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# HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND WAR IN UKRAINE: RESILIENCE IN EXPLORING STUDENT RESPONSE

# Elina Paliichuk

ORCID ID 0000-0002-0626-6841
PhD in Linguistics, Assistant Professor
Linguistics and Translation Department,
Borys Grinchenko Kyiv University
18/2 Bulvarno-Kudriavska Str, Kyiv, Ukraine, 04053,
Associated Researcher at French Research Center
in Humanities and Social Sciences (CEFRES)
Na Florenci 3, CZ-110 00 Prague 1
République tchèque UMIFRE 13 CNRS-MEAE UAR 3138 CNRS
e.paliichuk@kubg.edu.ua

#### **ABSTRACT**

This paper meets challenges in exploring the problems of human trafficking awareness among Ukrainian youth under war conditions. The mission of this social and pedagogical linguistic initiative has been reconsidered in the framework of the CEFRES fellowship, given the general and specific pre-conditions of vulnerability to human trafficking among Ukrainian youth. The paper highlights physical, psychological, technical, and pedagogical difficulties and offers solutions for resilient research. Attention is drawn to adjusting the methods under limitations such as a reduced sample of volunteering respondents and measuring the war impact. The solutions include accumulating empirical data for significant measurements for two academic years and upcoming surveying possibilities regarding the "war vs. no war" factors. Other outcomes of tackling impediments imply the possibility of retaining students' attention to human trafficking under war conditions through immersive experiences and reflexive activities with simultaneous collecting empirical data, introducing the awareness activities into the e-course (Moodle), and encouraging students to explore cases and evaluate the message. These solutions can help filter the significant results under four parameters of the CEFRES-supported project such as metaphor, storytelling, schemata, and sensory language for registering effective ways of immersive learning experiences.

**Keywords**: human trafficking; empirical studies; metaphor; storytelling; image schemas; sensory language; pedagogical challenges; social sciences; awareness; immersive teaching.

#### INTRODUCTION

While the world is reviving after recent COVID-19 restrictions, thriving on technological developments, science has been under shelling for about two years in Ukraine. With the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine war, the research and development capacities have been going through extreme turbulence, affecting socially important areas. On February 24, 2022, the research processes, conferences, submissions for publications, surveying, etc., were interrupted, as scientists in Ukraine were exposed to physical danger. Principal investigators, teams, and respondents found themselves scattered all over the country and abroad, with the primary human needs being prioritised. Later, the communication links between participants of the science communities were recollected.

The education process was restarted a month after the invasion. Facing physical, financial, and psychological challenges in new locations, fleeing the occupied territories, and surviving the nightmare of war, the Ukrainian researchers turned out to be at a crossroads: capitulate or stay committed to society and the country. The scholars faced the so-called fight-or-flight (Jacobs et al., 2023) challenge by tipping the scales in favour of national research, whatever the cost. Showing resilience, researchers chose to keep doing studies, highlighting national authenticity, and aspiring for cutting-edge innovations. The social value of research has increased, and the initiatives have become more practical and feasible. Raising awareness of human trafficking among young people under the conditions of war has become one of the projects committed to serving Ukrainian society.

This paper is a part of the project *Changing Young Minds: Student Awareness of Human Trafficking under War Conditions* implemented with the support of the French Research Center in Humanities and Social Sciences in Prague, the Czech Republic, in the framework of the non-residential fellowship program "CEFRES Actions for Ukraine" UMIFRE 13 CNRS-MEAE UAR 3138 CNRS. The initiative refers to the CEFRES topic "Research Area 1. Displacements, "Dépaysements" and Discrepancies: People, Knowledge, and Practices" and covers a series of interdisciplinary studies responding to increased human trafficking risks in an educational setting. It is aimed at establishing the conceptual prerequisites of creating impactful anti-trafficking educational products by collecting empirical evidence on how human trafficking is perceived by young people studying at a Ukrainian university.

