FILM GENRE AND REPRESENTATION OF AFRICAN MIGRATION: A STUDY OF SELECTED EXPOSITORY DOCUMENTARIES

By

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DECLARATION

"I Mashiane Patricia Phindile, declare that the dissertation hereby submitted to the University of Limpopo, for the degree of Master's in Media Studies has not previously been submitted by me for any degree at any university; that it is my work in design and in execution, and all the material contained herein has been acknowledged by means of complete references."

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ABSTRACT

The study examines three African migration documentary films, namely *Inside the world's deadliest migrant route (*2021), *African migrants: What really drives them to Europe* (2015) *and Shattered dreams of African migrants (*2020*)* and how they represent African migration, particularly on their dangerous journeys to Western Europe.   The objectives were to analyse the narrative focus of documentary films on African migration, explore the depiction of African migrants' experiences, determine the ideological frames used to portray African migration, and establish the relevance of the genre in depicting economic and political issues relating to African migration. Framing theory and Neoclassical theory of migration were used to underpin the study whereas the qualitative descriptive case study design, purposive sampling and content analysis were applicable in executing the study process including data collection. Study findings were generated through a step-by-step thematic content analysis procedure where it was noted that push factors such as poverty, conflict, and untenable health care conditions in Africa compel migrants to leave their countries. This is compounded by a number of pull factors such as perceived employment opportunities, stable security and safety systems, quality education and healthcare that attract poor Africans to the receiving countries. The study further noted several ideological frames used to present African migration as a humanitarian crisis where desperate journeys are depicted within different media frames. These include the intruder and illegal person frames; helpless-victim frame, economic burden frame, and other frames that often that depict migrants in a prejudiced, and dehumanizing manner.

Key concept: Africa, migrants, Western Europe, representation, documentary.

Table of Contents

CHAPTER ONE

1. **INTRODUCTION**

1.1 BACKGROUND AND MOTIVATION

In the past few decades cross-border or external migration has become a global crisis in many countries, clearly indicating that it is an issue that needs serious intervention and management strategies (Laine, 2020). Whereas the reasons for migration may be diverse, the movement of people from one country to another has become a common practice globally (McAuliffe & Ruhs, 2018). Despite being a global challenge, Africans and people in the Middle East in particular, are among the most affected population groups that emigrate in large numbers from their countries. Achieng & El Fadil (2020) suggest that migrants, especially from the African continent migrate to other countries in search of opportunities and safety, as they believe that their movement will guarantee economic progress to their families and communities.

Kirwin and Anderson (2018) also noted that most migrants would likely move for economic benefits including better jobs and pay as their primary motivation. Furthermore, Allie, Christensen, Grossman, and Weinstein (2021) indicate that, most scholars in the field of migration cite mainly two factors, which motivate migrants to flee their countries of origin namely, economic, and social imperatives. The economic imperative includes seeking for better paying jobs whereas social imperatives include aspects such as following family and friends or meeting them at a given destination. Other scholars maintain that migrants move for fear of their safety especially those that are in war torn countries such as South Sudan and Somalia. Additionally, of late African migrants have been observed to move to the developed world especially Western Europe, North America and Australasia for better education and healthcare, which they have no access to in their home countries due to either affordability or lack of institutional capacity.

In the recent past, the United States of America has experienced the fourth great wave of migration, recording up to 40 million migrants largely from the South American countries such as Venezuela, Peru, and Colombia. This wave has also been experienced in Western Europe with many migrants or refugees coming from war torn

zones such as the South Sudan, Somalia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the Central Africa Republic, and Burundi (United Nations Council, 2018). In Africa, some countries such as South Sudan and Democratic Republic of the Congo have experienced political instability which has caused a high number of people to flee their homes crossing into neighboring countries and Western Europe in particular (Flahaux & Schoumaker, 2016; McAuliffe, Weerasinghe, McCarthy, Pedrotti & Rango, 2018). Despite the high number of risks associated with external or cross border migration, the media continue to carry horrible stories of irregular migration, particularly from Africa through the Mediterranean Sea towards Western Europe. While some African migrants risk crossing oceans towards their destination, some move across large tracks of land borders, traveling thousands of miles in the hope to fulfil their dreams. However, both modes of migration are largely characterised by a host of uncertainties, which remain a risky human exercise (Achieng & EL Fadil, 2020), to most African migrants who seem not to be bothered by these uncertainties.

The recent rise in migration and displacement of people in Africa has partly been attributed to droughts, cyclones, floods, climate change, poverty, and armed conflicts (Hovy, Lazko & Kouassi, 2020). This indicates that not all migration occurs under positive circumstances as the increased number of migrants is prompted by numerous global challenges (McAuliffe et al., 2018). In December 2020, the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) and eNews Channel Africa (eNCA) reported about migrants from Zimbabwe using canoes to illegally cross the Limpopo River into South Africa. This resulted in a tragedy where three migrants drowned, yet the country continues to witness other migrants who cross the dangerous river in search of greener pastures (eNCA, 2020). Some scholars have noted how the media play a critical role in motivating migrants to migrate by broadcasting images of other migrants having successfully reached their desired destinations (Gebrewold, 2007). Despite the diverse circumstances under which migration happens, migrants from different parts of the world often find themselves in very difficult situations. Danker-Dake (2004) and Oguh (2005) indicate that the international media film industry has been criticised for portraying African migrants in a negative perspective. This inaccurate portrayal of migrants highlights the uneven representation of African migration in the film industry. In addition, Dorantes and Arroyo (2017) note that only a few journalists and media organisations cover African migration in full detail. They argue that some media

organisations continuously fail to cover African migration holistically, thereby leaving out some critical issues about African migration inadequately addressed. The British Broadcasting Commission (BBC), Fox News and Facebook from 2015 to date have continuously failed to provide comprehensive coverage of most journeys by migrants who are bound for Western Europe (Georgiou & Zaborowski, 2017). The reportage by these media outlets mostly focuses on the catastrophes that occur, the precise number of deaths, and omits the causes of the conditions and pull factors influencing the migrants. This study focuses on selected documentaries that strive on storylines that represent African migration, how migrants are portrayed, and how migration is conceptualized from various ideological vantage points. The documentaries understudy were chosen because of their storylines that highlight and narrate on African migration, specifically because they depict African migrant's journeys, experiences, and challenges of African migrants as they travel past North Africa towards western Europe. The study uses three documentaries namely, *Inside the world's deadliest migrant route* (2021), *Shattered dreams of African migrants* (2020), *and African migrants: What really drives them to Europe* (2015) to examine the representation of African migration. This acknowledges the high number of negative reports on African migration in the news media, which highlight stereotypes of migrants most of whom are presented as criminals, with prospects to attract ill-treatment from natives in the receiving countries.

1.2 PROBLEM STATEMENT

There is a wide range of coverage of migration issues in different media platforms ranging from news media, social media, and films that portray migration. These platforms have viewed and treated migration as a topical issue due to the overwhelming magnitude of mass movements, policy issues, economic and financial implications migration have on the receiving countries. However, there is limited research conducted on how media organisations depict migrants through the documentary film genre. For example, Wasserman and Maharaj (2010) observed that extensive research has been conducted on print media's portrayal of African migration rather than on electronic media and film in particular. Moreover, most media platforms including news media often create negative public perceptions about migrants. In this, instance the media play a critical role to shape public opinion about migrants both in

countries of origin and destination. Subsequently, these images often portray biased, one-dimensional reporting presented in what seems to be stereotypical orientations with the potential to mislead audiences' perceptions about the migration crisis (Warm & Abi, 2020). A substantial number of studies from Bilger and Kraler (2005); Black, Crush, Peberdy, Ammassari, Hilker, Mouillesseaux, Pooley and Rajkotia (2006) and (Achieng & El Fedil, 2020) cover the experience of illegal migrants, migration in a media text, and the framing of illegal migrants. However, a limited number of studies have been conducted on the representation of migration in documentaries, particularly with a focus on African migrants, hence the study. This problem was considered worth investigating because representation of African migration on news media and other media platforms lacks critical engagement about migrants' real life situations.

1.3.1 AIM AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1.3.1 Aim of the study

The study aims to examine representation of African migration in selected documentaries.

1.3.2 Objectives of the study

- To analyse the narrative focus of selected documentary films on African migration.
- To explore the depiction of African migrants' experiences in the selected documentaries.
- To determine the ideological frames used to portray African migration in the selected documentaries.
- To explore the relevance of films in depicting the economic and political issues of African migration.

1.4 AN OVERVIEW OF THE GLOBAL MIGRATION CRISIS

Government representatives, human rights workers, and humanitarian organizations all encounter the migratory issue' severity on a global scale. African migrants from the Asian and African continents have been making their way towards Western Europe due to the unmanageable and disorganized nature of several nations, including Iraq and Morocco (Ignatieff, Keeley, Ribble & McCammon, 2016). These migrants are often reported or presented in overloaded vessels that are released near Western Europe.

The global estimate of the migration crisis was around 272 million international migrants in the world in 2019, which equated to 3.5 percent of the global population. On a global scale, this is a small minority of the world's migrant population as indicated by the International Organisation for Migration, which has reported that many migrants do not migrate across borders but migrate within countries (IOM, 2020). African migrants have grown in number at a rapid rate, according to the annual report of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP, 2009). Europe and Asia in 2019 each hosted 82 million and 84 million international migrants, representing the total global international migrant stock combined of 61 percent. North America followed with 59 million international migrants by 22 percent of the global migrant stock, America was at 10 percent, Latin America and the Caribbean at 4 percent, and Oceania at 3 percent (Ignatieff, Keeley, Ribble & McCammon, 2016). By and large, these figures are an indication that migration is a very precarious matter that needs to be researched to recommend urgent interventions with which to address it through the relevant world bodies.

1.4.1 State power, control and forced migration in society

Many African states, including South Africa, have state led foreign policies that enable them to pursue their own national interests and gain status among other nations (Bojang, 2018). For instance, some of these foreign policies including conditions governing entry into and legal residence in a member state for the purposes of family reunification for third-country nationals have compelled them to turn to foreign sources of finances and borrowing money to sustain their economies. The term "state power" describes a state's external independence from any other governing power in terms of its internal affairs and international connections (Akani, 2019). This means that the outside dependence and autonomy of the state as well as the independence within the state will be under control by the superior power state. Furthermore, state power basically functions on sovereignty rights of other states under their control, and this is characterised by three key factors involving authority, supremacy, and territoriality. However, due to failure of state power caused by many factors such as economic stagnation, political and ethnic factionalism, pervasive corruption, poverty national infrastructure, environmental degradation, and war, this results into forced migration among African migrants (Bojang, 2018). Due to these factors, millions of African

people worldwide have been compelled to flee their homes, as refugees or migrants going abroad because the living conditions under failed states are unbearable. Furthermore, life-changing events often happen to those who migrate both during and after the migration process. This is because when migrants are forced to leave their homes and other valuable goods due to violence, they frequently end up in refugee camps where the living conditions are significantly worse than they were before they left (Ruiz, Vargas & Silva, 2012).

1.4.2 The plight of migrants and refugees

The struggle of migrants does not start when they set out on their perilous journey, it all starts with the painful experiences that lead them to take such a risky trek. Most, if not all African migrants would have encountered some life struggle in some way, which results in the need to migrate. Therefore, migration from Africa presents the challenge for the entire worlds including the host nations where they have to adjust to a society with a new system. This makes it difficult for migrants to determine their legal status, where they often struggle to live without proper papers in facilities are not easily accessible by relatives and fellow countrymen. in addition to their migration issues, migrants also experience racism, stigmatization, racial profiling, and unabashed bias from some sections of society including the media (Dirk, 2021).

While migrating, migrants and refugees are forced to overcome several challenging obstacles such as being held captive and sold as slaves where they are forced to work for no pay in transit countries. While migrants flee their countries, they leave behind most of their possessions, may lose their families, friends, and sometimes travel without any money for or transportation (Mafu, 2019). Therefore, their lives in every way change for the worst compared to their initial condition at home.

Despite how arid the Sahara Desert is, African migrants who hope for a better life in Europe frequently succeed in completing the difficult journey through the Sahara Desert. Thousands of kilometers of desert are travelled during the trip, posing everyday risks of tiredness, starvation, thirst, and death. African migrants frequently travel in terror of human traffickers who prowl the desert like sea pirates aiming to capture, rob, kill, or demand ransom. However, those that do arrive in Libya are met with brutality, incarceration, and conditions reminiscent of the Middle Ages (Pearce, 2019). Numerous migrants or refugees find themselves in inhabitable camps. To meet

their everyday necessities, they become dependent on aid organizations, a humanitarian gesture that is not always available.

1.4.3 International relations, policies, and institutions

International relations are the study of relationships and interactions between nations, as well as national governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, and multinational corporations (MNCs) activities and policies (Jackson & Sorensen, 2013). Nations or states are autonomous from one another and have sovereign rights but that does not imply that they are cut off or removed from one another. Instead, they are in proximity and have an impact on one another, necessitating a solution for their coexistence and interaction. Therefore, creates an international state structure, which is a central theme of IR. Nations or states typically participate in global marketplaces that influence both their governments' policies and the prosperity and wellbeing of their citizens. However, people typically suffer because of these states being separated from and cut off from the state structure, whether by their own governments or by external powers. That has been the case recently in relation to several countries, including Libya, North Korea, Iraq, Iran, and Syria as well as Burma (formally the Union of Myanmar). The state system, like the majority of other social systems, can benefit or hurt the participating states and their citizens.

After the first and second world wars, the international system saw a boom in the establishment of country states, which led to the development and creation of an interaction between these nation states (Bojang, 2018). However, the founding of the United Nations and the decolonization process, which emancipated many states into autonomous entities, have further supplied the push to interrelationships among states. As a result, foreign policies have been developed to ascertain and pinpoint the choices, plans, and purposes of a state's contact with other nations. Furthermore, the globalization of today's world, which has entailed the widening, deepening, and speeding up of global interconnectedness has enhanced these linkages or interactions among states.

The number of international institutions worldwide is currently around 68,000. International organizations such as the United Nations (UN) and its affiliates, international financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF); the World Bank (WB), and international political organizations such as the European

Union (EU) are all involved in the operation of world affairs (Bojang, 2018). These groups are seen as active participants in the sphere of international relations since they make it easier for states to interact on a global scale. Since states cede some of their sovereignty to international, regional, and sub-regional organizations, their membership in these organizations has an impact on their foreign policy including migration (Orfeo, 2017). The member states' policies will undoubtedly be impacted by the nature of the institution they belong to because its operations will be governed by its charter.

1.4.4 Anti-migrant tendencies

Anti-migrant behavior refers to expressing opposition to or hostility towards migrants in the receiving countries. In their new countries of residence, migrants frequently experience racism and discrimination. In extreme instances, these xenophobic feelings of enmity may manifest as physical or mental abuse (Williams, 2024). Unfortunately, the incidence of violence against migrants has dramatically grown in recent years across all of Europe and other countries globally (Pannetier, Lert, Roustide & du Lou, 2021). In certain nations, a portion of the populace believes that migrants are to blame for the high rates of unemployment and crime, and therefore their demands for equal access to public services, housing, and the labor market are met with opposition (Navarro, Bozza & Marquez, 2021). Additionally, migrants are occasionally perceived as endangering public safety and undermining national cultures and values. Media outlets and political parties frequently reflect these anxieties in their coverage of political issues. As a result, bias-driven hostility frequently targets migrants, whether it manifests as physical harm and assaults, verbal exclusion or psychological misery (Flahaux & De Haas, 2016). In addition to the above observations, there are usually inadequate legal protections for migrants in some host nations against racism, xenophobia, and other discriminatory acts, which are more likely to occur when migrants are in a dire situation (Del Savio, 2020). This results in their becoming one of the main targets of hate crimes, suffering from social exclusion and degrading treatment in detention facilities (Kreis, 2017), which is a blatant violation of their fundamental rights and access to justice.

1.4.5 Globalisation and the migration crisis

Globalization is the process of increasing economic, sociocultural, and political interconnectivity on a global scale (Teney & Rupieper, 2022). It has been argued by Adesina (2019) that migration is an important manifestation of globalisation. However, African migration has become the face of globalisation and a symbol of the world's growing interdependence. The concept of globalization, which captures the expanding social, economic, and cultural interconnection around the world, has made it easier for people to migrate in ever greater numbers between an increasingly diversified and dispersed range of origin and destination countries.

The growth of informational technology, the internet, and telecommunications had a particularly important role in the processes of globalization and migration because they allow migrants to obtain life-changing information from other migrants on social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter (currently X) (Amable & Darcillon, 2022). However, the development of information technology and internet has eliminated geographical boundaries between countries. This has resulted in many people from developing countries seeking employment in the developed countries, thereby creating a situation where wealth gets rotated between these two categories of blocks. However, the challenge is that less developing countries continue to remain poor and suffer from the economic and financial imbalance between the rich and poor nations, hence poor African migrants continue to flee to the developed countries. In addition to bringing about improvements to the human race, globalization has also contributed to a number of health crises, including the Covid-19 outbreak, Tuberculosis and other conditions. Migration has been blamed for most of these epidemics as it involves the movement of people from various countries to other countries, which process facilitates the spread of this diseases. Furthermore, migration is associated with three components of health that have evolved over time, which including communicable diseases, non-communicable diseases, and effects of human migration on health (Bradbury-Jones & Clark, 2017). To this end, it can be observed that this trend of migration in the context of globalization has affected health care systems globally.

1.5 RATIONALE OF THE STUDY

The study is driven by the importance of African migration in the history of mankind, the factors that compound forced migration and how the documentary genre serves as a source of information on representation of African migration. Today migration has become a way of life, regardless of the social and embedded risks that come with it such as slavery, starvation, crossing oceans with unsafe and overcrowded boats, and possible death, which are all motivated by the push-pull factor model. This justifies the need for the study of the documentary genre as representation of African migration and African migrants' experiences. Documentary films such as *Inside the world's deadliest migrant routes* (2021), Shattered *dreams of African migrants* (2020*)*, and *African migrants: What really drives them to Europe* (2015) need close scholarly attention and critical examination to determine their relevance in representing African migration in the context of this global crisis. The selected documentaries articulate the human migration journeys, loss of life, inhuman detention centers, and the circumstances migrants face in destination or transit countries in search of a better life elsewhere in the world.

While the use of boats to migrate by sea is one of the ancient ways of transportation across the globe, the first group of people that colonised South Africa in 1652 came from Europe by boats through the current City of Cape Town. Similarly, migrating and navigating through the Mediterranean Sea as the most preferred migratory route for African migrants as seen in these documentaries has a striking semblance that needs to be studied. Arguably, this may be understood in the view that the migration history towards the colonization of Africa has been influenced by the transportation modes of the 17th century. The three documentaries understudy present the painstaking experiences of African migrants striving for a better life, nonetheless in unique situations that distinguish migrants' socio-economic and political realities. Literature review on the subject understudy indicates that the selected documentaries have not been subjected to scholarly examination in relation to the depiction of African migration in the recent past.

1.6 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The representation of African migration in the media is pertinent today, given the horrific images of African migrants crossing the Mediterranean Sea hoping to reach

Western Europe (Achieng & El Fedil, 2020). Therefore, it is important to examine the representation of migrants in documentary films as they have a large following and have been observed to have a significant amount of influence on society's level of socio-cultural and political consciousness (Males & Van Aelst, 2021). This study has the potential to influence media streaming media services to work on the basis of professional guidelines that deliver objective content on their public mandate to create a knowledgeable society that thrive on informative, educative and entertaining media activities. Essentially, this could help in redressing the negative framing and stereotypes associated with African migrants that are often depicted on media platforms such as the YouTube channel, which compound the migration crisis.

The researcher believes that this topic is important because it may allow open discussions and help policymakers to reconsider restructuring their migration policies along international statutes whereas the film industry may be persuaded to alter negative frames in representing African migration in their artefacts. This approach may influence all stakeholders in the migration issue to accommodate migrants, encourage integration, facilitate of financial aid, and provision of other supplies from the international community. The study will contribute to the existing body of knowledge in the field of visual media and film criticism in the area of African migration studies.

1.7 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

There are many documentary films that depict the plight of migrants, experiences, and horrific tragedies that migrants come across when migrating to different parts of the world towards Western Europe. These include *Mediterranean (2015)*, *Human cargo: Mediterranean search and rescue (2020)*, and *Europe's migration tragedy: Life and death in the Mediterranean (2016)* among others. However, this study is limited to three documentaries namely: *Inside the world's deadliest migrant route* (2021*) DMR, African migrants: What really drives them to Europe* (2015) *WRDT,* and *the Shattered dreams of African migrants* (2020) *SDA*. The study explores how these documentary films depict the experiences and tragedies that befall migrants as they attempt to cross the Mediterranean Sea. These selected documentaries focus on the loss of lives in the Mediterranean, the inhuman treatment migrants encounter in detention centers in Libya and the mistreatment migrants face when they arrive in Western Europe. All

these aspects are used to explain the different frames and stereotypes the films use to represent African migration to target audiences. The study analysed elements of film performance employed in bringing out the critical issues including the tragedies migrants encounter during the migration process. The study also looked at other filmic elements such as the setting, narration, and discourse that highlight the plight of migrants. These documentary films do not just explain the tragedies among the migrants but also explain the life experiences, and that migrants who manage to migrate successfully to Western Europe go through as well as stakeholder insights that help viewers to understand the African migration crisis.

1.8 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This study was guided by two theories namely: the framing theory and neoclassical theory that underpinned the representation of African migration in the selected documentary programs. The study used more than one theory because of the complementary perspectives each of them brings towards understanding the subject understudy. Furthermore, these theories are aligned with the aim and objectives of the study and are important in the analysis of representation and framing of African migration as the focus of the study. They helped to provide meaningful explanations regarding why and how African migrants flee their countries to Western Europe. They further guided the research process by pointing to critical aspects in the study that are less reported on including aftermaths of the tragedies in the Sahara Desert and Mediterranean Sea compounded by human rights issues.

1.8.1 FRAMING THEORY

The framing theory emphasises how representation is covered by the media, the treatment, construction, and the production of issues. Framing best describes the influence the media has on the public. Journalists and filmmakers report on issues focusing on the interpretive, ideological frameworks and the contextualisation of news reports and film production (Khan & Huckle, 2017). Framing theory suggests how something is presented to the audience which influences people's choice of how to process that information. Frames are abstractions that work to structure the meaning of a message (Arowolo, 2017). Abrea (2015) considers any communicative text either

informative or persuasive to require narrative structures to conduct its discourse. This acknowledges how the media content and news stories seem to appear systematised, regarding the narrative conventions that explain who is doing what and with what purpose. However, framing is thus present in the mind of reporters and script writers built to reach the audience through a decoding process that involves the coded products and reality to which it refers. Rashid (2019) describes media content as a window whose frame limits the perception of reality, by limiting the perception of different realities and focusing on a specific piece of it. As a result of these processes, some aspects of the reality perceived through the media content including news will be more prominent than others. Elias and Feagin (2020) stated that media messages, therefore, are textual and visual structures built around a central axis of thought, from a certain perspective, and by information professionals who will provide an interpretive framework for the audiences exposed to the messages.

Framing is a process in which some aspects of reality are selected and given greater emphasis or importance so that the problem is defined, for its causes to be diagnosed, moral judgments suggested, and appropriate solutions and actions proposed (Kamalipour, 2010). Thus, framing is an invitation and an incentive to read a story in a certain way. This invitation is often overlooked, because framing is part of culture, so the construction process is hidden. This does not mean that there is only one way to explain things. On the contrary, there are in any given culture more frames than those selected to represent reality in a narrated story (Kamalipour, 2010). In the media, we often hear of people, organisations, or groups complaining of negative reporting and how that negative reporting has influenced them for example, through a court ruling. The way that a specific court case may have been handled or reported by the media may have implications on how the ruling may turn out (Khan & Huckle, 2017). The media content is conceptualised as a window that is a frame to limit the perception of reality or different realities through focusing on a specific angle. As a result of these unchanging processes, some aspects of the reality perceived by viewers will be more prominent than others (Abrea, 2015).

The framing theory is of importance in this study as it does not only include how the visual media represent an issue but also an investigation into those who have access to that media and who use such access to influence that visual media. This theory is relevant to examine how film producers of these selected documentaries used

particular frames to represent African migration to Western Europe specifically Italy and Sicily.

1.8.2 NEOCLASSICAL THEORY OF MIGRATION

Neoclassical theory of migration was pioneered by Todaro (Harris & Todaro, 1970). De Haas (2021) indicates that the neoclassical theory is regarded as one of the most prominent representatives of the functionalist migration paradigm used to evaluate migration. This theory can be understood best by its Pull-push models, as they interpret migration as a function of income and other opportunity gaps presented between origin and destination areas (De Haas, 2021). The theory is presented in the context of labor markets and economies that move towards equilibrium through trade and migration. This theory assumes that migrants move from societies where it is indicated that there are high labor and low wages to societies where there are less labor and very high wages. Therefore, this theory highlights that the ability to migrate is associated with costs and indicates that it is not the poorest individuals who migrate because they can afford the migration costs (Kurekova, 2009). Therefore, migrants must bear the cost of the journey, which is usually financed through working for many months within transit countries to cover the costs of daily supplies and travelling. This compels them to consider one leg of the journey at a time, thereby leaving others behind in transit countries to work for their next phase of the journey, which might take months or years before they reach Western Europe.

The basic assumption in this theory is that migration is triggered primarily by the economic comparisons of relative benefits and costs (De Haas, 2010). Neoclassical theory highlights that migration also resulted from interregional wage differentials, the distance between destination and origin countries, labor market conditions such as the high rate of unemployment as a determining factor for migration (Jun Lee, Sugiura & Geclene, 2017). However, this theory does not accommodate migrants that are migrating for different reasons such as security aspects but accommodates migrants that are for securing a job or receiving higher wages in a foreign country. For example, migrants who are from Nigeria indicate that they are fleeing oppression from their country and Western Europe is opted for as the safe haven for most migrants.

