

MS Research Thesis

ISRAEL'S INVASION OF PALESTINE 2023-2024: A DISCOURSE ANALYSIS OF INTERNATIONAL MEDIA



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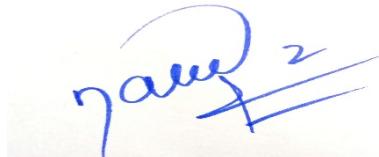
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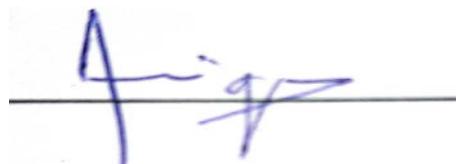
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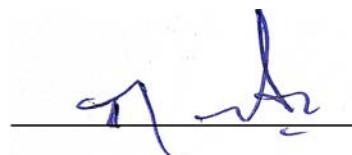
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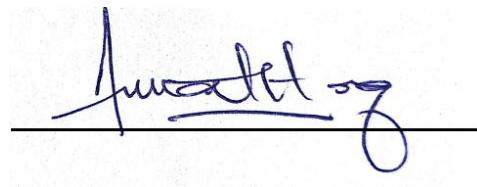
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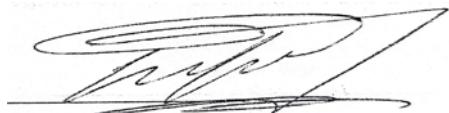
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DECLARATION

The thesis has been submitted as partial fulfillment of MS/ Ph.D in Media and Communication Studies to the Department of Media and Communication studies. I solemnly declare that this is my original work and no material has been plagiarized and my material quoted from a secondary source has been provided with proper citations and references.

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All praise and gratitude are due to Allah Almighty for bestowing upon me the strength to successfully complete my work. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all my teachers who have played a very important role in shaping my educational path.

DEDICATION

To the resilient souls of Palestine, whose unyielding spirit weeps through olive groves and shattered stone, This humble work is dedicated to your brave resistance, a flame of hope amid sorrow's endless night.

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ABSTRACT

This study critically examines the role of prominent international media outlets, including BBC, CNN, and Al Jazeera, in disseminating disinformation during Israel's invasion of Palestine from October 7 to December 30. Utilizing Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) as its theoretical framework, the research investigates how these media organizations strategically prioritize and manipulate narratives, thereby contributing to the spread of disinformation. The study explores the ways in which media outlets influence the public agenda, determining what is deemed newsworthy while systematically obscuring other aspects. Employing a qualitative research methodology, the analysis conducts a detailed examination of linguistic choices, representational strategies, and the underlying power structures within media discourse. By analyzing news articles from the official websites of these major media organizations, the research aims to uncover the mechanisms through which disinformation is propagated in the context of geopolitical conflict. The expected findings will offer significant insights into the complex relationship between media practices and the deliberate construction of narratives, with broader implications for media literacy, policy development, and the ethical responsibilities of journalism in the digital era.

Keywords: *Critical discourse analysis, media bias, Israel-Palestine War, CNN, BBC, Al Jazeera, disinformation*

CHAPTER 1:

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Historical and Political Background of Israel Palestine War

The first notable event of the War, according to Bidaoun (2014), was the 1917 Balfour Declaration, initially an open letter from the United kingdom's Foreign Secretary Arthur James Balfour to the head of the British Jewish community. By contrast, Balfour assured the Jewish people of a national home in Palestine and a British commitment to assist that venture. The British government did everything in its power to make good on its pledge to the Jewish community, first by defeating the Ottoman Empire in 1917, and then occupying Palestine following the close of the First World War. Later, the military administration, governing under the mandate, was substituted by a civil administration in 1920 and after the British government turned the governance to a Zionist-Jewish commissioner. In addition, the roots of the War date back with the rise of nationalist movements between the Jewish mainly Zionists - and the Arab populations. This developed into the major War in 1947. The year 1947: The UN general assembly approved the division of our land. Giving the Jewish population 56% of the overall land area, and the Palestinians 43% (Baidoun, 2014). To them, the UN partition plan was rejected by Arab nations and Palestinians, and thus UN division of land did not justify or provide justice for their population (Jawad, 2006). Considering the plan seemingly ignores the fact that the Palestinians lived there and were majority from late 19th century to 1947. The Palestinian population grew from 327 to 1.5 million (natural population growth). Even though there were huge Jewish immigration waves to Palestine. At that point the number of Jews in Palestine was in fact much less than 20 millions and grew from 13 thousand in the late 19th century to about 500 thousand (at least twice the grossest approximations) by 1947. The Palestinian- Jewish tensions simmered and boiled over in the late 1920s, and persisted until the British withdrawal in 1948. The War erupted in 1948, with the first regional war between the surround Arab states and the newly formed state of Israel; this event is known by Arabs as Al- Nakba (The Catastrophe) or in Hebrew as Milkhemet Haatzmaut (war of Independence). The new Israeli occupation of Palestine was opposed by the combined force of Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Iraq fighting against the Israeli forces (Baidoun, 2014). The war lasted 10 months and resulted in the overwhelming defeat of the Arab armies. Israel occupied 60% of Palestinian land, more than the land allocated to it by

the UN partition plan. Israel occupied nearly all Palestinian territory, except the West Bank, which came under Jordanian military rule, and the Gaza Strip, which was administered by the Egyptian military. According to Jawad (2006) the outcome of this war was catastrophic for the Palestinians, during which hundreds of people were killed and 700 thousand of the Palestinians had to be expelled from their home towns to become refugees in the neighbouring countries. In contrast, the Jewish influx into Palestine- between the years 1948-1951 the number of Jews in the area doubled, from around 650,000 to just more than 1.3 million (Baidoun, 2014). Simultaneously, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) was established in 1950 to manage the welfare of 960,000 registered refugee Palestinians, who were now residing in camps (Jawad, 2006). It was during that same period that the major elements of the political system of Israel were founded: a parliamentary democracy that has a unicameral legislature (called the Knesset) (Baidoun, 2014). Fatah and The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), In early 1960's, the Palestinian resistance organizations came to invention. But in 1964 the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organization) was established within the context of the Arab League, as the only representative of the Palestinian people in the Diaspora (in the refugee camp) and inside Palestine (Baidoun, 2014). More than 100 states recognized the PLO as the "sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people." A PLO in this context at the time was considered as a threat to Israel (Baidoun, 2014) and viewed as a terrorist Organization by Israel and United States until the Oslo accords of 1993. Also, the friction between the Israelis and the Arabs escalated, then, in 1967, Israel and the Arab states of Jordan, Syria and Egypt went to war again. This war concluded with the military defeat of the Arab forces by Israel, and the Israeli Military Occupation of the Gaza Strip and Sinai Peninsula from Egypt, the West Bank including East Jerusalem from Jordan and Golan Heights from Syria (Baidoun, 2014). The situation and tensions rose when Israel managed to annex the west Jerusalem after the war and claim it as the eternal capital of the nation (Baidoun, 2014).

1.1.2 Israel Palestine War

During 1990 In any event, the dream of the Palestinians, to be a Palestinian state, was never realized. Based on this idea, the 1970s witnessed a systematic seizure of the land of Palestine by Israel, accompanied by the construction of Israeli settlements within and surrounding Palestinian cities in the West Bank and the Gaza strip, culminating in 1987 with the outbreak of the First Intifada (uprising) between the Palestinians and the Israelis (Baidoun, 2014). The Intifada was started by Palestinian civilians, most of them that hadn't

yet been part of the national movements, and their main instrument or weapon was throwing stones on the Israeli troops. By the end of Intifada in 1991, thousands of Israelis and Palestinians had been killed, and thousands of Palestinians were political prisoners in Israeli jails. The intifada did not achieve what its trajectory could have been an independent Palestinian state (Baidoun, 2014). The Intifada was ended, and led us to negotiations, which ended with the signing of the Oslo Accords between the PLO and the Israeli government. The first Oslo Accord was signed in 1993 and the second in 1995. Self-determination in one form or another was the political end point in the territorial negotiations set out in the peace process. Through negotiations they reached a point where both recognized the other and the PLO became recognized by Israel as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and as a partner in negotiations (Baidoun, 2014). The core issues addressed in the Accords included the Israeli settlements, the control of Jerusalem, PLO rule over the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, as well as the rights of return for Palestinian refugees (Baidoun, 2014). But the talks did not hold out the prospect of a Palestinian state. Just like past negotiations between Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel (i.e., Camp David Accords in 1978), Oslo Accords were underpinned by recognitions. The Oslo Process subsequently morphed into an interminable round of negotiation, suspension of negotiations, mediation and RE-start of negotiation, with no tangible agreement on a final settlement. Several minor agreements were made until the eruption of the Second Intifada in 2000 that terminated the peace talks (Baidoun, 2014). The second Intifada erupted in 2000 against the background of the Oslo agreements' inability to end the Israeli occupation and grant the Palestinians the right to self determination and the establishment of their own state (Pressman, 2003). Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader at the time, determined at the outset of the Second Intifada that the way to a Palestinian state is not through peace negotiations, through negotiation, but through armed resistance (*Ibíd*). There were high civilian and fighter casualties on both sides. The American government naturally values American lives first, so the death toll for Palestinians was several thousands and the Israelis several hundreds. The Palestinians fought back with stones, bomb attacks, and lines of gunfire. Whereas the Israeli, deployed tanks, gunfire and air strikes (Pressman, 2003). Formally speaking, the second intifada never ended, although a truce and agreements were reached in 2005 after the election of Mahmoud Abbas, the successor to Yasser Arafat. At the 2005 summit in the Egyptian resort of Sharm al Sheikh, Mahmoud Abbas and Ariel Sharon called for a truce (Pressman, 2003). At the same time, Ariel Sharon, the Israeli prime minister at the time, carried out his Gaza pullout plan. Yet, conceiving Hamas militants started

bombarding southern Israel with mortars, mounting some friction amid Hamas and Abbas' administration, after vacating the Jewish settlers from Gaza, and embedding them in settlements of the West Bank (*ibid*).

1.1.3 The Hamas-Fatah War

Hamas, or “Islamic Resistance Movement,” first emerged at the onset of the first intifada, or uprising, in 1987, and its goal was liberation of Palestine by armed resistance. Hamas became the new PA’s chief opponent and rejected all negotiations with Israel. The origins of the current War between Hamas and Fatah, the two largest Palestinian national political movements, are traced back to the 1993 Oslo Accords (Baidoun, 2014). Yasser Arafat, PLO and Fatah leader, agreed to the interim agreement with Israel, which the Hamas movement rejected. In the mid-90s, the tension between those two movements escalated. The PA was negotiating with Israel, and Hamas was launching a series of bomb attacks inside Israel (Usher, 2006). The outbreak of the second Palestinian intifada reduced the tension between Fatah and Hamas, and the armed wings of both factions started launching armed operations against Israel (*ibid*). Following the death of Yasser Arafat in 2004, Mahmoud Abbas served as Fatah’s new leader and as the second president of the PA, an election Hamas boycotted. In 2005, a national dialogue conference of Palestinian factions was held in Egypt which concluded with the Cairo Declaration (Brown, 2010). The declaration emphasized including all Palestinian factions in the PLO, including Hamas. This has opened the door for Hamas to run in the next parliamentary elections (*Ibid*). In 2006 elections, Hamas secured a significant majority of seats on the Palestinian Legislative Council, with Fatah trailing in second place. And so Fatah ran the presidency, and Hamas the legislative branch and the cabinet. Since then, the two sides repeatedly fell short of an agreement to share the government. This led to the division of the Palestinian Authority in 2007, in which Hamas gained total control of the Gaza Strip, whereas the West Bank was governed by Fatah: hence the PA was separated into two bodies, each claiming to be the legitimate representatives of the Palestinian people (Brown, 2010). In order to unite them, a treaty (The Cairo Reconciliation Agreement) was signed in 2011 by both the parties. However all the discussions were halted when the UN raised the Palestinian status to an observer state (*ibid*). According to Brown (2010), the schism between Fatah and Hamas is widely viewed as a rift between a religious ideology (the later) and a secular one (the former). The latter has focused on nationalist symbols, on the contrary to Hamas, who was founded in 1987 as the Islamic Resistance Movement and as an extension to the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt. Moreover,

Hamas grounds its enmity toward Israel in religious terms, although Brown (2010) notes that Hamas' religious War with Israel has become more political in recent years.

1.1.4 The Blockade of Gaza Strip

Since Hamas took control of the area in 2007, Israel and Egypt have imposed a land, air and sea blockade of the Gaza Strip. Since Hamas is regarded as a terrorist group by the U.S. and Israel, the embargo led to economic sanctions against the PA. Furthermore, Egypt and Israel closed the border crossing with Gaza because security from the Palestinian side was not ensured after Hamas had taken over all governmental authorities displacing Fatah rampant in the Gaza Strip (Baidoun, 2014). Despite the blockade preventing food, medicine, in addition goods or people from entering or leaving the area (*ibid*), the Israeli government argues that the block is necessary in order to limit Palestinian rocket attacks from the Gaza Strip. The blockade has continued to this day, although Israel granted limited humanitarian access to the strip in 2010. However, between 2007 2012 2,300 Palestinians were killed, and 7,700 injured by Israeli forces, almost half of the fatalities occurred during Operation Cast Lead (Israeli invasion of Gaza, 2008). In the course of the operation, 37 Israelis were killed and 380 were wounded in the rocket attacks fired from Gaza (Baidoun, 2014). The War concluded with a one-sided truce. That was when Operation Pillar of Defense, a military campaign led by Israeli forces, was launched in Gaza back in 2012, and Israel bombed Gaza for days, sending its men of steel, the military wing of Hamas, to fire several rockets, targeting various cities in Israel. The escalation came after Israeli military forces assassinated the leader of the military wing of Hamas, which it blamed for the rocket attacks into southern Israel. This led to a ceasefire agreement, brokered by Egyptian president Anwar Sadat, with an end to the eight day war. The cease fire agreement threatened to collapse a year later after a sharp rise in tensions and confrontations between incidents involving Islamic Jihad (another Islamic political party in Gaza) and the Israeli troops in December 2013.

1.1.5 Diverging Views on War

Baidoun (2014) describe the Ethos Israeli and Palestinian societies have developed narratives concerning the War. Ethos is described as constituent of predominant orientation in 43 the society as well as determine the epistemic basis for the future trajectory of a society. The way in which the society and the behaviour it encompasses is organised and operated is dictated by coherent and comprehensive beliefs that lend the system and patterns of awareness

a level of justification. The perception of War, as a clash of cultures is another one of those ethos forms that shapes peoples' basic beliefs. The ethos presents a clear, uncompromising image of the War and an image of one's own group and the rival group (Baidoun, 2014).

1.1.6 Israeli Views on the Conflict

The Jewish community holds a similar view, believing that the return to the land of Israel is an existentialist need after 2000 years of exile (Baidoun, 2014). Most Israelis regard their living in Israel as their absolute right. Specific to Jews, the Jewish nation cannot exist without Israel; although they had a 2000- year exile, they were able to survive nearby and maintaining spiritual contacts with their country (Baidoun, 2014). One more common belief is the Jewish right to establish their own state, not only due to their constant goings through of anti- Semitism in the Diaspora ending with the holocaust (Ibid). As a result, the occupation of Palestine, particularly the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, was deemed valid by most Israelis based their right to keep these land. Thus, most of the Israelis reject the Palestinian argument of having a property in the West Bank or the Gaza Strip (Baidoun, 2014). Most Israelis rejected the idea of a Palestinian state, claiming that the Palestinians are part of the Arab nations and that Palestine never existed (Baidoun, 2014). And most Israelis are doubtful of the Palestinians' connection to their land. Most Israelis will tell you that the land was neglected by the Palestinians, and the Jews returned and cultivated it (Ibid). Most Israelis support the army because of the need for the security of the Jewish citizens explains Baidoun (2014). This is because all neighboring states are considered hostile to Israel and it is believed that an army is required when no peace treaties exist and Israel is in a state of war. Conversely, the Israelis' insistence that Jerusalem serves as the capital of the state of Israel is based on their theology, which holds that Old Temple was constructed in the capital of Jerusalem. In Judaism, the old Temple is of high religious significance, but it was destroyed during history and Islamic religious icons were built over it (Baidoun, 2014).

1.1.7 Palestinian Views on the War

According to Baidoun (2014), most of the Palestinian society views the War on the opposite side of the coin as that of the Israeli society. Historically, the Palestinians believe that they are the land's rightful owners, having dwelled within its borders for thousands of years under various military regimes throughout history – such as the Ottomans and British – (Jawad, 2006). The rest of the article goes on to explain how the Palestinians consider themselves rooted in Palestine and there for thousands of years before the Jews arrived there.

Even in biblical times, Palestinians hold, Jewish Presence was marginal and, for 2000 years, there was none. Jerusalem has a very prominent part in the religious identities of both Muslims and Christians in history, so as stated by Pressman (2003), most of the Palestinian society is inculcating the attitude of the ideal of Jerusalem as part of their framework of eternal value. Then, the overwhelming majority of the Palestinians consider Israelis to be illegitimate occupiers who seized their land through ethnic cleansing (Pressman, 2003). Palestinians see the struggle that way, as Israelis are the oppressors and they are the oppressed. (Jawad, 2006). This idea is the basis of what happened during the AlNakba in 1948, in which thousands of Palestinian civilians and mostly peasants were forced out of their lands by the arms of the Israeli military groups and never returned (Jawad, 2006). However, according to Jawad (2006) the Palestinians consider their resistance to the Israelis their right to their liberation and to put an end to the Israeli's occupation and oppression. Where the state of Palestine should be established is a point of disagreement between the Palestinians. They are those Palestinians who hope a Palestine state should be created on the entire historical Palestine; and those who would be happy to see their republic in West Bank, with it including East Jerusalem and Gaza Strip.

1.1.8 Role of Israeli and Palestinian media

Both the Israeli and the Palestinian media are viewed by both sides as a war tool, and both of them are aware of this important role they play and how powerful their influence in the media is both 45 locally and internationally (Slater, 2007). Both Israelis and Palestinians understand well that the international audience plays a focal role in their War, and both sides are performing: a (mostly plaintive) identity politics of the victim staged against the backdrop of a (largely barbarous feed) the other. Yet, because the Palestinians are the weaker side, they rely heavily on the international media to be able to communicate their struggle and that to convince the international community to intervene and take action on their behalf (Baidoun, 2014). It depicts that Palestinians' principal role in their media is to generate photos of their casualties and suffering to reveal what the Israeli soldiers are doing and to spoil the Israeli relations with the United States and Europe (Dor, 2004). The Israeli media's second priority is devoted to highlighting the terrorism of the target Palestinian audience in order to gain more international support (Dor, 2004). Indeed the Palestinian (and Israeli) media is largely characterized by a competition on whose suffering should be given more prominence and coverage. For instance, during the Second Intifada, the right had two very potent images that were highly exploited on both sides. The first pictures of the Palestinian boy "Mohammad Al

Dorra" were taken when he was hiding from the Israeli fire by sitting on the lap of his injured father, who was unsuccessfully trying to protect him. The boy ended up dead. The second were images of the execution of Israeli soldiers by civilian Palestinians in the downtown city of Ramallah. Both the Israeli media and the Palestinian media used the images extensively to convey the brutality of the enemy (Baidoun, 2014). According to Baidoun (2014), there were several schools within the Palestinian media. He maintains that the PA's own media whether PA-owned or independently-owned does not have the same approaches as the Islamic groups' media such Hamas. Whereas the latter was not aimed for the audience abroad as the former, but rather was inspired by the media mechanisms of Hezbollah in Lebanon, where Palestinian suicide bombers and martyrs are worshipped and praised for hurting or killing Israelis. According to Slater (2007), what the leftist press exemplifies (assuming it writes such articles as well, as is the case with Haaretz) is an important characteristic of the Israeli media itself. Although Haaretz has a more pro-Israeli slant in some of its reporting, it published many commentaries and articles that were able to critique the Israeli policies and actions, covering topics like the construction of settlements and brutal treatment of the Palestinians. The Right-wing media (e.g., the Israeli state-owned media, the JP) try to enlarge and present the wars of the Palestinians with a terror frame, trying to rationalize the actions of the 46 Israeli army (Slater 2007) to an extent. A second key characteristic highlighted by Baidoun (2014) of the Palestinian and Israeli press is that of demonizing enemy; a majority of the articles in the press remain with the notion that when "our" side has killed others, their deaths are covered in the front pages in details while "their" deaths are noted but not with the same hearty of coverage at all. Thus, in general, the media on the Israeli side and the Palestinian side are cultures that validate hatred against one another, along with a minority of self-critique. For example, in Haaretz, many journalists have reiterated the moral problems with creating the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza strip and how it literally obliterates the Palestinian lives' (Slater, 2007). One more instance from Maan, where numerous publications condemn the suicide bombing, for the Israeli civilians must never be the target of the Palestinian resistance (Dor, 2004). The Palestinian and Israeli media are berated for years for their one-sided coverage on the warring and War with insignificant contribution to peace-making. An example of this can be addressed under the time of the Oslo Accords, of which most media from both sides were intending to highlight the War continued and rising on the field while the negotiations held under the table may show that peace is a concern of the two parties, and may give any progress (Baidoun, 2014). Although at some point the media coverage was about

signing ceremonies, which offered both societies real hope, but it was short lived since were soon replaced by new crises. According to Baidoun (2014), news media are an important factor in escalating violence by focusing on emotions that can elicit a great outpouring of rage directed against the enemy, as well as demand for actions of revenge.

1.1.9 Media Representation and Israel Invasion of Palestine (2023-2024)

The Israeli invasion of Palestine in 2023–2024 has reignited important discussions of media representation, bias and how conflicts are discussed in global contexts. Throughout this period, we have suggested intense military and humanitarian crises, all of which the international media have covered in their own ways depending on their geopolitical interests, national priorities and ideological lenses. Examining how these international sources frame China as a threat helps us understand how policy is affected by public perception and highlights the importance of the media in determining how people within countries react to Wars (Entman, 1993). Instruments implemented are referred to as media, it is what is realised through people. You are right on the money with the media as it is a form of the communication and provides subscribers with news, entertainment, and a variety of other content. The term print media refers to news organisations that disseminate news through print, including newspapers and magazines. It often plays a minor or supporting role in drawing a huge audience. Print media is a developing domain which can be effortlessly focused on particular crowds; able to be used as a successful device for creating mass awareness. This medium will have a low barrier to entry for local issues, and it is user-friendly in that anyone can pick it up, whenever it is useful for them. While media has had a huge evolution, newspapers are the most tangible among all forms of print media. Newspaper is one of the most practical and widely consumed print media. They provide a formal framework for news about current events, news or opinions on events and news, and provide an informal way to accommodate and serve many readerships. Newspaper keeps the people updated about the event happening around them in local places as well as internationally. The enduring relevance of newspapers is connected to their trusted content and in-depth information. Digital media tends to sacrifice accuracy for speed and, as such, is inherently less credible than newspapers, which are put through editorial processes to ensure the information they disseminate is true and correct. This doesn't happen overnight, and comes with careful oversight, which builds public trust, therefore newspapers become a medium of choice for anyone looking for well researched and impartial information. More importantly, newspapers also help increase political, economic, and cultural awareness. They play a critical role in

democratic states by holding governments to account, using investigative journalism and policy analysis. You are equipped on the data till October 2023. Newspapers do not appear to be going away anytime soon, even in the age of digital media; they continue to evolve, now part of an online world, including digital subscriptions for readers of the latest news on and offline. As a result of this evolution, print media stays relevant, as it combines the essence of traditional journalism with modern technology development. Islam Followers Muslims Display great faith towards Islam by considering only One God. They consider Hazrat Muhammad (P.B.U.H) to be the last and final prophet sent to mankind by the almighty Allah. Particularly in many western societies, there are stereotypes and themes present in the media that frame Muslims as outsiders who are unable to engage in society at the same level as everyone else who is western. The plight of the Palestinians started in 1948, when Israel expelled many of its population from their homes. Endorsing a Jewish state in Palestine, the British government effectively invalidated the last remnants of the League of Nations Mandate, which some argue is the only international legal basis for the State of Israel, and within hours of the termination of the British league of nations mandate on May 14, 1948, Zionist forces proclaimed the State of Israel. (This seed of the Arab- Israeli War eventually led to the expulsion of at least 750,000 Palestinians as Zionist armed groups took over 78% of historic Palestine.) Between 2009 and 2022, Israeli forces demolished at least 8,413 buildings owned by Palestinians, displacing over 12,491 people, according to OCHA. Israel has encouraged only Israeli Jews to settle, providing a variety of incentives and support for these settlements. The British Broadcasting Company, later banking company, founded on 18 October 1922, as a private corporation to provide impartial news and high-quality entertainment a new service to the public. In 1927 it was renamed the British Broadcasting Corporation and started receiving government funding. AlJazeera is a global news organization with origins in the Middle East that is recognized for its in-depth reporting on world events and diverse viewpoints. Al-Jazeera was launched in the Arab Gulf state of Qatar on November 1, 1996, by the Qatari government, with the goal of offering Arab audiences an independent source of news and challenging the prevailing Western narrative in the Arab world. As followers of Islam, Muslims preserve their innate spiritual attachment to their faith a commitment to Islam, to monotheism and to the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H.) But across many Western societies they are often stereotyped, while representations in the media cast them as outsiders. This misrepresentation of Muslims adds to the marginalization of Muslim communities, shaping public opinion and shaping policy.