## PROBLEM STATEMENT

This initiative is an alteration of the research idea to *Warn Human Trafficking Victims* (WHTV) designed before the war started. Now it has become a proactive mission, considering the dramatically increased risks for Ukrainian youth under the conditions when they are forced to flee the war and cross the national borders or when they stay in the occupied territories unable to move to safer places.

**This paper aims at** a systematic overview of the state of the art of the initiative. It describes the challenges of the project met under the Russia-Ukraine war. It will further deal with the following aspects:

- Pre-conditions of vulnerability to human trafficking in Ukraine,
- Adjustment of methods and materials under war conditions,
- Results of the research adaptation and the solutions introduced in learning activities,
- Discussion of limitations, further challenges, and conclusions.

Therefore, it will describe the impact of the war on the research, the challenges and solutions, the project activities, and the results achieved.

# **BACKGROUND**

Human trafficking implies the "recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, or receipt of individuals through the use of force, fraud, or deception to exploit them for profit" (*Human-Trafficking*). Individuals of all ages and backgrounds, including men, women, and children, are susceptible to this high-profile crime, which occurs worldwide. Traffickers frequently employ violence, fraudulent employment agencies, and false promises of education or job opportunities to ensnare and manipulate their victims. Interpol's data reveals that human trafficking takes various forms: the most widespread being trafficking for forced labour, forced criminal activities, trafficking in women for sexual exploitation, trafficking for organ removal, and people smuggling (*Types of Human Trafficking*). Notably, the trafficking of women for sexual exploitation is the most common form, affecting regions across the globe in the role of source, transit, or destination countries. In particular, "Women and girls represent 65% of all trafficking victims globally. More than 90% of detected female victims are trafficked for sexual exploitation (Bahous, 2022).

The Russia-Ukraine war has caused the review of the scope of international contacts, foreign affairs policies, activation, and development of EU acts. Media reports that "refugee families have fled Ukraine to seek safety. Sadly, their journey is fraught with many dangers and risks, even once they arrive at their destination (*How We're Helping Protect Ukrainian Refugees from Human Traffickers*). Coupled with social upheavals, pandemics, and political shifts, the situation has led to a surge in human trafficking cases both within the country and across the globe.

The war forced a migrant wave of women and children to flee the country unprotected, as men were prohibited from leaving due to their obligation to serve in the Ukrainian army. These women and young girls are particularly vulnerable to sexual exploitation abroad (Lazareva, 2023; Tondo 2022; Bauer-Babef 2022), which is the most common form of human trafficking. "Most Ukrainians receive a warm welcome. They're offered blanket access to temporary residence – residence permits, so they can work and receive social benefits. But so many women and children seeking to build new lives in trying circumstances also create opportunities for sexual and labour exploitation" (*Human Traffickers Exploit Desperation of Ukrainian Refugees*, 2022). It has also been reported that "traffickers already are trolling border areas trying to lure refugees with promises of accommodation, onward transportation, or employment" (*Protecting Ukrainian Refugees from Human Trafficking*, 2022). Many victims disappear as soon as they cross the border, and civilians cannot protect themselves under such conditions.

Instances of forced people smuggling, deportation under the guise of "evacuation", kidnapping, illegal transportation, and adoption of children, and illegal recruitment of men to serve as soldiers against the Ukrainian army have been reported (International Criminal Court, 2023). Screening and filtration camps expose Ukrainian citizens to violence and coercive practices. A significant part of Ukrainian society has decided to start their life anew abroad, because they have lost their dwelling, employment, and habitual way of life, making use of the activated EU's Temporary Protection Directive (Council Directive

2001/55/EC of 20 July 2001, and having the effect of introducing temporary protection, COM (2022) 91 final (the proposal), which gives a right to work legally in the EU (OJ L 212, 07/08/2001).

Yet even before, Ukrainians have always strived for a free labour movement having shared EU values and chosen the EU civilisation practices, which has become one of the triggers of Russian aggression. Young people have been eager to obtain Western education to be able to compete as fully-fledged players in the international labour market. EU integration prospects and the war-caused forced migration have induced students and graduates to cross the border, hoping for a better future. However, apart from the generous support and assistance granted to the refugees in EU member-states, the USA, Canada, and other countries, migrants are exposed to being deceived by traffickers who take advantage of the vulnerability and trust of the people in need.

