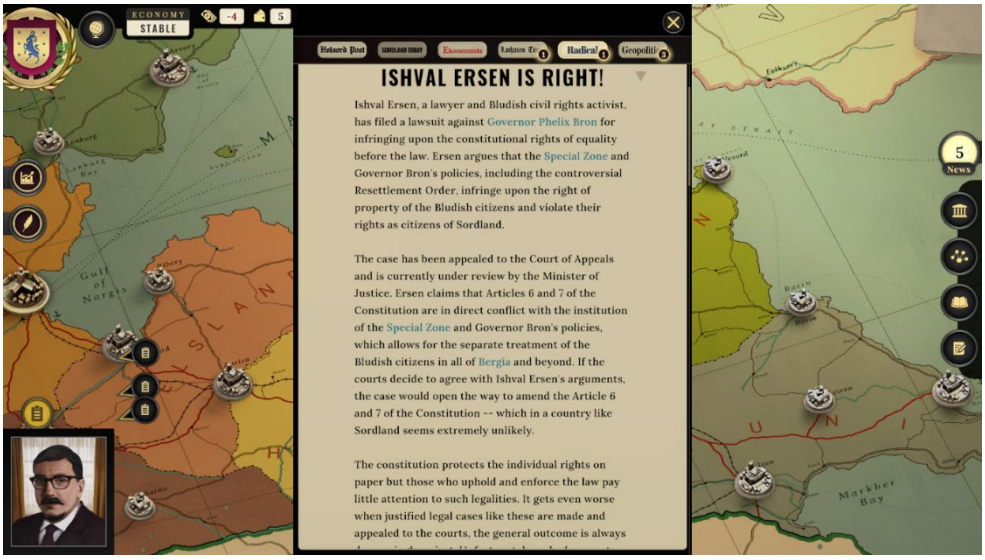
Table 3. The *Radical's* lexical analysis

Lexical Item	Discursive function
"compromise"	The article frames President Rayne's decision to compromise with creationism as undesirable and hampering progress.
"Evolve... slightly"	The headline of the article highlights the limited impact compromise brings.
"valid arguments"	The article is framing the Ministry of Education as competent and pushing for progress. The article specifically frames Ciara Walda as a positive figure within the cabinet.
"huge step forward"	The article is framing the adoption of evolution as mandatory curriculum as a positive change. Furthermore, the framing of evolution is a contrast to creationism in the context of Sordland's education system.
"educational disadvantage"	The article frames the decision to make evolution mandatory as good. They frame it as reducing the gap between urban and rural students.
"backwards-thinking conservatives"	The article frames the decision to compromise with the status quo conservative as an obstacle. They frame it as limiting the progression within the education system and mention that President Rayne's concession to the conservative is undesirable.
"religious propaganda"	The article is framing creationism as religious propaganda. This aims to delegitimize creationism's impact in the education system. Moreover, it reinforces the article's preference for evolution.