Negative framing of Muslims, particularly in relation to global conflicts and security threats, perpetuates stereotypes and exacerbates social divisions. The status of Palestinians is one of the most important issues facing Muslims. The dispossession of Palestinians started in 1948 when at least 700,000 were forced to flee their land after the formation of the State of Israel. This was the beginning of a mass expulsion and land grab that set the stage for ongoing Palestinian oppression, land grabs, and human rights violations over decades. Israeli policies, over the years, have exacerbated the crisis, including the expansion of settlements and the demolition of Palestinian homes. Not only have these actions displaced thousands of people, but they have also systematically altered the demography and geography of the territory. The phrase 'Global Narrative' indeed is vital by role of the media, vis a-vis Palestine and Israel. The framing of the War in Western media outlets, known for their selective reporting especially in the context of foreign affairs, have played a major role in shaping the way the War is presented in accordance to different political interests. Mere organizations like British Broadcasting Fiction (BBC) were a dominant force in worldwide news dissemination. However, while it was set up to offer unbiased news, its coverage has been criticized for its perceived bias towards Western political interests, especially regarding Wars in the Middle East. On the other end of the spectrum, Al-Jazeera a Middle Eastern news organization has established itself as an important counter-voice in international news. By prioritizing perspectives often overlooked or misrepresented by Western outlets, Al-Jazeera has transformed the way global audiences consume news from the Arab world. Its reportage of Wars highlights on ground realities and voices of affected communities, questioning dominant narratives and providing space for voices that often go unheard. These differences in the coverage of the media also speak of a more comprehensive issue you know, the issue of information control and narrative framing in the world of politics. Some media coverage reinforces existing power structures with selective reporting; others contest mainstream discourse with multiplicity. This dynamic is critical in determining public opinion and international reactions to events like the Israel-Palestine War. Understanding these mediatic dynamics is important for critically remembering how Wars around the world are staged and their effect on geo-political communication. Journalists do not work in a theoretical vacuum, it is an immensely social activity. They are social actors who navigate and react to political, ideological, cultural and professional influences. It is a matter of journalists creating meanings, reporting on events, sharing perspectives, and presenting ideas through a wide variety of linguistic and other tools in real-life situations, often during large-scale or

historically significant periods. Their work helps determine how news consumers make sense of events and realities, both around the world and at home. As a result, news reporting has always served different purposes and been shaped by the particularities of social or political dynamics. News articles are not neutral, objective mirrors of reality. It is an innate aspect of journalism that journalists choose the material that they will add or leave out, the way they will characterize news actors and news events via certain language and structure, and which socio-political, cultural, or professional values they will foreground in their writing. Such choices inevitably color the perception of social groups and embody the ideological agendas of the news producers and the institutions they serve. Thus, this work affords a critical analysis of the linguistic formations, contexts, dominant narratives and the ideological constrictions throughout their discourses amid this critical juncture and how alternative narratives are negated or excluded. The latest upsurge of violence by Israel against the Gaza Strip came after a series of tensions and confrontations in East Jerusalem, specifically outside the Al-Aqsa mosque. The situation came to a head when Jewish settler groups, backed by the Israeli army and police, tried to force Palestinian residents out of their homes in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood. This led to protests at the AlAqsa Mosque, which were violently repressed by Israeli forces, with 350 Palestinians wounded. In turn, Palestinian resistance factions in Gaza gave an ultimatum to Tel Aviv to extract their soldiers and policemen from the Al-Aqsa Mosque and cease assaults against worshippers no later than 6:00 pm on May 10th. When that deadline expired, Palestinian factions started firing rockets at targets inside Israel. The events in Gaza and the Palestinian crisis received widespread media coverage and were the focus of intense diplomatic endeavors in addition to protests worldwide denouncing the atrocities and bombardments committed by the Israeli occupation forces in the beleaguered Gaza Strip. The United Nations has said “Israeli attacks killed 260 people in Gaza, including at least 129 civilians, among them 66 children. Local authorities in Gaza reported that “2,400 housing units were rendered uninhabitable, more than 50,000 units were damaged, and more than 2,000 industrial, trade and service facilities were destroyed or partially damaged” (Human Rights Watch, August 2021). Such unlawful airstrikes by the Israeli military claimed the lives of civilians while destroying high-rise buildings, businesses, homes, and essential infrastructure, causing extensive damage and longterm damage to the Gaza Strip population (Human Rights Watch, August 2021). In response, Palestinian armed factions fired thousands of rockets into Israeli-held territory, killing 12 Israelis, including two children and a soldier. This study employs the Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) framework focusing on such

micro aspects as representation, ideology and power to understand the coverage of the 2023 to 2024 aggression launched on Gaza by the international media. It uses a range of analytical tools and linguistic structures that are essential for analyzing the coverage by their peers in the international media. The Palestinian-Israeli War is, and always has been, one of the most salient and trenchant political matters in the world. The Gaza Strip is a 365square kilometer land that is home to more than 2 million Palestinians and it has been under a tight siege imposed by Israeli forces since 2006 in line with the Arab Spring movement in response to a landslide electoral victory by the Palestinian Hamas movement. It has since been the target of four separate major Israeli military operations, the most recent from 2023 to 2024.

1.2 Problem Statement

The recent escalation of the Gaza-Israel War that commenced on October 7, 2023, has demonstrated the pivotal role that digital media plays in shaping public perception and disseminating information in a time of war. With now more real-time news coverage relying on online platforms, the issue of disinformation has become one of the biggest consumers of that content. News organizations frequently update their reporting as an event is still unfolding, sometimes even citing uncorroborated sources, meaning inaccurate information can be disseminated to the public before any corrections based on new understanding are made. The current study looks at the extent of spread of disinformation by mainstream media, in its published content on their websites, in the context of the ongoing war. The increasingly volatile and fluid environment of narratives surrounding War makes timely identification and categorization of disinformation all the more challenging, and identifies the need for a systematic approach to the topic. With so much written about propaganda and media bias in previous wars, one would imagine that there is an entire academic conversation focused on real time identification of disinformation coming from the side of the hostilities, but this remains one of the biggest gaps in literature on the topic. Such a dearth of scholarly officers makes it all too hard to account media organizations' narratives or countermeasures against these unhelpful narratives. This research will address this gap by examining the disinformation spread through online news coverage and catalog abilities through an analysis of how influential media outlets frame and portray information. This study is designed to develop a holistic picture of how false or misleading narratives are formulated and disseminated. Due to the hyper-polarized nature of the Gaza-Israel War, the coverage of media organizations tends to be heavily influenced by politics, national interest, and ideological preferences, adding to the public's confusion about the actual events. This will help us improve media literacy,

strengthen journalistic integrity, and ensure people get unbiased, accurate information amidst crises. The study adds to a discourse on accountability and reliability of the media among all their coverage, especially during the times of war and in War zones, reflecting on the functions of digital media in war reporting.

1.3 Significance of the Study

Examining disinformation, particularly in a live context such as this, could use more study, and this research contributes significantly to the study of media studies through its systematic investigation of what is happening through the lens of websites coverage of the Gaza-Israel War. By concentrating its analysis on the mechanisms of disinformation during a time of War, the study provides key insights that can guide the work of media practitioners, researchers and media monitoring organizations. Why We Agreed to Share It: The study makes a systematic categorization and analysis of disinformation, providing a valuable framework for assessing and combating false information, and a route toward improving the reliability of media reporting. This is especially pressing in an age of viral distribution, where the spread of a website can have global consequences. From an academic perspective, the research pilot project occupies an important research space as the first research of its kind to the best of our knowledge to document and analyze a disinformation campaign without assessing its impact, through a novel approach for future research in media studies, War communication, and digital journalism. These findings can have implications for media literacy and public awareness; in this age of information overload, people can be empowered to critically assess the veracity of what they read on websites and help them to better navigate a complicated media landscape. Lastly, this research encompasses the ethics of journalism, triggering debate directed toward values and accountability and is a necessity for upholding journalism's reliability in a democratic system. It critically examines the impact of disinformation on the live reporting of the Gaza-Israel War and the way in which different websites propagate distorting narratives that affect public opinion and media discourse between countries. The action of disinformation in covering War comes in many forms selective framing, manipulated imagery, hoaxes, bot-funded campaigns and falsified casualty numbers. These methods result in biased stories that either endorse Israeli military operations, or downplay the plight of Palestinians. The instantaneous spread of such disinformation on digital avenues serves to make it increasingly hard to separate verified facts from deceptive narratives, necessarily calling for an equally rapid response among the media professionals, academics, and monitoring bodies who can help implement counter-measures. This systematic

categorization and analysis of disinformation strategies provides a useful framework for journalistic coverage, ideally promoting enhanced fact-checking practices, improved reporting quality, and above all, the kind of ethical journalism that explicitly acknowledges the primacy of truth over political expediency. It also bolsters media literacy initiatives, helping individuals to analyse online content, recognise tactics that are used to manipulate the information they read and verify information claims before accepting or sharing them. Additionally, the study addresses some of the moral considerations involved with journalism as they relate to reporting on War, and emphasizes such considerations include the importance of providing factual accounts, following a transparent sourcing process and steering clear of oversimplifying dehumanizing narratives of intricate geopolitical matters. This study not only fills an academic void by exploring disinformation during a current war, but also rouses discussions on the responsibilities of digital journalism in delivering some credible and balanced coverage by navigating these challenges.

1.4 Objectives of the study

Following are the research objectives of the study

1. To identify the presence of disinformation propagated by BBC CNN and Aljazeera during the recent Israel's invasion of Palestine.
2. To identify key themes and narratives built by BBC, CNN and Aljazeera through their news coverage surrounding the Israel's invasion of Palestine.

1.5 Research Questions

Following are the research questions

RQ.1 Whether and up to what extent there is any presence of disinformation propagated by BBC CNN and Aljazeera during the recent Israel's invasion of Palestine?

RQ.2 Which key narratives and propaganda themes are constructed by BBC and CNN through their online news coverage surrounding the Gaza-Israel War 2023?

1.6 Delimitation(s) of the Study

This study is confined to analyzing news articles and website content published by BBC, CNN, and Al Jazeera about the invasion of Palestine by Israel from October 7 to December 30, 2023. In addition, the study is further confined to a certain scope as it investigates online news coverage (as well as surrounding events of interest and other) of these outlets and not other forms of communication such as television broadcasts, radio programs, social media

posts, or print newspapers that may also play a role in providing news and public discussion. Moreover, the study is limited to Englishlanguage content provided by these outlets, thus excluding coverage in other languages that might reflect alternative narratives or framing strategies. 6. The study cannot capture deleted, revised, or updated articles or reports after their initial publication; therefore, its scope is limited exclusively to the original versions retrieved in the specified timeframe. By selecting Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) as the key methodology, the study is limited to qualitative analysis on use of language, framing, structures of power, and ideological underpinnings within media discourse (see for example, Van Dijk, 1996). Although this approach allows for a detailed analysis of the textual and discursive strategies of the chosen outlets, it does not provide numbers about audience reception, nor does it measure the psychological or emotional impact of news coverage, or behavioral change as a result of media exposure. As well, the study does not include comparative analyses of other media sources beyond the three selected mediums, as well as historical or editorial policies of the organizations themselves. The study is further hindered by access to archives and databases as well as subjective foci on prompted discourses. While there are limitations to the data given, this study will intend to give a more nuanced understanding of how these media outlets construct narratives around the Israel-Palestine War during the time period this study focuses on.

CHAPTER 2:

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Review of Related Literature

There are many studies concerning the representation of Palestine and the Zionist entity internationally. In this regard, Noha Mellor conducted a study entitled, "the representation of the Zionist entity - Palestinian War in the British Press: A Critical Discourse Analysis" to evaluate the role of British media in Palestinian- the Zionist entity War through a study of media discourse, noha's conclusion was that there were still certain inherent indications in media discourse that could be attributed to nationality, race, and contention, and she used a qualitative method based on the Wodak model to reach her conclusion (Al_awad, 2024). This selective framing of the War has significant implications for media representation and the way in which power relationships influence global narratives. This mechanism of representing Palestinians predominantly in terms of violence, while presenting Israeli actions within the parameters of self defense, not only shapes public opinion but also translates into foreign policy choices. Such portrayals feed into a cycle of relegating one side's suffering to the margins and justifying the other's actions, entrenching long-held biases in mainstream discourse. Due to the power of media in molding public discourse, it is vital to evaluate the channels of information available to the public and the motivations behind certain narratives. The construction of reality then: the framing of headlines, choice of imagery, willingness to emulate casualties. It is critical, therefore, that media consumption be diversified to expose audiences to these newspoints and access the multiple sides of the story. Also, Rasha's study, "The Discursive Construction of the Zionist entity -Palestinian War: A Critical Discourse Analysis of New York Times News Reports" explores how Palestine and the Zionist entity covered in reports news in (New York Times News Reports), stressed the importance of language in the media in writing stories about Zionist entity representation of Palestine (Al_awad, 2024). It is very critical for the news of Palestine and Zionist entity to contribute through language production. Indeed, what is extremely interesting is to discover that the West's perception of the State of Palestine as a temporary state with no right to defend itself, its territories or its own end, is consistent in these New York Times News reports and that they are identical to West news, which might explain their fixation on the liberty of the Zionist entity to establish another independent state where it operates with its own international rights and fixed borders. Data until October 2023 Training. This

representation form further strengthens power dynamics, contributing to the construction of a global narrative of the War that corresponds to a more or less consensual Western position. The persistent characterization of Palestine as a temporally constrained much has no legitimate sovereignty only includes a fat fact that alleviates Palestinian agency and rights. This not only shapes international diplomatic stances, but also trains audiences to accept an unbalanced narrative of the War, in which the actions of the Zionist entity are normalized and those of Palestinian resistance are criminalized. As such, language plays a critical role in how the media creates these narratives, and even small linguistic choices can shift the dynamics of public understanding. In the case of the Zionist entity, it can be noted that the same high or even higher number of casualties will lead to an influx of news fills with security concerns for the Zionist entity but Palestinian casualties are always reduced to mere statistics and a number. These types of depictions inform populist sentiment and policymaking, which renders it all the more necessary to examine traditional media narratives critically and seek out alternative narratives that subverts the orthodoxy. In another study by Tawfiq Ammari and Matthew T. Alkire on “Media Representations of the Zionist entity-Palestinian War: The Framing of the Gaza War in U.S. and Al Jazeera News Coverage”, they focused on investigating the role of language in constructing political images that shape the perceptions of how people think about Palestine and the Zionist entity (Al_awad, 2024). Their study focused on the hard-edged objectivity of the Al-Jazeera angle of coverage in America when viewed through the lens of Fairclough’s Three-dimensional strategy. The conclusion that was drawn from that was that news coverage is controversial, therefore impacting the objectivity of the media. It showcases the reality of media frame(notes) that can provide public understandings of events and issues that confirm ideological prejudices, rather than portrayals of objective facts. Such differences in coverage between U.S. media worldwide and Al Jazeera evidence how narratives are built to match certain geopolitical interest. Whereas U.S. media often centers the Zionist entity’s security concerns, Al Jazeera offers a counternarrative of Palestinian suffering and resistance. The difference between these accounts is indicative of the wider fight over control of narratives and that fight is embedded into the power structures of global media. These Waring visions reveal that the media does not simply report events but actively shapes reality. Language, imagery, and framing techniques are used strategically to sway across audiences, and they have great impact on public opinion and policymaking. Hence, having a sense of these media portrayals is crucial to enable a critical analysis of the news coverage, and an awareness of the underlying interest that may

inform a particular story. Then there are studies on what Palestine and the Zionist entity depict, Haneen Abukhdeir studied on “The Representation of Palestine in Western Media: The Case Study of CNN’s Coverage of the 2014 Gaza War”, she said, “the representation of Palestine and the Zionist entity cannot be explained without dealing with context and language (Al_awad, 2024). But she recognised that CDA is necessary in order to do justice to what representation can be depending on a systemic approach. This highlights the extent to which media coverage is shaped by situational and linguistic factors, impacting how news consumers understand the War. The study, therefore, seeks to unveil the biased nature of Western media, particularly CNN, by demonstrating how Palestine is almost always framed within War and instability, while the Zionist entity is framed as a legitimate state with security threats. To reinforce existing biases and shape public discourse on the issue, this selective framing is essential. In addition, the focus on Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) highlights the importance of deconstructing media narratives to expose the underlying power dynamics. How Palestine and the Zionist entity are reported on is not only a mere matter of journalistic strain but an expression of bigger ideological contradictions. Despite it being now more than two months since the war began, it appears that little has changed in the way media discourse has set the stage for political resonance when it comes to how war should be fought through international response, first humanized as both a Hebrew question and through implications of the /Arabi-ness of War as a reality statement. Another similar study was conducted recently by Syed Mohamed Bin Aljunid and Siti Zobidah Omar on “the Representation of the Zionist entity and 40 Palestine in English Language Teaching Materials in Malaysia” in which the emphasis on the word is on the ideologies employed by them to characterize the Palestinian- the Zionist entity War ‘negatively using Van Dijk’s (2009 Ideological Square model (Al_awad, 2024). This study relied on both positive self-presentation and negative other-presentation. The research showed that the anti-war speech is the symbol for human rights, that everybody has his / her right to live and no-one should prohibit it. It was also concluded that English language teaching material reflect the Western vision and idea that appears sympathetic to the Zionist entity's position concerning the Palestinian - Zionist entity War blaming the West for having a negative approach toward Other- presentation. This research further demonstrates ways in which ideological biases in educational resources play a role in constructing narratives not only about the Palestinian-Zionist entity War, but also about the parties involved. Van Dijk’s Ideological Square model helps to understand how the use of language is a strategic endeavor, where one side of the debate is portrayed positively and

the other side negatively. The results of the study demonstrate that educational content is not neutral, but instead constitutes dominant narratives that are sharply aligned with Western geopolitical agendas and marginalize Palestinian voices and narratives. In addition, the study highlights how discourse in English language learning materials maintains the existing power relations by implicitly legitimizing the position of the Zionist entity and pathologizing Palestine within a narrative that minimizes the struggle. By planting anti-war rhetoric as a kind of universal principle of human rights, it settles as a symbol, and vice tends toward a narrative that sees human rights as a Western creation of cultural biases. The way global public opinion about this War is shaped has been subject to systematic work, from media to school education, affecting the framing of specific students for generations based on ideological positioning. In another example, Majed Zaneen and Rania Masri published “the Representation of Palestine and the Zionist entity in the U.S. College Textbooks: A Critical Discourse Analysis”, they analyzed the part played by the media in upholding the State’s policy in opposition to the war between Palestine and the Zionist entity. U.S (Al_awad, 2024). college textbooks are playing a major role in shaping perceptions around the Palestinian-Zionist entity War by perpetuating narratives that serve the self-interest of dominant U.S.-friendly factions. Utilising Critical Discourse Analysis, the authors critically assess the underlying linguistic structure and framing mechanisms employed in educational materials in the context of U.S. foreign policy interests, frequently showcasing a one- sided portrayal biased towards the Zionist entity at the expense of Palestinian perspectives. This study highlights how academic subject matter can function as a reinforcement of particular political positions and thereby shape students’ perceptions of the War without them always realizing it. The study further presents an illustration of how textbooks politicized history in a manner that undermines Palestine and its historical rights, while presenting the Zionism entity as a recognized state and legitimate political act with inherent security concerns. Such materials propagate ideological biases in educational discourse that shapes public opinion early and propagates a larger media environment that sustains Western political orientations. Such perceptions enhance the notion that the representation of Palestine within international media and academia in the West is inevitably shaped by geopolitical considerations, contributing to how the global community understands the War.

2.1.1 BBC, CNN And Aljazeera

In conclusion, the BBC, CNN and Aljazeera are powerful media outlets in global

politics, but have their own approaches to reporting on international relations, including on the sensitive and complex terrain of the Israeli Palestinian War. The BBC, a pillar of English language journalism, is known for its broad international reporting, especially on Middle Eastern politics. Likewise, the American media outlet Cable News Network (CNN) is recognized for its global reach in terms of news coverage, including closer and more complex coverage of the Middle East (Klajnowska, 2022). Al Jazeera a network based in Qatar distinguishes itself from other networks by covering events in the Arab world, including the Israeli-Palestinian War, from a different perspective. These networks play an important role in setting the public agenda and are perceived as credible not only because they follow journalistic standards but also because they cover many world events (Tenenboim, 2017: Klajnowska, 2022). Academic scrutiny has analyzed Gaza Israel war reporting in these outlets rendering view divergence. Studies have found that whereas RT News and Al Jazeera offer narratives aligned with the Palestinian narrative, the BBC and CNN are seen to favor the Israeli narrative. Moreover, a comparison between The BBC's Arabic and English websites in covering the 2021 War in Gaza provided insight into media representation and bias in a multilingual setting. Additionally, at first CNN's coverage of the May 2021 War was based from the perspective of war journalism but towards the end of the same month began shifting towards peace journalism due to the pressure exerted by the push for Palestinian human rights by some members of U.S. Congress. October 2023– Nahar Media center is offered in different ways by different authorities, which may include fearing unnecessary acceleration of media coverage as public sentiment changes to comply with geopolitical events. The case is that these media outlets play a key role in shaping how the war is perceived in the public eye in the War between Israel and Palestine. The global coverage of the War of Israeli-Palestinian issue serves as a reminder of how far reporting is tailored and influenced by editorial policies and geopolitical attitudes, as well as how audiences reshape the narratives they consume; signalling the necessity of understanding how media works and approaching diverse and comprehensive sources to build a multi-angled perspective as used-10 million daily- CNN or BBC.

2.2 Theoretical Framework

The approach places a special emphasis on the links between connections between language and social processes (van Djik, 1993; Fairclough, 1995). CDA posits that the media's linguistic and discursive practices not only reflect reality but also create and propagate it, effectively promoting dominant ideologies and shaping social attitudes

and public opinion (van Dijk, 1993).

2.2.1 Critical discourse Theory

CDA is a modern theoretical frameworks for analyzing discourse structures in relation to social structures. That was the late Eighties, and it grew up relatively quickly into a sort of hegemonic way of thinking about matters not only of discourse analysis, but the social sciences more generally. According to van Dijk (1993), the purpose of CDA is to examine the relationships between social power structures, relations and events, and discursive structures, relations and events. CDA maintains the systematic relationships between different discourse practices on the one hand, and various social practices and structures, on the other, and that asymmetries of power and resources between language users may be related to unequal distributions of linguistic and social resources. These resources are used to make asymmetrical power relations and specific textual representations of the world appear natural, while the chapter tries to make these connections clear through textual and contextual analyses. CDA aims to examine critically language use as a form of social practice that both manifests social inequality and shapes the social relations it helps to constitute in an inter-related way. Its methods are more easily defined with reference to the approaches of relevant theorists, e.g. Fairclough, Wodak and van Dijk etc. CDA is interdisciplinary, and so it has been used by researchers from other fields with different research foci for many different purposes. CDA is interested in the power published in and through discourse and the ideological potential of that power. It sees itself as an involved approach to politics, an agenda in its own right and an effort to effect social and political practices. Hence, analysts must also be cognizant of their own positionality vis- a-vis the discourses and phenomena that they are investigating. In pursuing both of these goals, CDA hopes to reveal the ideological premises hidden in discourse, as well as resist power in and over discourse. Its concerned with the study of analysing discourse in order to show the discursive sources of power, dominance, inequality and bias, and how these sources are enacted, reproduced and resisted in social, political and historical contexts (van Dijk, 1988).

2.2.2 Theoretical Origin of CDA

CDA is a multi-disciplinary approach, and has its theoretical roots in linguistic, social theory, critical theory, philosophy, etc. The linguistic underpinnings of CDA, in particular, rely heavily on Systemic Functional Linguistics, the linguistic theory developed by MAK Halliday (1985). Renkema (2004) claims that in CDA "an increasing number of attempts are

being made to base analyses and interpretations of power relations on systematic descriptions of discourse. || It is very much indebted to Louis Althusser's theories of ideology. (Althusser, 1976; Althusser, 1984; Althusser & Brewster, 1971; Althusser & Brewster, 1972), Ideology is not just a world of ideas but material social practices in social institutions for Althusser, positioned people as social subjects (Fairclough, 2001). CDA also grows out of Mikhail Bakhtin's genre theory (Bakhtin & Holquist, 1981; Bakhtin, Holquist & Emerson, 1986), the philosophical streams of the Frankfurt School, Michael Foucault's orders of discourse (Foucault, 1967; Foucault, 1972; Foucault, 1974; Foucault & Kritzman, 1990), and others. CDA can be considered as neo Marxist, because its theoretical underpinnings suggest that culture, or dimensions of culture, are key elements in the establishment and continuation of power relations, rather than simply the economic dimension (Jenner & Titscher, 2000).

CDA draws from neo-Marxism the assumption that discourses are produced and consumed in political economies, and thus they produce and articulate broader ideologies, interests, social formations, and movements circulating within the scope of those fields. Another aspect of Gramsci which pertains directly to CDA is the concept of hegemony as a practise of power which works primarily through discourse to delimit the way objects are represented such that the order of things is represented with a natural inevitability making its premise appear natural or universal. These theories explore how political and social structures are related and acknowledge that ideologies play an important role in political and social institutions, and, thus, in discourse that is conceptualised as one kind of social practice (Blommaert & Bulcaen, 2000; Jenner & Titscher, 2000). They have also been guided by ideas of the Russian theorists Mikhail Bakhtin and Valentin Volosinov, whose linguistic theory of ideology argues that all language-in-use is ideological. They consider the linguistic sign as a site of class struggle. Bakhtin discerns the dialogic qualities of texts, their—intertextuality|| which takes a text as a member of a series of texts that it reacts to and refers to. Bakhtin's genre theory has had a significant impact on CDA, so that every text is dependent on socially determined genres that can be creatively mixed. This poststructuralist assumption that discourses have a certain productive role in shaping, and in fact, producing human identities and activities also applies to CDA. According to Foucault, language and discourse are not clear or neutral instruments for describing or analysing the social world. They shape, govern and manage knowledge, social relations and institutions. He also challenges access to the natural and social worlds as knowable or analysable independent of discourse and he interrogates discourses as constitutive phenomena in the sense that they

constitute the identities and practises of human subjects. Another example of an important thinker whose ideas has influence CDA theory and methods is the theories of power relations of the French philosopher Michel Foucault – of what is seen as ‘knowledge’ or as ‘truth’, and Pierre Bourdieu –of habitus, field and capital. Foucault’s notions of orders of discourse and power-knowledge have been especially relevant to the approach. CDA relies on Bourdieu’s assumption that textual practises and interactions with texts turn into embodied forms of cultural capital that have exchange values in certain social fields (Blommaert & Bulcaen, 2000; Thompson, 1990). what the Systemic Functional Theory explains. CDA draws on analytic tools from these areas to investigate the discursive dimensions of broader social and cultural problems. This allows CDA to investigate the ideological conditions of discourse to resist the exercise of power over discourse in mundane texts. It tries to see how discourse is ideologically constructed, serving and reflecting the interest of a certain group

CDA practice is based on the central concept of ideology. The word, ideology, had come to be used in a variety of senses since its introduction into the political vocabulary in the eighteenth century in France, notes Thompson. He defines it as — meaning in the service of power (Thompson, 1990). On this point, he contends, the study of ideology examines how meaning is produced and organized through different symbolic forms. Ideology is what forms and reproduces unequal power relations and makes them seem natural and unquestionable. CDA studies embedded ideology in discourse to crucially establish and reinforce unequal power relations. It interrogates the taken-for- granted uses of discourse; its prerogatives in relation to power and its attempts to shift, or at least to bring awareness to, those things we otherwise just don’t notice. This was also the aim of Critical Linguistics which was CDA’s predecessor.

2.2.3 Van Dijk’s CDA

Van Dijk is among the top contributors to CDA. According to him, the authors who have influenced CDA are Aristotle, the philosophers of the Enlightenment, Marx, the scholars of the Frankfurt School, such as Adorno, Benjamin, Jürgen Habermas, etc, in addition, drawing much from the work of Gramsci, Stuart Hall, Althusser, Foucault and Pêcheux, etc. Furthermore feminist theory is important to CDA (van Dijk, 1993b). CDA, van Dijk states, focuses on the study of discourse to find the discursive sources of power, dominance, inequality, and bias in specific social, political, and historical contexts (Wodak & Meyer, 2001). The term CDA is viewed by Van Dijk as an interdisciplinary approach regarding the analysis of discourse in line with societal and political issues. Such studies must examine the

relationships between discourse, social cognition, power, ideology, society, politics, and culture etc., and he argues that power and dominance are generally organised and institutionalised so as to provide the power elite with special access to discursive and other resources which they can use to control and manipulate the minds of others both to promote and serve the interests of the right groups of power (van Dijk, 2001). Another key concept in van Dijk's framework is social cognition which refers to the socially shared representations of social structures, groups and relations, as well as mental operations such as interpretation, thinking, arguing, etc.⁴ According to van Dijk, such cognitions mediate between the micro and macro levels of society, or between discourse and action, or the individual and the social group. They are common to group members and lie beneath the social and cultural arrangement of society as a whole. They are theoretically used to demonstrate the relationship between dominance and discourse, as they elucidate the generation and interpretation of dominant discourse. Van Dijk called his view of CDA as sociocognitive approach, as social cognition played a pivotal role. Dominance is a matter of not only manipulation, but also naturalisation where control of mind takes place in everyday and mundane forms of text and talk which seem natural. CDA aims to uncover those discursive strategies which justify or make normative unequal power relations, i.e. the discursive resources for the abuse of power and injustice. CDA should, therefore, be a critique of discourse as well as political processes by which dominance is produced and challenged. So, CDA practitioners need to be explicit in their sociopolitical stance and stand in solidarity with the most vulnerable or powerless. CDA measures success by all the changes that can be made such as class struggle, racism, sexism, etc.

