The uses of news media in the context of acculturation

A quantitative study among foreign-born in Sweden.

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ABSTRACT

News media are an important function in a democracy by providing news and information to the citizens and at the same time considered to facilitate adaptation and integration into society. Recent Official Reports of the Swedish Government have stressed concerns regarding the development showing that part of the population with a foreign background in Sweden does not use traditional news media. In this context, and by an increasing number of foreign-born in Sweden, the relevance of investigating the relationship between the use of news media and integration is actualized. In previous national research, there has been a predominance of studies investigating the relation between news media and foreign-born from media's perspective, and there is a lack of research that focuses on how foreign-born in Sweden use news media. It has also been stressed that digital media offer complement to the traditional media, and that further research is needed on how digital media are being used by people with a foreign background in Sweden.

The present study was carried out by using theories of acculturation, and the uses and gratifications theory as theoretical framework in order to further explore the relation between news use and acculturation from the users' perspective. The purpose is to deepen the understanding of how Swedish news media are being used by foreign-born and to increase the knowledge of how it is related to the degree of acculturation. Data was collected by conducting a survey where a questionnaire available in Swedish, English, and Arabic, was distributed to 190 SFI students, Swedish for immigrants, at two schools in Gothenburg, Sweden. The subsequent data analysis was carried out in SPSS for statistical comparisons. The main findings show that the SFI students are using different acculturation strategies, and that maintaining the culture of origin is a clear element. The most common motives for using Swedish news among the SFI students, regardless of the degree of acculturation, are linked to acculturation purposes. Finally, clear correlations were found between the degree of acculturation and the use of both digital and traditional news.

Key words: *News use, News media, Acculturation, Gratifications, Integration, Mass communication, Intercultural communication.*

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1. INTRODUCTION

Sweden has been an immigration country for a long time and home to an increasing number of foreign-born. In recent years between 2000 and 2014, the number of foreign-born increased with over 50% from 1 003 798 to 1 603 551. Analyzes conducted in 2013 by The Commission on the Future of Sweden indicated that the share of foreign-born will continue to increase over the next decades (SOU 2015:94: 127-128; Hultén 2016: 330). It is therefore reasonable to expect a growing cultural diversity in Sweden. Official Reports of the Swedish Government stated that as a result of this development, it will become more and more important to understand and study how multiculturalism affects both society and the media landscape (SOU 2015:94: 128).

From a democratic perspective it is essential to ensure that all citizens have access to news and information, and research has shown a statistical correlation between media usage and democratic participation (SOU 2015:94: 21). The criticism towards news media has, however, according to Hultén (2016), mainly been about cementing ingrained beliefs, deficiencies in portraying the diversity of society, and for excluding parts of the population and thus contributing to influence people's attitudes in a negative direction. Haaivisto and Petersson (2013: 229) report on the difficulties for people of foreign origin, at times, not being able to identify with what is reported in news media. Moreover, Hultén emphasizes that the foreign-born are underrepresented in both news content and the newsrooms, and a significant part of the foreign-born population is absent from and does not use the traditional news media (Hultén 2016: 330, 342). Increasing differences in news usage constitute a risk for growing inequalities in knowledge and democratic participation, less common frames of reference and reduced social cohesion (Ds 2013:19: 255). Overall, this underlines the relevance of studying the use of national news media among foreign-born in Sweden and to further examine its role in the integration process, for democratic reasons.

"The process of cultural change resulting from the contact between two groups is known as acculturation in the intercultural contact literature." (Clément et al. 2005: 400). Early international research on integration and the acculturation process, summarized in Hwang and He (1999), has primarily focused on the linkage to interpersonal communication channels. In a second area of research, several scholars have studied mass media's influence on acculturation, where some concluded that mass media facilitates adaptation, and others suggested that stereotypes of ethnic groups in media limit this function (Hwang & He 1999: 6; Keshishian 2010: 93-94). Yang et al. (2004: 83) stressed that it should not be surprising that mass media could serve as functions for acculturation, several scholars have emphasized this connection for many years. However, Arnold and Schneider (2007: 116) stated that there is not much empirical evidence for any link between mass media consumption and the integration process. Based on previous research it is clear that news media serve a function in the acculturation process, it is however, not obvious how this relationship is constituted or could be improved.

Along with theories of acculturation, the uses and gratifications approach, U&G, will be adopted in this study to explore national news media use patterns among foreign-born in Sweden and its relation to the acculturation process. The same approach has been used for similar studies (e.g. Hwang & He 1999; Yang et al. 2004) and the advantage is – instead of solely looking at macro-level explanations – to consider the users as active rather than passive users of media (Katz et al. 1974 in Hwang & He 1999: 8; Yang et al. 2004: 83). The theory has been criticized within the field of mass communication for e.g. "The 'looseness' and absence of analytic clarity of the terminology" (Weiss 1976: 133). It has, however, usefully been applied for explanations of media use patterns by several

researchers in different settings (e.g. Katz et al. 1974; Palmgreen et al. 1985; Rubin 2002; Rubin & Rubin 1982 in Yang et al. 2004: 83). Hence, it will be useful in this study for exploring the use of Swedish news media among foreign-born in Sweden, in the context of acculturation.

Zooming in, previous national research on Swedish news media, migration and ethnic minorities show a clear predomination of analyzes of portrayals and representation in traditional media content. It has been stressed by several authors that there is a lack of research investigating the users' perception, and the relation between news media content and ethnic, cultural diversity and the analysis of whether and to what extent different users can access, use and are being exposed to different content (see e.g. SOU 2006:21: 17; Hultén 2016: 332, 343). More specifically, there is a lack of scientific knowledge in terms of news media consumption among people with a foreign background in Sweden – since no clear distinction has been made between individuals born outside of Sweden and the ones born in the country (Hultén 2016: 335; SOU 2015:94: 128). It is, however, of importance to consider potential differences between people with different backgrounds.

By merging the two areas of mass communication and intercultural communication, the preceding discussion emphasizes the need for further empirical research that examines the relationship between the use of national news media among foreign-born in Sweden and its connection to the acculturation process. The purpose of the current study is to explore this relation further by conducting an empirical investigation from the users' perspective, with the ambition of being able to point at possible correlations or tendencies that could contribute to an increased understanding of the function of national news media in the acculturation process.

1.1 Definitions

Foreign-born: Individuals born outside of Sweden, who are now living in Sweden.

News media: Refers to news on TV, radio, daily and tabloid newspapers, in traditional and digital versions. In addition, simplified news services in Swedish are included for the purpose of the study.

News medium: Singular form of news media.

Traditional news media: TV, radio, and newspapers.

News source: Specific news sites, newspapers, and TV/radio programs.

News media use: Placing emphasis on news media as objects by focusing on what types of news media individuals tend to use (see Siapera 2010: 167). This study is limited to the use of national news media.

The specific news media and news sources applied in the study can be found in the questionnaire in Appendix I.

2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Previous research

Although previous national research within the field is limited in its amount, studies have shown that foreign-born in Sweden to a lesser extent subscribe to newspapers compared with people born in Sweden, but this tends to even out the longer one has resided in the country (Haaivisto & Petersson 2013: 229; SOU 2015:94: 129). Official Reports of the Swedish Government from 2015 concluded that levels of news usage for people that have grown up in, and outside of Sweden, are relatively similar regarding reading the tabloid papers and newspapers online, news through social media, and commercial radio. They differed, however, in the usage of morning papers, which was significantly higher among those who had grown up in Sweden. Likewise, radio newscasts listening was significantly lower among those who grew up abroad. The percentage of those who read free newspapers was twice as high among those who grew up outside of Sweden. The authors emphasize, however, the difficulty in collecting a representative selection of the foreign-born population for the reason that requirements on certain language skills for being able to participate exclude people. Their qualified assessment is thus that those who did not participate in their study, e.g. refugees from Syria, will use parts of the news media to an even lesser extent. The investigators underline an expected increase in the use of digital platforms with foreign language and news. In addition, they stress the importance of making Swedish news available in different languages (SOU 2015:94: 129-131). Moreover, Hultén (2016) writes that digital media have the potential to replace or offer complement to traditional media, and contribute to the democratization of society. This emphasizes the importance of studying the extent of online news usage among foreign-born, in comparison to the more traditional news media. Further, several studies have shown that the news content regarding people with a foreign background can often be misleading, ignorant, stereotypical, and prejudiced. Criticism has at times led people to completely abstain from following traditional media. As a reaction to this, alternative media have emerged, which provide media space for citizens who consider themselves ignored and excluded by mainstream news media (Hultén 2016: 330-343). Still, the research on news media use among foreign-born is limited in its amount, and also restricted in its validity due to mentioned issues of representation. In addition, Hultén (2016) emphasizes that further research is needed on how digital media affects the news usage among people with a foreign background in Sweden (Hultén 2016: 336).

The body of literature on the acculturation process is fairly large. It has mainly been focusing on interpersonal communication channels and their impact, but studying the role of mass media in this process has become more and more common (Hwang & He 1999: 6; Keshishian 2010: 93). Kim suggested in 1984 that mass media distributes not only topical events, but also norms of behavior, societal values, and traditional perspectives for interpreting the environment (in Yang et al. 2004: 83). Keshishian (2010) summarizes parts of existing research on mass media's influence on acculturation showing that mass media facilitates adaptation to host culture. In contrast, other researchers have shown that stereotypes in media limit the adaptation and suggest that interpersonal communication serves as a greater function in the acculturation process (Keshishian 2010: 93-94). In today's technological society one must, however, also consider the possibility of interpersonal communication merging with online usage. Furthermore, it has been stressed in previous international literature that a common, but also criticized, argument in the discussion of media and acculturation is that the use of media from the country of origin supposedly could harm integration and lead to an "ethnic media ghetto" for migrants (Trebbe 2007: 172). On the other hand, foreign news usage may just as well indicate a high news interest in general, which in addition could lead to

a more frequent news usage in the host country. For this study, however, the focus has been limited to the use of Swedish news only, in order to analyze how foreign-born use these media and how it can be related to acculturation.