Therefore, it is critical to raise awareness of human trafficking risks to prevent the victimisation of Ukrainian youth. In addition to the human trafficking informational awareness campaigns, it is necessary to develop verbal strategies of subtle influence on the cognitive sphere of potential victims that would be based on sound research data obtained during the implementation of the project.

This research mainly targets a female audience, for women's increased vulnerability to human trafficking. A particular social group consists of female graduates from higher education institutions, whose numbers are disproportionate to male graduates who are prohibited from crossing national borders. Therefore, two human trafficking risk factors are considered in the initiative: gender and age, as young women and girls lack life experience and skills to resist potential traffickers.

In a broader human trafficking research context, the recent reports on this issue (Greenemeier 2015; Mackin 2021; "Beating Human Trafficking on the Deep & Dark Web," 2021; United We Care, 2022; Dickenson 2022; Williams & Muhammad, in press) open new vistas for the development of the awareness methods on the internet, including gamification and digital storytelling. The review of the literature data shows the advancement in the study of human trafficking from the legal, psychological, political, economic, and cultural perspectives, with particular attention given to the profile of a victim, causes, and factors aggravating the risks of getting into the situations of being enslaved (Reis et al., 2022, Ortega et al., 2022).

Powerful and innovative research is carried out by scientists in the framework of the digital dimensions of human trafficking, focusing on the challenges related to digital technologies ensuring the anonymity of Darknet users (Reid & Fox, 2020). Nevertheless, much can be done in a traditional educational setting, through immersive reading and watching learning activities incorporated into academic courses in linguistics, pedagogy, psychology, social science, and social health (Paliichuk, 2023). These learning activities can be impactful for trainees' increased awareness achieved through storytelling, sensory modelling, metaphors, schemata, scenarios, and other techniques, which can simultaneously provide educators with empirical data (Chesnokova, 2016), observations, and insights.

#### **METHODOLOGY**

Four theoretical areas of this social, linguistic, and pedagogical are being tested:

- 1) metaphorical framing, which implies the study of the social impact of metaphor on the perceptions of the human trafficking problem and the development of specific linguistic tools for enhanced effects produced on the target audience,
- 2) schemata-based framing, which embraces the schemata-determined conceptualization of human trafficking through the lens of specific forms of thought actuating the diversity of human trafficking domains and the development of recommendations on the use of the image-schema theory for the delivery of the enhanced impressions to media consumers, in particular, the target audience,
- 3) narrative framing, which presupposes the exploration of the human trafficking scenarios and the development of recommendations for the effective use of a storytelling technique in anti-trafficking campaigns,
- 4) sensory-related linguistic framing, which focuses on the influence of the sensory modality of verbal manifestations on the change of the behavioural patterns of the target vulnerable groups of society.

The theoretical domain is being explored through the lens of cognitive linguistics. These are cognitive metaphor studies (Lakoff, 2003), image-schema theory by Johnson (2005), narratology in media and cognitive scenarios (Escalas, 2004; Gerrig, 2018), and sensory language (McSweeney, 1998; Miall, 2011; Winter, 2019) approaches to the exploration of media texts.

The empirical aspects include the experiment conducted by surveying humanities graduates, with the data processed in SPSS for Windows 26 software (Van Peer et al., 2012) that allows the carrying out of a statistical analysis of the collected data for establishing specific regularities or dependencies between the given parameters. Within the Project, two statistical tests are used: the Paired Samples T Test for measuring the respondents' feelings and attitudes before and after they are exposed to the experimental conditions (media texts) and the Independent Samples T Test used to establish differences between the groups of respondents. However, the schedule for collecting data has been modified because of the reduced number of voluntary participants, which has led to adjustments in the methods and conditions of exposing respondents to experimental materials.

