



UNIVERSIDAD DE SALAMANCA

FACULTAD DE FILOLOGÍA

GRADO EN ESTUDIOS INGLESES

Trabajo de Fin de Grado

MULTIMODAL ANALYSIS OF GENDER IDENTITIES IN THE SPORTS
SECTIONS OF NEWSPAPERS

THE CASE OF THE ENGLISH VERSION OF *EL PAÍS*

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Signature

ABSTRACT: This study explores the influence of discourse on the formation of gender perceptions and the importance of applying a multimodal perspective in discourse analysis. Discourse, as a social practice, builds realities and perspectives through language, impacting people's experiences and identities. In this sense, Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) exposes the tools used by power to build and naturalize certain realities, particularly social injustices and gender stereotypes. Focused on the sports column of the newspaper *El País*, this project carries out a multimodal analysis of articles published between 2017 and 2022 to comparatively examine the representations of sportsmen and sportswomen and the presence of gender stereotypes both in the written text and in the images. By uncovering and challenging these discourses, the present research project contributes to the fight for gender equality in sports and society in general.

KEYWORDS: Gender (in)equality, multimodal analysis, sports, newspapers, performativity

RESUMEN: Este estudio explora la influencia del discurso en la formación de percepciones de género y la importancia de aplicar una perspectiva multimodal en el análisis del discurso. El discurso, como práctica social, construye realidades y perspectivas a través del lenguaje, impactando en las experiencias e identidades de las personas. En este sentido, el Análisis Crítico del Discurso (ACD) expone las herramientas que utiliza el poder para construir y naturalizar determinadas realidades, en particular las injusticias sociales y los estereotipos de género. Centrado en la columna deportiva del diario *El País*, este proyecto realiza un análisis multimodal de artículos publicados entre 2017 y 2022 para examinar de forma comparativa la representación de los hombres y las mujeres deportistas y la presencia de estereotipos de género tanto en el texto escrito como en las imágenes. Al descubrir y desafiar estos discursos, este proyecto de investigación contribuye a la lucha por la igualdad de género en el deporte y la sociedad en general.

PALABRAS CLAVE: (Des)igualdad de género, análisis multimodal, deportes, periódicos, performatividad

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1. INTRODUCTION

In today's society, both women and men work and fight to achieve gender equality in all areas of life. However, it is easier to change what we are aware of than what we are not. And that is the role that discourse plays in our mind. According to Litosseliti & Sunderland (2002), discourse is a social practice in which language plays the role of constructing realities and perspectives, it is a text in the context of society, an agent that not only presents and represents social practices but also maintains them. Thus, the dominant discourses shape people's experiences and identities.

What significance does this have as far as applied linguistics is concerned? To begin with, the discourse of power is everywhere: in the media, in television, radio, newspapers, social networks, advertisements, textbooks, etc. Thus, circulating discourses are appropriated by individuals, and in more conscious or unconscious ways, they lead to particular ways to understand the world. In that sense, it is important that linguistics do not go only beyond the meaning of the written text, but also of the images. For this reason, a multimodal perspective has been applied in order to carry out this study taking into account the significance of both written text and images.

On this note, Litosseliti & Sunderland (2002) explain that through Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), the tools that power uses to build and naturalize that reality can be exposed, mainly in what refers to uncovering injustices, social inequalities, and ideologies. According to these authors, discourse contributes to shaping people's identity, and gender is no exception. Thus, a context is produced that supports a performance of gender that the discourse has constructed and naturalized, so analyzing discourse would expose in what ways we came to construct a reality in a given way. In the case of gender stereotypes, we come to understand which image of women has been created within patriarchal societies.

Taking onboard the above-stated argument, this project focuses on the stereotyped discourse around the image of sportswomen that can be encountered in the sports section of the Spanish newspaper *El País* (English version). This study intends to carry out a multimodal analysis of newspapers articles that were published in the sports section of *El País* in a five years span (2017-2022) with the aim to examine how sportsmen and

sportswomen are portrayed and what stereotypes about both gender (if any) emerge. The choice of the sports section as the primary source of data is due to the fact that sports have a tradition of belonging to the masculine terrain and, as the European Institute for Gender Equality (2015) points out, “this area is hindered by the social constructions of femininity and masculinity, which often associate sport with ‘masculine’ characteristics”. At the same time, it is one of the realms where the fight for gender equality has gained more visibility in the last years.

1.1. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The present project aims to contribute to the bulk of research on how gender stereotypes are portrayed in sports articles, with this aim, a multimodal analysis of media portraits of sportsmen and sportswomen will be conducted in order to raise awareness about the ways in which newspapers reproduce (or not) gender stereotypes.

In this way, what has been identified as a gap in the research is also attempted to be filled: the small number of studies that analyze the portrait of female athletes in the Spanish press. In that sense, considering that the media have a role in changing this situation, the aim of this project is to explore the current situation in a specific newspaper that reaches a general audience on a daily basis (the English version of El País).

The following research questions are intended to be answered:

1. How are sportsmen and sportswomen portrayed by newspaper articles that appear in the English sports section of the Spanish newspaper El País from 2017 to 2022?
2. What stereotypes and roles are attributed to sportsmen and sportswomen in the sports articles? Are their characteristics associated with their actual/imagined values?

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The European Institute for Gender Equality (2015) exposed some barriers preventing gender equality in decision-making in sports organizations, as well as obstacles to equal participation in sports and coaching, often due to gender stereotypes. In that sense, my investigation aims to discover the impact of the linguistic portrayal of gender in sports

and the images selected for the articles, on the portrayal of women athletes in society. The present project is grounded in previous research that analyzed the phenomenon in different countries.

2.1. THE REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN ATHLETES IN THE MEDIA: AN OVERVIEW

Kian (2006) qualitatively analyzed newspaper articles related to basketball and reached the conclusion that there is a prevalence of male hegemony, both when considering the authors of the articles and the very protagonists of the articles. While male authors constitute 86% and write 83% of their articles about male athletes, female authors are relegated to 14% and focus 65% of the times on articles about female athletes. However, despite a clear superiority of masculinity, Kian (2006) concludes that, through certain linguistic structures, both male and female authors try to empower women more and avoid reinforcing male hegemony. Nevertheless, the author also states that male authors make greater use of structures to make positive descriptions of male athletes, and not so much when it comes to female athletes. On a different note, Chinurum et al. (2014) explain that women are more present in the sports world nowadays, despite their exposure to stereotypes and prejudices within a society that is moving towards the promotion of gender equality.

On the same token, Eagleman (2015) qualitatively analyzed the different portraits of the gymnasts of the 2012 Olympic Games to find differences in the portrayals of gender and gender stereotypes. The author reached very similar conclusions to studies that had been carried out previously, in which women were sexualized on many occasions, and their capacities were minimized by being portrayed as little girls (mainly in sports such as artistic gymnastics, in which grace and physical appearance are highly relevant in this sport being considered typical of women). Through this type of language in these articles, a type of reality is created, in which women are relegated to the level of triviality, and in which they are described mostly physically, but not in terms of skills and expectations (which occurs more with men portrayals). Eagleman (2006) concludes that sportswomen are portrayed by the press through stereotyped images that devalue their achievements and skills as athletes.

In another study, Caple (2013) analyzed the portrayal of female athletes in the Australian newspapers. This research used the multimodal social semiotic analytical paradigm informed by the work of Kress & van Leeuwen (2001), to carry out qualitative analysis of images and verbal text (headlines). The findings suggest that “Australian sportswomen are now treated both verbally and visually as serious athletes” (Caple 2013: 11). However, the results also reveal that the biggest problem lies in the lack of coverage in the media, since over the two-week sample period for the study, only 500 articles were about women, while 2000 were about men. In that sense, Kareem (2014) explains that there is a substantial degree of inequality between women and men’s sports, since the former are less paid and they also suffer discrimination. Two examples of this inequality can be encountered in Manning’s article (2020), which illustrates the disparity between genders by showing that women’s soccer teams are still paid less than men’s. Similarly, Toole (2021) exposes how women basketball players of the National Collegiate Athletic Association of the United States of America (NCAA) have to experience discrimination not only on the playing field but in every sense, for example in terms of the food that they are given by the federation, since the quality is much lower than that of their male counterparts.

On the same token, Kosofsky (1993) exposed not only how gender inequality is present in sports, but also the lack of opportunities that sportswomen face. By conducting a sociological study and analyzing the physical differences that men and women have when practicing sports, the author aims to give some clues to promote gender equality in sports. Nevertheless, Wellard (2016) explains that gender and physiology should not be the first elements that come to our mind when judging sports practice, since the physical experience of practicing sports is much more complex than only thinking about the physical differences that exist between men and women.

With all of this in mind, Huggins (2007) states that "women athletes receive lower levels of media coverage, and are subjected to sexist and derogatory language in the media and from people in their communities" (p. 1). In this respect, McKee (2022) explains that the rule books of Canadian hockey will be rewritten in order to make a change in the language through which women are represented, as an improvement to reach gender equality.

2.2. THE ROLE OF CLOTHING

Lebel (2021) delved into the impact that some uniforms have on women athletes, since they need to compete and train in a comfortable and confident manner, rather than being sexualized through the uniforms they wear. The social implications of what is stated in Lebel's article (2021) are also targeted by Zipp et al. (2021): they expose the ways in which clothes interfere not only with sports practice, but also with female athletes' self-esteem and their transformation into sexual objects of desire.

On the other hand, Brice (2021) states that the creation and use of new activewear for women could be a tool for their empowerment and a new understanding of femininity, as well as a continuation of the promotion of the idealized form of female bodies. The article does not condemn or endorse the use of this type of clothing, but it does state that the marketing of this type of clothing for sporty women could be another way in which they adhere to social expectations of the perfect female shape and body. However, the author also explains that many women use these clothes as a way of being in control of their bodies, their health, and their ability to decide how to dress. Further investigation into this topic would be required in order to reach a conclusion about the impact of the use of some kinds of clothes by women athletes.

2.3. DISCURSIVELY-CREATED GENDER IDENTITIES

Cameron (2007) demonstrated that the gender representations that are made through language have an impact also in the performativity of gender identities, which is very relevant when it comes to sports practice. Hall (1995) explained that speakers use language to develop their gender identities during interactions, which eventually influences the way they perceive themselves and others.

Related to this topic, Bartsch et al. (2000) established a comparison between 20th-century and nowadays' television commercials, and reached the conclusion that women are still represented in the domestic realm, showing great gender bias and inequality, that has an impact on the viewer. Musarat et al. (2018), in a study that analyzed the differences in terms of gender in advertisements published in English Pakistani newspapers, concluded that the image of women was stereotyped, marginalized, exaggerated,

devalued, unserious, and impersonal for readers (unlike ads whose model is a man, in which he is shown closer to the reader). If we take into account the substantial influence of the media in our understanding of the world, these type of messages can lead to gender-biased behaviors by promoting inequality, sexism, and inferiority in women, thus reinforcing the portrayal of women as subordinate to men, objectified beings whose physical attributes and domestic duties are the ones that stay at the forefront.

3. METHODOLOGY

This project aimed to identify the portrayal of athletes according to their gender and the stereotypes that could arise in the selected articles (N= 10) in the sports section of the Spanish newspaper *El País* in its English version. For this aim, a combination of qualitative and quantitative approaches in a mixed-method frame enabled us to shed light on the phenomenon. This project has followed the multimodal analysis perspective with a data-driven approach, in which the categories stemmed from the analysis of the corpus, so that the research instrument has been implemented along the analysis in order to cater for data appropriately (see Appendix 4).

3.1. MIXED-METHOD

The present study has employed a mixed-method approach, in line with the interdisciplinary nature of applied linguistics, and, in fact, “[it] enables researchers to investigate more complex research issues usually not possible with purely quantitative or qualitative methods” (Mehdi, 2016, p. 35). Mixed-method has enabled us to approach the research question objectively, since quantitative analysis determines how the phenomenon happens, while why and how it occurs are the focus of the qualitative approach. Hence, the aim of having used a mixed method approach and combining “both numeric trends and verbal descriptions, [was to] improve validity through the convergence and corroboration of findings” (Cohen et al., 2010, p. 110), since as Dörnyei (2007) points out, “words can be used to add meaning to numbers and numbers can be used to add precision to words (p. 45).