Narrowing down, a few researchers have examined the relation between acculturation and the consumption of national news media – and the results are of great importance for the design of this study. Globally, studies have shown a clear linkage between degree of acculturation and the choices of media types among foreign-born, and that use of media to various degree gratifies specific acculturation needs such as information and knowledge of the host society, and language skills (Hwang & He 1999). Trebbe (2007: 187) stated in his study significant causal effects of acculturation strategies on the use of national mass media in the host country, combined with a strong effect on media use based on language skills. Furthermore, previous literature has emphasized two functions of news media consumption and its relation to integration described in Arnold and Schneider (2007: 118): "First, the development of language and communication proficiencies as a basis for creating interethnic relations and interethnic communication; and second, the diffusion of information and knowledge about values, meanings, and identities creating a symbolic community – between or within groups." Moreover, several researchers stress the importance of demographic variables and their relation to individuals' media use and acculturation (see Haaivisto & Petersson 2013: 229-30; Hwang & He 1999: 8). Correspondingly, Trebbe (2007: 175) emphasized that media use among Turkish migrants in Germany is affected by the demographic variables: age, length of stay, citizenship; but also individual language skills and use, political interest and social interaction – leading to individual stages of integration. These stages in turn, result in different needs for information which implies different patterns of media use. This is a crucial link for the present study. In terms of the purpose of the study – namely to examine the national news media use among foreign-born in Sweden and its relation to the acculturation process – valuable previous research has been conducted, but there are several questions that need to be addressed. In order to do so, first requires a closer review of the theories that are applied in this study.

2.2 Acculturation theory

The term acculturation has been given great attention throughout history and thus several more or less used definitions (see e.g. Yang et al. 2004). The classical definition according to Berry (1997: 7), who is central in the field, was presented by Redfield, Linton and Herskovits as early as in 1936: "Acculturation comprehends those phenomena which result when groups of individuals having different cultures come into continuous first-hand contact with subsequent changes in the original culture patterns of either or both groups." Important here is that the concept is neutral in itself, acculturation may take place in either or both groups. Berry stresses however, that in practice, acculturation tends to induce more change for people arriving to a new culture. This is an important distinction for the analysis of the results in this study, not least due to the challenges Swedish news media are facing regarding representations and portrayals of people with foreign backgrounds, but also in terms of use, exposure, and democratic values. Acculturation needs to be taken into account from both perspectives in order to gain a better understanding, and the concept itself has been criticized when being synonymous with assimilation (e.g. Berry 1997: 7). However, for this study, acculturation is considered from the perspective of people coming to Sweden, and the basic notion stated in the Official Reports of the Swedish Government emphasized that integration should take place without the requirement of cultural assimilation (Hultén 2006: 128).

Further, Berry (1997: 9) addressed two important issues that he argued affect the degree of acculturation which he termed: *cultural maintenance*, the extent to which cultural identity and characteristics are considered to be important, and strived for to maintain; and *contact and participation*, the extent to which people become involved in other cultural groups, respectively remain among themselves. These are important issues to consider when investigating acculturation patterns among people of foreign origin in Sweden. More specifically, Berry (1997) defined four acculturation strategies that are addressing the two issues:

1) *Assimilation*: "When individuals do not wish to maintain their cultural identity and seek daily interaction with other cultures."
2) *Integration*: "When there is an interest in both maintaining one's original culture, while in daily interactions with other groups, integration is the option; here, there is some degree of cultural integrity maintained, while at the same time seeking to participate as an integral part of the larger social network."
3) *Separation*: "When individuals place a value on holding on to their original culture, and at the same time wish to avoid interactions with others."
4) *Marginalization*: "When there is little possibility or interest in cultural maintenance (often for reasons of enforced cultural loss), and little interest in having relations with others (often for reasons of exclusion or discrimination)." (Berry 1997: 9).

The same theoretical framework has been used by Berry and his colleagues in research previous to 1997 (e.g. Dona & Berry 1994). The concept's essential feature is that the two dimensions, contact and participation, and cultural maintenance, are assumed to be independent from each other – and implies an acceptance of a so called dual or hybrid identity and thus a cultural autonomy for ethnic minorities (Trebbe 2007: 174). These strategies, however, need to be considered in a context of individual freedom where people can choose how they want to acculturate, which is not always the case (Berry 1997: 9-10). Regarding the separation strategy, the phrase "wish to avoid interactions with others" should be considered with caution since low interaction and contact not necessarily are active choices, as separation may as well be a result of difficulties in finding opportunities to interact in the host society. This applies to the marginalization strategy as well. It should also be stressed here that for this study, the acculturation theory should not be interpreted as a way of grouping people. Instead, it will be used as an analytical tool, with mutually exclusive categories, in order to measure and emphasize the prevalence of different acculturation strategies, and thus how the degree of acculturation among people of foreign origin in Sweden is related to national news media usage – to increase the knowledge of news media's role in the acculturation process.

2.3 Uses and gratifications theory

It has been claimed in previous research that the strength of a foreign-born's motivation to acquire information in the host country is an important variable between media usage and acculturation. Media use can therefore be viewed from a functional perspective, fulfilling specific acculturation goals (Yang et al. 2004: 83) and thus be connected to the uses and gratifications theory, viewing the users as active rather than passive users of media. Passive users presupposes a macro perspective where the users are assumed to be directly affected by media-effects – focusing on immediate and short-term changes in attitudes, thoughts, or behaviors that can be measured. Here, media are assumed to have a direct influence on a reactive audience. By contrast, uses and gratifications considers individuals to actively select media content in order to gratify cultural, social, and

psychological needs. Central to this approach is that the users are viewed as goal-directed individuals (Katz et al. 1974: 19-21; Hwang & He 1999: 8; Yang et al. 2004: 83; Rubin 2009: 165). The main objectives of U&G inquiry is to explain how individuals use media to gratify personal needs, to understand motives for media behavior, and to identify consequences or functions that follow from these needs, motives and behaviors (Katz et al. 1974; Shao 2009: 9; Rubin 2009: 166-167).

More specifically, Katz et al. (1974: 20) stressed that U&G research is concerned with "(1) the social and psychological origins of (2) needs, which generate (3) expectations from (4) the mass media or other sources, which lead to (5) differential patterns of media exposure (or engagement in other activities), resulting in (6) need gratifications and (7) other consequences, perhaps mostly unintended ones." According to Sundar and Limperos (2013: 506), this view of U&G dominates the field today and still governs scholarly research on media gratifications. Katz et al. (1974) emphasized that U&G can be investigated in several ways, such as by reconstructing needs that have been identified in observations as being gratified by media, others put focus on social origins in relation to expectations and gratifications among the audience. Another option is to begin by specifying needs and then investigate the extent to which mass media gratifies these needs (Katz et al. 1974: 20-21; Sundar & Limperos 2013: 506). For this study, the latter is of most interest in order to examine how foreign-born in Sweden use national news media to gratify personal needs, and the gratifications will thus be based on measures that often have been used in research when applying the uses and gratifications theory.

In relation to the previous discussion, the work within this area has lead researchers to identify several gratifications over the years. Important to stress here is that in contemporary studies, survey instruments have been administered by using pre-existing measures – slightly modified for particular investigations and their mediums. Gratifications for online usage have been identified as almost identical to the ones that previously have been salient for traditional media such as television and radio (Sundar & Limperos 2013: 507-508). One must, however, keep in mind that new gratifications for online usage may exist, but to explore this distinction further is beyond the scope of this study. Further, numerous studies in various countries have been researching media use motives such as surveillance, entertainment, companionship, and arousal (Reece & Palmgreen 2000: 810). Accordingly, Katz et al. (1973) stressed 35 needs based on people's motivation to use media and categorized them into five groups: affective needs, personal integrative needs, social integrative needs, cognitive needs, and tension released needs (in Shao 2009: 9).

Rubin (1983: 41), another influential researcher, defined a number of motives for using media, and his measure has been referred to as one of the two most commonly used measures of television viewing motivation (Reece & Palmgreen 2000: 811). Similar motives were later used in Rubin (1984: 70): Information, Entertainment, Relaxation, Companionship, Pass time, Arousal, Escape, Habit, and Social interaction – which have been used to study news use more specifically (Van der Wurff 2011: 142-143; Curnalia 2007: 68). These motives overlap to a great extent between the mentioned studies, and motivate why it is considered as useful to apply similar items for studying news use motives in this study. Moreover, in the context of acculturation and media use, Rubin's (1983) motives were used in a revised version in Reece and Palmgreen (2000), and Yang et al. (2004) used the same approach in their study, including motives on acculturation, surveillance, and diversion. The two later studies have served as the main inspiration for the operationalization in this study. By looking at news motives for different stages in the acculturation process, it is possible to identify different needs, and why Swedish news media are being used.

Further, the U&G approach has been criticized for simplifying complex relations and for downplaying media's function in creating these certain needs (Harcup 2014). For the purpose of this study the approach is, however, considered as useful to increase knowledge from the users' perspective for a further analysis regarding its relation to the acculturation process. News media, more specifically, are considered as part of the larger media supply and are applied to the same theoretical framework which, as mentioned earlier, has been done in previous research (see e.g. Yang et al. 2004; Curnalia 2007; Van der Wurff 2011). The foregoing discussion of previous research and theories in this section serves as a framework to operationalize the variables that will be used in this study, further described in the methodology section, and ultimately when analyzing the results to answer the research questions. These are described in the following section.

3. RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND PURPOSE

Based on previous literature and theories in the field that have been discussed so far, more work needs to be done in studying the relation between the acculturation process and the national news media usage among foreign-born in Sweden.

The relevance of this study has been motivated in previous parts, on a societal level, but also its contribution to the research field. To be more specific, the theoretical relevance is motivated due to the existing lack of knowledge of how the foreign-born population in Sweden use news media, and how it can be related to degree of acculturation. Previous studies in Sweden have mainly focused on this issue from media's perspective, studying representation and portrayals, and researchers have stressed that future studies need to address this issue from the users' perspective, in a context of a multicultural society (SOU 2006:21: 17; Hultén 2016:30 332, 343). There is an obvious research gap here, which implies a strong theoretical relevance. Secondly, on the basis of democratic principles, ensuring that all citizens have access to news and information, taken together with recent research stating that a significant part of the foreign-born population in Sweden does not use the traditional news media (Hultén 2016:30 330-342), emphasizes the practical relevance of the results from this study. Not only for the reason that it is important that every citizen in Sweden can access information about the society, but also for the reason that inequalities in the use of news media constitute a risk for less common frames of reference, reduced social cohesion, and growing inequalities in knowledge and democratic participation (Ds 2013:19: 255). These very issues are tightly connected to the integration process in the Swedish society and motivates why there is a need for increased knowledge of what constitutes this relation and how it can be improved, in order to secure democratic principles. Possible differences in news usage and motives for different degrees of acculturation can emphasize in what way, and the extent to which media reaches this part of the population. This is a key issue that could improve the understanding of news media's function, and how they can continue to develop their work in the future.