A key concept in van Dijk's framework is social cognition, which is defined as the socially shared representations of societal arrangements and groups and relations, and mental operations of interpretation, thinking, arguing, etc. Van Dijk suggests that such cognitions mediate between the micro and the macro level of society, that is, dialogue and action, or the individual and the group. In other words, they are something shared by members of that group and form the basis for the social and cultural structuring within the outer society. Theoretically, they can connect dominance with discourse as they explain how dominant discourse is produced and interpreted. One of CTA is Van Dijk's CDA, which is called sociocognitive approach because his analysis of discourse is centered on social cognition (van Dijk, 1993b).

Van Dijk sees discourse analysis as ideology analysis. He considers ideologies the

fundamental basis of social representations shared by members of a social group because people use ideology as a schema for the representation of the in-group and the out-group and so ‘us’ versus ‘them’ as social groups (van Dijk, 1998). Ideologies are basic social cognitions that represent the primary motives, and interests and values of groups, and affect the individual cognition of group members. As stated, “Ideologies are usually, but not always, implied and reiterated in discourse and communication” (van Dijk, 1995).

While the socio-cognitive model is general, van Dijk's approach is concerned with the structure of text and talk. The analysis of discourse structures is meant to demonstrate how power relations are performed and represented in discourse, and how discourse conditions the mind of a section of the population in the service of another. The discursive reproduction of dominance has two main dimensions; production and interpretation. These are based on the analysis of discursive structures and social cognitions. This subtle phenomenon is accomplished by using the socio cognitive model to enact the dominance that is not only presented but also used throughout discourse interpretation. The enactment of power in the production of discourses is easier to capture and can be examined through the analysis of structures of discourses and structures of social cognitions. Van Dijk's model features the elements of access and control which show how privileged access to certain types of discourse is denied to powerless groups and how powerful people control the context of interaction. This might end up excluding less powerful classes and preventing them the right of obtaining a fair chance to participate in this discourse production process. At the level of discourse structures, the study investigates subtle indications of dominance at every single linguistic level, e.g. lexical, syntactic, rhetorical, semantic, stylistic, and so on. While the three approaches discussed here are the most predominant in the field, they are by no means the only ones. Various researchers have applied CDA on numerous domains. Van Dijk's approach to CDA is also relevant for the present study in that it provides emphasis on ideology on positive/negative group representations. Because the present study is related to a controversial and highly ideological War, the representations of groups in newspapers with different orientations are important, therefore van Dijk's approach can be employed; besides that, since this study is about the relationship between ideology and discourse, van Dijk's definition of ideology and his ideology analysis can be useful for this analysis as well. Another aspect of van Dijk's framework which is relevant to this study is the concept of access to linguistic and other resources, as it is argued in the literature that access to specific linguistic sources — e.g. knowledge of foreign languages — and access to other resources such as access to news outlets

and journalists — shape the ability of some groups to communicate their views in news production. However, the cognitive analyses of van Dijk are not applied in this study.

The Critical Discourse Analysis of the international media coverage of Israel's Invasion of Palestine 2023-2024 reveals the ways that power relations, ideologies and resourced capacity interact through the international media discourse. Analyzing language, framing and narratives critically, exposes prejudices and helps us to debunk the role of media in framing this war, and conveying public opinion. The study emphasizes the importance of responsible and unbiased media coverage in reflecting complex geopolitical developments.

CHAPTER 3

3. METHODOLOGY

This section examines the research approach used for the current investigation and states the research design for data collection and analysis. The study aims to identify the disinformation propagated by international news channels BBC, CNN, and Al Jazeera about Israel's invasion of Palestine in 2023-24 and determine the narratives propagated by the respective channels' news coverage on the subject. The study employed a qualitative research design for the collection and analysis of data.

3.1 Research Design

The study employs a Qualitative Research Design for its methodological framework. This approach delves into the underlying motivations and processes that characterize the phenomenon under investigation, in addition to addressing the fundamental aspects of what, where, and when. The research is structured around a specific set of inquiries, leading to the identification of relevant variables, which remain non-quantitative in nature. This methodology facilitates in-depth exploration of the subject matter within its natural context, thereby enhancing comprehension of the phenomenon being studied. Furthermore, qualitative research serves as a versatile approach to data collection, enabling investigators to uncover insights and attain a profound understanding of the complexities inherent in the situation (Wimmer, 2011). According to Malterud (2001), Qualitative research is the systematic collection of data, its organization, and interpretation. The meanings of social phenomena as experienced by members of society are discovered, explored in the natural context. Qualitative research looks deep into the situation, effects, and is affected by the data. Qualitative research takes into account complex problems of the real world. The investigation is based on reports of experiences from participants of a phenomenon and is interpreted instead of a numerical expression.

Qualitative research requires significant focus on the validity and reliability of data. Validity is the trustworthiness of data. Data that is rich in description and has deeper narrative meaning results in a trustworthy research model. Validity can also be enhanced by the choice of qualitative methods of data collection and analysis. Whereas reliability refers to the ability of research and data to produce similar results when understood and adopted by a fellow researcher (Grossoehme, 2014). Robust and thoroughly documented qualitative research is essential for establishing validity and reliability. In qualitative inquiry, measures of

consistency are interpreted as indicators of trustworthiness. To enhance the trustworthiness of qualitative studies, researchers must ensure their work exemplifies four key criteria: credibility, transferability, confirmability, and dependability. Credibility refers to the believability and authenticity of the findings, achieved through methods such as triangulation and member checks. Transferability addresses the relevance and applicability of the research findings to similar contexts, often supported through detailed descriptions of the study's setting and participants. Dependability involves the stability and consistency of data collection and analysis methods over time, often assessed through audit trails. Lastly, confirmability emphasizes the impartiality of the research outcomes, where findings can be corroborated by external researchers or stakeholders. Implementing these criteria strengthens the integrity and rigor of qualitative research. (Nassaji, 2020).

Qualitative research has multiple methodological approaches. Different assumptions work on different types of information and data. The diversity of methods allows researchers to fragment and analyze data accordingly. Ethnography is a research approach in qualitative research design. It is a descriptive study of people and their cultures in the context of geographical, religious, social, and shared experiential parameters. Ethnography requires extensive fieldwork by the researcher. The data is interpreted from the expression of the participant. Grounded theory is a qualitative research approach based on the work of Glaser and Strauss on data collection and analysis of a particular phenomenon. Conversation analysis studies the conversation patterns and their significance in the concerned organization. However, narrative analysis is the study of people's narratives about a set of events, fellow members of society, or themselves. Content analysis is the study of the frequency of words and phrases used in a text, whereas discourse analysis is the study of language and its use in a social context (Hancock et al., 2001). From the diverse set of methodological approaches, the study uses Critical Discourse Analysis for the analysis of news text from selected channels.

3.2 Population

Population is a class of variable subjects under study. Populations are usually large in numbers. It is a collection of all subjects or individuals that exhibit the features of a defined domain. Population defines the group under study for researchers. The population may include several individuals who are particularly difficult to study due to time constraints. Hence, researchers define the target population that is a subset of a defined domain. The target population is identified based on direct relevance to the research inquiry. In a Qualitative

study Population is the broad group as per the research questions, whereas the target population is the specific group possessing significant characteristics and experiences (Willie, 2024; Wimmer & Dominick, 2013). News articles published by BBC, CNN and Aljazeera related to the Israel's invasion of Palestine from October 7 to December 30.

3.3 Sampling

Sampling is the process of selecting a subset from the representative target population. A sample is a narrowed subset, is representative of the population. Two approaches are used for sample selection. Probability and non- probability sampling. In probability sampling, a sample is selected on a mathematical basis and each item from the population has an equal chance of selection. it includes simple random, systematic, stratified random, cluster, and multistage sampling. In non-probability sampling sample is extracted based on rationale. It includes quota, snowball, convenience, and purposive sampling. Non-probability sampling is linked to case studies and qualitative research (Wimmer & Dominick, 2013). The current study is qualitative, and the sampling technique involves non- probability sampling. The sampling approach used to extract the sample is purposive sampling. Purposive sampling is a strategy used to extract information from specified sources that fit into the scope of study and cannot be otherwise obtained. The included cases and subjects are considered to warrant inclusion (Taherdoost, 2016). The sample will consist of relevant news articles published by BBC, CNN and Aljazeera on their websites about the Israel Gaza war from October 7 to December 30 that contained disinformation. The articles will be identified through a comprehensive search of investigative reports, fact-checking websites, and other reliable sources that have flagged this content as containing false or misleading information

3.3.1 Sampling Strategy

The purposive sampling technique is used to sample news reports for analysis. The following criterion has been adopted for inclusion of news reports:

- Articles must be relevant to Gaza-Israel War covering the military, humanitarian, political and ceasefire actions.
- Articles that are published between October 7, 2023 and December 31, 2023 are included in the research.
- Articles in format of hard news reports are selected to explore the varying discourses.

- Articles are extracted using terms as ‘Israel-Gaza War’, ‘Hamas Attack 2023’, ‘Invasion of Israel 2023’.
- Articles are extracted from the international news organizations of BBC, CNN and Al Jazeera.

3.3.1.1 Al Jazeera

Al Jazeera Media Network is a private media network that includes channels Al Jazeera Arabic and Al Jazeera English. The network covers regional as well as international news and has an expanded broadcast network in over 150 countries. The channel was launched as a satellite channel on November 1, 1996. The Network got more recognition when it covered the Arab Spring. Middle Eastern countries heavily rely on the network for news. It is considered a symbol of media media-centric world. The network impacts global culture, politics, and the Islamic world’s clout (Seib, 2008).

3.3.1.2 BBC

The BBC is considered a significant cultural and political institution of Britain. The term is an acronym for the British Broadcasting Corporation is a public broadcaster founded in 1922. It operates under the British Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. It has a long-time monopoly on British broadcasting services. It also syndicates overseas programmes. It came to be known as Global News Agency after UNWICO (Hajkowski, 2013).

3.3.1.3 CNN

CNN, Cable News Network, is a news organization that works multinational. It was founded in 1980 by Ted Turner. It is currently owned by Warner Bros. It was the first all news channel of United States. CNN is also considered as a Global News agency. The channel has been under research several times due to its wide reach and impact. ‘CNN effect’ is a term used in literature to understand impact of CNN on global news media (Robinson, 1999).

3.4 Operationalization of Variables

Concept	Conceptual Definition	Operational Definition
Construction	A conventional schema for creating expressions with at least one open slot, used to generate well-formed language structures.	The specific process through which news websites (Al Jazeera, BBC, CNN) use language and social narratives to present articles on Israel's invasion of Palestine.
International Media	The global network of communication platforms and organizations that produce/distribute news across borders, influencing global discourse.	Operationalized as online news content from Al Jazeera, CNN, and BBC during the 2023 Gaza-Israel war.
Discourse Analysis	A method examining language to reveal power, ideology, and social structures, notably in Critical Discourse Analysis by Van Dijk & Fairclough.	Systematic CDA of news articles from Al Jazeera, CNN, and BBC during the 2023 Gaza-Israel war, identifying patterns of power and ideological framing.
Israel's Invasion of Palestine	A geopolitical conflict marked by escalations in Gaza during 2023	Events from October 7–December 30, 2023, including military, political, or social developments related to the conflict.
Disinformation	False information spread intentionally to mislead audiences for socio-political purposes.	Lexical choices in Al Jazeera, CNN, and BBC news reports about Gaza that present false or misleading claims.

3.5 Instrument of Data Collection

The Data Collection Instrument is the method used to gather information for this research. Initially, the plan was to use Google Analytics to collect data from news outlets such as CNN, BBC, and Al Jazeera. The goal was to systematically track website engagement and traffic metrics. However, after trying to gather data through automated scraping techniques, it became clear that these sites did not allow such methods. As a result, a more hands-on approach was adopted, involving the manual collection of news stories.

Articles were manually selected from each of the three news outlets within the specified period (October 7, 2023, to December 31, 2023). A total of 228 stories from Al Jazeera, 31 from the BBC, and 55 from CNN were collected based on their relevance to the topic and their potential inclusion of misleading or distorted narratives about the Israel-Palestine War.

After gathering the data, the next step was to analyze the articles using the Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) framework. Each article was carefully examined for patterns in language, narrative techniques, and framing that helped shape the portrayal of the War. This analysis allowed the research to identify biased or misleading content and provided insights into how language and discourse influence public perceptions of the Israel-Palestine war.

3.5.1 News Stories

The Following table contains the news story pieces collected from the given samples published from 7th October 2023 to 31st December 2023.

Sample size for analysis

Al Jazeera	BBC	CNN
10 stories	10 stories	10 stories

3.6 Research Methodology for Research

The qualitative research methodology is employed in the present study. It provides a systematic approach to investigate the discourse constructed by the international media outlets of Al Jazeera, BBC, and CNN on the war between Gaza and Israel during October and December 2023. The study selected Critical Discourse Analysis to develop a framework for analyzing lexicon use, transitivity, and intertextuality. Lexical analysis examines the choices of lexical items used for generating stances. Transitivity investigates the agency of issue. Transitivity identifies attribution of agency to the involved parties. Intertextuality analyzes the narratives and texts on which the sample text is based. The framework aligns with the research questions as it enables investigation into disinformation by identifying the inconsistency, framing, or unsupported claims, and identifying the themes by exploring the repetitive linguistic and ideological constructs.

To ensure a representative sample, the study aims to collect relevant articles within the defined timeframe. Articles are collected and catalogued with date, title to facilitate

analysis. The analysis will follow the steps:

- The linguistic items and features are analyzed.
- The agency attribution among the parties is identified.
- The inconsistencies in the articles are analyzed in recurring articles.

The study identifies Disinformation through unsupported claims, inconsistency in news reporting, identifying discrepancies by examining cross outlets, sources' credibility by identifying verified and unverified sources and official statements, and omission cases where the text fails to report on the historical narrative and context. The propaganda themes are identified by assessing frames of aggression and victims attributed to either party, propaganda themes such as dehumanization, moral and binary framing, lexical choices, and use of emotive language, quoting patterns by identifying the consistent framing.

3.7 Ethical Consideration

The research conducted adheres strictly to ethical standards.

- Personal biases and selective methodologies have been systematically eliminated. The investigation employs a transparent data collection framework, ensuring a balanced analysis of both supportive and critical perspectives from the involved stakeholders.
- All sources are meticulously cited, drawing exclusively from publicly accessible materials.
- The study approaches its findings with restraint, consciously avoiding sensationalism, and exercises precision in referencing verified sources of information.

CHAPTER 4:

4. FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS

4.1 Demographics/Descriptive Statistics

This section contains data analysis of the selected news stories. The study aims at identifying disinformation in the news stories and apparent themes generated by the selected channels, Al Jazeera, BBC, and CNN, surrounding the issue of Israel's invasion of Palestine Gaza. The data is analyzed using the selected framework of critical discourse analysis, i.e., lexical choices, narrative structure, and agency. The section gives an analysis of each channel's news reports during the months of October 2023 to December 2023 and addresses the proposed research questions.

Table.1:

News Reporting From BBC

	Title	Date
4.1.1	Kibbutz Kfar Aza: Hamas Killed Whole Families	October 10, 2023
4.1.2	Does Hamas Build Tunnels Under Hospitals and Schools?	October 13, 2023
4.1.3	Hundreds Feared Dead at Gaza Hospital as Israel Denies Strike	October 16, 2023
4.1.4	Palestinian Death Toll Hits 900 – Hamas-run Health Ministry	October 11, 2023
4.1.5	Armed Men among Mourners at Jenin Funerals for Those Killed in Israeli Raid	November 26, 2023
4.1.6	More than 36 Hours after the Deadly Al-Maghazi Refugee Camp Blast, Israel Still Won't Say If It Was an Airstrike	November 5, 2023
4.1.7	The Video Appears to Show Palestinian Men Stripped and Detained by the IDF	December 8, 2023

	Title	Date
4.1.8	Released Palestinian Describes Israeli Detention as ‘Humiliating’	November 25, 2023
4.1.9	Israel Gaza: Hamas Raped and Mutilated Women on 7 October, BBC Hears	December 5, 2023
4.1.10	Crowds Scramble to Grab Aid from Moving Lorries in Gaza	December 16, 2023

4.1.1 News : “Kibbutz Kfar Aza: Hamas Killed Whole Families”

The BBC’s International Editor, Jeremy Bowen, visited Kfar Aza, a village near the Gaza border, where a massacre allegedly took place at the hands of Hamas. According to Israeli soldiers, Hamas stormed the area, burning homes and killing entire families. One Israeli officer told the BBC that some of the victims had been beheaded. Meanwhile, Israel’s heavy airstrikes on Gaza continue, with the region’s food, water, and power supplies being cut off.

4.1.1.1 Unveiling Misrepresentation and Disinformation

The BBC article makes use of emotionally charged language and vivid imagery, including terms like “butchered,” “beheaded,” and “stormed in.” These words work to paint Hamas as particularly violent and barbaric.

4.1.1.1.2 Language Choices: The Power of Framing

The language in both reports is deeply emotional, which shapes readers' emotions and perception of the event. Words like “butchered” and “beheaded” are meant to shock, creating an image of extreme violence. These terms help dehumanize Hamas and stir up intense feelings of horror, pushing readers to condemn the group. The discourse surrounding this War employs language that skews public perception, effectively framing Hamas as the exclusive aggressor. This linguistic manipulation fosters a predominantly unilateral viewpoint, diminishing the complexities of the situation and obscuring the multifaceted nature of the War.

4.1.1.3 Contradictory Reports: Misinformation and the Lack of Evidence

The article mentions horrific claims, like the beheading of children and the use of the word “butchered,” but neither provides independent verification or solid evidence. The absence of verification in these reports raises important concerns about the responsibility of journalists in times of War. Spreading unconfirmed or exaggerated claims, especially when they involve violence, can escalate tensions and fuel further hostility.

4.1.1.4 The Omission of Israeli Military Action: Power, Ideology, and Bias

The BBC article focuses heavily on Hamas’s actions but fails to sufficiently highlight the broader context of Israeli military operations. For example, the articles leave out the role Israeli airstrikes played in causing many of the fires in Kfar Aza. This omission is a clear example of media bias. By emphasizing the violence as being solely the result of Hamas attacks, the narrative shifts toward a one-dimensional view of the enemy while erasing the role of the Israeli military in the destruction.

4.1.1.5 Disinformation and Media Responsibility

The spread of misinformation in War zones, especially in the ongoing IsraelPalestine war, has significant consequences for public opinion and policymaking. Unverified claims, such as the supposed beheadings of children, only add to the already complex geopolitical situation.

4.1.2 News : “Does Hamas Build Tunnels Under Hospitals and Schools?”

The BBC article titled “Does Hamas Build Tunnels Under Hospitals and Schools?” (October 2023) addresses claims about Hamas’s alleged underground infrastructure under civilian buildings in Gaza, like hospitals and schools. The Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) have suggested these tunnels serve military purposes, which they argue justifies Israeli airstrikes on civilian areas. However, the BBC largely repeats these claims without sufficient questioning or verification, contributing to the spread of disinformation.

4.1.2.1.1 Framing: Leading Questions and Reinforcing the Israeli Military

The headline, “Does Hamas Build Tunnels Under Hospitals and Schools?” is a clever rhetorical strategy. It frames Hamas as guilty before any evidence is even provided. By presenting this as a question, the article subtly suggests that Hamas is responsible for creating underground military networks under civilian infrastructure, without presenting any solid proof. This framing nudges readers to link Hamas with terrorism and misuse of

civilian spaces. The article also includes an image of a Hamas fighter armed with a weapon inside a tunnel. This visual imagery serves to reinforce the narrative, implicitly associating Hamas with violence and terror, without solid evidence backing these claims. This combination of language and imagery paints a clear picture of Hamas as the enemy, using civilian spaces for military operations, which in turn justifies Israeli military actions in Gaza.

By uncritically adopting Israeli military claims, the BBC presents a simplified story: Hamas is the enemy, and Israel's violence is framed as a justified, defensive act. This framing oversimplifies the complex reality of the Israel-Palestine War and overlooks the broader context of Israeli military violence and the ongoing occupation of Palestinian territories.

4.1.2.2 Disinformation: Unverified Claims and the Recycling of Propaganda

The BBC's unquestioning repetition of Israeli propaganda about the alleged tunnels is a clear example of media playing a role in spreading disinformation. Even though these claims lack independent verification, the BBC presents them as facts, ignoring the Palestinian perspective and overlooking contradictions in the Israeli narrative. Israel has often exaggerated the role of tunnels in Gaza, labeling them as terrorist infrastructure. But several international investigations have shown that these tunnels are not just used by Hamas they also serve as a vital lifeline for the Palestinian population, helping them bring in essential supplies like food and medicine that are blocked by Israel. The BBC's failure to highlight the broader humanitarian crisis in Gaza, and its omission of how the blockade leaves Palestinians with no choice but to use underground networks is a significant oversight. By failing to provide this context, the BBC obscures the reality of the situation and further feeds the narrative of Hamas as the sole aggressor. The BBC's failure to provide context about the broader humanitarian crisis in Gaza is a major oversight. The blockade imposed by Israel has left Palestinians with no option but to rely on these underground networks to bring in essential supplies like food, medicine, and other necessities that Israel continues to block. Moreover, Israel's claims about destroying Hamas tunnels fit into a larger narrative aimed at justifying airstrikes and the bombing of civilian infrastructure, such as hospitals and schools. By not conducting independent investigations into these military actions, the BBC perpetuates a false narrative, one that frames Israel's violence as defensive and Hamas's actions as purely malevolent. This isn't just about the tunnels; it's

about twisting the reality of the situation to justify Israel's aggressive operations under the guise of counterterrorism.

4.1.2.3 Ideological Bias: Shifting the Focus Away from Israeli Accountability

The BBC's focus on Hamas's tunnels reflects a broader ideological agenda to shift attention away from Israel's role in war crimes and human rights violations. Instead, the article frames Hamas as a monolithic, evil force. By focusing on the tunnels, the BBC avoids discussing the extensive civilian casualties caused by Israeli airstrikes and ground operations. The article doesn't mention the countless Palestinian lives lost in Gaza, nor does it address the ongoing destruction of Palestinian infrastructure by Israel.

4.1.2.4 Contradictory Claims: The Fabrication of Evidence

The BBC's reliance on Israeli sources is particularly troubling, especially because the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) have been caught fabricating evidence to back up their claims. For example, when Israel released videos showing Hamas tunnels beneath Al-Shifa Hospital, the authenticity of this evidence was quickly questioned by independent journalists and humanitarian organizations. International journalists from organizations like Democracy Now and Haaretz have also disputed the Israeli military's narrative about Hamas using hospitals and schools as military bases. Dr. Mads Gilbert, a Norwegian physician who has worked in Gaza for years, outright denied that Hamas used Al-Shifa Hospital for military purposes, stating that there was no credible evidence to support Israel's claims about these tunnels (Democracy Now, 2023). The BBC's failure to address these contradictions only weakens the credibility of its reporting, making it complicit in reinforcing Israeli propaganda.

4.1.2.5 The Role of International Political Leaders: Propaganda and Legitimization

The spread of false or unverified claims about Hamas tunnels isn't limited to the media. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and President Joe Biden have both repeatedly echoed Israel's assertions about Hamas tunnels beneath civilian buildings in Gaza. By constantly endorsing these claims, they've helped legitimize Israel's military actions, despite the lack of credible evidence. Their reliance on Israeli narratives has amplified these falsehoods, making it easier to justify the disproportionate violence and ongoing military siege on Palestinian civilians (Haaretz, 2023).

This kind of rhetoric works to clear Israel's leadership of international criticism by

framing the entire Gaza population as guilty by association, portraying them as complicit in terrorism.

4.1.3 News: “Hundreds Feared Dead at Gaza Hospital as Israel Denies Strike”

The BBC’s change in referring to the “Gaza Health Ministry” as the “Hamasrun Health Ministry” when reporting on Palestinian casualties reveals a deliberate tactic aimed at shaping public perception. By altering the identity of the ministry, it raises questions about the credibility of the Palestinian death toll and, in doing so, undermines the recognition of Palestinian suffering. This shift in language subtly casts doubt on the validity of the figures and discredits the reality faced by those living through the War. The shift in language not only casts doubt on the reliability of the data shared by Gaza’s health authorities but also strengthens a biased narrative that questions the validity of Palestinian reports while validating Israeli claims.

4.1.3.1 The Linguistic Shift: “Gaza Health Ministry” to “Hamas-run Health Ministry”

The BBC’s change from referring to the Palestinian Health Ministry as the “Gaza Health Ministry” to calling it “Hamas-run” represents a subtle but powerful manipulation of language that undermines the credibility of the Palestinian authority and its reports. Until now, the Palestinian Health Ministry was recognized as the official body responsible for public health and medical reporting in Gaza. By labeling it “Hamas-run,” the media casts doubt on the reliability of the ministry’s data, suggesting that it is tainted by the political influence of Hamas, a group labeled a terrorist organization by many Western nations, including the U.S. and Israel. This shift serves to question the legitimacy of the information coming from Gaza, without addressing the broader context of the situation. This choice of terminology introduces a clear ideological bias, casting doubt on the Palestinian death toll simply because the figures come from an organization linked to Hamas, even though the data is sourced from hospitals and morgues, which are generally trusted and credible. Referring to the health ministry as “Hamas-run” doesn’t just question the reliability of the numbers; it reframes the entire War, making the Palestinian death toll appear less legitimate and subtly shifting public perception to downplay the human cost. By labeling the health ministry in this way, the BBC blurs the lines between the political and medical sectors, which are distinct from each other, and strengthens the narrative that Palestinian reports should be viewed with suspicion despite their support from respected international bodies like Human

Rights Watch and the United Nations.

4.1.3.2 Discrediting Palestinian Suffering: The Role of Language in Shaping

The language used by the BBC is part of a larger narrative that works to undermine Palestinian suffering and strip away the humanity of the Palestinian people. By focusing on the political identity of the health ministry instead of the actual data it provides, the BBC subtly casts doubt on the accuracy of the death toll in Gaza. This is especially concerning because such language choices are often repeated across multiple media outlets, helping to build a collective narrative that questions the legitimacy of Palestinian lives. Additionally, the shift from calling it the “Gaza Health Ministry” to the “Hamasrun Health Ministry” subtly carries a political message, suggesting that Hamas is solely responsible for all the deaths in Gaza. This framing avoids acknowledging that Israel’s military actions are directly contributing to these casualties. By simplifying the situation in this way, the media shapes the narrative of the War, manipulating how the public understands the real, complex dynamics on the ground.