The neoclassical theory further proposes factors for migration decision making (the push factors) that include the extraordinary phenomena, poor living conditions or standards, mechanised farming, unemployment, conflict, and war. Moreover, the pull factors usually mirror the push factors, for instance, coverage of migrants in the Mediterranean Sea has specifically indicated risk factors stated above, which are accompanied by the implications of migrating by sea. The push factors include high income, better education, professional health care, urban facilities and protection from conflicts or disasters. This theory helps to frame discussions of why people migrate, helps explain and understand how migration continues even long after the wage differentials, ceased policies due to the economy and public policies that halt migration streams (Karekova, 2011). However, migration is a complex process that is everchanging which cannot be explained and predicted by one theory. This theory contributed to this study by helping to examine the representation of African migration in visual media through the application of the pull-push factors. This helped in formulating themes that supported the assumptions of the data to demonstrate the need to understand African migration from a different perspective, which is unique from the traditional view that portrays certain social groups stereotypically (Florian & Temple, 2015). This theory interprets migration as a function of income and other opportunity gaps presented between origin and destination areas. Therefore, both theories helped in examining the representation of African migration and formulating themes that supported the study.

1.9 DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

With most of the concepts used here being common in everyday formal and informal conversations and unbridled discourses, they are prone to misinterpretation. Therefore, this study found it important to contextualise their meaning as they are used in this study.

1.9.1 Framing

Framing describes the influence on the public of the news angles used by journalists, the interpretative and ideological frameworks from which journalists or film makers report an issue and the contextualisation of news reports within a specific ideological framework. It generally supports the idea that the visual media deal with certain issues

in different frames and perspectives (Kamalipour, 2010). Kress (2012) believes that ideological framing focuses on the ways in which meaning serves to establish and sustain relations of domination. Framing is important because visual media portrayals are there to guide the audience's interpretation and to influence the formation of new opinions (Ardèvol, 2015). Furthermore, framing involves a communication source presenting and defining an issue for the public.

1.9.2 African Migration

African migration refers to a population movement of a person or persons across international borders or within a state, however, this movement encompasses any kind of movement of people dictated by its length, composition, and causes. The movement of people includes refugees, displaced persons, economic migrants, and persons moving for other purposes (IOM, 2011). Ertesito (2005) further explained that for a move to be identified or defined as migration, it must consider several things such as crossing a boundary, there should be members involved, decision making on migration whether voluntary impelled or forced to migrate, social organisations, political organisations, causes of migration (push factors) and aims (economic or non-economic aims). African migration is popularised and framed in visual media as the only and better option for migrants to escape their unstable countries for Western Europe. However, these migrants mostly end up being detained or lose their lives along the way while others returned to their countries of origin.

1.9.3 Migrant

A migrant is an individual that changes his or her country of usual residence, whether within a country with a duration between three and twelve months and long term or permanently for several reasons or legal status (Carling, 2019). Furthermore, the term migrant refers to any person who has changed residency internationally. These migrants may include families that are fleeing extreme violence in their countries of origin seeking the relative protection from neighboring countries (David, Bryant & Larsen, 2019). For the purpose of the study, the migrant that is referred to in this study is an African child, an adult, female or male that is on a life changing journey headed to western Europe that fled their country of origin.

1.10 CHAPTER OUTLINE

Chapter One presented background and motivation to the study. It included the aim, objectives of the study and the research problem. The chapter problematised the representation of African migrants in documentaries. The background led to a discussion of how migrants were negatively framed as victims and threats in receiving countries in documentaries. Definition of key terms in the study were outlined in this chapter, of which these key terms were discussed in full in chapter two of the study. Lastly, the significance and scope of the study were presented in the chapter, followed by the summary of the chapter.

Chapter two gave a critical written account of the literature review and how this literature identified relevant theories, methods, and gaps in the existing research of which make the study to be of necessity. Chapter two entailed a review of the knowledge used in supporting and strengthening this research. It gave an overview of the information gathered from existing literature to show how this research addressed a gap and understood the main concepts and aspects of this study. It also gave a detailed review of the literature on documentary films as a channel of information, the depiction of what migrants' experience in films, the ideological frames used to portray African migrants in films, and the depiction of economic and political situations of migrants in documentaries. The existing body of literature gave the researcher an overview of how African migrants had been negatively depicted over the years in documentaries.

Chapter three discussed the research methodology; this chapter explained the research methods employed, techniques, and approach in this study. The research design, sampling techniques, and data collection tools are also discussed in this chapter. It explained the researchers understanding of which methods to use in the process of collecting and analysing data. This includes the researcher's understanding of what a research design is, what qualitative research is, what a research paradigm is and which paradigm to use to conduct this study. It also explained the researcher's understanding of literature overview, how to analyse text, how to apply immersion, crystallisation, and ensure trustworthiness. This chapter also stated the criterion used for trustworthiness used in this study to ensure the credibility of this research.

Chapter four focused on the data analysis and interpretation of the results. The results were categorised into three sections: critiquing context which characters were depicted; analysis of characters, excerpts, and the inherent themes in these documentaries. Each section addressed the first three objectives of the study through themes that divided the sections. The selected characters are used as examples for each theme that emerged as the researcher watched and analysed the episodes. The data included excerpts and props from the documentary scenes relevant for the examination of migrant representation in these documentaries.

Chapter five presented a summary of findings, conclusions and recommendations based on the aim and objectives of the study. The chapter mainly addressed the last objective which speaks to the recommendations of the study. The recommendations sought to promote production of a balanced racial representation in South African soap operas. The limitations and the contributions made by the study were also delineated.

1.11 STORYLINES OF THE SELECTED DOCUMENTARIES

Inside the world's deadliest migrant route

The documentary was published on 29 January 2021 by the Vice News channel on YouTube. This documentary is directed by Jean Marc Joseph, edited by Guillen Comas and the music and sound expect was James Hall. Vice News was founded in 2013 December, it functions worldwide through its Bureaus although it is based in New York. Vice News is Vice Media's current affairs channel, this channel produces documentaries and videos daily through its website and their YouTube channel. This documentary focus on African migrants' challenges as they sought to flee their nations for Western Europe in search of a better quality of life, including access to employment, healthcare, and education. These migrants cross the Sahara Desert to get to Libya, which serves as a stopover for many African migrants traveling to Western Europe via the Mediterranean Sea. African migrants engage human smugglers to transport them across the Mediterranean Sea in shaky, crowded small boats that are used to transport migrants to Western Europe. The plot depicts the tumultuous events that happened during rescue attempts throughout the Mediterranean Sea as migrant boats capsize while they were sailing to Western Europe. Following the incident of the African migrant's boat capsizing, a migrant Joseph, who was two years old drowned along with other migrant children and adults

trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea to Western Europe. The Frontline organizations, who conduct rescue missions to ensure that African migrants are not in danger of drowning while in the Mediterranean Sea, are heavily dependent on by these migrants. Hence African migrants tempt to cross the Mediterranean Sea with hope that rescue is certain once they reach the Mediterranean waters.

African migrants: What really drives them to Europe

The documentary was published on 6 June 2015 by AL Jazeera on their YouTube channel, the presenter is Hoda Abdel-Hamid reporting from Libya at the time of migration crisis at its pick. This documentary reports about African migrants who have been affected by the many factors in Africa such as political wars, unemployment, weak economy, and insecurity. Based on the mentioned factors these migrants' frustrations lead many fleeing to Western Europe where they seek better live conditions for their families. As the pull factors continues to pull African migrants to Western Europe, Libyan coast guards captured and imprison them for unauthorised entry to Europe and puts them to detention centers. In these detention centers migrants vouch that upon their release they will continue trying to reach Europe. Torture, abuse, rape and living on little food and water was their everyday bread. Some migrants faced depression while in this detention centers as they have spent all the money crossing the Mediterranean Sea and left with no results but desperation and disappointments. Three characters Patrick Jabbi, 27, from Congo; Baba Lami, 19, from Gambia; and Alima Bakhari, 23, from Nigeria were highlighted to be the most frustrated and angry for being refused passage to Western Europe by the coast guards in Libya as their journey to Western Europe was almost complete.

Shattered dreams of African migrants

This documentary was published in October 2020 by DW THE 77 Percent on their YouTube channel. The presenter is Christine Mhundwa reporting from Italy. The challenge that migrants encounter in trying to integrate into European society due to a lack of documentation is shown in this documentary. Interviews were conducted with three migrants namely Chris Obehi from Nigeria, Alagie Jinkang from Gambia, and Ishmael Owusu from Ghana, who had successfully crossed the Mediterranean Sea to reach Europe, as well as an Italian attorney who specialises in migration. These

migrants described their lives in Europe rather than the lives they had imagined or anticipated, which was not the situation when they were being interviewed. Each of the migrants described their own problems and lack of trust in the Italian government as they decided to return to Africa. Their harsh reality which includes unemployment, inadequate housing, and pressure from their families back home hit them hard. Regrettably, going back to Africa was their only choice because they unfortunately realised that Africa is the only continent that will welcome them and serve as their home.

1.12 SUMMARY OF THE CHAPTER

This chapter presented the background of the study, problem statement, objectives and aim of the study, brief definition of terms and the significance of the study. The chapter includes the theoretical framework with two theories namely the framing theory and the neoclassical theory for migration which served as the key lens in the examination of representation of African migrants. The following chapter presented an overview of selected documentaries that were presented in captioning and subheadings that entailed the representation of African migrants in these documentaries.

CHAPTER TWO

2. DOCUMENTARY, MIGRATION TRENDS AND REPRESENTATION IN THE MEDIA

2.1 Introduction

This chapter reviews existing literature in order to help the researcher to understand the nature of documentary programs and the way they depict African migrants, in the context of the migration crisis. As stated by Sehlabi (2012), literature review is an integral part of research as it documents previous research in the field, and in other fields related to the studied topic. The importance of literature review is that it serves many scientific reasons and purposes, including establishing the need for research or seeking new lines of inquiry (Randolph, 2009). Therefore, within the literature review, this chapter explores debates surrounding documentary programs to develop insights into the selected documentaries based on how they represent African migrants from a contextual view.

As this study is located within the docu-reality genre, studies on documentary programs in general are reviewed. The following aspects are discussed, an overview of documentary genre, depiction of the African migration crisis in the media, popular media frames in the depiction of African migration, role of ideology in film production and socio-economic and political factors in African migration. Benacherine (2019) alludes that literature review has always been of paramount importance in the research world and is considered to be a piece and parcel of research basics, going beyond the simple fact of collecting data. Therefore, the literature on this study fosters logical strings of past relevant findings on the depiction of African migration and representation of African migrants in documentary programs, corroborating them with the representation of African migrants in selected documentaries as a way of creating a new departure in the field of documentary research.

2.2 An overview of the documentary genre

The documentary film genre is an old and more traditional kind of film. It is one of the first subgenres in the industry of cinema entertainment. Initially, the documentary genre was never meant to investigate the accuracy of history or reality, but rather to

evaluate whether a movie may serve as the foundation for knowledge and as a means of seeing history and reality. The term "documentary films" refers to creative movies that deal with historical, social, scientific, and economic topics that were either captured on film or in real life, with a focus on factual content than enjoyment (Umobuarie, 2008). The ability for nonfiction storytelling to actively engage the public has expanded along with documentary production techniques and audience accessibility in the digital age (Chatto, 2018). Documentary storytelling has a powerful persuasive function in today's culture, influencing public opinion and bringing attention to social concerns since modern audiences may watch documentaries in theatres, on TV, online, and through social media platforms.

The documentary genre serves as a guide for the audience rather than as a simple technique for classifying a movie based on how similar or dissimilar it is to other movies. As the components that make up this type of genre are crucial in distinguishing a film for the viewer, individual genres may be challenging to describe. Hockley (2016) asserts that despite the challenge of identifying genres, the idea is powerful since producers utilize genre to create and express meaning to audiences and institutions using genre to define texts. The genre is increasingly used to draw audiences to the movies by appealing to their desire for formulaic storylines and narrative structure (Hill, 2008). It is crucial to remember that genres evolve throughout time and are not static. However, an ideological approach to genre indicates that genres are a collection of universally recognisable patterns used by filmmakers to sway audiences in favor of their own commercial and political objectives (Hockley, 2016). Therefore, a documentary conveys ideological themes that belong to the director and the cinema business.

2.2.1 Description of the documentary

The term "documentary" refers to a form of mediated storytelling that combines communication practice with the freedom of scripted entertainment storytelling while also incorporating elements like journalism, reporting techniques, and research. This culminates in the term "mirror of truth", which refers to both creative and reality aspects of documentaries (Chatto, 2018). One of the most effective genres for explaining truth without friction is the documentary. Its creation and numerous uses have aided the film industry in developing a crucial tool that shows real-life situations (Silbey, 2010).

Documentaries now offer a wider range of experiences to the public, portray life, and offer key insights and ideas on politics, culture, and human ideologies (Castle, 2011). A documentary, according to Nichols (2010), is a motion picture that closely examines a sequence of events involving actual people, or "social actors," in real time. Therefore, these individuals are acknowledged as the information's main contributors, sharing tales of their lives and experiences in relation to a problem. Although it wasn't the original intent of the documentary genre to portray real life objectively, but real life has become its main objective. A documentary program has always been regarded as an artistic medium representing a particular interpretation of the historical event (Silbey, 2010). Typically, documentary program images represent the filmmaker's perspective and are used to implement a fact-based, friction-free narrative in the filmic storytelling.

A variety of documentary program genres have also been made possible by the development of digital technology. This illustrates how many documentary genres employ technology to establish a range of interactive bonds between reality, the viewer, and the artifact (Gifreu, 2011). Wildlife docs, docusoaps, docudrama, and docubiographs are just a few examples of the many different sub-types of documentaries that exist (Bondebjerg, 2013). Although documentary programs use documentary techniques to transmit information (interviews, managed camerawork, on-location shooting), they also use "reality" to adhere to established narrative and genre norms (Burditt, 2019). The use of genre film's storytelling techniques and dominating ideology to situations with unscripted non-actors gives modern audiences of documentary programs some of their enjoyment (Burditt, 2019).

2.2.2 Popular functions of the documentary

The purpose of documentaries is not only to make the world a better place but to also provide awareness to viewers and allow active participation in a society that has the power to influence how their world develops. Moreover, documentaries have a variety of purposes that include being used to attack a viewpoint, inform, persuade viewers, educate viewers, entertain viewers, defend a viewpoint, criticize a viewpoint, and witness real life situations (Jenkins, 2022). Some of these aspects are discussed further below:

Documentary programs serve as a learning tool

Even when other outstanding learning tools are available such as books and the internet, documentaries also act as an additional learning aid (Judge, 2017). The addition of documentaries to this material enhances the learning process in numerous ways, including flexibility. Furthermore, African migration and the plights of African migrants may be shared through documentaries as they give a clear visual that can be easily instilled on the viewers' minds in terms of emotions and images. The audience's cognitive load is a little less when shared through documentaries. In other words, watching them is simpler than reading through texts or navigating the content by clicking, which makes it possible for the viewer to follow the story without much interruption. In addition, they are quite fascinating and simple to convey (Ogea, 2020), since their best moments usually differ from a variety of films, which makes them serve as learning tools in society.

To engage the audience

Documentaries can never have just one goal, but they all strive to entertain or engage their viewers (Jenkins, 2022). While trying to develop society through their work, documentary filmmakers also work to raise awareness of important issues like plights of African migrants in the hopes that their films would inspire people or government officials to demand change in governance and policies for both receiving and sending countries. Higher engagement and retention are brought about by media material, particularly visual content. Nowadays, documentaries are also linked with social media platforms such as Facebook, twitter, YouTube, and non-profit organisations to engage audiences to donate money or equipment especially when dealing with social issues such as gender, migration and community development.

- **Exposing evil in society**

Jenkins (2022) urges that documentaries are the best approach to draw attention to and emphasize certain types of evil in the community than any other method. Documentaries have been proven to have contributed to the exposure of several annoyances and the subsequent adoption of necessary measures (Judge, 2017).

Documentaries reveal social injustice within a community and link who may have contributed to that injustice. When a filmmaker or group of filmmakers work together

to quickly draw attention to the struggles of local residents, a larger audience is exposed to the material. In today's world, it may spark a heated debate or even an outrage on social media. The concerned authorities or even governments can then act quickly to investigate the incident and arrange for an intervention (Nichols (2017). For an example, the slave trade in Libya and multiple deaths in the Mediterranean Sea and authorised crossing of the Mediterranean Sea came to be known through documentary exposure.

2.2.3 Common conventions of the documentary

This section discusses the common conventions of the documentary which are important in optimizing viewership or audiences. Such documentary conventions are voiceover, real footage of events, realism, archive footage, interviews, use of text or tittles and sound which are discussed in detail below.

- **Archival footage**

Archive footage is a film shot often used to depict famous historical events or can be used to give a variety of views on different topics. This kind of shot is regarded as cheaper than other shots such as interviews and producing the original film as the producer merely obtains the archive footage and adds it to the original footage (Shenton, 2021). However, archive footage is used in many ways for a film project and how they are chosen depends on the film to be made and the archive material the producer will be working with. For instance, archive footage can be used in documentaries to look at changes and similarities between past and present times such as exploring the trends of African migration over a long time.

- **Realism**

Realism refers to the use of certain stylistic conventions, rhetoric rules, and certain commitments to facts (Capdevila, 2015). However, for the realistic nature of a documentary to be spotted, the formal qualities such as background noises, inaudible speech, gaps in the action, and imperfect framing should be noticeable. Thus, creating an unquestionable impression that realism exists within that documentary film is important. Capdevila (2015) explains that documentary realism represents itself to the

world through certain characteristics as a witness. In addition, documentary realism constructs a world for its viewers which represents a logical view.

- **Real people not acters**

According to Nichols (2017), documentaries include genuine people who present themselves as real people who are not being directed rather than acting in roles as actors. These real people draw on prior experience and present themselves in front of the camera as they are. However, because the camera serves as an invisible bystander, they are aware of its existence (Longworth, 2016).

- **Interviewing people**

Sacchi (2015) points out that interviews in documentary films are the most crucial and binding factor, therefore they are utilised to communicate vital information about the story. Through interviews, the audience gets to hear the protagonist's experiences told directly through documentary films (James, 2017). In addition, interviews reflect as testimonies that provide a strong sense of authenticity to films. Interviews are used to provide context, eyewitness statements, and expert knowledge of the documentary. Interviews in documentaries can be formal or informal.

Formal Interviews

James (2017) reveals that ordinary documentary interviews are intended for interviewees to be seated or standing at a specific location for the entire duration of the interview. The background is carefully chosen to put the interviewee at ease and to provide a context for the story. Sacchi (2015) indicated that a formal interview setup can be monitored and controlled with reflectors, screens, and lights; thus, the greatest advantage of formal interviews is that the environment can be controlled in terms of a stylistic and technical perspective.

Informal interviews

Documentaries are not always formal; therefore, anything can happen at any moment and informal interviews are one of those changing elements which may result in interviewees moving around freely while performing normal tasks as an interview is ongoing (James, 2017). For example, interviewees may be occupied by other things such as driving or doing house chores. However, in many cases, the filmmakers have

limited or no control over lighting, and as the interviewee is occupied with other things, they usually look away from the cameras, therefore, the quality of sound becomes a challenge at that point.

- **The use of text or titles**

A good way to communicate crucial information in the documentary is through text on the screen, such as the title of the movie, the characters' names, ages, locations, dates, and times. Text can be utilized to further elaborate on the primary character or characters at the end of the film or as a call to action in the film's introduction to set the scene (Solberg, 2023). In some situations, text is actually employed as the primary storytelling medium, with title slides used frequently to describe the story and, occasionally. During editing, text is inserted. Additionally, text is utilized to provide nonfictional data, such as dates, timings, and the names of those featured in the documentary.

Voiceover

The voiceover is a film technique and a vital component utilised virtually in almost every film genre by filmmakers to provide quick exposition, tell stories, narrate, and provide an intimate look into the mind of a character (Laughman, 2021). The basic functions of documentary voice-over are to convey information to the audience, convey the mood, set the tone, and engage the audience (Seitz, 2016). Voice-over documentary is an art; however, the role of the voice-over is critical to the success of the film. Documentaries often pair the right voice and visual aids such as a soundtrack, and images to complement one another. Furthermore, the voice acts as the tour guide, the leader, and the spirit of the film giving the audience a sense of direction and understanding. Laughman (2021) stated that through this the voice-over creates an intimate connection with the viewers, bringing them directly into the world of the film.

- **Music and sound**

Music is an additional tool used to add drama and emotional tone to documentary films. In historical documentaries, music from the relevant period played a significant role and was frequently used. Music can also be used to bring out the sense of irony by inserting music that goes along with the audience's mood. For instance, the director using music on a scene that appear to be tragedy and sad to make the audience feel

sad. James (2017) indicated that sound is a fundamental part of sections of a documentary film; therefore, it is recommended that that the narrator's and interviewee's voice levels are at an appropriate level and quality for enhance the texture of the production.

- **Narration and dramatization**

Documentary film narration is supposedly performed by a narrator, it is the verbal description of the happening within that documentary film. In historical documentaries, the historical events or period that forms the subject of the documentary is being told by the narrator (James, 2017). For instance, in nature documentaries such as the net geography channel, the narrator describes the animals on screen, provides context and background information regarding their behaviors. However, the narration can be delivered in several ways which include a voiceover, a visible narrator on-screen, or a combination of both. Onen (2021) indicated that a good documentary film narration should have a clear, logical structure that assists the viewer in better understanding the subject of the documentary.

2.2.4 Popular documentary genres

It is important to note that genre is recognised by its common set of distinguishing features. These features are associated with a genre style and content may be a particular setting, character types, or technical codes (lighting or music). Audiences recognise these features and therefore expect certain representations. However, a genre is not static as it changes all the time resulting in hybrid genres and changing codes and conventions. There is also a relationship between genres and the societies in which they are created (Pollak, 2008). However, genre is a reinforcement of the expectations and desire of the audience to entice the audience to keep coming back for more action. Genre categories are the different styles of art, music, or literature. Documentary genres are incredibly significant because of their ability to fulfil viewer's expectations. Genre categories give the audience blueprints for different types of documentary films (Mathew, 2014). Below are several relevant genre categories relevant to this study.

- **Docudrama**

The docudrama is a co-joined word, which simply represents the marriage of two unlikely forms, the documentary, and drama. The documentary is a record of factual events and on the other hand drama is seen as the imitation of life, therefore docudrama is regarded as a hybrid genre. Ogunleye (2005) described docudrama as "a fact-based representation of real events". Moreover, docudramas utilise the audio-visual formats of film and television and combine both elements of documentary and drama thus it uses both footages of real events and the talent of actors to act on written stories thereby creating dramatic events.

- **Docusoaps**

Docusoaps are distinguished by an emphasis on entertainment, strong personalities, soap opera style, fast editing, and a prominent voiceover. The focus is on real characters linked to work, pleasure, or institution and special common interest. These characters are depicted as ordinary, going about their everyday life facing minor challenges, attention on their relationships, views, family setting, and their workplaces or locations (Bondebjerg, 2013). For instance, the Date my family South African storyline revolves around singletons that are interested and eager to find love, with the help from their closest friends and family, candidates are interviewed and go through a selection process until one candidate wins a date with the potential partner. The storyline aligns with Uyajola 9/9 (2019) whereby people who suspect their partners of infidelity write to the show and with the help from producers, their astray partners are exposed. Syed (2011) indicated that docusoaps are concerned with the portrayal of real-life situations where both males and female actors have daily jobs or activities coupled with marital challenges.

- **Docu-biographies**

A documentary biography is a film that narrates a story of the life of a real person, and most biographic films are often the story of a monarch, artist, or a political leader (Kuhn & Westwell, 2012). Biographers collect information for the film from the subject. However, if the subject is not alive then the information will be collected from acquaintances of the subject (Ellis, 2021). To add accuracy to the information collected the biographers also get information by researching other sources such as reference material, expects, diaries, records, and interviews.

2.3 Depiction of the African migration crisis in visual media

- **Stereotyping of migrants**

The assumption that Africa is a continent that is continually migrating and undergoing mass migration because of extreme poverty and violent wars is related with stereotypes. These concerns with migrants show that researchers also contribute to shaping the perception of African migration from Africa that is driven by poverty, in addition to attributing the unfavorable portrayal of African migration by media organizations to only production politics. This is crucial since reading has the power to shape people's perceptions and can be used as a reference point in the future. As a result, both academics and media outlets have embraced the idea that poverty is to blame for problems, which may put the issue outside the purview of production dynamics (Jonsson, 2009). This viewpoint demonstrated the potential for stereotypical representations of African migration by media organizations and academics, as well as how these negative viewpoints about African migration and its issues predominate in their minds.

- **Migrants venerable for human smuggling**

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) stated that the systems of migrant smuggling are nothing more but a strategy of robbing and murdering some of the poorest migrants in the world (UNODC, 2006). Organised crime organizations (OCGs) with connections to human trafficking routes or transnational OCGs that operate in those areas commit crimes involving smuggling of migrants, frequently cruelly endangering the lives of migrants while they are traveling by land, air, or water. Migration smuggling affects a huge number of nations as origin, transit, or destination points, making it a truly global issue. Simonsen (2023) states that smuggling migrants across borders and between continents is a lucrative crime. Due to the subterranean nature of this crime and the challenge of determining when smugglers are facilitating unauthorised migration. When migrants are unable to use legitimate channels of migration, smugglers profit from the enormous number of people ready to take chances in search of a better life. Migration smuggling affects a huge number of nations as origin, transit, or destination points, making it a truly global issue. Smuggling migrants across borders and between continents is a lucrative crime. Due to the

subterranean nature of this crime and the challenge of determining when smugglers are facilitating illegal migration, determining its true scope is a challenging task. When migrants are unable to use legitimate channels of migration, smugglers profit from the enormous number of people ready to take chances in search of a better life. Migrants who are smuggled are susceptible to abuse and exploitation. They may drown at sea while being trafficked by profit-seeking criminals who treat them as merchandise, suffocate in containers, or perish in deserts, putting their safety and even lives at danger. Since the crime is a covert one, precise global statistics are hard to find. However, it is believed that two of the main smuggling routes—from South America to North America and from East, North, and West Africa to Europe—generate roughly $6.75 billion a year for criminals. The total number is probably far greater.

2.3.1 Conceptualising the term "migration" in Africa

Africa is unquestionably a continent with significant migration. The concept of forced migration is rife with ambiguous and perhaps conflicting interpretations and connotations. For their bodily safety and to defend themselves against an impending harm to their physical well-being, forced migrants, also known as refugees, depart their homes (Bayar & Aral, 2019). This generalization and conceptualization of the phenomena of migration, however, fails to take into account the particularities of movement in Africa since the entrance of white settlers.

In contrast, forced migration is a circumstance in which individuals are obliged to leave their homes in search of safety and security as a result of a threat or their fear of that threat. Forced migrations are further divided into two categories based on the causes of the uprooting. We can distinguish between forced migration brought on by natural disasters on the one hand, and forced migration brought on by violence and armed conflict, also known as man-made displacement, as well as movement in response to repressive state policies and persecution (Hassan, 2020). This involves refugee migration in a restricted sense, as defined by international humanitarian law.