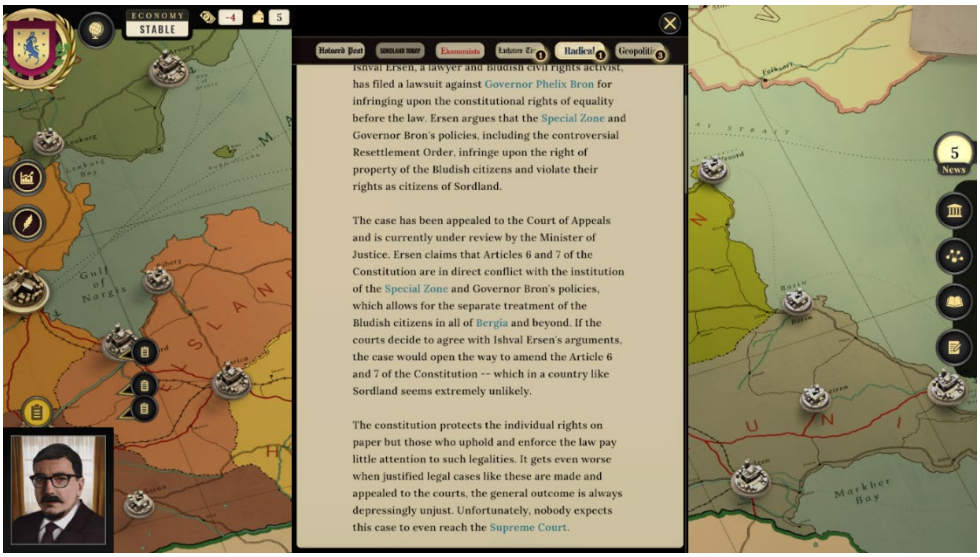
The *Radical* framing of this article reveals that the evolution curriculum is better than creationism. The article frames this compromise as creating a disadvantage in the progression of the educational system. The article argues that creationism is backward and a tool for the conservative. This becomes their justification for framing it to cut creationism from the education system.

The libertarian-left argues for personal autonomy and resisting the authority that tries to take that personal autonomy. "Certain kinds of education may frustrate the development of personal autonomy" (Schinkel, 2010). The *Radical* framing of creationism as a political tool of the conservative is a pattern that is consistent with the libertarian-left ideas. The status quo of creationism is being used to provide certain ideas to children. Framing evolution in the education system and promoting critical thinking is another characteristic of the libertarian-left.

The *Radical's* framing and lexical choices are consistent with the expressions of individual autonomy and resistance towards coercive authoritarianism. This reveals the *Radical* left-liberalism pattern highlighted through its framing.



(a) Article opening



(b) Article continuation

Figure 4. The *Radical's* Article Regarding the Case of Ishval Ersen (Suzerain 2020).

Table 4. The *Radical's* lexical analysis

Lexical Item	Discursive function
"ISHVAL ERSEN IS RIGHT!"	The article headline frames The *Radical's* support of the Ishval Ersen case. The article also frames the case as correct and in contrast to Governor Phelix Bron's resettlement policy
"Infringing upon the constitutional rights"	The article frames the resettlement order that Governor Phelix Bron carried out as something harmful and opposed to human rights, specifically the right to property.
"equality before the law"	The article frames the Ishval Ersen case as justified and cites the Constitution. They give more context and provide

Lexical Item	Discursive function
	supporting arguments opposing Governor Phelix Bron's resettlement policy.
"right of property"	The article highlights the primary contention and the immediate harm of the resettlement order. This also frames the governor's action as not just a direct attack on the Bludish people but against the Constitution as well.
"extremely unlikely"	The article frames that the establishment, specifically the Supreme Court, has a low likelihood of supporting Ishval Ersen. This framing portrays a Supreme Court that cannot uphold justice.
"on paper"	The article frames a reality in which the constitution operates only theoretically. This framing depicts a Sordland that cannot uphold its own law in the face of justice.
"pay little attention"	The article frames the problem as being in the institution that is supposed to uphold the law. The framing is aimed towards government institutions, specifically the Supreme Court.
"Depressingly unjust"	The article further frames that even if the lawsuit reaches the Supreme Court, there is a low chance that they will support Ishval Ersen.

The *Radical's* article titled "Ishval Ersen Is Right" positions itself in support of Mr. Ersen's case. The article frames the entire event as Bludish right under the law. They cite the Constitution and frames Governor Bron as a dangerous individual with power. The article creates an urgency regarding the case and emphasizes the danger if Governor Bron is allowed to continue his resettlement policy. The article also puts a degree of skepticism on the Supreme Court's handling of the case. Ideology involves the representation of 'the world' from the perspective of a particular interest Fairclough (1995). This suggests that framing is not just reflecting the actors that are being covered. Framing also reflects the entire discourse, which includes the newspaper in this case, The *Radical*.