The perspective employed is what is known as multimodality. As described by Kress and van Leeuwen (2006), it refers to the use of various modes, such as visual,

verbal, gestural, spatial, and audio in meaning-making processes, and it recognizes that communication involves the integration of multiple modes to create meaning. This approach emphasizes the importance of visual and other-than-verbal elements as a unit of meaning. The reason for having used this type of analysis is that, as a significant amount of studies show, it is one of the most complete and accurate ways to analyze articles that contain text and images, as demonstrated in the study carried out by Caple (2013).

Additionally, the perspective employed for interpreting the results and data has been Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), an interdisciplinary approach that investigates how language is used in social, cultural, and political contexts to construct meaning, power dynamics, and social identities. Its aim is to reveal concealed ideologies and biases in discourse by analyzing linguistic features, rhetorical strategies, and social contexts to comprehend how language both shapes and is shaped by society (Litosseliti & Sunderland, 2002).

3.2. DATA COLLECTION

The present study aimed to examine newspaper articles (N= 10) that were published in the English version of the sports section in *El País* in the last 5 years (from 26th January 2018 to 22nd June 2022). The articles were chosen based on the following rationale: a balanced number of articles concerned with sportswomen (N= 5) and sportsmen (N= 5), and a selection of articles that talk about a variety of sports with the aim to examine the visibility of gender identities in a cross-sectional manner.

During a 40-month period, I came across a total of 170 articles. Among these, 156 were centered on male athletes, while only 14 were related to female. It is noteworthy that out of the 14 articles featuring women, I had to exclude 9 of them due to one article being significantly different in nature and length compared to the others, and the remaining 8 not discussing female athletes, but rather focusing on the wives of male athletes or other public figures of interest.

Regarding the research instrument, some categories were established prior to the analysis of the articles, such as: topic, comparisons with another athlete of the opposite

sex, stereotypes and gender roles, acknowledgments of the athlete's achievements, subjective assessments by the author, and references to emotions. Each category has taken into account different units within the text for the analysis: some have focused on complete sentences and others dealt with phrases in a more specific way. These categories were selected as I found them relevant to carry out an analysis that takes into account the similarities and/or differences regarding the representation of athletes according to their gender. In addition, they have been modified and delimited during the analysis process, since some have had to be discarded due to lack of relevance, and others have been added.

In regards to the images, they were analyzed qualitatively, and categories were also established for this purpose. Firstly, I divided the images into indexical and symbolic: according to Kress and van Leeuwen (2006), the indexical images are the ones that define or represent reality in a direct way (in the case of this study, those that represent the athletes acting in a certain manner by motivation of the sport that they practice, for example), while the symbolical images are those that have social or cultural implications behind its form and content. I had to leave Article 8 out of this division, since the nature of its images is analytical, and thus, it did not fit within those categories. Other categories used for the analysis were: the meaning of the trophies, the participants, the topic, and the Tweets.

3.3. PROCEDURE

First, an extensive review of the literature connected to the topic has been conducted. This allowed us to establish connections, make comparisons, and draw hypotheses that enabled me to ground the study in its research field. Similarly, a parallel review of some of the literature concerned with how discourses are produced and reproduced through the media, and tools for critically analyzing discourse have been performed.

In order to understand how gender is represented in the selected articles, the previously-mentioned categories were elaborated as the research instrument. In addition, taking into account that the analysis was not only qualitative but also quantitative, it was important that the analysis of all the articles follow the same pattern to later establish percentages and comparative graphs. Therefore, a multimodal analysis has been carried out by applying the categories in order to extract the meaning of the written texts and the

images that appear in the articles. Moreover, taking the perspective of CDA has allowed me to establish connections between the texts and the social context in which they are embedded.

The data obtained were processed and quantified in order to establish a statistical comparison between the articles according to the gender of the athlete. I compiled all the independent units of meaning where the relevant content was found (ranging from a single sentence to entire paragraphs) from articles about women and men, resulting in 73 units of meaning for women and 82 units for men. Then I calculated the percentage of appearance of each category of analysis within the total units of meaning for women [73] and for men [82]. In that sense, the use of quantitative analysis has been essential for this part of the project, since it has allowed a description and interpretation of the data and the identification and analysis of repeated patterns.

4. RESULTS

This section gathers the results of the study and is divided into three parts that correspond with the categories previously used to collect the data. The presentation of quantitative data will precede its qualitative interpretation in order to provide a comprehensive answer to the research questions.

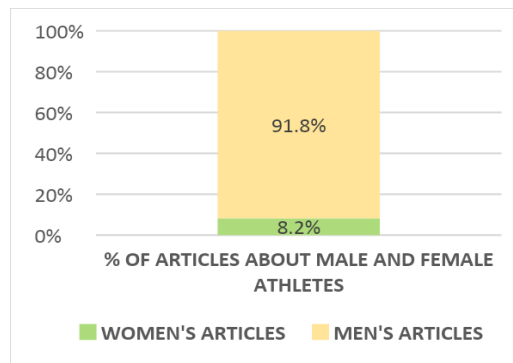
4.1. THE RELEVANCE OF GENDER

4.1.1. A QUANTITY THAT MATTERS: NUMBER OF ARTICLES

A good starting point in our understanding of the research data is the difference in quantity between articles related to sportswomen and sportsmen. Over a span of 40 months, I discovered a total of 170 articles. Out of these, 156 of them (91,8%) were about sportsmen, while only 14 (8,2%) pertained to women, as evidenced in **Figure 1**.

Figure 1

Number of articles on sportsmen vs. number of articles on sportswomen



Additionally, it is important to note that out of the 14 articles that featured women, I had to disregard 9 of them, since one of the articles had a distinctive nature and length compared to the others, and the remaining 8 did not talk about female athletes, but about the wives of male athletes or public figures of interest. It is important to highlight that the difference manifests a significantly higher interest for male athletes.

4.1.2. THE GENDER OF THE AUTHORS

Out of the articles focused on sportswomen, only 2 were written by men (Articles 1 and 2), while the remaining 3 were written by women (Articles 3, 4, and 5). The articles written by women predominantly discuss discrimination in federations and gender issues, with minimal subjective assessments. On the other hand, the articles written by men tend to focus more on the athletes' sports careers, and include more subjective assessments and objective acknowledgments of achievements.

When it comes to articles about male athletes, 2 were written exclusively by men (Articles 6 and 9), 2 by women (Articles 7 and 10), and 1 by a team of 3 men and 1 woman (Article 8). However, I did not find significant differences between articles written by men or women, except for Article 10. In this article, which is written by a woman, the author presents the athlete's situation in a more critical manner, delving into his personal life and making negative subjective assessments. The author is more critical and highlights issues of sexism and discrimination towards women, making it the only article about a male athlete that addresses these topics.

4.1.3. GENDER DIFFERENCES IN THE TITLES

When analyzing the 10 articles, I observed that only 2 of them specifically mention the gender of the athletes in the title of the sports modality and in the article itself (Articles 4 and 5). For example, there is a contrast between titles such as "Maradona: the overindulgent life of a soccer legend" (Article 10) and "How the US women's soccer team won its battle for equal pay" (Article 5). Another example is "Female squash players in Spain shocked at tournament prize: leg wax and a vibrator" (Article 4) compared to "Tennis star Garbiñe Muguruza becomes first Spaniard to win WTA Finals" (Article 2). In these titles, the gender of the athletes is explicitly mentioned, highlighting the distinction in the portrayal of male and female athletes.

4.2. WRITTEN TEXT

This section includes the following eight categories applied to the written text: 1) the topics, 2) comparisons with other athletes of the opposite gender, 3) stereotypes or gender roles, 4) objective acknowledgments and 5) subjective assessments about the athlete, 6) references to emotions, 7) sexism or discrimination in the general topic, and 8) positioning of the author with respect to the athlete.

The data in these sections has been compiled by calculating the percentage of times that each category appears in the total number of units of meaning (such as paragraphs and sentences), which correspond to 73 in the case of women's articles, and to 82 in the case of men's articles.

4.2.1. RECURRENT TOPICS

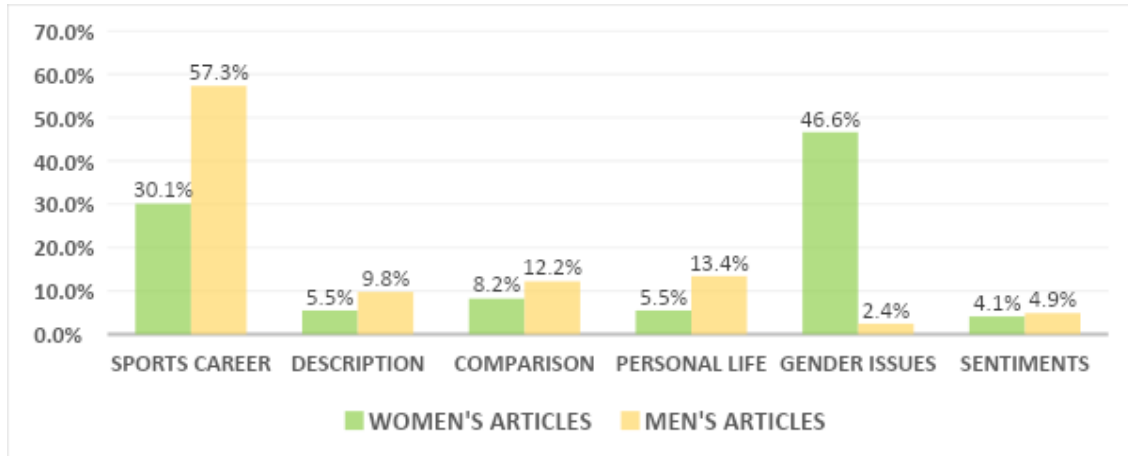
Figure 2 illustrates the frequency of appearance of different topics in articles related to sportsmen and sportswomen, highlighting a contrast between the two.

As can be seen in **Figure 2**, the most prominent difference in terms of topic appearance is evident in the areas of sports career and gender issues. In articles about men, sports careers is the predominant topic, accounting for 57,3% of the content. On the other hand, gender issues are the predominant topic in articles about women, comprising 46,6% of the content. Additionally, it is noteworthy that the topic of sports careers appears

in 30,1% of articles about women, whereas the topic of gender issues only appears in 2,4% of articles about men.

Figure 2

Recurrent topics on the sportswomen articles vs. the sportsmen articles



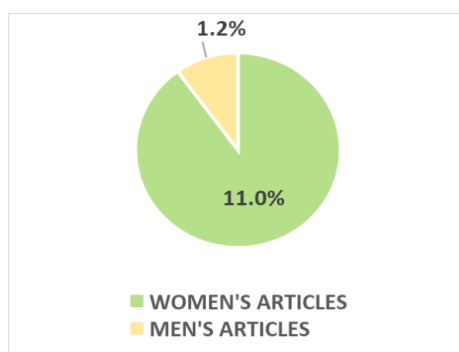
The other categories do not exhibit a significant contrast; however, they appear to be more prevalent in articles about sportsmen. Descriptions of sportsmen are present in 9,8% of the articles, while in articles about sportswomen, they only appear 5,5% of the time. Similar trends can be observed in the category of ‘comparisons with other athletes’, which appears in 12,2% of men's articles and 8,2% of women's articles, as well as in the category that shows the frequency of references to sentiments, where there is a contrast of 0,8%. Another category worth mentioning is ‘references to the personal life of the athletes’, which has a higher occurrence in articles about male athletes (13,4%) compared to articles about female athletes (5,5%).

4.2.2. COMPARISONS WITH ANOTHER ATHLETE OF THE OPPOSITE GENDER

As **Figure 3** shows, from the total 73 units in women's articles, 8 of them contain comparisons (11% of the units), while only 1 out of the total 82 units in men's articles contains a comparison (1,2% of the units), indicating that in sportswomen’s articles is more frequent to find out comparisons with male athletes.