The technical and pedagogical difficulties included the lack of students' willingness to answer the questionnaire during the set timeframes because of their mental fatigue and lack of normal living conditions. This led to reduced samples and insufficient data for the validity of the experiment. Nevertheless, the problem was solved by creating the conditions that would be conducive to obtaining empirical data from students during the online sessions and individual activities.

First, the survey was harmoniously incorporated into the academic process: filling out the questionnaire was one of the regular tasks on reflection, appreciation, and evaluation of the texts and videos.

Second, surveying was a part of the electronic learning course on the Stylistics of the English Language available on the corporate university Moodle platform.

Third, the experiments and questionnaires were designed as particular learning assignments and exercises that helped create natural learning conditions for the students.

Fourth, the materials were selected according to the four tested areas and presented as two-minute read media texts on human trafficking.

These steps allowed for collecting sufficient data for conducting statistical analysis and establishing the regularities between various factors (independent variables) and readers' responses (dependent variables). Such a resilient approach implies a systemic study of the perception of the media content on human trafficking, highlights the vulnerabilities, and sets the parameters for further elaborating educational materials on human trafficking.

#### **RESULTS**

During the implementation, several more difficulties arose apart from those mentioned above (physical, psychological, technical, and pedagogical) that referred to the essential aspects of the research quality. Table 1 below illustrates the challenges of ensuring the quality of research in terms of collecting valid data and encouraging students to participate in the study, as well as the solutions found to deal with concerns related to research under war conditions. For instance, the war was not highly predictable at the time of designing the initiative, therefore the factor of war had not been considered in the study aimed at raising awareness of human trafficking through cognitive linguistic mechanisms only. It means that now it is impossible to establish the differences in perceptions of the human trafficking risks before and after the war. This problem can be technically named the war vs. no war measurements challenge.

Another difficulty referred to the psychological condition of respondents whose attention was concentrated on the war and daily problems rather than on human trafficking risks. It means that students' understanding of the increased danger of getting into human trafficking situations when being abroad was overshadowed by the regular missile attack experiences or worries about close people in Ukraine. This problem can be technically referred to as *reduced respondents' attention* challenge.

Related to this is the problem of respondents' decreased willingness to focus on filling out the questionnaire separately from the current learning activities so as not to be distracted from the primary learning tasks under the difficult utility conditions and the necessity to save time. This challenge can be referred to as *reduced responsiveness*.

Besides, the students were inclined to do tasks more technically rather than dive into explorative activities. They were also reluctant to do self-study and extensive independent activities, and needed support. This challenge can be technically referred to as *explorative* reluctance. The concerns mentioned above affected the size of the sample per year of research and preconditioned the reduced sample challenge.

Table 1. Challenges vs. solutions in the Project implementation

Challenges	Solutions
War vs. no war measurements	Essay writing about war experiences
Reduced respondents' attention	Immersive activities at Moodle e-course
Reduced responsiveness	Reflexive activities at Moodle e-course
Explorative reluctance	Explorative activities at Moodle e-course
Reduced sample	Accumulating data for two or three years in a row

The above-mentioned concerns were handled to ensure the consistency and quality of the empirical data. The *war vs. no war measurements* challenge was met with a qualitative study which included surveying the same sample of respondents through essay writing.

The respondents were offered to describe their survival stories as an optional activity. To harmoniously incorporate essay writing into the learning process (based on the Stylistics of English Language Course), the students (BA graduates) were given the *War is not a Metaphor* topic as a play on words on the famous Lakoff's (2003) *war* metaphor. By applying their practical and theoretical knowledge of metaphors, the students shared their survival experiences and attitudinal responses. According to the preliminary observations, they used the *monster* metaphor in their descriptions of the impressions at the start of the war. They also showed a patriotic attitude and strongly condemned the war. Those essays became the linguistic evidence of the collective war trauma, which would be analysed in a separate study for regularities and peculiarities of war perceptions by the youth. In the framework of this Project, the data obtained from students' essays were anonymised and later can be explored to establish correlations between war-related experiences and the level of vulnerability to human trafficking.