The *Radical's* article supports individual autonomy regardless of their ethnic background. Vallentyne (2006) argues that, with respect to sharing in the benefits of egalitarian ownership of natural resources, most of the questions that left-libertarianism must confront must be confronted by any egalitarian theory of justice; on an equal share view, for example, does each mouse in the world get a share equal to that of each adult human? The *Radical's* linguistic choices support the idea that all humans, regardless of race, deserve equality and are protected under the rule of law. Their opposition to government infringement reflects a left-libertarian egalitarian view. The *Radical's* framing and lexical choices are consistent with the expressions of individual autonomy, civil liberties, and resistance towards coercive authoritarianism. This reveals the *Radical* left-liberalism pattern highlighted through its framing.

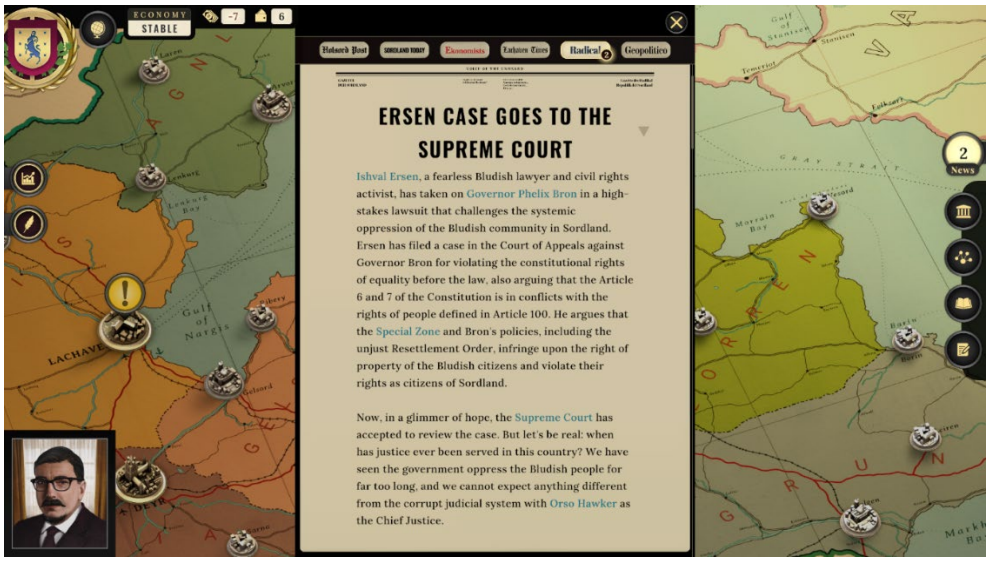


Figure 5. The *Radical's* Article on Ersen Case and the Supreme Court (Suzerain 2020).

Table 5. The *Radical's* lexical analysis

Lexical item	Discursive function
"high-stakes lawsuit"	The article frames Ishval Ersen's case as urgent. The framing creates a sense of importance for the reader and all involved actors.
"Equality"	The article frames Governor Bron's policy as against the Bludish right. The framing also highlights that Bludish citizens of Sordland are viewed as equal under the constitution and law. This highlights the contradiction between Articles 6 and 7 and the definition provided by Article 100.
"constitutional rights"	The article frames the action of the governor Bron's action as unconstitutional and thus illegal. This also frames the struggle of the Bludish people.
"systemic oppression"	This article frames the urgency of the case and its relation to the status quo oppression experience of the Bludish people. The article also frames Governor Brown's policy as harmful.
"Unjust"	This frames the reinstatement policy as something that is against the rights of the Bludish people.
"corrupt judicial system"	This frames the Supreme Court's bias towards the establishment. This also frames them as an actor that contributes to the systemic oppression of the Bludish people.