Zooming in on the actual approach for this study, the following reasoning constitutes the core of the analysis. The dependent variable is national news media use among foreign-born and is examined through news habits for traditional and digital media; and by gratifications motives for using Swedish news. Degree of acculturation is conceptualized as the main independent variable, where two different acculturation groups are compared in order to examine their relation to the dependent variable – thus to look for possible differences in news usage and gratifications. In the analysis, more specifically, participants who best correspond with the assimilation and integration strategies are combined into one group, since both show a higher degree of acculturation towards the Swedish

society, based on Berry's (1997: 9) concept of contact and participation. The opposite applies to the participants who best correspond with the separation and marginalization strategies, with a lower degree of acculturation, who thus constitute the second group. The operationalization of these strategies for the analysis are explained in more detail in the following methodology part.

Further, since previous international research has shown that news media use and different stages in the acculturation process are related (see Arnold & Schneider 2007: 118; Trebbe 2007: 175) it is reasonable to assume a relationship between these two variables. It will, however, be difficult to examine causality and explain cause and effect per se, for the reason that they may affect each other. Still, it is possible to make comparisons between the findings and to look for significant correlations that indicate how this relationship is constituted. In order to strengthen possible findings – and to reduce the likelihood of spurious correlations with a lack of scientific relevance – demographic variables that have been shown to be important for this relation are included as control variables in the analysis. In this way, other explanatory factors for possible correlations are reduced.

The study is carried out by using a deductive approach and thus already existing theories, and quantitative data is collected through a survey. The participants consist of people with a foreign background who were born in another country and are now living in Sweden. However, the sampling frame has been narrowed down – due to the obvious difficulties of conducting a random sample of foreign-born. More specifically, the sample consists of students of SFI, Swedish for immigrants, living in Gothenburg. This selection is motivated by the expectation to collect data from a group of participants with a wide variance in Swedish language skills and the demographic control variables: age, education, length of stay, and origin. By doing so, it is of course, more difficult to get a representative selection and to generalize the findings to a larger population. It is therefore legitimate to criticize the external validity. By solely looking at for example individuals from a certain country or culture, this would have been improved. On the other hand, the sample still has a strong internal validity since all participants are foreign-born, and the results can provide insights on how national news media are being used by individuals that are new in Sweden, to a wider extent.

The purpose is to deepen the understanding of how Swedish news media are used by foreign-born in Sweden and to increase the knowledge of how this is related to the acculturation process. The ambition is to clarify how news usage is related to the degree of acculturation in order to increase the knowledge of why, and to what extent, this part of the population are using Swedish news media. Consequently, this leads to the following research questions for the study:

Q1: In what proportions do SFI students use the four acculturation strategies: assimilation, integration, separation, and marginalization?

Q2: What gratifications motives for using Swedish news are most common among SFI students, and how are they related to the degree of acculturation?

Q3: How are news usage among SFI students and the degree of acculturation related in terms of
a) news habits for various Swedish news media, and b) when controlling for the impact by individual Swedish language skills and the demographic variables: age, gender, education, length of stay, and origin?

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 Choice of method

A quantitative approach was applied in this study to collect data and to further examine the research questions. Surveys are a well-used methodology in media and communication research, and a common way to study media use and effects from the audience's perspective. An advantage with this method is that numbers and statistics indicate objectivity and rationality that enable strong arguments (Johansson 2013: 87). How foreign-born use Swedish news media has been emphasized in the literature as a research topic that needs more attention from the audience perspective (see SOU 2006:21: 17; Hultén 2016: 332-335; SOU 2015:94: 128). By comparison, national research studying news use, among others, for the whole Swedish population – SOM-institutet – distributes questionnaires to estimate people's habits, behaviors, opinions, and values (e.g. SOM-undersökningen 2014). In addition, several studies in previous research on news usage, integration and acculturation, have been using surveys and questionnaires for data collection (e.g. Yang et al. 2004; Arnold & Schneider 2007; Trebbe 2007). Based on the previous discussion and for the purpose of this study, a questionnaire was constructed in order to collect data from respondents to examine why and how foreign-born use, and thus have access to various Swedish news media, in the context of acculturation. Statistics and numbers were considered as important measures to investigate possible correlations between the dependent and independent variables, and for future comparisons and cumulativity within the field. Key informant interviews with important media actors were never an option since this study had its focus on the audience perspective.

Further, it is not unproblematic to collect data through surveys and questionnaires. Critics have stressed that it causes over measurement and over quantification, and that phenomena are adapted to the measuring instruments – which may question the meaning itself (Johansson 2013: 87). To minimize this risk, the variables for the study were operationalized in the questionnaire through a majority of questions that were based on already existing theories and established questions. By doing so, one can thus expect increased validity since they have previously been used and discussed within the research community. Alternative methods, however, could have been participant observation or interviews with respondents. This has been done in similar research (see Hwang & He 1999) where participants were observed for seven consecutive days regarding their news usage, followed by interviews. Collecting data in this way would most likely have given more thorough results, but would also have been much more time consuming, with fewer participants as a result. A combination of interviews and a questionnaire could have given more thorough data as well. However, for this study, it would have been more difficult to analyze and answer the research questions if data from these two separate methods were combined for the reason that a quantitative approach was applied. Comparing data from two separate methods may be easier if a qualitative approach is used. Lastly, several other studies that have investigated acculturation and uses and gratifications, together or separately, have used questionnaires as well (e.g. Rubin 1983; Dona & Berry 1994; Reece & Palmgreen 2000; Curnalia 2007; Van Der Wurff 2011). Based on this discussion, the methodological choice is well-founded in previous research for to the purpose of the study.

4.2 Respondents – Sample

The number of SFI students in Gothenburg in 2015 was 11 436, and consisted of 53% women and 47% men (Skolverket 2017). The survey for this study was conducted using a convenience sample by gathering data from 190 SFI students in Gothenburg. Although the representation and possibility to generalize the findings is limited when using such a sample, it can still provide valuable results based on strong internal validity. A similar sampling method was used by e.g. Dona and Berry (1994: 61) in their acculturation study regarding Central American refugees living in Toronto. However, a random sample would have been preferable, but would have required higher accessibility to schools and students, and willingness to participate. Instead, two of sixteen SFI schools in Gothenburg (SCB 2017) offered to participate in the study. The participants were selected from different school classes, based on language level, in order to optimize the variance in language skills and length of stay in Sweden.

The questionnaire was handed out personally in classrooms, and the participants answered the questions individually in groups, at the same time. This approach was used to increase the control over the situation – by informing the participants in advance about the purpose and being able to answer questions regarding the content. The questionnaire was available in three different languages: Swedish, English, and Arabic. The Arabic version was translated in two steps by native speakers – who are fluent in Swedish and English as well. Initially by a student at the University of Gothenburg, and secondly thoroughly evaluated and confirmed by a researcher at the Sahlgrenska University Hospital. No comments regarding the content of the Arabic version were made by the participants. Further, all three versions, in different languages, were offered as complement to the participants in order to increase the understanding and thus the reliability of the answers. A total of 79 Swedish, 65 English, and 46 Arabic versions were collected.

4.3 Survey

The questionnaire was divided into four sections and carefully arranged: news habits, motives for using Swedish news, acculturation statements, and lastly questions on demographic information and Swedish language skills. Esaiasson et al. (2012: 241) stressed that inquiries should begin with questions that generate interest, without being sensitive from an integrity point of view. This motivates why news habits, and news use motives constituted the first two sections. The acculturation statements were considered to be the more sensitive part of the questionnaire, and were placed in the third section. With regard to ethical considerations and in order to increase trust in the study and thus the reliability of the answers – the questionnaire contained a front page with information about the study, contact details, and stressed that participation guaranteed full anonymity. Questions concerning demographic information and language skills completed the questionnaire for the reason that these types of questions in general are less interesting to answer, and could be sensitive, which may reduce the motivation to respond to remaining parts (Johansson 2013: 103). Furthermore, the questionnaire consisted of predetermined, fixed response options for each question – that the participants would choose from. It did not offer a "do not know" option since all questions were expected to be relevant to all participants. Previous research has also shown that the validity and reliability is not affected in terms of whether this option is included or not (Esaiasson et al. 2012: 247). A majority of the questions that were used in the survey have already been formulated by previous researchers who examined similar topics, slightly revised for the purpose of this study. Using already existing questions does not indicate a lack of independence,

rather it is motivated by the fact that they have already been used and approved by the research community, which facilitates the operationalization of the variables, and is thus expected to increase the validity (see Esaiasson et al. 2012: 241-242). Before the questionnaire was translated and the survey conducted, it was sent out to five acquaintances with a foreign background, independent from each other – in order to pre-test the questions – which resulted in a few minor adjustments of formulations for improved understanding. The full version of the questionnaire can be found in Appendix I.

4.4 Materials and analytical framework

In this section, operationalizations of the dependent and independent variables are more carefully described. It is divided into subcategories for news media use and gratifications, and acculturation strategies. Related procedures for the data analysis are described at the end of each part. Moreover, the analysis was conducted in the statistical software application IBM SPSS Statistics, and data from each questionnaire was entered into the statistical program manually. Respondents who did not provide enough answers to important questions or had skipped sections completely were excluded from the analysis. In total, 175 of the 190 respondents were selected for the data analysis. The comparisons in the analysis are based on the well established significance level at 95%, $p < .05$.

4.4.1 News media use and gratifications

The first part of the questionnaire regarding news habits was based on questions from SOM-undersökningen 2014, and since it measures news habits for the whole Swedish population, one can assume that the most common and relevant news media were included. Göteborgs-Posten was added to the list of daily morning papers for local reasons. However, the answering alternatives were adjusted to slightly broader intervals since it has been stressed in previous research that parts of the foreign-born population use Swedish news to a lesser extent (Hultén 2016:30: 330-342). The alternatives were mutually exclusive and consisted of: Daily, 3-5 days/week, 1-2 days/week, 1-3 days/month, Less than 1 day/month, and Never. For comparison and statistical reasons, the alternatives were transformed into a dummy variable in the analysis: "Weekly", and "Less than once per week". This distinction was also made due to the known tendency of overestimating news habits for social desirability reasons (Johansson 2013: 106-107). News habits were, more specifically, measured by asking how often the person uses news on television, radio, daily and tabloid papers, news online, and news through social media. News services in simplified Swedish were also included, specifically for this study. Moreover, foreign news media was consciously part of the questionnaire in order to clarify the distinction to Swedish news. However, these answers were never included in the analysis.