Figure 3

Number of comparisons with another athlete of the opposite gender on sportswomen articles vs. sportsmen articles



Extracts 1, 2, and 3 are examples taken from the articles about sportswomen that contain comparisons with athletes of the opposite sex. However, their nature is different, as Extract 1 aims at emphasizing the skills of the female athlete, while Extracts 2 and 3 have as an objective to highlight the inequality faced by female athletes compared to their male counterparts:

- *Few male gymnasts are even able to attempt what Biles does with such deceptive ease. (Extract 1, Article 1, paragraph 3)*
- *Female squash players had already been dealing with other forms of discrimination such as lower salaries, fewer promotions and more run-down facilities than those enjoyed by their male counterparts. (Extract 2, Article 4, paragraph 8)*
- *When France's men's soccer team won the World Cup in 2018, FIFA awarded the team \$36 million (€32 million) for their victory. But when the US women's soccer team won the Women's World Cup in 2019, they received just \$4 million (€4.5 million). The US men's soccer team were eliminated in the round of 16 at the 2014 World Cup, but were paid €4.5 million (\$5.11 million), while the women's team received just €1.45 million (\$1.64 million) for winning the competition. (Extract 3, Article 5, paragraph 8)*

In the case of comparisons in the articles about male athletes, there is only one example of it, and it aims to emphasize the greatness of the athlete, as can be seen in Extract 4:

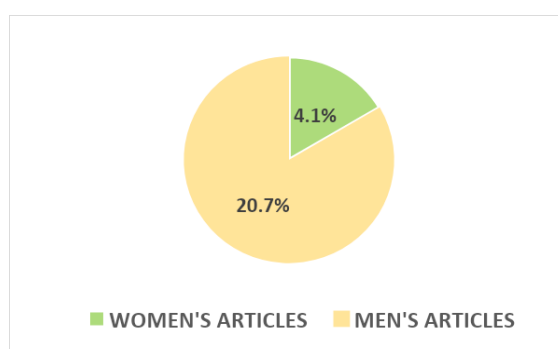
- *But the absolute record in the Open Era is still higher: 23 titles, as many as Serena Williams has claimed so far.* (Extract 4, Article 8, paragraph 11)

4.2.3. STEREOTYPES AND GENDER ROLES

As **Figure 4** shows, the percentage of appearance of this category is higher in the case of male articles, as 20,7% of the time they are subjected to stereotyping or association with gender roles, a percentage which corresponds to 17 units of meaning out of the total 82 for sportsmen articles. This contrast significantly with the 3 units of meaning out of the total 73 for female athletes' articles that are associated with stereotypes or gender roles, which corresponds to 4,1% of appearance.

Figure 4

Number of stereotypes and gender roles on sportswomen articles vs. sportsmen articles



However, it is important to note that this graph only displays explicit instances in the written text that refer to stereotypes and gender roles. In two articles (discussing the US women's soccer team and female squash players), the gender roles attributed to them are implicit in the way they are treated by the federations, rather than being overtly stated by the author.

There is only one article about a female athlete that explicitly stereotypes women, in a way that perpetuates the notion of women being overly concerned with trivial matters such as fashion and social media, rather than their professional careers, as illustrated in Extract 5:

- *She has been on the cover of the fashion magazine Glamour, which published a glowing report on the 24-year-old. On Instagram, Biles shares photos of herself eating pizza, with her boyfriends and dressed in leotards decorated with small goats – a reference to her status as a “GOAT,” the acronym for*

Greatest Of All Time. And Twitter has created an emoji just for her – a goat in a sparkling red Leotard. (Extract 5, Article 1, paragraph 3)

In contrast, three male articles that exhibit stereotyping were found. In extracts 6 and 7, the stereotypes reinforce the idea of men as dominant and powerful entities, almost like invincible gods, while in Extract 8, the stereotypes depict the athlete as a tough guy who is always pursued by women and achieves whatever he desires:

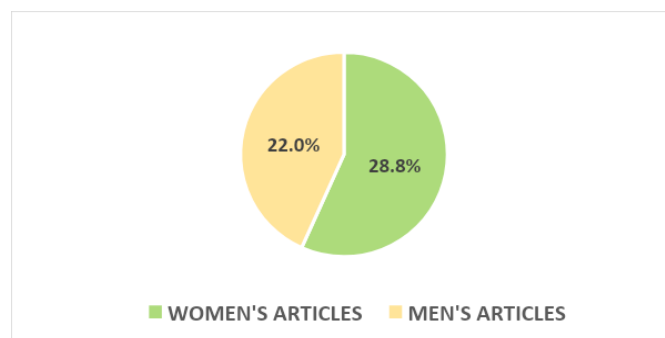
- *The Barcelona defender and Van Dijk don't need to do anything special to ensure that all eyes are on them. Being special is enough.* (Extract 6, Article 6, lead)
- *Rafael Nadal, God on Earth: The statistics that prove his complete dominance.* (Extract 7, Article 8, title)
- *It would seem that Maradona really does believe that he has been touched by "the hand of God". no one will stop him doing what he wants to.* (Extract 8, Article 10, paragraph 3)

4.2.4. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS OF ACHIEVEMENTS

As **Figure 5** illustrates, 21 units of meaning out of the total 73 in sportswomen's articles acknowledge the athlete in an objective manner, which is not far off from the 18 units out of the total 82 found in sportsmen's articles. Nevertheless, it is noticeable that this category is 6.8% more prevalent in female athletes' articles compared to male athletes' articles.

Figure 5

Number of objective acknowledgments of achievements in sportswomen articles vs. sportsmen articles



In every article, except for one about a male athlete, there is at least one reference to the achievements of the sportsperson. Interestingly, there are two articles that have 10 or more objective acknowledgments, one about a female tennis player (Extract 9), and the other about a male tennis player (Extract 10). These acknowledgments are presented in a similar manner in both articles:

- *The 28-year-old already has an impressive list of accomplishments to her name: two grand slam tournament titles (2016 French Open and 2017 Wimbledon Championships), runner-up in another two grand slams (2015 Wimbledon Championships and 2020 Australian Open), and being ranked number one.* (Extract 9, Article 2, paragraph 10)
- *Since the Spanish tennis player first emerged on the scene, he has practically owned Roland Garros, losing only three titles out of 18. He has won 91% of the highest-level matches on clay, more than Federer on grass (89%) and Djokovic on hard court (85%).* (Extract 10, Article 8, lead)

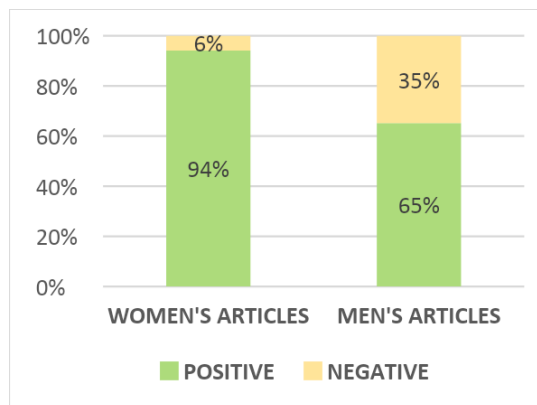
4.2.5. SUBJECTIVE ASSESSMENTS

The data in this section has been compiled by calculating the percentage of times that subjective assessments made by the author appear in the total number of units of meaning in the same way as the previous sections. Moreover, a distinction between positive and negative assessments has been made in order to establish a contrast not only between the gender of the athletes, but also between the polarity of the articles. As **Figure 6** shows, in women's articles, out of the total 73 units of meaning, 17 contain subjective assessments, while in men's articles, out of the total 82 units of meaning, 23 contain such inferences.

However, the number of subjective assessments is not as relevant as their nature, i.e., whether they are positive or negative. In women's articles, 94% of the subjective assessments are positive, accounting for 16 units of meaning, with only 1 unit being negatively assessed. This contrasts with men's articles, where 65% of the assessments are positive (corresponding to 15 units of meaning), but there are 35% of assessments that are negative (corresponding to 8 units of meaning), in contrast to women's articles where negative assessments only appear in 6% of the cases.

Figure 6

Number of subjective assessments on sportswomen articles vs. on sportsmen articles



In terms of the specific articles, there is one women's article with no subjective assessments about the athlete (Article 4), and another article with only one subjective assessment (Article 5). The remaining three women's articles contain between 4 and 6 subjective assessments, all of which are positive except for one. Extract 11 shows how positive subjective assessments are made in reference to female athletes:

- *Combining grace, power and determination, the US artistic gymnast has a unique kinesthetic ability.* (Extract 11, Article 1, paragraph 1)

On the other hand, as in females' articles, there is one men's article that has no subjective assessments (Article 9), and the remaining articles contain between 3 and 7 subjective assessments. Extract 12 exemplifies how positive assessments are made in reference to male athletes:

- *The Barcelona defender and Van Dijk don't need to do anything special to ensure that all eyes are on them. Being special is enough.* (Extract 12, Article 6, lead)

Notably, one of the articles about a male athlete has almost exclusively negative subjective assessments, which is exemplified in Extract 13:

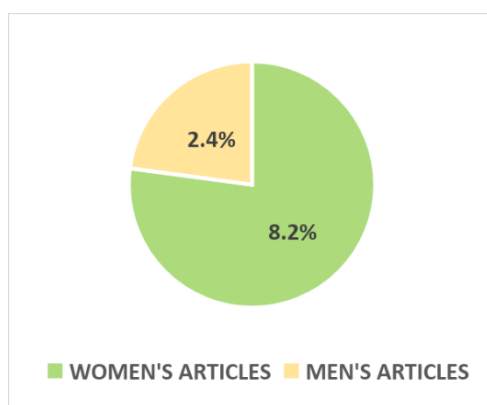
- *A sight that, if things carry on like this, could overshadow his image and turn him into a toxic example of exactly what a sportsperson shouldn't be.* (Extract 13, Article 10, paragraph 3)

4.2.6. REFERENCES TO EMOTIONS

As shown in **Figure 7**, there is a predominance of references to emotions in the case of articles about female athletes, more specifically, 6 units of meaning out of the total 73 (which corresponds to 8,2% of the units of meaning). On the other hand, in the articles about male athletes only 2 units out of the total 82 units of meaning (corresponding to 2,4% of the total), make reference to the emotions of the sportsperson.

Figure 7

Number of references to emotions on sportswomen articles vs. sportsmen articles



Regarding the articles about women, three reference emotions (Articles 2, 4, and 5). In the case of Article 2, the sentiments referenced are those of joy after winning a match, while, in contrast, the sentiments portrayed in Articles 4 and 5 are those of indignation because of gender discrimination in terms of payment. See the contrast between Extract 14 and Extract 15:

- *“I don’t know what this country has that makes me so excited!” said Muguruza, who was celebrated with cries of “Mu-gu! Mu-gu! Mu-gu!” The 28-year-old described the experience of winning in Mexico – where she also won the Monterrey Open in 2018 and 2019 – as a “magnificent feeling.” “Today I am going to drink tequila!” she added. (Extract 14, Article 2, paragraph 4)*
- *“I felt surprise and indignation,” says Elisabet Sadó. (Extract 15, Article 4, paragraph 4)*

On the other hand, there is only one article about men that mentions sentiments (Article 9), and the feelings referenced are more neutral than those portrayed in the previous extracts, as shown in Extract 16:

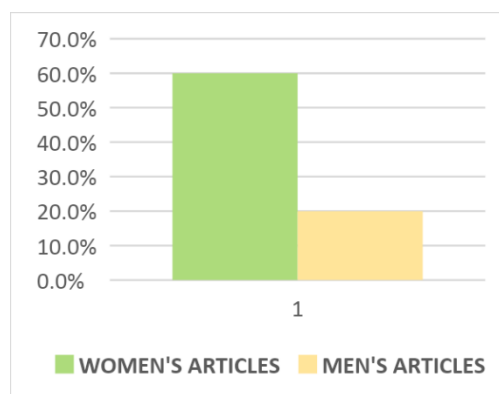
- “He really liked his experience in Indianapolis,” says Catalan driver Oriol Servià. (Extract 16, Article 9, paragraph 5)

4.2.7. TOPIC: SEXISM OR GENDER DISCRIMINATION

The data in this section has been compiled by calculating the percentage of times that sexism or gender discrimination appear in the general topic of the articles. The data is not based on specific units of meaning within the articles, but rather on the overall written text and the social implications conveyed through language in general terms. According to the findings developed in **Figure 9**, 60% of the articles about women discuss issues of sexism or discrimination based on gender, as evidenced by three out of five articles (Articles 3, 4, and 5). On the other hand, only 1 out of 5 articles about male athletes (Article 10) directly addresses the issue of sexism or discrimination, and even in that case, it is about the male athlete's aggression towards women. Therefore, a total of 4 articles highlight instances of sexism towards the female gender.