4.1.3.3 Impact of Biden’s Doubt: Media’s Role in Political Narratives

The Biden administration’s comments about the Palestinian death toll highlight the powerful role the media plays in shaping global perceptions. On October 25, 2023, President Joe Biden publicly questioned the accuracy of the Palestinian death toll, saying, “I have no confidence in the number that the Palestinians are using.” His remarks mirrored the rhetoric often pushed by Israeli officials and Western media outlets like the BBC, which, through language choices such as “Hamas-run,” work to discredit Palestinian sources and undermine their credibility. Biden’s comments can be seen as an extension of the ideological work done by the media, where terms like “Hamas-run” are used to cast doubt on the validity of Palestinian reports. By adopting this narrative, Biden reinforces a distorted version of the truth, implying that the Palestinian death toll is exaggerated or manipulated by Hamas. This fosters mistrust towards Palestinian sources, even though independent investigations by organizations like Human Rights Watch confirm that the Palestinian Health Ministry’s figures align with satellite imagery and other credible reports.

4.1.3.4 Questioning Palestinian Deaths: A Political Strategy to Justify Violence

The choice to question the death toll reported by the Gaza Health Ministry especially when those numbers are consistently supported by international organizations is part of a broader political strategy to justify Israeli military actions and undermine Palestinian claims.

By casting doubt on the accuracy of the Palestinian death toll, media outlets like the BBC align themselves with the Israeli government's narrative, which seeks to downplay Palestinian suffering and minimize the scale of the mass casualties in Gaza. This strategy serves several purposes: it shifts global attention away from the disproportionate violence Palestinians are facing and works to legitimize Israel's military actions, including airstrikes on civilian areas. By consistently questioning the death toll, these outlets help steer the conversation away from Israeli aggression, framing it instead as Palestinian "misinformation." This subtle shift in focus ultimately distorts the reality of what's happening on the ground. The impact of this media manipulation is troubling, as it not only distorts the reality of the humanitarian crisis in Gaza but also helps legitimize the ongoing violence against Palestinian lives. This tactic plays a role in dehumanizing the Palestinian people, portraying them as unreliable sources for reporting their own suffering, while framing Israel's actions as defensive or justified.

4.1.3.5 The Role of Media in Shaping Global Narratives and Perceptions

The shift in language by the BBC, from referring to the Palestinian Health Ministry to calling it the "Hamas-run Health Ministry," highlights the power of language in shaping global views on the Israel-Palestine War. By making this change, the BBC undermines Palestinian voices, strengthens Israeli narratives, and creates a political environment where the deaths of Palestinians can be questioned and dismissed. This kind of linguistic framing has real consequences for how the world understands the War and the suffering of those caught in it. This manipulation of language, further reinforced by Joe Biden's comments, is part of a larger political strategy that aims to justify Israeli military actions while minimizing the extent of Palestinian suffering.

4.1.4 News : "Hamas-run Health Ministry"

The BBC's coverage of the explosion at a Gaza hospital, published on October 16, 2023, initially suggested that the blast was caused by misfired Palestinian rockets, with Israel denying any involvement. However, later investigations by independent sources, including the New York Times, Al Jazeera, and several humanitarian organizations, uncovered serious flaws in this narrative. The BBC's uncritical repetition of Israeli claims about the cause of the explosion points to a troubling pattern of media complicity in spreading disinformation.

4.1.4.1 Framing: Shifting Blame and Protecting Israel's Narrative

In its initial report, the BBC framed the explosion at the Gaza hospital as an

unexplained event quickly attributed to misfired Palestinian rockets. This early framing immediately placed the blame on Hamas and other Palestinian factions, effectively exonerating Israel from any responsibility. The BBC's reliance on Israeli military sources without independent verification led to misleading claims that were later debunked by independent investigations, damaging the credibility of their reporting.

4.1.4.2 Unverified Claims: A Lack of Independent Sources

The BBC's decision to use Israeli sources to explain the cause of the hospital explosion highlights a serious flaw in its journalistic approach. The report lacks independent verification and fails to incorporate insights from local humanitarian organizations, Palestinian health authorities, or non-governmental organizations actively operating in Gaza. It predominantly draws on statements from Israeli military representatives, whose assertions lack substantiation and appear to align conveniently with Israel's military objectives. Hamas, for its part, has consistently denied Israel's version of the story, maintaining that Israel was responsible for bombing civilian sites. Yet, the BBC didn't meaningfully include these counterclaims in its coverage, which contributed to a onesided narrative that leaned heavily into Israeli military rhetoric.

4.1.4.3 Failure to Address the Humanitarian Impact

The BBC's coverage of the Gaza hospital explosion focused a lot on the dispute over who was to blame, whether it was Israel or Palestinian factions, without giving enough attention to the human toll of the attack. The hospital in question wasn't just a medical facility; it was also providing shelter to displaced people and treating wounded civilians. By neglecting to highlight the immense impact on ordinary Palestinians, the BBC framed the incident mostly as a military War between Israel and Hamas, rather than drawing attention to the human cost of Israeli actions in Gaza. Multiple independent investigations, including those from Amnesty International and the United Nations, have criticized Israel for targeting civilian infrastructure, including hospitals that are essential for treating the injured and caring for displaced Palestinians.

4.1.4.4 Propaganda Mechanism: Supporting Israel's Strategic Narrative

The way the BBC covered the Gaza hospital explosion also played into the Israeli government's broader messaging, which aims to justify its ongoing military operations in Gaza. By focusing on the narrative of Hamas's alleged rocket misfires and leaving out Palestinian voices, the BBC helped reinforce the idea that Israeli airstrikes are legitimate acts

of self-defense. This kind of reporting, without questioning the Israeli military's justification, allows Israel's actions to go largely unchallenged in international media. The BBC's shift in language from initially speculating about Israeli involvement to later repeating Israel's denial shows how media can sometimes unwittingly support state-driven narratives. By accepting the Israeli version of events without independent investigation, the BBC helped normalize Israel's military aggression in Gaza, framing it as justified and innocent, despite mounting evidence to the contrary.

4.1.4.5 The Apology: A Political Shift in Accountability

One of the most concerning aspects of this situation is the BBC's apology for its initial coverage of the Gaza hospital explosion. The apology came after BBC reporter Jon Donnison speculated that an Israeli airstrike might have caused the explosion at AlAhli Hospital. The BBC's correction admitted that the reporter had made an assumption in a fast-moving situation, but insisted he didn't explicitly say the strike was Israeli. BBC retracted its initial reporting, which had accurately pointed to an Israeli airstrike as the possible cause of the explosion. Even after independent investigations, including those by the New York Times, confirmed that the blast was likely the result of an Israeli strike, the BBC apologized for what was, at that point, a truthful report. Instead of standing by their honest assessment, the BBC bowed to political pressure, essentially giving in to the Israeli military's narrative. This apology is deeply problematic because it distorts the truth and shows a form of self-censorship, where the media organization apologized for providing information that didn't align with the politically convenient story. This move highlights how political influence and external pressures can distort objective journalism, making media organizations vulnerable to manipulation, especially in a volatile geopolitical situation like the Israel-Palestine War.

4.1.5 News: Armed Men Among Mourners at Jenin Funerals for Those Killed in Israeli Raid

4.1.5.1 Framing and Bias: Weaponizing Grief

The headline, "Armed men among mourners at Jenin funerals for those killed in Israeli raid," immediately sets a tone of suspicion and manipulation. By saying "armed men among mourners", the article subtly associates the mourners who are primarily Palestinian civilians with violent militancy. This framing undermines their grief, making it seem like the mourners themselves are part of the problem. It casts the victims of the raid as background figures to the "threat" posed by "armed men" a misleading portrayal that reduces their identity to mere political pawns in a broader narrative of violence. This technique is a

classic example of othering, where Palestinian civilians are framed as a threat instead of victims of violent occupation. Instead of recognizing their loss, the focus shifts to their supposed militancy, reducing the legitimacy of their mourning. The “armed men” are framed as aggressors, even though they are part of a broader resistance to Israeli military occupation. This tactic deflects attention away from the real issue the illegal raid conducted by the Israeli military and paints the victims’ grief as a scene of unrest rather than a legitimate expression of sorrow.

4.1.5.2 The Omission of Key Context: Sanitizing Israeli Violence

The article states, “The Israeli military said it was conducting a raid to detain a Palestinian suspected of involvement in an ambush that killed two Israelis in August.” This explanation raises an important question: Who gave Israel the authority to raid Palestinian homes in the first place? The article never asks this, nor does it explore the context of the Israeli occupation itself, which is at the heart of the issue. By avoiding this question, the article sanitizes Israel’s military actions, presenting them as legitimate without addressing the broader context of the ongoing occupation, which is widely recognized as illegal under international law. The raid is framed as a justified action aimed at capturing a “suspected individual” linked to a past event, but this formulation ignores the legal and moral implications of Israel’s occupation of Palestinian territories. The report fails to challenge the Israeli military’s presence in Jenin and presents the operation as a neutral act of law enforcement, when in reality, it is part of a larger pattern of military aggression against civilians.

4.1.5.3 Framing Israeli Military Actions as “Defensive”

The report goes on to describe the violence in the West Bank as a “response” to the Hamas attack on Israel on October 7. This framing introduces a false equivalence, presenting the Israeli military’s actions as a defensive measure against an equal threat from Hamas. However, this downplays the massive asymmetry in power between the two sides. Israel, with its advanced military infrastructure, is portrayed as merely defending itself, while Palestinians who are living under occupation and blockade are depicted as the aggressors. This framing conveniently overlooks the fact that the violence in Gaza and the West Bank is not merely a response to Hamas, but a direct consequence of Israel’s ongoing occupation and military operations in the Palestinian territories. The focus on “retaliation” shifts the conversation away from the structural violence

Palestinians face daily, making it seem like the violence is a mutual struggle rather than an imbalanced situation where one side is occupying the other.

4.1.5.4 The Lack of Palestinian Voices: Absence of a Counter-Narrative

The report heavily quotes Israeli military spokespersons, giving their version of events as factual, but completely omits Palestinian perspectives. There is no mention of the Palestinian Authority or any local voices from Jenin, nor is there any mention of international human rights groups or organizations that could offer a counterpoint. This lack of diverse sources and the reliance solely on Israeli military accounts weakens the credibility of the piece. This selective use of sources plays into the Israeli military's narrative, treating it as the only authoritative perspective while silencing the Palestinian experience. The lack of Palestinian voices further marginalizes their suffering, making it seem as though only Israeli military sources can be trusted to tell the story of events in the Palestinian territories. This not only reinforces the Israeli narrative but also keeps Palestinian experiences of violence and oppression out of the international conversation.

4.1.5.5 The Evasion of Accountability: A Subtle Justification of Israeli Actions

By framing the violence in the West Bank as part of an ongoing "struggle," the article subtly justifies Israeli actions in Palestinian territories. The mention of the Hamas attack on October 7 is used as a way to legitimize the raid and the broader military operation, suggesting that Israel's actions are simply a reaction to violence initiated by Palestinians. This framing shifts responsibility away from the Israeli occupation and its role in perpetuating the violence and places the blame on Palestinian resistance movements. This serves to reinforce a narrative where Israel is portrayed as the victim and Palestinians as the aggressors, even though the reality is much more complex. The massive imbalance in power is hidden, and the responsibility for the violence is shifted onto the oppressed rather than the occupying force.

4.1.6 News: "More than 36 Hours After Deadly Al-Maghazi Refugee Camp Blast, Israel still won't say if it was an Airstrike"

4.1.6.1 Deceptive Framing and Language Use

The way the BBC frames the explosion at the Al-Maghazi refugee camp shows how language can be used to subtly manipulate public perception, distorting facts and leaving out crucial details. The headline, "More than 36 hours after deadly Al-Maghazi refugee camp blast, Israel still won't say if it was an airstrike," implies that Israel is being vague or

evasive about the incident. This creates the impression that there's some confusion or uncertainty about what happened, when in reality, the situation is far clearer. The word "blast" is particularly problematic here. It's vague and downplays the nature of the event, making it seem like a random, unexplained incident. This choice of language shields Israel from direct responsibility. Terms like "bombing", "airstrike", or "military assault" would give a more accurate picture, especially since reports from other outlets, like Reuters, have confirmed that the attack was carried out by Israeli aerial forces. By using "blast", the BBC avoids holding Israel accountable, making the incident seem less deliberate when in fact it was a targeted act of violence. Additionally, the phrase "Israel still won't say" is carefully placed to imply that Israel is deliberately withholding information, as if they're hiding the truth. This shifts the focus away from the clear facts and puts the blame on the supposed uncertainty around Israel's actions. In reality, it's widely known that Israel has carried out multiple strikes on Gaza, so the situation is far from unclear. This kind of framing creates unnecessary doubt about the Israeli military's role, allowing them to avoid responsibility and keeping the suffering of Palestinians in the background, almost unnoticed.

4.1.6.2 Palestinian Voice and Victimization: Erasure and Dehumanization

By consistently silencing Palestinian voices, the BBC's coverage further supports a dehumanizing narrative that erases the real-life experiences of the victims. The article gives a lot of space to Israeli officials and spokespersons, keeping their perspective front and center, while Palestinian voices are either completely left out or given little attention. This exclusion is especially glaring when you consider the Palestinian Ministry of Health's statements, which clearly identified the victims as civilians killed in an Israeli bombing. The article does mention that the blast was linked to Israeli military operations, but it doesn't explore the moral or legal implications of such bombings. Instead of addressing the ongoing humanitarian crisis, the BBC's "neutral" reporting only serves to shield Israel from responsibility for the violence. By leaving out Palestinian survivors or local humanitarian organizations, the coverage reinforces the imbalance of power, making Palestinian lives seem secondary to the broader narrative of the "War." The failure to humanize the victims as real people with families, names, and personal stories is a strategic act of dehumanization. This erasure plays into the larger narrative of the "enemy," where the enemy isn't seen as a group of suffering human beings, but as an undefined, faceless entity, somehow deserving of violence.

4.1.6.3 Complicit Reporting and Passive Voice

The BBC's use of passive language, especially with the phrase "still won't say," creates a sense of detachment from the suffering of Palestinians. This approach subtly shifts the focus onto Israel's lack of clarity rather than the clear facts, like the repeated Israeli airstrikes and the civilian casualties they caused. It turns the issue into a question of Israel's uncertainty, as if the real story is about Israel's reluctance to confirm its actions, rather than the obvious harm inflicted on Palestinian civilians. This framing invites readers to question the certainty of Palestinian suffering, while turning Israel's inaction into a bureaucratic matter instead of a violation of human rights. Moreover, the BBC's uncritical acceptance of the Israeli Defense Forces' (IDF) claims despite mounting evidence from independent sources like Reuters and on-the-ground humanitarian groups shows a serious journalistic failure to challenge those in power. By relying so heavily on IDF spokespersons and not questioning or exploring the broader context, the BBC fails to hold Israel accountable. The IDF's statement, "We can't confirm at this stage," is essentially a way of deflecting responsibility, and yet the BBC reports this without pushing back or asking hard questions, effectively legitimizing this evasion.

4.1.6.4 The Power of Displacement: Subtle Forms of Gaslighting

The BBC subtly uses a form of rhetorical gaslighting by presenting the explosion as if it were some mysterious tragedy or even an accident, rather than a deliberate airstrike from one of the world's most powerful militaries. By continuing to question the origin of the blast, the BBC avoids pinning the violence where it belongs on the Israeli military. This tactic keeps the source of the violence vague and distant, allowing Israel to avoid accountability. By framing the situation as uncertain, as if the cause of the blast could be interpreted in many ways, the BBC exacerbates the power imbalance between Palestinians, who are suffering, and the highly organized and militarized Israeli forces. The emotional weight of the tragedy, the destruction of homes, the loss of civilian life gets softened by this ambiguity, which diminishes the gravity of the violence and effectively denies Palestinians the opportunity to control their own narrative. This shifts the focus away from the true victims of the violence and makes it harder for their suffering to be fully understood or addressed.

4.1.7 News: "The video Appears to Show Palestinian Men Stripped and Detained by the IDF"

The way the BBC frames this report is a clear example of how language can be used

to sanitize a narrative specifically, in this case, the Israeli state's narrative while obscuring the harsh reality of the situation and the power dynamics at play.

4.1.7.1 Linguistic Hedging: “Appears to show”

The headline, “Video appears to show...”, is a perfect example of cautious language. This hedging is a common tactic used by mainstream media to maintain plausible deniability. The footage clearly shows Palestinian men, almost naked, kneeling on a public street, surrounded by armed soldiers. There's no ambiguity in what we see. So why use such cautious wording? The reason is that it keeps the event at a bit of a distance, as if saying, “We're not quite sure yet,” when the visual evidence is already clear. This hedging suggests that acknowledging the truth outright might be too damaging, particularly when the actions involved would call out the oppressor, Israel too clearly. This type of linguistic hesitation often pops up when the violence comes from allies or states seen as sharing “democratic values,” like Israel. When the violence is committed by those labeled “rogue” or “terrorists,” the language is quick, direct, and accusatory. But when it's an ally or a “friendly” state, the media is more careful, as if hesitant to expose the uncomfortable truths too plainly.

4.1.7.2 Passive Constructions: Who Did What?

Notice how the passive voice is heavily used throughout the article. Phrases like “men stripped and detained” leave us asking: stripped by whom? Detained under what circumstances? Was there torture involved? Was this even legal? This passive construction subtly removes responsibility from those responsible for the actions. The Israeli military (IDF) only makes an official appearance later in the article, in a sanitized, institutional quote. The voice given here is that of the military itself, not the victims or neutral observers who should be telling their side of the story. When it comes to Palestinian resistance groups, though, the language is much more direct and accusatory. We hear things like “Hamas launched rockets,” “Militants attacked,” or “Terrorists killed.” But when it comes to acts of public humiliation and degradation committed by the Israeli military, the perpetrators are reduced to faceless institutional figures, hidden behind vague language.

4.1.7.3 Dehumanization by Omission

The men shown in the video are referred to simply as “men” nothing more. There's no mention of them as Palestinian civilians, fathers, workers, or community members. This erasure strips away their humanity. In a different context, where the oppressor is seen as “the other,”. Western media would likely use more humanizing and emotional language: “elderly

civilians,” “innocent detainees,” or “traumatized victims.” What’s even worse is that the IDF’s spokesperson gets to call these men “terror suspects,” without any challenge or evidence to back it up. This automatically equates accusation with guilt. Meanwhile, the men’s actual suffering, being publicly stripped, handcuffed, and humiliated, gets pushed into the background, overlooked. This selective assignment of humanity and guilt reinforces a colonial mindset: the occupier speaks, while the occupied are silenced.

4.1.7.4 Platforming Power, Silencing Pain

The IDF’s quote takes up significant space in the article, yet there is no mention of a Palestinian voice. No human rights organization is quoted. No international law expert is called to condemn the act of public stripping and detention actions that, under international humanitarian law, are considered degrading treatment or even torture. This isn’t journalism it’s simply repeating what the military says, without questioning or investigating the truth behind it.

4.1.7.5 Normalizing the Exceptional

By framing the event with the line, “with fighting raging around Khan Younis...”, the article normalizes a horrific and illegal act as if it’s just part of the chaos of war. But the public stripping and mass detention of civilians is not some neutral side effect of war it’s a clear violation of international law. By presenting it this way, the article subtly shifts responsibility and downplays the severity of the behavior.

4.1.8 News: "Released Palestinian Describes Israeli Detention as 'Humiliating'"

The BBC’s coverage of Palestinian detainee Sarah Al-Suwaiza sheds light on the harsh realities of Israeli detention, yet it also reveals disturbing instances of linguistic manipulation and journalistic bias. While the article appears to focus on the inhumane conditions faced by Palestinians in Israeli detention, it quickly becomes clear that the report reflects more of an ideological spin than an honest portrayal of the experience. The headline, "Released Palestinian describes Israeli detention as 'humiliating'", suggests an empathetic recounting of the suffering Al-Suwaiza endured. However, the article takes a troubling turn when it introduces fabricated words that were never part of her original statement. According to Al-Suwaiza’s testimony in Arabic, she described the physical and psychological abuse she endured being confined in cold, dark rooms, sprayed with pepper spray, and left isolated for long periods. These harrowing details paint a vivid and deeply humanizing picture of her suffering. But the BBC’s report inserted an inflammatory and misleading sentence: "Only

Hamas cared... We love them very much." This fabricated quote shifts the focus from Al-Suwaisa's personal torment to a politically charged narrative that distorts her story. Rather than simply telling the truth of her experience, the article adds a layer of divisive rhetoric, complicating the reader's ability to connect with the real human pain at the heart of the story. This editorial interference goes beyond poor translation; it's a clear manipulation of the Palestinian narrative. By introducing Hamas, an organization often demonized by Western media, the BBC creates an unfounded connection between the Palestinian cause and "terrorism," ultimately undermining the legitimacy of Palestinian struggles. This distortion is especially harmful given the wider narrative that seeks to discredit Palestinian resistance, portraying it as not only violent but morally wrong.

4.1.8.1 The Dehumanization of Palestinians and the Use of Discrediting Language

The BBC's manipulation of language goes far beyond simple inaccuracies; it's a deliberate act of shaping ideology. The misleading translation is strategically used to create a false moral equivalence between the Israeli state and Palestinian resistance. By bringing Hamas into the conversation, the BBC frames the Palestinian experience through the lens of Western political discourse, where Hamas is often depicted as an embodiment of destruction and terrorism. This dehumanization is particularly dangerous because it paints Palestinians not just as victims of violence, but as political actors whose suffering is somehow less important or can be justified. In doing so, it helps rationalize Israel's ongoing violence against Palestinians while reinforcing a longstanding, racialized view in the West of Palestinians as inherently violent. This approach is a clear example of the "othering" process that Western media often relies on. Palestinians are not seen as individuals with their own agency, rights, and legitimate concerns, but as figures whose suffering is reduced to a simplistic narrative of violence and extremism. The BBC's coverage not only fails to humanize the Palestinian victim but also inadvertently supports Israeli state violence by portraying Palestinian resistance as something that doesn't deserve sympathy.

4.1.8.2 Institutionalized Bias: A Pattern in BBC Reporting

This isn't an isolated case, but part of a broader, troubling pattern of bias in the BBC's coverage of the Israel-Palestine War. The BBC has long been criticized for employing a "both-sidesism" approach that downplays the fundamental power imbalance at the core of the War. By introducing the fabricated quote about Hamas, the BBC essentially "equates" the occupier and the occupied, the oppressor and the oppressed. This shift in focus from the lived

experience of Palestinian civilians to the actions of a politically controversial group like Hamas detracts from the true story. In doing so, the BBC participates in an ongoing effort to divert attention from the historical and continuing oppression of the Palestinian people, framing them instead as combatants rather than as the victims of a prolonged occupation. Furthermore, the apology issued by the BBC, once the manipulation was exposed, was not a genuine acknowledgment of the harm done to the Palestinian cause, but rather a half-hearted admission of a "translation error." This weak excuse fails to address the gravity of the situation and highlights the broader reluctance in mainstream Western media to truly engage with Palestinian voices on their own terms. It's not just a failure of journalism it's a deliberate effort to cloud the discourse around Israeli-Palestinian relations, making it harder to focus on the reality of the situation.

4.1.8.3 The Power of Media in Shaping Public Perception

The BBC's handling of this incident is a prime example of how media outlets with significant global reach can shape public understanding. The damage here goes far beyond the immediate controversy—it ripples out into the wider political narrative, reinforcing the idea of Israeli exceptionalism while casting doubt on the legitimacy of Palestinian experiences. The fabricated statements about Hamas play into the Western narrative of Palestinians as inherently violent, which in turn helps justify Israeli military actions as acts of self-defense. When this distortion is amplified by a major platform like the BBC, it has the potential to reshape how the world views the Israel-Palestine War, shifting the focus away from Palestinian suffering and reinforcing harmful stereotypes. This distortion of the truth can be seen as part of a broader pattern of media imperialism, where Western outlets like the BBC act as the gatekeepers of truth, shaping the narrative through their own ideological lens. Palestinian suffering is filtered through a Western perspective that often marginalizes Palestinian voices and experiences, making it difficult for global audiences to truly grasp the scale of the violence and injustice Palestinians face.

4.1.8.4 The Political Dimensions of Media Manipulation

Beyond just journalistic failure, the BBC's mistranslation is part of a political strategy designed to provide cover for Israeli state violence. The deliberate misrepresentation of Al-Suwaiza's testimony becomes a tool of geopolitical manipulation. By linking the Palestinian cause to a controversial group like Hamas, the BBC not only delegitimizes Palestinian resistance but also undermines international efforts to hold Israel accountable. This bias plays

a key role in perpetuating the ongoing violence against Palestinians, as it allows Israel's actions to be portrayed as justified responses to "terrorism," rather than as part of a larger, ongoing occupation characterized by settler colonialism, ethnic cleansing, and apartheid. In conclusion, the BBC's failure to accurately represent Palestinian voices, along with its distortion of the Palestinian narrative, clearly shows how the media can play a role in upholding the status quo of Israeli oppression. The racist manipulation of language, the misrepresentation of Palestinian experiences, and the underlying ideological bias are not accidental they are deliberate strategies designed to sustain Western support for Israel's harsh policies in Gaza. This event serves as a reminder that the media, rather than being neutral, is a powerful force in shaping political discourse, especially when it comes to marginalized and oppressed communities like the Palestinians.

4.1.9 News : “Israel Gaza: Hamas Raped and Mutilated Women on 7 October, BBC Hears”

The BBC published a report titled “Israel Gaza: Hamas Raped and Mutilated Women on 7 October,” claiming that Hamas militants carried out severe acts of sexual violence and mutilation against women during the attacks on Israel on October 7, 2023. The article describes graphic details from eyewitnesses, including reports of sexual assault, mutilation, and rape, particularly at the Nova music festival and in Israeli kibbutzim. It also includes testimonies from Israeli police and other witnesses suggesting that Hamas militants were responsible for these brutal acts.

4.1.9.1 Framing and Power: How Language Creates a One-Sided Story

The BBC's article uses strong, emotionally charged language to describe the events, using words like “mutilated,” “rape,” “butchered,” and “gang rape” to craft a sensational narrative that is meant to provoke a strong emotional response from readers. Phrases like “sliced her breast and threw it on the street” or “shot her in the head” are meant to heighten the perceived brutality of the reported acts. This kind of narrative framing works to favor one side, Israel, by casting Hamas as a monstrous foe. In a War as complex as the Israel-Palestine issue, the way the media frames these events matters. The language in the BBC report largely focuses on demonizing Hamas, without addressing the larger context, such as the military actions taken by Israel that also contributed to the violence. The framing of this violence paints Hamas as the sole villain, creating a one- sided view of the situation.