While migrants are compelled to leave their nations because of push factors that drive the local population away, they encounter consequences along the way since they might not have been ready for it. As a result of forced travel, refugees suffer from hunger, malnutrition, and starvation since they lack the resources to purchase wholesome foods. Additionally, some of them pass away from starvation, which raises

the population of orphans, widows, and widowers in the society. Migrants who are forced to live in environments different from their homes may have mental health issues including stress and depression as a result (Pipher, 2007). They become unwell and unable to provide for their family as a result of being angry when they reflect on their homes and the things they have left behind. Additionally, because of the overcrowding and subpar cleanliness in refugee camps, illness outbreaks usually occur. Finally, forced migration breeds hostility among communities that are at conflict with one another (Becker & Ferrara, 2019). The alternative to forced migration may be significant economic loss, psychological distress, death, violence, or perceived threats of bodily damage. For an example, migrants stand a higher chance of experiencing human trafficking and abuse due to their vulnerability.

2.3.2 Types of contemporary African migration

There are numerous types of contemporary African migration, but the study chose to focus on three forms, which are relevant to the study. Below are the types of contemporary African migration discussed as forced migration, voluntary and mixed migration that are commonly represented in visual media.

- **Forced migration**

The term "forced migration" is frequently used to describe moves that are seen as responses to dangerous circumstances that push someone to flee their home. According to the International Organization for Migration (2011), migration can be characterized as forced if there is a component of coercion, such as threats to life and livelihood, whether they result from natural or man-made causes (e.g., movements of refugees and internally displaced persons as well as people displaced by natural or environmental disasters, chemical or nuclear disasters, famine, or development projects) (Stierl, 2020). Additionally, the term "forced migration" is frequently used to describe migrations that were compelled through (the fear of) violence by third parties, also known as "people traffickers." Although not all forms of trafficking necessitate movement, movement is frequently associated with trafficking.

- **Voluntary migration**

The term "voluntary migration" refers to a type of migration in which individuals relocate of their own free will for a variety of reasons, including the pursuit of

employment and educational opportunities. The motivation behind voluntary migration is the desire of the migrants to achieve better socioeconomic conditions than those in their home countries. Included among other socioeconomic factors are employment, trade, academic success, marriage, and adoption (Jurado et al., 2017). However, in certain circumstances, before migrants even set out for Western Europe in particular, they often have a much higher chance of migrating voluntarily if they have connections with individuals or institutions in the receiving countries.

Mixed migration

The term mixed migration has emerged as a complex and fitting description of migration movements in the Mediterranean (UNHCR, 2014c). According to the International Migration for Migration (IOM) the term covers "complex population movement including the refugees, asylum seekers, economic migrants, and other migrants" (IOM, 2019). Mixed migration is defined as "cross-border migrations of individuals, including refugees escaping violence and persecution, trafficking victims, and individuals looking for better prospects. People who engage in mixed migration have varied legal statuses, are driven to travel by a range of motives, and are exposed to a variety of dangers (IOM, 2020). Despite having a right to protection under international human rights law, such people may frequently be subjected to a variety of rights abuses while travelling.

2.3.3 Portrayal of African migrants in selected global spaces

The European context

African migrants are portrayed in some global places as refugees in various congested refugee camps, where they are frequently portrayed as the negative side of globalization and a threat to public safety that needs to be suppressed by barriers, patrols, and detention facilities (Lui, 2002). When they arrive western Europe especially Italy or Sicily, African migrants are frequently gathered in these camps, where they stay while their petitions for asylum are being processed for weeks, months, or even years. Due to poor ventilation and hygiene, the frequent crowding in these camps may favor the spread of diseases. As a result of the overpopulation in these camps, some of these migrants have been highlighted by news organizations as being homeless and unable to obtain any care in Italy.

According to Hermans et al. (2017) and Turner (2015), who agreed with the above assessment, refugee camps were initially intended to house migrants temporarily after their arrival. However, some of these camps for refugees ended up as permanent prison facilities to impose control over migratory populations (Feldman, 2014). As a result, some of these refugee camps become overcrowded and are portrayed as a trend among refugee camps in Europe.

The depiction of African migrants in refugee camps also demonstrates how these camps come in a variety of shapes and sizes, with some being open areas while others are confined; others house just a few dozen people while others house thousands (Jauhiainen, 2017). However, a number of incidents involving prejudice, mistreatment, and violence towards migrants living in refugee camps in Italy and Sicily are frequently covered by news outlets including the CNN (Cable News Network) and Aljazeera (Goodman et al., 2017). Additionally, Sossou, Craig, Ogren, and Shnak (2008) stated that migrants are portrayed in some camps as people who live in subpar conditions, lack privacy, endure protracted periods of uncertainty regarding the legal process, as well as being confronted with murky circumstances and stringent asylum regulations.

Libya

Many African migrants' traverse through the Sahara Desert, traveling from checkpoint to checkpoint and paying their way until they reach Libya. Libya is a prime hub for migration due to its geographic position between the Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean Sea. The south Libyan land borders permit undetected entry whereas its long coastline and proximity to Malta and the Italian Peninsula provide migrants with an exit strategy (Hammond, 2015). However, it is the combination of its geography with the disintegration of its governance and border security that has created near-perfect conditions for the success of human smuggling networks. The U.S Energy Information Administration (2015) has indicated that Libya as one of the largest proved crude oil reserves and the fourth-largest natural gas reserves in Africa. These hydrocarbon resources provide Libya with a strong economy and attract economic migrants from other African countries to come and work for the Libyan government. Since the overthrow of Muammar Gaddafi in 2011, the Libyan government has descended into near-failed state status with two rival governments fighting for degrees

of power and control (Westcott, 2015). This has led to economic migrants fleeing to Western Europe to target this route by sea using the Mediterranean Sea.

Libya has been the entry point for the contemporary slave trade from Africa to Europe for many years possibly for generations. In actuality, Libya has identified itself as a significant location where a sophisticated network of migrant smuggling and the slavery of Black Africans has long supported the clandestine slave industry in Libya (Shaw & Mangan, 2014). Due to the protracted civil conflict, the trade was vital to recover or support the Libyan economy (Abuhadra & Tawfik, 2014). However, the instability of the Libyan government and maybe its disappearance in some regions has led to an increase in crimes involving human trafficking and profiting from the human slave trade. Over time, the depiction of African migrants in visual media, such as Cable News Network in 2017 gained attention and brought to light the issue of black men being sold in Libyan slave markets while black women were being subjected to physical and psychological torture through a pattern of sexual abuse and gender-based violence. However, some of these shocking images also surfaced on social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram confirming the existence of slave trade markers in Libya. Majority of these migrants are from nations in Sub-Saharan Africa and North Africa, including Nigeria, Niger, Chad, Sudan, Ghana, and Egypt. Men, women, and children are among the victims of the slave trade, and they are vulnerable to severe brutality and other human rights abuses. These wrongdoings include starvation, horrific killings, physical, sexual, and verbal abuse (Women's Refugee Commission, 2019; Wallis, 2019; United States Department of States, 2018; International Organisation for Migration, 2017).

Female migrants have been portrayed, in particular as being helpless against rape along the commerce or transportation routes to Libya. In massage parlors, particularly in southern Libya, there are reported accessories like prostitution networks that subject Sub-Saharan women and young women to sex dealings. In particular, female migrants from Nigeria are reportedly more likely to be pushed into prostitution after men take them away to rape them especially girls (Leghtas, 2017:12; Mafu, 2019; Kirkin & Anderson, 2018).

Zimbabwe

Due to the increase in migration, the challenges of xenophobic prejudice and discrimination towards migrants have become more apparent. This problem currently permeates all international talks on migration. Throughout history, the term "xenophobia" has been regularly used to describe acts of violence towards foreigners. Most literature indicate that an opposition to, fear of, or hate of outsiders is referred to as xenophobia (Kudzayi & Manik, 2020). Untimely deaths, injuries, and relocation of Zimbabwean migrants have been reported as a result of attacks in some countries, including South Africa for more than a decade. Additionally, some of the attacks have specifically targeted black foreigners from neighboring African countries for multiple reasons, which all border on xenophobia.

The SABC news made headlines in 2022 for their reportage of xenophobic attacks on migrants from Zimbabwe. Images of horrifying incidents where migrants were slain, left homeless, stripped of their possessions, and physically abused were shown on television screens, leading to accusations that they were robbing South Africans of jobs and trafficking narcotics. Operation Dudula, a specific gang of South Africans, was responsible for some of these cruel acts. Operation Dudula is a recent large-scale mobilization that targets black migrants in what at first seemed to be a spiral of vilification and thuggery. Some scholars have argued that as politicians try to hide their own errors and the disastrous impacts of Covid-19, this vilification and thuggery may intensify if it is not curtailed (Seepe, 2022). The tendency to place blame for problems in South Africa has been shifted to migrants. However, migration in South Africa reveals there is xenophobia among South Africans towards migrants. Despite rising unemployment, the majority of black South Africans continue to live in poverty. Given this circumstance, South Africans look for a way to vent their resentment, and black foreigners are a convenient target (Tella & Ogunnubi, 2014). Akinola (2014) states that particularly Zimbabweans, migrants in South Africa are frequently characterized as posing a direct danger to social services, national stability, and prosperity. They are viewed as resource squanderers who make use of South Africa's resources without contributing anything to the country.

2.3.4 Responses to contemporary migration crises in Africa
- **The global policy perspective**

Over the years, the UNHCR has grown into an operational organization that coordinates aid programs for various types of migrants. The United States' recent backing, which recognizes the ongoing need for an effective body capable of providing relief and aid to refugees on a global scale, is crucial to this organization's expanding role (Cairney, Heikkila and Wood, 2019). The UNHCR continues to expand its capabilities in response to both international politics and the numerous reasons of mass migration. Its expansion of expertise and change "from a refugee organisation into a more broadly-based humanitarian agency" are two noteworthy aspects of its growth (Stevens, 2015). As a result, it has broadened its mandate and now also has responsibility for millions of internally displaced persons. For this reason, international migration flows, despite their size, composition, and direction, can be influenced by migration policy.

- **NGOs' responses to migration crises**

Most migrants often take a life-threatening risk crossing the Mediterranean Sea by boat because they have no other choice. They typically meet a smuggler who forces them onto an old, rickety boat (sometimes under threat of force) and frequently abandon the boat mid-Mediterranean, depending on rescue crews from Italy and other E.U. nations to get the migrants safely to land (Llewellyn, 2015). European governments usually respond to the migration issue from Africa by implementing measures aimed at reducing and slowing the flow of migrants across the Mediterranean Sea. Initially, refugee search and rescue operations in the Mediterranean Sea were launched by NGOs from a number of different nations in 2014 and 2015. Briguglio and Brown (2022) indicate that these NGOs often rescue many migrants at a time and bring them to safety in their huge ships.

Search and rescue (SAR) efforts for refugees in the Mediterranean Sea are actively supported by NGOs. They participate in more than 40% of local operations to rescue refugees. Even while NGOs have saved many lives, they are frequently criticized by the Italian government. They are commonly accused of assisting human traffickers, acting as a facilitator and magnet for the area's expanding refugee population, and cooperating with them (Riebl, 2017). The main objective of NGOs is to prevent drowning of migrants, however each one has its own distinctive methods of operation.

On their ships, some of the smaller groups of people refuse to carry migrants. They make a distress call, offer those in need first aid, life jackets, and water, and keep an eye on the situation until a larger vessel arrives to transport the migrants to land. Other groups enable stranded migrants to board their boats, where they receive the necessary medical care and supplies before being transported to a port in Europe (Tazzioli, 2015). Many migrants who were saved in the Central Mediterranean were initially transferred to Italy and discharged there. The public has supported these NGO SAR efforts, which have been funded by contributions, and this support has been bolstered by favorable media coverage of the NGO rescue missions as well as accounts of the human tragedies taking place at sea (Briguglio & Brown, 2022). In order to legally discharge rescued migrants in European ports, NGO vessels frequently acquire information about migrants in distress from government sources. Government cooperation is also required for NGOs to avoid punishment because the legal context in which they work is complicated by contradictory national and international legislation regarding SAR and illegal migration. Consequently, NGOs have only "conducted SAR operations in conjunction with and under the authorization of local Coast Guards" (Liss, 2019). These NGOs encounter a number of difficulties that limit the impact they can make in the Mediterranean Sea because they lack the support from their local government and are mostly supported by small individual donations.

2.4 Popular media frames in the depiction of African migration

According to Cooper et al. (2015), frames are the core elements of a person's experience that serve as the lens through which they judge a scenario. However, in this context, framing is an effective method for examining how African migrants' images have been translated, understood, and framed in terms of representation, among other things. According to Amores et al. (2020), framing is the emphasis on a few chosen characteristics of reality as it is experienced. Fahmy (2010) showed how media coverage of events and actors is presented in a particular way by choosing frames, to give special attention to certain parts and not others, which suggests that the information is not free from ideological influence. The framing focuses on the steps taken to problematize a complicated issue, conceptualize, mobilize, and contest meaning, and then establish the foundation for decision-making. In order to understand how many perceptions and influenced justifications for action are

produced in response to a policy problem, particularly for African migrants, frames are utilized (Cooper et al., 2015). Documentaries utilise different frames throughout the process of filming and packaging content. Milioni (2015) states that media professionals use media frames to create realities for viewers. The created realities describe what the audience sees as reality when presented with content as content is highly influenced by one's perspective. Therefore, this indicates that televised programs are mostly used to frame reality through the lens of their producers. Abreu (2015) argues that the media frames are designed using the media's agenda to present an event into a consumable product through all types of media. This elaborates on how the final media products undergo a selection process which may, in turn, carry biases or reinforcement of existing stereotypes by how they may be packaged (Fryberg et al., 2011). Visual media represents events in a particular frame of reality in which case these frames maybe used incorrectly or interpreted incorrectly, to yield a biased account of events done consciously or unconsciously.

2.4.1 Threat frame(s)

The threat frame is frequently encountered in relevant literature regarding a strong stereotype behavior that concerns undocumented African migrants (Van Gorp, 2015). This frame can be best explained in subframes, the first frame is the criminal frame which possess a threat to the safety and wellbeing of society. Secondly, is the Alien frame, a threat to religious and cultural values and identity. This is someone who does not belong to one's society. The third frame is the employment competitor, a threat that is stealing people's jobs. The fourth frame is the intruder, an unwelcomed guest who has become a burden and relies on the government's social welfare. The fifth frame is the political frame, as of when the undocumented migrants make claims to political rights. Lastly, the public health threat frame whereby undocumented African migrants were seen as the carrier of multiple diseases threatening the society (Milioni et.al., 2015). All these frames are actively and interchangeably used by documentaries in depicting African migration, thus imposing a negative perception to viewers, and creating a bad impression of these African migrants.

2.4.2 The victim frame(s)

The victim frame can interchangeably consist of other subframes. The first one is called the human smuggling or trafficking victim. Secondly, is the economic migrant, which describes the inequality of wealth distribution as well as the victim of persecution and oppression in their country. Thirdly is the victim of employment without labor rights, where foreigners are highly preferred when hiring just to exploit them and give them unreasonable wages (Milioni et al., 2015). Fourthly is the victim of racism or xenophobia. Fifth is the victim of manipulation from political parties in return for political leverage and lastly is the helpless victim of non-racist violence.

Migrants are susceptible to a variety of dangers of victimization, and many of them have already experienced victimization on occasion, frequently, and occasionally even deliberately. Along with their unique emigration and migration histories, these victimisation risks can be divided into the following categories. Direct or indirect victimisation in the country of origin or in the home country can play a significant role in an individual's decision to emigrate, whether alone, with family, or in part. In the planning stages of their journey, additional hazards could emerge. Migrants are most likely to face numerous direct or indirect victimising conditions during the migration phase; special dangers arise in conjunction with border transfers. Migration from Africa to Western Europe has gained a lot of attention in recent years thanks to the film industry, which has filled its screens with these scenes (Flahaux & De Haas, 2016). The representation of African migrants, according to Castle, De Haas, and Miller (2014), states that Africans are victims of extreme poverty, famine, conflict, and environmental destruction. However, this is projecting an impression of suffering and misery. According to Oguh (2015), for a long time, international media organizations have presented Africa as a "needy black continent characterized by starvation, underdevelopment, civil conflict, political instability, corrupt and inept leadership." Bradimore and Bauder (2011) state that the employment of various framing tactics by various media organizations was used to highlight concerns about risk and security among African migrants.

2.4.3 Economic migrant frame

An economic migrant is a person leaving his/her habitual place of residence to settle outside his or her country of origin to improve his or her quality of life for employment

(International Migration Law, 2011). According to Migration Policy Debates (2014), migrant workers are referred to as important contributors to the labor markets in both high and low-skilled occupations. Moreover, migration is a feature of social and economic life across many countries. For instance, a few countries that serve as economic pillars such as South Africa, Botswana, Zambia, and Angola have been magnets for years for their industrial developments, mining sectors, and oil wealth largely in Angola. Economic migrants boost the working-age population, and they arrive with skills and contribute to the human capital development of receiving countries. Ngomane (2010) states that networks also play a huge part and provide African migrants with key information of arranged accommodation and job opportunities in destination areas. Therefore, these networks make it easy for privileged people to migrate as they offer them loans, gifts and enable them to pay for traveling to destination areas.

2.4.4 Labourer or slave frame

Any task performed against one's will and under threat of punishment qualifies as slave labor. It describes situations in which individuals are coerced into working by use of force or intimidation, as well as more covert techniques including manipulating debt, retaining identification documents, or threatening to report the individuals to immigration authorities (International Labor Organisation, 2022). In Libya, migrants are typically portrayed as laborers or slaves, and they claim that some mafia organizations force them to work for no compensation (Paraskevas, 2020). However, African migrants have been represented under this frame while working mostly in farms under extreme weather conditions, in construction working sites while carrying heavy working equipment and are sometimes forced to work as sex slaves for their masters.

2.4.5 Other(ed) or racist/xenophobic frames

Chiweshe (2007) defines xenophobia as "attitudes, prejudices and behavior that reject, exclude and often vilify persons, based on the perception that they are outsiders or foreigners to a particular community, society or national identity." Xenophobia is based on intolerance, fear of foreigners, and, in many cases, ethnocentrism on the part of the native population, who view themselves as better than the foreigners

(Steenkamp, 2009). As the world faces challenges of responding to the Covid-19 pandemic, racism and xenophobia against African migrant workers are on the rise (Guadagno, 2020). Hennebry and Hari (2020) stated that xenophobia against foreign nationals has persisted from the previous two decades at individual, community, and system levels manifesting through physical and verbal abuse, social exclusion, denial of goods and services, discriminatory restrictions, and quarantine policies including anti-migrant political rhetoric.

- **Criminal frame**

Crime is referred to a public wrongdoing, an act strongly disapproved by society (Thotakura, 2011). Crime includes murder, stealing, fraud, rape and many more. Describing unauthorised African migrants as criminals in documentary films has become frequent and normalised. In this regard, attention has been drawn to the use of the term 'illegal' when referring to migrants of which this term has been criticised not only because it stresses criminality and defines these African migrants as criminals but also for being foreigners. Moreover, the term illegal not only describes African migrants as criminal but also indicates that the act of migration through the Mediterranean is illegal. However, the act of migration can be referred to as illegal but the African migrants in question cannot be illegal because a person cannot be illegal, but the act committed (Brouwer et al., 2017). Furthermore, it's not just media organisations that are using certain terms to refer to African migrants but also many academics, human rights organisations, EU institutions, and international news associations that use a neutral term such as 'irregular' migrants (Schuster, 2011). However, some academics explicitly use the term 'illegal migrant to indicate or highlight the role of the state in creating processes that render individual's illegal.

- **Alien frame**

Alien refers to a person who is foreign born, who resides and works in another country while subjected to another country (Amores, Calderon & Stanek, 2019). The term 'alien' is the technical label used in migration law frequently in the United Nations of America to describe a migrant who has entered the U. S without a migrant visa, for instance, a person who crosses the border through avoiding inspection or a person that overstays the period allowed (Ommundsen et al., 2014). Media organisations in America often refer to undocumented migrants using different labels or terms interchangeably. The labels or terms include "illegal immigrants", "undocumented

immigrants" and "illegal aliens" (Knoll et al., 2011). However, these terms have the same denotation since they are seen to be equal in the legal sense, despite their different connotations. For example, some scholars consider the term "illegal aliens" to be disapproving and offensive to migrant groups (Soderlund, 2007). Bazar and Brown (2009) indicate that the disagreement on labels seems to be motivated by the assumption that people's evaluations may be altered when presenting unauthorised migration in different ways and with different connotations.

- **Intruder frame**

This frame refers to a person or group of people that are not welcomed in a society and treated as such (Bosilkov & Drakaki, 2018). The term is also referred to as a cultural manifestation of 'the other' as a threat to one's own culture and economic achievements. This frame unequivocally depicts migrants as a danger to society. Hence, the media perspective and portrayal of African migrants is indicated to be negative. However, African migrants on an environment that they are not wanted, are constantly reminded that they are unwelcome. Moreover, these unwanted and unwelcomed migrants are to be given names that are linked with their unwelcomed status. For instance, in South Africa, African migrants are referred to as *makwerekwere*, intruders that are not welcomed.

2.4.6 Employment competitor frame

An employment competitor referred to in this study is an African migrant in a foreign country that is in competition with natives for employment purposes (Kononen, 2019). When African migrants are employed in destination countries normally the substitute effect takes effect, meaning that the native workers in some cases may be retrenched and replaced with migrants for employment exploitation purposes. This effect kicks out the native workers of the working environment especially if these African migrant workers come with scarce skills in the working environment. Often, when this substitution takes effect, migrants are regarded as employment competitors (Munz, Straubhaar & Vadean, 2007). However, for peace to rain among migrants and native workers, the migrants maybe required to take the most difficult and dangerous jobs such as farming and construction jobs that are avoided by the native workers.

The exploitation of migrant workers is not a new phenomenon in society. African migrant workers have experienced very precarious working conditions in countries where the trade unions are mostly weak especially in industries such as construction, cleaning, catering, and agriculture work (Spanger & Hvalkof, 2021). African migrants have also been reported by news media channels such as the British Broadcasting Channel (BBC) and Al Jazeera to have been getting minimum wages, unreasonable hours, and trafficked for force labor especially in Libya (Favre, 2019). Moreover, some of these African migrant workers have reported extreme levels of abuse and exploitation including employers restricting their movements, social interactions and verbally abusing or threatening workers.

2.4.7 Humanitarian frame

Human rights, societal standards, and values are conceptualized within the humanitarian frame. This framework places a lot of emphasis on how factual reports concerning crises and problems that have an impact on people's welfare, particularly African migrants, are framed (Bunce, Scott & Wright, 2019). Figenschou & Thorbjrnsrud, 2015; Lawlor & Tolley (2017) added by stating that the humanitarian framing typically emphasizes how providing migrants with housing, food, medical attention and safety is depicted as something that comes naturally, while volunteers and the work of NGOs are commended.

Helpless frame

The helpless frame for migrants refers to a traumatic situation that a person may find themselves in where they can do nothing to change it (Nuvvula, 2016). Furthermore, this involves when that person gets tired and gives up after they realise that nothing action can be done to change anything. It is then that person becomes helpless or viewed as helpless. The helpless frame in the selected documentaries depict African migrants' helplessness in desperate situations. These desperate situations involve African migrants who do not know how to swim who end up drowning in the Mediterranean Sea. The framing of African migrants as helpless in different media organisations and films persisted from 2015 to date following the popular crisis of migrants travelling towards Western Europe. Aid workers that were featured in documentary films from 2015 to 2021 stated that these helpless migrants require compassion and care (Ilcan & Rygiel, 2015). However, this profound uncertainty of

African migrants' status enforces idleness and helplessness about their future and the dependence that they have on humanitarian agencies.

Burden frame

The idea that migrants in Europe heavily rely on the national welfare state of their host country has gained traction in the media and among the general public. The burden frame is linked to economic and cultural ideas. The burden frame portrays African immigrants as impeding otherwise straightforward administrative procedures or challenging bureaucracy by entering a country without the necessary documentation (Estrada, Ebert, & Lore, 2016). Additionally, this framing emphasizes the expenses and difficulties that the receiving nations face in caring for the migrants once they arrive in host countries because of unbudgeted for programs. Therefore, the burden frame should be seen in the light of providing migrants with clothing, food, shelter, and other necessities, which they need to survive.

2.5 Role of ideology in film production
2.5.1 Defining ideology in film production

The term ideology is used in this research because ideological frames take on a particular shape in response to a political context. They are not simply inherited or de-contextualized belief systems, but rather are frameworks that have been developed in response to socio-political circumstances in order to make sense and justify that system of meaning (Devereux, 2014). Ideological frameworks serve a political purpose in that they attempt to influence the conflict transformation agenda in a manner that serves particular interests or needs. Each ideological frame embodies certain abstract characteristics that are not necessarily present in a particular society. According to Pakar and Khoshsaligheh (2020), these frames are rather systems of meaning that arise from a particular school of thought or system of beliefs.

People construct their world of meaning by borrowing from what they find around them. They piece it together in a way that gives them a sense of control or meaning, and they present it in a way that appeals to the audience and elicits a sympathetic response. Some of the ideas that are used to build these ideological frames are part of the international legal, religious, or political discourses (Pakar & Khoshsaligheh, 2020). Ideological frames are thus not mutually exclusive. Their constituent components overlap with one another, and individuals can believe in two or more of

them at the same time, albeit through maintaining some level of internal dissonance (Wilson, 2021). Ultimately, the ideological frameworks in the selected documentaries were anchored on addressing political and economic inequalities which were based on poverty, employment and political wars. Today, these political and economic facets as documented in the selected documentary films continue, regrettably in an African poverty driven context called migration.

The study of ideology is associated with the view that political socialization of citizens is significantly influenced by film. Most governments are typically portrayed badly in films, mirroring what the general public believes, although reality may be a little more nuanced. This intricacy extends to the film industry, much like the love-hate connection that most societies have with their governments. According to Mdege (2017), the manner that political leaders communicate, how elections are conducted, and the nature of citizen engagement have all undergone significant changes as a result of the film industry. On platforms and in networks that support contact and collaboration, film helps the spread and sharing of political content (Khan, 2017). In addition to the current informal and formal legislative rules, film is one of the most potent mediums accepted in democratic regimes for representing the opinions of the populace.