Figure 8

Discrimination or sexism in the general topic of the sportswomen articles vs. sportsmen articles



The specific instances where this topic can be found are in the following extracts. Articles 4 and 5 (Extracts 17 and 18) discuss the issue of female athletes being less paid than their male counterparts:

- *Female squash players had already been dealing with other forms of discrimination such as lower salaries, fewer promotions and more run-down facilities than those enjoyed by their male counterparts. (Extract 17, Article 4, paragraph 11)*
- *When France's men's soccer team won the World Cup in 2018, FIFA awarded the team \$36 million (€32 million) for their victory. But when the US women's soccer team won the Women's World Cup in 2019, they received just \$4 million (€4.5 million). The US men's soccer team were eliminated in the round of 16 at the 2014 World Cup, but were paid €4.5 million (\$5.11 million), while the women's team received just €1.45 million (\$1.64 million) for winning the competition. (Extract 18, Article 5, paragraph 8)*

Article 3 (Extract 19) discusses the murder of a sportswoman by a man:

- *Spanish golfer Celia Barquín Arozamena has been killed in the United States. According to local police, the 22-year-old from Cantabria was found dead on the Coldwater Links golf course in Ames, a city with a population of 50,000 in the state of Iowa. Police have arrested a male suspect and charged him with first-degree murder. (Extract 19, Article 5, paragraph 1)*

And Article 10 (Extract 20) discusses the accusations of sexual violence by a male athlete:

- *And also accusations of gender violence and sexual harassment: in 2006, a woman sued him in Polynesia (...), a case that was settled out of court. (Extract 20, Article 10, paragraph 10)*

4.2.8. POSITIONING OF THE AUTHOR ABOUT THE ATHLETE

This section shows how the author portrays athletes, whether they are treated as elite or if the author remains neutral. The analysis considers different categories, such as comparisons, stereotypes, objective acknowledgments, and subjective assessments, to understand the author's perspective on the athletes.

When it comes to articles about women athletes, 3 out of 5 (60%) depict them as elite athletes (**Figure 9**). These articles have minimal comparisons, and when comparisons are made, they portray the female athlete as having superior skills to male athletes.

Additionally, these articles have few stereotypes, but many objective acknowledgments and positive subjective assessments.

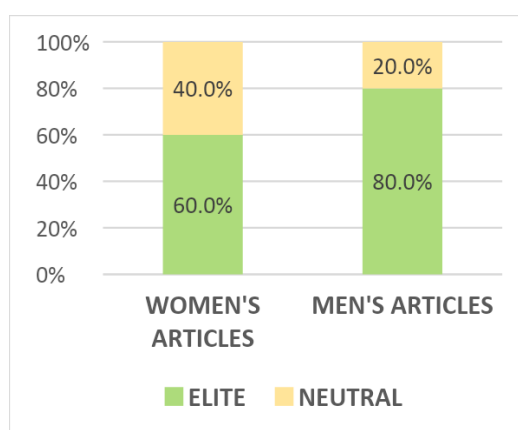
However, the remaining 2 articles (Articles 4 and 5) about women athletes show that the author maintains a neutral stance. The comparisons are negative, and the objective acknowledgments and subjective assessments are minimal or non-existent. In that sense, the author remains neutral when discussing discrimination faced by women athletes, as sexism is inferred by society and not opined upon by the author.

On the other hand, in the case of articles about male athletes, 4 out of 5 (80%) depict them as elite athletes (**Figure 9**). These articles have minimal comparisons, a significant amount of stereotyping and, in terms of objective acknowledgments, they are few in comparison to subjective assessments, which are mostly positive, except for one article (Article 10).

In the article where the author remains more neutral (Article 7), there are no comparisons, no stereotypes, and minimal objective acknowledgments and subjective assessments, although they are positive. In this case, the author avoids expressing their opinion about the athlete's status.

Figure 9

Positioning of the author of the sportswomen articles vs. sportsmen articles



As a recap, it can be seen a contrast between women and male articles in their treatment: while men are treated as elite athletes 80% of the time, women only in 60% of the cases and thus, while only 20% of the times male are neutrally treated, this number ascends to 40% in the case of the female athletes.

4.3. IMAGES

The analysis of the images has been carried out in a qualitative way using categories based on the contrast of women and men athletes' articles. The images of the articles have been named 'primary' and 'secondary' depending on the order in which they appear in the article: the former are those that appear with the title and the lead of the articles, while the latter are those that appear along the rest of the article. All images have been included in the Appendices.

The images were first divided into two types: indexical and symbolical. The images of Article 8 have not been included in these categories, since they differ in nature from the other articles' images and thus, the analysis of this article's images will be shown separately. Moreover, other categories have also been identified, such as the meaning of the trophy, the participants of the images, the topic represented, and the tweets that appear in some of the articles.

In this analysis, Images 3, 8, 11, 23, and 24 were frames from videos. Nevertheless, they have been analyzed as if they had the same nature as the rest of images due to the limitations of length of this project. In that sense, these images have been treated as static photographs. However, it is important to bear in mind that videos capture the action and development of the scene, while an image represents a frozen action. This temporal quality of video can have a significant impact on multimodal discourse analysis as it reveals more complex and subtle gender dynamics. For instance, through body language, facial expressions, interactions, and physical movements of the athletes, videos can provide additional information about gender representations and power dynamics in the sporting context. Therefore, by not considering videos in the analysis, there is a risk of missing relevant nuances and details for a more comprehensive understanding of gender representation in the media.

4.3.1. INDEXICAL AND SYMBOLIC IMAGES

4.3.1.1. SYMBOLIC IMAGES

Primary images in Article 5 and in Article 4 (Images 9 and 12) depict the players expressing indignation towards the federation's sexism, which may convey the concept

of women as empowered and fighting for equality. In Article 5, both the primary and secondary images (Images 9, 10, and 11) show women speaking out, possibly advocating for their rights and voicing their opinions, and therefore having voice and agency in their pursuit of equality. On the other hand, Article 4 uses two images (Images 12 and 13) that show the frustration and protest as a response to the discrimination they have faced, and in that sense, it can be interpreted as an act of asserting their rights and standing up against sexism and inequality.

(Images 9, 10, and 11 – Images 12 and 13)

On the other hand, the images of Article 6 and Article 7 (Images 14 and 15) portray the male athletes as triumphant men with elevated status and power. In that sense, it could be seen in Image 13 the athlete is a representation of an idol, a god-like and iconic figure in the sports world, as well as in Image 14, the sportsman's success is emphasized by his depiction as a dominant figure.

(Image 14- Image 15)

In contrast, the images in Article 10 (Images 25 and 26) present the sportsman as an impulsive and uncontrollable man in the case of the primary image (Image 25), and as a powerful head of his family in the secondary one (Image 26). This contrasting portrayal may depict him as a complex and multifaceted individual, with both positive and negative traits, which are highlighted in the images: while in the primary one, his flaws are stressed, in the secondary one, his role as a leader within the family is emphasized.

(Images 25 and 26)

As a recap, it can be concluded that in this section there are included 2 articles about women in which the images represent them as agents fighting for equality, 2 articles about men in the images represent them as god-like figures, and 1 article about a man in which he is represented both in a negative and in a positive way.

4.3.1.2. INDEXICAL IMAGES

The images in Article 1 (Images 1 and 2) are motivated by the sport the sportswoman practices, both in the primary and secondary image, since they capture her performance and skills, emphasizing her abilities and dedication. Similarly, the images

that are presented in Article 2 (Images 3 and 4) are motivated by the sport the sportswoman practices, likely showcasing her celebratory gestures related to winning the championship (as in the case of the primary image) or performing the sport (in the case of the secondary image). In the same line, the images in Article 9 (Images 21 and 22), which is about a sportsman, can be motivated as well by his sport, since the primary image may depict him in a racing context, displaying his skills, and the secondary image may capture his celebratory gestures related to winning a race, further emphasizing his achievements in the sports world, similar to the primary image in Article 2.

(Images 1 and 2 – Images 3 and 4 – Images 21 and 22)

On the other hand, the images in Article 3 (Images 5, 6, 7 and 8) show a combination of motivations, since Images 5 and 6 may be motivated by the victorious moment of winning the championship, while the first secondary image (Image 7), on the other hand, reflects the tragic circumstances of her murder, showing a more somber tone. In a similar way to the primary image, the second secondary one (Image 8) may be motivated by the sport she practices, similar to the images of Article 1, highlighting her athletic abilities and dedication.

(Images 5, 6, 7 and 8)

As a recap, in this section, there are 3 articles about female athletes (Articles 1, 2, and 3), and 1 about a male athlete (Article 9). In all of them, there are images in which the action performed is motivated by the sport they practice. Nevertheless, there are 2 women articles' images (Images 3 and 5) in which there is also a representation of the victorious moment of winning a championship or a race, and 1 article's image (Image 6) that also presents the tragic circumstances of a woman's murder in a direct way.

4.3.2. CONCEPTUAL IMAGES: GRAPHS

The images that are used in this article are not narrative, but conceptual (Images 17, 18, 19, and 20), since they are graphs, and the meaning that can be extracted from them is more limited. They are highly analytical and their aim could be to establish the athlete's superiority over his counterparts by creating a hierarchical relationship in which the other athletes are seen as subordinate. This could be interpreted as a representation of power that is illustrated through an analytical visual discourse, while also associating

positive attributes with the athlete by presenting objective data about the athlete's numerous victories compared to his counterparts.

4.3.3. THE TROPHIES

Firstly, in the case of the images in Articles 6, 7, and 10 (Images 14, 15, 25, and 26), the athletes are not depicted with a trophy or medal, as if it was not necessary for them to be represented with evidence of their winnings, since they may be considered gods without needing to do anything special. In the same line, the images in Articles 1 (Images 1 and 2) and 9 (Images 21 and 22) also depict them without any trophy, even when both athletes won the race or championship where the photo was taken, but here the athletes are not represented as idol figures.

In contrast, Articles 2, 3, and 4 use images of the athletes with a trophy (Images 3, 5, 6, and 12), and this may suggest that it is necessary for them to be depicted in this way in order to be recognized as champions. Nevertheless, the connotations of the images of these articles differ significantly, since in the two first articles, the images used portray women with trophies in a positive light, while the last one does so negatively because of the gender issue behind this prize.

(Images 14, 15, 25, and 26 - Images 1, 2, 21, and 22 – Images 3, 5, 6, and 12)

To summarize, in this section, it is evident that 4 articles discussing men (Articles 6, 7, 9, and 10) do not include images of them with trophies, and 2 articles about women also lack such images (Articles 1 and 5), while 3 articles about women feature them (Article 2, 3, and 4).

4.3.4. PARTICIPANTS

Firstly, the images in Articles 6, 7, and 9, which are about sportsmen, depict the athletes alone (Images 14, 15, 21, and 22), as the only Actor in the Processes carried out in the photographs, with the exception of the images of Article 10 (Images 25 and 26), in which the male athlete appears with more men in the background (in the case of the primary image), or with his family as the head of it (in the secondary image), and in both cases, he is again the only Actor.

In the case of the images in Articles 1, 2, and 3, which are about sportswomen, the athletes appear alone, as independent individuals as in the sportsmen's articles. Nevertheless, in the images of Articles 4 and 5 (Images 9 and 12), the athletes are presented in pairs, and it could be due to the fact that both articles talk about the fight for equality and against sexism, and therefore, the meaning of that images could be that maybe women should be united and together when going against injustices, rather than fighting alone, like some kind of sorority.

(Images 14, 15, 21, and 23 – Images 25 and 26 – Images 9 and 12)

As a recap, the sportspersons appear as Actors in Articles 6, 7, 9, and 10 in the case of male athletes, and in Articles 1, 2, and 3 in the case of female athletes. On the other hand, in Articles 4 and 5, sportswomen are portrayed fighting together with other women against sexism, rather than alone.

4.3.5. TOPIC

In the articles featuring sportswomen, all the images are directly related to their sports careers (Articles 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5). In the articles about sportsmen, the majority of the images also pertain to their sports careers (Articles 6, 8, and 9), except for the images in Articles 7 and 10 (Images 15, 25, and 26), which appear to be more focused on their personal lives.