The *reduced respondents' attention* challenge was met by retaining students' attention to human trafficking under war conditions through immersive reading experiences with simultaneous collection of empirical data. Throughout the Project period, students were surveyed four times according to the design of the research (metaphor, image schema, storytelling, and sensory language parameters). The questionnaire was organised as close reading activities so that both learning and research aims were met. The experimental media texts were inserted in Google Forms. Apart from the research-related questions, items also included interpretation and evaluation assignments, which ensured a seamless learning process. Likewise, the *reduced responsiveness* challenge was met using reflexive activities inserted into the questionnaires, which were used as part of regular learning activities at Moodle e-course on the Stylistics of the English Language.

The *explorative reluctance* challenge was met by encouraging students to select the media information on human trafficking cases and evaluate the message of the media texts they were exposed to. This strategy helped make students feel involved in the social problem in general and develop their proactive stance in the prevention of human trafficking. This approach also gives rise to further studies on measuring the level of awareness of human trafficking among the youth if the young people explore the problem themselves, whether they are ready to disseminate their findings and be more conscious of their safety.

The *reduced sample* challenge was met by accumulating empirical data for significant measurements during the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 academic years and will be extended due to surveying the same category of respondents having the same characteristics as the previous samples (BA graduates, aged 20-22, female respondents prevail). It means that the surveying under four experimental research conditions can be replicated, and the results can be reviewed based on a larger sample.

The solutions helped ensure the quality of the empirical evidence collected from the respondents and filter the significant results under four parameters of the project (metaphor, storytelling, schemata, and sensory language) for registering effective ways of immersive learning experiences. Currently, the project has yielded the following results:

*Metaphorical framing*. The study on the metaphorical media representation of human trafficking through the SPIDERWEB construal and its impact on the youth in Ukraine was carried out. Compared to previous decades (Paliichuk, 2011), the SPIDERWEB metaphor

has become more frequently observed in recent media. The methods embraced conceptual analysis and an experiment, in which 60 undergraduates (grouped into G1, G2, and G3) took part. Four media fragments were used in three modes: authentic (A), weakened (W), and enhanced (E). In total, twelve variables were tested. The Paired Samples T Test revealed the changes in student post-reading perceptions, with the highest response to E texts (identifying oneself with trafficked persons; imagining oneself being in the same situation; imagining sounds/voices; being emotionally affected). Used for the differences between A–W; A–E; and W–E, the Independent Samples T Test revealed the higher degrees for imagining oneself being enslaved in the HT situation; being secluded; emotionally affected; and being more careful about personal safety, which points to the feasibility of designing anti-trafficking educational content based on the SPIDERWEB metaphor. This study has been revised recently and accepted for publication (Paliichuk, 2023).

Schemata-based framing. This study focused on image schema manifestations in media texts on human trafficking, which may perform the role of "warning" signals in anti-trafficking media campaigns. For this, a conceptual analysis was done to establish profiled image schemas, and a survey was conducted to measure the reader's response to two types of texts on human trafficking, different in genre and schemata organisation. The texts were selected as experimental material representing typical human trafficking media discourse. The participants were divided into control (G1) and experimental (G2) groups according to the type of text they were exposed to. G1 read an expository text (T1) and G2 read a media narrative (T2). The respondents of G2 showed a significant tendency for a higher degree of involvement in the problem of human trafficking when reading T2 as contrasted to the responses of G1 to T1. G2 identified their reaction as a feeling of being in danger. Back to T2, it was clear that respondents reacted to verbal manifestations of prevailing CONTAINMENT and SCALE/ PROCESS/UP schemata clusters. G1 gave the weaker emotional response to T1 with verbal manifestations of UP, BLOCKAGE, and COUNTERFORCE schemata. It can be assumed that CONTAINMENT is the image schema organising spatial representation of human trafficking from the victim's perspective, conveying the feeling of being contained, being in a difficult situation, being in an enclosed space, supported with other schemata manifestations through the lens of the concept of bigness, large scale, and growing process. The results may be used in anti-trafficking content as a new methodology for raising awareness in a target audience vulnerable to human trafficking. This study has been published recently (Paliichuk, 2022).