Participants who responded to at least one of the questions per news medium and section, but provided no answers for some of the specific news sources, were coded as "never" for that specific source and thus as a non-consumer. Johansson (2013: 96) stressed that this is the usual way to interpret data on media consumption and argued that if a person answers that he or she consumes a news source in a specific question section, but gives no answer to other sources in the same section, one can assume that this person does not use these sources. Further, for the final overview in the analysis, each participant's news habits were transformed into a dummy variable for each of the following news media: TV/radio, newspaper, digital news, social media, and simplified news services. Ultimately, this shows whether or not the participant uses at least one news source, on a

weekly basis, for each news medium. The actual news sources, e.g. websites, specific newspapers, or TV/radio programs, were not considered to be of significance to report, for comparison reasons, since each medium had various numbers of total news sources.

Further, the gratifications were operationalized in the questionnaire by using several statements from previous research that has studied motives for using media, and news media, see previous discussion in the theoretical framework. The motives were measured on 5-point Likert scales, ranging from 1-5, where 1 indicated "completely disagree" and 5 "completely agree". An uneven number of steps is encouraged when using scales to provide a neutral alternative (Esaiasson et al. 2012: 249). The participants were asked to mark the number that best represented the extent to which each gratification is a reason for them to use Swedish news media, regardless of the news medium being used. A similar approach was used by Van der Wurff (2011) in his study. Moreover, the 20 motives for news usage were selected based on 17 statements taken from Reece and Palmgreen's (2000) revised version of Rubin's (1983) motives for television viewing. Similar motives have been used to study news use more specifically (see e.g. Yang et al. 2004; Curnalia 2007; Van der Wurff 2011). The motives were divided into seven categories: Acculturation, Surveillance, Information, Diversion, Companionship, Escape, and Pass time. Two additional statements were taken from the mainly corresponding versions used by Rubin (1983) and Yang et al. (2004), and one was added in the process specifically for this study, under "Surveillance": "To find out what is going on in my home country".

In the data analysis, the statements for each of the seven categories were initially transformed into indices, tested by using Cronbach's alpha to ensure that the answers followed the same pattern within each index, thus its reliability strength. The aim is to achieve a value above 0.700 for the index to be considered acceptable. The following values were found: Acculturation (0.797), Surveillance (0.692), Information (0.726), Diversion (0.870), Companionship (0.788), Escape (0.786), and Pass time (0.425). "Pass time" was excluded from the analysis due to the lack of coherent responses and reliability. Surveillance was included in the analysis since 0.692 is considered sufficiently close to 0.700. The second step in the analysis was to calculate the mean of each index and thus see what motives that are most common for using Swedish news media among the SFI students. An overview of the categories and motives can be found in Appendix II.

4.4.2 Acculturation strategies

Aspects that concern integration and cultural identity are complex constructs to measure in quantitative surveys, to say the least, and there have been numerous discussions in previous literature on how to do it (Arnold & Schneider 2007: 122). This study was based on Berry's (1997) framework and bidimensional model on acculturation, and was operationalized in the questionnaire through questions regarding: cultural maintenance, respectively contact and participation. ARSMA – Revised, by Cuéllar et al. (1995) is together with its former version a frequently used questionnaire that has attempted to capture the four acculturation strategies: assimilation, integration, separation, and marginalization. Acculturation adaptation was assessed by attitudes and behaviors towards the host culture, and the culture of origin, measured on 5-point Likert scales. The items related to the following categories: language proficiency and preferences, cultural practices, social affiliation, and ethnic identification (Zane & Mak 2003: 45, 49). Accordingly, for this study, 6 of 18 items were taken from Cuéllar et al. (1995), the other items were formulated based on previous literature in the field, corresponding with the mentioned categories to fit this specific study

(see e.g. Zane & Mak 2003: 48; Kang 2006, Trebbe: 2007). Items were measured on a 5-point Likert scale, from 1 "completely disagree" to 5 "completely agree", and measured attitudes and behaviors towards Sweden as the host culture, and towards the culture of origin – in line with Berry's (1997) model on acculturation. The questions concerning each culture were identical.

Further, the four acculturation strategies were compiled in the data analysis through two indices, based on Berry's (1997) bidimensional model on acculturation. One index consisted of the nine statements concerning attitudes and behaviors towards Sweden, and the second index was compiled based on the nine statements towards the culture of origin. Cronbach's alpha for the indices were 0.691 for the host culture, and 0.715 for culture of origin. Although 0.691 is lower than the standard requirement 0.700 – it is considered close enough in terms of a sufficient reliability. Furthermore, the categorization of respondents into the acculturation strategies was carried out by using the same procedure as in Dona and Berry (1994: 63). Mean values for the nine items on each of the two indices that fell below or were equal to 3.00, on the scales 1-5 with 3 as the neutral point, were classified as "low". The mean values above 3.00, for example 3.01, were classified as "high". Dona and Berry (1994: 63) argued that this cutting point was chosen to separate the answers on the disagreement side, from the ones lying on the agreement side of the scales. Participants who corresponded with "low" on both indices were classified as using the *marginalization strategy.* "Low" on the Swedish index and "high" on the culture of origin index were categorized as *separation strategy.* "High" on both indices were classified as *integration strategy*, and finally "high" on the Swedish index and "low" on the culture of origin index were categorized as using the *assimilation strategy.* As earlier mentioned in the research question and purpose section, participants using the marginalization and separation strategies (M&S), and participants using integration and assimilation strategies (I&A), constituted the two groups that were used for comparisons in the analysis. By doing so, degree of acculturation served as the main independent variable in the analysis to study its relation to national news media use and gratifications among the SFI students. In the following section, the results from the data analysis are presented.

5. RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

The purpose of this study is to deepen the understanding of how foreign-born in Sweden are using national news media, and to further examine its relation to the acculturation process. This was accomplished by conducting a survey where a questionnaire was distributed to SFI students, Swedish for immigrants, living in Gothenburg. The main approach has been to study how degree of acculturation is related to specific gratifications motives for using Swedish news, but also in terms of news habits for various media. Based on this, three research questions were formulated. In the following sections, these questions are answered by presenting the findings from the data analysis.

5.1 Acculturation strategies

The first step is to classify the participants in the four acculturation strategies presented in Berry (1997), since the later analyses are based on this categorization. A summary of the mean values for the participants' attitudes and behaviors towards the Swedish society (Index 1), and the culture of origin (Index 2), is presented in Table 1. The indices are based on the mean values for each participant's answers on the nine questions that are associated with respective culture. The numbers in Table 1 show the total average value for each acculturation strategy, on a scale 1-5, were below or equal to 3.00 is defined as "low", and above 3.00 as "high", following the same procedure as in Dona and Berry (1994).

Table 1: Mean values as basis for acculturation strategies

Acculturation strategies	Index 1 (SD)	Index 2 (SD)	Percent	N
Marginalization	2.41 (0.33)	2.48 (0.44)	5.7	10
Separation	2.36 (0.40)	3.99 (0.60)	52.6	92
Integration	3.52 (0.42)	3.74 (0.54)	31.4	55
Assimilation	3.62 (0.55)	2.49 (0.77)	10.3	18
Total	2.86 (0.72)	3.67 (0.77)	100	175

Comment: Index 1 = Swedish contact and participation index, Index 2 = Culture of origin maintenance index.
SD = Standard Deviation, N = Number of participants.

The results show that the mean values for each acculturation strategy on the two indices are consistent with the theory and coding: *Marginalization*, low-low *(2.41, 2.48)*; *Separation*, low-high *(2.36, 3.99)*; *Integration*, high-high *(3.52, 3.74)*; and *Assimilation*, high-low *(3.62, 2.49)*. Based on the total number of participants that were categorized in each of the acculturation strategies, it is possible to answer the first research question, namely in what proportions SFI students are using the four strategies. The two acculturation strategies that are the most common to use among the SFI students, based on this sample, are Separation 92, and Integration 55. Furthermore, the two less commonly used acculturation strategies are Assimilation 18, and Marginalization 10 (see Table 1). Separation and Integration constitute the two largest groups and represent 84% of the total sample, and 16% of the participants corresponded to a mean value on Index 2 that was below or equal to 3.00 – which applies to the Marginalization and Assimilation strategies.

Further, for comparison and to examine possible correlations with news media usage, the acculturation strategies are combined into two new groups: Marginalization & Separation (M&S) and Integration & Assimilation (I&A). Based on Berry's (1997) theory and in line with the results shown in Table 1, the participants in the I&A group have a higher degree of acculturation – in terms of participation and contact with the Swedish culture – than the ones in the M&S group. I&A was therefore coded with a higher value in SPSS, value 1, in comparison to value 0 for the M&S group, to indicate that I&A has a higher degree of acculturation for the further analyses. The total number of participants for M&S is 102, and 73 for I&A. Further, an independent samples t-test shows that the mean values differ significantly for both indices (see Table 2 for means and standard deviations). On Index 1, towards Sweden, the t-test shows that the two groups differ $t(173) = -18.50, p < .001$. In addition, on Index 2, towards culture of origin, the t-test shows that they differ as well $t(173) = 3.65, p < .001$. Hence, it is therefore highly unlikely that the differences are caused due to chance. This is a crucial confirmation for the further analyses because comparisons with a lack of significant difference between the groups on these two indices would be of little or no statistical interest.

Table 2: Mean values for acculturation groups

Acculturation strategy	Index 1 (SD)	Index 2 (SD)	Percent	N
Marginalization & Separation	2.37*** (0.39)	3.84*** (0.74)	58.3	102
Integration & Assimilation	3.55*** (0.45)	3.43*** (0.74)	41.7	73
Total	2.86 (0.72)	3.67 (0.77)	100	175

Comment: Index 1 = Swedish contact and participation index, Index 2 = Culture of origin maintenance index. SD = Standard Deviation, N = Number of participants. *** = p < .001.