The *Radical's* article titled "Ersen Case Goes to Supreme Court" frames the urgency and importance of this case. The *Radical* frames the Supreme Court as having the obligation to answer the argument provided by Mr. Ersen. The article highlights how the conflict within the Constitution is creating harm for the Bludish people. The article also challenges the establishment, meaning the government, specifically the Supreme Court, to end the systemic oppression that exists and is apparent in the actions of Governor Bron.

The framing of the Ersen case reveals that it is not just about the case. “Discourse is use of language seen as a form of social practice” (Fairclough, 1995, p. 7). This means topic coverage is not just about the primary topic. The *Radical’s* article “Ersen Case Goes to Supreme Court” reveals that the case is political and touches on civil rights. The libertarian-left argues for civil liberties and resistance against coercive authoritarianism. The article states that there is something unjust about doing nothing to promote equal life prospects (Vallentyne 2006). The article argues that Bludish people are citizens regardless of their ethnicity. This reflects a libertarian-left that promotes equal rights for fellow humans. They argue for important civil liberties. The framing and the position to defend the Bludish people as the minority shows a characteristic of the libertarian-left.

The *Radical’s* framing and lexical choices are consistent with the expressions of individual autonomy, civil liberties, and resistance towards coercive authoritarianism. This reveals the *Radical* left-liberalism pattern highlighted through its framing.

b. The Radical and Economy



Figure 6. The *Radical’s* Article on Gasom’s Job Freeze (Suzerain 2020).

Table 6. The *Radical’s* lexical analysis

Lexical items	Discursive function
“Unsettling rumors”	The article frames the information as coming from an insider. This frames Gasom as hiding the halt in hiring new employees.
“puts a halt on hiring”	The article frames this as the main contention and topic.
“unprecedented move”	The article frames the halt in hiring as something

Lexical items	Discursive function
	unusual. This creates an urgency and highlights the importance of looking into Gasom's financial stability.
"Fiscal stability"	The article frames the importance of looking at Gascon's financial stability.
"Thousands of blue-collar workers"	The article frames blue-collar workers as the main vulnerable actors in this whole debacle. This positions the article in support of blue-collar concerns.
"their livelihoods"	The article frames Gasom's financial instability as something that could hurt blue-collar livelihoods, and this should be the primary concern.

The *Radical* frames the job freezes from the perspective of the blue-collar workers. This reveals the primary actors and frames them as vulnerable actors amid uncertainty about Gasom's financial situation. This framing puts The *Radical* in support of the blue-collar workers. Fairclough (1992) mentions people as 'hands' in industrial contexts, for example, as part of seeing them as commodities useful for producing other commodities, as embodied labour power. This shows the economic discourse and how the *Radical* makes their stance.

The libertarian-left is in support of public opportunities and labour rights. Left-libertarianism imposes certain egalitarian constraints on these powers (Vallentyne, 2012). The *Radical* framing highlights that in economic uncertainty, harms fall on blue-collar workers. This framing is consistent with libertarian-left characteristics. The *Radical's* framing and lexical choices are consistent with the expressions of labour rights and public opportunities. This reveals the *Radical* left-liberalism pattern highlighted through its framing.