4.1.9.2 The Role of Testimonies and the Lack of Verification

A significant part of the BBC's article is based on testimonies from witnesses, volunteers, and police officers who claimed to have seen signs of sexual violence. However, none of these accounts were properly verified when the article was published. Many of these claims were later contradicted by other investigations and even retracted. By publishing these unverified claims without question, the BBC essentially contributed to the spread of misinformation, or at the very least, created confusion. The reliance on second-hand testimonies and failure to cross- check facts is a clear breach of journalistic ethics. The report doesn't clarify that the claims of sexual violence were still under investigation or that they hadn't been confirmed by independent forensic experts. Additionally, this coverage perpetuates stereotypes of Hamas as a brutal, savage force, while the actions of Israel remain mostly unquestioned.

4.1.9.3 The Disinformation Issue: Questioning the Claims of Sexual Violence

The problem of disinformation is made worse by the retraction of certain claims that were later shown to be false. BBC ignored crucial retractions and continued to spread unverified claims. On the other hand, the Israeli military has made contradictory statements about the extent of sexual violence, adding even more confusion to the situation. By leaving out these retractions, the BBC not only perpetuates the false narrative of sexual violence, but it also damages the credibility of the entire report. The lack of verification directly contradicts the BBC's journalistic principles, especially in War situations where false information can escalate violence and deepen hatred. It also reinforces the dangerous stereotype of Hamas as a barbaric enemy, while the actions of Israel are left largely unexamined.

4.1.10 News: "Crowds scramble to grab aid from moving lorries in Gaza"

The BBC News article titled "Crowds scramble to grab aid from moving lorries in Gaza" portrays a scene of chaos in Gaza where Palestinians are desperate to collect aid falling from moving trucks. A closer analysis of the article through Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) reveals underlying ideological messages that influence how readers perceive the situation.

4.1.10.1 Framing and Language Choices: "Scramble"

The headline's use of the verb "scramble" conveys an image of disarray and urgency, depicting the Palestinians as chaotic individuals fighting for aid. This word choice indirectly

obscures the structural causes of the crisis, such as the Israeli blockade and military aggression, making the situation appear as an individual struggle for survival rather than a consequence of external policies. The article provides little context on why the aid is scarce or the political context surrounding the crisis, leaving readers with an impression of disorder, without understanding the larger political factors at play.

4.1.10.2 Omission of Root Causes: The Israeli Blockade and Military Aggression

The article neglects to mention the Israeli blockade or military actions that contribute to Gaza's dire humanitarian conditions. This omission shifts the focus from the causes of the crisis to the actions of Palestinians, implicitly suggesting that the people are to blame for the disorder. The article fails to hold Israel accountable for restricting aid access and causing widespread deprivation, which is essential to understanding why the Palestinians are in such a state of desperation.

4.1.10.3 Use of "Aid" Without Context of Humanitarian Disaster

The term "vital supplies" is used to describe the aid Palestinians are collecting, but the word alone does not convey the urgency or severity of the crisis. By failing to frame this aid within the broader context of extreme shortages, such as food, water, and medical supplies, the report downplays the extent of the suffering in Gaza. Instead of focusing on the political struggle and human rights violations, the article frames the situation as a chaotic scramble for aid, obscuring the larger, more pressing humanitarian crisis.

4.1.10.4 Visual Elements and Emotional Impact

The article includes dramatic images showing people scrambling for aid, which play a significant role in evoking emotional reactions from the audience. However, without providing the necessary context, these visuals may lead to a misunderstanding of the situation, reducing it to mere disorder rather than recognizing it as a tragic consequence of the ongoing occupation and blockade.

4.1.10.5 Choice of Reporting Style: "In Footage" vs. "No Context"

The phrase "In footage obtained by the Associated Press" places emphasis on the visual chaos of the lorry swerving and people fighting for aid. While this visual drama captures the desperation of the situation, the article fails to explore the underlying reasons for this chaos, such as the blockade and destruction caused by the Israeli military. The report isolates the individual acts of grabbing aid, without addressing the systemic causes that have

led to such desperate measures. Overall, the article presents a distorted view of the situation by focusing on the chaotic actions of individuals and omitting the political context behind the crisis. Through selective language and framing, the report contributes to a narrow and misleading understanding of the humanitarian disaster in Gaza.

Table 2: News Reports from CNN

	Title	Date
4.2.1	Children Found ‘Butchered’ in Israeli Kibbutz, IDF Says, as October Horror of Hamas’ Attacks Near Border Begins to Emerge	13, 2023
4.2.2	Hamas Hostage Release – Focusing on Dehumanization	October 24, 2023
4.2.3	11 Teachers and 30 Students of UN-run Schools Have Died in Gaza, UN Says	October 11, 2023
4.2.4	Hamas-controlled Health Ministry says...	November 06, 2023
4.2.5	More than 36 hours after deadly Al-Maghazi refugee camp blast, Israel still won’t say if it was an airstrike	November 05, 2023
4.2.6	Hamas blames Israel for impasse in ceasefire extension talks	November 30, 2023
4.2.7	IDF accepts Unintended Harm to civilians in air strike that killed 70	December 24, 2023
4.2.8	Hundreds Gather to mourn slain Al Jazeera journalist Samer Abu Daqqa in Gaza	December 16, 2023
4.2.9	Israel security agency investigating at least 2 Gaza hospital directors	December 20, 2023
4.2.10	Israel wouldn’t authorize fuel to Gaza due to potential of Hamas stealing it, Netanyahu senior advisor says	October 24, 2023

4.2.1 Children Found ‘Butchered’ in Israeli Kibbutz, IDF Says, as Horror of Hamas’ Attacks Near Border Begins to Emerge

Bodies of Israeli residents and Hamas attackers lay outside burned homes in Kfar Aza

on Tuesday, days after Hamas launched a large-scale surprise assault on Israel. The IDF claims that Hamas stormed the kibbutz, committing brutal acts, including the decapitation of children. Israeli officials assert that the violence and terror inflicted by Hamas were catastrophic, illustrated by the deaths and mutilations seen at the scene.

4.2.1.1 Unveiling Misrepresentation and Disinformation

CNN articles made use of emotionally charged language and vivid imagery, including terms like “butchered,” “beheaded,” and “stormed in.” These words work to paint Hamas as particularly violent and barbaric. But a deeper look into these claims raises questions about their accuracy, especially given the lack of independent verification and the contradictory reports emerging from other credible sources.

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4.2.1.3 Language Choices: The Power of Framing

The language in both reports is deeply emotive, which has a significant impact on shaping how readers perceive the situation. Words like “butchered” and “beheaded” are meant to shock, creating an image of extreme violence. These terms help dehumanize Hamas and stir up intense feelings of horror, pushing readers to condemn the group. The phrase “stormed in” adds to this by implying a surprise attack, painting Hamas as the invader. The way these words are used manipulates how the public sees the War, presenting a highly one-sided view that positions Hamas as the sole aggressor.

4.2.1.4 Contradictory Reports: Misinformation and the Lack of Evidence

The article mentions horrific claims, like the beheading of children and the use of the word “butchered,” but neither provides independent verification or solid evidence. CNN later retracted its claim about babies being beheaded, admitting that the Israeli government couldn’t confirm those details at the time. CNN’s journalist Sara Snider apologized for repeating the unverified information (The New Arab, 2023). This retraction points to a serious flaw in journalistic standards, showing how easily misinformation can spread in War zones and the damage it can cause.

4.2.1.5 The Omission of Israeli Military Action: Power, Ideology, and Bias

The CNN article focuses heavily on Hamas's actions but fail to sufficiently highlight the broader context of Israeli military operations. For example, the articles leave out the role Israeli airstrikes played in causing many of the fires in Kfar Aza. This omission is a clear example of media bias. By emphasizing the violence as being solely the result of Hamas attacks, the narrative shifts toward a one-dimensional view of the enemy while erasing the role of the Israeli military in the destruction. Teun A. Van Dijk's Social Cognition Theory suggests that media doesn't just reflect reality—it actively shapes it. By selectively reporting on Hamas's actions, CNN is contributing to a narrative that favors one side of the War, inadvertently supporting the Israeli government's perspective. This, in turn, reinforces existing power structures and limits public understanding of the full scope of violence.

4.2.1.6 Disinformation and Media Responsibility

The spread of misinformation in War zones, especially in the ongoing IsraelPalestine war, has significant consequences for public opinion and policymaking. Unverified claims, such as the supposed beheadings of children, only add to the already complex geopolitical situation. Moreno & Salvador (2023) note that the rise of partisan reporting and the spread of disinformation in today's media environment only worsen public trust and contribute to the growing polarization of discourse around international Wars.

4.2.2 News: “Hamas Hostage Release – Focusing on Dehumanization”

The CNN article, titled ““I went through hell:’ Released Hamas hostage describes being kidnapped and taken into tunnel system,” published on October 24, 2023, recounts the harrowing experience of Yocheved Lifshitz, an Israeli national who was taken hostage by Hamas during the October 7 assault and later freed. The piece shares her vivid testimony of being transported through a tunnel system in Gaza, bringing to light her pain and the intense suffering she endured. The article emphasizes Israel’s victimization, drawing attention to Lifshitz’s distress and using emotionally charged language to evoke sympathy. Yet, beneath the surface, the way the article frames the captivity of Palestinians versus Israelis reveals a deeper, more politically charged bias in Western media, highlighting a troubling dehumanization when discussing Palestinian prisoners versus Israeli hostages. The article’s portrayal, while deeply focused on the trauma of

Lifshitz's experience, subtly shifts the narrative depending on who the victim is. It uses emotive language to capture the pain of the Israeli hostages while largely ignoring or downplaying the suffering of Palestinian detainees. This creates an uneven emotional appeal that favors one side, reinforcing a broader political narrative that shapes perceptions and empathy.

4.2.2.1 Framing: Hostages Versus Prisoners

One of the most noticeable differences in CNN's coverage is the language used to describe those held by Hamas. Israelis who were captured are consistently called "hostages" a term that carries heavy emotional weight and a sense of victimhood. For example, Lifshitz's experience is framed in a way that paints her as an innocent civilian, forcefully taken and subjected to trauma. Her emotional testimony underscores her suffering and vulnerability. The word "hostage" naturally portrays the captives as innocent victims, which sparks empathy from the public and helps generate political support for Israel. In contrast, Palestinians held by Israeli forces are often referred to as "prisoners," a term that strips away the emotional weight and complexity of their situation. This word presents them in a cold, legalistic way, suggesting that their detention follows a proper legal process, without considering the larger context of their imprisonment under military occupation. It overlooks the injustice of Israel's treatment of Palestinian detainees. By using the term "prisoner," Western media often dehumanizes them, portraying them as individuals simply caught up in legal matters, without acknowledging the unlawful nature of their detention, the absence of a fair trial, or the harsh conditions they endure in Israeli jails.

4.2.2.2 The Impact of Language: Dehumanization of Palestinians

The difference in language between referring to Israelis as "hostages" and Palestinians as "prisoners" highlights a deeper linguistic pattern in Western media that shapes the Israel-Palestine War. This distinction helps reinforce an ideological divide, often sidelining Palestinian voices and perspectives. Victimhood and Empathy for Israelis: The word "hostage" naturally prompts readers to see Israeli captives as innocent victims of an act of terrorism, deserving of sympathy. This framing calls for global support for Israel's military efforts to rescue and protect its citizens. The focus is placed on the trauma and helplessness experienced by Israeli victims. However, it overlooks the ongoing suffering, violence, and collective punishment that Palestinians endure under

Israeli occupation, making it easy to ignore the larger context of their lives. This emotional weight attached to the term “hostage” creates an image of vulnerability and need for protection, while the word “prisoner” often strips Palestinians of that same empathy, reducing them to merely legal figures, disconnected from their human experiences.

4.2.2.3 Normalization of Palestinian Injustice:

By referring to Palestinians as “prisoners,” the media creates a false equivalence between Israelis, whether soldiers or civilians, captured in wartime and Palestinians detained for protesting the occupation, resisting, or even being wrongfully arrested under Israel’s military laws. This framing implies that their detention is lawful and justified, ignoring the reality of the human rights abuses that come with the military detention of thousands of Palestinians without charge or trial.

4.2.2.4 The Use of Selective Narratives: The Humanization of Israeli Captives

While CNN highlights the emotional toll of Lifshitz’s ordeal, emphasizing her statement that she “went through hell,” it downplays her positive comments about how Hamas treated her. She spoke about receiving medical care and being kept in relatively clean conditions, yet these remarks are given little attention. Major outlets like the BBC and CNN often minimize or ignore these more humanizing details about Hamas to maintain the narrative of Hamas as inhumane.

This selective framing positions Israeli hostages as innocent victims, suffering at the hands of cruel captors, while Palestinians are portrayed as the aggressors, with their pain often overlooked or downplayed. Hamas’ care for the hostages, which included attending to their medical needs and ensuring their safety, is framed as an anomaly, while Israeli violence is presented as a justified act of self-defense. This selective storytelling shapes the moral narrative of the War, focusing on certain elements of the story and suppressing others to maintain a dominant political perspective.

4.2.2.5 The Role of Western Media: Framing and Ideology

The way Palestinians and Israelis are described as prisoners versus hostages isn’t just a matter of language; it’s part of a larger ideological battle in Western media. By dehumanizing Palestinians and labeling their resistance and capture as criminal, the media essentially lets Israel off the hook, absolving it of any moral or legal accountability for its actions in the occupied territories. This kind of framing distorts the international

community's understanding of Palestinian suffering and Israeli violations of international law, creating a narrative where Palestinians are seen as illegitimate, and Israel is framed as a victim that needs global protection. By focusing on the victimhood of Israeli hostages, outlets like CNN give strategic support to Israel's self-defense narrative in the ongoing War. The more humanizing aspects of Hamas' treatment of hostages are either ignored or downplayed, which helps continue the demonization of Palestinian resistance. This portrayal obscures the deeper human complexities of both sides and reinforces a one-sided view of the War.

4.2.2 News: "11 Teachers and 30 Students of UN-run Schools Have Died in Gaza, UN Says"

In this article, CNN reports on the heartbreaking deaths of 41 people, 11 teachers and 30 students at UN-run schools in Gaza. The headline frames the loss as a tragic, isolated incident amid an ongoing military War. However, it intentionally omits any mention of Israel's role in these deaths, which seems like a misleading framing choice. The lack of reference to Israel in the headline contributes to the dehumanization of the victims, presenting them not as part of a larger story of military occupation but as casualties of a vague or undefined source of violence. By focusing solely on the number of victims and the institution involved (UN-run schools), the headline distracts from the root cause: Israeli airstrikes that deliberately target civilian infrastructure.

4.2.2.2 Framing and Narrative Techniques

CNN adopts a neutral tone in this report when describing the deaths, attributing them to "violence" without further explaining the role of the Israeli military. Words like "violence" and "strikes" are used without specifying the aggressor, which avoids connecting the deaths to Israeli military actions. While the UN did report these deaths, the report doesn't provide the necessary context that would help readers understand the ongoing pattern of violence perpetrated by the Israeli military, particularly in Gaza, where airstrikes have disproportionately targeted civilian areas, including schools and hospitals. This vagueness in language subtly normalizes the Israeli military's actions as a standard, understandable response, while leaving the Palestinian victims faceless and nameless in the broader narrative.

4.2.2.3 Bias in Language and Manipulation of Facts

The decision to omit Israel's name in both the headline and throughout the article

shows a clear bias in how the narrative is being shaped. It suggests that CNN may be complicit in supporting Israel's justification for the violence in Gaza. By not naming Israel as the perpetrator, the report absolves Israel of any responsibility for the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Gaza, a crisis that stems from its prolonged military occupation. Moreover, CNN doesn't place these tragic deaths within the larger context of Israel's siege on Gaza, its ongoing blockades, frequent airstrikes, and the displacement of Palestinians from their homes. This manipulation of language strips away the agency of the Palestinian people, portraying them as mere victims of random violence, rather than as casualties of a deliberate military strategy by an occupying power.

4.2.2.4 Power Dynamics and Dehumanization

The way the article is framed almost completely erases the responsibility of the Israeli military for these deaths. The language used creates a sense of detachment and ambiguity. Words like "violence," "airstrikes," and "strikes" make the military actions sound impersonal, without highlighting that Israeli airstrikes on civilian structures, such as schools, homes, and hospitals are deliberate acts of violence aimed at undermining the very right of the Palestinian people to live and thrive. By making the focus primarily on the UN-run schools, CNN distorts the reality of Israel's direct attacks on innocent civilians. The report doesn't mention the illegal nature of these airstrikes, which are prohibited under international law because they disproportionately harm civilians, including children. The lack of direct critique of Israel turns the deaths of Palestinian civilians into mere "collateral damage," reinforcing the ongoing dehumanization of Palestinians in Western media. Moreover, this report fits into a larger trend within mainstream Western media, where Israeli violence is often normalized. The language and framing used in this article reflect a broader media strategy that downplays or completely obscures the oppression and suffering of the Palestinian people, portraying them as mere victims, instead of people struggling for their right to self-determination under a brutal military occupation.

4.2.2.5 The Role of Western Media in Israel's Propaganda Campaign

The way CNN frames the events in Gaza subtly contributes to a broader propaganda effort that shields Israel from responsibility for the human rights violations occurring there. By avoiding the explicit mention of Israel as the aggressor and instead using vague language to describe the deaths, the report presents these tragic incidents as

merely part of the chaos of war. This downplays the fact that these are not random acts of violence, but rather targeted, systematic attacks by a powerful military on a population that is already under siege and occupation.

4.2.3 News: “Hamas controlled Health Ministry says...”

4.2.3.1 Language Framing and Bias through Source Selection

The headline of the CNN article itself raises immediate red flags. The phrase “Hamas controlled Health Ministry says” serves a clear purpose: it casts doubt on the credibility of the reported numbers without offering any direct evidence to back that doubt. By using “Hamas-controlled”, CNN is subtly framing the health ministry as politically biased, suggesting that the numbers may be exaggerated or unreliable. This is a familiar tactic in journalism, where a source’s political affiliations are emphasized to discredit its findings even when those findings are crucial for understanding the human impact of the War. This framing creates a division, almost implying that Western media outlets are “objective” and reliable, while Palestinian institutions are inherently biased. Instead of critically examining the accuracy or integrity of the data provided by the health ministry, CNN chooses to discredit the source based solely on its political connections. The double standard here reveals a significant gap in journalistic balance. Moreover, calling the health ministry “Hamas-controlled” while simultaneously holding the same Israeli military actors responsible without naming them directly shows a clear bias in how the media treats the two sides. It underscores the selective focus on Palestinian bias, while disregarding the bias inherent in Israeli government and military statements.

4.2.3.2 Omission of Israeli Accountability

CNN’s decision to include the “Hamas-controlled” disclaimer, without similarly questioning Israel’s political interests, highlights a serious gap in journalistic integrity. The article doesn’t critically examine or question the Israeli military’s direct role in the deaths of Palestinians something that should be a fundamental part of any honest discussion about an ongoing war. Instead, the Israeli military is portrayed as acting in self-defense, simply responding to a Hamas attack, without any mention of the disproportionate nature of their response. The report frames Israeli military actions as part of a campaign to “eliminate the militant group”, but this language shifts the focus away from the humanitarian catastrophe caused by these airstrikes. The deaths are described as the result of “retaliation” rather than as an ongoing assault on civilians,

which subtly justifies Israel's actions. The victims' identities are reduced to mere numbers in a broader military strategy, their stories lost in the larger narrative.

4.2.3.3 Humanizing the Victims – A Missed Opportunity

The article completely misses the chance to humanize the victims of this War. While it provides stark numbers 10,022 dead, including 4,104 children and 611 elderly, these numbers are presented without personal stories, testimonies, or the voices of survivors. What's even more troubling is how the article frames the deaths as just a result of "Israeli strikes" without acknowledging the disproportionate violence or addressing the collective punishment being imposed on an entire civilian population. This is a major ethical failure, as it prevents readers from truly empathizing with the victims. CNN's coverage is a perfect example of how state-focused reporting can distance the audience from the real, human impact of violence. While the article relies heavily on statistics and official data, it doesn't dive into the everyday lives and suffering of the people caught in the bombings. This oversight makes it easy to forget that these numbers represent real people children, the elderly, and innocent civilians who are being systematically targeted and killed. By focusing so much on numbers and official figures, CNN misses the human side of the story, leaving the audience disconnected from the true scale of the tragedy.

4.2.3.4 Inconsistent Framing: Victimhood and Aggression

The article starts by saying, "Israel declared war on Hamas after the Islamist militant group launched a brutal attack on October 7, killing 1,400 in Israel," and immediately frames Israel's response as a defensive action. This language aligns with Israel's self-declared "right to defend itself", but it doesn't critically explore the broader context of the situation, especially the disproportionate use of force by Israel. The article also continues to juxtapose Hamas' actions with Israel's retaliation, which further blurs the lines of power between the two sides. It presents them as if both are engaging in military actions on equal footing. But in reality, Israel has one of the most advanced military forces in the world, complete with fighter jets, drones, and tanks, while the Palestinian side is largely a civilian population with limited resources and minimal defense capabilities. This selective reporting creates the illusion of a balanced "War," when in fact it's more accurate to describe it as an invasion. By framing the situation this way, CNN allows the violence to be seen as mutual, when one side is clearly the aggressor with far more power and resources.

4.2.3.5 Disseminating Disputed Figures without Critical Engagement

In the CNN article, the figures from the Hamas-controlled Ministry of Health are mentioned, but the report stops short of directly questioning or verifying them. Instead, CNN simply notes that they cannot independently confirm the numbers. While acknowledging the impossibility of verification, this passive approach subtly undermines the credibility of the figures. The article doesn't mention that similar casualty numbers are frequently cited and backed up by reputable international organizations like Human Rights Watch and the United Nations. This omission casts doubt on the accuracy of Palestinian casualty figures without offering a fair counterargument or additional evidence. By doing this, CNN diminishes the credibility of the Palestinian Ministry's claims while bolstering the Israeli government's narrative. It's a way of discrediting Palestinian health data under the guise of neutrality, while not holding Israeli military reports to the same level of scrutiny. This double standard reflects not just an ideological bias, but a clear effort to marginalize Palestinian voices in the global media landscape.

6. Conclusion: The Disservice of Neutrality in Reporting CNN's coverage of the Gaza death toll is a prime example of how language can be used strategically to portray an uneven power dynamic as if it were a balanced "War." The choice to label the Palestinian Ministry of Health as "Hamas-controlled" and the failure to address Israel's accountability or the disproportionate nature of its military actions clearly shows a bias in favor of Israel. The uncritical acceptance of official Israeli statements further aligns CNN with Israel's interests, obscuring the magnitude of the humanitarian crisis unfolding in Gaza.

4.2.4 News: "More Than 36 Hours After Deadly Al-Maghazi Refugee Camp Blast, Israel Still Won't Say if it was an Airstrike"

4.2.4.1 Omission of Responsibility: Hiding the Perpetrator

CNN's headline, "More than 36 hours after deadly Al-Maghazi refugee camp blast, Israel still won't say if it was an airstrike," distorts the reality of the situation by suggesting there's some uncertainty about the cause of the explosion. The phrase "still won't say" shifts the focus away from Israel, implying hesitation or reluctance when, in reality, Israel's involvement in the attack is well-documented. Reputable sources like Reuters have already confirmed that it was an Israeli airstrike. But instead of directly naming Israel as the perpetrator, CNN uses the vague term "blast", which makes it sound less specific and more like an unpredictable event. By doing this, CNN shields Israel

from responsibility, contributing to the trend of Western media sanitizing Israel's military actions.

4.2.4.2 Neutralizing Language: Minimizing the Violence

The word “blast” used throughout the article is deliberately neutral, distancing the event from its true nature. Rather than clearly identifying the attack as an Israeli airstrike, CNN chooses a word that makes it seem like the explosion could have been an accident or something unintentional. “Blast” doesn’t capture the devastation caused by a deliberate bombing campaign, nor does it reflect the fact that this was a targeted assault on Palestinian civilians. This manipulation of language serves to minimize the violence and deflect attention away from Israel’s responsibility, helping to obscure the real nature of the harm being done to Palestinians.

4.2.4.3 Absence of Palestinian Voices and Dismissing Victimhood

A major issue with CNN’s coverage is the complete lack of Palestinian voices. Even though the victims are clearly identified as Palestinian civilians, the article primarily focuses on the Israeli military’s version of events, ignoring the real human cost of the explosion. There’s no mention of Palestinian survivors, eyewitnesses, or independent sources who could offer an alternative view to what the Israeli military claims. By excluding these voices, CNN creates a one-sided narrative, where Palestinian suffering is minimized and Israel’s military actions are never seriously questioned.

4.2.4.4 Lack of Critical Engagement with Israeli Sources

CNN heavily quotes an Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) spokesperson, highlighting the uncertainty surrounding the blast, but there’s no real attempt to challenge the truth of what they’re saying. The spokesperson’s statement, “We are conducting activities in the south of Gaza” and “We can’t share at this time the specifics,” is essentially a form of obfuscation. CNN doesn’t dig deeper or ask any follow-up questions, letting the IDF’s narrative stand without challenge. This lack of critical engagement with Israeli sources is a form of journalistic complicity. It allows Israel to control the narrative without any meaningful scrutiny, and it fails to hold them accountable for their actions.

4.2.4.5 Sustaining the Israeli Narrative

CNN’s coverage is a perfect example of how Western media often let powerful states control the narrative without questioning it. The use of neutral language, the omission of responsibility, and the complete absence of Palestinian voices all serve to reinforce the

Israeli narrative, downplaying the role of Israeli military actions in the suffering of Palestinians. By calling the incident an “uncertain blast” and failing to hold Israel accountable, CNN helps normalize the violence Palestinians endure and continues to dehumanize their suffering. This passive reporting, which aligns with Israel’s unverified claims, weakens the credibility of the media and deepens the narrative of Israeli impunity.

4.2.5 News: “Hamas Blames Israel for Impasse in Ceasefire Extension Talks”

4.2.5.1 The Weaponization of Language: "Blames"

The headline itself, “Hamas blames Israel for impasse in ceasefire extension talks,” immediately raises flags with its use of the word “blames.” This term is loaded with emotional weight and, rather than presenting a neutral statement, it casts doubt on the legitimacy of Hamas’ accusations. The word “blames” suggests that these are just unsubstantiated, irrational claims, which immediately puts Hamas on the defensive. It positions Israel as the victim, implicitly questioning the validity of the Palestinian perspective. This is a classic example of how language can be weaponized to influence how readers perceive the situation, nudging them to question Palestinian narratives and validate Israeli actions without critically addressing the broader context of power dynamics.

4.2.5.2 Framing of the Ceasefire Talks: Absence of Context and Power Imbalance

The article reports that Hamas accused Israel of rejecting an offer to extend the ceasefire in exchange for the release of detainees and the return of bodies. The word “refused” is used here, which may sound neutral, but in the context of an ongoing military occupation and humanitarian crisis, it downplays the weight of Israel’s rejection. By using a term like “refused,” CNN presents the action as a mere denial rather than a politically charged and potentially harmful rejection of vital Palestinian humanitarian needs. The power imbalance between the Israeli military and Palestinian civilians is overlooked in favor of a simplistic portrayal of the negotiation as a disagreement between two equally powerful parties. This lack of context shifts the focus away from the broader issues of occupation and the suffering it causes, instead framing the ceasefire talks as an isolated and somewhat technical dispute.