5.1.1 Demographic profiles

Before moving on to the analyses of gratifications and news usage, demographic characteristics need to be considered in terms of possible differences that may be significant for the two groups and thus affect how they are shaped. The ambition is to have two groups that are rather similar on these demographic variables to increase the ability of ensuring that possible findings in the further analyses are not affected by demographic factors. The characteristics that are examined can be found in literature studying the relation between news usage and acculturation: age, gender, education, length of stay, and citizenship (e.g. Hwang & He 1999, Trebbe 2007). Citizenship was excluded from the analysis due to uneven distribution among the answers – the vast majority of the participants did not have a Swedish citizenship. Origin, was added specifically for this study since the sample consists of participants from different countries. The distinction in the analysis was based on geographical distance to Sweden and coded as "Europe" or "Outside of Europe", in order to facilitate comparisons. Similar alternatives have been exemplified in Esaiasson et al. (2012: 246) for questions concerning national origin. However, it is essential to stress that especially the category "Outside of Europe" represents a heterogeneous group of individuals with different backgrounds from various countries and cultures, and no other possible similarities or differences than geographical distance to Sweden are taken into consideration for this distinction.

Table 3: Demographic characteristics and acculturation groups.

Demographic variables	M & S (N)	I & A (N)	Total (N)	Sig.	Missing
Age	*Mean = 30.5*	*Mean = 29.5*	*Mean = 30.1*	.321	
20-29	56.1 (55)	62.5 (45)	58.8 (100)		
30-39	32.7 (32)	27.8 (20)	30.6 (52)		
40-50	11.2 (11)	9.7 (7)	10.6 (18)		
Total	100 (98)	100 (72)	100 (170)		5
Gender				.098	
Male	43.4 (43)	56.3 (40)	48.8 (83)		
Female	56.6 (56)	43.7 (31)	51.2 (87)		
Total	100 (99)	100 (71)	100 (170)		5
Education				.180	
Without any graduation	–	–	–		
Primary school	–	–	–		
High school	13.9 (14)	21.9 (16)	17.2 (30)		
University entrance or	86.1 (87)	78.1 (57)	82.8 (144)		
Total	100 (101)	100 (73)	100 (174)		1
Origin				.369	
Europe	15.5 (15)	20.8 (15)	17.8 (30)		
Outside of Europe	84.5 (82)	79.2 (57)	82.2 (139)		
Total	100 (97)	100 (72)	100 (169)		6
Years in Sweden				.151	
0-1 years	33.7 (34)	28.8 (21)	31.6 (55)		
1-2 years	50.5 (51)	41.1 (30)	46.6 (81)		
2-3 years	7.9 (8)	21.9 (16)	13.8 (24)		
More than 3 years	7.9 (8)	8.2 (6)	8.0 (14)		
Total	100 (101)	100 (73)	100 (174)		1

Comment: M&S = Marginalization & Separation group, I&A = Integration & Assimilation group.
N = Number of participants. Numbers are shown in percent. The mean age is shown in years.

The results show no significant differences between the two groups with respect to the demographic variables when comparing the means by using an independent samples t-test. This indicates that the characteristics are evenly spread out, or at least confirms that they do not differ significantly between the two groups (see Table 3). However, the educational level should be interpreted carefully in the further analyses since the results show that the majority of the participants have a university background *(N=144)*, as a current student or degree, and none of the respondents have a lower educational background than high school *(N=30)* as highest educational level. Nevertheless, the difference between the two groups is not statistically significant regarding the spread of upper secondary (high school) and university educational background: *t(172) = 1.39, p = .180*. Further, the percentage of females is higher in the M&S group, 56.6%, compared with 43.7% in the I&A group, and the opposite relation applies for males: 43.4% in M&S, and 56.3% in I&A. The difference is, however, not statistically significant: *t(168) = 1.66, p = .098*. Moreover, origin and

years in Sweden are neither significantly different between the two groups, for origin: *t(167) = 0.90, p = .369*. For years in Sweden: *t(172) = -1.44, p = .151*. However, one can still identify a few differences – even if they are not significant – where the M&S group consists of a larger share of participants from outside of Europe, 84.5%, compared with 79.2% in the I&A group. In addition, the I&A group consists of a larger share of participants who have been living in Sweden for more than two years. Lastly, the average age for both groups is rather similar: 29.5 years for I&A *(SD=6.56)* and 30.5 years for M&S *(SD=6.85), t(168) = 0.99, p = .321*. Overall, none of the demographic characteristics are significant for any of the two acculturation groups, thus both are sufficiently similar in terms of how they are shaped. The subsequent analyses can now be carried out with this advantage.

5.2 Gratifications and news motives

By examining what gratifications that are most common among the SFI students, it is possible to increase the knowledge of why Swedish news are being used by these individuals. Different motives for using news depending on the degree of acculturation can emphasize different needs in the acculturation process, and thus the functions of national news media. Six gratifications categories have been selected from previous research: Acculturation, Surveillance, Information, Diversion, Companionship, and Escape. By comparing the mean values for the two acculturation groups M&S and I&A – the higher degree of acculturation for the I&A group serves as basis for the analysis, and ultimately the second research question for the study, concerning motives for Swedish news use, can be answered.

Graph 1: Overview of mean values for news gratifications in the two acculturation groups.
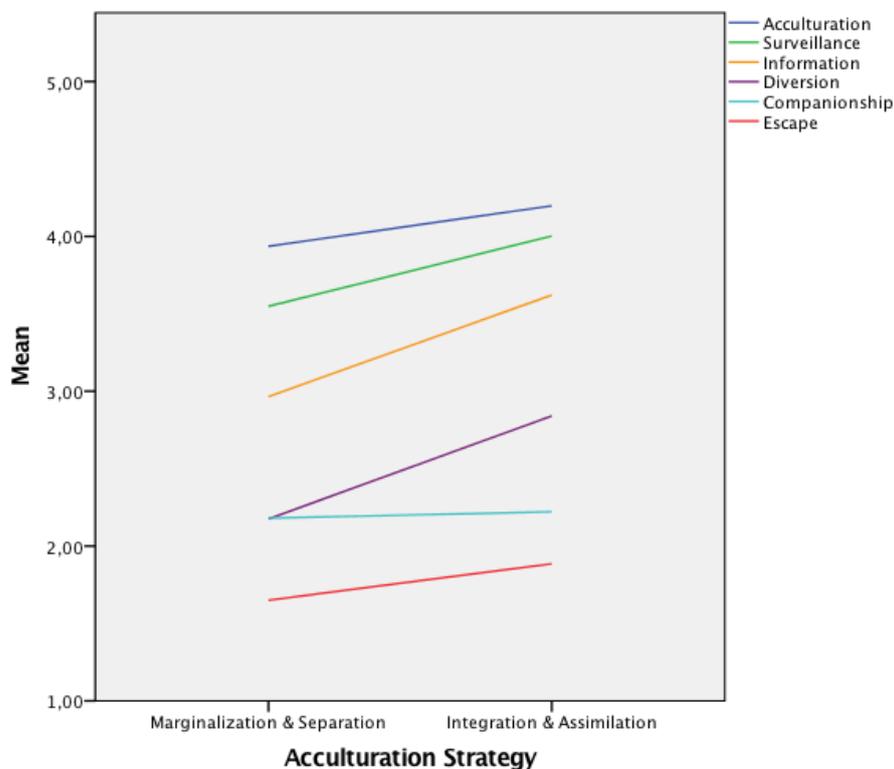
Comment: The graph shows the mean value for the six gratifications on a Likert scale 1-5, where 1 indicates "completely disagree" and 5 indicates "completely agree" in terms of whether it is a motive for using Swedish news.

The results are initially presented in an overview (see Graph 1) to display the gratifications that are most common for using Swedish news, overall, but also for each of the acculturation groups. The findings show that three of the gratifications categories have higher mean values than the other ones, for both groups (see Table 4 for details). These are: Acculturation, Surveillance, and Information. The *Acculturation* gratification is an index of motives concerning: "to learn about the Swedish culture", "help with adjusting to the Swedish society", "to learn about Swedish values", "improve Swedish language skills", and "to participate in discussions". This gratifications category has the highest mean value for both acculturation groups – which emphasizes media's role in providing information that facilitates acculturation, and that news serve as an important function in this process. Further, the second most common gratification for both groups is *Surveillance*, which consists of motives regarding: "to find out what is going on in the world", "in Sweden", "in the home country", and "local news events and issues". The third most common gratification is *Information*, and consists of the motives: "to learn what could happen to me", and "to learn things about myself and others". Both Surveillance and Information contains motives that focus on news media as a source of information used by a goal-directed audience for knowledge and information purposes (see Van der Wurff 2011: 142-143). Hence, high mean values are not surprising since this can be considered as one of the main missions for the news media. However, the total mean value for both acculturation groups (see Table 4) are significantly lower for these two indices when comparing them with the Acculturation index by using two separate ANOVA tests, *p < .01* for Surveillance, and *p < .001* for Information. This confirms the importance of news usage for acculturation purposes among the participants.

Further, the three gratifications categories that show the lowest mean values for both acculturation groups are Diversion, Companionship, and Escape. *Diversion* reflects motives concerning: "entertainment", "excitement", and "relaxation". *Companionship*: "when there is no one else to talk to", and "it makes me feel less lonely". *Escape*: "to get away from what I am doing", and "to forget about school, work or other things". Similar gratifications have been referred to as ritualized motives, and a more habitualized way of using news to gratify diversionary needs (Van der Wurff 2011: 142-143). The findings show that a habitualized use of news media for diversionary motives are the least common gratifications among the SFI students. Furthermore, when studying the results, differences between the two groups are still visible. The I&A group has a higher mean value for all of the gratifications categories (see Table 4). By analyzing if the values are significantly different from each other, the importance of each gratification can be related to the two acculturation groups – and thus to degree of acculturation. Three of the gratifications are found statistically significant when comparing the means by using an independent samples t-test. Hence, the two groups' mean values are significantly different for the following three gratifications: Surveillance *t(170) = -2.94, p = .004*; Information *t(170) = -3.29, p = .001*; and Diversion *t(170) = -3.45, p = .001*. All three gratifications have higher means in the I&A group and are thus positively correlated with a higher degree of acculturation. The higher mean value for Surveillance and Information suggests that this group to a greater extent use Swedish news to gain information and knowledge for individual needs, but also to find information on a local, national, and international level. Moreover, the higher mean value for Diversion in the I&A group implies a more common use of news for relaxation, entertainment, and excitement – which suggests a more habitualized and diversionary use of news media as well. Further, it is important to stress that there is no significant difference between the groups regarding the Acculturation motives for using Swedish news *t(172) = -1.80, p = .074*, which means that this gratification do not differ in terms of importance for the two groups – and thus is not related to the degree of acculturation.