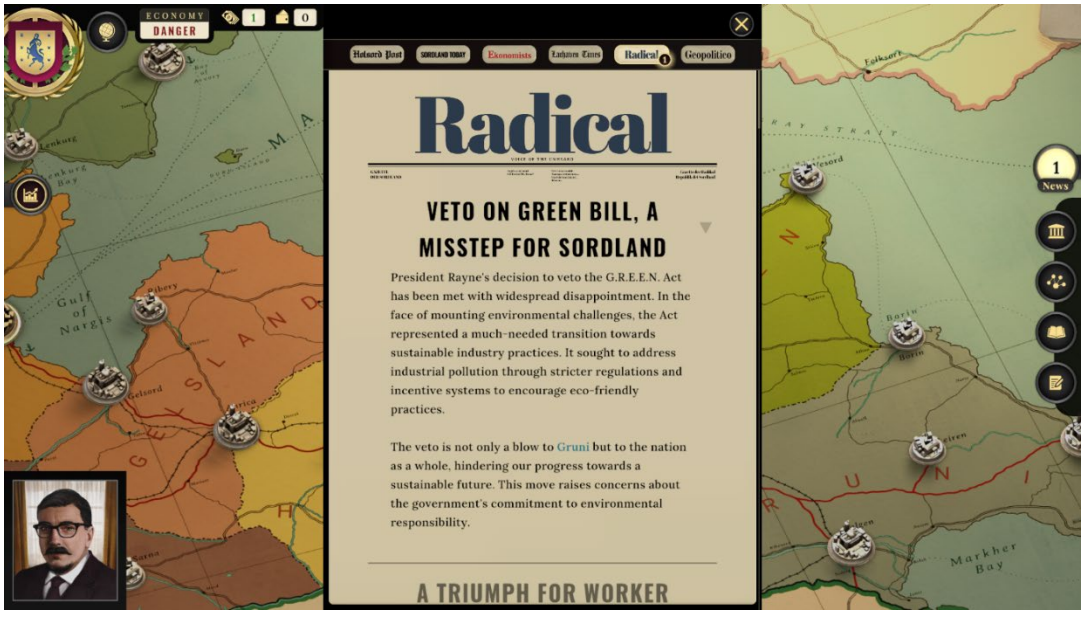


Figure 7. The *Radical's* Article on GREEN BILL and the Environment (Suzerain 2020).

Table 7. The *Radical's* lexical analysis

Lexical items	Discursive function
"misstep"	The article frames President Rayne's decision as a misstep, an opportunity to make an eco-friendly industrial complex.
"Widespread disappointment"	The article frames the decision to veto as unpopular and contributing to dissatisfaction towards the president.
"Mounting environmental challenges"	The article frames the importance of the GREEN legislation. The article also puts an emphasis on the urgency to maintain a good environment. They cite environmental damage from pollution and mining.
"sustainable industry practices"	The article frames sustainable industrial practices as the goal of Sordland's industrial environment.
"environmental responsibility"	The article also frames that the government has the responsibility to maintain the environment for the welfare of the citizens and the environment itself.

The *Radical's* article titled "Veto on the GREEN BILL a Big Mistake for Sordland" frames environmental issues as government responsibility. The article argues that by vetoing the bill, private sectors and government institutions do not have an incentive to maintain the surrounding environment. The article also frames that by vetoing, the status quo pollution and environmental damage will not decrease. The left-libertarianism supports a concept of shared natural resources. This is not limited to minerals and materials. It includes living space or the environment. According to one version of left-libertarianism, natural resources are jointly owned in the sense that authorization to use, or to appropriate, is given through some specified collective decision-making process (e.g., by majority or unanimous decision) (Vallentyne, 2009). The positive framing of the GREEN Bill shows the *Radical's* left-libertarian orientation. The *Radical's* framing and lexical choices are consistent with the expressions of public opportunities. This reveals the *Radical* left-liberalism pattern highlighted through its framing.