The voices of the poor majority for excellent democratic governance in service delivery have a significant actual potential to be promoted through film. Thus, Khan (2017) highlights the widely held belief that film has acted as a watchdog for democratic norms and as means of providing awareness of matters of agency and pressing issues such as African migration crisis. Thus, the ability of film to deepen our awareness of risks regarding African migration is prominent. For an example, the representation of African migrants may help to foster preventative measures and meaningful intervention on preserving human life in the Mediterranean Sea.

2.5.2 Influence of ideology on media production

According to Fahmy (2010), visual media frequently presents information about various events and individuals in a particular way, choosing, emphasising, and assigning priority to certain characteristics, suggesting that its content is not immune from ideological influence (Calderon, 2019). The decisions that are made in politics and the economy directly affect the decisions that are made in the media, and the reverse is also true. In this regard, the emergence of right-wing conservative and

protectionist political movements across Europe may have influenced the increasingly slanted and unfavorable portrayal of migrants and refugees in the European media, which may in turn be fostering the growth of these political movements.

African migration is represented through discourses of inclusion and otherness, where the film industry influence how the public or viewers view who belongs in the "imagined community" of the specific country (Caitlin, Fouratt & Castillo- Monterrosa, 2021). In portraying African migrants, the European media appears to have adopted a certain stance on a topic of public interest and global concern, regarding African migration. By promoting consensus on events and subjects, they influence how the public views the social environment, provide information to policymakers, and contribute to the construction of the world they depict. Possibly, this is done with the purpose of igniting panic and reviving anti-refugee and anti-migrant sentiments in the region. With a clear interest in portraying migrants less as victims and more as a burden or threat to Western cultures and societies, Germany, the largest recipient of migrants in Western Europe, is one of the regions under pressure from the wave of migration, which has adopted a more biased treatment of the crisis. However, in doing so, the media are able to influence local public opinion and legitimise certain types of anti-migration measures (Baumgartner & Jones, 2010). For instance, a documentary's content can affect people's opinions of what concerns are significant just by emphasising certain themes and occurrences more than others.

2.5.3 Impact of ideology on media audiences

One of the most effective means of supplying the general public with content is the mainstream media such as television and the radio, with a significant influence on how the public views particular concerns, such as migration from Africa (Brayford & Deering, 2012). Additionally, the mass media produces material that is heavily infused with particular ideas to accommodate a variety of frameworks. Since it promotes ideologies that may influence people's opinions, behavior, and attitudes, the employment of various frames on migrants in the media generally has a bigger effect on its audiences.

According to Eberla, Meltzer, Heidenreich, Herreroc, Theorind, Linda, Berganza, Boomgaarden, Schemer, and Strömbäck (2018), visual media framing varies depending on which migrant group is being discussed. Migration coverage is

frequently unfavourable, and conflict centered. Regular exposure to such media messages promotes negative views about migration, may activate stereotypes of certain migrant groups, and may even have an impact on voting behavior. According to Harteveld, Schaper, De Lange, and Van Der Brug (2018), the media's heavy coverage of the refugee issue has raised people's anti-European sentiment. Media exposure may have such a profound effect on audiences' actions to encourage hostility toward migrants. A comparative study of news coverage in 16 Western democracies shows that 'migration and integration' is the third most negative topic in political news coverage (Esser, Engesser, Matthes & Berganza, 2017). Hence the negative portrayal of these migrants is not only stigmatizing but also helps in constructing a division between Europe and Africa.

2.6 Socio-economic and political factors in African migration
2.6.1 Push factors in African migration
African migrants do not simply choose to leave their nations; rather, when they do, internal pressures play a major role in their decision (Kanayo, Anjofui & Stiegler, 2019). Push factors are aspects that force a person or a group of individuals to leave their home nations. Political instability and wars, starvation or poverty, economic and social factors are examples of push causes. Moreover, significant driving forces for migration also include lack of employment prospects and a weak economy as discussed below.

- **Economic factors**

Inadequate salaries, lack of job stability, and unequal income distribution are just a few of the economic causes contributing to the migration dilemma in Africa (Arsenault, 2011). These difficulties can lead to worldwide migratory movements from Africa to Europe. Migration from Africa to Europe due to economic factors has significant effects in the sending countries. For instance, it is challenging to develop places where people have moved away, and occasionally abandoned villages and towns. In many African nations, abject poverty may be the primary cause of a variety of social issues (Haas, 2011). Additionally, migrants try to provide shelter and food for their families in desperate and unfavorable conditions, which exacerbates wealth disparities in society (Saksonova & Jansone, 2021). Unfortunately, the association between income level and the social conditions is linear, therefore Making it difficult for those who do not have enough money to meet minimum standards of living.

- **Political instability and wars**

Political factors constitute a large part of the migration movements occurring on a global scale (Black et al., 2011). Factors such as human rights violations due to political reasons, persecution, restriction of personal freedoms, inequalities, lack of judicial independence and military coups constitute the main reasons for migration movements. However, the most dominant factor of political reasons is wars because they cause great migration movements especially forced migration. This confirms views by some scholars who argue that most of the global migration movements that take place are heavily influenced by political reasons (More & Shallman, 2014). These migratory movements include forced migration drivers such as political persecution, personal freedom restrictions, inequality, weak legal systems, and military coups. Although other factors such as human rights breaches and restrictions have a bearing on migration, wars unfortunately have the most significant role in political motivations.

In addition, war causes large-scale migrant movements and remains one of the primary factors in massive migration flows that have the greatest global impact (Praussello, 2011). Because migration caused by war typically takes the form of forced migration, both the destination countries and the transit countries suffer significant economic and social harm because of this predicament. For this reason, political migration remains a significant issue, particularly for nations in unstable regions. For instance, due to the conflicts in the Middle East, Turkey has become home to millions of refugees where a diaspora has developed. Raleigh, 2011 stated that this development has effects that, over time, may necessitate many political complications.

- **Demographic factors**

In terms of demographic considerations, the average population age may have a detrimental impact on employment and worker opportunities (Arsenault, 2011). Migration may also result from high fertility rates and the prevalence of infectious diseases. The human component, particularly the influence of family and household relationships, plays a significant role in both internal and external migration decisions (Telsac & Telsac, 2022). Therefore, people who live in close quarters with many siblings and other family members, in modestly sized homes, may decide to migrate. There are noticeable changes that result from this impact depending on demographic structure and how it influences demographic aspects of migration (Esses, 2018). For

instance, while the loss of the youthful people is a significant issue for the country of origin, it might be advantageous in terms of providing the labor required for the target country.

- **Social factors**

There are many different societal elements that influence migration. This category can be used to examine a variety of factors, such as people's desire to be with their families or other relatives who have already migrated, the fact that the target country speaks the same language as them, the geographic regions they feel culturally and socially connected to, the desire to receive a better education, and freedom of belief (More & Shallman, 2014). Although social variables that contribute to migration may have impacts similar to those of political factors, they do share the important characteristic of creating a diaspora in the country of destination. Additionally, it is important to highlight that brain drain occurs in these conditions that favour the country of destination but is disadvantageous for the country of origin.

- **Natural factors**

Natural elements in migration studies are significantly impacted by the changing climatic circumstances brought on by numerous factors including global warming. Over many decades, society has experienced natural calamities of a various magnitude including earthquakes, fires, droughts, and floods. Although there have always been natural causes for migration, the last 20 years have seen a notable rise in this trend (More & Shallman, 2014). This talks to migration that results from natural reasons, which often gives rise to unemployment and poverty challenges in the home countries (Praussello, 2011). Esses (2018) indicated that other difficulties that can be included under this category include low soil fertility of the region in which migrants reside, the difficulty of living there due to geographical factors, and the difficulty of getting resources such as food, energy, and water.

2.6.2 Pull factors in African migration

Pull factors are the aspects of a destination country for migrants, that compels them to depart from their home. These components are referred to as "place utility," which is the allure of a place that lures African migrants. In search of improved economic prospects, more career options, and higher quality of life, migrants routinely relocate

to greener pastures (Mariusz, 2022). The numerous elements that draw people to a certain location are included in the pull factors for migration, which are the opposite of push factors. The economic, social, and political migration pull factors can be classified similarly to the push factors. According to Zoelle (2011), economic considerations that attract migrants include things like the expectation of improved living conditions, better housing, better career opportunities, and more money for food and other necessities. For instance, the United Kingdom does well on most categories when compared to many developed nations, making it a popular choice among migrants looking for a better level of living. Like how different social and political forces influence migration to other areas or nations, social elements that attract migrants to some nations to religious tolerance and higher educational possibilities (Mariusz, 2022). Urbanski (2022) states that better health care and greater religious tolerance are two social elements that draw immigrants to industrialized nations such as those in Europe. In addition, the ability to vote, freedom from discrimination, enhanced legal protection, and safety are a few more political pull factors that influence migration.

2.6.3 Geo-political factors in African migration

The Global Policy Forum (2014) highlights that cash outflow from Africa does not agree with the inflow from outside the continent. The total illicit outflows to the western governments and international corporations amounted to a loss of $58.2 billion less than a decade ago. Therefore, this is evident enough that Africa is a financial liability to the civilised world and is indebted to attract rich countries for economic upliftment. Besides Africa being a magnet for rich countries to exploit it, Africans still continue to live in poverty while their resources are exploited to European countries for a greater price. Thus, making these countries even richer than before while Africans continue to live in underdeveloped conditions. The Global Policy Forum (2014) further adds that "the global South is being drained of resources by the rest of the world and it is losing far more each year than it gains. The report further shows that Africa loses $192 billion each year to the rest of the world. This is mainly in profits made by the foreign companies, tax dodging, and the cost of adapting to climate change while rich countries often aid their countries and donate to Africa less than $30 billion each year. However, when one is to add this to the foreign investment, remittances, and other resources that flow into the continent, Africa still suffers an overall loss of $58 billion every year. The idea that rich countries such as the United States of America, Britain

and China are aiding Africa is debatable, because Africa seems to be the one that is aiding the rest of the world.

The above statement not only paints the reality of economic exploitation in Africa but also reveals the continent's cyclical poverty. Therefore, whereas Africa is considered one of the richest continents in minerals, its people are/ living below the poverty line (Carmody, 2017). Moreover, this also sustains the post-colonialist narrative of Africans being restricted to a certain level of poverty and economic stagnation to enrich other countries, hence why migrants choose to live Africa for Europe. However, this post-colonialist narrative which was used to govern Africa is still in operation because these rich countries continue to make Africa poor so that they can control its resources. This is achieved by working with corrupt leaders who sign agreements with Western governments to exploit Africa, thereby causing migrants to be victims due to poverty (Arowolo, 2010). Nigeria for instance is one of the major contributors to the South Saharan African migrant population because of declining oil prices which have stalled their economic development. In addition, the human trafficking tragedy of the Libyan slave trade indicates that the continent is hopeless, has economical failures, and is ruled by falling governments (Quackenbush, 2017). Other countries such as Gambia, Congo, and Eretria have problems of political and economic instability and have therefore contributed highly to African migration towards Western Europe.

2.6.4 Impact of western style democracies in Africa

Rahaman et al. (2017) argue that European colonisation in Africa has led to the elimination of various cultures, worldviews, and epistemologies such as replacing African languages with European ones. Arowolo (2010) notes the noticeable effects on African culture as follows:

- **Influence on family and social relations**

Migration is often influenced by family dynamics, namely the nuclear family and blended family. Due to the numerous issues that arise with large families, the majority of migrants come from combined or larger families. Therefore, the current generation is prepared to relocate in order to stay up with the intensifying globalization and competition (Arowolo, 2010). Following this new pattern, traditional African family values are seen to be breaking down at a very rapid pace (Rahaman et al., 2017).

Consequently, the extended family social values that were expressly implemented and acted upon as a social verve and as social security in most African communities have been replaced with nuclear families.

- **Influence of individualism**

The term individualism refers to an individual as an isolated entity, living a separated life from his or her community and living as a self-centered sufficient being (Soares, 2018). Arowolo (2010) states that individualism is a phenomenon that is recognisable with the United States of America, hence Africans have adopted the culture of having children raised by single parents and have made it seem acceptable in communities. The author argues that Africans have turned against their principles and no longer communalise based on what they commonly called their brother's keeper(s). For instance, Naude (2013) mentioned that most Africans were not familiar with the term orphan, because if that unforeseen circumstance occurred, the children who lost their parent(s) were simply placed in a new family or the brother to the deceased father would step in and take care of the children as his including the wife if the surviving brother happened to be unmarried at that time.

- **Widespread corruption**

Corruption is understood as the unlawful use of official power by a governmental official to enrich himself or others at the expense of the government funds, regardless of their oath to the office or the laws that are in force (Iyanda, 2012). The act of corruption creates and increases poverty and exclusion, while corrupt individuals with political power enjoy a lavish life. This occurs as millions of Africans are deprived of their basic needs such as health, food, education, housing, access to clean water and sanitation (Ugaz, 2015). Countries with widespread corruption are known to encourage migration as they provide bad and unpredictable economy conditions such as increased security and lower quality of life (Poprawe, 2015). Corruption is a major barrier to economic growth and good governance and therefore affects the wellbeing of individuals, families, and societies. Due to service delivery not reaching migrants in their home countries, they would rather go to greener pastures in a place that will provide those services. Arowolo (2010) argues that western civilisation has promoted corruption in Africa hence African leaders are dependent on Europe and America for looted funds. However, this is a consequence of western civilisation in Africa, for

instance, in South Africa, the Zondo commission (The Judicial Commission of Inquiry into Allegations of State Capture, corruption, and fraud in the public sector) is evidence of the existence of corruption in Africa. Therefore, the existence of corruption in a country may stimulate migration desires among the citizens.

- **Sexuality**

Sexuality is defined as the totality of homo sapiens experiences, intimacy, systems, reproduction, attributes, and behavior that characterise the sexual sensation (Grebe & Drea, 2017). The concept of sexuality in Africa has completely changed over the past decade, hence the desire for African children to behave like westerners has made them promiscuous (Arowolo, 2010). Therefore, African children are now practicing sexual behavior that was never imaged in so many years. For example, in some countries Africans can change their gender anyhow it suits them, a practice that occurs within some organisations such as the LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer) community that offer support towards same-sex marriages. Moreover, sexual migration is a term coiled to accommodate migrants that only migrate because of their sexuality. These migrants may choose to migrate in order to stay safe away from environments where they are victimised, killed and assaulted because of their sexuality. Thus, these tendencies become enough motivation to flee one's home country to a better environment.

- **Language**

Language is defined as means of communication that almost takes place within a social context (Amberg & Vause, 2010). Language is frequently linked with our notions of who we are as humans both personal and at a societal level. Whenever a language is communicated it brings individual thoughts, cultural beliefs, and practices of the communities we are part of for instance, our family traditions, social groups, and other associations like being part of the reed dance rituals for virgin girls. Irele (2010) stated that the proficiency in African languages is declining because Africans are compelled in Africa to embrace western culture and civilisation as western language. Thus, the western language has created a division between an elite and the masses who still cannot do business with any other language besides the western language. However, language is a vehicle of culture, the longer Africans practice the western language the more it becomes easy to practice western culture. Furthermore, African migrants who

have learned the languages of their colonisers find it easy to decide on which destination country they have to migrate to. Thus, fitting into that destination country may be easy which will make the communication process much easier with understanding.

- **Christianity**

Christianity is a set of beliefs, a way of life and a community of people that live by the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth also known as Christ (Hendrick, 2008). The impact of Christianity in Africa is noticeable because this aspect has been the most important single factor used for the process and continuity of western colonialization. Western education, literacy, and the mastery of a European language was the condition for entry into the modern sector. Almost throughout the colonialization period education was in the hands of the Christian mission (Arowolo, 2010). However, the Christian missions not only converted African languages to European ones but also instilled their western values upon African people. Arowolo (2010) further explains that Christianity challenged traditional belief systems by promoting and implementing a diffusion of new ideas and modes of life. For example, Christianity imposed monogamy and the nuclear family as a way of life discrediting the polygamous tradition Africans used to live by. Christian migrants in some countries such as Afghanistan face persecutions for being Christians. Matters got worse when the anti-Christian group of Taliban took over in 2021, victimising women, girls, and religious minorities. Furthermore, the UNHCR (2021) has reported that after more than four decades of conflict, Afghan migrants continue to make up one of the largest protracted displacement situations in the world.

Africa confounding in western capital

The more Africa confounds in western capital, it is likely to experience difficulty and prone to trouble, for example Zimbabwe is an epitome of a country that has been confounding in the western capital. In 1999 the World Bank and the IMF suspended their aid provision to Zimbabwe, and this was followed by the Commonwealth suspending the country from the body of former colonies of Britain. Subsequently, the country was subjected to sanctions by both the United States and the European Union amid allegations of political corruption. After this blow, the country tried ensuring that the Zimbabwean dollar retained its value to support macroeconomic stability. The

country further failed to create and maintain its industries that could have helped boost the production value (Perryer, 2019). This in turn caused the country a great international publicity challenge resulting in the currency being devalued to such an extent that the notes became worthless.

State power and control

State power and control may be discussed in relation to state failure, which is caused by factors such as economic development, security, and income distribution (Di John, 2008). This is closely related to state sovereignty, which refers to independence of state power from any other power regarding international relations and internal matters (Akani, 2019). Therefore, state control and power without sovereignty means that the autonomy of the state as well as the independence within the state will be under control by the superior power state. Furthermore, a sovereign state basically functions independent of other states who may wish to see it operate under their control. Sovereignty is characterised by three key factors involving authority, supremacy, and territoriality. The apartheid government had a system to usurp state power and implemented laws to manage black people in South Africa. Some of those laws included migrant labour, which was manipulated by capitalist, colonial, and apartheid powers to recruit cheap labour in mines and the cities where white people resided (Vosloo, 2020). As part of this system the white people desired and restricted black people to rural areas far away from the cities and as a result black people were forced to migrate to the rural areas.

Neo-colonialism and liberal policies

Rahaman et al. (2017) defines neo-colonialism as "the control of less developed or undeveloped countries by developed countries through indirect means". Rahaman (2017) further explains that these indirect means constitute the imperial countries having to dominate and using certain rules of colonial exploitation. For instance, the Latin America and underdeveloped or developing African countries are an epitome of harmful effects by the imperial countries. Neo colonialism represents the final stage of imperialism; thus, neo colonialism is regarded as the worst form of imperialism. Consequently, people who practice such forms of politics want power without responsibility and often use those in top government positions to serve the interest of imperialist countries (Rahaman et al., 2017). Therefore, those who experience and

suffer the consequences of neo colonialism endure exploitation without the means of dealing with the grievances.

Poor governance and weak state institutions

Mafu (2019) points out that African leaders are the major cause of underdevelopment in Africa, a dimension that falls among causative factors such as unequal international trade. Since the decolonisation of African states, the recurrent nature of failed leadership remains an undeniable reality. Kamara (2017) supports the ideology that African leaders are the major cause of their underdevelopment by arguing that poor governance and high levels of corruption make African leaders unaccountable and therefore their failed leadership has led people to flee from wars, poverty, and human rights violation including slave trade in Libya (Omah, 2019). Poor governance contributes to forced migration, which relates to forcibly induced movement of a group of people from their place of residence when there is a compelling reason for them to flee to a place of safety. It includes different forms of forced mobility such as flight due to war and persecution, human trafficking, smuggling of people, extreme poverty and more (Stankovic & Ecke, 2021). Forced migration is a crisis that mostly features in developing countries and has also been used in film art to convey the experiences of African migrants on the run. Forced migration affects individuals, their families, and societies in many ways, such as other family members getting dispersed in different places and losing contact with each other. Mafu (2019) states that weak leadership in Africa will continue to hamper the progress of the continent, hence society is likely to see more Africans migrating to alternative regions or countries such as Western Europe where there are stable economies.

2.7 Summary of the chapter

The chapter has provided a literature review which comprises the introduction, an overview of the documentary genre, depiction of the African migration crisis in the media, popular media frames in the depiction of African migration, role of ideology in film production, socio-economic and political factors in African migration and summary of the chapter.

CHAPTER THREE

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 INTRODUCTION

The research methodology used in the study entails the measures the researcher used to carry out the study to accomplish the aim and objectives set out in Chapter one. Precisely, this part of the study describes the research approach, design, sampling procedures, data collection techniques, and methods of data analysis as an overview of the research methodology. The study further discusses selected documentaries as the units of analysis to investigate the representation of African migrants and migration. The researcher elucidated how these methods were reckoned fit or satisfactory in examining the role of documentary films in depicting African migrants' experiences. The initial assumption is that all the selected documentaries are crucial to the framing of migrants and African migration. As a result, the research methodology in this chapter includes a discussion of the methodologies used for data collecting and analysis in the study including exploratory research design, thematic analysis, and purposive sampling. A summary of the chapter is given at the end of the chapter.

3.2 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research methodology is a systematic approach to analysis that a researcher uses to accomplish the study objective (Creswell, 2018). Additionally, Corbin and Strauss (2014) refer to it as a scientific process that gives guidelines to the researcher on how to put together particular research methodologies. In the subject of social sciences, methodology can be divided into three basic categories: quantitative approach, mixed techniques, and qualitative approach. As a result, the researcher used the qualitative approach, which is covered in more detail below, for the purposes of this study.

3.2.1 Qualitative approach

Qualitative approach is a research method that involves collecting and analysing non-numerical data, for instance, text, video, and audio to understand concepts, opinions, or experiences (Bhandari, 2020). Brennen (2013) states that the qualitative approach is useful for evaluating social contexts, customs, cultures, ideas, and understanding word meaning. It enabled the researcher to gain new insights into documentaries and

develop new concepts or theoretical perspectives about the representation of African migrants in the sampled documentaries. As a result, the approach allowed the researcher to deduce meanings concerning African migration, slavery, abuse of human rights and related events linked to real life situations in the selected documentaries. This approach allowed the study to acknowledge that the issue of African migration as far as documentary films are concerned, degrades the African society as a desperate people destined for Western Europe.

The study required the researcher to explain and comprehend the documentary as social phenomena to be understood in particular contextual situations, the qualitative approach was deemed more pertinent for this study. In contrast to quantitative methods, qualitative research is interpretive in nature and therefore enabled the researcher to analyse audio-visuals and words in this investigation leading to the discussion of findings described in chapter four. According to Uwe (2009), qualitative research grants the researcher the right to subjectivity, which means that the interpretation of the data will be dependent on the researcher's viewpoint and be constrained by the pre-written research objectives. The use of qualitative research in this study is strongly supported by the fact that it is an inductive method, thereby helping the researcher to find commonalities and interesting patterns in the data. Although the inductive method needed the researcher to gather information from the initial data obtained for analysis, it facilitated comparing of ideas and cross-referencing with the existing literature to strengthen the study, which involved interpreting the selected films through audio-visual content analysis.

According to Bless, Higson-Smith, and Sithole (2013), qualitative research is more flexible than quantitative research and is more likely to yield small amounts of data. The goal of qualitative research is to comprehend the phenomenon being studied, which in this case is the film genre and representation of African migration in selected documentaries. The approach was regarded more suitable for this study since it allowed the researcher to explain African migration and social contexts that characterised the depiction of African migrants in the selected films. Furthermore, the study made use of the qualitative approach because of its relevance in revealing the nature of situations, natural settings, processes, relationships, and systems involving a particular phenomenon. Finally, the approach assisted the researcher in describing

ideologies featured in the three selected documentaries, most of which are social-cultural and political in nature and therefore could not be quantified in numerical terms.

3.3 RESEARCH DESIGN

The research design is a procedure that a researcher adopts to help answer questions from the first to the last stage in a valid, impartial, accurate, and economic way (Van Wyk, 2017). It addresses questions that determine the path the researcher has taken for their research journey (Kumar, 2019). According to Creswell (2015), a research design is a thorough data gathering strategy that aids in examining and researching the study research objectives. This suggests that a study design includes strategies and processes that help researchers accomplish their goals by employing organized techniques for data collecting and analysis (Creswell & Poth, 2018). Therefore, the research design in qualitative research focuses more on data gathering, analysis, and processes to answer the study aim, which helps researchers create compelling arguments.

3.3.1 Exploratory research design

Exploratory research is defined by Winston (2017) as research that is conducted to gain new insights, discover new ideas, and increasing knowledge of a phenomenon. The exploratory research design openly embraces the use of theory to assess its exploratory strength and predictive ability to make sense and explain certain reality. Reiter (2017) contributes by emphasizing that exploratory research sets out to explain limited sections of reality that is arranged in casual order and sequence of events. This concurs with Kumar (2019) who states that it attempts to "clarify why and how there is a relationship between two aspects of a situation or phenomenon". Furthermore, this indicates that this type of research's emphasis is to clarify why and how there is a relationship between two aspects of a situation or phenomenon. In this case, the relationship between these two aspects used in this study were the representation of African migrants and African migration.

This study followed the exploratory research design, which was useful in addressing African migration in selected documentaries about which there are high risks and high levels of uncertainty in African migration towards Western Europe. In this study, the exploratory research design involved identifying and determining the nature of the

research problems that have to do with African migration and the depiction of African migrants through different framing techniques used to represent migrants in selected documentaries. Moreover, the study looked at the problems arising due to unemployment, poverty, social security, and economic uncertainty which are the major driving forces among African migrants. The researcher also analysed the portrayal of African migration represented in these selected documentaries. This entails migrant experiences while migrating to Western Europe with respect to slavery, exploitation for employment and abuse of human rights. In exploratory research, the purposes are to gain new insights, recognize significant ideas, prioritize societal demands, and investigate implications, confirm presumptions, and/or familiarize oneself with uncharted circumstances, conditions, laws, and behaviors (Corne, 2014). Therefore, from the exploratory method the researcher was able to extract themes and explore ideological frames used in the depiction of African migrant experiences from the documentaries. This made it easier to formulate themes and sub-themes that could be analysed, to thoroughly get to the core of how issues surrounding African migration are represented in the sampled study entities.

3.4 POPULATION AND SAMPLING PROCEDURES

The population of the study was all documentaries that focused on African migration towards Western Europe. The researcher applied specific sampling methods according to the objectives of the study. Different sampling methods are categorised mainly in two groups as probability sampling and the non-probability sampling method. This study used the non- probability sampling.