Table 4: Gratification motives for Swedish news usage in the two acculturation groups.

Gratifications	M & S	I & A	Total	Diff	Sig.
Acculturation					
Mean	**3.96**	**4.19**	4.05	**0.23**	.074
N	102	72	174		
Std. Deviation	0.86	0.84	0.86		
Surveillance					
Mean	**3.56**	**3.98**	3.74	**0.42****	.004
N	101	71	172		
Std. Deviation	0.99	0.83	0.95		
Information					
Mean	**2.98**	**3.63**	3.25	**0.65****	.001
N	101	71	172		
Std. Deviation	1.33	1.15	1.30		
Diversion					
Mean	**2.23**	**2.84**	2.48	**0.61****	.001
N	102	70	172		
Std. Deviation	1.08	1.23	1.18		
Companionship					
Mean	**2.18**	**2.22**	2.20	**0.04**	.838
N	100	70	170		
Std. Deviation	1.27	1.34	1.29		
Escape					
Mean	**1.65**	**1.89**	1.75	**0.24**	.146
N	100	70	170		
Std. Deviation	0.93	1.17	1.04		

Comment: Mean values on a Likert scale 1-5, where 1 indicates "completely disagree" and 5 indicates "completely agree". M&S = Marginalization & Separation group, I&A = Integration & Assimilation group. N = Number of participants, Diff = Difference, ** = $p < .01$.

5.3 News media use

The third and final research question will be answered in two steps, where the first part concerning news habits for various media is presented in the first section. Part b) of the research question is answered in the latter part of the section when controlling for individual Swedish language skills and demographic variables in a multiple regressions analysis.

To increase the knowledge of how the SFI students use Swedish news it is essential to compare the usage of different news media. The analysis is based on traditional and digital news, but also news through social media, and simplified news services. The findings show how many percent of the participants in each acculturation group, M&S and I&A, that use at least one news source on a weekly basis for each specific news medium. In simpler terms, it shows how many percent that use news every week, for each news medium. An overview is presented in Graph 2. The data is analyzed in percentage per group, which means that the part of each acculturation group that did not use the specific medium on a weekly basis – constitutes the other part of the total percentage.

Graph 2: Weekly news usage per medium in percent for the two acculturation groups.
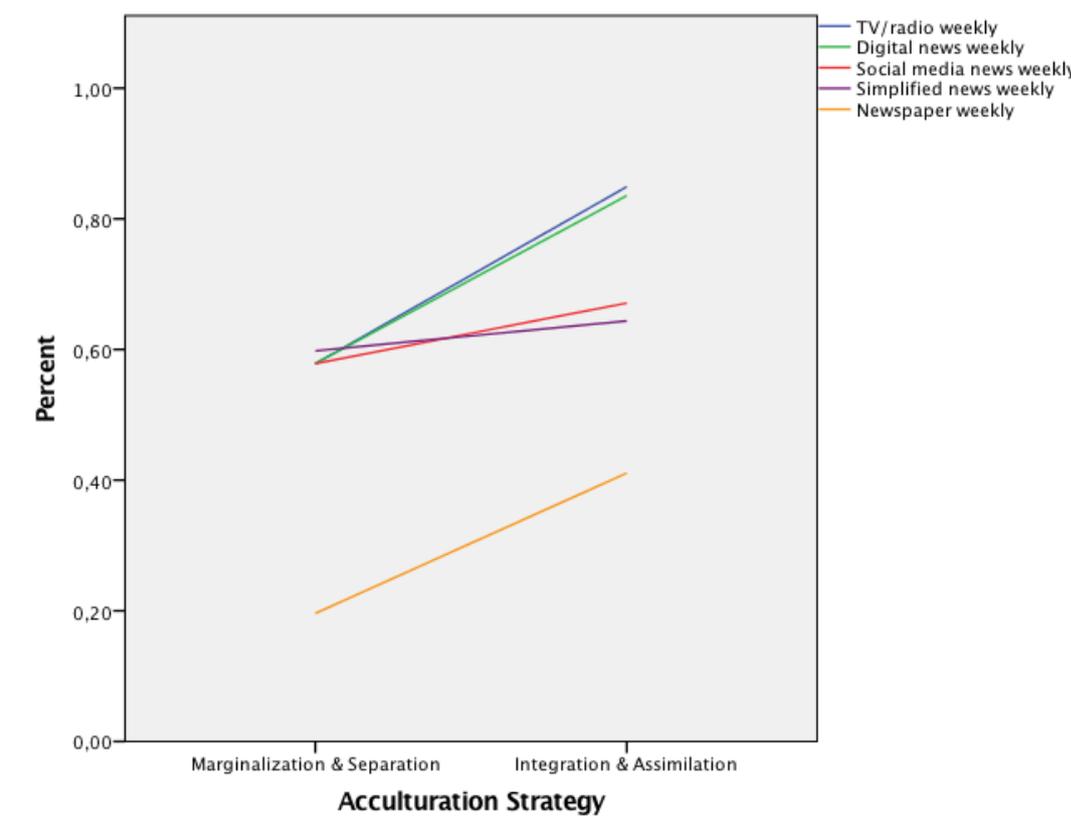
Comment: 0,00 = 0%, and 1,00 = 100%.

The results from the analysis show clear tendencies. All the different news media are being used on a weekly basis by a larger share of the I&A group, compared with the M&S group. The most obvious differences that are found apply to TV/radio, digital news, and newspapers. More than 80% of the I&A group are using both digital news, and news on TV/radio on a weekly basis, in comparison to the M&S group where the percentage is below 60%. Noteworthy is that newspapers are by far the least commonly used news medium on a weekly basis for both groups. News through social media, and simplified news services appear to be rather equal in terms of the percentage for both groups, but even so, slightly higher for the I&A group. Moreover, it needs to be stressed that a large part of the participants do not use news at least once a week from the various media, especially when considering the M&S group.

Further, in order to ensure that the differences correlate with the degree of acculturation they must, however, be significant for the specific news medium (see Table 5). When using an independent samples t-test it shows several significant findings when comparing the percentages for each news medium. Digital news *t(173) = -3.91, p < .001*; TV/radio *t(173) = -4.184, p < .001*; and newspaper *t(173) = -3.063, p < .001*, are all significantly different between the two groups. This means that a higher degree of acculturation is related to a more common use of these news media. However, to increase reliability and the certainty that they are not spurious correlations, the findings need to be controlled for other potential explanatory variables. This will be done in the next section – to answer the second part of the third research question. Further, no significant differences are found for the use of simplified news services, and news through social media. Thus, the results suggest that this usage is not related to the degree of acculturation.

Table 5: News medium usage in percent for the two acculturation groups

News medium	M & S (N)	I & A (N)	Total (N)	Diff	Sig.
Digital news					
Weekly	**0.58 (59)**	**0.84 (61)**	0.69 (120)	**0.26***	.0001
Less than once/week	0.42 (43)	0.16 (12)	0.31 (55)		
Total	1.00 (102)	1.00 (73)	1.00 (175)		
Social media					
Weekly	**0.58 (59)**	**0.67 (49)**	0.62 (108)	**0.09**	.212
Less than once/week	0.42 (43)	0.33 (24)	0.38 (67)		
Total	1.00 (102)	1.00 (73)	1.00 (175)		
TV/Radio					
Weekly	**0.58 (59)**	**0.85 (62)**	0.69 (121)	**0.27***	.0001
Less than once/week	0.42 (43)	0.15 (11)	0.31 (54)		
Total	1.00 (102)	1.00 (73)	1.00 (175)		
Newspaper					
Weekly	**0.20 (20)**	**0.41 (30)**	0.29 (50)	**0.21**	.003
Less than once/week	0.80 (82)	0.59 (43)	0.71 (125)		
Total	1.00 (102)	1.00 (73)	1.00 (175)		
Simplified news					
Weekly	**0.60 (61)**	**0.64 (47)**	0.62 (108)	**0.04**	.542
Less than once/week	0.40 (41)	0.36 (26)	0.38 (67)		
Total	1.00 (102)	1.00 (73)	1.00 (175)		

Comment: M&S = Marginalization and Separation group, I&A = Integration and Assimilation group.
0,00 = 0%, 1,00 = 100%. N = Number of participants. *** = $p < .001$, ** = $p < .01$.

To further analyze and confirm the findings from the previous part, a multiple regression analysis is carried out in two different models to examine the effect of the degree of acculturation on each news medium (see Table 6). Thus, the main independent variable is "Acculturation degree" and refers to the two groups M&S and I&A. Moreover, the analysis includes Swedish language skills and demographic variables as control variables in Model 2. These characteristics have been emphasized in previous research as key factors in the relationship between acculturation and media usage (see Hwang & He 1999: 8; Trebbe 2007: 175; Haaivisto & Petersson 2013: 229-30). By controlling for these variables in the regression analysis, the correlations can thus be strengthened by reducing the possibility that other factors affect the relationship, and the second part of third research question will be answered.

Further, the demographic variables are categorized and used in the same way as previously presented in Table 3. However, "Swedish language skills" consists of the mean value for an index measured by two questions on a scale 1-5 regarding how well the participant understands, and speaks Swedish. Cronbach's alpha for the index is 0.787, which implies strong reliability, well above the recommended 0.700 limit.

In terms of interpreting the data in Table 6, the numbers on each row show the effect on news usage for the specific medium when the independent variable and control variables are increased one level. For "Acculturation degree", this means when moving from the M&S group (value 0) to the I&A group (value 1), thus to a higher degree of acculturation. "Intercept" shows the expected value

on the dependent variable, news medium usage, when the independent and control variables have the value 0. For the "Acculturation degree" variable, this value is represented by the M&S group. Moreover, R^2 shows the explanatory power of the variance in the dependent variable, expressed in percent, by the independent variable in Model 1, and by the independent variable and the control variables in Model 2. For example: 0.058 is equal to 5.8 percent explained variance in news medium use. Adjusted R^2 is used since the analysis includes several control variables, which shows a slightly lower percent compared with the usual R^2 measure. However, "Intercept" and "Adjusted R^2" are only presented for an increased transparency, and are not considered necessary to analyze deeper in order to answer the second part of the third research question.