(Images from 1 to 13 – Images 15, 25, and 26)

4.3.6. TWEETS

The Tweets that appear in the articles about sportswomen, which correspond to Articles 3 and 5 (Images 7, 10, and 11), discuss serious topics such as violence against women and the fight for gender equality, reflecting gender-related issues. In contrast, the Tweets found in the sole article featuring a sportsman, specifically Article 9 (Images 23 and 24), center around unimportant and everyday topics, such as meals and casual conversations.

(Images 7, 10, and 11 – Images 23 and 24)

5. FINAL REMARKS

This project aimed to shed light on how female athletes are represented linguistically compared to men in newspapers and media, and what gender stereotypes (if any) are attached to them. In this regard, this study shows a lack of articles reporting on women's sports, more concretely in the sports section of the Spanish newspaper *El País*. However, the results also show that female athletes are not treated inferiorly to men and their achievements are more widely recognized and less stereotyped than men, indicating that there has been a change in society with respect the studies previously mentioned.

Regarding the number of articles, in a similar way to Kian (2006) and Huggins (2007), this project shows that there is a prevalence of articles about men compared to articles about women, since 91% of articles cover male sports, while only 9% deal with female sports. Nevertheless, Kian (2006) shows that subjective evaluations towards women were considerably lower compared to men, which is refuted by this project, since the number of positive subjective assessments for women is significantly higher than for men (29% of difference).

In the same line, Chinurum et al. (2014) conducted a study that showed that female athletes were more stereotyped compared to male athletes; however, the number of stereotypes in this project increases in articles about men and not so much in those about women (16,6% of difference). Thus, these results also contradict to some extent the findings of Eagleman (2015) which showed that female athletes were more stereotyped and sexualized, and that their abilities were minimized as if they were little girls, while in this study it has been shown that, in general, the author remains neutral or treats the athlete as an elite one, not underestimating her achievements. It is crucial to recognize that different research approaches and methodologies can yield contradictory results. Eagleman (2015) performed a qualitative study which focused on gaining deep insights and subjective understanding, allowing for a thorough exploration of individual experiences. In contrast, the current study utilizes a mixed-method approach, combining qualitative and quantitative methods. In this sense, differences in data collection, analysis, and interpretation arising from the variation in methodology can contribute to conflicting findings. Therefore, this project reveals results that coincide with those of Caple (2013): both female and male athletes are treated equally as serious and elite athletes.

The present study also shows parallelism with Kareem (2014), Manning (2020), and Toole (2021) in that they show that there is great inequality and discrimination between sportsmen and sportswomen, not so much in terms of how they are portrayed by the author, but in how they are treated in society and by federations: women have lower salaries and suffer discrimination due to their gender.

A number of problematic issues regarding media coverage of women's sports are put under the spotlight by the present research project, since the numbers of articles on female athletes are still significantly low compared to male sports. However, there has been a positive change in the way women are portrayed, as women are less stereotyped than men, which indicates that our society may be becoming aware that there is a problem of sexualization and stereotyping towards women. This could signal an important amount of awareness and care with the language used in the writing of the articles. Two factors might account for this change: journalists are striving to be more politically correct, or society is really experiencing a change in terms of gender roles; and the merits of athletes, whether they are men or women, are being recognized.

Thus, some possible solutions to these problems would be to publish a more balanced number of articles about men and women, since the current low number of articles about women athletes suggests that society is not as interested in women's sports, which is a gender issue due to lack of equal visibility. In addition, it is necessary that the athletes are treated professionally both by the federations and by society in general, since they currently receive lower salaries and are undervalued within the federations, so a solution could be that they receive equal remuneration and treatment.

It is also important that neutral language is used in the articles, avoiding stereotyping both women and men, as this would help to avoid disparities in the way both genders are portrayed. In addition, it is crucial to take into account that the language used can influence the behavior of readers in terms of gender and performativity, as shown by Cameron (2007), since gender roles can lead people to behave according to established stereotypes, which can be problematic. Taking this into account, this study could be applied in the journalistic field to raise awareness among future journalists about the importance of using gender-neutral language and eliminating gender stereotypes in the media.

However, it is essential to consider that this study is based on an analysis of only ten articles, which is a very limited corpus. It would be recommendable that future research analyzes a much larger sample of articles to support these results more solidly. In addition, it would be interesting to apply these categories and other additional ones when analyzing gender discourse not only in Spanish or English newspapers, but also in articles in other languages, in order to determine possible linguistic differences in the way that the articles are written. Moreover, something that should also be considered is that, in this study, some frames of videos have been treated as static images and, therefore, by not considering videos in the analysis, there is a risk of missing relevant details for a more comprehensive understanding of gender representation in the media. This limited selection of visual materials is a constraint that we must consider in the context of this study, and that could be solved by conducting an analysis that also takes videos into account.

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APPENDIX

APPENDIX 1. Number assigned to the articles

1. Simone Bile's article
2. Garbiñe Muguruza's article
3. Celia Barquín's article
4. The female squash players' article
5. The US female soccer team's article
6. Gerard Piqué's article
7. Cristiano Ronaldo's article
8. Rafael Nadal's article
9. Fernando Alonso's article
10. Diego Maradona's article

APPENDIX 2. Number assigned to the images

ARTICLE ABOUT SIMONE BILES

PRIMARY



Image 1. Simone Biles performing at the Olympic Games.

SECONDARY



Image 2. Simone Biles performing at the Olympic Games.

ARTICLE ABOUT GARBIÑE MUGURUZA

PRIMARY

Tennis star Garbiñe Muguruza becomes first Spaniard to win WTA Finals
The 28-year-old, who defeated Anett Kontaveit in straight sets, says the victory has shown her that she can 'be the best'



*Image 3. Garbiñe Muguruza receiving her trophy at WTA Finals.

SECONDARY



Image 4. Garbiñe Muguruza performing at WTA Finals.

SECONDARY



Image 5. Garbiñe Muguruza receiving her trophy at WTA Finals.

ARTICLE ABOUT CELIA BARQUÍN

PRIMARY



Image 6. Celia Barquín receiving a trophy.

SECONDARY



Image 7. Tweet about Celia Barquín's murderer.

SECONDARY



*Image 8. Celia Barquín performing.

ARTICLE ABOUT THE US WOMEN'S SOCCER TEAM

PRIMARY



Image 9. The US women's soccer team giving a talk about equal pay.

SECONDARY



Image 10. Tweet about the win of the US women's soccer team in terms of equal pay.

SECONDARY



*Image 11. Tweet about the win of the US women's soccer team in terms of equal pay.

ARTICLE ABOUT THE SPANISH FEMALE SQUASH PLAYERS

PRIMARY

SEXISM IN SPORTS >

Female squash players in Spain shocked at tournament prize: leg wax and a vibrator

The athletes who won a championship in Asturias say the award highlights "structural sexism" in sport and have filed a complaint that has led to club resignations

PILAR ÁLVAREZ
Madrid · May 22, 2019 · 10:53 CEST

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Image 12. The Spanish female squash players receiving their prize.

SECONDARY



Image 13. The sexist prize received by the Spanish female squash players.

ARTICLE ABOUT GERARD PIQUÉ

PRIMARY



Image 14. Gerard Piqué sending a kiss to his public.

ARTICLE ABOUT CRISTIANO RONALDO

PRIMARY

Why Real Madrid is already taking Ronaldo's departure for granted

Sources from the soccer club say they have grown tired of the player's constant threats to leave, and are waiting for Italian team Juventus to complete a €100m transfer deal

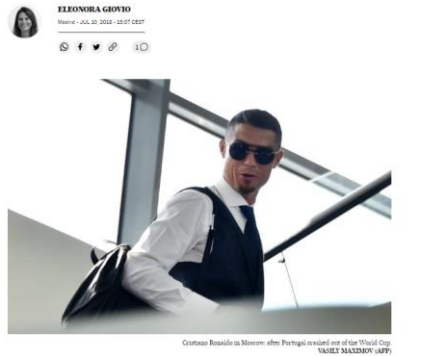


Image 15. Cristiano Ronaldo after Portugal lost the World Cup

ARTICLE ABOUT RAFAEL NADAL

PRIMARY

SECONDARY

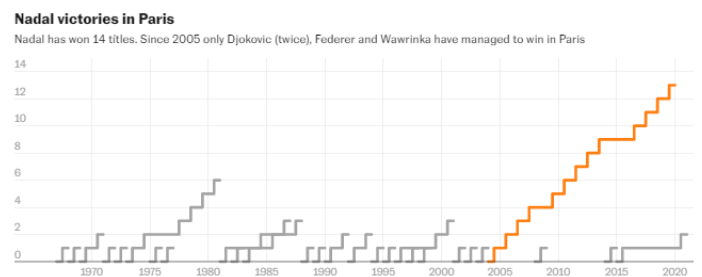
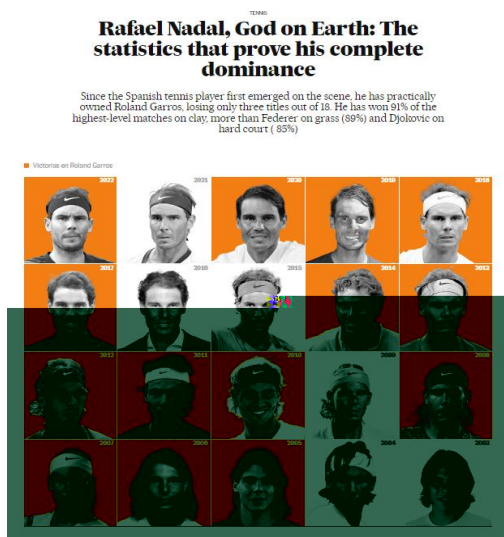


Image 17. Graph about Rafael Nadal's victories in Paris.

Image 16. Rafael Nadal's physical changes of physical appearance over the years

SECONDARY

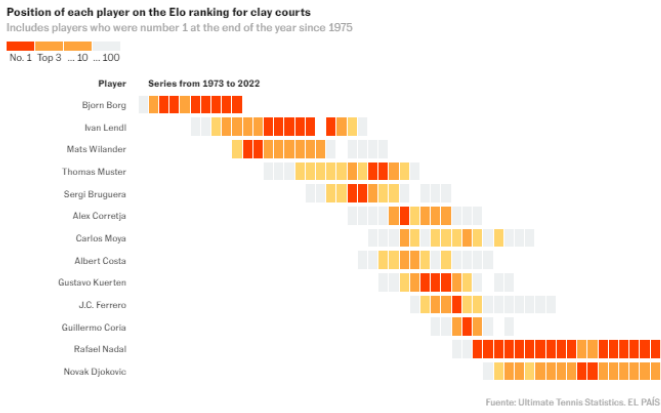


Image 18. Graph about the position of each player on the Elo ranking for clay courts.

SECONDARY

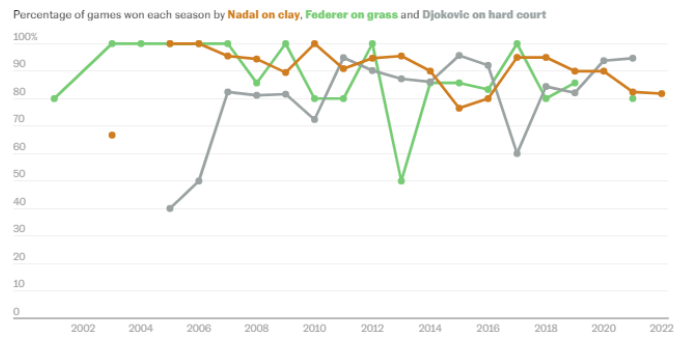


Image 19. Graph about Rafael Nadal's victories on clay.

SECONDARY

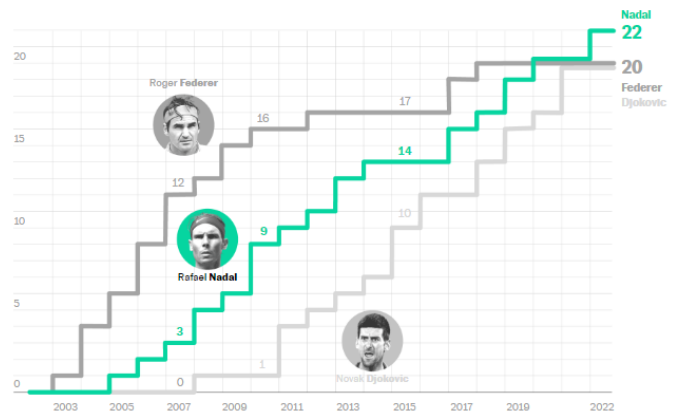


Image 20. Graph about Rafael Nadal's victories in contrast to other players.

