

Book chapter (Accepted)

Title: What does *populism* mean in Belgian media discourse? A Corpus-Assisted Analysis of the terms *populism* and *populist* in French- and Dutch-Speaking Media in Belgium

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Abstract

This chapter analyzes media discourse about populism. Specifically, we examine the collocational profiles of the terms *populism(s)* and *populist(s)* in the Belgian media during 2019, a year with various elections. Using a corpus-assisted discourse studies approach, we compare the occurrences of the terms in the media outlets of the two main linguistic communities of Belgium: Dutch-speaking and French-speaking. Each dataset contains digital articles with the token *populis** collated from an established journal, a serious-popular medium, a free daily medium, and a state-funded medium. We show which actors and phenomena are labelled as *populist* and with which connotations the terms *populism* and *populist* are used in media discourse. In order to do so, we first identify separately the frequency of each form of *populis** in each media source. Then we analyze the collocates of *populis** and we classify them in semantic categories. We report our key findings, including the recurrence of certain patterns of *populism(s)* and *populist(s)* usage specific to each linguistic community, as well as the main similarities and differences regarding how the terms are used in Belgian media discourse.