3.4.1 Population

The population of this study involved all the documentary films that address African migration matters at the time when migration heightened from 2015-2021. On the YouTube channel there were at least 200 documentaries addressing African migration aired since 2015 to 2021, which became part of the population. The target population were films with themes on African migration and used the YouTube channel to distribute their content in the public domain. These documentary films depict the tragedies that happen in the Mediterranean Sea where African migrants drown trying to reach Western Europe hoping for a better life. The study focused on documentary films with the storyline that pertain to the daily migration matters of Africans such as

fleeing economic uncertainty and poverty. As stated by Welman et al. (2007) population includes people, families, organizations, groups, activities, and conditions to which they are exposed. The population of the study involved all documentary programmes aired online in the YouTube channel platform, that are relevant to the study of African migration. Such documentaries include *Mediterranean (2015)*, *Human cargo: Mediterranean search and rescue (2020)*, and *Europe's migration tragedy: Life and death in the Mediterranean (2016)* among others. The population was reduced to an accessible sample in order to minimize problems associated with sampling from a large population and to ensure that the researcher has access to the selected sample. The chosen sample consisted of *Inside the world's deadliest migrant route (2021), Shattered dreams of African Migrants (2020) and African migrants: What really drives them to Europe (2016).* This population assisted the researcher to get answers pertaining issues around African migration. Any documentaries about the African society which did not address the migration theme have not been included in the target population of the study. These selected documentaries share common characteristics in depicting migrants migratory experience, ideological framing of migrants and frontline organisations that assist migrants to gain access of a new country. Therefore, in this regard, the population of this study relates to the research problem made possible by drawing relations between documentary films, African migration, migrant experience, and abuse of migrant basic rights.

3.4.2 Sampling

Sampling describes a portion of the population that has been chosen for the current investigation (Braun & Clarke, 2012). In order to accomplish the goals of the study, this involved the method and process of choosing a suitable representative subset of the entire population (Yin, 2011). Similarly, Taherdoost (2016) defines sampling as the process of choosing a particular segment of the population that complies with a list of criteria being researched by the researcher. In this study, sampling was crucial since it allowed the researcher to select a small sample of the big population to represent the complete population, allowing the study to be narrow rather than general and lacking in focus.

Purposive sampling

This study used a non-probability sampling technique. Non-probability sampling is a method that selects its sample using non-randomized techniques such as quota sampling, convenience sampling, snowball sampling, and purposive sampling. Research scholars assert that investigations can yield insightful data using the non-probability method (Showkat & Parveen, 2017) and can further be used to investigate existing theoretical concepts or to develop new ones. Therefore, a majority of non-probability sampling methods use judgment rather than randomization (Omeihe, 2021). Whereas non-probability sampling is not always the best or most convenient way to choose a sample, in some circumstances, it is necessary and the only option, particularly that it is thought to be less expensive, simpler to use, and less time-consuming.

Purposive sampling, according to Creswell (2016), is the selection of incidents, phenomena, or locations that will help a researcher solve an issue and clarify the goals of a particular study. Dudovskiy (2016) also defines purposive sampling as a technique used to produce a sample that can be a representative of a population based on prior knowledge of the researcher. The study used purposive sampling to select three documentaries based on detailed knowledge of the documentaries and how they depict African migration. This allowed the researcher to purposefully select documentaries focusing on specific storylines relevant to the topic. Documentaries that represented African migrants fleeing to other European countries such as Norway, Sweden and Finland were not included in the study because this becomes secondary migration after migrants would have crossed into Western Europe.

The sample under the study entails three documentary films that are based on themes related to African migration in the recent period of less than a decade. These documentaries cover the period from 2015-2021, a period when African migration was in the spotlight in the international film industry. These documentaries were chosen because of their storylines which narrate the experiences and challenges of migrants as they travel to Western Europe. Levenson (2017) indicated that these travel experiences of African migrants cover parts of North and Western Africa and were broadcasted by the British Broadcasting Corporation, the Sky News, Vice News, Al Jazeera, and France 24. These news media reported extensively about African

migration and the African migration crisis. Moreover, their reportage featured interviews and alternative news perspectives on African migration.

The selected documentaries, namely *Inside the world's Deadliest migrant Route (2021), Shattered dreams of African Migrants (2020) and African migrants: What really drives them to Europe* (2015) are appropriate for the study based on their common narrative focus and online platform access to society. The films reflect on the opportunity that society has to express their feelings and disclose their experiences with the intention of warning other Africans about the risks of irregular African migration. In choosing these documentary movies, the researcher exercised her own judgment. The researcher's assessment and comprehension of how the exposure of such significant concerns impact on the representation of African migration, particularly in African setting, were influenced by the experience gained and familiarity with the documentary stories that were chosen.

3.5 DATA COLLECTION

Data collection is a process that is systematically arranged to gather information with the aim of achieving given outcomes. Data collection allows the researcher to gain first-hand knowledge and original insights into a research problem. The data collection process for this study includes methods, procedures used to collect data, how they were stored, and processed (Bhandari, 2020).

3.5.1 Qualitative content analysis

According to Schreier (2012), a flexible systematic method that enables researchers to gather data qualitatively through themes is known as a qualitative content analysis. Krippendorff (2018) identifies qualitative content analysis as a suitable method used in studies where the researcher investigates and critiques text, audio, and visual data for the production of codes and themes to analyse the data. Because one of the study's aims is for the researcher to highlight underlying themes that are present in the plots of the sampled documentaries, qualitative content analysis is used in this study. With qualitative content analysis, you can carefully observe, interpret, and analyse text, a document, visuals, and audio intended for media representation (Lal Das & Bhaskaram, 2008). Due to the fact that the study's data included words, subtitles, images, and audio, qualitative content analysis was deemed relevant for this study.

Bernard and Ryan (2010) contend that media and communication research is where qualitative context analysis is most effectively applied, allowing for the collection of content specific to the documentary genre. This became relevant due to the inclusion of texts, photographs, and audio from African migrants in some of the documentaries chosen for this study. Qualitative content analysis is the method employed by the researcher to extract the data, given that the study objectives called for the researcher to analyse the migrants and contexts in the selected documentary films. The researcher also explored how African migration was represented in the documentaries. In order to collect detailed data through qualitative content analysis, the researcher studied the content in the selected documentary films segment by segment.

The researcher personally collected data through repeatedly watching scenes chosen for this study. A qualitative audio-visual analysis tool was used to collect data as the researcher watched these selected documentaries' scenes. The qualitative audio-visual analysis tool allowed the researcher to examine and critique the representation and characterisation in the mentioned documentaries. The data collection comprises shots, lighting, location, and themes that make up the scenes. In order to specifically collect data, the researcher created questions based on the literature review's discussion as well as data that was recorded while the researcher viewed scenes. This agrees with Yin (2016) who maintains that to thoroughly understand the data before analysing it, qualitative content analysis needs researchers to immerse themselves in data multiple times to accurately analyse it.

3.6 DATA ANALYSIS

Data analysis is the process of manipulating the data collected for a study. It consists of organising the data, conducting preliminary read-through of the database, coding, arranging themes, representing the data, and forming an interpretation. Data analysis, according to Hennink, Hutter, and Bailey (2011), is the act of using techniques to locate, comprehend, classify, and interpret data in light of the researcher's knowledge of the phenomenon. Data analysis in qualitative research involves using tables, lists, matrices, and narrative formats to represent data. In this study data analysis entails dealing with analysing text, and image data or audio recordings based on sampled

documentary films on African migration (Creswell, 2013). The use of thematic analysis in this study was made possible by its ability to categorize data according to themes.

3.6.1 Thematic content analysis

Data collected for the study were analysed using thematic content analysis. Thematic content analysis is a research method used to identify patterns in recorded communication. A researcher can find cross-references in the data and potential development points for themes through thematic content analysis. According to Halldorson (2009), thematic analysis is a qualitative method that organises and presents themes that are related to the data. Thematic content analysis provides in-depth illustrations of the data, which the researcher then interprets to form subjects. The researcher categorised the data collected into different groups to identify code words, themes, concepts within texts and then analysed the results. Nowell, Norris, White and Moules (2017) indicate that using the six phases of thematic analysis can help prevent confusion when followed correctly. The researcher utilised the following six steps which assisted in formulating themes.

Phase 1: Familiarising with data

For this study, the researcher started the process of data analysis by becoming familiar with the data through intensive, repetitive reading and many viewings of the associated documentary content. This procedure aided the researcher into looking for significance and patterns in the chosen documentaries.

Nowell, Norris, White and Moules (2017) state that through reading data repeatedly before coding can form ideas and identification of possible patterns that take shape as the researcher becomes familiar with the data. Thematic analysis was used to analyse the data where the researcher repeatedly watched or studied the selected documentaries and followed patterns and trends that emerged. The researcher read and reread the notes that were compiled reflecting on the scenes. The researcher took note of the characters' words, phrases, expressions, and actions while keeping in mind the possibility of more than one theme emerging from those scenes. This was done in accordance with the view that researchers can classify data based on similarities and differences using thematic analysis (Braun & Clarke, 2012). To ascertain the dramatic

effect and significance of each scene, the researcher reviewed the notes together with the types of shots, lighting, sound and carefully considered characters.

Phase 2: Generating initial codes

Creswell (2014) suggests that coding is a systematic process of coding data that allows a researcher to analyse specific statements and create themes from those statements. This phase involved the construction of codes from the data where the researcher found data segments that were thought to fall into similar groups. The researcher organized information about background, characterization, plots, narratives, and shots that directly related to the study objectives. To enable the researcher to record patterns that appeared in sequences, the researcher played the chosen scenes from the chosen documentaries repeatedly. This agrees with scholars who maintain that data can be sorted, merged, and clustered in accordance with the researchers' needs by using coding to identify similarities and differences (Thornberg & Charmaz, 2012). The researcher discovered some early codes, and later, more major codes appeared, which resulted in the discovery of themes. Among the first codes to appear was the way African migrants were referred to. The framing of African migrants, the types of ideological frames used on migrants, the treatment African migrants got in detention centres and the challenges they faced as they reached Western Europe were analysed. Coding allowed the researcher to focus on specific characteristics of the data with a list of codes being formed by the researcher, who then organised data into appropriate groups and gave the initial codes to the data. The researcher divided the documentary films into 3 sections and created a tabular format of all the scenes which represented different ideas and themes for further analysis.

Phase 3: Searching for themes

From the data gathered, the researcher identified code groups that linked to the subject of the study. Using phrases taken from the highlighted sentences in the categories of codes, similar units were grouped together to construct themes. To create more comparable categories, different units were regrouped, and different categories were re-labelled. This was done to conform to what Creswell and Poth (2018) observed that, themes can be more expansive than codes. As a result, it was important to blend different codes to create fresh themes meanwhile similar codes were grouped, and categorized into broad prospective themes.

Phase 4: Revising themes

The reviewing of themes ensured that themes worked well with the coded data, dataset, and the research objectives. The researcher matched these themes to the data to determine whether the preliminary themes were correct and were related to the data. Themes were checked to confirm if they captured meaning and relevance to the collected data as presented in the previous stages. The researcher reviewed the themes to re-organise, clarify, and identified those that did not fit as themes or subthemes, which were subsequently discarded or split up for further analysis. In this process the researcher noted that some themes merged with others due to overlaps thereby creating new themes, however other codes did not have common roots or bases. The newly discovered themes were given new names that were more appropriate and were broken down into manageable groups so that the data could be presented thematically. To see if there was a connection between the data and each topic, the researcher read the data related to each theme. This made it easier for the researcher to identify overlapping subthemes within larger themes.

Phase 5: Defining and naming themes

This stage involves defining the themes and subthemes formulated from the data (Braun & Clarke, 2012). In this phase, the researcher interpreted, defined themes, reviewed, and re-defined themes while analysing the data. This process was about ensuring clarity, cohesion, and precision in the generation of study findings. The researcher eliminated unrelated components and relocated them to better-suited themes. Until the precise themes were developed and finalized, the researcher renamed and moved elements across the data until they were satisfactorily interpreted. To ascertain the core of each theme, the researcher examined the themes and the data once again. In accordance with the data that appeared in each theme, the researcher chose short names for the themes, and the subthemes that had parts of the main themes that had overlapped. These five thematic analysis steps assisted the researcher to present and analyse the data in chapter four in this study, which is presented after this chapter.

Stage 6: Producing the report

The creation of a report, such as a journal article or a dissertation is the process of thematic analysis's last stage. This goal is to tell an engaging tale using the study findings, which in this study culminated in the write up of the study findings and discussion as presented in Chapter four of this dissertation.

3.7 DELINEATION OF THE STUDY

The study focused on examining the representation African migrants in selected documentaries streamed online on the YouTube channels. Although the YouTube channels have so many documentaries that depict the migration crisis global, this study considered only three documentaries, namely *Inside the world's deadliest migrant routes* (2021), *Shattered dreams of African migrants (2020)* and *African migrants: What really drives them to Europe (2015).* There are several issues that interplay in the debate about how African migrants are framed in the media, especially films. This includes stigmatised stereotypes of migrants in general, which also differ in terms of contexts and storylines as they represent different ideological and geo-political contestations. However, this study was limited to the documentaries that focus on the representation of African migrants only where the researcher critiqued the framing of African migrants based on sampled documentary storylines. This is reflective of excerpts that depict hardships, and the difficult experiences migrants face daily while travelling to Western Europe where they anticipate finding safe, stable, and better living conditions as opposed to their home countries.

3.8 QUALITY CRITERIA

The quality criteria undertaken in this study was to ensure that the findings of this study can be verified by other researchers using comparable techniques and that the results are credible. Therefore, the researcher adhered to aspects of credibility, transferability, reliability, and conformability in the process of conducting this study as discussed below.

3.8.1 Credibility
One of the most important criteria used to assess how closely the research findings correspond to reality is credibility (Cameron, 2011). The goal of credibility is to persuade the audience that the study's conclusions were drawn from the data that

were gathered, that they are an accurate depiction of what happened throughout the research process, and not a fabrication by the researcher. Credible studies incorporate and apply proper methodologies and internal logic of the study's objectives, research design, and method of data analysis (Bless et al. 2013). The researcher in this study made sure this was accomplished by accurately analysing the documentaries with adequate cross-referencing between relevant literature and excerpts which can be revisited for reference or verification.

3.8.2 Dependability

The implementation of the research design, its operational details for data collection, and the reflective evaluation of the study all serve as examples of dependability (Maree, 2016). Since replications of the study must yield the same outcomes for dependability to be attained, the researcher made sure that the study was carried out rationally and that all methodological techniques including coding, sorting, and topic identification from the data were thoroughly processed and justified. This assisted the researcher in maintaining a paper trail for the data collection and analytical operations, including the records of coding, sorting, and the synthesis of the data. The researcher also made sure that the procedures of the study were satisfactory and fully explained, and that the data analysis was connected to the given theoretical framework.

3.8.3 Transferability

Transferability is the extent to which research findings may be applied to multiple contexts, such as a similar person or group and various circumstances (Farley, 2011). Transferability aims to persuade readers that the study findings are comprehensive and general to the point where they can be applied to different research contexts (Bless et al., 2013). By outlining the research setting and fundamental assumptions in detail, the researcher made sure that the findings are transferable. This entails the provision of recordings of the documentaries, along with annotations in the file detailing the methods employed for data collection, analysis, and interpretation. Based on original documentaries, the content analysis was backed by pertinent literature and the information gathered. To acknowledge the work of the other authors and to enable other researchers to confirm the content, all sources utilized in the study were fully referenced both in-text and in the reference list.

3.8.4 Conformability

Conformability is a criterion that assists in ensuring that study outcomes reflect informants' perspectives rather than the researcher's preferences (Cameron, 2011). According to Bless et al. (2013), conformability relates to how much the findings may be verified by other researchers and are not skewed. The researcher's judgment was kept to a minimum to ensure conformability in the study; as a result, the findings are unbiased and free from the researcher's personal bias. The researcher fairly used the literature review to shed light on the study's findings and did not tamper with the documentaries she chose from the data she acquired.

3.9 ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

To perform the study, the researcher adhered to a number of ethical standards. The following moral guidelines were observed during the study:

3.9.1 Permission to conduct the study

This study took ethical concerns into account. Before starting the data collection procedure, the researcher got a clearance certificate from the University of Limpopo Research Ethics Committee (ULREC). However, the YouTube channel made the films utilized for this study available for public consumption, therefore the researcher did not require permission from the broadcaster to use its snippets for data. The researcher is required by the clearance certificate to fairly utilise the selected documentary data solely for the objectives of this study.

3.9.2 Honesty

The researcher reported the truth without being biased and ensured that the data collected was not misrepresented or fabricated. The researcher was free of deceit in research related to the reporting of findings and correctly acknowledged sources. High degrees of trustworthiness were used in the data collection and analysis, indicating that no data manipulation took place. The research was conducted in an accountable and liable manner. The study followed the University of Limpopo's rules and ethical codes.

3.9.3 Confidentiality

The subjects identified in selected documentaries were not revealed and the information obtained by the researcher was used for the purpose of the study only.

3.9.4 Anonymity and plagiarism

The researcher did not share any information with anyone, subject or characters identified were presented accordingly as presented in the selected documentaries. To avoid plagiarism all downloaded videos, articles, books were acknowledged, cited, and referenced in this study. The researcher made sure that each chapter was run via the plagiarism detector or Turnitin software during the research process to check for any violations of ethical or professional standards. The researcher returned to the portions that required attention after receiving the Turnitin report until the required percentage points were met in each chapter of the dissertation.

3.10 SUMMARY OF THE CHAPTER

The qualitative research approach, which served as the study's chosen research methodology, was covered in this chapter. The explorative research design was described and examined in detail in this chapter. With reference to the study's goals, which were discussed in chapter four, the researcher was able to elaborate on the research design. Purposive sampling was employed to choose three documentaries for this study—*Inside the world's deadliest migrant routes (2021), Shattered dreams of African migrants (2020), and African migrants: what really drives them to Europe (2015)*—after the chapter's discussion of the study's population. The qualitative content analysis tool, which was utilised to collect data for the study, was also covered in the chapter. The researcher was able to evaluate and analyse the documentary data with the use of qualitative content analysis. Six phases were covered in the discussion of thematic analysis to show how it was put to use in chapter four to help the researcher to create themes. To support the investigation of how African migrants were portrayed in those particular documentary films, a brief description of the study's scope was supplied. Selected documentaries' contents were described in the chapter's summary. Finally, the study's quality criteria and ethical considerations are described in regard to the manner in which the data were gathered and analysed.

CHAPTER FOUR

4. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

4.1 Introduction

The chapter presents the analysis and interpretation of data which the researcher collected through qualitative content analysis (See Chapter 3. section 3.5.1). Data were collected from three selected documentary, namely *Inside the world's deadliest migrant route* (2020)*, African migrants: what really drives them to Europe* (2015) *and Shattered dreams of African migrants* (2021). This chapter sought to achieve the research aim and objectives which were to analyse the narrative focus of selected documentaries in African migration, the depiction of African migrants and the ideological framing of migrants as stated in Chapter 1. The researcher critically focused mainly on the following *aspects:* poverty, conflict, and diseases as push factors for migrants, and access to better education, job opportunities, and health care in Western Europe as pull factors for migrants. Other negative offshoots of migration such as dungeons of lawlessness, human rights violations, brutality, and the work of rescue missions in the Mediterranean Sea are discussed as depictions of charity in the context of international law.

4.2 Narrative focus of selected documentaries

This section provides a detailed description on the narrative focus about the nature of African migration in the selected documentaries in this study. This entails an analysis and interpretation of filmic elements that characterise the selected documentaries, particularly the risky navigations and survival ordeals encountered in the Mediterranean Sea as will be seen illustrated in the subsections below. The discussion acknowledges that the above elements are a product of selected documentaries' broad synopses or storylines which sustain their very existence. Fundamentally, this section is aligned to the 1st objective of the study which sought to analyse the narrative focus of selected documentary films on African migration.

4.2.1 The Mediterranean: Europe's forgotten graveyard

This subsection focuses on the epicentre and loci where most of the migration calamities occur as evident in the selected documentaries, further earning one the sea

its figurative title of Europe's forgotten graveyard. This feature entails a sizable body of water called the Mediterranean Sea situated between Southern Europe and Northern Africa. It connects the coastlines of nearly two dozen nations, including Spain, France, Italy, Croatia, Albania, Greece, Turkey, Israel, Syria, Egypt, Morocco, Algeria, Libya, and a few smaller states. It is one of the world's largest and busiest seas owing to its strategic location that links at least three continents, namely Africa, Europe, and Asia. The Gibraltar Strait and a few additional seas, including the Tyrrhenian Sea, Aegean Sea, Adriatic Sea, Marmara Sea (through the Dardanelles), and the Black Sea via the Marmara Sea, connect the Mediterranean Sea to the Atlantic Ocean. Most migrants from many parts of the world prefer to cross through the Libyan coast via the Mediterranean Sea because it is the easiest point of embarkation. African migrants use the Mediterranean Sea because it is the fastest and most likely undetected route to Europe. The geographic location of the Mediterranean Sea is easily accessible after crossing the Libyan coast, thereby making a shorter link to western Europe. The selected documentaries use the Mediterranean Sea both as a geographic and symbolic location to highlight the natural state or realism the film tries to bring out to the audience. The producers of the selected documentaries use the unstable and turbulent sea waves to both juxtapose and align the natural environment to portray hope and death to humanity. The production team did this to highlight the semblance of the sea with a life terminating water body, hence the title of the documentary, *Europe's forgotten graveyard* (Narration time: 0:47 - 23:16). The script further unveils how a large number of African migrants find it very hard to cross international boarders to their preferred destinations due to absence of legal documentation. Thus, the Mediterranean Sea is presented as the only paperless and alternative route towards their dream land. Despite the attraction associated with this fantasy, the storylines of the documentaries reveal that a huge number of aspirant African migrants reportedly perish in the Mediterranean Sea, practically turning the sea into a forgotten cemetery resulting from botched African migrant journeys. The number of African migrant people's death toll continues to rise each year, with more migrants still determined to reach Western Europe regardless of the alarming life risks including death or harm to their bodies.

The above narrative has been advanced by some scholars who argue that the mass migration of Africans to Western Europe is greatly influenced by the accessibility of

Mediterranean Sea from the sub-Saharan African side (De Haas, 2011). Through Libya, refugees can hire human smugglers to assist them in getting across the sea to Western Europe. Since there is less government oversight of this path, migrants have long utilized it to cross the sea if they are fortunate enough to avoid the Libyan coast guards' radar. The Mediterranean Sea is also crucial to migrants since it connects north Africa, especially Libya and Western Europe. According to the International Organization for Migration (2021), at least 77 000 African migrants crossed the Mediterranean Sea in 2021 despite the dangers associated with drowning to death. Hence, the selected documentaries understudy show that the Mediterranean Sea is the quickest route to contemplated freedom and success in Western Europe for most migrants for instance in *Shattered dreams of African migrants* (2021) (Narration time: 0:45-16:39) proves the above statement.

4.2.2 The humanitarian crisis in the Mediterranean Sea

A close analysis of all the selected documentaries shows that the migration process comprises multi-stakeholders or key personnel that create a complex milieu around the sea. These people include volunteers, captains, doctors, nurses, engineers, and sometimes cameramen who contribute in different ways and work around the clock to rescue migrants in the sea. The documentary *Inside the world's deadliest migrant route* (2020) opens with a scene on a sea rescue team called Open Arms. The team is shown preparing for departure on a migrant rescue mission that lasts for a few days at sea. Evidence in the images and text show the professional demands and planning as well as resources that the team needs to effectively assist distressed migrants at sea (Narration time: 0:54-23:17). The field Coordinator of the team Mr. David Llado emphasises the magnitude and scope of the rescue mission by remarking that media personnel such as *"… the* cameraman … should help … save some … [people]"* (Narration time: 2:05-2:15). This statement indicates the dedication that goes into protecting and saving African migrants' lives in the fierce sea. It further highlights the importance of rescue missions in the irregular migration conundrum. This also reveals that, despite the rescue team's activities being recorded as evidence of their significant role, it is not their priority or preoccupation to receive any limelight because, in their mission, life is more valuable than the recording or rescue footage as portrayed in some media platforms.

The dilemma that migrants encounter in crossing the Mediterranean Sea is compounded by their vulnerability to drown due to shaky and risky boats which easily capsize at any slightest navigation challenge. Instead of this being a deterrent to the unsafe travel, some scholars such as Raleigh (2011) have highlighted that the anticipated stakeholder intervention where migrants eventually get saved by the frontline organizations is their reassurance which bolsters their determination to undertake these dangerous journeys. On the front lines in the Mediterranean Sea, efforts are primarily focused on saving lives and meeting the immediate needs of migrants such as medical care, hydration, food, and being taken to a dry, safe, and secured environment. Secondarily, these organisations see it as important to ensure that refugees continue their journey to Europe without interruptions or any fateful incidents, something that creates challenges for those who are responsible for maintaining international immigration laws. In the context of this migration conundrum, the Libyan coast guards have the responsibility to stop migrants right there and send them back to Libya before the frontline organizations meet them. Hence, these two organizations or fronts, namely frontline groups and the Libyan coast guards have a contrasting duty of managing migrants in the Mediterranean Sea. This is further complicated by the fact that frontline organisations thrive on donations (most of them from Western Europe) to carry out rescue missions in the Mediterranean Sea, which include medical equipment and other necessities to help them carry out these rescue missions.

The documentary narratives also reveal that, despite receiving donations, frontline organisations struggle in terms of acquisition of adequate medical equipment, blankets, food, and fuel for the rescue missions due to the number of migrants they have to serve. This is evident where the documentary narratives depict certain scenes that highlight multiple problems and struggles the crew members encounter while rescuing and taking care of migrants who would have suffered the Mediterranean ordeals. The footage shows that frontline organizations decry the inadequacy of donations with which to carry out rescue operations in the Mediterranean Sea in the form of food supplies, clothing, and medical equipment which aid in the treatment of injured or traumatized patients. The documentaries highlight the struggles the crew members face while rescuing and caring for migrant patients. A specific case is a scene (Narration time: 19:48-23:16) in *Inside the world's deadliest migrant route*

(2020) (DMR) *and African migrants what really drives them to Europe* (Narration time*: 18:17-*24:22) where rescuers lamented shortage of food, capacity to accommodate migrants and basic medical equipment while in the Mediterranean Sea. In Documentary *Inside the world's deadliest migrant* route (2020) (Narration time: 23:17-23:17), a scene depicts a young boy and girl in hospital beds sharing an oxygen gas cylinder at the time of emergency medical attention during a rescue mission. The rescue team did not have adequate oxygen cylinders for both children who were in a critical health condition. This eventually compelled them to share medical equipment, further resulting in little Joseph being the victim lung failure due to medical equipment shortages. The documentary uses this particular scene to emphasise and highlight the magnitude of the rescue challenges encountered during rescue missions, with possible intent to lure donors and European governments to see the urgent need for an immediate response to curb loss of lives, particularly children.