ARTICLE ABOUT FERNANDO ALONSO

PRIMARY

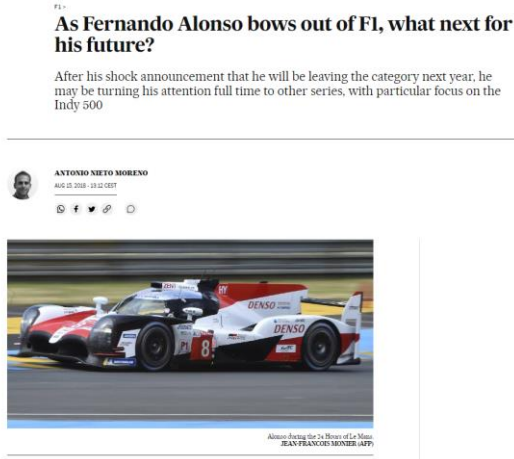


Image 21. Fernando Alonso performing during the 24 Hours of Le Mans.

SECONDARY



Image 22. Fernando Alonso after his victory at the 24 Hours of Le Mans.

SECONDARY



*Image 23. Tweet about Fernando Alonso's private life.

SECONDARY



*Image 24. Tweet about Fernando Alonso's private life.

ARTICLE ABOUT DIEGO MARADONA

PRIMARY

WORLD CUP 2014 **Maradona: the overindulgent life of a soccer legend**

As his flamboyant antics at the Argentina-Nigeria game show, the ex-player is at a crossroads that could see him undo his sporting legacy as one of the all-time greats



Image 25. Diego Maradona celebrating an Argentina goal during their game against Nigeria.

SECONDARY



Maradona with Claudia Villafañe (l) and their two daughters, Dalma and Giannina.

Image 26. Diego Maradona with his family.

APPENDIX 3. The articles

Article 1

Author: Carlos Arribas

Date: 26th July 2021

Title: Simone Biles, on the cusp of Olympic glory

Lead: The 24-year-old champion is looking to win gold at the Tokyo Games and further cement her position as the greatest artistic gymnast of all time

(Image 1)

Simone Biles may only be 1.45 meters tall, but she is a force to be reckoned with. Combining grace, power and determination, the US artistic gymnast has a unique kinesthetic ability that allows her to know – without seeing and while flying through the air – how to land complicated tricks. Even a cat would be envious.

“Imagine if a woman could run 100 meters in less than 10 seconds, a threshold that has only been broken by the best sprinters in the world. It would bring the world to a standstill,” says Pablo Carriles, a trainer and international judge with experience at several Olympic Games. “Well that woman, in gymnastics, is Simone Biles.”

Few male gymnasts are even able to attempt what Biles does with such deceptive ease. She has been on the cover of the fashion magazine *Glamour*, which published a glowing report on the 24-year-old. On Instagram, Biles shares photos of herself eating pizza, with her boyfriends and dressed in leotards decorated with small goats – a reference to her status as a “GOAT,” the acronym for Greatest Of All Time. And Twitter has created an emoji just for her – a goat in a sparkling red leotard.

What’s more, Biles has not been afraid to take on big-name institutions. She recently left Nike, her longtime sponsor, and signed up to represent Athleta, an activewear label for women that is a division of clothing retailer Gap. Biles is following in the footsteps of track sprinter Allyson Felix, who also signed with Athleta after leaving Nike for cutting her pay while she was on maternity leave. Athleta will sponsor Biles’s Gold Over America Tour, which will travel across the US when the Tokyo Olympic Games are over. This tour undercuts USA Gymnastics, the sport’s national governing body, which typically organizes such an event after the competition.

When Biles was 19 years old, she swept to glory at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, winning four gold medals and a bronze. She won gold for team, all-around, vault, floor and took third place for beam.

When she returned to her home in Texas, where she is trained by the French couple Laurent Landi and Cecile Canqueteau, a scandal erupted over Lawrence G. Nassar, the national gymnastics team doctor who was sentenced to more than 200 years in prison for sexually abusing young girls for years. Biles was one of the victims. The timid response from USA Gymnastics, which protected Nassar even though they suspected what was happening, outraged Biles, who said the organization could not be trusted.

Five years on, Biles is stronger than ever. She is 24 years old – in former times, gymnasts at this age were considered past their prime. Gymnastic legend Nadia Comăneci was just 14 when she was awarded a perfect score at the 1976 Montreal Olympic Games, and by the time she was 18 and competing in the Moscow Games in 1980, she was considered a veteran.

(Image 2)

If Biles wins in the all-around category at the Tokyo Games, she will equal the record set by Czech artistic gymnast Věra Čáslavská, the Olympic champion of the 1964 Tokyo Games and 1968 Mexico City Games. She is one of only two female gymnasts to win the all-around gold medal at two consecutive Olympics.

Biles has transformed female gymnastics. To the power and strength developed since the 1990s, she has added acrobatics that only she has been able to master. One such move is the Yurchenko double pike vault, a back handspring onto the vault, a flip in the air, two twists at the same time and second flip landing in pile position. She is planning to debut the move at the Tokyo Olympics. The judges have given the move a relatively low score, but this is not because it isn't difficult, but rather the opposite, says Carriles. "If you give it a very high score, Biles will come out ahead. No one can do it, and it is so risky and dangerous that many gymnasts would try to do it because even if they fell they would have a high score that would compensate them. And that would be dangerous," he says. "The difference with the others is so great... It's almost embarrassing. She is in a league of her own, in another world."

The decision to give the Yurchenko double pike vault a relatively low score despite its complexity has upset Biles's sense of justice, and she said she will continue competing the vault despite its low value. When asked why, she replied: "Because I can."

Article 2

Author: Alejandro Ciriza, Diego Mancera

Date: 18th November 2021

Title: Tennis star Garbiñe Muguruza becomes first Spaniard to win WTA Finals

Lead: The 28-year-old, who defeated Anett Kontaveit in straight sets, says the victory has shown her that she can ‘be the best’

(Image 3)

Tennis star Garbiñe Muguruza has become the first Spaniard to win the WTA Finals. The 28-year-old defeated Estonia’s Anett Kontaveit in straight sets (6-3, 7-5), winning the game in 99 minutes.

“This has been a very mental duel,” said Muguruza after her win. “I started the tournament feeling so so. I told myself, ‘this is going to be difficult,’ but, look, in the end, I stayed strong.”

The WTA Finals took place in the Mexican city of Guadalajara, which is 1,566 meters above sea level. The event was meant to be hosted in Shenzhen, China in 2020, but was canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic. In a record three months, the Panamerican Tennis Center in Zapopan was renovated in order to hold the WTA Finals, which is a tournament of the Women’s Tennis Association.

“I don’t know what this country has that makes me so excited!” said Muguruza, who was celebrated with cries of “Mu-gu! Mu-gu! Mu-gu!” The 28- year-old described the experience of winning in Mexico – where she also won the Monterrey Open in 2018 and 2019 – as a “magnificent feeling.” “Today I am going to drink tequila!” she added.

The Venezuela-born champion’s path to the final started off bumpy with a defeat in the opening match to Karolína Plíšková. She bounced back to defeat Barbora Krejčíková in the second round, won against Kontaveit – a win she needed to proceed to the semifinals – then was victorious against fellow Spaniard Paula Badosa.

(Image 4)

The final also had its tense moments: just when Muguruza was at the brink of victory,

Kontaveit fought back. But in the end, the Spaniard, noticeably more comfortable on court, was victorious.

As she accepted her runner-up award, Kontaveit – who came into the tournament with a 12-match winning streak – told Muguruza: “You’ve beaten me twice this week, that’s just too good.”

Date: 18th September 2018

Title: Spanish golfer Celia Barquín murdered on course in United States

Lead: A man has been arrested in connection with the killing and charged with first-degree murder

(Image 6)

Spanish golfer Celia Barquín Arozamena has been killed in the United States. According to local police, the 22-year-old from Cantabria was found dead on the Coldwater Links golf course in Ames, a city with a population of 50,000 in the state of Iowa. Police have arrested a male suspect and charged him with first-degree murder. The investigation into the killing remains open and no theories have been ruled out.

Barquín, considered one of Spain's most promising young golf players, was studying civil engineering at the Anes campus of Iowa State University.

According to a press release from the Ames police force, Barquín's body was found on the golf course by officers on Monday at 10.24am local time. Players on the course had alerted authorities to the presence of an abandoned golf bag. When police were called to the scene, they found the Spaniard's body meters away from the item. The Ames police force believe Barquín was attacked and died in the struggle.

Soon after launching an investigation, police arrested Collin Daniel Richards, 22, on suspicion of first-degree murder. A photo of Richards, who has no known residence, has been circulated by local media. According to reports, Richards has a long criminal record. The online newspaper weareiowa.com stated that the 22-year-old had been accused of intimidation with a dangerous weapon after stealing two energy drinks from a service station in Guthrie in 2015. In September 2017, he was thrown out of his grandparent's house and reported by his father for storming the home and damaging the property. In July 2018, Richards was arrested for drunkenness.

(Image 7)

Barquín was born in Puente San Miguel in Cantabria but went to high school in Madrid. She was set to finish a degree in engineering this semester. The promising young golfer was a member of the Asturian Golf Federation and had won many important competitions. This year, she won the Big 12 Women’s Championship with her university and was the female champion at the European Amateur competition, a tournament that took place in Slovakia. Iowa State University also recently named her Female Athlete of the Year.

In 2011, Barquín was one of the winners of the EL PAÍS student competition El País de los Estudiantes, taking home a prize for an interview she did with Spanish golfing star Severiano Ballesteros. In 2015, students from her former school also interviewed her for the same competition.

Iowa State University has said it is mourning the loss of the player. In a press release, the university director of athletics, Jamie Pollard said: “Celia had an infectious smile, a bubbly personality and anyone fortunate enough to know her was blessed.”

“Our Cyclone family [the university golf club] mourns the tragic loss of Celia, a spectacular student-athlete and ISU ambassador,” he added.

Dr Wendy Wintersteen, the president of the university, also lamented the death: “This is a tragic and senseless loss of a talented young woman and an acclaimed student athlete,” she said.

In Spain, Alejandro Blanco, the president of the Spanish Olympic Committee, shared his condolences on Twitter. “We are profoundly shocked by the tragedy in the United States. All our support and solidarity is with the family of Celia Barquín and the Spanish golfing world at this difficult moment.”

(Image 8)

Article 4

Author: Yolanda Monge

Date: 23rd February 2022

Title: Female squash players in Spain shocked at tournament prize: leg wax and a vibrator

Lead: The athletes who won a championship in Asturias say the award highlights “structural sexism” in sport and have filed a complaint that has led to club resignations

(Image 12)

When they saw the prizes they’d been given as a reward for their achievement in sports, the four women were speechless.

This is an affront to women’s dignity. Sport is a tool that should work toward equality (Almudena Cueto, Asturias Women’s Institute).

Besides their trophies, the winners in the female category of a squash championship in Asturias, in northern Spain, received a gift set containing two boxes of hair-removal wax, an electric callus remover, and a vibrator. The male winners did not get a beauty pack with their prizes.

The matter is being investigated by the Asturias Women’s Institute, and it has already triggered resignations at the club that organized the competition and at the regional squash federation.

“I felt surprise and indignation,” says Elisabet Sadó, the top winner in the female category, recalling the gala event held on May 11 in Las Vegas, located in the Asturian municipality of Corvera. The 37-year-old has been competing professionally for more than 15 years. She has been the world champion and is a seven-time national champion in a sport with few associated members: 1,550 men and 255 women in all of Spain, according to 2017 statistics.

(Image 13)

Sadó, who works with victims of gender violence, says that this kind of attitude is “the foundation for all the structural sexism which, in its most extreme form, ends with women getting killed.”

Two days after the award ceremony, the four women who received prizes lodged a complaint with the federation, calling the gifts “sexist and out of place.”