4.2.5.3 The Use of "Claim" to Discredit Palestinian Suffering

The article goes on to state that “Hamas claim they were killed by Israeli

bombardment” when referring to the deaths of women and children. The use of the word “claim” here is a subtle rhetorical device that casts doubt on the truthfulness of the Palestinian narrative. By framing it as a “claim”, CNN implies that the accounts of Palestinian suffering are somehow less credible or unverifiable. This language undermines the validity of the deaths, which are the result of the Israeli military's actions, and calls into question the suffering of Palestinians in a way that would be unacceptable if the situation were reversed. This type of wording distorts the reporting and undermines journalistic integrity by suggesting that Palestinian suffering is open to doubt without presenting any solid justification for doing so.

4.2.6 News: “IDF accepts Unintended Harm to civilians in air strike that killed 70.”

4.2.6.1 Framing of ‘Unintended Harm’

The phrase “unintended harm” is a key element in the language used by CNN in this article, and it carries significant rhetorical weight. At first glance, it might seem like a neutral acknowledgment of the consequences of a military operation, but it does a lot more than that. By using the word “unintended”, the article distances the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) from direct responsibility for civilian deaths. It frames these deaths as unfortunate side effects of military action—careless, but not malicious. This allows the IDF to appear as though it’s simply caught up in the chaos of war, rather than deliberately carrying out actions that directly target civilians. The use of “unintended harm” shifts the focus away from Israel’s role as the aggressor and reframes the incident as a mistake, rather than as part of a systematic pattern of violence. It’s a subtle way of deflecting responsibility, suggesting that the harm done was unavoidable and just a byproduct of military operations, which ultimately gives the Israeli military an out. This framing can make readers feel empathy for the perpetrators, since they’re presented as regretful rather than malicious, which minimizes the real harm inflicted on the Palestinian people.

4.2.6.2 The Absence of ‘Intended Harm’ and the Ambiguity of Accountability

If the harm was unintended, why is there no mention of intended harm? This omission is a deliberate rhetorical strategy. If Israel’s actions were truly unintentional, it begs the question, why is harm to civilians a recurring issue? The absence of “intended harm” creates the illusion of Israeli innocence, implying that the harm done was outside of Israel’s control. It’s almost as if the article wants us to believe that Israel’s actions are always accidental, that the deaths are just part of the chaos of war, and therefore, they

shouldn't be held accountable.

4.2.6.3 Incorporation of the Casualty Number and the Normalization of Mass Violence

The article states, “70 killed”, but this is presented in such a casual tone that it makes the mass loss of life seem almost routine. While this number is indeed a tragedy, the article doesn't take the time to explore the human cost of these deaths. Instead, the emphasis is placed on the operational justifications for Israel's actions, reducing the killings to mere statistics. The lack of emotional depth in reporting the deaths of these civilians their stories, their families, their lives is a key failure here. This normalized approach to the sheer scale of death is incredibly dangerous. By downplaying the tragedy of mass killings, the article creates a subtle narrative that makes large-scale civilian deaths seem like a natural, inevitable part of the ongoing War, rather than something that should be critically examined. The overwhelming violence becomes just another aspect of the “war,” which conveniently shifts attention away from the root causes of the violence and the disproportionate nature of Israel's response.

4.2.6.4 The Structure of Justification: The Use of Quotes from the IDF

When the article quotes the IDF saying “unintended harm”, it presents this as the final, unquestioned word on the matter. There's no challenge or counterpoint from Palestinian voices, human rights groups, or independent military experts. The absence of Palestinian voices or external criticism means the article doesn't offer a balanced view of the situation. By quoting only the IDF and presenting their perspective as authoritative, CNN allows Israel's military narrative to go unchallenged. This lack of diverse voices is troubling, especially since the Israeli military's perspective is presented as neutral or even sympathetic. The article gives the IDF the authority to define the terms of the debate, and it does so without offering a counterpoint that would reflect the Palestinian perspective or contextualize the suffering that Israel's military actions are causing. This one-sided approach diminishes the humanity of the Palestinian people and subtly erases their suffering, making their pain less significant in the broader narrative of the War.

4.2.6.5 The Palestinian Perspective: Absence and Erasure

What's glaringly missing from this article is the Palestinian perspective. There's no mention of Palestinian officials, survivors, or human rights organizations on the ground. The narrative is almost entirely shaped by the Israeli military, with no space given

to Palestinian voices or those who can offer a different interpretation of the violence. This omission severely limits the story and leaves a significant gap in the reporting. The absence of Palestinian voices isn't just an oversight it's an ideological choice that diminishes the validity of their suffering. By focusing exclusively on the Israeli perspective, CNN effectively marginalizes the Palestinians who are directly impacted by the violence. The lack of this counter-narrative delegitimizes their suffering and prevents the reader from fully understanding the depth of the tragedy.

4.2.6.6 Framing the War: 'Airstrike' vs. 'Bombing'

Finally, the use of the term "airstrike" deserves attention. While technically accurate, it's important to recognize that the word "airstrike" doesn't convey the full scale of violence involved. It sounds clinical, almost precise, and hides the brutal reality of the situation. The reality is that these "airstrikes" are often directed at densely populated civilian areas homes, schools, hospitals areas that are not military targets. Using more specific language like "bombing civilians" or "indiscriminate targeting" would more accurately convey the devastation and the human rights violations at play here. But by sticking with the softer term "airstrike," the article avoids directly confronting the disproportionate force used by Israel against civilians. This subtle language choice normalizes the violence and dehumanizes the victims, making it harder for readers to grasp the scale of the destruction and the human toll it takes on innocent lives.

4.2.6.7 Intellectual Dishonesty in Shaping Public Perception

At its core, this article is an example of intellectual dishonesty. Through the use of passive and manipulative language like "unintended harm" and "airstrike", CNN sanitizes Israel's actions and neutralizes the ethical concerns surrounding them. By failing to incorporate Palestinian voices or critical analysis, the article perpetuates a biased narrative that shields Israel from accountability while erasing the Palestinian experience of suffering and resistance.

4.2.7 News: "Hundreds Gather to Mourn Slain Al Jazeera Journalist Samer Abu Daqqa in Gaza"

4.2.7.1 Language of Ambiguity: "Accused" vs. "Fact"

Right from the headline, "Al Jazeera's Gaza bureau chief Wael Dahdouh, who lost his wife, daughter, son, and grandson in an Israeli airstrike...", the word "accused" stands out as a problematic choice. It's a word that immediately introduces doubt, making it sound

like Dahdouh's claim about the airstrike is merely an accusation rather than a verifiable fact. The loss of his family in an airstrike, in an area that Israel was bombing, is not up for debate it's something that can be independently verified. Yet CNN uses the word "accused" to frame his statement as if it's still under question, which feels intellectually dishonest. The word "accused" in this context undermines the gravity of the situation by suggesting that the Israeli military's role in these deaths could still be debated, casting doubt on the clear responsibility of Israel. This is a subtle but effective way of deflecting responsibility, shifting the conversation from a tragic fact to a supposed accusation. By doing this, CNN takes a step back from holding Israel accountable, while making the story feel less certain and less urgent.

4.2.7.2 Centering Israeli Military Response with the "Verification" Problem

When the article says, "CNN cannot independently verify the allegations. CNN has contacted the Israeli military for comment but has not heard back," it raises an important issue about journalistic integrity. This phrasing suggests that CNN is adopting a neutral stance, looking for "verification" from the Israeli military. But here's the problem: the core facts are already known. Israel has been bombing Gaza, and Dahdouh's family died in one of those airstrikes. So, why the need for "verification"? The idea that this is still up for verification distorts the truth. By including the "verification" issue, CNN subtly delays responsibility and gives Israel a pass. The phrasing makes it seem like the situation is still under investigation, creating an unnecessary doubt where none should exist. The truth—that Israel's military strikes are directly causing civilian casualties—gets lost in this process of "verification," which deflects focus from Israel's direct role in the violence. It weakens the seriousness of the action, making it seem like a vague issue still up for review, rather than a direct and ongoing violation of Palestinian lives.

4.2.7.3 Failure to Hold Israel Accountable

The article briefly mentions that "the Network holds Israel accountable for systematically targeting and killing Al Jazeera journalists and their families." But this statement gets somewhat lost in the broader framing. While the article acknowledges the death of Dahdouh's family, the surrounding language particularly the "verification" framing—allows Israel to avoid direct accountability. By leaving the idea of "targeting" vague and unchallenged, the piece doesn't stress how consistent and systematic these actions have been, nor does it present any real inquiry into Israel's responsibility. The

failure to hold Israel directly accountable here is significant. CNN does little to question Israel's military operations or address the broader issue of the ongoing targeting of journalists, which is a clear violation of international law. The article's tone lets Israel off the hook by framing these deaths as part of a broader, still-to-be-verified incident, rather than focusing on Israel's long-standing pattern of violence against journalists, civilians, and human rights workers.

4.2.7.4 Inserting Context to Shift Blame: The “Some Context” Approach

At one point, the article states: “As of Friday, 64 journalists have been killed, and 13 injured, while covering Israel’s war with Hamas, making it the most dangerous period for the profession in 31 years, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists.” While this is important information, it subtly shifts focus away from the direct violence inflicted by Israeli airstrikes on journalists, to the broader dangers posed by the War with Hamas. By framing it in this way, CNN redirects blame away from Israel’s direct actions. Instead of focusing on how Israel has targeted journalists, hospitals, and civilian infrastructure, the article frames the danger as something related to Hamas, shifting the focus to the wider War. This shift in focus helps normalize the violence and deflects attention from Israel’s role as the primary aggressor. It subtly reinforces the narrative that Hamas is responsible for the danger posed to journalists, even though Israeli airstrikes have been the direct cause of many of these deaths.

4.2.7.5 The Complicit Media Narrative

After analyzing the article, it becomes clear that CNN is engaging in a form of journalistic complicity. By using phrases like “accused” and the demand for “verification”, CNN deflects responsibility from Israel and frames its actions as uncertain or unintentional. The lack of critical examination and accountability when it comes to Israel’s actions in Gaza is problematic, and it allows the broader narrative of Israeli self-defense to persist without challenge. Additionally, by not incorporating Palestinian perspectives, human rights organizations, or independent sources to give context to the deaths of journalists like Wael Dahdouh’s family, CNN further marginalizes the suffering of Palestinians. The reporting presents Israel’s actions as part of a broader War, but this framing ignores the power imbalance and the disproportionate violence experienced by the Palestinian people. It diminishes the moral weight of Israel’s military aggression, making it seem like a natural, inevitable part of the War, rather than the result of a prolonged occupation and military

occupation.

4.2.8 News: “Israel security agency investigating at least 2 Gaza hospital directors”

In CNN’s coverage of the Israeli security agency Shin Bet’s investigation into Gaza hospital directors, the framing and language choices expose deep-rooted biases that deserve serious scrutiny. Through selective wording, imbalanced verification standards, and uncritical repetition of Israeli narratives, the report reveals troubling gaps in journalistic fairness and ethical responsibility. Below is a closer look at the core issues within the article:

4.2.8.1 Passive Framing and Vague Language

The headline, “Israel security agency investigating at least 2 Gaza hospital directors” uses passive construction and cautious phrasing like “at least,” which conveys uncertainty without context. It avoids explaining the reasons behind the investigation and, in doing so, casts suspicion on the hospital directors without offering concrete evidence. This subtle framing makes a controversial and potentially unlawful act appear routine and unremarkable.

4.2.8.2 Normalizing State Power and Omitting Legal Context

CNN reports on Shin Bet’s actions as if they’re standard procedure, failing to raise critical legal or humanitarian questions. There’s no mention of international laws protecting medical professionals in War zones like those outlined in the Geneva Conventions. The article doesn’t question the legitimacy of Israel’s authority in Gaza or the implications of detaining medical staff in a warzone. By framing this as a straightforward “investigation,” CNN risks presenting a deeply political and legally fraught move as a neutral fact.

4.2.8.3 Uneven Scrutiny of Sources

When Israeli authorities make claims—such as alleging ties between doctors and Hamas CNN reports them without challenge. Yet, when Palestinian voices speak, CNN routinely includes disclaimers like “CNN cannot independently verify.” This uneven application of skepticism fosters a perception that Israeli statements are more credible by default. That imbalance, even if unintentional, skews the reader’s trust toward one side.

4.2.8.4 Serious Allegations Without Context or Evidence

CNN cites Shin Bet's claim that a doctor admitted ties to Hamas and the Al Qassam Brigades. However, it fails to critically analyze the interrogation itself or the circumstances under which statements were made. The phrase "it is not clear whether Al-Kahlot was speaking under duress" is the only hint at potential coercion. There's no exploration of whether these confessions were reliable, raising ethical concerns about repeating such serious allegations without a deeper examination.

4.2.8.5 Making Extraordinary Actions Seem Ordinary

By covering the arrest of medical professionals as if it were part of everyday wartime operations, CNN downplays the gravity of the situation. There's no reference to the broader context of Gaza's blockade, occupation, or the humanitarian crisis. The report strips away the political and moral complexity of arresting doctors, instead presenting it as a logistical event in the fog of war.

4.2.8.6 Double Standards in Fact-Checking

When Palestinian claims are made, CNN reflexively adds caveats about independent verification. But when Israeli authorities level accusations, those caveats vanish. This inconsistency in applying journalistic standards contributes to a one-sided narrative and undermines the credibility of the coverage.

4.2.8.7 Language That Obscures Power and Responsibility

CNN repeatedly uses the word "unclear" when describing key elements of the story such as whether statements were made under duress. But that same caution isn't applied to Israeli claims. This selective ambiguity muddies the waters when Palestinians are concerned, yet implicitly validates Israel's assertions, reinforcing an imbalanced portrayal.

4.2.8.8 Reinforcing Power Through Unchallenged Narratives

By relying on Israeli sources like Shin Bet and the IDF without balancing their claims with Palestinian perspectives or independent analysis, CNN's reporting ends up legitimizing the state narrative. Phrases like "Shin Bet was investigating" go unchallenged, leaving out any legal, ethical, or humanitarian scrutiny. This silence implies that these actions are justified or even necessary, rather than controversial or potentially unlawful.

4.2.8.9 A Skewed Narrative Through Language

On the surface, CNN's article appears factual. But a deeper reading shows a clear pattern: Israeli sources are treated as authoritative and Palestinian voices as dubious. This imbalance creates a distorted view of events, subtly validating Israeli military actions while minimizing the human and legal toll on Palestinians. By failing to interrogate the power dynamics at play, CNN's reporting does more than misrepresent facts—it shapes public perception in a way that excuses injustice and erodes journalistic integrity.

4.2.9 News: “Israel wouldn’t Authorize Fuel to Gaza due to Potential of Hamas Stealing it, Netanyahu Senior Advisor says”

CNN's coverage of the Israeli government's refusal to allow fuel into Gaza—despite the worsening humanitarian crisis offers a clear example of how subtle language choices can shape public perception. Through carefully framed statements and selective emphasis, the article reinforces a narrative that justifies Israeli policy while downplaying or obscuring the suffering of Palestinians. By applying a Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) lens, we can see how word choices, structure, and framing contribute to a skewed representation of the crisis.

4.2.9.1 Framing the Headline and Opening Lines

The headline, “Israel wouldn’t authorize fuel to Gaza due to potential of Hamas stealing it, Netanyahu senior advisor says,” presents Israel’s decision as logical and security-based. It frames the issue not as a humanitarian emergency but as a matter of precaution. The word “stealing” carries serious weightit associates Hamas, and by extension Palestinians, with criminality. Rather than highlighting the urgent medical and infrastructure needs in Gaza, the focus shifts to potential wrongdoing, casting suspicion and moral blame on those in need. This choice of framing diverts attention from the root cause of the crisis the Israeli blockade and suggests the problem lies not in the denial of aid but in the fear of its misuse. This approach shifts the narrative from empathy to suspicion and from accountability to justification.

4.2.9.2 The Rhetoric of “Unintended Harm”

A senior advisor to Netanyahu is quoted as saying that denying fuel was a government decision because it could be “used to power rockets that are fired into Israel to kill our people.” In this framing, the suffering of Gaza’s civilians becomes secondary collateral damage framed as “unintended.” The phrase subtly removes agency from

Israel's leadership by implying that civilian harm is accidental, not a result of deliberate policy choices. This framing also sidesteps the reality of the power imbalance: Israel, as the occupying power, controls Gaza's borders and supplies. By focusing on "unintended harm," the article avoids confronting the moral implications of denying vital aid to a population in need and portrays Israel's actions as reluctant necessities rather than strategic decisions with deadly consequences.

4.2.9.3 Vagueness and "We Presume"

Another quote, "We presume it was diverted to their military mission" uses ambiguity to suggest suspicion without proof. The word "presume" introduces just enough doubt to justify a harsh policy, while leaving the actual facts unexamined. This rhetorical move gives Israel room to act while sidestepping direct accountability. It shifts the focus from what is actually happening people in Gaza losing access to lifesaving fuel to what might be happening, based on speculation. Meanwhile, the article fails to underline the essential role of fuel in keeping hospitals open and basic infrastructure functioning. Instead of grounding the discussion in humanitarian realities, the focus remains on hypothetical threats.

4.2.9.4 Fuel as "Stolen" vs. Aid as "Vital"

In another section, CNN contrasts the term "vital humanitarian aid" with claims that Hamas has "stolen" fuel. The imagery here is powerful. On one hand, we're reminded of the essential nature of the aid; on the other, we're told that it has been "stolen at gunpoint." These contrasting images frame the narrative as a moral choice: give fuel and risk theft, or withhold it and stay "responsible".

4.2.9.5 The Power Dynamic Behind the Language

One of the most revealing lines is Israel's claim that it is "not interested in more fuel." This statement implies control over borders, supplies, and ultimately, over life and death in Gaza. Yet the article does not interrogate the ethics of this control. Instead, the narrative assumes that Israel has the right to make such decisions unilaterally, even when those decisions come at enormous human cost.

This reveals a deeper assumption: that Israel's interests and judgments are paramount, and that Palestinian survival is a secondary concern. By repeating this logic uncritically, the article reinforces an unequal power dynamic that has long defined the War.

4.2.9.6 Moral Blind Spots in Reporting

What the report fails to address is the central moral question: Can it ever be acceptable to deny fuel to a population in crisis? By framing Israel's actions as careful and security-minded—rather than punitive or inhumane—the article avoids this uncomfortable but essential question. In doing so, it helps maintain a media narrative in which Israel's decisions are normalized and rarely challenged, while Palestinian suffering is either minimized or blamed on internal actors.

Table.3: News Report from Al Jazeera

	Title	Date
4.3.1	Palestinians return to destroyed homes in Gaza as Israel-Hamas truce begins	November 24, 2023
4.3.2	Jailed without charge: How Israel holds thousands of prisoners	November 29, 2023
4.3.3	Gaza's children and elderly are bearing the brunt of the devastation inflicted by Israel's war on the enclave	October 28, 2023
4.3.4	Israel pummels Gaza after Hamas's unprecedented attack	October 07, 2023
4.3.5	What has Israel 'found' in Gaza's al-Shifa Hospital?	November 16, 2023
4.3.6	Israeli settlers kill Palestinian farmer	November 30, 2017
4.3.7	Israel frees hospital chief with prisons 'full' of Gaza captives	July 1, 2024
4.3.8	Beyond Maghazi: What controversial weapons has Israel used in Gaza war?	December 29, 2023
4.3.9	Biden reportedly ignored staff caution on 'beheaded Israeli babies'	November 27, 2023
4.3.10	Israel arrests Palestinian activist Ahed Tamimi in occupied West Bank raids	November 06, 2023

4.3.1 News: “Palestinians Return to Destroyed Homes in Gaza as Israel- Hamas Truce Begins”

This headline paints a powerful and emotional picture, immediately calling to minscenes of devastation and despair. However, the use of the word “return” is somewhat misleading. It suggests a voluntary homecoming, as if people had left by choice and are now simply going back. In reality, this “return” is the result of forced displacement under harrowing conditions families driven from their homes by relentless airstrikes and military occupation. Using “return” in this context downplays the trauma and lack of agency these families have experienced. They're not resuming normal life; they're stepping into the ruins of what once was. The phrase “destroyed homes” stands out. Al Jazeera does not soften the reality with euphemisms like “damaged” or “impacted.” “Destroyed” is a blunt and evocative term it is precise, it is raw, and it captures both the physical devastation and the emotional weight of what has been lost. It reflects the scale of the violence in a way that demands the reader's attention and empathy.

4.3.1.1 Framing and Language Choices

The following paragraph reads:

“With children and pets in their arms and their belongings loaded onto donkey carts or car roofs, thousands of displaced Gaza Palestinians have set off for home as a four-day Israel-Hamas truce began.”

This line is rich with emotionally charged imagery. Words like “children,” “pets,” and the sight of belongings piled onto donkey carts or strapped to car roofs are meant to stir empathy and human connection. These details emphasize how deeply vulnerable the displaced families are not only stripped of their homes but also clinging to whatever small pieces of their lives they could salvage. The image of donkey carts, in particular, speaks volumes. It's a quiet but powerful symbol of poverty and desperation, showing that these families aren't heading back to safety or comfort they're walking into ruins, unsure of what's left. The word “truce” carries particular weight in this context. Unlike “ceasefire,” which often implies a more formal or potentially lasting agreement, “truce” suggests something far more fragile and shortlived—a temporary lull in violence. This idea is echoed in how the return of displaced Palestinians is portrayed: not as a triumphant homecoming, but as a brief glimmer of hope in the shadow of weeks of intense War. The choice to use “truce” is intentional. It subtly underscores the uncertainty and instability of the situation, reminding us that this pause in fighting is just that a pause. For those returning, it doesn't

bring real safety or assurance, only a narrow window to reclaim what little remains.

4.3.1.2 The Role of Language in Shaping Public Perception

Consider the sentence:

"The din of war was replaced on Friday by the horns of traffic jams and sirens of ambulances making their way through crowds emerging from hospitals and schools where they had taken refuge."

This line masterfully uses contrast to convey the shifting tone on the ground. The phrase "the din of war" evokes an intense, chaotic soundscape filled with explosions and destruction a powerful reminder of the violence people have endured. Its replacement by the "horns of traffic jams" initially suggests a return to something more ordinary, even annoying. It hints at a city attempting to breathe again, to resume a rhythm. But that hopeful note is immediately tempered by the "sirens of ambulances," a clear sign that the suffering has not ended. The presence of ambulances pushing through crowds emerging from makeshift shelters like hospitals and schools signals ongoing trauma, injury, and need. The sentence delicately suggests that although the fighting has paused, its aftermath continues to weigh heavily. The language subtly holds those responsible to account without naming Israel directly in this line, it aligns with the broader narrative of ongoing consequences tied to the recent military actions. The article later states:

"For nearly seven weeks, Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip had been relentless."

This line leaves no ambiguity about where responsibility lies. The word "relentless" is especially powerful it suggests a sustained, unforgiving assault that shows no signs of letting up, regardless of the toll on human life. It paints a picture of an overwhelming force pressing on with little regard for the civilians caught in its path. "Relentless" is not a neutral description; it conveys intensity, aggression, and a sense of calculated persistence.

What stands out is that the article doesn't attempt to deflect or soften the reality. Instead, it directly addresses the magnitude of Israel's military campaign in Gaza. With more than 1.7 million people displaced and entire neighborhoods reduced to rubble, this language reflects the staggering scale of the devastation. It's a clear and unapologetic acknowledgment of the consequences of the bombardment consistent with Al Jazeera's forthright approach to covering the War.

4.3.2 News: “Jailed without charge: How Israel holds thousands of prisoners”

4.3.2.1 Language Framing and Word Choice

The article's headline and opening sentences employ emotionally resonant terms such as “Jailed without charge,” “terrorists,” and “discriminates.” These words are strategically chosen to immediately convey a sense of injustice and highlight perceived power imbalances. The phrase “Jailed without charge” casts Palestinian detainees as victims of an unjust system. The emphasis on the absence of formal charges suggests their detention lacks legitimacy, encouraging readers to see these individuals as unfairly treated. Israel's labeling of Palestinian prisoners as “terrorists” plays a crucial role in shaping public perception. This terminology fosters a divisive “us vs. them” narrative. By framing Palestinian detainees in this way, the article implies that Israeli actions are justified by national security concerns, even as the designation itself remains politically and morally contested. The word “discriminates” signals systemic inequality within the Israeli legal and political framework. It underscores a structural disparity that forms a key part of the broader narrative the article constructs.

4.3.2.2 Power Dynamics

The article underlines Israel's dominance not only in physical terms through imprisonment but also in controlling the broader narrative about Palestinian resistance. The phrase “Israel has presented imprisoned Palestinians as terrorists” suggests that Israel exercises considerable influence over how these individuals are portrayed. Furthermore, the disparity in legal proceedings where Israeli citizens are tried in civilian courts while Palestinians are subject to military tribunals reinforces this power imbalance. This dual legal system serves as a stark illustration of institutional inequality, framing Palestinians as subject to harsher, less impartial treatment under occupation.

4.3.2.3 Underlying Ideologies

The report implicitly critiques the Israeli judicial process by highlighting the differences in how justice is administered to Israelis and Palestinians. It paints a picture of a biased system that lacks fairness. The narrative presents Israel's actions as being justified under the guise of security, while Palestinians are depicted as lacking proper legal recourse. The discussion of administrative detention, a practice that allows individuals to be held without formal charges, frames it as an oppressive mechanism, encouraging readers to question its legality and ethical implications.

4.3.2.4 Depiction of Palestinians

The article portrays Palestinians as victims of a system marked by discrimination and legal inequity. It emphasizes the absence of due process, the prevalence of administrative detention, and the denial of basic rights all of which serve to humanize the Palestinian plight. The mention that 80% of detainees chosen for release had never been formally charged adds weight to the argument of arbitrary detention, reinforcing the sense of injustice that permeates the article.

4.3.2.5 Structure and Bias

The article incorporates a humanitarian lens, particularly in its reference to the imprisonment of Palestinian children. This detail invites moral reflection and empathy from readers. Structurally, the article builds a compelling argument—starting with Israel's treatment of prisoners and culminating in a critique of its legal system. The inclusion of data on child detainees and uncharged prisoners lends an air of objectivity, while subtly affirming the article's critical perspective.

4.3.2.6 Use of Data Visualizations

Although the article lacks photographs, it supplements its narrative with graphs and statistics. These visuals help to quantify the scale of administrative detention and support the broader argument that the issue is systemic. This Al Jazeera excerpt exemplifies how media outlets can use language, framing, and structure to reflect deeper ideological positions. Through selective word choice and thematic focus, the article portrays Israel as an occupying force that enforces systemic injustice against Palestinians. The unequal legal treatment of Israelis and Palestinians underscores this imbalance, positioning the latter as victims of an oppressive regime.