On the other hand, the Libyan coast guards are committed to preventing migrants from entering Western Europe across the Mediterranean Sea. This reveals that migrants are sometimes rushed to safety to avoid being caught before they reach international waters where the frontline organisations are based. Subsequently, a few migrants end up making it to Western Europe, Italy due to the confrontations that happen between the Libyan maritime authorities, Libyan coast guards and frontline organisations. These confrontations include forcibly taking rescued migrants from frontline organisations back to Libya at gunpoint to undergo detention characterised by different forms of abuse including torture, slavery, extortion, and rape which are commonplace activities in the camps in Libya (Rossi, 2019). In addition, migrants face risks such as being shot at by Libyan coast guards and facing physical abuse if they refuse to be apprehended. Apparently, all attempts by African migrants to reach Western Europe become increasingly a cat and mouse race against Libyan coast guards (Papataxiarchis, 2016). If the force is successful in intercepting the boats at sea, the thousands of euros that the boat migrants would have paid to smuggling networks would immediately go to waste since there is no compensation nor any form of legal recourse in that setting.

4.2.3 Putting the human face to the tragedy: Foiled journeys in the Mediterranean Sea

Tragedies in the Mediterranean Sea have been happening throughout the 21st century and have not been documented systematically over many years. The drowning of people and some going missing in the Mediterranean Sea has become the new normal as reported numbers continue to increase exponentially hoping to cross the sea on a daily basis. Producers of the selected documentaries used this opportunity to document the tragedies of African migrants meanwhile the global news channels made headlines throughout 2015 when large numbers of victims perished in the sea. An example of a specific tragedy that sparked horror during this moment was the image of a lifeless body of a toddler from Syria who drowned and was washed up on a Turkish beach in Europe (Keane, 2015). This occasion reportedly involved a toddler who was traveling with 12 other Syrians on a boat heading for Greece who all died when their boat sank.

Due to the above tragedies, the Mediterranean Sea has been acknowledged as one of the most dangerous migration routes that African migrants take to reach western Europe. Unfortunately, thousands of migrants who perish in the Mediterranean Sea while trying to enter Europe as a result of conflict, persecution, and poverty have no memorials left. Nonetheless, a huge number of migrants continue to perish in the Mediterranean while traveling to Europe in unsafe boats. The IOM projected that more than 1,500 migrants drowned in the Central Mediterranean in 2021 while attempting to reach European coastlines, while 600 migrants from Africa died in 2022 (IOM, 2022). However, Sandersons (2022) stated that the number of dead migrants washing up in North African nations such as Tunisia and Libya continue to be overwhelming to the authorities, with recent developments showing corpses found in two different sites in the coastal town of Khoms, about 120 kilometres west of Tripoli, Libya.

4.3 The Sahara and Libyan camps: A trail of suffering and slow death
4.3.1 The Sahara Desert

Generally North Africa is home to the Sahara Desert, which is the biggest hot, non-polar desert in the world. It encompasses all of northern Africa and stretches from the Mediterranean Sea in the north to the Sahel region in the south, as well as from the Atlantic Ocean in the north to the Red Sea in the east (Ouwehand & Both, 2016). In

the chosen documentaries, the Sahara Desert represents both the frustrations of humanity with little hope and prospects for poor African refugees to escape their predicaments at home. Their challenges are quite compelling to an extent that they have to brave it out traveling through the Sahara Desert, which is much riskier than traveling across the Mediterranean Sea. More migrants perish in the Sahara than in the Mediterranean Sea because of conditions such as malnutrition, illness, thirst, dehydration, physical abuse, and lack of access to medication (Schlein, 2018). The Sahara Desert serves as a doorway to Libya, which also serves as a gateway to Western Europe, thereby making it an extremely significant pathway for the migrants.

Being in the Sahara Desert presents extreme multifaceted hardships for the migrants due to the hostile climatic environment. While the Sahara receives very little rainfall, the time and location of when rain does fall are also unpredictable. Typically, rivers only flow during specific seasons of the year and this difficulty causes migrants traveling to Western Europe to run out of food and water to drink. Consequently, migrants having little or no water at the Sahara Desert as the documentaries shows, are forced to drink their own urine in an effort to quench their thirst (Ebegbulem, 2017). In addition, migrants in the Sahara Desert have to endure unbearably high temperatures, which are hazardous to human life, particularly for weary migrants who would have come a long way from their respective countries. Due to the high temperatures, some migrants become ill and pass away, while other migrants die through physical violence from smugglers while in the Sahara Desert.

In light of these challenges mentioned above, there are serious negative outcomes especially for women and children relating to people migrating to Western Europe through the desert. Some of the women migrants shown in the selected documentaries mentioned that they get sexually violated and are often treated as sex objects by smugglers while on this migrant journey. These incidents are most likely to happen in the Sahara Desert and in Libyan detention centers where most women become victims. This results to these migrant women falling pregnant while on the journey to Western Europe. In *Inside the world's deadliest migrant routes* (2020)*,* a lady is shown doing a baby scan to confirm that the fetus is fine after she swallowed a lot of sea water while drowning (Narration time: 16:10-23:16). Some of the migrants' remarks are cited below from *Inside the world's deadliest migrant route* (2020).

"People were kidnapped, girls were raped along the journey especially in the Sahara Desert and in Libya" (Narration time: 19:24- 23:16).

Furthermore, migrant women from countries such as Nigeria, Sudan, and Togo are shown in the documentary also encountering challenges during their monthly cycles due to lack of water in the Sahara Desert for both drinking or washing, let alone personal hygiene. Some of these women survive the Sahara Desert without drinking water for days and are often left with no option but to drink their own monthly cycle blood or urine to keep their mouths moist (Adebayo, 2017). These women migrants overlook the hygiene aspect of the situation because water in the Sahara Desert is scarce in order to remain alive and subsequently avoid dying of thirst. This situation is compounded by the presence of children who also suffer while on the journey with their parents, with occasions where some of them lose both or one of the parents and suddenly become orphans. Owing to this situation, this exposes children to violation of their rights, thereby leaving them vulnerable to child labour practices and other forms of abuse. Moreover, children face situations that are very traumatic, which further compromise their mental health with limited chances of being addressed, thereby causing them a trauma for their entire lives. Below is a statement made by one of the *children* in i*nside the world's deadliest migrant* route (2020) who could not locate his mother from a crowd of migrants on a rescue ship heading to Italy. *"This morning I asked my dad, where is mommy? and he said, I don't know"* (Narration time: 18:27- 23:16). This statement was said by Bangani a young boy who lost his mother in the Mediterranean Sea due to drowning after they survived the Sahara Desert ordeal. One could see the confusion in his face when he asks this above question to his father who also looks oblivious and confused due to his own insecurity and desperation. However, the response he got from other travelers was that his mother stayed back in an unverified location. These memories live a traumatic psycho-social nightmare, which will forever haunt the children throughout their childhood into adulthood.

All the selected documentaries use the Sahara Desert as a symbol of suffering and desperation for the African migrants who are depicted as people that are determined to reach their destination. Some of the risk's migrants come across in the desert include dying from dehydration when they are left behind by smugglers after their vehicles breakdown or run out of petrol during the journey. In *African migrants: what*

really drives them to Europe (2015) (Narration time: 9:18-24:22), seeing migrants dying in the Sahara Desert is a common thing, which does not hinder migrants to continue with their journey to Western Europe. This shows that despite the difficulties they are fleeing from in their countries which may be worse than what they may be experiencing in these foreign counties, migrants still forge ahead into more complex hardships such as abuse and detention in transition countries. This includes seeing and passing over dead bodies, skeletons on the sand in the Sahara Desert and bearing the trauma and smell of travelling with dead bodies. Therefore, migrants' posture, tone of their remarks and broader circumstances seem to toughen them up to never give up on their proverbial dream of Canaan, which is Western Europe. One of the African migrants had this to say regarding the dangerous journey to the Libyan coast.

"We took a car to the Sahara Desert, it's a long and dangerous trip but we risk our lives. We had an accident there in the Desert and one person died there but we managed it until we got to Libya".

4.3.2 The rescue missions: A second chance to live

Rescue missions are a necessity to African migrants as these missions give a second chance to life for drowning or endangered migrants. These stakeholders of the migration conundrum understand what African migrants go through while on their journeys to the "greener side" where life promises abundancy. Since most migrants are believed to be fleeing political prosecution and conflicts from their home countries, rescue missions assist desperate migrants to find a new beginning, with a sense of stable safety and security. These rescue missions are an important aspect of African migration because they are specifically designed to rescue migrants in the context of the dangers they encounter at sea. Other organisations view this operation in the same light because the absence of rescuers at sea exposes many migrants' dangers of travelling on unsafe boats nearly every hour through the Libyan coast on their way to Europe.

Rescue missions entail frontline organisations that work hand in hand with the European authorities to safely transfer migrants to the camps after their rescue. Among these rescue missions are several volunteers who are dedicated and passionate about saving migrant lives. Their goal is to always watch the Mediterranean

Sea for possible distressed migrants and acting upon calls and messages from migrants who are in need of any assistance. Due to the large number of migrants in the Mediterranean Sea, many frontline organisations have been added to the existing number to step up the call to save migrant lives at sea (UNHCR, 2022). These organisations operate on the same routine in locating and rescuing migrants including tracking with special tools such as the radar to detect any moving objects in the sea. This involves use of special cameras that use heat to create an image of a human body to locate migrants in the Mediterranean Sea especially at night or when there is a severe storm. Once migrants are located, they are rescued and transferred into a safe vessel belonging to frontline organisations where they are given dry clothes to wear, are fed, registered, and identified before being transferred to the Italian authorities. Andersson (2016) states that despite contesting views about this gesture, with some saying it encourages illegal migration, numerous scholars argue that rescue missions play a big role in reducing migrant people's deaths in the Mediterranean Sea and further bring hope to migrants that their plight has public sympathy.

Since rescue missions have consistently provided free, excellent medical and surgical care to victims of war, landmines, and poverty, this causes migrants to prefer to receive assistance from frontline organizations only. As a basic and unalienable human right pertaining to each migrant, frontline organisations maintain that every migrant has the right to be respected and cared for without any bias. In *Inside the world's deadliest migrant route* (2021) rescue missions saved more than 100 people in just one mission. Among this group there are children as young as six months, young adults, and parents whose lives could have all perished, serve for a few who could not make it. These rescue missions came when the migrants were at a dire point of need, requiring urgency and in a state of life and death. In all cases, one of the critical elements of this study has been to establish why migrants, in the face of drowning in the sea, continue to embark on these dangerous journeys to face this ordeal.

Regardless of the difficulties associated with the rescue missions, evidence in the selected documentaries shows that volunteers work very hard and are determined to assist migrants at all costs. Their work and commitments are seen in *Inside the world's deadliest migrant route* (2021) rescue missions (Narration times: 10:29-23:16); (13:03-23:16) and (17:15-23:16). On these scenes African migrants remarked that frontline organisations are the only institutions that help to rescue them. *"I prefer to be rescued*

by Open Arms at the Mediterranean Sea, if not them then I would rather jump to the water and die than go back to Libya" (Narration time: 19:41-23:16). African migrants also expressed that they only want frontline organisations to rescue and help them cross the Mediterranean Sea. In *African migrants: what really drives them to Europe?* (2015) (Narration time: 11:57-24:22), one of the migrants said, "*I don't want Libyans to rescue me. I want only God and the Italy rescue missions to rescue me to Europe".*

The rescuers work largely such as the Open Arms team consists of locating and rescuing African migrants across the Mediterranean Sea, providing them with medical care, food, blankets, and transport for migrants to safely move from the sea to the mainland in Europe (Italy or Sicily) and hand them over to the Italian authorities. Pictures below from *Inside the world's deadliest migrant route* (2021) rescue efforts show the frontline organizations engaged in saving African migrants from the Mediterranean Sea as they make their way from Libya to Western Europe.

Hundreds of African migrants located in the Mediterranean Sea in a rubber boat.

Source: Open Arms (2021).

A migrant being treated in the frontline organisation's vessel after rescue.

Source: Open Arms, 2021

Migrants being assisted into the Open Arms vessel.

Source: Open Arms, 2021.

Migrants drowning after their boat deflated due to overload while rescue started.

Source: Open Arms, 2021

A migrant saved from drowning and assisted into the rescue boat.

Source: Open Arms, 2021.

Migrants in Open Arms vessel after rescue, face masks, food and blankets were provided.

Source: Open Arms, 2021.

Migrants at a resting place after a rescue mission.

Source: Open Arms, 2021.

In the above images and footage excerpts from the documentaries, the study noted that migrants remarked positively about rescue missions in the Mediterranean Sea as they greatly appreciate the efforts made to save their lives. However, migrants are not always lucky to be picked up by rescue missions from frontline organisations but are sometimes rounded up by coastal guards that return them to their previous location for detention. Most of the migrants in the selected documentaries vowed that they would not agree to be rescued by coastal guards in the Mediterranean Sea, preferring to die in the sea rather than to be taken back to their previous locations or countries.

 "If the Libyan coast guards came to rescue us, I was going to jump into the water and die", said Congolese male migrant*.*

"I was not happy to see the Libyan coast guards, because they will put us in jail and suffer us", said Alima Nigerian female*.*

Rescue missions are every migrant's symbol of hope because their intervention gives them so much fulfilment and hope for the success of their journey. Before boarding the unsafe rubber boats hired from the smugglers, migrants are informed that the frontline

organisations are always ready and waiting to save and take migrants to Europe. Migrants are given a phone with the frontline organisations number already saved on it and advised to call that number when they sense danger or are a few miles away from presumed danger zones.

4.4 The documentary and depiction of African migration

This section looks into the issues surrounding the push factors among African migrants who migrate to Western Europe. The contributing factors to the push factors discussed below include poverty, conflict, and diseases in Africa. Excerpts from the chosen documentaries are used to show conversations among African migrants about their challenges and the factors that drove them to leave their home countries.

4.4.1 Push factors: Poverty, conflict, and diseases in Africa
- **Portrayal of Women in poverty**

Mostly, the study has noted that migrant women are depicted as victims of poverty in the selected documentaries. They are seen desperate and eager to reach Western Europe and start making money as soon as they can because they would have left families and children in their home countries who need to be feed and taken care of. Due to the extreme poverty the migrant women take responsibility as breadwinners to improve the entire family conditions. Therefore, taking this family responsibility compels these women to be brave and find means to migrate to Western Europe where they believe that their poverty will disappear upon arrive.

"Unlike Europe, … in Nigeria there is nothing, we have nothing. There is no money, there is no food, there is nothing", said Alima a Nigerian female migrant.

"I have three children at home, they are fatherless. I am the only one taking care of them", said a female Nigerian migrant.

The footage shows that poverty acts as a push factor for women migrants because they cannot wait and do nothing while they are subjected to extreme poverty. Therefore, instead of the women going to starve with their families, the situation becomes a motivation to prompt them to escape to greener pastures elsewhere in the world. This form of determination is exemplified by the remarks made by …. quoted below.

"We don't care whether we die in the sea or not", said a Nigerian female migrant.

These women are portrayed as having a thick skin and their bravery evidently shown through the love they have for their families. Furthermore, they seem to understand that there is a high chance of them dying in the Mediterranean Sea, but nevertheless choose to cross the sea hoping for some form of divine intervention.

- **Conflict in Africa**

For a long time, conflicts in Africa have been a major factor in the migration of Africans to Western Europe. When it is used violently, it takes many lives, ruins property, and takes financial and human resources away from progress. Contests for the control of resources, including the Red Sea, Indian Ocean, oil, agricultural and grazing lands, and water resources like the River Nile are intimately linked to many of these wars (Mengistu, 2015). The documentary analysis noted that since 2015, there has been a noticeable rise in the number of conflicts in Africa, with notable instances in South Sudan, Nigeria, Libya, Mali, Somalia, and the Central African Republic. For example, religious wars involving the Islamic faith have occurred in Sudan and Somalia. In addition, the struggle has forced a large number of Africans to flee their nations due to the violent nature of Islam. The study revealed that Africa has seen a number of military conflicts, ethnolinguistic conflicts, and religious radicalism throughout the years, which has drawn the attention of most industrialised countries, including the US.

The documentary analysis showed women and other heads of family often carry the responsibility of single parents due to their husbands going missing, in jail, or actively engaged in conflict in their countries. This entails making decisions regarding their children's education on their own, raising an income, and ensuring their safety. Some of these women would have escaped rape, forced marriages, and abuse from soldiers, and therefore being in their country is not safe. The statement below is from *African migrants: what really drives them to Europe?* (2015) expressed by a Nigerian female migrant (Narration time: 03:35-24:22).

"I am travelling with my husband and sister; we are going to plan a new life in Europe".

In addition to the above challenges, the study noted that women in the selected documentaries are portrayed in some instances travelling with their children, husbands, and extended family members carrying very small luggage. These women look stressed, tired, hungry, and above all very concerned whether they will make it out alive through these dangerous journeys and difficult times.

- **Diseases in Africa**

Documentary analysis showed that diseases have become a particularly serious issue across Africa due to a combination of poverty and a lack of proper health facilities. Many of the diseases that affect people in the world also affect people in Africa including infectious disorders such as measles, lifestyle-related illnesses including cancer and heart disease, and sexually transmitted infections (Adeyeye, Ashaolu, Bolaji, Abegunde & Omoyajowo, 2021). However, compared to richer, more industrialized countries, social and economic situations in Africa make it more difficult to treat and prevent these diseases. Moreover, due to the difficulties in African countries to treat and prevent these diseases, migrant women choose to seek medical care in other countries. Furthermore, poverty in the African nations make things more difficult for migrants as medication is expensive, thereby making money for treatment very scarce. Additionally, some illnesses are unique to Africa and are very challenging to control due to a variety of factors including the climatic environment and cultural norms such as the Covid 19 virus, malaria, and HIV/ AIDS.

- **Portrayal of African men**

Men in these documentaries are depicted as people who are hungry for wealth, success, angry at Africa and its leaders, poor and sick. The men are portrayed as not innovative, lazy, and fleeing their countries to be a burden to other countries. The failures of their countries in good governance not only affect migrants but also affect the destination countries because when migrants arrive in a country, they often become a budgetary constraint, which is why some of these migrants lack shelter, food, and employment. Male migrants are also seen as idle people who request that things be done for them, such as giving them a place to live, food to eat, a job, and medical care. They are portrayed as people who accept gifts and then demand more, never satisfied with what they have received. Men are described in these documentaries as persons who go to Europe to obtain citizenship before returning to their home nations to bring the rest of their families to Europe. Chris was identified as a migrant who prospered in Western Europe in the documentary *Shattered Dreams of African Migrants* (2021). His rise to fame as an Italian musician, marriage to an Italian woman, and birth of children made it extremely challenging for him to return to Africa as he already started a family there. This is against the popular view that migrants in destination countries are expected to return to their home countries. Male migrants

are also depicted as people that never go back home without having acquire some form of wealth in Europe and are known to refuse to be deported. They are cited in the documentaries as stating shameful it would be for them to go back home with nothing, something which will cause them not to be respected and be mocked for failing to make it in Europe. The remarks below represent the views of Patrick Jabbi and Baba Lami in *African migrants: what really drives them to Europe?* (2015) documentary.

"I have signed it already; I will rather die than go back".
"Going back is not an option, I will go to Mozambique instead and look for diamonds in the bush and start a new life there by selling them".

The aforementioned remarks made by these migrants suggest that migrants prefer to remain outside of their home countries till they find work and establish themselves in the receiving nations. This implies that African migrants would continue to flee their home nations because of the push factors seen in Africa, which include unemployment, poverty, and violence. Although not all African migrants arriving in Western Europe are employed, particularly in Italy, and yet some of these migrants rather die than be deported to Africa without any tangible belonging.

4.4.2 Pull factors: Access to education, jobs, security and health care in Western Europe

The documentary analysis showed that pull factors for most migrants who travel to Western Europe are mostly motivated by social, economic, poverty and political reasons, as individuals leave their less developed, less stable countries to Western Europe, specifically from Africa, the Middle East and Eastern Europe. In the context of selected documentary films understudy, the pull factors are presented in terms of proportionate access to privileges by some migrants including access to education, employment, and security while other migrants were denied such benefits.

- **Access to education**

Education has become a factor in international migration at university level and thus has motivated and led people to move to other countries. Therefore, education has been viewed as the secondary driver of migration among many socio-economic factors that contribute to a better life (Browne, 2017). More (2019) notes that education is a life insurance policy for African black societies and families. This means that when an

African child completes high school and ventures into tertiary education the family is certain to benefit financially when the child gets employed. The 'willingness' of the child to assist the family financially is seen as Ubuntu consciousness and giving back to those who have birthed and supported her or him through the journey of acquiring a qualification. Contextually from these selected documentaries African migrants were portrayed as people who are hungry for education. The documentaries expressively present African migrants as individuals that highly depend on higher education abroad as an entry point. A few characters in the documentary *The world's deadliest migrant route* (2021) expressed the following in:

"I want to study mechanics to do my job better, this is the job I was born to do".

"My dream is to go to Europe to continue my studies. I want to study law. I want to work in politics because in Africa, as far as I can see, politics is the problem that holds us back".

- **Employment for better living**

Employers in Western Europe have exploited African migrants for employment reasons and saving more money for their companies by paying less to migrants. However, the employment market prefers not to source domestic labor but instead prefer migrant labor more favorably and thus choose to recruit from this particular pool of labor. African migrants are often viewed by employers as having more superior work ethics than natives or local workers (McKenzie & Forde, 2009). Rienzo (2012) indicated that migrants were being disadvantaged in the European labor markets because despite being highly educated and having high employment rates, migrants tend to be concentrated in low skilled jobs causing them to have earning levels that were not just below native workers but also below other migrant groups.

Since finances and employment go hand in hand, this relationship forms part of the contributing factors in the push-pull factor model on African migration. As mentioned by De Haas (2016), the migration process comes in stages and is accompanied by the need for finances because African migrants rely on a pay as you go basis to finance their journey. When other migrants run out of funds and are unable to continue with their journey, they remain behind and resort to doing any odd jobs to raise the amount of money needed for their next stage of the journey. One of the characters represented

in *The world's deadliest migrant route* (2021) (Narration time: 19:35-23:16) had this to say about employment exploitation:

"You work all day, and they don't pay you. If you ask for your money, they point a gun at you".

This statement in the footage indicates that African migrants are mistreated and disadvantaged in the labor markets because they are regarded as aliens in a foreign country. However, this footage also indicates that African migrants migrate to Western Europe with the hope of getting employment, obtaining goods and wealth as well as attaining freedom from persecution in their home countries. Hence, economic stability and freedom such as religious practice in developed societies prompt many African migrants to go to Western Europe. Therefore, most of these African migrants come from poor families in rural Africa with hopes of reaching Western Europe to obtain employment to support their families back home. Therefore, extreme poverty forces African migrants to flee their countries in search of job opportunities in other parts of the world. Below is one of the statements made by one of the migrants from *The world's deadliest migrant route* (2021) (Narration time: 10:30-23:16). *"I went to Libya to see how I could find work and make money to help my family in Africa that I left behind".*

Safety

These documentaries understudy revealed that most African migrants are forced to migrate, leaving their homes behind due to wars, conflicts, and political instabilities. These African migrants are portrayed being exposed to life threatening encounters and faced with no option but to migrate to safe environments because their main concern is security. Therefore, these documentary footages prove that security plays an important role in motivating migrants towards selecting destination countries, which have stronger economies and stable security environment. This concurs with some scholarly observations that, African migrants decide on which countries to migrate to based on whether a specific country is capable or abled to provide security and safety guarantees they need (Devictor, 2016). This view was confirmed by one of the characters from *The world's deadliest migrant route* (2020) (Narration time: 20:47-23:16) who had this to say about safety:

"What we want is security. This is what we need. To be free, you know... To be free".

- **High quality medical care**

The documentaries reveal that African migrants long for high-quality medical care, especially when their home nations fall short in this regard. This is at the backdrop of Africa's struggles to control some of the common diseases that have emerged recently adding more challenges to those that have troubled the continent over the years. The narratives in the documentaries imply that people in Africa are dying frequently due to lack of medical attention and lack of medical knowledge on numerous diseases, different types of cancers and communicable ailments, some of which cause disabilities. Therefore, any country that offers top-notch medical care attracts a great number of migrants who may want to settle there as refugees (Nowak , Namer and Hornberg, 2022). Moreover, migrants are sufficiently motivated to flee for medical assistance in the developed countries because they have the capacity and resources to deliver quality health care. This is evident in the documentaries where migrants are presented with no choice but to flee their poorly resourced environments in their home countries to seek better health care to save their lives even if they will complicate their ailments amid the dangerous journeys. The analysis shows that migrant's knowledge of prospects in Western Europe bolsters their attitude not to give up, but rather die trying to reach their destination compared to dying in a place of need and disease. In *African migrants: what really drives them to Europe?* (2015), Patrick is seen carrying a disabled young man on his back after they were intercepted by the Libyan coast guards. In the same scene (Narration Time: 02:40-24:22), some migrants are shown to have begun their journey while being on chronic medication, of which their medication got finished as the journey took a very long time to reach Europe. This ordeal complicated their ailments because they were not privileged to stop along the way to buy medication or replenish their supplies.

4.4.3 Libyan camps: Dungeons of lawlessness, brutality, and slavery

The researcher noted from the footage that police officers, guard's African migrants every day and night, making sure none of them escape. These documentaries understudy depicted how African migrants are treated in foreign countries especially Libya in detention centres. The study revealed that these so-called detention centers are portrayed as prison cells with no form of sanitary systems in place and no freedom as migrants are squashed in this place. The footage from *African migrants: what drives*

them to Europe? (2015) has shown that while migrants are detained in Libya, they are vulnerable to the spread of diseases, since detention centers are dangerously overcrowded and lack even the most basic sanitary facilities. The directors and producers of these documentary films highlighted the coast guards by making them appear as people with power and control feared by migrants. The study revealed that most of these people are policeman and solders carrying guns to instill fear on migrants, making them feel less as humans and often treated as criminals. This study also revealed that the act of migration on the Mediterranean Sea symbolises an illegal act and therefore detention center is one option opted to punish and correct migrants. The footages from the documentaries understudy showed that when these African migrants were caught and returned to Libya for detention the tension, fear in their eyes and the disappointed look on their faces together with mixed emotions of not knowing the unknown and what waits for them in those detention centers were visible.