Narrative framing. In this study, the structure of human trafficking media scenarios, narrative perspectives, and messages in terms of their attitudinal perceptions of victims were identified. The study was augmented with an empirical sleuth for verifying whether the readers believed in the so-called happy end of the human trafficking situation. The Paired Samples T Test method was used to measure the differences in perceptions of human trafficking before and after respondents were exposed to human trafficking stories. 38 Ukrainian humanity students participated in the study. The case study covered 35 media stories from anti-trafficking campaigns' websites. The hypothesis and the tested variables assumed that: human trafficking stories transmitted supportive messages to victims that a) survival was possible; b) it was worth struggling if anyone got into slavery conditions; and 3) social reintegration was possible. The statistical processing of collected data showed

that the results were significant only for the third tested variable. Therefore, there was no evidence the respondents believed in the positive outcome of the human trafficking situation and felt depressed, or at least their emotional state had changed. This study was presented as a poster at the DARIAH-EU Annual Event (Paliichuk, 2022).

Sensory-related linguistic framing. The research objective was to test whether the sensory language predetermined a transportation effect of survival stories, for which the methods of corpus analysis and narrative analysis, and a survey were applied: 35 survival stories from anti-trafficking e-platforms were processed via Sketch Engine and annotated manually, as a result of which the prevalence of visual, tactile, and acoustic sensory linguistic modalities and the dominance of the first-person narration were revealed in representation of the image of victim (IoV). A narrative text and an expository text were assigned to 40 humanity students from Borys Grinchenko Kyiv University, divided into experimental (G1) and control (G2) groups. The data were processed with the help of SPSS Statistics 26 software. The Paired Samples T Test, applied separately and before vs. after, showed a significantly higher degree of responsiveness within G1, in terms of V1 – being emotionally involved in the story/news; V2 – feeling sympathy for the victim; V3 – imagining oneself being in the same situation. The Independent Samples T Test showed the differences between the reaction of G1 and G2 based on six other variables: V4 feeling of being inside the story; V5 – the willingness to interview a victim; V6 – visualising the setting; V7 – imagining sounds, voices, and the atmosphere; V8 – imagining a victim being touched or the feeling of being touched; V9 – feeling the smell of the places described. The significant results for V1-V4, V6, and V8 confirmed a greater degree of response within G2 and pointed to the existence of the dependency between the sensory language and the transportation effect in survival stories. The results were presented at the LCM 9 Conference (Paliichuk, 2022).

## **DISCUSSION**

With the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine war, the initiative has been reinforced and transformed into a CEFRES Project for more systemic data collection from the respondents and the development of educational close reading materials on human trafficking underpinned with the results of the linguistic studies. The scientific relevance of the linguistic and pedagogical project lies in that it stands out from other research on human trafficking carried out mainly within other disciplines in social sciences (Zhang, 2009; Ghansah, 2013; Martin & Smith, 2015; Alemika & Ifeakandu, 2019; Jacon-Duffy, 2020; Cheetham & Hurst, 2022; Wang et al., 2022; Darkweb Intelligence, 2022). At the same time, it embraces a multidisciplinary approach extending to the issues explored in cognitive linguistics, social change studies, gender studies, and media studies, the synthesis of which will bring new methods of interaction with vulnerable social groups to prevent their victimisation.

The limitations can be mitigated due to potential partnerships with European institutions and collaborative research. For instance, the responses from the young people in Ukraine who are vulnerable to human trafficking under war conditions can be compared with the ones received from the samples at European universities who have not been affected by the war. Such comparison would fill the gap in measuring responses from the audiences before the war and shed light on the degree of the war's impact on the

vulnerability to human trafficking. Moreover, each of the four areas of empirical studies conducted within the CEFRES Project can be enhanced with separate collaborative initiatives, which can provide data for social workers on how to interact with vulnerable groups from the post-soviet countries.