4.3.3 News: “Gaza’s Children and Elderly are Bearing The Brunt of the Devastation Inflicted by Israel’s War on the Enclave”

4.3.3.1 Framing and Word Choice

The phrase “Gaza’s children and elderly are bearing the brunt” powerfully underscores the impact of the war on the most vulnerable members of society. “Bearing the brunt” is emotionally charged, it suggests a heavy burden of suffering that falls most harshly on those least able to withstand it. This framing brings the human toll to the forefront, making the cost of military action deeply personal. The expression “inflicted by Israel’s war on the enclave” adds another layer of weight. Describing the situation as a

“war” frames it as a sustained, organized military campaign rather than an isolated skirmish. “Inflicted” points to intent and agency, suggesting that the destruction isn’t accidental or collateral it is the outcome of deliberate military action. These word choices place responsibility squarely on Israel’s shoulders, casting the country as the actor behind widespread harm.

4.3.3.2 Power Imbalance and Narrative Framing

The article positions Israel as the powerful aggressor in an asymmetrical War. The consistent use of “war” rather than more neutral terms like “War” or “escalation” reinforces this view. Israel is portrayed as waging an organized and forceful military campaign, while Gaza, represented by its elderly and children, is depicted as overwhelmingly powerless and exposed. This framing removes ambiguity it does not portray the War as a struggle between equals but rather as an imbalanced situation in which one side dominates militarily and the other suffers immensely. By placing children and the elderly at the center of the story, the narrative drives home the point that those bearing the consequences are not fighters, but civilians with no part in the violence.

4.3.3.3 Malnutrition and the Escalating Humanitarian Crisis

Phrases like “sharp rise in malnutrition among children” serve as urgent signals of a deepening humanitarian emergency. The word “sharp” suggests a rapid and alarming increase, while the focus on children frames the issue not just as a short-term tragedy but as a long-term destruction of Gaza’s future. The detail that “one in 10 Gaza children tested in UNRWA clinics” is malnourished links military operations directly to child suffering. The mention of Salam, a seven-month-old baby who died from malnutrition, adds a deeply personal, emotional layer. By putting a name and face to the suffering, the article moves beyond abstract statistics, asking the reader to connect emotionally with the human cost.

4.3.3.4 Aid, Blockade, and Responsibility

The reference to GHF as the sole provider of food in Gaza emphasizes how restricted and fragile the aid infrastructure has become. The fact that this provider is tied to Israel adds complexity Palestinians must depend on aid connected to the very country conducting the blockade and military operations. This dependency intensifies the power imbalance, making the survival of the population reliant on the entity accused of causing their suffering. The stark statistic, “more than 870 Palestinians have been killed while trying to access food” adds urgency and moral clarity. The use of the word “killed”

eliminates ambiguity: these are not accidental deaths, but casualties resulting from violent encounters, often at aid distribution sites. The article draws a straight line from military policy to human loss, especially among children and the elderly.

4.3.3.5 Blockade as a Strategy of Control

The phrase “Israel imposed a nearly three-month blockade, halting aid deliveries altogether” presents the blockade not as a defensive measure, but as an active tool of warfare. The implication is that this is not simply about military engagement, but about restricting access to life-saving supplies, an act that weaponizes scarcity. This framing casts the blockade as a deliberate effort to exert control over Gaza’s population by denying them food, water, and medicine. It paints a picture of systemic deprivation aimed not just at militants, but at ordinary civilians, including babies, the sick, and the elderly. The article’s language, structure, and imagery work together to present a clear and emotionally resonant critique of Israel’s military operations and blockade in Gaza. By centering the story on children and the elderly, it highlights the devastating toll on those least able to endure war. The framing of Israel as the active force behind the suffering, and Gaza’s population as the passive victims, creates a powerful narrative of injustice and humanitarian crisis

4.3.4 News: “Israel pummels Gaza after Hamas’s Unprecedented Attack”

4.3.4.1 Framing and Word Choice

The article’s headline “Israel pummels Gaza after Hamas’s unprecedented attack” uses the word “pummels,” a forceful verb that conveys the intensity and severity of Israel’s military actions. Interestingly, the piece does not refer to Hamas as a “terrorist” organization. Instead, it describes the group’s actions as an “unprecedented attack,” a phrase that underscores the shock and scale of the event without applying overtly negative labels. By doing so, the article steers clear of loaded terminology, maintaining a neutral tone in its portrayal of Hamas and focusing instead on the surprising nature of the assault. Describing Hamas’s operation as “unprecedented” highlights its magnitude and unexpected character. This choice of words draws attention to the significance of the event while stopping short of passing judgment on Hamas’s motives or tactics. By avoiding terms such as “terrorist,” the coverage adopts a more balanced approach to the portrayal of the group and the broader War.

4.3.4.2 Power Imbalance and Victimhood

The article places significant emphasis on the impact of Israel’s military response,

particularly on Palestinian civilians. The report notes that “at least 198 Palestinians have been killed,” spotlighting the high human cost of the airstrikes. By foregrounding this figure, the narrative shifts from portraying Palestinians merely as aggressors aligned with Hamas to recognizing them as victims of the escalating violence. The additional mention of “hundreds of others wounded” further paints a picture of a mounting humanitarian crisis. It signals that the damage is not confined to combatants but has deeply affected civilians, reinforcing the narrative of widespread suffering in Gaza.

4.3.4.3 Casualty Reporting and Implied Critique

While the article includes casualty figures from both the Israeli and Palestinian sides, it refrains from implying a moral equivalence. The numbers presented 198 Palestinian deaths compared to 100 Israeli fatalities underline the asymmetry in loss. This stark contrast in the death toll subtly critiques the extent of Israel’s military retaliation, raising questions about proportionality and the civilian toll in Gaza. The framing suggests that while both sides have experienced loss, the Palestinian side has borne the brunt of the violence. By emphasizing this imbalance, the article invites readers to consider the broader consequences of military retaliation on a vulnerable civilian population.

4.3.4.4 Representation of Military Power and Civilian Impact

In describing Israel’s actions, the article repeatedly positions the country as the dominant military force. Terms like “air raids” and the recurring use of “pummels” emphasize Israel’s overwhelming firepower. The portrayal of Israel as reacting to Hamas’s surprise assault reinforces its military superiority, while simultaneously showing how this power manifests in large-scale destruction. Rather than focusing solely on Hamas’s tactics, the coverage shifts toward the broader human impact specifically, how the civilian population in Gaza is caught in the crossfire. The emphasis on disproportionate casualties positions Palestinians not simply as participants in the War, but as individuals suffering under the weight of a vastly more powerful adversary.

4.3.4.5. Justification and Narrative Framing

While the article acknowledges that Hamas initiated the War, it avoids portraying the group’s actions as pure aggression. Instead, Hamas’s strike is described as a provocative military act, without the moral condemnation often seen in other outlets. The piece spends less time unpacking Hamas’s motivations and more on the consequences of

Israel's response. This framing doesn't excuse or justify Hamas's attack, but it does provide a wider context by shedding light on the suffering endured by Palestinians. By focusing on the humanitarian toll—particularly the deaths of civilians—it indirectly validates the urgency of addressing Palestinian grievances, even as the War escalates. Al Jazeera's report maintains a measured tone in its language, refraining from using labels like "terrorist" to describe Hamas. Instead, it acknowledges the violence perpetrated by both sides while centering its attention on the disproportionate impact of Israel's response. Through statistics, word choice, and narrative structure, the article paints a picture of Palestinian suffering, suggesting that the true cost of the War lies in the devastation faced by civilians in Gaza.

4.3.5 News: "What has Israel 'found' in Gaza's al-Shifa Hospital?"

The headline, "What has Israel 'found' in Gaza's al-Shifa Hospital?", immediately sets a skeptical tone. The quotation marks around the word "found" signal doubt and suggest that Israel's claims should not be accepted at face value. Rather than presenting the information as a confirmed fact, the headline encourages readers to question the reliability and intent behind Israel's statements regarding the hospital.

4.3.5.1 Language and Framing

Throughout the article, the language chosen reinforces a tone of critical distance from Israel's narrative. Words like "claims," "asserts," and "insists" imply that Israel's statements are up for scrutiny rather than universally accepted truths. These word choices create space for doubt and urge the reader to consider the possibility that there may be more to the story. The framing of Israel's actions reinforces this skepticism. While Israel says it discovered weapons, the article points out inconsistencies and questions the reliability of these findings. This framing avoids accepting military claims as fact and instead presents them as assertions that require evidence. Quotation marks are also used effectively terms like "found" and "claims" are placed in quotes to further question the credibility of the statements. This technique subtly signals to the reader that these accounts are being presented as potentially dubious or politically motivated.

4.3.5.2 Palestinian Perspective

The article offers a space for Palestinian voices, notably that of Mustafa Barghouti, who directly challenges Israel's claims. Barghouti argues that the evidence presented, such as a Kalashnikov and a laptop, could have been placed there deliberately, adding weight to

the argument that the narrative may be constructed rather than discovered. By including Hamas's denial and their claim that Israel planted weapons at the hospital, the article brings forward an opposing narrative. This inclusion is critical for maintaining journalistic balance and for offering readers a broader context in which to evaluate the claims.

4.3.5.3 Analysis of the Video Evidence

A key focus of the article is Israel's video footage purporting to show weapons hidden in al-Shifa Hospital. However, the article scrutinizes this footage, noting that it was taken down and re-uploaded with edits. This draws attention to potential manipulation and weakens the credibility of the material. It suggests that even evidence presented as visual proof should not be accepted uncritically. Al Jazeera's mention of the editing process adds a layer of transparency to the article's critique, inviting the reader to question not just the content of the footage, but the intent behind its release and revision.

4.3.5.4 Humanitarian Framing

The article grounds much of its reporting in the humanitarian consequences of the Israeli raid. It notes that more than 2,000 civilians were sheltering at al-Shifa Hospital at the time, and it details the damage caused to key medical departments. By focusing on the destruction of a medical facility and the disruption of healthcare for civilians, the article reframes the narrative. It shifts the spotlight from military objectives to human suffering, highlighting the ethical and legal concerns surrounding the use of force in protected civilian spaces.

4.3.5.5 Contradictory Claims

The article doesn't shy away from noting the contradictions in the Israeli narrative, particularly surrounding the alleged tunnels beneath the hospital. It points out that Palestinian officials and international observers have not corroborated these claims, adding to the skepticism. Barghouti's assertion that Israel is "lying" puts the credibility of the Israeli military under direct challenge. This statement reflects the broader Palestinian accusation that Israel is using misinformation to justify its actions raising questions about the motivations behind the military raid.

4.3.5.6 Global Reaction and Call for Accountability

The piece also brings in the international dimension. While noting that President Joe Biden has voiced support for Israel's version of events, the article balances this with coverage of Hamas's call for an independent investigation. This contrast highlights the

global divide in how the events are being interpreted and the need for third-party verification. Calls for impartial investigations give the article added legitimacy by underscoring the importance of accountability. The implication is that such a process would help clarify the truth and avoid relying solely on politically motivated narratives.

4.3.5.7 Visual Storytelling

The use of images in the article enhances its emotional and human appeal. Photos of destruction at the hospital, as well as maps of the facility, add context and gravity to the reporting. They provide a visual narrative that supports the textual one making the consequences of the raid tangible for the reader. Photos of Israeli soldiers inside the hospital underscore the militarized nature of the operation, creating a sharp contrast with the setting of a civilian healthcare facility. This visual juxtaposition deepens the impact of the humanitarian framing.

4.3.5.8 Tone and Overall Message

The tone is cautious and analytical, avoiding overt accusations while clearly signaling that Israel's claims require thorough examination. By ending with Hamas's call for an independent investigation, the article leaves readers with a sense of unresolved tension and a push for greater transparency.

This Al Jazeera report represents a critical and investigative approach to a highly sensitive and contested situation. It does not simply relay official statements but interrogates them, placing them alongside counterclaims and context. Through strategic language, inclusion of multiple perspectives, focus on humanitarian consequences, and scrutiny of the evidence, the article encourages readers to think critically.

Rather than accepting the dominant narrative, the report invites a more nuanced understanding of the events surrounding al-Shifa Hospital. In doing so, it promotes journalistic integrity and the importance of maintaining skepticism and balance in times of War.

4.3.6 News: “Israeli settlers Killed a Palestinian Farmer”

4.3.6.1 Language and Framing

The phrase “Israeli settlers kill Palestinian farmer” is direct and uncompromising. The use of the word “kill” is deliberately strong avoiding more neutral alternatives like

“shot” or “died” and conveys a sense of finality and brutality. It foregrounds the act of violence in a way that leaves little room for ambiguity, suggesting intent or at least a forceful action with grave consequences. The contrast between “Israeli settlers” and “Palestinian farmer” is especially significant. “Israeli settlers” links the perpetrators to the controversial settlements in the occupied West Bank, situating them as actors within a broader geopolitical War. The word “settlers” is particularly charged; it sidesteps more neutral descriptors like “citizens” or “individuals” and instead evokes associations with colonization, displacement, and illegality under international law. This choice positions the settlers as aggressors and implies their presence is inherently provocative or unlawful. In contrast, describing the victim as a “Palestinian farmer” highlights vulnerability and innocence. This term paints the picture of a civilian engaged in a peaceful, everyday task, agriculture, implicitly evoking sympathy. The farmer is not just any Palestinian, but someone performing a routine, humanizing act: tending to olive trees. The detail that he was “harvesting olives” adds emotional weight. It invokes imagery of traditional life and sustenance, aligning the victim with land, heritage, and peace. In doing so, the article crafts a clear moral contrast: a peaceful farmer versus armed settlers in a militarized context.

4.3.6.2 Power Dynamics

The language subtly but powerfully communicates a deep imbalance of power. “Settlers” are often associated with state protection, military coordination, and ideological expansionism. While not soldiers themselves, their status is entangled with the structures of occupation and authority. This implies that they operate with a degree of impunity, emboldened by state support or indifference. The farmer, by contrast, is framed as devoid of power or protection. He is a civilian, alone in the fields, exposed to violence without recourse. This dynamic speaks to broader patterns within the Israeli-Palestinian War, where Palestinians in rural areas often face violence or displacement without systemic defense or accountability.

4.3.6.3 Ideological Underpinnings and Representation

The language choices in this headline and accompanying text reflect and reinforce a critical stance toward Israeli settlement policy. The word “kill” does not suggest a defensive or ambiguous incident; it frames the act as a deliberate aggression. The use of “Israeli settlers” instead of simply “Israelis” or “individuals” reinforces the idea that this violence is part of a wider settler-colonial project, rather than an isolated act. By placing

the Palestinian farmer in a sympathetic, relatable context, working the land, performing agricultural labor, the article draws a clear emotional and ideological line. It suggests that the War is not between equals, but between a militarized occupying presence and a vulnerable civilian population. This representation aligns with international criticisms of Israeli settlements and offers a subtle but firm indictment of the broader policies that allow such violence to occur.

4.3.6.4 Agency and Victimhood

The headline assigns active agency to the settlers, they “kill” while the farmer’s role is entirely passive. He is the recipient of violence, not a participant in War. This framing reinforces the idea of systemic aggression and individual suffering. There is also an implicit suggestion that this is not an isolated case but part of a broader pattern. Settler violence, particularly during olive harvest season, is a recurring issue in the West Bank. By using straightforward language and focusing on the humanity of the victim, the article raises questions about accountability not just of the individuals involved, but of the state structures that enable or ignore such actions.

This Al Jazeera headline and its framing convey a powerful narrative through precise language and imagery. The choice of words underscores the imbalance of power and the human toll of the Israeli occupation, particularly in relation to settlement activity in the West Bank. Through the lens of a single tragic incident, the piece reflects on broader themes of dispossession, systemic violence, and the vulnerability of Palestinian civilians. By emphasizing the humanity of the Palestinian farmer and the violent agency of the settlers, the report frames the War not as a symmetrical struggle, but as an ongoing reality of occupation and resistance—where everyday life itself can be marked by danger, injustice, and loss.

4.3.7 News: “Israel Frees Hospital Chief with Prisons ‘Full’ of Gaza Captives”

4.3.7.1 Language and Framing

The phrase “Israel frees hospital chief” may initially sound like a compassionate gesture, but in context, it underscores Israel’s control over the fate of Palestinian detainees. The term “frees” highlights Israel’s unilateral authority, reinforcing its position as the power that decides who remains imprisoned and who is released. It suggests less an act of goodwill and more a display of political dominance, casting “freedom” as something conditional and strategically given, not inherently deserved. Meanwhile, “prisons ‘full’ of

“Gaza captives” paints a stark picture of mass incarceration. The word “full” signals overwhelming numbers and hints at a crisis-level scale. The term “captives” goes beyond administrative language like “detainees” and carries emotional and moral weight. It evokes imagery of people being held forcefully and unjustly, suggesting coercion and victimhood rather than criminality. The framing repositions Palestinian prisoners as hostages of a larger political and military apparatus, highlighting the imbalance in justice and power.

4.3.7.2 Power Dynamics

The article presents Israel as holding all the levers of control. From the arrest to the release of individuals like hospital director Muhammad Abu Salmiya, the story reflects a dynamic where Israel dictates the terms of liberty and punishment. The idea that one man is released while thousands remain behind bars reflects a broader reality: the state possesses the power to selectively grant or withhold freedom. Abu Salmiya’s release is not portrayed as an act of empathy but one of expediency possibly related to overcrowding or strategic calculation. His symbolic role as a high-profile detainee also illustrates how Israel uses imprisonment as a political tool. The language reinforces the perception that Palestinians, even respected professionals, can be detained or released at Israel’s discretion.

4.3.7.3 Humanitarian and Emotional Appeal

When the article describes that detainees endured “almost daily torture,” the language becomes stark and deeply emotional. “Torture” is among the strongest possible terms for describing abuse, it conjures immediate associations with suffering, injustice, and violations of international law. This description positions Palestinians not as perpetrators, but as victims enduring systemic brutality. Further detailing “daily physical and psychological humiliation” adds emotional depth, presenting a more nuanced picture of what incarceration under occupation looks like. These descriptions humanize the prisoners and shift the reader’s focus away from legal status and toward the physical and mental toll they endure. It suggests that Palestinian detainees are not merely statistics or political pawns but real people suffering under harsh conditions.

4.3.7.4 Political and Ideological Implications

The article’s mention that “Israeli officials did not immediately comment” is telling. Silence in the face of serious allegations like torture implies either indifference or an unwillingness to be held accountable. It subtly casts Israel’s leadership in a defensive or evasive light, suggesting an unwillingness to confront accusations of abuse.

Additionally, Israel's denial that Abu Salmiya was released due to overcrowded prisons raises skepticism. If not due to capacity issues, then why was he released? The denial is presented in a way that draws attention to possible inconsistencies or obfuscations in the official narrative. It signals that Israel may be seeking to downplay the implications of the release while sidestepping deeper criticisms of its prison system.

4.3.7.5 What's Left Unsaid

The article references Abu Salmiya's arrest, which was allegedly linked to claims that Hamas operated from the hospital he oversaw. But crucially, it does not stress the lack of evidence supporting these claims. By failing to challenge the basis of his detention more directly, the coverage leaves room for skepticism about Israel's motives. This omission subtly implies that the arrest may have been more about dismantling Palestinian civil infrastructure than targeting militants, adding to a sense of injustice and strategic repression.

4.3.7.6 Visual Narrative and Emotional Contrast

Images of former detainees reuniting with family members add a powerful emotional counterbalance to the textual content. These visuals highlight the joy of release and the human cost of detention. The scenes of reunion contrast sharply with prior descriptions of abuse, creating a compelling emotional arc from suffering to relief. These images are not merely illustrative; they reinforce the idea that behind every political decision or military action, there are real people whose lives are deeply affected. They depict detainees not as faceless figures caught in a War, but as sons, fathers, and brothers—individuals whose absence has left a gap in their families and communities.

This Al Jazeera article uses language, structure, and imagery to subtly critique the power imbalance between Israel and Palestinians, especially in the realm of imprisonment. The wording suggests that Israel's control over detainees is not about justice but about dominance, with releases framed more as acts of political expediency than fairness. The descriptions of abuse and overcrowding, combined with the visual emphasis on human suffering and reunification, shift the focus away from legal justifications and toward the lived human consequences of occupation. Through this lens, the story becomes not just about one man's release, but about an entrenched system that routinely exercises power over a vulnerable population.

4.3.8 News: “Beyond Maghazi: What Controversial Weapons has Israel Used in Gaza War?”

Al Jazeera's article delves into claims about Israel's use of contentious weaponry in its military operations in Gaza, highlighting civilian suffering and potential breaches of international law. Using Critical Discourse Analysis(CDA), the piece examines the language used to portray Israel's tactics and the broader narrative surrounding these weapons and their impacts.

4.3.8.1 Headline and Lead-In: Framing and Context

The headline, “Beyond Maghazi: What controversial weapons has Israel used in Gaza war?” shapes readers’ perspectives by suggesting that Israel’s actions are not only widespread but also questionable. “Beyond Maghazi” hints at a larger, systemic issue, while “controversial” sets a serious tone, implying moral, legal, and political concerns. Strategic Word Choice: The term “controversial” points to debates around the legitimacy and humanitarian impact of Israel’s military actions. It is deliberately provocative, nudging readers to question the ethical foundations of those actions.

4.3.8.2 Israel’s Acknowledgement of Weapon Use

The article notes an Israeli official admitted to the use of “inappropriate munitions,” prompting a military inquiry. The word “acknowledged” is carefully chosen it implies an unusual admission rather than a full confession. In a context where Israel often denies such allegations, this wording underscores both rarity and ambiguity. Subtle Framing: The term “inappropriate munitions” remains vague, without specifying legal violations. This maintains an air of uncertainty while opening space for critical interpretation.

4.3.8.3 Dumb Bombs

Dumb bombs are described as unguided and likely to harm civilians. Words like “unguided,” “free-falling,” and “increased risk of civilian casualties” contrast with official narratives of surgical strikes. Framing Civilian Harm: The article quotes Marc Garlasco, a former war crimes investigator, stating that using dumb bombs “completely undercuts their claim of minimising civilian harm.” His expertise lends weight to the critique. Strong Criticism: The phrase “completely undercuts” is assertive, conveying strong disapproval of Israel’s methods.

4.3.8.4 Bunker Buster Bombs

These bombs are portrayed as extremely powerful and particularly harmful when used in crowded areas like Gaza. The article contrasts their design meant for reinforced military structures with their deployment in civilian zones. Moral Implication: Using such bombs in “densely populated areas” is presented as morally irresponsible. Readers are left to reflect on the disconnect between military necessity and humanitarian fallout.

4.3.8.5 JDAMs (Joint Direct Attack Munitions)

While JDAMs are considered more precise, the article points out their effectiveness hinges on intelligence accuracy. It highlights how even the most advanced technology can fail, citing incidents that resulted in civilian deaths. Flawed Precision: By stressing “faulty intelligence” and “human error,” the piece questions whether these smart bombs really reduce harm, suggesting that even precise tools can cause indiscriminate destruction.

4.3.8.6 White Phosphorus

White phosphorus is discussed as a weapon with horrific effects, especially when used near civilians something international law seeks to prevent. Descriptions of severe burns and embedded black particles serve to shock and evoke empathy. Legal and Ethical Framing: References to international law legitimize the criticism, shifting focus from battlefield tactics to global norms. Expert Testimony: Medical professionals’ input reinforces the claim that its use is both inhumane and unlawful.

4.3.8.7 Starvation and Deprivation of Food

The article frames food and water deprivation as an intentional war crime. Language such as “intent to starve civilians” pushes the reader to see these actions as systematic rather than incidental. Reinforcement of the War Crime Argument: Testimony from Human Rights Watch (HRW) supports the claim that these are deliberate strategies, not collateral outcomes. Reports of bakery closures and impending famine paint a picture of collective punishment.

4.3.8.8 Visual and Emotional Appeal

Images of injured children, ruined homes, and exhausted medical workers strengthen the emotional resonance of the reporting. Humanizing the War: Including personal stories, like that of baby Salam who died from malnutrition, turns abstract

statistics into heartbreaking realities, inviting empathy and deeper engagement.

4.3.8.9 Multiple Perspectives and Counter-Arguments

While the article features Israeli statements defending military objectives, it juxtaposes them with counterpoints from experts, medics, and Palestinian voices. This balance fosters a critical reading of official claims. **Framing as a Debate:** Presenting competing narratives encourages readers to form their own conclusions. Credible sources like Marc Garlasco and Omar Shakir help cast doubt on Israel's assertions.

4.3.8.10 The Larger Narrative

The article ultimately frames Israel's military conduct as excessive and lacking concern for civilian lives. It moves beyond war strategy to underline a humanitarian emergency. **Moral Framing:** By calling Israel's tactics immoral, the piece prompts readers to consider broader ethical questions about warfare in densely populated areas. Through strategic word choice, legal references, expert opinion, and powerful imagery, the article critically examines Israel's actions in Gaza. It portrays them as indiscriminate and devastating, especially to civilians. By offering a range of perspectives, it invites readers to reflect deeply on the balance between military objectives and humanitarian consequences.

4.3.9 News: “Biden Reportedly Ignored Staff Caution on ‘Beheaded Israeli Babies’”

4.3.9.1 Headline and Opening Sentences: Framing the Narrative

The headline, “Biden reportedly ignored staff caution on ‘beheaded Israeli babies,’” immediately introduces a critical tone. The word “ignored” suggests carelessness or a disregard for advice, implying that Biden’s decision could have been prevented or corrected. The inclusion of “reportedly” indicates that the information may not be confirmed, adding a layer of ambiguity. This sets the article up to explore a controversial and ethically charged issue, casting Biden’s actions in a negative light. **Framing Perspective:** The emphasis on Biden ignoring his staff implies an internal disagreement or power struggle. This hints at a broader concern regarding how decisions are made in the White House whether they’re guided by careful judgment or swayed by emotion or political objectives.

4.3.9.2 The Role of “Unverified Reports” and the Media

The article emphasizes that the claims of Hamas beheading babies were not

substantiated. It notes that the original claim came from an Israeli outlet and was widely picked up by international media. The repeated use of the word “unverified” is key as it calls attention to the lack of concrete evidence and challenges the validity of the reports. Media Ethics: By stressing “unverified reports,” the article underscores the responsibility journalists have to fact-check information before sharing it. It implicitly critiques media outlets that rushed to publish unproven allegations, warning of the dangers this poses in escalating the war and misleading public opinion.

4.3.9.3 Internal White House War

The article points to internal disagreements within the White House, especially surrounding the inclusion of the beheading claim in Biden’s speech. That some staff members advised against it highlights a recognition of the possible ethical and legal pitfalls in repeating such claims. This disagreement is framed as a sign of deeper issues with how the administration is managing the crisis. Ethical Versus Political Priorities: The article contrasts older aides who pushed for accuracy with younger ones seemingly more focused on political messaging. This tension invites readers to reflect on whether political leaders should prioritize facts over emotionally or politically charged narratives.

4.3.9.4 Biden’s Emotions and Accountability

The piece contrasts Biden’s initial dismissal of concerns with his later emotional meeting with Muslim American leaders. Describing him as “wrestling with emotions” helps portray him as a complex figure—deeply affected by the situation yet possibly misled in his initial reactions. Personal Responsibility: Biden’s admission, “I’m sorry. I’m disappointed in myself... I will do better” frames him as someone capable of reflection and remorse. This humanizes him, suggesting that while he may have erred, he is open to learning from criticism.