Table 6: Impact of independent and control variables on Swedish news medium usage. Regression analysis, dependent variable: Swedish news medium usage. Unstandardized b-coefficients.

	Digital news	Social media	TV/Radio	Newspaper	Simplified news
Model 1:					
Acculturation degree (Integration & Assimilation)	0.237** (0,071)	0.056 (0.077)	0.262*** (0.071)	0.216** (0.069)	0.023 (0.078)
Intercept	0.589*** (0.046)	0.611*** (0.050)	0.579*** (0.046)	0.189*** (0.045)	0.600*** (0.050)
N	164	164	164	164	164
R^2 (adjusted)	58	−0.003	72	51	−0.006
Model 2:					
Acculturation degree (Integration & Assimilation)	0.210** (0.073)	0.041 (0.077)	0.280*** (0.073)	0.189** (0.072)	0.016 (0.079)
Age	−0.019 (0.057)	−0.112 (0.061)	−0.077 (0.057)	0.075 (0.057)	0.059 (0.062)
Gender (Female)	0.015 (0.073)	−0.107 (0.078)	0.093 (0.073)	−0.047 (0.072)	−0.004 (0.080)
Education	0.161 (0.102)	0.199 (0.108)	0.163 (0.102)	−0.108 (0.100)	0.166 (0.111)
Origin (Outside of Europe)	−0.036 (0.093)	−0.095 (0.100)	0.102 (0.094)	−0.044 (0.092)	0.136 (0.102)
Swedish language skills	0.060 (0.049)	0.066 (0.052)	−0.033 (0.049)	0.074 (0.049)	0.129* (0.054)
Length of stay	0.103* (0.045)	−0.060 (0.048)	0.060 (0.045)	−0.009 (0.044)	0.001 (0.049)
Intercept	0.203 (0.220)	0.488* (0.235)	0.389 (0.221)	0.085 (0.218)	−0.091 (0.241)
N	164	164	164	164	164
R^2 (adjusted)	85	35	78	48	17

Comment: Model 1 shows the impact of the independent variable "acculturation degree" on news medium usage. Model 2 shows the impact of the independent variable when including control variables in the analysis.
Standard errors in parentheses. *** = $p < .001$, ** = $p < .01$, * = $p < .05$. N = Number of participants.
Integration & Assimilation group, Female, and Outside of Europe are in parentheses because they were coded with a higher value in SPSS. Thus, positive numbers indicate a positive effect on news usage for these characteristics, while negative numbers indicate a negative effect.

The findings are presented in Table 6, and the most crucial numbers to compare are the ones for "Acculturation degree" in the two models. Model 2 shows the effect on news medium usage by "Acculturation degree" as the main independent variable when being controlled for the other variables. The I&A group is in parentheses for the reason that they are coded with a higher value in SPSS – which implies that positive numbers indicate that a higher degree of acculturation is positively linked to a more common news usage. The total number of participants in the analysis was reduced from 175 to 164, and represents the respondents where data is available for all the included variables – referring to the fact that they had provided answers to all these questions in the survey.

The analysis shows that degree of acculturation has a significant, positive relation, to the use of the following news media: digital news, TV/radio, and newspaper. "Acculturation degree" has a similar relation to these three news media, still positive and significant, when the control variables are included in Model 2. This means that degree of acculturation is stronger related to the news medium usage, than the control variables, and the results are significant, $p < 0,01$. To sum up, with a higher degree of acculturation, the more common it is that the SFI students are using news on a weekly basis from digital news sources, TV/radio, and newspapers. Thus, the correlation between degree of acculturation and these three news media is strengthened. However, the findings do not provide evidence for a causal relationship, but they show that the variables correlate and that there is a positive relation between them. Furthermore, no significant correlations of the degree of acculturation are found for news through social media or simplified news services. This indicates that there is no significant difference in using these news on a weekly basis that is related to the degree of acculturation.

Further, the control variables show two significant findings (see Model 2 in Table 6). Length of stay in Sweden is positively related to the use of digital news and indicates a more common usage of online news the longer one has resided in the country. The correlation is, however, weaker in comparison to degree of acculturation. Moreover, Swedish language skills shows a positive relation to simplified news use, which suggests that the higher estimated Swedish language proficiency, the more common it is to use these services. By extension, this finding can be interpreted as an indication that there is a certain language barrier for the SFI students before using simplified news services, or that the use of these services is related to an increased language proficiency. However, these last findings are of less importance to the overall research question.

6. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

By merging the two fields of mass communication and intercultural communication – the starting point of this study proceeded from recent national research which highlighted a lack of scientific knowledge in terms of news usage among foreign-born in Sweden. At the same time, Sweden has a growing cultural diversity where the number of people from other countries continues to increase which makes it more important for the future to understand how this affects the society, but also the media landscape (SOU 2015:94: 127-128; Hultén 2016: 330-344). Additionally, national research has mainly focused on representation and portrayals from media's perspective, and it has been underlined that more work needs to be done by examining this issue from the users' perspective, in Sweden as a multicultural country. Especially concerning the use of digital news (SOU 2006:21: 17-18; Hultén 2016: 330-344). In turn, previous international research has emphasized that news media facilitate adaptation to host society in terms of integration and acculturation by for example

contributing to improved language and communication proficiencies, and the diffusion of information and knowledge about values and meanings (Arnold & Schneider 2007: 118; Keshishian 2010: 93-94). Against this background, the importance of studying national news usage among foreign-born and its relation to the acculturation process was initially expressed, and the results from the study showed several clear findings.

Regarding the first research question – namely in what proportions the SFI students are using the four acculturation strategies – all four strategies were identified among the participants. However, the proportions differed and separation was the most common strategy to use, followed by integration. The two least common acculturation strategies were assimilation and marginalization. These findings follow the same pattern as in Dona and Berry (1994: 64) – where assimilation and marginalization were clearly underrepresented – except that integration was the most common strategy in their study. Hence, it is not surprising that separation and integration constitute the two largest groups and represent 84% of the total sample. Thus, maintaining the culture of origin is very common among the SFI students, and it is important to stress here that the Official Reports of the Swedish Government emphasized that, in terms of integration, there are no requirements of cultural assimilation (Hultén 2006: 128). Moreover, when the strategies were combined into the two new groups Marginalization & Separation, and Integration & Assimilation, to set up a distinction for the degree of acculturation, the findings showed that 41.7% of the participants had a higher degree of acculturation towards the Swedish society. 58.3% represented the M&S group and had a lower degree of acculturation. This suggests that a substantial part of the participants, based on the theoretical foundation of this study, does not use the integration or the assimilation strategy – which points towards challenges in facilitating adaptation to the Swedish society. This distinction, however, is not necessarily flawless. Measuring acculturation is far from a simple procedure for the reason that it is a very individual and at times sensitive issue, where several aspects are involved. In addition, it should be emphasized that other factors except the ones taken into account in this study may influence both acculturation and news use, such as socio-economic aspects in terms of income and job status, or for example place of residence. However, the operationalization corresponds well with the theoretical basis for the study and provides a strong validity in that sense.

In terms of the second research question and what gratifications that are the most common among the SFI students for using Swedish news, and how it is related to degree of acculturation – three gratifications stood out as the strongest motives among the SFI students. These were acculturation, surveillance, and information. The results are consistent with previous international research that for example has stressed that media use among foreign-born is goal-directed and fulfills certain information goals, and thus not solely diversional (Yang et al. 2004: 91-92). In addition, the latter two together with diversional motives were significantly higher for the I&A group and thus correlated with a higher degree of acculturation. A possible explanation why these motives were significantly higher for the I&A group could be given by other findings from this study showing that they are using news media to a greater extent (see Table 5). Furthermore, global studies have shown that media gratify acculturation needs (e.g. Hwang et al. 1999), and the fact that acculturation motives were the most common gratification for both groups in this study, with no significant difference related to degree of acculturation, emphasizes the important functions of national news media in providing information that can facilitate acculturation, from the users' perspective. Based on the findings and by interpreting these functions from the users' perspective, the acculturation motives for using national news for the SFI students consist of possibilities to learn about the Swedish culture, language, values, adaptation to the society, and to participate in discussions. However, these findings are limited to the theoretical basis, which implies that there

may still be additional functions of news media and motives for using them, and that it could differ between different news media.

Further, regarding both parts of the third research question on news habits, the findings showed clear correlations between degree of acculturation and the use of digital news, news on TV/radio, and newspapers. Degree of acculturation was significant and positively linked to the use of these news media when controlling for other potential explanatory variables. Hence, degree of acculturation is stronger related to the SFI students' news usage than: age, gender, education, origin, individual Swedish language skills, and length of stay. Moreover, this indicates that a higher degree of acculturation correlates with an increased use of both traditional and digital news among the SFI students. It is, however, difficult to determine the direction of the relationship and to speak in terms of causality. Nevertheless, it can be said that a higher adaptation to the Swedish society is related to a more common news usage in general. Consequently, it is also clear that news media reach the SFI students to varying degrees. Furthermore, the findings showed that when comparing with the use of traditional news media – digital news and news through social media are commonly used by all the SFI students. Hultén (2016) emphasized that this is an important distinction to examine among the foreign-born population since digital media has the potential to contribute to the democratization of society, by offering a complement to traditional media. The findings show that online news should definitely be considered important from this perspective by contributing to ensure that citizens can access news and information. Furthermore, the findings show that a substantial part of the SFI students do not use news at least once a week from the various news media that were included in the study. This is consistent with previous national research emphasizing that a significant part of the foreign-born population does not use traditional news media (Hultén 2016:30: 330-342), and underlines that media need to consider how to reach this audience to a greater extent.

Based on the previous discussion, the theoretical contribution from this study is claimed by providing findings on how the SFI students are using national news from various media, but also motives for using Swedish news media. This highlights to what extent news media are being used, considering both traditional and digital versions, and how it is related to the acculturation process by focusing on differences in adaptation to the Swedish society. Overall, it provides increased knowledge of the functions of national news media for individuals that are new in Sweden. Furthermore, the practical contributions add new insights on how news media can continue to develop their work in order to reach a greater part of the foreign-born population, for democratic reasons. Additionally, it sheds light on the importance of online news in an era of digitalization, but also emphasizes that traditional news still are of great importance, at least when it comes to TV and radio.