Flies have always brought bacteria, sicknesses, and diseases whenever they reach or occupy the surface. They invade and infiltrate their space with one mission which is to spread bacteria, feed and multiply. Images flies investing migrants in *African migrants: what really drives them to Europe?* (2015) are seen almost throughout the documentary during an interview disturbing the interviewer and interviewees of which the interview was held outside the detention center in Libya. One can further argue that flies are associated with death and decaying bodies of animals or trash around an environment. However, this period in this documentary was characterised by war at its peak and racism among black African migrants reported in Libya. During this period there was no real law enforcement, hence the Libyan soldiers, police, or civilians took the law into their own hands by shooting and killing African migrants seen on-site. This study revealed that African migrants became the hunted pray for Libyan citizens, they were shown no mercy as some were abused and sold to slavery due the high number of African migrants arriving there awaiting to cross the Mediterranean Sea. The directors used the symbol of flies outside the detention center to emphasis on the conditions migrants are faced with daily in such detention centers. The level of disrespect and how their human rights were belittled because of their skin color and nationality.

4.4.3.1 Regrets: Deception of social media and waisted funds

Documentary analysis showed that many African migrants once they fail to reach western Europe, they end up in Libyan camps and discover that they were sold a dream and instead regrets sink in. They regret ever risking their lives by ever going there. However, the decision came in due to unbearable push factors that lead them to take such a decision in the place. Mostly the study noted that migrants somehow had a push in sending countries that made them realise that they had two options which are either they endure the suffering in their countries until they die or flee to embitter their lives in receiving countries which in this case is Western Europe (Italy). However, the final decision is to choose better life conditions and finally take the step and bravery to flee. In these selected documentaries, migrants confirmed their regrets and warned other migrants not to be fooled the same way.

- **The deception of social media platforms and the portrayal of Europe**

The documentary analysis showed that the portrayal of Europe on social media such as Facebook has got attention from many struggling African migrants who would do anything to change their situation. Mostly the study noted that migrants would follow someone on Facebook because they may be successful in a foreign country, that intrigues them to follow the same road that led that person's success even if it may lead them to destruction, chaos, and death. Alagie in *Shattered dreams of African migrants* (2021) indicated that the portrayal of Europe on social media platforms was formed on baseless lies and misconceptions. He claimed that the social media is filled with fake images of African migrants that claimed to have owned or acquired wealth in Western Europe. He also exclaimed that those individuals on those social media platforms sold them the ideology of Europe being the only place that one can achieve one's dream and have better living conditions. However, the fake images Alagie saw on social media platforms gave him the impression that all will be well for him too, and poverty will soon be over. Unfortunately, the life he and other migrants experienced once they reached Europe was the exact opposite compared to what they expected and saw on those social media platforms. Ishmael an African migrant who was homeless in Europe explained that he was encouraged by other African migrants who already lived and started their lives in Europe to migrate and join them in having a stable and comfortable life. Moreover, Ishmael regretted the decision that he took going to Europe because his parents sold their land to raise money for him to enable

him to migrate. His plan backfired as he found himself jobless, homeless, and disappointed. Regarding what the characters mentioned above, it proved that the producer did consider the conditions in which African migrants experienced in Western Europe. This detailed information may have been used to educate and inform other African migrant who may came from Ghana, Gambia, and Nigeria e.c.t who may be still thinking or planning to migrate to Western Europe to take note of the experiences and hardships other migrants encountered.

- **The anticipated dreamland failed us**

On average, it takes African migrants up to 20 years to have a similar employment rate as the native born. Five years after arrival, only one out of four African migrants are employed. After 10 years, their employment rate reaches 56 % but remains below the native-born persons in most countries (Dumont, Liebig, Peschner, Tanay & Xenogiani, 2014). Furthermore, the relatively indifferent employment rate among migrants can be explained by differences in their education level. The documentary analysis showed that migrants were experiencing hard times in Europe, especially in the employment sector.

The characters in *Shattered dreams of African migrants* (2021) highlighted on their poor working conditions and the underpayment African migrants received after hard labor in European farms. They narrated on how the Europeans farmers had a system of specifically hiring African migrants on a no contract bases. Mostly the study noted that these migrants worked on a seasonally basis, did unusual hours, and received less payment. ***"The life in Europe, is life in hell",*** all their experiences in the employment sector are compared to a life in hell. The study revealed that nothing was easy for migrants, they worked ten times harder than the natives and worked jobs that demanded energy and strength. Alagie an African migrant from Gambia also indicated that he was doing a PhD on contemporary slavery of African migrants across Italy, and his study found out that the conditions of African migrants that they work under were worse than the conditions they may left back in their own countries as they were treated like animals not humans.

- **Migrating to Europe for better life conditions: Waisted funds**

Fleeing to Western Europe takes a lot of energy, time and a lot of money is needed to make it across. Migrants in these selected documentaries are portrayed as very poor and needy. However, what is so very interesting is that they were able to pay for their journey to Western Europe, meaning they can afford a large amount of money for their travel. One may ask if really migrants are poor and need help or they are just running away from their failed leadership and hope to be given everything for free once they reach Europe. The burning question here is how migrants can afford this journey and how do they get their money from. Documentary analysis showed that migrants in their countries they were able to borrow money, sell pieces of land and worked many odd jobs to sponsor their journey to Western Europe. However, the study revealed that sponsoring their journey was all waisted funds because some never made it to Western Europe but ended up in Libyan camps and those that were fortunate did not acquire their anticipated wealth and riches as expected. Ishmael in *Shattered dreams of African migrants* (2021) revealed that his journey to Europe was all just waisted time and funds that could have been used to invest in a business. His deepest regret was selling his parents property to help him sponsor his journey to Western Europe. Alima a female Nigerian migrant in *African migrants: what really drives them to Europe?* (2015) also regrets allowing her mother to borrow money for her to help her to journey for Western Europe. As she sat in the Libyan camp in tears, she regrated and wondered how her mother is going to pay all the money borrowed if she cannot work and send money back home.

4.4.4 African migrants during the Covid -19 pandemic

The study found out that frontline organisations such as Open Arms worked with African migrants in 2021 across the Mediterranean Sea during the covid19 pandemic. Documentary analysis showed that these organisations had experienced significant challenges in conducting their normal activities due to many contributed factors. These challenges arose in the beginning of covid-19 pandemic and continued as borders were closed and lockdowns were implemented worldwide. Such challenges included the additional barriers implemented by governments for co-ordination and co-operation, reduced or no financial resources and lack of funding, restricted travelling for investigations and to collect evidence, reduced stuff due to infections caused by covid-19 and the infected persons were in isolation until they recovered, lack of

information on trafficking dynamics during the pandemic, difficulties in reaching vulnerable groups and trafficking victims, increased needs of vulnerable persons and victims for support services (Davy, 2021). Due to all the highlighted challenges the frontline organisations were faced with, the study noted that the Open Arms crew in November 2020 was the only vessel rescuing African migrants across the Libyan coast. However, the challenges faced by the frontline organisations also affected African migrants located in Libya and drove them to a state of vulnerability and desperation due to the conditions and danger they were exposed to. Moreover, the study noted that these challenges had negatively affected the frontline organisation's ability to prevent, protect vulnerable victims and combat trafficking in persons within the Mediterranean Sea as lesser rescue boats they had on site. Thus, resulted in the open arms crew taking to many cases in the absent of other rescue boats as observed throughout the documentary. Chris the coordinator of Open Arms crew in *The world's deadliest migrant route* (2021) shared this regarding the working conditions they had to work under as the only rescue vessel in the Libyan coast without any assistance from other rescue boats within the Mediterranean Sea:

"Yesterday we have received two SAR cases in one day. That makes the total of nine boats that have departed with no rescue boats in the area, and no updates on whether people have been rescued which could prevent us from searching for nothing" in The world's deadliest migrant route (2020) (Narration time:4:25- 23:17). *The study revealed that* rescuing migrants during the covid 19 period was very difficult and impacted both migrants and the rescue missions. There were no guarantees if the entire team was not infected or could be infected while rescuing due to the high number of migrants in the rescue vessel.

4.5 Ideological frames in African migration

This section entails types of ideological frames identified which were used in selected documentaries. The frames identified in this study played an important role in the formation of public attitudes and issues.

- **Humanitarian frame**

Documentary analysis noted that the global migration crisis over the years not only revealed the increasing number of movements from Africa towards Western Europe

but also gave birth to a rising humanitarian crisis the world has ever seen. The humanitarian crisis for African migrants in the Mediterranean Sea has been reported by many media organisations from 2015 up to date. This crisis made headlines, featured in documentaries, newspapers, and in breaking news channels such as the BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation), AL Jazeera and Sky News. The reports that were covered by the mentioned media organisations above covered on organisations that work under the humanitarian crisis such as the frontline organisations like the UN (united Nations) and frontline organisations that worked under a framework that was established to give strategic approaches and guidelines that detailed the aims of humanitarian action and its implementations. The study found out that the humanitarian action was meant to preserve, protect, and save lives, alleviate suffering, and enhance physical security and human dignity. Moreover, the study noted that the humanitarian frame was documented often alongside reports of humanitarian aid. Furthermore, this frame was bound to give insights into African migrant's motivation and backgrounds to understand their motivation.

The framing theory in chapter one specifically stated that the framing of African migrants in documentary films is based on narrative conventions that offer an explanation about who is doing what, and with what purpose. The humanitarian frame presented in *Inside the world's deadliest migrant route* (2020) documentary described the humanitarian aid organisations and frontline organisations as the only groups that emphasises immediate help to African migrants who were distressed in the Mediterranean Sea. The documentary analysis showed humanitarian organisations providing medical care, food, and blankets to African migrants and assisted migrants in crossing international borders safely. The study revealed that the humanitarian frame depicted African migration heading to western Europe as a humanitarian crisis that needed to be resolved by Western European Union institutions to keep African migrants away from harm and death in the Mediterranean Sea.

One of the key factors highlighted by the significance of the study in chapter one section 1.5 was the study's focus on how African migrants were depicted regarding the push-pull factor model. The study mostly found that the humanitarian narrative surrounding the aid given to African migrants in the Mediterranean Sea served as one of the driving forces behind the migrants' courageous decision to set out for Western Europe, as they were aware that aid would be available to them as soon as they

reached the Mediterranean Sea. The study did, however, also note that the humanitarian frame strongly indicated that humanitarian organizations were experiencing difficult to aid migrants, and that they were short on space, capacity, medicine, and manpower due to the volume of rescues that needed to be performed almost every hour.

- **Illegal person-intruder frame**

Documentary analysis showed that African migration to Western Europe had been framed as an illegal act committed by African migrants, which was indicated to be a crime that deserved punishment. In *African migration: what really drives them to Europe?* (2015), the illegal activity frame had been emphasised on excessively. It had been represented as a message of warning to other African migrants, to reprimand those that may have intended to take the same journey or route to Western Europe. Moreover, the study revealed that African migrants were also referred to as illegal migrants in these documentaries, representing them as equivalent to criminals. The term "illegal migrant" in *African migrants: what really drives them to Europe?* (2015) documentary was used frequently to frame African migrants negatively and tarnished their integrity. How can African migrants who fled for the safety of their lives and those of their children be given the term "illegal migrants". Documentary analysis proves that these African migrants were seeking safety, protection, and security because their own countries had failed to guarantee protection for them. However, this protection they were seeking and hoped to enjoy was in western Europe due to some countries at war against each other, mostly the study noted that migrants did not have the time to apply for passports and visas thus, flee without documentation. Also, the study revealed that African migrants who were on the run-in countries of war and disputes did not have time to pack their belonging or sell them to raise money for their journey. According to the Western European laws, once African migrants reach the Western European soil, they are offered legal assistance and interpreter as one of their rights but in these selected documentary films, it was not the case.

For the longest time, Western Europe had been reported to have been facing an ongoing problem of shortage in labor. The Commission's joint employment report, 2020 reviled that most parts of Europe are faced with the highest shortage of labor. In 2020, the European Commission presented a new pact on migration and asylum for

African migrants, which was targeted at building a framework that had to attract high-skilled migrants in Western Africa for labor. This document presented also revealed and acknowledged that the European labor markets faced structural pressures generated by demographic aging and a shrinking population, which contributed to specific skills shortages in different localities and sectors (European Commission, 2020). However, the study noted that African migrants may have saw this as a big gap that needed to be filled by them and may have been convinced that by working for the Western Europe may contribute to the overall economic growth. Moreover, the study revealed that most migrants do not just leave their countries without any significant information about where they would be heading. However, most times before migrants take the migration journey to Western Europe African migrants would have had a plan in place, communication would have been going on with other fellow African migrants that were already residing in Western Europe. Everything would have been planned for, everything layered out and strategically prepared.

- ***African migrants: What really drives them to Europe* (2015)**

A scene (Narration time: 16:17- 24:22) showed European citizens striking or boycotting in the streets, expressing their anger and concerns about the idea of open borders to African migrants. The documentary analysis revealed that the perception of African migrants in Europe was one of being unwelcome and frequently viewed as intruders who came to work for the government of Western Europe, where they were expected to be given jobs, food, shelter, and protection upon arrival.

- **Economic burden frame**

The problem statement in chapter one section 1.1 stated that most media platforms including news media and films often create negative public perceptions about African migrants. The study noted that the burden frame is one of the negative perceptions used to depict African migrants as useless, people that are always on the receiving end. This burden frame in *African migrants: What really drives them to Europe?* (2015) is revealed by the documentary analysis to have presented biased stereotypical orientations that referred to African migrants as people that were wasting funds from Western Europe government instead of addressing the frame focusing on the migrant's safety, protection, and security. The study noted that African Migrants are portrayed as individuals or groups of people that were indicated to be a burden to their destination countries. In *African migrants: What really drives them to Europe?* (2015)*,*

the study noted that African migrants had been represented as criminals, they are depicted in a place that resembles an unhygienic overcrowded prison.

Mostly the study noted the burden frame revealed that despite the ongoing war in Libya, African migrants were kept in detention centers all over Libya to prevent them from reaching the Western Europe as a presentative measure put in place by the Western European government working with transit countries. This burden frame was purposefully used by the film producer to highlight how demanding the act of assisting African migrants kept in detention centers is especially with the provision of food, shelter, healthcare, and their upkeep in general. A scene in *African migrants: what really drives them to Europe?* (2015) emphasised on provision of food for African migrants three times a day while in they are in detention and the need for extra security to prevent them from escaping the facility (Narration time: 18:17-24:22). However, the facility manager, Mr Saleh Abu Daboos from the detention center in Libya (Mistrata) shared his views that providing for African migrants who were detained was a challenge to the facility. Furthermore, workers assigned to the facility for upkeep and the government struggled to provide food and healthcare for the African migrant detainees.

- **Helpless-victim frame**

The helpless frame is explained and aligned regarding the framing theory and the neoclassical theory of migration highlighted in the study found in chapter one. The framing theory in chapter one section 1.7.1 stated that framing limits the perception of reality by limiting the perception of different realities and focusing on a specific angle. Regarding the helpless frame utilised on African migrants in *Inside the world's deadliest migrant route* (2021) the study revealed that African migrants were portrayed as helpless in a situation when faced with drowning at the Mediterranean Sea. This frame basically focused on one angle which was the situation in the Mediterranean Sea, however this frame could have given more angles in telling the story. For instance, African migrants' dependency on aid workers and frontline organisations encouraged film producers over the years to frame them as helpless victims that failed to sustain and improve their economy in their own countries due to incompetence, their attitude that made their former colonisers more inferior to them and their leaders that lacked the attitude of governance because they were occupied by corruption and

focused on how they could enrich themselves. However, the study found out that African migrants may become helpless before they even journey to Western Europe and to some being helpless drives them to finally take the decision to migrate after all. The neoclassical theory of migration highlighted in chapter one indicates that African migrants do not just migrate to Western Europe, but the push-pull factor models explained in Chapter one 1.7.2 plays a great role in motivating the move. The neoclassical migration theory further explained that a lot of strategy and planning would have been required towards selecting a destination country that would be linked to their governing systems in their own countries.

The study discovered that African migrants who travelled towards Western Europe were likely to follow their colonisers back to their own countries because they believed that the coloniser's economical systems worked best for them as they were provided with employment during the times of oppression. For instance, Congo was colonised by France, which enforced its governmental systems across Congo. Their education system was changed, and the French language was implemented in their schools. Hence, most Congolese migrants migrate to France because the governmental ruling systems is the same as theirs in Congo. They may not have to struggle to learn a new language because they have learned it in school already, and they would have considered having their children further their studies in that country because of the history and commonalities these two countries would have had. Moreover, if a Congolese finds himself in London instead of France, their lives may be very difficult to cope with the foreign language and governmental ruling systems. Hence, other African migrants are struggling, unemployed, and homeless because they would have lacked competing skills which align with their former colonisers' governmental systems.

- **African migrants' children denied access to education**

International human rights law guarantees an education for all, without discrimination. This principle of non-discrimination extends to all persons of school-going age residing in the territory of a state, including non-nationals, irrespective of their legal status. Migrants can therefore invoke the right to education. This right creates immediate and unequivocal obligations; therefore, the state has no margin of freedom in this area (Areskoug, 2015). Discrimination on any ground is prohibited

because the very essence of the law is at stake. This implies an equal right of access to educational institutions, which can be described as the core, or minimum content, of the right. However, the study discovered that African migrants in destination countries were represented as a group of people that had no rights nor were they allowed to do anything accept providing legal papers before being accepted into schools. In this intruder frame portrayed in these documentaries, children were seen clinging on their mothers' back or seated next to them in detention centers with no form of educational materials. These children had limited rights regarding schooling, as they remained in detention together with their parents without going to school.

- **Poverty among women and children**

In the Horn of Africa and the rest of Africa, the topic of gender migration in children is a pressing one. Girls were said to have had inadequate educational opportunities and were frequently persuaded or coerced into being married young, which served as one of the driving forces. On the other hand, in nations like the Democratic Republic of the Congo, boys were forced to undergo military training at a very young age (Cossor, 2016). However, they had no choice but to leave their nation and migrate to avoid all of this and seek better possibilities. The documentary analysis showed that during the entire migratory voyage, children in some documentaries were shown as being weak, afraid, perplexed, and mentally disturbed. The study also revealed that these children suffered since they lost crucial time for study while traveling to Western Europe with their parents. Mostly the study noted that children of migrants rely heavily on their parents for a variety of things, such as food, protection, and safety when moving; sadly, due to the circumstances they may be experiencing at the time, their parents may not be able to guarantee their safety. These situations might occur when a migrant boat sinks and all of the passengers begin to drown; if the parents are unable to swim, there may be no other way for them to save their child from drowning because they are in the same position as the youngster. A similar incident happened in *Inside the World deadliest migrant route* (2020) (Narration time: 14:15-23:17). The main character, Bangani, a seven-year-old boy from Guinea, was seen among migrants who were in danger of drowning and was saved by a rescue crew member just in time. In this scene his parents were not seen even close to him, he was struggling to beath and to stay afloat in the water. This character was also seen together with Fatu Martha, a seven-year-old girl child among the refugees saved in a rescue boat who was intensely

preoccupied with her paintings (Narration time:18:15–23:17). However, although children in other nations were attending school, other children were in anguish and kept away from school for their own safety, as the director and cameraman reflected on both children's drawings.

- **African migrants denied health care**

Documentary analysis showed that African migrants were represented as intruders in destination countries thus, deprived of their most basic rights which were inalienable and necessary for everyone anywhere in the world. The study found out that many African migrants with pre-existing chronic conditions were reported not receiving their medication because they were forcefully kept in detention. In this detention centers the study noted that there was no healthcare worker present to assist migrants. The study also found out that these migrants were denied healthcare services because they were not citizens. In *African migrants: what really drives them to Europe* (2015) the manager of the facility narrated a story of a young African migrant lady in a detention center that was about to give birth, taken to many hospitals that rejected her until one hospital accepted to admit her. However, this statement is also supported by Ishmael Owusu in *Shattered dreams of African migrants* (2021) who also revealed that those African migrants were not taken care of as they should be. He further explained and indicated that he was homeless for a very long time, unemployed and all these privileges were supposed to be provided by the Western European government.

- **Victim frame**

The researcher found three victim frames *In Shattered dreams of African migrants* (2021) and *Inside the world's deadliest migrant route* (2020) that were used to describe African migrants as innocent victims that fled from their countries due to war, political instability, and poor economic circumstances. The study also noted that African migrants were also referred to as victims of success and better-improved life conditions were the reasons that drove them to migrate. Documentary analysis showed that African migrants in selected documentary films were portrayed as people who seek help for numerous situations, they were faced with from the Western Europe government especially Italy.

- **Employment competitor frame**

The study noted that the Western European labor markets may favor easier job entry and exit because migrants might lack the knowledge of how to cope with regulations. Sa (2011) found that strict employment protection may result in a comparatively high chance employment for migrants than natives, as migrants were less aware of their rights and less likely to claim them effectively dumping their labor at lower standards and comparatively lower costs. In all three selected documentary films African migrants clearly stated that they seek employment in Western Europe to better their lives. However African migrants are not picky regarding employment, whatever comes they may take. Moreover, because of this, natives may go through a substitute effect where employers may consider African migrants over natives for employment exploitation thus, migrants were referred to as employment competitors and seen as a threat. Mostly the study noted in *Shattered dreams of African migrants* (2021) documentary that these African migrants mostly were employed in agricultural fields under hush conditions and being underpaid. This documentary also revealed that African migrants worked in hard labor sectors such as farming, road repairs, hotels, restaurants, and construction jobs that may be avoided by natives because its hard and dangerous labor and mostly hiring.

- **Employment without labour rights frame**

In Shattered dreams of African migrants (2021), employment without labor rights was implemented to reveal the exploitation of working African migrants in Western Europe. In this frame a character named Ishmael Owusu narrated that in Western Europe African migrants are exploited in employment, he further highlighted that the Italians have a term for jobs specifically for African migrants that were called "black job". This term was simply explained as work without a contract for African migrants, where they were exploited, worked unreasonable hours, and got minimum wages. What Ishmael Owusu narrated correlated with what Favre (2019) has indicated in chapter two when he said that African migrants have been reported to have been getting minimum wages, unreasonable hours, and trafficked for forced labor. However, the study noted that these African migrants experienced very precarious working conditions in countries where the trade unions were mostly weak, especially in industries such as construction, cleaning, catering, and agriculture work.

4.6 Summary of the chapter

This chapter has presented the interpretation and analysis of data from which study findings were derived and these were thematically presented. The presentation and analysis of data was based on categorising different themes from different scenes of selected documentaries according to the objectives of the study. This chapter gave the documentaries' narrative focus of African migration, the depiction of African migrants and ideological frames in African migration. The following chapter will provide the summery of findings, conclusion, and recommendations of the study.

CHAPTER FIVE

5. SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the summary of findings based on the data presented and analysed in Chapter 4 of this study. The chapter affirms the consummation of the study aim and objectives as stated in Chapter 1 (see section 1.3.1 and 1.3.2). Therefore, the chapter entails the summary of the study findings, with specific reference to the contexts in which the documentaries unfold and represent African migration in their storylines. The context is discussed in relation to the narrative focus of African migration, depiction of African migration in the selected documentaries and ideological frames on African migration. Finally, the chapter presents the conclusion of the study which is derived from the study findings followed by the recommendations and directions for future research.

5.2 Narrative focus on African migration

This section offers a summary based on the narrative focus about African migration as represented in the selected documentaries. The presentation addresses elements that characterise how the selected documentaries reveal the risky encounters that migrants go through, particularly in the Mediterranean Sea. These elements are a product of the researcher's review of the synopses or storylines of the selected documentaries, which informed the production process to achieve the study intentions as stated in Chapter 1 of the study to analyse the narrative focus of selected documentary films on African migration.

5.2.1 The Mediterranean: Europe's forgotten graveyard

Both in geographical terms as well as in the selected documentaries, the Mediterranean Sea is presented as a location beyond the Libyan coast, which is mostly used by African migrants as the fastest and most likely unnoticed route to Europe (Idemudia & Boehnke, 2020). The Sea is used by the producers of the documentaries as a setting to emphasize the realism that characterises the genre and to provide viewers with the natural feeling of the maritime world. The film producers

make use of the sea's unpredictable waves to create a dangerous setting for the documentaries, which suits the natural "scary" migration nightmares. One of the documentary titles, "Europe's forgotten graveyard", which serves as an embodiment of the selected documentaries is useful to emphasize how lifeless the sea is in the context of migrants' vulnerability against the symbolic grave in Inside the world's deadliest migrant route (0:47 -23:16). The study noted that, lack of travel documents made it difficult for many African migrants to go through the official borders; thereby making the Mediterranean Sea their only viable and paperless choice to find their way to Europe (Turaeva & Urinboyev, 2021). To illustrate the Mediterranean Sea's ruthless posture, the vast majority of African migrants who are portrayed and reported to have died in the Sea are somewhat "deposited" on the shows of the metaphoric graveyard. The producers have also shown that, despite the potential dangers of harm and death, it is disheartening that the number of African migrants who continue to die every year increases exponentially due to the daring commitment of the migrants to travel to Western Europe. Evidence also revealed that the Sea has a significant impact on migration to Africa due to the irregular dealings involving migrant-smugglers who thrive on this business through the Libyan coast (Achilli, 2022). Although these migrants have long used this route to cross the Sea, their success has largely depended on their ability to dodge the radar of the Libyan coast guards, as there is less official supervision of the area. Therefore, its significance lies in its strategic link between Western Europe and Libya, thereby becoming one of the most convenient and easiest paths to the migrants' freedom away from their bitter homes in some parts of Africa and Asia.

The study has also noted that most African migrants risk going to western Europe through the Mediterranean Sea due to various circumstances. Despite these journeys involving some of the most hazardous routes, conflict, persecution, and destitution forces thousands of migrants to die in the Mediterranean Sea while attempting to reach Europe (UNHCR, 2022). This is compounded by insecure boats used by the migrants to reach often sink in the Mediterranean Sea. According to IOM (2022) estimates, more than 1,500 migrants perished in the Central Mediterranean in 2021 while trying to reach European shores, with more numbers expected particularly from the African continent. This explains the high statistics of dead migrants that are wash up in North African countries like Tunisia that end up overwhelming the authorities' capacity to

deal with new arrivals. Sandersons (2022) stated that this report also observed cases of numerous corpses that were discovered in two distinct locations in the seaside town of Khoms, approximately 120 kilometres west of Tripoli, Libya.