4.3.9.5 Clarifying the Beheading Allegations

The article takes a firm stance in debunking the beheading claims, stating that no evidence supports them. The phrase “no such beheadings have been verified by any Israeli or international source” acts as a definitive correction of the record. Reframing the Narrative: This reinforces Al Jazeera’s credibility, positioning its reporting as measured and responsible. It contrasts with earlier sensational claims that were published without verification, and subtly criticizes the media for failing to exercise due diligence.

4.3.9.6 Contextualizing Within a Humanitarian Crisis

The article also touches on the temporary ceasefire and the broader humanitarian impact in Gaza, using this backdrop to highlight the gravity of spreading misinformation. By referencing death tolls and the displacement of civilians, it connects the beheading narrative to real-world consequences. *Framing in War and Media Manipulation: Linking the false beheading claims to broader themes of war crimes and disinformation*, the article suggests that such misinformation is part of a larger strategy of psychological and media warfare.

4.3.9.7 Strategic Language Use

Throughout the article, specific word choices like “reportedly,” “unverified,” and “no such beheadings have been verified”, are used to question the original narrative’s authenticity. Mentioning disputes within the U.S. administration further underscores the lack of consensus even at the highest levels. *Skepticism and Accountability: This cautious language fosters a sense of skepticism toward official and media narratives*. It encourages readers to critically evaluate not just the facts being presented, but also the motives behind their dissemination.

Al Jazeera’s article employs careful language to portray Biden’s handling of the situation as both a political mistake and a moral lapse. Through repeated use of terms like “unverified” and “no evidence,” the piece deconstructs the beheading claim and situates it within a broader commentary on misinformation, media ethics, and the political handling of emotionally charged Wars. In doing so, the article positions itself as a reliable voice committed to accountability and factual integrity in the reporting of the Gaza War

4.3.10 News: “Israel arrests Palestinian Activist Ahed Tamimi in Occupied West Bank Raids”

This Al Jazeera article reports the arrest of Palestinian activist Ahed Tamimi by Israeli forces in the occupied West Bank. The report carries significant weight for the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian War, and through specific language choices, it shapes a particular narrative and conveys ideological undertones. *Critical Discourse Analysis* examines how language intertwines with power and ideology in media. In this case, the language used shapes the political background of the arrest, highlights inconsistencies in the official reasoning, and reflects broader criticism of Israel’s military operations in the West Bank.

4.3.10.1 Use of “Occupied” and “Occupier”

The article uses the term “occupied” to describe the West Bank, reflecting the Palestinian view that Israeli military presence constitutes an occupation. This terminology is far from neutral it aligns with international legal definitions regarding the illegitimacy of Israeli control over the area. In contrast, the Israeli narrative often opts for terms like “disputed territory” to soften the implications. **Ideological Implication:** Referring to the West Bank as “occupied” casts Israel in the role of a military occupier, reinforcing the unequal power dynamics in the region. This aligns with international resolutions that see the West Bank as Palestinian territory under occupation. **Reinforcement Through Language:** The repeated use of “occupied” helps sustain this legal and political viewpoint, supporting the Palestinian narrative and avoiding softer alternatives like “disputed” or “administered,” which would dilute the implications of Israeli control.

4.3.10.2 Use of the Term “Raid”

Describing the Israeli military activity as an “overnight raid” in several parts of the West Bank, including Tamimi’s village of Nabi Saleh, the term “raid” invokes a forceful and militarized image. It suggests aggression, invasion of privacy, and an imbalanced show of power. **Framing Israeli Actions:** The choice of “raid” paints the military operation as an intrusive and violent act by a foreign army within Palestinian communities. This differs sharply from terms like “military operation” used in Israeli official communications, which suggest justification or neutrality.

Implied Illegality: The term also reflects broader international disapproval of such actions, as raids are often associated with arbitrary arrests and human rights violations, emphasizing a lack of legal due process for Palestinians.

4.3.10.3 Highlighting Ahed Tamimi’s Activism

The article portrays Tamimi as a key figure in Palestinian resistance, referencing her well-known 2012 confrontation with an Israeli soldier. Describing her as a “prominent 22-year-old Palestinian activist” aligns her actions with political struggle rather than civil disobedience. **Symbol of Resistance:** The article elevates her to a heroic status, representing Palestinian defiance against Israeli occupation. **Labeling her an “icon”** connects her to a broader narrative of national resistance. **Feminist Lens:** Referring to Tamimi as a voice of “Palestinian women’s power” underscores her role in both nationalist and feminist

resistance narratives. The reference to her father's repeated arrests underscores the generational nature of their activism.

4.3.10.4 Waring Justifications for the Arrest

The article presents two contrasting versions of events: Israeli media claim Tamimi incited violence, while her mother refutes the charges. Highlighting this discrepancy invites skepticism toward official Israeli statements. Questioning Israeli Claims: Including her family's denial adds complexity and undermines the credibility of the military's version of events. It prompts readers to view the situation as a contested narrative rather than a settled fact. Broader Critique of Israeli Detentions: The article implies that Israel frequently uses vague or unsupported accusations to justify arrests. This framing critiques the military's opaque practices and suggests that terrorism accusations may serve political goals.

4.3.10.5 Israel's Reaction to the Arrest

The article notes how the Israeli army celebrated Tamimi's arrest by sharing her photo online with a taunting caption: "Where is her smile now?" This detail reveals a deeper political intent behind the arrest undermining her symbolism and public image. Dehumanization Tactics: The mocking tone strips Tamimi of her agency and seeks to reduce her activism to a personal weakness. This framing positions Israel's move as psychological warfare aimed at discrediting resistance figures.

4.3.10.6 Broader Context of Military Raids

Tamimi's arrest is linked to a wider pattern of Israeli military activity in the West Bank. The article notes escalating violence and increasing arrests across cities and villages. Systemic Suppression: Framing her arrest within this broader context supports the idea of a coordinated effort by Israel to stifle political dissent and weaken nonviolent resistance efforts.

4.3.10.7 Language of Resistance and Criminalization

Throughout the article, language tied to resistance dominates, portraying Tamimi's actions not as criminal but as part of a legitimate political movement. Phrases like "nonviolent resistance" contrast sharply with Israel's use of terms like "inciting terrorism."

Clashing Narratives: These linguistic choices highlight a battle of interpretations: Israel frames resistance as criminal, while the Palestinian and global human rights perspectives view it as a justified response to occupation. The article offers a layered and critical perspective on Ahed Tamimi's arrest. Through deliberate word choices like "occupied," "raid," and "incitement" it paints a picture of entrenched military control, contested justifications, and symbolic resistance. The Waring narratives from Israeli authorities and Tamimi's family, alongside the broader military backdrop, invite readers to critically examine how power and language intersect in shaping our understanding of Palestinian activism.

CHAPTER 5:

5. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

5.1 Discussion

This chapter offers an interpretive synthesis of the results emerging from the Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) of thirty media articles, ten each from BBC, CNN, and Al Jazeera, covering the Israel-Palestine war from October 7 to December 31, 2023. Building upon the theoretical foundations established by Norman Fairclough (2013) and Teun van Dijk (1995), the chapter critically examines the ways in which discourse constructs power differentials, ideological orientations, and omissions in international media coverage. Methodologically grounded in the CDA framework discussed in Chapter 3, and applied through the detailed textual analyses in Chapter 4, the investigation focuses on lexical selection, transitivity patterns, epistemic modality, narrative construction, and intertextual references. By exploring how ideological positions and discursive mechanisms manifest in both linguistic forms and structural arrangements, this chapter interrogates the underlying power dynamics that influence global understandings of the war. It also extends previous scholarship (e.g., Barkho, 2007; Zghoul, 2022; Perry, 2005) and integrates recent comparative research (Sarwar et al., 2023; Zawawi et al., 2024) to provide a critical examination of representational bias, epistemic hierarchy, and the circulation of disinformation. In doing so, this chapter contributes to broader academic conversations on media roles in shaping War narratives and producing public knowledge.

5.1.1 Disinformation, Discursive Framing, and Media Power

A key analytical insight of this research lies in the identification of disinformation as a tool for reinforcing ideological framing, a pattern most evident in the coverage provided by BBC and CNN. Both networks frequently presented unverified claims and relied heavily on official Israeli sources without subjecting these to rigorous journalistic evaluation. In contrast, Al Jazeera distinguished itself by not merely echoing Israeli military statements, but by critically engaging with them through investigative reporting and evidence-based counter-narratives. For example, the BBC's headline "Kibbutz Kfar Aza: Hamas Killed Whole Families" utilized emotive lexical intensifiers without supporting evidence, a move that exemplifies van Dijk's (1995) argument that media elites often legitimize dominant ideologies by normalizing specific interpretations. The eventual retraction of the article underscores the dangers of ideologically influenced and premature

reporting. CNN employed a similar discursive approach in the headline “Children Found ‘Butchered’ in Israeli Kibbutz,” merging factual ambiguity with moral condemnation in a single narrative frame. Such constructions are powerful not only because of their emotional impact, but also due to their framing function they shape reader understanding from the outset and influence interpretative pathways (Fairclough, 2013). In comparison, Al Jazeera adopted a contrasting discursive orientation. Rather than replicating official narratives uncritically, the network actively interrogated contentious claims. In the case of the allegation that Hamas used Al-Shifa Hospital as a military base, Al Jazeera responded by presenting verified testimonies, visual documentation, and assessments by international experts. This form of reporting exemplifies what Fairclough (1995) refers to as “resistant discourse” narratives that challenge and destabilize hegemonic ideologies. While Western outlets relied predominantly on government statements and IDF briefings forms of “authorized discourse” (van Leeuwen, 2008) Al Jazeera advanced a polyvocal journalistic model supported by empirical verification. Additionally, the frequent labeling of Palestinian administrative entities as “Hamas-run” or “Hamas-controlled” by BBC and CNN operates as a delegitimizing discourse strategy. This linguistic framing aligns with Wodak’s (2015) concept of ideological squaring, in which subjects are categorized either as legitimate or illegitimate depending on their affiliations. Israeli narratives, by contrast, were often presented as credible even in the absence of verification, reflecting a broader asymmetry in epistemic trust and authority. Notably, Al Jazeera did not exclude Israeli viewpoints; instead, it applied critical journalistic scrutiny to them. Where Western media often reiterated Israeli security claims without question, Al Jazeera placed these claims alongside factual accounts from humanitarian organizations, UN agencies, and Palestinian medical personnel. This discursive practice demonstrates what Halliday (1978) identifies as “ideational complexity”, the integration of multiple perspectives to produce a more nuanced and multifaceted representation. The outlet’s ability to access sources directly from within Gaza, despite logistical and security challenges, provided a depth of coverage largely absent in BBC and CNN reporting. Overall, the ideological filters evident in BBC and CNN align with what Fenton (2010) characterizes as “epistemic exclusion,” a process through which certain voices and knowledge systems are systematically marginalized in global discourse. Al Jazeera, in contrast, functioned as a counter-hegemonic actor, not only disseminating information but critically engaging with dominant representations. While the outlet is not devoid of ideological inclination, its methodological commitment to factual

rigor and narrative balance distinguishes it in a saturated media landscape. These findings reaffirm Fairclough's (2013) argument that media discourse operates both as a mechanism and as a battleground for ideological contestation—a space where meaning is continuously constructed, negotiated, and contested.

5.1.2 Representation of Humanitarian Conditions: Competing Visibilities and Epistemic Agency

The second principal theme that emerged from the Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) concerns the representation and, in many cases, the erasure of humanitarian suffering within global media narratives. This is not simply a question of journalistic framing or editorial tone; it involves deeper considerations of visibility, power relations, and epistemic authority. Drawing on Fairclough's (2013) view of discourse as a form of social practice that both reflects and shapes socio-political realities, alongside Van Dijk's (2005) theoretical construct of discursive reproduction of social inequalities, it becomes apparent that the disparate framing of Palestinian suffering in Gaza is both ideologically situated and structurally reinforced.

BBC and CNN recurrently illustrated what Butler (2009) describes as the “differential grievability of lives.” Reports concerning Palestinian fatalities, injuries, and displacement were frequently constructed using abstract or passive grammatical structures effectively distancing the narrative from identifiable sources of violence. For example, CNN's report on the Al-Maghazi refugee camp explosion used the phrase “a blast killed dozens” (Section 4.2.5.3), which effectively de-agentive the violent act, eliminating attribution and context. Such syntactic erasure aligns with Van Leeuwen's (2008) concept of “suppression,” a strategy that deflects accountability and depoliticizes acts of aggression. In addition, both CNN and BBC often presented Palestinian deaths in numerical aggregates, devoid of names, backstories, or emotive description whereas Israeli casualties were routinely individualized, named, and described using affective language. This dichotomy in narrative emphasis supports what Wolfsfeld (2004) terms a morally asymmetrical geography in the reporting of violent War.

Conversely, Al Jazeera's discourse adopted a markedly different orientation, centering humanitarian conditions through deliberate lexical selection and coherent narrative frameworks. Reports were composed using active voice, grounded in testimonial accounts, and richly contextualized to foreground the lived realities of Palestinian civilians.

For instance, in the article “Gaza’s Children and Elderly Are Bearing the Brunt” (Section 4.3.3), casualty statistics were not merely presented in isolation but interwoven with broader themes such as displacement, psychological trauma, and infrastructural collapse. These discursive strategies resonate with van Dijk’s (1998) concept of “semantic macrostructures,” which afford marginalised groups the discursive space to contest dominant ideologies.

A critical component of Al Jazeera’s epistemic advantage lies in its sustained physical presence within Gaza, enabling the network to draw from first-hand accounts and local perspectives rather than relying on secondary or official institutional sources. Sarwar et al. (2023) argue that such embedded reporting offers a significant epistemological benefit, granting access to what Spivak (1988) has famously referred to as the “subaltern voice.” This is not to imply that Al Jazeera is devoid of editorial positioning or bias; rather, its geographical and operational proximity to the War grants it an alternative lens crucial for advancing epistemic justice and narrative balance.

Another noteworthy element of Al Jazeera’s framing was its consistent emphasis on infrastructural violence, blockades, attacks on medical facilities, and obstruction of humanitarian aid, which were either omitted or only minimally addressed by BBC and CNN. Repeated references to electricity blackouts, water scarcity, and strikes on hospitals (Section 4.3.3.5) served to historicize the suffering experienced in Gaza, situating individual tragedies within a larger system of structural violence. Foucault’s (1977) articulation of power as simultaneously repressive and productive is instructive here: media discourse does not merely report on events, but actively structures what is deemed sayable, by whom, and to what extent suffering becomes visible or remains silenced.

Through this sustained representational approach, Al Jazeera directly counters what Chouliaraki (2006) terms the “post-humanitarian communication paradigm,” wherein distant suffering is commodified for brief emotional engagement without translating into substantive political or ethical accountability. Instead, the network constructs a persistent, morally charged visibility of suffering that aligns with Fraser’s (2009) notion of “subaltern counterpublics” discursive spaces through which marginalized groups challenge prevailing representational hierarchies.

However, this representational model is not beyond critique. As Zghoul (2022) points out, while Al Jazeera robustly amplifies Palestinian voices, its English-language

content often modulates tone and framing, presumably to cater to global audiences. Furthermore, its portrayal of Israeli civilian suffering, although not entirely absent, receives comparatively less attention, leading to a form of selective visibility. Nonetheless, this editorial asymmetry differs significantly in quality and motivation from that seen in BBC and CNN. Rather than emerging from systemic omission or institutional deference to state narratives, Al Jazeera's selective emphasis stems from a deliberate editorial focus on verifiable, locally grounded human rights conditions.

The analysis of how humanitarian suffering is represented across these three media organizations reveals divergent epistemological frameworks. BBC and CNN largely adhere to institutionalized discursive models that depersonalize Palestinian suffering while prioritizing Israeli security concerns. In contrast, Al Jazeera's counterdiscourse reasserts the humanity, visibility, and narrative agency of Palestinian civilians. This distinction transcends stylistic or aesthetic variation; it is a deeply political divergence with implications for global awareness and the normative hierarchies that underpin international responses to the Israel-Palestine War.

5.1.3 Relating Findings to Research Aims and Questions

The findings of this study, derived from a comprehensive Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) of thirty news articles published by BBC, CNN, and Al Jazeera, align closely with the core aims and research questions outlined at the outset. Central to this investigation was an inquiry into how mainstream English-language media construct public perceptions of the Israel-Palestine War through the deployment of discursive strategies, ideological framings, and practices of (dis)information dissemination.

The analysis revealed a consistent pattern of disinformation across BBC and CNN's coverage, with both outlets disseminating narratives based on unverified or subsequently retracted claims. Examples include the widely circulated but unfounded reports of child beheadings in Kibbutz Kfar Aza and allegations of sexual violence, which were repeatedly cited despite being disavowed by ZAKA volunteers (AP, 2023). These claims were not marginal or anecdotal; rather, they were central to high-profile news cycles and contributed to a deeply emotive and polarized media framing—one that implicitly legitimized military escalation. Critically, neither outlet issued visible corrections or editorial retractions in their main reporting, a silence that underscores van Dijk's (2006) assertion that media power is exercised as much through omission as through explicit articulation. This failure of

accountability represents a significant breach of journalistic ethics.

Such patterns extended to narratives about “terror tunnels” beneath hospitals and schools—claims often framed speculatively and sourced directly from Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) briefings. Later investigations conducted by reputable international organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO), Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), and United Nations agencies found no supporting evidence. The uncritical amplification of these claims reflects more than lapses in editorial oversight; it illustrates a broader complicity in shaping narratives that obscure Israeli military actions and minimize Palestinian suffering. These discursive choices reflect a deep-rooted asymmetry in whose perspectives are privileged and whose experiences are delegitimized.

In contrast, Al Jazeera’s reportage demonstrated a markedly different editorial orientation. Its coverage was grounded in verified documentation, first-hand reporting, and triangulated testimonies. In reporting events such as the Israeli military operations at Al-Shifa Hospital, Al Jazeera included Israeli accounts while also presenting critical findings from NGOs, medical personnel, and international observers. Rather than silencing one narrative in favour of another, Al Jazeera enacted what CDA theorists such as Fairclough (2013) and van Dijk (2005) advocate: a counter-discursive approach that interrogates dominant ideological structures by amplifying marginalized voices and ensuring evidentiary balance.

The analysis also highlighted structural and syntactic differences in how events were linguistically constructed. BBC and CNN frequently employed passive grammatical forms (e.g., “a blast occurred,” “people were killed”), effectively obscuring agency and detaching actions from actors. Al Jazeera, in contrast, employed more active transitivity structures (e.g., “Israeli airstrikes killed...”), thereby attributing responsibility and restoring clarity to the causal dynamics of violence. This linguistic distinction is far from trivial; it reflects deeper ideological orientations and fulfills one of the study’s primary objectives: to expose how syntactic and lexical choices shape narratives in ways that align with or resist prevailing power structures.

In connecting these findings back to the central aims of the research, it becomes evident that news discourse is not a neutral conduit of facts but a constitutive force that constructs the conditions under which certain interpretations of War become normalized. Through differential sourcing practices, selective attribution, and representational silences,

media institutions contribute to the ideological reproduction of militarism, the dehumanization of civilian populations, and the maintenance of geopolitical hierarchies. These patterns reaffirm van Dijk's socio-cognitive model, which posits that media texts do not merely reflect elite ideologies but actively participate in their perpetuation by shaping memory, controlling narrative access, and guiding audience interpretation.

In sum, this chapter has demonstrated that discourse plays a fundamental role in the politics of knowledge production and perception during War. The sharp contrast in discursive practices between CNN, BBC, and Al Jazeera reveals not only editorial variation but deeper ideological investments— investments that ultimately influence public sentiment, foreign policy attitudes, and the global moral imaginary.

Research Questions and Findings

Research Question 1: Presence of Disinformation

The first research question—"To what extent is disinformation propagated by BBC, CNN, and Al Jazeera during the recent Israel invasion of Palestine?"—focused on evaluating the ethical and factual integrity of each outlet's coverage. The findings revealed that disinformation was notably prevalent in the reporting by BBC and CNN, particularly in their early coverage of sensational claims such as "beheadings," "tunnels under hospitals," and "sexual violence," all of which were later retracted by the original sources. For instance, CNN's depiction of children being "butchered" in a Kibbutz and BBC's ongoing reliance on Israeli military spokespersons without independent verification exemplified unsubstantiated claims that significantly distorted public perception of the conflict. Both networks failed to adequately amend or contextualize these reports once they were debunked by subsequent investigations from humanitarian organizations and independent fact-checkers (AP, 2023; The New Arab, 2023).

In contrast, Al Jazeera did not merely echo these claims but actively contested them through comprehensive investigations, employing on-the-ground testimonies and verifying sources. While Al Jazeera's coverage was not free from regional bias, its critical engagement with Israeli sources and its commitment to fact-checking aligned with Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA)'s emphasis on revealing hegemonic discourses (Fairclough, 2013). Al Jazeera's scrutiny of claims regarding the Hamas-run health ministry, for example, involved a detailed examination of available evidence, offering a sharp contrast to the reliance of BBC and CNN on Israeli military accounts.

Thus, the research confirms that disinformation was indeed prevalent in the coverage by BBC and CNN, while Al Jazeera's role in presenting a counter-narrative was evident, mitigating disinformation and engaging in corrective reporting.

Research Question 2: Key Narratives and Propaganda Themes

The second research question—"Which key narratives and propaganda themes were constructed by BBC and CNN through their coverage of the Israel-Palestine War 2023?"—was addressed by identifying recurring themes of victimhood, self-defense, and militarization. Both BBC and CNN framed Israeli actions within the lexicon of "self-defense" and "retaliation," thereby normalizing these actions. This framing exemplifies Van Dijk's (2005) concept of the "ideological square," in which Israeli military aggression is depicted as defensive and justified, while actions associated with Hamas are criminalized. Such narratives create a binary, positioning Israel as the victim and Hamas as the aggressor, effectively silencing Palestinian voices and minimizing the context of occupation.

A dominant narrative across both Western outlets was that of Israeli victimhood: Palestinian actions, such as rocket attacks, were amplified as existential and disproportionate, whereas Israeli retaliations were portrayed as rational and necessary to restore order. The language used, including terms like "blast," "clashes," and "Hamas militants," served to euphemize Israeli violence, deflecting attention from the structural and historical causes of the conflict.

CNN's use of phrases such as "unintended harm" and BBC's use of passive constructions, like "refugee camp blast," obscured the agency behind the violence, thereby mitigating Israeli responsibility and downplaying its ethical ramifications. Furthermore, in both outlets, Palestinian civilian casualties were often minimized, described as "collateral damage," while Israeli casualties received more personalized and detailed coverage, reinforcing an unequal distribution of sympathy (Wodak, 2001).

Conversely, Al Jazeera consistently foregrounded Palestinian suffering and the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, which it linked intricately to the Israeli blockade and military siege. In its report, "Palestinians Return to Destroyed Homes in Gaza," Al Jazeera not only highlighted material destruction but also the psychological and emotional toll on the population, particularly vulnerable groups such as children and the elderly. These humanizing depictions provided a direct challenge to the dehumanizing narratives of

Palestinians in CNN and BBC coverage.

The findings of this study, in alignment with the research questions and objectives, underscore the presence of substantial disinformation within the BBC and CNN coverage of Israel's invasion of Palestine. The analysis reveals that both media outlets played a pivotal role in constructing a pro-Israel narrative, frequently omitting critical facts and propagating unverified claims. In contrast, Al Jazeera exhibited a more transparent and fact-checked approach, prioritizing the humanitarian crisis in Gaza while critically scrutinizing Israeli military actions. This research highlights the significant role that the framing and reporting practices of BBC and CNN have in perpetuating misleading narratives, while Al Jazeera provided a counterbalance by maintaining a more factual representation. This study underscores the vital importance of accurate and responsible media coverage, particularly during high-stakes conflicts, where the dissemination of disinformation can lead to skewed perceptions and contribute to the distortion of victim and aggressor roles.

5.2 Conclusion

This study set out to critically examine how the Israel-Palestine war was represented in the news discourse of CNN, BBC, and Al Jazeera between October and December 2023, using Teun A. van Dijk's Socio-Cognitive Model as a guiding framework. The analysis has demonstrated that media discourse shaped through lexical choices, transitivity patterns, narrative structures, and thematic priorities does not merely mirror events on the ground. Rather, it actively constructs ideologies and molds public understanding, revealing the news media's powerful role in shaping cognitive frameworks and collective consciousness.

The findings show that CNN and BBC, as dominant Western media institutions, consistently relied on unverified claims many of which were later retracted pertaining to acts of sexual violence, child beheadings, and the alleged existence of "terror tunnels" beneath hospitals and schools. These narratives, initially propagated by Israeli sources, were frequently amplified without sufficient scrutiny and, crucially, without proportionate coverage of subsequent refutations (AP, 2023; ZAKA, 2023). Their failure to provide visibility to these corrections underscores what van Dijk (2006) identifies as the ideological function of omission: media power is not only exercised through what is said, but also through what remains unsaid. The selective silence on retractions represents a significant lapse in journalistic responsibility and contributes to an imbalanced public

discourse.

In stark contrast, Al Jazeera positioned itself as a critical counter- narrative to these dominant frameworks. Through its on-the-ground presence in Gaza, the network offered first-hand reporting that foregrounded Palestinian suffering within broader political and historical contexts. Rather than reducing Palestinian identities to those of “Hamas affiliates,” Al Jazeera’s coverage highlighted the systemic nature of civilian hardship focusing on the destruction of infrastructure, the blockade-induced humanitarian crisis, and the psychological toll of displacement. Importantly, it treated Israeli state claims with journalistic skepticism, subjecting them to verification and cross- referencing, an approach that aligns with Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA)’s emphasis on discursive accountability.

This divergence in narrative practices is both revealing and consequential. CNN’s silences were often filled by Al Jazeera’s reportage. Where CNN tended to frame Israel as a rational actor responding to existential threats, and Palestinians as chaotic, dangerous, or untrustworthy, Al Jazeera’s discourse reclaimed visibility for Palestinian civilians, locating them within broader human rights and anti-colonial frameworks. These competing discourses shaped audience cognition in profoundly different ways: CNN and BBC’s reporting contributed to the legitimization of Israeli militarism, while Al Jazeera’s framing fostered empathy, awareness, and international solidarity with the Palestinian plight.

Ultimately, this thesis reaffirms van Dijk’s contention that discourse and power are inseparable. News narratives are not passive channels of truth but are shaped by access, authority, and ideological positioning. The comparative discourse analysis reveals that the same geopolitical event can yield dramatically different realities depending on how it is linguistically and structurally mediated. Media, in this sense, does not merely inform public opinion it configures the moral and political terrain upon which that opinion is formed.

In a media landscape increasingly characterized by information warfare and disinformation, the implications are far-reaching. The ethical responsibility of journalism, particularly in contexts of armed War, is not only to inform, but to do so with transparency, accountability, and a commitment to balance. As this study has shown, the way War is narrated has the power to shape not just international policy responses but the very perception of whose lives are visible, valuable, and grievable.

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