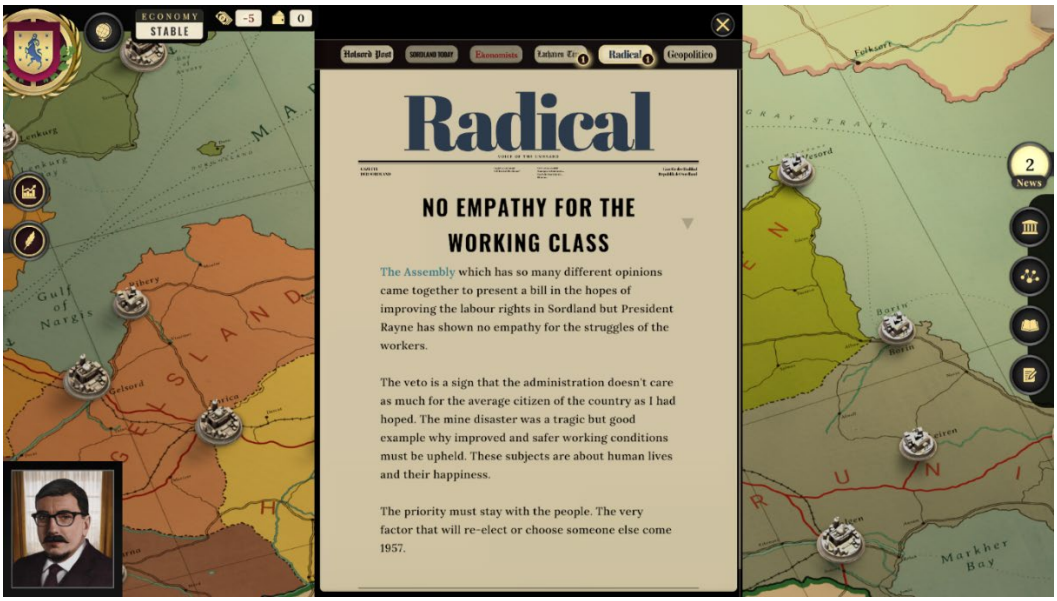


Figure 8. The *Radical's* Article on Workers Bill (Suzerain 2020).

Table 8. The *Radical's* lexical analysis

Lexical items	Discursive function
"No Empathy for the Working Class"	The article frames President Rayne's decision as not answering the plight of the working class.
"Improving the labour rights"	The article frames the WRA as tackling the labour problem within Sordland.
"Improved and safer working conditions"	The article frames WRA as safeguarding workers' working conditions. The article cites the mining disaster in Narbel.
Priority must stay with the people	The article frames that presidential decisions should be in line with the people's interests.

The *Radical's* article titled "No Empathy for the Working Class" frames the decision to veto the WRA as a mistake. The article frames the struggle of the working class. This framing positions the *Radical* in support of the working class. The article argues that working conditions should be improved. The article cites an event about a mining disaster that should be solved by the government by making companies accountable. The framing argues that the government is not taking the people as a priority. Fowler (1991) argues that representation is a constructive practice: events are not communicated neutrally because language itself has structural features associated with social values. This could be seen through the *Radical* framing of the working class. The article does not go into a broader context of the economy and the economic issue that Sordland faces. This highlights that framing reveals the positioning and political orientation of the media in this case, the *Radical*.

The *Radical* frame reveals a position in support of the working class. The *Radical* frame suggests that vetoing WRA is harmful for the working class. The article frames that without it, they are subject to exploitation by the corporation. The article also frames that there is no incentive for the corporation to improve the working conditions for the regular workers. The libertarian-left is in support of labour rights and public opportunities. "Liberty, security, equality, and prosperity." (Vallentyne, 2009). The *Radical* framing highlights the importance of working conditions and opportunities of the working class. The framing and the position to defend working-class people as the minority show a characteristic of the libertarian-left. The *Radical's* framing and lexical choices are consistent with the expressions of labour rights and public opportunities. This reveals the *Radical* left-liberalism pattern highlighted through its framing.