The Oviedo Squash Club has admitted the presents “were inappropriate.”

“Never in our history had anything like this happened,” says Maribel Toyos, a member of the federation’s governing board, who alerted the Asturias Women’s Institute about the matter.

Elisabet Sadó, squash champion: “This is an affront to women’s dignity. Sport is a tool that should work toward equality,” says the institute’s director, Almudena Cueto. While current regulations do not include sanctions for this kind of behavior, draft sports legislation will make it mandatory for prizes to be the same for men and women.

The tournament was organized by the Oviedo Squash Club, which has admitted in a release that the presents “were inappropriate and should never have been given out.” The note adds that sponsors sometimes provide gifts, and that in this case, nobody checked first whether they were appropriate.

Encouraging girls

The absence of women in squash is one of the reasons why Sadó continues to participate in tournaments such as this one: to encourage girls to take up the sport.

Female squash players had already been dealing with other forms of discrimination such as lower salaries, fewer promotions and more run-down facilities than those enjoyed by their male counterparts. But they had never received such a gift pack before.

Two club managers and a federation leader have resigned, and the club itself might dissolve over the scandal. But Sadó says it is enough for people to simply take note of what has happened.

“I hope this serves to ensure nothing like this happens again in the future, and to make people realize that sport is far from as equal as people might think.”

Article 5

Author: Pilar Álvarez

Date: 22nd May 2019

Title: How the US women's soccer team won its battle for equal pay

Lead: The players have won a landmark settlement with the sports federation, which has agreed to pay \$24 million in compensation for salary discrimination

(Image 9)

Members of the US women's national soccer team have won a landmark battle for equal pay. The win marks a before and after for the national team, which has been fighting for equal pay since 2016. The battle finally came to an end on Tuesday after US Soccer, the national federation for the sport, agreed to a multimillion-dollar settlement to compensate the players for systematically receiving less support and money than their male counterparts.

US Soccer will pay \$24 million (€21 million) in compensation, of which \$22 million (€19 million) will be split between the players. The remaining \$2 million (€1.76 million) will be used to support players once they have retired from the sport, and for initiatives related to promoting equality in soccer.

“When we win, everyone wins,” said Megan Rapinoe, a star of the women's soccer team and a symbol of both the fight for equality in US sport and the LGBTQ+ community, in a message on Twitter. On Tuesday morning, Rapinoe appeared on the television program Good Morning America, alongside her teammate and fellow soccer star Alex Morgan, who has also been one of the most visible faces of the team's battle for equal pay.

(Image 10)

“This is such a monumental step forward in feeling valued, in feeling respected and in mending our relationship with US Soccer,” said Morgan. “I not only see this as a win for our team or women's sports, but women in general,” added the striker, who has scored 115 goals in 190 international appearances.

US Soccer and the player shared a press release on social media to provide more details about the lawsuit settlement. “Getting to this day has not been easy. The US women’s national team players have achieved unprecedented success while working to achieve equal pay for themselves and future athletes,” it read. The soccer federation has also agreed to now pay the women’s and men’s national teams equally.

The legal dispute began in 2016 when five players – Megan Rapinoe, Alex Morgan, Carli Lloyd, Becky Sauerbrunn and Hope Solo – presented a complaint to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission over wage discrimination.

Three years later, 28 members of the national women’s soccer team filed a lawsuit against US Soccer at California federal court for committing the same discrimination. The players pointed out that US Soccer paid men a minimum of \$5,000 (€4,400) per match, while female players were only paid if they won against a team that was on FIFA’s top 10 rankings.

(Image 11)

The complaint was thrown out by a judge in May 2020, on the argument that there were no grounds for salary disputes to be settled in the court. But the players didn’t give up – they appealed the sentence. “Obviously we can’t go back and undo the injustices we faced, but the only justice coming out of this is that we know that something like this is never going to happen again,” said Rapinoe on Good Morning America, adding: “It’s a great day.”

When France’s men’s soccer team won the World Cup in 2018, FIFA awarded the team \$36 million (€32 million) for their victory. But when the US women’s soccer team won the Women’s World Cup in 2019, they received just \$4 million (€4.5 million). The US men’s soccer team were eliminated in the round of 16 at the 2014 World Cup, but were paid €4.5 million (\$5.11 million), while the women’s team received just €1.45 million (\$1.64 million) for winning the competition. The US women’s soccer team has won four Women’s World Cup titles (1991, 1999, 2015 and 2019) and four Olympic gold medals.

Article 6

Author: Jorge Valdano

Date: 6th May 2019

Title: Piqué: the kind of guy who could smoke a cigar in a bombing raid

Lead: The Barcelona defender and Van Dijk don't need to do anything special to ensure that all eyes are on them. Being special is enough

(Image 14)

Lights, camera, passion

Messi, like all classics, never ends. Last Wednesday, he put on such a show of domination that everything – the packed Camp Nou, the tremendous game and even soccer itself – looked small compared to him. And that's despite the fact that it was a game between giants, as dramatic and unpredictable as the *Game of Thrones* battle we had just seen – the only difference being that soccer is better lit. We were expecting a dominant Barça and a counterattacking Liverpool, expected a game between an extremely competitive team and a man determined to win the Champions League, but no one could have imagined that the man would beat the team. We expected a good match, but in the end it was a magnificent one.

A central question

It was a game between giants, as dramatic and unpredictable as the 'Game of Thrones' battle we had just seen – the only difference being that soccer is better lit. Barça and Liverpool pitted two centers against one another who defend like titans and move the ball with a seriousness that you normally only see in children when they play. Personality is not the same as charisma. Personality has the elements that can challenge the pressure that soccer brings with it. Those with charisma bring a spiritual strength to what they do and what they say, causing or easing tensions, creating debates, attracting and repelling. This is the stuff that Piqué and Van Dijk are made of. They don't need to do anything special to ensure that all eyes are on them. Being special is enough. Last week they played a game where the demands were incredibly high, and at times they suffered and at others they lost their battles. But at all times they managed to maintain the dignity that's fitting for two defensive stars, the kind of guys who could calmly smoke a cigar in the midst of a bombing raid.

The miracle of the loaves and the passes

Ajax is moving from conquest to conquest (Madrid, Turin, London...) with the ease of a desk jockey completing paperwork. At the first games we began to generalize with our analysis: it was Ajax, a young, cheap and mischievous team. But our admiration saw us start to put a name to each player, and now we are familiar not just with De Ligt and De Jong, but also Tadic, Ziyech, Neres and Van de Beek. All of them have become men in the last three months, shining more and more in each play-off round. While the team has bucked the trend in the sport, reaching the top with a modest budget, the market has now started to correct its forecasts. Now they are Ajax, a young, expensive and mischievous team. All thanks to soccer, that game that can sometimes be a drag and that other times, thanks to the deed and grace of complementary talents, can be a miracle that produces addiction. And money.

Leeds scored a rather unethical goal, letting their opponents knock in an equalizer straight after. The episode was classed as an eccentricity of Bielsa. In reality, what is truly eccentric is the fact that roguery has more prestige than honesty. I celebrated when the score was leveled, because I am always moved by acts of dignity. Soccer is just a fiction, sometimes being exhilarating and sometimes dramatic, but its impact is so great that many people even go so far as to incorporate players' haircuts into their lifestyles. The time has come that they should incorporate values, too. First question: Didn't we once praise the VAR system because it brought greater justice? Second: are we only able to ensure justice is served due to the imperative of the rules? The Bielsa incident was meritorious, but not surprising, because all of the episodes in which he has been involved in throughout his life and that have turned him into the "madman" are due to his obsession with ethics. Third question: are we sure that we are the sane ones?

Article 7

Author: Eleonora Giovio

Date: 10th July 2018

Title: Why Real Madrid is already taking Ronaldo's departure for granted

Lead: Sources from the soccer club say they have grown tired of the player's constant

threats to leave, and are waiting for Italian team Juventus to complete a €100m transfer deal

(Image 15)

Real Madrid is taking for granted that the era of Cristiano Ronaldo at the soccer club is practically over. The agent for the Portuguese superstar, Jorge Mendes, has already informed the general manager of the club, José Ángel Sánchez, that the 33-year-old player has decided to go to Italy's Juventus F.C., which is the only team that had not shut the door to Ronaldo and has made him an offer.

The release clause in Cristiano Ronaldo's contract, which runs until 2021, involves a payment of €1 billion, but the price that the Madrid club has opted for is €100 million – four times what they paid for him in 2009.

In the offices of the club's Santiago Bernabéu stadium they are waiting for Juve to get the funds together, and call them to arrange the transfer deal.

Sources from Real say that the situation with Ronaldo, who has been their star player for years now, has gone “too far.” His continuous game-playing of “I'm staying, I'm leaving,” has exhausted the patience of everyone there. The straw that broke the camel's back was undoubtedly his behavior in Kiev at the end of May, when, after Real Madrid had beaten Liverpool and won the Champions League final, without a goal from Ronaldo, the Portuguese player made statements throwing his future with the club into doubt.

“Over the next few days I will give a reply to the fans, they have always been on my side,” he told reporters while still on the pitch, just minutes after the Champions League win. “It was really nice being in Real Madrid,” he added. Hours later, he said that he could not confirm whether he was going to continue and stated that things “are not sorted out with money alone,” and that “life is not just about glory.” Having lacked the limelight during the game, he certainly basked in it after it was over, this time in front of the cameras and microphones.

This situation could not continue, according to club sources. His move to Juve,

where chairman Andrea Agnelli is planning on making him a fundamental cornerstone of the team, is considered to be the best solution for both parties.

The day after the Champions League win, during the club's celebrations, Cristiano flinched. He said goodbye to the fans with a "Thank you, and until next year," while his teammates surrounded him singing: "Cristiano, stay!" He addressed the fans who had assembled in the Bernabéu stadium to thank them. "I'm really happy to see your passion, with these players and coaches who give me reasons to be better every day," he said. "It gives me great pride to play in this club, the greatest in the world," he continued.

Less than two weeks later, before Portugal headed to the Russia 2018 World Cup, the Portuguese daily *Record* splashed on its front page that the player had decided to leave Real Madrid this summer and that the decision was "irreversible." The same thing had happened the summer before, ahead of the Confederations Cup. On that occasion, it was *A Bola* that ran a story saying that Ronaldo had decided to leave Spain, given that he was tired with his problems with the Spanish Tax Office. That decision was also described as "irreversible."

Cristiano stayed. But every time that he could, he would knock the ball into the court of the Madrid chairman, Florentino Pérez, saying that it was not up to him as to whether he saw out his career at Real. He stated that he wanted to retire wearing their white kit, but that he was not in charge of that decision. Cristiano was looking for a pay rise, an improvement on the €23 million he currently takes home, taking him closer to the €37 million that Neymar is paid and the nearly €50 million that Messi gets.

Real Madrid was not willing to offer him that kind of money, however, on the basis that he already went from €18 million to €23 million when his contract was last renegotiated.

The Portuguese player, who will turn 34 in February, has a contract in place with Real Madrid until 2021. If Juve eventually gets together the €350 million needed for the transfer, salary and commissions, Ronaldo will be leaving the Spanish capital three years before he was planning to when he signed his latest contract in November 2016. "Soccer has no memory, but you do," he said to the club chairman, Florentino Pérez, at that signing ceremony. "And Real Madrid does too. I want to carry on making history." All the other contract renewal signings had taken place in the press room, but on this occasion

Pérez bowed to the wishes of Cristiano and he signed in the presidential box. Ronaldo wanted to feel unique.

But now he will be doing so at another club, and in another league, where, should the deal be done, he can see out his career while still being the indisputable leader of the team. With 450 goals in 438 games at Madrid, Ronaldo will be leaving the club's attack orphaned. But at Real they are already looking closely at the plans of Neymar, who will be the main candidate to replace Cristiano.

Article 8

Author: Kiko Llaneras, Yolanda Clemente, Borja Andrino, Javier Galán

Date: 6th June 2022

Title: Rafael Nadal, God on Earth: The statistics that prove his complete dominance

Lead: Since the Spanish tennis player first emerged on the scene, he has practically owned Roland Garros, losing only three titles out of 18. He has won 91% of the highest-level matches on clay, more than Federer on grass (89%) and Djokovic on hard court (85%)

(Image 16)

With his 14th triumph at Roland Garros, Rafa Nadal has once again exhibited his brutal superiority on clay, his favorite surface. It is an amazing dominance for which it is difficult to find equivalents, not just in the history of tennis, but in the history of any sport.