# **CONCLUSIONS AND PROSPECTS**

Reflecting on the research processes under war conditions provides a macro-view of the challenges, disruptions, solutions, readjustments, and prospects. Within this individual research at CEFRES, such problems as the *war vs. no-war measurements, reduced respondents' attention, reduced responsiveness, explorative reluctance*, and *reduced sample* were identified and handled. The essential problems of the studies within the framework of the four directions of the Project and concomitant war-related concerns required the elaboration of a particular methodological approach that would help preserve the quality of the research carried out under the auspices of the CEFRES fellowship.

The lack of data and respondent involvement was compensated with additional strategies implemented through online learning tools such as *essay writing*, *immersive reading practices*, *reflexive assignments*, *explorative activities* related to human trafficking, and accumulating responses from the same profile of the sample for three years. As the interim results of the Project show, the students have become more conscious of their safety when crossing the national borders, they more often *imagine themselves being in the same situation* as well as *show more sympathy with trafficked persons* after experimental activities. Students are sensitive to *containment* schemata-charged language units in media texts on human trafficking. They are also more inclined to believe that *survival is possible*, that *it is worth struggling*, and that *social reintegration is possible*.

Moreover, rethinking the methodological impediments helped to come up with resilient approaches, and new directions for innovations and collaborations as well as reevaluate the social relevance and the mission of the research aimed at early prevention of young people in Ukrainian universities from the probability of getting trapped in human trafficking situation when moving abroad and reduce their vulnerability through learning activities. For instance, one of the nearest prospects refers to "Recognising a Trafficker in a Good Samaritan" an empirical study based on the conceptual analysis (frame modelling) aimed at elaborating the trafficker's conceptual portrait and revealing core vulnerabilities among students. Such activities will yield significant results for the further development of specific educational content based on the findings of these conceptual and empirical studies carried out in the framework of the CEFRES Project.

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# СТІЙКІСТЬ ДОСЛІДЖЕНЬ ПЕРЦЕПЦІЇ ПРОБЛЕМИ ТОРГІВЛІ ЛЮДЬМИ СЕРЕД СТУДЕНТСЬКОЇ МОЛОДІ В УМОВАХ ВІЙНИ

**Еліна Палійчук**, кандидат філологічних наук, старший викладач кафедри лінгвістики та перекладу, Київський університет імені Бориса Грінченка, вул. Бульварно-Кудрявська, 18/2, Київ, Україна, 04053, асоційований дослідник у Французькому центрі досліджень в гуманітарних і соціальних науках (CEFRES) в Празі, Чеська Республіка, е.paliichuk@kubg.edu.ua

Стаття присвячення питанню подолання викликів у підвищенні рівня обізнаності про торгівлю людьми серед молоді України в умовах російської війни. педагогічної лінгвістичної ініціативи Переосмислено місію ŭ стипендіальної програми CEFRES, визначено передумови вразливості серед студентської молоді, висвітлено фізичні, психологічні, технічні, педагогічні виклики та шляхи їх подолання у виробленні стійких дослідницьких підходів. Адаптовано методологію щодо обмежень, як-от зменшення вибірки, вплив війни на залученість респондентів. Вироблено основні шляхи забезпечення стійкості емпіричних студій: збирання даних упродовж двох років поспіль для збереження якісних і кількісних характеристик вибірки з урахуванням «до- та післявоєнних» чинників, утримання уваги студентів до проблеми торгівлі людьми через імерсивні та рефлексивні види навчальної діяльності з одночасним збиранням емпіричних даних, впровадження практики щодо обізнаності в електронний навчальний курс, заохочення студентів до аналізу випадків. Ці рішення уможливлюють відстеження значущих результатів за чотирма параметрами зазначеної ініціативи, як-от використання метафори, сторітелінг-прийому, системи образ-схем і сенсорної мови для фіксації ефективних методів у розробленні імерсивних видів навчальної діяльності.

**Ключові слова**: торгівля людьми, емпіричні дослідження, метафора, сторітелінг, образ-схема, сенсорна мова, педагогічні виклики, соціальні науки, обізнаність, імерсивне навчання.

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