To sum up, it can thus be concluded that the acculturation and adaptation to the Swedish society differ in proportions among the SFI students, where separation and integration are the two most common acculturation strategies to use. Hence, maintaining the culture of origin is considered to be of great importance. A large share of the participants did not use either of the two more integrative acculturation strategies, which emphasizes the societal challenges in facilitating acculturation. In relation to this, it can also be concluded that news media have a great responsibility and serve an essential function in these challenges, since the strongest motives for using national news were for acculturation purposes. Thus, news media can be considered as an important institution in society to facilitate integration. Accordingly, clear correlations between the degree of acculturation and news media use were found for both digital and traditional news. It can thus be concluded that a higher degree of adaptation to the Swedish society is positively related to a more common use of these

news media among the SFI students. However, it also emphasizes that news media reach the students to varying degree. The use of digital news were in comparison to the traditional ones, very similar, which underlines the importance of digital news in terms of access to news and information. Newspapers were, however, by far the least common medium to use.

Lastly, regarding the work process and how this study was carried out – a few limitations need to be stressed. First of all, it is difficult to determine if it is the degree of acculturation that affects the news usage, or the other way around, and previous studies have emphasized that these phenomena interact (see Trebbe 2007: 175; Keshishian 2010: 93-94). Correspondingly, this study showed that acculturation motives are the most common gratifications motives for using Swedish news, among the SFI students. However, the findings still provide empirical evidence that the degree of acculturation correlates with national news usage, but whether it is a higher adaptation to the Swedish society that leads to an increased news use, or an increased news use that leads to a higher adaptation, is very difficult to determine. Based on previous research, it is reasonable to expect them to reinforce each other. Furthermore, another limitation of the study is the sample and the difficulty to generalize the findings to a larger population of foreign-born since the selection was not based on a random sample, and due to the lack of variance in educational background. Generalizations beyond this group should therefore be made with caution. It is, however, reasonable to suggest that the results are valid for other SFI students with similar educational background. Future studies could examine the relationship between acculturation and news media further by focusing on a specific culture to be able to generalize the findings to a larger population. Another suggestion is to place emphasis on how Swedish news media can facilitate acculturation. This can be done by looking at gratifications for different media, but also in terms of changes in news use over time within the same group of participants or a larger population. By doing so, it would increase the possibility to examine and discuss causality more specifically.

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APPENDIX (I)

UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG

This **survey** is carried out in support of a **Master thesis in communication** at the University of Gothenburg. **The purpose** is to study news media usage and its connection to the integration process among foreign-born in Sweden, in order to increase knowledge of how media can continue to secure democratic values.

Please make sure to **read the questions carefully** and answer them as truthfully as you can.
It takes approximately 20-25 minutes to complete the survey.

As a **participant** you are **guaranteed complete anonymity** and the collected data will be used for this study only.

If you want to see the results afterwards or have any general questions regarding the study,
please e-mail me at: gusborjeto@student.gu.se

Thank you for participating!

Tony Börjesson
University of Gothenburg
Master in Communication

Question 1 **How often do you watch/listen to the following programmes <u>live</u> on television/radio when it is broadcasted/aired?**

(Answer by circling/mark <u>the number</u> that best corresponds to your habits)

	Daily	3-5 days/ week	1-2 days/ week	1-3 days/ month	Less than 1 day/month	Never
Local news on SR*	5	4	3	2	1	0
Economy radio news	5	4	3	2	1	0
Aktuellt/Rapport on SVT**	5	4	3	2	1	0
Regional news on SVT**	5	4	3	2	1	0
TV4 News	5	4	3	2	1	0

* = Sveriges Radio, ** = Sveriges Television

Question 2 **How often do you read/look through the following printed morning papers?**

☐ *I never read any printed morning newspaper*

	Daily	3-5 days/ week	1-2 days/ week	1-3 days/ month	Less than 1 day/month	Never
Göteborgs-Posten	5	4	3	2	1	0
Dagens Nyheter	5	4	3	2	1	0
Svenska Dagbladet	5	4	3	2	1	0
Other: ……………………..	5	4	3	2	1	

Question 3 **How often do you read/look through any of the following newspapers?**

	Daily	3-5 days/ week	1-2 days/ week	1-3 days/ month	Less than 1 day/month	Never
Aftonbladet						
…on paper	5	4	3	2	1	0
…on the internet	5	4	3	2	1	0
Expressen/GT						
…on paper	5	4	3	2	1	0
…on the internet	5	4	3	2	1	0

Question 4   **How often do you use news <u>online</u> from the following news media?**

(Answer by circling/mark <u>the number</u> that best corresponds to your habits)

☐ *I never take part of news on the internet*

	Daily	3-5 days/ week	1-2 days/ week	1-3 days/ month	Less than 1 day/month	Never
Dagens Nyheter	5	4	3	2	1	0
Svenska Dagbladet	5	4	3	2	1	0
Göteborgs-Posten	5	4	3	2	1	0
Sveriges Radio (SR)	5	4	3	2	1	0
Sveriges Television (SVT)	5	4	3	2	1	0
Nyheter24	5	4	3	2	1	0
Social media	5	4	3	2	1	0
Foreign news media	5	4	3	2	1	0
Other: ……………………	5	4	3	2	1	

Question 5   **How often do you use <u>online</u> news services in simplified Swedish?**

☐ *I never use any news service in simplified Swedish*

	Daily	3-5 days/ week	1-2 days/ week	1-3 days/ month	Less than 1 day/month	Never
SVT Nyheter på lätt svenska	5	4	3	2	1	0
SR – Radio Sweden på lätt svenska	5	4	3	2	1	0
Klartext – Sveriges Radio	5	4	3	2	1	0
8sidor.se	5	4	3	2	1	0
Other: ………………………..	5	4	3	2	1	
Other: ………………………..	5	4	3	2	1	

Question 6 **Instructions:** Following **20 statements** are common examples why people use news media. Indicate your level of agreement for each statement by circling the number that best represents your news media use.

Please take your time when answering each and one of them.

Number (1) indicates "Completely Disagree"
Number (5) indicates "Completely Agree"

	Completely Disagree				Completely Agree
I use Swedish news media…					
…because I want to learn about Swedish culture	1	2	3	4	5
…because it helps me adjust to the Swedish society	1	2	3	4	5
…because I want to learn more about Swedish values	1	2	3	4	5
…because I want to improve my Swedish	1	2	3	4	5
…so I can participate in discussions	1	2	3	4	5
…to find out what is going on in the world	1	2	3	4	5
…to find out what is going on in Sweden	1	2	3	4	5
…to find out what is going on in my home country	1	2	3	4	5
…to learn about local events and issues	1	2	3	4	5
…so I can learn about what could happen to me	1	2	3	4	5
…to learn things about myself and others	1	2	3	4	5
…because it entertains me	1	2	3	4	5
…because it is exciting	1	2	3	4	5
…because it relaxes me	1	2	3	4	5
…when there is no one else to talk to	1	2	3	4	5
…because it makes me feel less lonely	1	2	3	4	5
…to get away from what I am doing	1	2	3	4	5
…to forget about school, work, or other things	1	2	3	4	5
…when I have nothing better to do	1	2	3	4	5
…because it is a habit, just something to do	1	2	3	4	5

Question 7   **Instructions:** Circle <u>the number</u> on a scale 1-5 that applies best to you, for each of the following statements:

Number (1) indicates "Completely Disagree"
Number (5) indicates "Completely Agree"

	Completely <u>**Disagree**</u>			**Completely** <u>**Agree**</u>	
In general, I speak Swedish in my everyday life	1	2	3	4	5
In general, I speak my native language in my everyday life	1	2	3	4	5
I speak Swedish at home	1	2	3	4	5
I speak my native language at home	1	2	3	4	5
I speak Swedish with my friends	1	2	3	4	5
I speak my native language with my friends	1	2	3	4	5
My thinking is done in Swedish	1	2	3	4	5
My thinking is done in my native language	1	2	3	4	5
I socialize with Swedes	1	2	3	4	5
I socialize with people from my home country	1	2	3	4	5
I participate in Swedish culture and traditions	1	2	3	4	5
I participate in culture and traditions from my home country	1	2	3	4	5
My closest friends are from Sweden	1	2	3	4	5
My closest friends are from the same country as me	1	2	3	4	5
I am interested in Swedish politics	1	2	3	4	5
I am interested in politics from my home country	1	2	3	4	5
I identify myself as Swedish	1	2	3	4	5
I identify myself with my home country	1	2	3	4	5

(example: "I identify myself as Turkish")

Question 8 **How well do you speak Swedish?**

Not at all   Very well

    1   2   3   4   5

Question 9 **How well do you understand Swedish?**

Not at all   Very well

    1   2   3   4   5

Question 10 **How long have you been living in Sweden?**

Less than six months	Less than a year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-5 years	More than 5 years
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

	Yes	No	No answer
Question 11 **Do you have a Swedish citizenship?**	☐	☐	☐

Question 12 **What is your country of origin?** _____

Question 13 **What is your highest completed or current educational level?**

Not completed primary school	☐
Primary school	☐
High school	☐
University/college	☐
Doctoral studies	☐

	Male	Female	Other
Question 14 **What is your gender?**	☐	☐	☐

Question 15 **What is your age?** _____

Question 16 **Other comments (optional)**

_____

_____

_____

Thank you for your participation!

APPENDIX (II)

Gratifications categories:

Acculturation:
So I can learn about Swedish culture
Because it helps me adjust to the Swedish society
So I can learn more about Swedish values
So I can improve my Swedish
So I can participate in discussion

Surveillance:
So I can find out what is going on in the world
So I can find out what is going on in Sweden
So I can find out what is going on in my home country
So I can learn about local events and issues

Information:
So I can learn about what could happen to me
Because it helps me learn things about myself and others

Diversion:
Because it entertains me
Because it is exciting
Because it relaxes me

Companionship:
When there is no one else to talk to
Because it makes me feel less lonely

Escape:
So I can get away from what I am doing
So I can forget about school, work, or other things

Pass time:
When I have nothing better to do
Because it is a habit, just something to do