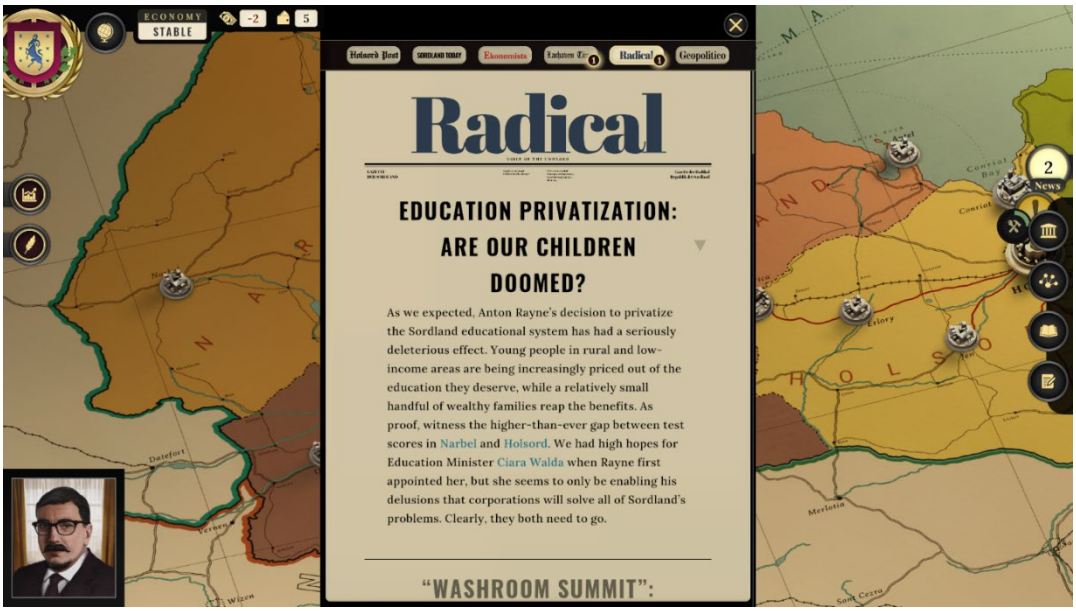


Figure 9. The *Radical's* Article on Education and Privatization (Suzerain 2020).

Table 9. The *Radical's* lexical analysis

Lexical items	Discursive function
"seriously deleterious effect"	The article frames the privatization of the education system as harmful to the educational institution of Sordland.
"the education they deserve"	The article frames it as children and youth of Sordland must get the best education. The article frames it as the children's right.
"rural and low-income areas"	The article frames the rural and low-income areas as the vulnerable regions that will be directly affected by the privatization policy.
"higher-than-ever gap"	The article frames the primary problem of privatization as widening the educational gaps between students.

The *Radical* frame argues that privatization brings more harm than good to both children and wealth gaps. The article postititon themselves against privatization of education system. They highlight the unequal situation that only benefits wealthy regions of Sordland and wealthy families. The libertarian-left is in support of public opportunities. "Not merely concerned with formal equality (e.g., equal rights), but also with some kind of equality of condition" (Vallentyne, 2009). The *Radical* position defends the right to education, the right to access to quality education, and voices concern regarding wealth gaps. This shows a characteristic of the libertarian-left. The *Radical's* framing and lexical choices are consistent with the expressions of public opportunities. This reveals the *Radical* left-liberalism pattern highlighted through its framing.

Conclusion

This research examines the lexical choices and political orientation of the *Radical* fictional

newspaper agency. The lexical analysis is examined through the application of CDA and viewed through its context. The findings highlight that each article goes beyond the explicit topics. The language use by The *Radical* shows a critical stance on government policies that harm the minority, access to welfare, environmental issues, and individual rights. This pattern and framing show the newspaper's representation of political and social realities of Sordland.

The selected article shows a recurring pattern that reveals the *Radical's* political orientation. The *Radical* emphasizes individual freedom, civil liberties, and labour rights. The coverage of minorities such as the Bludish people and the depiction of the working class as vulnerable actors communicate the *Radical's* political orientation. This finding is achieved by combining the aspects of individual liberty and egalitarian concern. The analysis suggests that the *Radical* newspaper agency creates a political identity that values individual rights and collective concern about inequality in both economic and social justice.

This research is limited to selected articles and a single newspaper agency. Consequently, the findings are limited to the *Radical* and do not cover issues beyond cultural and economic policy that might reveal more nuance. Further research could examine the whole newspaper and play in other playthroughs could reveal more perspective on how media works in a fictional world, specifically in video games.

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