5.2.2 The Mediterranean Sea: Epicentre of a humanitarian crisis

The study findings concur with some scholarly observations, which argue that the Mediterranean Sea has always been presented by both visual and print media as the setting for perpetual emergency and a humanitarian crisis (Mezzadra & Neilson, 2013; Vaughan-Williams, 2015). This view is compounded by the documentaries' portrayal of the Euro-centric approach which thrives on the "push-back" reactive mechanisms particularly in responding to the Central Mediterranean crisis. The study notes how this approach has been used to declare "war on smugglers" and focus on deterrence measures and the externalisation of borders, meanwhile downplaying the humanitarian angle, which focus saving migrants' lives and/or facilitating a safe passage into the Western Europe to avoid the enormous loss of life. In reaction to these inhuman approaches, those bent on breaking the law and who attempt to escape border restrictions, especially human traffickers modify their strategies and further engage in even riskier practices of smuggling migrants to Western Europe (Musarò, 2017). This locates the humanitarian crisis within a complex multi-dimensional setting, which needs the intervention of a broad sectoral or organisational outlook. Furthermore, this comes with an opportunity for the international community to bolster proactive mechanisms, particularly in collaboration with countries such as Libya and Tunisia to implement measures to mitigate safe travelling or border management systems around the Mediterranean Sea. This would be the case with the Libyan coastline, which boasts border guards in the Mediterranean Sea, who should monitor and prevent migrants from illegal crossing through capturing them and keeping them in detention centres in Libya.

5.2.3 Foiled journeys: Placing the human face to the tragedy

The study highlights numerous tragedies in the Mediterranean Sea resulting from foiled journeys by African migrants, a state of affairs of the entire the 21st century, which continues without any systematic documentation over many years. The drowning of people and some going missing in the Mediterranean Sea becomes the

new normal as notably, the figures of these tragedies reportedly continue to increase exponentially despite the alarming deadly experiences that migrants encounter in the sea on a daily basis (UNHCR, 2022). However, the producers of the selected documentaries seized the opportunity to document these tragedies to augment the efforts by global news channels taking into account the historic perspective that made headlines in 2015 when large numbers of victims perished in the Mediterranean Sea (Keane, 2015). An example of a specific tragedy that sparked media mayhem during this moment was the image of a lifeless body of the Syrian toddler washed up on a Turkish beach in Europe.

The study notes that representation of the foiled journeys serve to highlight the Mediterranean Sea as one of the most dangerous migration routes to reach western Europe for the thousands of migrants, especially from the African continent. The study further notes that, despite migrants fleeing as a result of conflict, persecution, and poverty, their fateful encounters in the sea leave them with no memorials as they unceremoniously perish in the 'notoriously unsafe boats' (UNHCR, 2022). These ordeals were confirmed by IOM (2021), which projected that more than 1,500 migrants drowned in the Central Mediterranean in 2021 while another 600 died in 2022. Notwithstanding, the study observes that, despite the number of dead migrants continue to wash up in the Sea, particularly in the North African countries such as Tunisia and Libya continue, the number of African migrants remains overwhelming high for the authorities (Sandersons, 2022). This is confirmed by the recent developments that have shown corpses found in two different sites in the coastal town of Khoms, about 120 kilometres west of Tripoli, Libya.

5.2.4 The rescue missions: A second chance to life for African migrants

Observations in the study show that several migration policies adopted by the Italian government including deterring and containing thousands of African migrants with the aim of returning them back to Libya may have hindered rescue missions and deprive African migrants of what some of them call "a second chance to life" (Caponio, 2020) This is in relation to the work of third parties such as specialist rescue missions that play a crucial role in African migrants' vulnerable situation as their only hope and second chance to life. In Inside the world's deadliest migrant route (9:24 – 23: 16) there are numerous rescue operations done to rescue African migrants at sea.

However, these rescue operations are intended exclusively to assist migrants in distress at sea, often as part of the organisations that are always on the lookout for desperate or stray migrants at sea attempting to leave Libya for Europe on rickety boats.

This further advances the ideological view that, despite migration being a sensitive matter, the depiction illustrates the degree of desperation that African migrants encounter, largely driven by poverty, conflict and unemployment that sets African migrants against death (Flahaux & DE Haas, 2016). All the documentaries depict the migrants as "cowardly" beings who, instead of standing against their adverse respective challenges and encounters in their home countries, they rather compel their themselves to tenaciously risk crossing the Mediterranean Sea against all odds.

The above depictions largely represent realism against the burdens of African poverty, which envisages a new generation of migrants who are determined to risk their lives in search of greener pastures in the diaspora including employment opportunities. The study further notes the producers' decisions to depict African migrants' desperation where rescue missions are used to depict the relationship between migration pull factors that attract African migrants and the desire to live in Western Europe. Most of the desperate attempts and foiled journeys resemble evidence of failed continental politics and regional institutions of governance from the sending countries in Africa such as Ethiopia, DRC, Somalia and Sudan (Parashar & Schulz, 2021.). In addition, the depiction of desperate African migration challenges is a self-indictment and systematic illustration of failure of African leadership, which these documentaries display through depiction of harrowing socio-economic realities compounded with extensive violation of human rights, which most of the African people continue to endure over many years.

5.3 The Sahara and Libyan camps: A trail of suffering and slow death

5.3.1 The Sahara Desert

The study notes that while the Sahara Desert represents hope and the possibility for African refugees to escape their predicament from the sending countries, especially those in Africa, evidence shows that traveling through the Sahara is much riskier than traveling across the Mediterranean Sea. This concurs with scholars who noted that

more migrants perish in the Sahara than in the Mediterranean Sea due to malnutrition, illness, thirst, dehydration, physical abuse, and lack of access to medication (Schlein, 2018). Moreover, the study observed that a lot of suffering occurs here because the Sahara serves as a doorway to Libya and subsequent gateway to Western Europe, making it extremely significant to migrants. With reference to universal symbols in the form of character types, images, text, and specific scenes the documentaries use the Sahara Desert as a symbol of desperation for African migrants. This is evident through scenes that depict how migrants are determined to make it to their destination despite all the eminent danger they are likely to come across. Through this analysis, it is clear that the producers of the documentaries decided to juxtapose the depth of possible jeopardy based on what they are fleeing from and the "envisioned" benefits they hope to achieve should they wade through their tough experiences. Lucht (2011) states that these hopes are pitted against the brevity against starvation, seeing dead bodies and skeletons strewn across the Sahara and with travelling in the same boats or transport for long distances, an experience that somehow toughens their consciences.

Beyond the Sahara desert's extreme physical hardships due to its hostile environment, lack of basic needs, particularly water causes untenable experiences forcing some migrants to drink their own urine to quench their thirst. Women in particular also encounter challenges during their monthly cycles due to shortage of water for washing, let alone personal hygiene, leading to them resorting to drinking their own blood to keep their mouths moist (Ebegbulem, 2017). In the process, the study also noted how children suffer greatly when they get orphaned after losing one or both parents, which makes them more vulnerable to child labour and other forms of abuse. This finding concurs with other Scholars who noted that children face situations that are very traumatic situations that compromise their mental health while traveling across the Sahara Desert and Mediterranean Sea. The study findings also show that, whereas African migrants that go through the Sahara Desert have to endure unbearably high temperatures, become ill and some pass away along their journeys, black on black or African to African physical violence compounded by acute shortage of medical heath care contributes to their suffering.

5.3.2 Libyan camps: Dungeons of lawlessness, brutality, and slavery

The study noted how the migrants' journeys evolve into an abyss of torture and slavery following their desperate entrapment in the Libyan camps. This is where local police officers watch over migrants to ensure none of them escapes before they are either temporarily processed or deported back to their home countries. However, these detention centres are inhabitable overcrowded prison cells with no sanitary systems that make migrants to be vulnerable to diseases (Trew, 2020). Therein, there is no rule of law, resembling dungeons where coast guards, parading as soldiers and policemen, are law unto themselves wielding guns as symbols of absolute power and control over their victims. This is done to instill fear on migrants, making them feel less human and often being treated as criminals. This ordeal depicts the consequences of illegal migration where the film makers used the encounters at the detention centres to highlight how the Libyans punish and/or try to correct transgressors. While the victims of these atrocities remain resolute to proceed with their dangerous journeys, the films depict tension, fear and psycho-social discomfort in their faces harboring mixed emotions of disillusionment against what waits in and around these detention centres see in African migrants: What drives them to Europe (0:30- 1: 45).

The gravity of this tragedy is characterised by the images of disease-carrying flies outside the detention center, further highlighting death and display of decaying bodies of animals and/or trash around the area. The situation depicts a war war-zone compounded with racism, lawlessness where reckless shooting and killing of African migrants occurs on-site with evidence of dead bodies strewn on the streets in *African migrants: What drives them to Europe (4: 47- 4: 57)*. Apparently, the film producers depict an African (Arab) versus African (Black) conflict where the latter is hunted and preyed on by Libyan citizens and sold to slavery (Kah, 2019). Overall Black African migrants suffer the brunt of torture as they are beaten up, raped, molested, and often starved with high levels of disrespect and violation of their human rights because of their skin color and nationality.

5.4 Depiction of African migration in the selected documentaries

This section presents findings on the depiction of African migrants in relation to both the push and pull factors that drive this phenomenon. The push factors are discussed

in terms of poverty, conflict and diseases in Africa (subsection 5.3.1) whereas the pull factors are presented in relation to education, employment, safety and health care in Western Europe (subsection 5.3.2).

5.4.1 Push factors: Poverty, conflict, and diseases in Africa

The major finding with respect to poverty relates to women and children in the selected documentaries, which depict migrant women as poor and vulnerable victims of socio-economic and political circumstances in the sending countries; One of the push factors is that young girls' educational options in these countries are limited and that they commonly find themselves pressured or coerced into getting married early due to their poverty conditions. Moreover, boys are compelled to join military training at a very young age, particularly in countries such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Cossor, 2016) to fight as rebels against the government establishment. These conditions push them to dissert their homes and migrate with their parents whom they depend on for their welfare such as food, protection, and safety. The latter aspect is also elusive in some countries such as Nigeria, Somalia and Ethiopia where resurgent and acts of terrorism make their safety compromised and security is not guaranteed due to the political instability in the region. Evidence shows that the situation is compounded by the fact that schooling is disrupted by political conflict, which leads to migrant children being kept out of school for their own protection and safety. Therefore, their desperation journeys are a compelling feature to try and escape extreme poverty in the desire to find a safe environment and support their families in their homeland upon arrival in the receiving countries in Europe.

To this end, the conflicts in Africa are symbolised by hordes of overcrowded boats, weary mothers with babies over their backs, heavy luggage on their heads, and unrelenting warring husbands who fight endless conflicts that drive African migrants from their homeland into perpetual victims in foreign countries. Due to a confluence of poverty and inadequate access to health care, diseases have been particularly a critical problem throughout Africa. The study notes how the documentaries depict women (and children) risking their lives to seek medical care elsewhere due to the obstacles most African states face in preventing and treating common diseases. Furthermore, migrants' circumstances are exacerbated by high medical care costs in an environment where dread diseases such as HIV/AIDS, TB, Malaria and other

communicable ailments are prevalent in Africa. This situation makes it extremely difficult to address health care issues, particularly because there are a multitude of factors that compound this matter including environmental aspects and cultural norms among African communities.

5.4.2 Pull factors: Access to good education, jobs, and health care

The study noted a strong perception among African migrants featured in the sampled documentaries that most of them leave their countries because of lack of industrialisation, economic development and political stability when compared with countries in Western Europe. Pull factors in this study are discussed in the context of how migrants from other African countries such as Nigeria and Niger are portrayed having proportionate access to privileges and benefits in Western Europe such as access to security, work, and education in the sampled documentaries. The findings in this study concur with reports by the UN which estimated that sub-Saharan Africa had the greatest rate of educational exclusion worldwide as in the year 2020 with up to 60% of youth who are not in school between the ages of 15 and 17 years out of school (Kaladze, 2022). Given the nature of push and pull factors in the sending nations in Africa, African migrants are contextually portrayed in the selected documentaries as people who are eager to acquire a good education. As a result, the producers of the documentaries have succeeded to effectively portray African countries as heavily reliant on foreign higher education systems as a steppingstone to better their living conditions. This is true for countries that are former colonies of Western European nations such as Britain, Italy, France and Belgium whose natives find it easy to blend or integrate into the former masters' socio-economic fabric through language and professional training.

Subsequently, most African migrants who travel due to Europe due to economic factors find it easy to be issued with temporary employment permits upon reaching their destination. Moreover, some scholars have observed that Western Europe employers often promote African migrants due to perceived better work ethics than local or native laborer's (McKenzie & Forde, 2009). According to Rienzo (2012), Nonetheless, this advantage does not always translate to good financial rewards because in spite of their high levels of work ethic and education, most migrants continue to work in low-skilled positions when compared to, native workers.

This finding of the study emanates from the observation that migration routes from most parts of North Africa to Western Europe are usually heavily characterised by securitization from the moment of departure until well after arrival of the migrants at their point of destiny. This is interfaced with heavily securitized borders as well as state and non-state actors who often take advantage of migrants' vulnerability along both land and water routes in the Mediterranean Sea. Mares (2019) indicates that compounding this dangerous experience, migrants often encounter another security complication where upon arrival, they sometime get temporarily held, are deported or exposed to the risk of abuse and exploitation by their handlers.

This goes beyond the narrative that African migration to Western Europe is often resisted on the basis of economic and cultural grounds (Mouan, Massey & Thibos, 2020), translating into the insecurity rhetoric where it is blamed for a variety of "globalised" dangers such as terrorism, organized crime, and the spread of disease. The study observes this view as both ironic and inhumane because the documentaries portray migrants as security risks meanwhile most of them are running away from genuine problems such as conflict and poverty caused by instability in their home countries.

5.5 Social media frenzy: Migrants' deceptions and tales of oblivion

The study noted how the influence of social media communication had a bearing on attracting migrants to wish to emigrate from some parts of the world, particularly poor countries in Africa and Asia. Some African migrants acknowledged fleeing their countries based on expectations that their journeys would be smooth and fruitful as promised on some social media platforms such as WhatsApp. In the course of the journey to their dreamland, most of the migrants in the selected documentaries regrated ever embarking on the dangerous trip to Western Europe. In the end the study noted how these migrants confirmed their regrettable ordeals, further warning other Africans to avoid being fooled into the same trap.

5.5.1 Falsehoods and deceptive promises about Western Europe

The study observed that the deceptive portrayal of life in Europe is often cossy and great on social media platforms especially Facebook (Orru & Mamusa, 2018). This has deceived many migrants into believing that Europe welcomes and protects

everyone that reaches its boarders regardless of their status. This confirmed by one Alagie in *Shattered dreams of African migrants, SDA (2021)* who lamented how t the portrayal of Europe thrives on baseless lies and misconceptions including fake images of African migrants who claim to own or acquired great wealth in Western Europe. The social media platforms sell the idea that Europe is the right place where people can achieve their dream and attain better living conditions. The study shows that most migrants get shocked once they reach Western Europe when they discover that reality on the ground reflects the exact opposite of what they viewed on the social media platforms. This experience is epitomised by Ishmael's encounter, who emigrated after being encouraged by fellow African migrants who already lived comfortable lives in Europe. Ishmael later regretted this when he found himself homeless, jobless and disappointed especially that his parents had sold their land to fund his trip to Europe in the hope that his intended fortune would change their situation back home.

5.5.2 Dashed hopes of the dreamland

The study findings concur with scholarly evidence that western European governments fail to integrate migrants in their country and renege on providing employment, housing, education, and healthcare as stated on international policy (Dumont, Liebig, Peschner, Tanay & Xenogiani, 2014). This is confirmed by the portrayal of the poor working conditions and paltry wages African migrants receive for their hard labour in European farms where they work with no formal contracts. Migrants work on seasonally bases and do unusual hours often ten times harder than the natives (Sa 2011). These experiences are recorded in Alagie's PhD study on contemporary slavery of African migrants across Italy, which found out that some migrants' living conditions in Europe were worse than those they left back in their own countries as they are treated like animals and not humans.

5.5.3 Waisted time and scarce resources

The study revealed that, despite their state of poverty and financial need, taking the journey to Western Europe requires migrants to pay relatively large amounts of money to traffickers or smugglers to facilitate their journeys. In the end, migrants are left with no option but to borrow money from people in their home country, sell pieces of land or do odd jobs to sponsor their trip. However, most of them revealed that this endeavor

was mere waste of time and money, which they could have invested into a local business. Alima's (2015) encounter in *African migrants: What really drives them to Europe* narrates how she regrets allowing her mother to borrow money to finance her journey, where she ended up stranded in the Libyan camps and wondering how they would pay back the money they borrowed if she cannot work and send money back home.

5.5.4 African migration amid the (Covid-19) pandemic

The study noted that, the voyages encountered by African migrants in the selected documentaries were associated with trauma and high risks of getting infected by multiple forms of disease, particularly in the wake of pandemics such as the Covid19 outbreak. Evidence in the study shows that a number of abortive journeys towards Western Europe were intercepted between Libya and the Mediterranean Sea or Western borders by Health Authorities who were monitoring and managing the spread of the virus during the unpopular lockdowns between 2020 and 2021 at the height of the Covid 19 pandemic. This situation negatively affected rescue operations that were unable to function optimally as they did before the pandemic, thereby leaving many migrants vulnerable to infection with no medication and infrastructure for hospitalisation (Davy, 2021). Furthermore, this created desperate and danger conditions for the migrants who were vulnerable to curfews and risks to be shot for breaking lockdown regulations.

The study further noted that the Covid-19 pandemic came with numerous challenges for both African migrants and rescue operations. Such challenges were not having enough stuff to perform rescue missions because they were infected by the covid 19 and regulations that included curfews. Notably, these challenges negatively affected these rescue mission's ability to prevent multiple risks such as protecting vulnerable migrants, particularly women and children and combating human trafficking within the Mediterranean Sea as lesser rescue boats were not available on site. This was compounded by the fact that, in a pandemic context, there were no guarantees if the entire rescue team or load of migrant travelers in a boat was not infected thereby endangering both rescue teams and the migrants.

5.6 Ideological frames in African migration

This section entails types of ideological frames identified which were used in selected documentaries. The frames identified in this study played an important role in the formation of public attitudes and issues.

5.6.1 Humanitarian frame

The producers of the documentaries successfully applied the humanitarian frame, particularly in *Inside the world's deadliest migrant route (2020)* where interventions by humanitarian aid organisations and frontline organisations represent the urgency of the jeopardy African migrants face and distressed life the go through in the Mediterranean Sea. This highlights both the magnitude and complexity within which Humanitarian organisations work in relation to provision of medical care, food, and blankets to desperate migrants who need safe travel across international borders. The humanitarian frame is useful in emphasising the humanitarian crisis that calls for collaborated effort from stakeholders including European Union institutions, United Nations, African Union and Regional Bodies to resolve the matter.

Conversely, the producers of the documentaries have used the humanitarian frame to present humanitarian aid as a consequent contributor to the crisis in the form a pull factor, which motivates migrants to bravely embark on the unsafe journey to Western Europe knowing full well of the anticipated humanitarian aid available to them once they get stuck in the Mediterranean Sea (Cusumano & Villa, 2019). Summarily, while the humanitarian frame has helped to highlight the crisis compounded by operational challenges including lack of medicine, physical space and capacity, and shortage of manpower, the documentaries have achieved to register the African migration problem as untenable. Favre, 2019 states that this is compounded by revelations that many of the African migrants clandestinely end up doing menial or "black jobs" in difficult labor-intensive fields, which require heavy manual skills, such as agriculture, road maintenance, and construction, which are shunned by locals, however for long hours and arbitrarily low wages.

5.6.2 The intruder and economic burden frames

The study findings have shown that the journey to Western Europe by African migrants is classified as a serious crime against international law. As such, these migrants are portrayed as intruders, with no sense of belonging and are portrayed a as criminals that deserve to be punished by law for illegally entering Western Europe. Evidence in one of the documentaries depicts European residents protesting in the streets voicing their outrage and reservations over the idea of opening the continent's borders to African migrants in *African migrants: what drives them to Europe 2015 (16: 16- 24:22).* The producers of the films have used this juxtaposition to depict African migrants' vulnerability to lack of safety, protection, and security against their stereotype as intruders and criminals to highlight lack of consistency in international law. This is because major powers in the West including those in Western Europe are privy to the conflicts in the sending countries, particularly Central and Northern Africa, but are hereby shown as indifferent parties in the migration crisis. This does not augur well with the dignity of African migrants but also tarnishes their image as "voluntary" victims of cossy adventure, yet they are victims of forced migration. Subsequently, this results in migrants being perceived as a burden to the host countries where they end up not finding jobs after mission rescues and living in crowded camps for many years.

The burden frame in the sampled documentaries presents a biased stereotypical orientation of African migrants the "wasting funds" of western Europe governments, deliberately diverting true focus from the migrant's humanitarian situation. This is portrayed through the treatment they receive at the detention centers where they are given daily handouts while they await their unknown fate, which rests with their handlers*.*

5.6.3 Helpless person and -victim frames

The study noted that the helpless frame featured where African migrants were faced with difficult situations such as drowning in the Mediterranean Sea. Producers of the films frame migrants' helplessness as begin to engage in their unpredictable journeys being forced to flee problems in their countries. While the images depict these realities facing migrants, the producers of the documentaries fall short of elucidating that these victims are not failure in themselves but are a product of failed statehood and

statesmanship that have failed to sustain and improve their socio-economic livelihood. Furthermore, although reference is made in the documentaries that foiled journeys are largely due to multiple push factors, little is said about the role of African migrants' former colonial institutions or powers for perpetuating neo-coloniality through their extractive tendencies (Sadiq & Tsourapas, 2021). This concurs with the assumptions within classical migration theory where leaders of poor countries, especially in the developing world have been blamed for lack of good governance, corruption and perpetuating self-serving systems to enrich themselves (Akurang-Parry & Indome, 2018). This subscribes to the view that African migrants tend to follow their former colonial master's economic systems where they best fit into the employment design, which they were trained into during the times of colonial oppression. For instance, France colonized the Congo and imposed its political structures, further altering the educational system including introducing French in the classrooms. Hence, there is this shared history and politico-economic systems between these two nations that motivates Congolese nationals to move into Belgium and France for survival when they feel pressured by their hard conditions at home. This situation subscribes to the aftermath of colonialism and coloniality in the global south where people become classified into racial, regional and geopolitical groups that are used to determine their fate in society. Ideologically, the findings demonstrate that humanity is now determined by one's historical trajectory and competitiveness that correspond with the governmental rule systems of their former colonizers, which further complicates African migrants' poverty conditions in the receiving countries.

5.7 CONCLUSION

Overall, this study applied a lens of scrutiny on the representation of representation of African migration in African migrants: what drives them to Europe (2015), the world's deadliest migrant route (2021) and shattered dreams of African migrants (2020). The portrayal of African migration on the selected documentaries sparked a debate whereby there seem to be a negative depiction of African migrants flooding the Western Europe as intruders and criminals that are draining the Western Europe's funds to protect migrants from sending countries. The argument was based on the issues concerning migrants passing through the Sahara Desert, crossing the deadly Mediterranean Sea, risking drowning and being captured by smugglers for ransom all

in pursuit of greener pastures dominating these selected documentaries. While not exposing the ordeals that pushes and pulls migrants away from their countries. In essence, this push and pull factors are detrimental to African migrants because they determine whether migrants should migrate to receiving countries based on the push factor. For instance, in the selected documentaries analysed, it is evident that African migrants migrate for mostly employment, healthcare, education and security. However, push factors for migrants indicate an immediate act by fleeing their countries to save their lives. It can be argued further that in the presentation of findings, the selected documentaries used ideological frames to define African migrants and portray them negatively by framing them in different frames that stereotypically labelled them intruders as in frames such as the intruder and economic burden frames. Through the study, it can also be noted that on the other side of the negativity associated African migration, these documentaries provide a reflection of humanitarian crisis on African migrants, and in this way highlights on the failed African leadership that exist throughout Africa. The study is vital and contributes to the literature on African migration, humanitarian crisis in the Mediterranean Sea, the Sahara Desert and rising number of African migrants' death.

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Appendix A

RESEARCH TOOL

Title: FILM GENRE AND REPRESENTATION OF AFRICAN MIGRATION: A STUDY OF SELECTED DOCUMENTARIES

FILM ANALYSIS INSTRUMENT

Narrative focus of documentaries on African migration

1. What relationships are there between the verbal language and the images in the film under study with respect to African migration?

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2. What does the exposure to multiple personal/collective risks reveal about African migration?

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3. What are the symbols that represent the plight of African migrants who are seeking refugee as inherently depicted in the films understudy?

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4. How do the documentaries reflect or project African migration realities from an African perspective?

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5. What kind of film content influences or dissuades migrants from risking undertaking the journey to migrate to other continents?

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6. What are the coverage injustices displayed in these documentaries?

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7. What are the roles of filmmakers in contributing towards change in migration trends through their content?

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Section B

Depiction of African migrants' experiences in documentaries

1. What forms of stereotypes are applied by the directors and producers to depict documented African migrant's experiences?

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2. What are the commonly repeated words and point of view presented in the sampled documentaries?

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3. To what extent does foreign aid assist African migrants or governments to deal with African migration?

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4. Do the detention centers highlighted on the selected documentaries have alignment with the policies and guidelines of handling migrants?

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5. What type of symbols are used in selected documentaries to portray African migrants' experiences in detention centers?

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Section C

Ideological frames and threats

1. How do the three selected documentaries frame African migrants during the migration crisis, and what is the salience and prominence of the frames?

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2. How are the issues of humanity and dignity portrayed? To what extent do the frames correspond with the representation patterns identified by previous research of the media coverage of migration?

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3. What is the dominant message in the text and the point of view presented in the storylines of the selected documentaries?

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4. What knowledge(s) do the frames tend to include or exclude in their depiction of African migration?

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5. How does exposure to migration encourage more Africans to migrate?

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6. What are the main policy standards for migration implemented to frame migrants in selected documentaries?

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Section D

Relevance of documentaries depicting the economic and political issues of African migration

1. What are technical means of production used on documentaries to depict economic and political issues faced by African migrants?

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2. What are the narrative features used in narrating the economic and political issues of migration?

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3. What are the issues faced by the African migrants in relation to the economy and politics highlighted by the documentaries?

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4. What type of symbols are used to portray African migration in the context of political and economic issues?

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5. How are these symbols used to express the characterisation and the nature of African migration?

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6. How have the producers and directors of the selected documentaries used the various treatments to document the political and cultural aspects of African migration.

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