Between 1990 and 2004, 11 players won in Paris. Then Nadal showed up in 2005, and since then only three tennis players have received the glory of the Chatrier: Roger Federer, Stan Wawrinka and Novak Djokovic, the latter twice. Eighteen years have passed, and all the other 14 cups have been won by the Spanish player.

(Image 17)

The last 20 years have been the worst to be good on clay, because it necessarily meant having to face Nadal. His domination, season after season, has made it impossible for

other players to win the Parisian trophy. Only Björn Borg in the 1970s ever came close to the Spaniard's record, and yet he watches him from afar from his six French Open cups, fewer than half as many as Nadal.

Clay is the ideal surface for Nadal's game, where the left-hander unleashes the spin of the ball that has given him so many successes. His topspin imprints such an effect on the ball that it overwhelms rivals due to the height it reaches after the bounce.

The superiority of the Balearic Islands native is unquestionable in terms of the Elo ranking on clay, a metric that gauges the relative skills of each player based on achieved results and that of rivals. Since Nadal earned enough points to lead this classification in 2005, he has not let go of the lead for more than two years, in 2015 and 2016.

(Image 18)

In half a century, no other tennis player has been superior to the rest for so long. In the late 1970s, Borg was the best on this surface for five consecutive years, and was in the top three for nine seasons. Ivan Lendl was in the top three for 11 years, a few years later. But Nadal is in another dimension: he has been the best for 16 years and has been in the top two for 18.

Djokovic was the best player on clay the two years that Nadal faltered minimally. The Serbian has been in the top three on this surface for 14 years, and it is inevitable to wonder how many years he would have been the best if Rafa Nadal had not existed.

Another piece of information that reveals the singular dominance of the Spanish tennis player on clay is his percentage of games won: including Grand Slam and Masters 1000, since 2005 he has played 338 games and won 309, a rate of 91%. It is a figure that his historical tennis rivals have not reached, neither Roger Federer on grass (89%), nor Novak Djokovic on hard court (85%).

(Image 19)

In 2005, 2006 and 2010 Nadal won all the matches he played on clay in the highest categories, about 20 each time. For a decade he won 90% of matches, between 2005 and 2014, and he returned to those numbers again between 2017 and 2020. By comparison, Djokovic has only been above 90% on hard courts for six years of his career, and they were not consecutive.

Nadal is the male tennis player with the most Grand Slam titles in history, with 22 trophies, two more than Federer and Djokovic. That's how high the bar is for the moment, after competing for two decades.

But the absolute record in the Open Era is still higher: 23 titles, as many as Serena Williams has claimed so far.

When Roger Federer won his first major competition in 2003, the record was Pete Sampras' 14 titles and the podium could still be accessed with nine majors, but the price of the record has skyrocketed with this historic three- way competition between Federer, Nadal and Djokovic. From this Sunday on, beating Nadal requires 23 victories.

(Image 20)

Article 9

Author: Antonio Nieto

Date: 15th August 2018

Title: As Fernando Alonso bows out of F1, what next for his future?

Lead: After his shock announcement that he will be leaving the category next year, he may be turning his attention full time to other series, with particular focus on the Indy 500

(Image 21)

In a certain respect, Fernando Alonso has been gradually saying goodbye to Formula 1 since last year. Perhaps he chose this approach in order to ease the pain of a traumatic separation from the motor sport category that has brought him so much success, opting to embark on other adventures, such as the legendary Indy 500 race, as well as the World Endurance Championship (WEC) – the two series being his most likely destination in the

near future.

After his surprise announcement on Tuesday that he would not be driving in Formula 1 next season – he stopped short of announcing his complete retirement – the only thing that is sure for the moment is that when he gets out of his Renault-powered McLaren for the last time at the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, on November 25, he will still have three races left to run with Toyota in 2019 in the WEC: the 12 Hours of Sebring (March 16-17), the Six Hours of Spa (May 4) and the 24 Hours of Le Mans (June 15-16).

It was at this year's edition of the latter race, at the legendary Le Sarthe circuit, where the Spanish double Formula 1 champion took the most important step toward his goal of equaling the record of Briton Graham Hill, the only driver in history to have taken what is known as the Triple Crown: winning the Monaco Grand Prix, the Le Mans 24 Hours, and the Indy 500. Only the last challenge eludes Alonso, after the Honda engine in his car last year gave up, denying him a chance to fight for a victory that was still in his grasp.

(Image 22)

After winning Le Mans this year, he didn't rule out going back to Indianapolis as soon as possible. "It's true that once you have Le Mans and only one is left, the call is a little stronger," he said at the time, albeit still unwilling to confirm where his future lay.

At the same time, on the other side of the Atlantic, rumors in the paddock grew. "He really liked his experience in Indianapolis," says Catalan driver Oriol Servià, who has been racing in America for the last 18 years. "We all know that the three greats are a goal that he has clear in his head, which is why I'm not at all surprised that he was at the Indy 500 and that he is really weighing up doing a whole season in IndyCar."

Servià also says that IndyCar could give Alonso the thing that he has lacked in Formula 1: unpredictability. In recent years in the category, it has been clear from the outset of the season which two teams will be vying for victory.

(Image 23)

“For a long time it was just a problem that lasted a year, because the next year the regulations would change,” Servià explains. “But now the rules only leave room for a little evolution from one season to the next, and we have dominating teams such as Mercedes. That’s why Fernando sees himself as burnt out.” IndyCar is different, adds Servià. “There he can choose from at least four teams who will have a chance to win every weekend and in the championship itself.”

Servià’s message coincides with the one that Alonso himself has given on a number of occasions during his time at the Indy 500. He won the respect of his team, Andretti Autosport, as well as that of the rest of the grid and the fans, who gave him a standing ovation when he retired from the race. For his part, he showed his skill on the track, as well as his skill in putting on a show – at the post-race press conference, he drank from a little carton of milk as a tribute to the long-standing tradition of the actual winner drinking from a bottle each year.

(Image 24)

On Monday, the official Indycar Twitter account was feeding the rumors that Alonso would soon be arriving at the sport, asking him if he was “still on for that lunch tomorrow?” just after the Spaniard sent out the tweet revealing that he would not be racing next year. Another hint came from the Twitter profile of the Indy 500 circuit, saying: “DM us if you want to chat.”

“If he comes back it will just make the race more exciting,” says Oriol Servià. “I will have the chance again to share a track with our world champion. And as I said before, and it nearly happened, I hope that we are both on the last lap, fighting for victory ... and I end up taking it.”

Article 10

Author: Maite Nieto

Date: 28th June 2018

Title: Maradona: the overindulgent life of a soccer legend

Lead: As his flamboyant antics at the Argentina-Nigeria game show, the ex-player is at a crossroads that could see him undo his sporting legacy as one of the all-time greats

(Image 25)

The 58 years that Maradona has lived so far are viewed by some as glorious, and by others as disastrous – but one thing is for sure, no one could ever call them boring. The Argentine soccer player captured the hearts of lovers of the sport in the 1980s and 90s thanks to his excesses, passion and total lack of modesty.

On Tuesday, sat in the VIP area at the Saint Petersburg stadium, where his national side were playing against Nigeria for a place in the World Cup Round of 16, Maradona once again put on quite a show thanks to his gesturing, his swinging from to and fro, and an evident lack of self-control that saw him require medical attention after the game had finished.

The many comments bandied around afterwards that pointed to the possible cause of this very public incident are not newsworthy given that they are mere rumor and conjecture, and have not been confirmed. But even the sports media, which has always leapt to the soccer legend's defense, has changed its tune and has condemned his behavior, in one case stating that "it's no longer funny and is a pitiful sight." A sight that, if things carry on like this, could overshadow his image and turn him into a toxic example of exactly what a sportsperson shouldn't be.

It would seem that Maradona really does believe that he has been touched by "the hand of God" – the nickname that he was given when he scored a crucial goal against England in a quarterfinal match at the 1986 Mexico World Cup with the help of his own hand – and that no one will stop him doing what he wants to. He smoked a cigar in the stadium, even though smoking is banned; he has criticized the Argentina national coach, Sampaoli, because he claims to know more and would do a better job; his attitude and actions steal focus from those who should be the real protagonists of the tournament, i.e. the players themselves; he's constantly at odds with Pelé, with his women, with his doctors and even some of his children... The life of Maradona, the man who was once a hero for Argentina, is hanging on a thread thanks to his excesses.

(Image 26)

The shadow of his addictions still hangs over him. “I was 24 when I took drugs for the first time. In Barcelona,” he once confessed on an Italian TV show. “Drugs are the biggest problem, drugs kill.” Between 1998 and 2000, the years after his retirement from the game, he spoke many times about his desperate fight against cocaine. In January 2000, he was rushed to hospital in Punta del Este, Uruguay, and the doctor who saved his life explained several years later that for 40 minutes, it was touch and go as to whether he would survive.

He traveled to Cuba to go into rehab and he became friends with Fidel Castro. In 2004, he was checked into a psychiatric clinic in Buenos Aires to go through another detox process. In 2005, he claimed to have started to overcome his addiction, and lost 50 of the 120 kilos he weighed at the time thanks to a gastric band.

But in 2007 it was alcohol that saw him back in treatment for a number of weeks. In 2010 FIFA suspended him for two months after, in his role as Argentina manager, he made obscene comments to the press after the team beat Uruguay. “For those who didn’t believe in us, they can suck it and keep on sucking it,” he said on live TV.

In 2011, he was fired as manager of Al Wasl, a club in the United Arab Emirates, after he failed to get results. He returned to the country in 2017, as technical director of another club, Al Fuhairah, for a season.

His love life and legal issues have also given him a bumpy ride. He has five children by four different women, he was investigated for cocaine possession in 1991, he assaulted several journalists in 1994, and he has faced three paternity lawsuits.

And of course there were his problems with the Italian taxman, which demanded he pay more than €34.2 million in unpaid taxes from his time playing with Naples. And also accusations of gender violence and sexual harassment: in 2006, a woman sued him in Polynesia for having broken a vase over her head after an altercation with his daughter Gianina, a case that was settled out of court. In October 2014, his then-partner Rocío Oliva was the protagonist of another altercation, which saw the ex-player shout at her and strike her twice, in an argument over a cellphone.

Another lawsuit was filed by the Russian journalist Yekaterina Nodolskaya, who accused Maradona of having tried to take her clothes off when she went to interview him in his room.

Now the Argentine is back at a crossroads, where he can either behave like a capricious and errant idol, or honor his sporting past and preserve the achievements that have made him one of the greatest players in the history of soccer.

APPENDIX 4. Research instrument

Analysis of general aspects: the relevance of gender (section 4.1.)

1. The number of articles about sportsmen and sportswomen
2. The gender of the authors
3. Gender differences in the titles: Do the titles of the selected articles establish differences in terms of gender? (Example: men's soccer is called simply 'soccer', while women's soccer is differentiated by calling it 'women's soccer').

Analysis of the written text (section 4.2.)

1. Topic: what is the topic of the headline and the lead? What is the topic of each paragraph (or of a specific sentence)? Is the topic of the headline related to those in the paragraphs?
2. Comparisons with an athlete of the opposite sex: does the author establish comparisons with athletes of the other sex?
3. Stereotypes and gender roles: do gender roles and stereotypes appear?
4. Acknowledgments of the athlete's achievements (objective): does the author acknowledge the athlete's achievements?

5. Subjective assessments: does the author make subjective assessments of the athlete? Are they positive or negative?
6. References to emotions: does the author refer to the emotions and feelings of the athlete?
7. Sexism or discrimination in the general topic
8. Positioning of the author with respect to the athlete: how do authors see the role of the athlete: as a first-class elite athlete, or as a second-class athlete?

Analysis of the images (section 4.3.)

1. Indexical and symbolic images: are the images motivated by the sport the athlete practices? or does the athlete embody a conventional symbolic representation?
2. Conceptual images (graphs)
3. The meaning of the trophies: who are the ones portrayed with a trophy? What can be the hidden meaning behind it?
4. Participants: is the athlete the only protagonist? What are the implications of this?
5. Topic: what is the topic in the images?
6. Tweets: what are the tweets about?