

**التحليل اللغوي لخطاب الحرب على غزة في الاعلام
العراقي والخطاب الحكومية الرسمية**

دراسة مقارنة

**Linguistic Analysis of Discourse of the War
on Gaza in Iraqi Media and Official
Government Statements: (A Comparative
Study)**

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الكلمات المفتاحية: العراق، حرب غزة، سرد وسائل الاعلام، التمثيل اللغوي، الخطاب الحكومي،
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الملخص

يهدف هذا البحث إلى تحليل الطريقة التي تُبنى بها اللغة من خلال تصورات الرأي العام والأمة، عن طريق دراسة لغوية مقارنة لتمثيلات الحرب على غزة في الخطابات الإعلامية العراقية وفي الخطابات الحكومية الرسمية. وتستخدم الدراسة النهج الكمي من خلال استبيانات مصممة تشمل عينة من ١٠٠ شخص، حيث يتكون الجمهور المستهدف للدراسة من خبراء إعلاميين وصحفيين وسياسيين عراقيين وأشخاص من مختلف التأثيرات السياسية والطائفية. حيث وجد التحليل اللغوي المقارن أن أحد النتائج الرئيسية بالنسبة للقضية الفلسطينية هي الاستمرارية الاستطراذية من خلال موضوعي المقاومة والتضامن. تكشف هذه الدلائل عن بعض الخطوات التي يمكن لوسائل الإعلام من خلالها أداء نشاط واضح ومؤثر. وعلاوة على ذلك، أظهرت تغطية القصص الإعلامية الالتزام والدعم الذي يختلف حسب التوجه السياسي لوسائل الإعلام. ومن الواضح أن البيانات الحكومية ووسائل الإعلام تؤدي دورا هاما في عملية وحدة العراقيين. علاوة على ذلك، أثبت عنصر الاستئناف ان كان له تأثير كبير على الحكم العام كنتيجة لدور الوسيط في وضع الصراع في الهوية العربية. حيث وفرت هذه النتائج بالطبع بيانات مهمة فيما يتعلق باللغة ووسائل الإعلام والهوية السياسية في سياق الحرب مع غزة، وفتحت الطريق لمزيد من الدراسات من أجل دراسة كيفية تأثير المواقف المتشابهة على المجتمعات.

Abstract

This research aims to analyze the way that language constructs the perceptions of public opinion and nation, going beyond simply studying language through a comparative linguistic study of the representations of the war on Gaza in Iraqi media discourses and official governmental discourses. The study uses a quantitative approach through designed questionnaires which include a sample of 100 persons, where the intended audience for the study consists of media experts, journalists, Iraqi politicians, and people from various political and sectarian influences. The comparative linguistic analysis finds that one of the main findings for the Palestinian cause by the Iraqi government, and the discursive continuity through the themes of resistance and solidarity. These pieces of evidence reveal some steps in how the media can perform an influential lobbying activity. Moreover, the coverage of media stories demonstrated such a commitment and, again, support which, nevertheless, differed depending on the political orientation of the media. Government statements and media play a significant role in this process of the unity of the Iraqis. Further, it proved that the element of appeals had a great influence on public judgment as a result of the mediator's role in situating the conflict in Arab identity. These outcomes of course provided significant data concerning language, media, and political identity in the context of the war with Gaza and opened the way for further studies to examine how similar attitudes affect the societies.



1. Introduction

Language is most often employed in crises and wars, which affect people because language is one of the most effective instruments in wars. The way that wars and political conflicts are portrayed both within and outside of one's own nation is also greatly influenced by the media and governmental institutions. With the government and media serving as the main creators of the narratives surrounding the war in Gaza, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, in particular the ongoing conflict and attacks on Gaza, has continued to generate complex discourse on a worldwide scale (Maqsood and Ong, 2023). Furthermore, active involvement is assumed by the government and media in leadership processes to determine which stories, actions, and events should be given importance to chart the course of society. Thus, platforms exist to encourage people to move and to do something during emergencies as well as cause political consequences (Ashqar, 2024).

Iraq's media discourse and political coverage are highly varied and extensive (Hayes and Guardino, 2010; Doherty and Kelly, 2023; Haddad, 2024). Depending on the type of media outlet, there have been numerous variances in how the war in Gaza has been covered in Iraq. In that regard, some media outlets might hold views that align with Iranian foreign policy, particularly regarding backing Palestinian resistance groups like Hamas (Brill, 2023). Regarding Arab nationalism and anti-Israelism, the suffering of the Palestinian people may be the main focus of other media outlets' portrayals of the Arab-Israeli conflict (Al-Alghashian et al., 2023).

The authorized government discourse on Gaza is not as “blistering” as most media outlets promote due to this mix of domestic and international concerns. With Consideration to the political constraints that government actors must take into explanation and account when determining their discursive practices and the absolute need for diplomatic and political relationships in the regional and global system, this appears to be more restrained, controlled, and self-possessed than that of the media. As a result, official statements and declarations use many polite phrases and restrained language, which clearly aim to simulate unity within Iraq but also illustrate its place in the state structure in the Middle East (Edwards, 2023).

The war on Gaza was ideological for them in a way that went beyond their military warfare in Arab and Islamic countries; they saw it primarily as a frontline in the war on terrorism in general and Israeli terrorism in particular. Accordingly, media deliberations of the war on Gaza in Iraq unambiguously are under enemy domination according to themes of injustice, martyrdom, and resistance. Therefore, this statement enhances the language behaviors through which Iraqi media has described and reported on the conflict in Gaza; based on culture and religion (Al-Kaabi,



2024: P, 15). For instance, Iraqi media that support and call for Palestinian resistance groups, particularly those affiliated with them adopt an inspiring rhetoric consisting of factors such as martyrdom, heroism, and sacrifice. However, more to the point, it is also important to notice that the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians is described as ‘occupation’, ‘resistance’, and ‘martyrdom’. Iraqi and other Arab-Islamic audiences are more responsive to a story of anti-imperialism and anti-Zionism (Carland, 2023). Nevertheless, other Iraqi media may only exist to televise misfortune, pain, suffering, and war, or may only report Iraq issues rather than regional issues of neighboring countries. While it is obvious that these channels may also convey express sympathy, consideration, and respect for the Palestinians and the Palestinian cause, they are likely to use the kinds of emotionally charged tones that ideologically oriented channels use because these connect multiple news reports and analyses (Steuter and Wills, 2009). The three elements that were mentioned as the best essential language tools for creating such stories include metaphor framing and repetition. Thus, these evident features like wording “occupation” and “resistance” make the Gaza War look like a fight after history and ideology rather than a specific regional confrontation (Doufesh and Briel, 2021). Therefore, the frame of the war on Gaza affects how the Iraqi society understands the conflict based on the importance it attaches to the people of Iraq because it relates the war in Gaza to so many issues that are clearly emblematic of resistance against oppression, injustice, and foreign occupation (Alshamary and Huggard, 2023). This is because the government mostly has to cope with numerous international and domestic challenges that are present in the country (Karaalp, 2024).

It is observed that the official policy of Iraq towards the Israeli-Palestinian conflict depends on Iraqi relations with Iran. Nevertheless, the Iraqi government has more tasks not only in terms of handling the relations with Palestine and showing support to the Palestinian people; managing relations with Saudi Arabia and the United States as more juxtaposed, or, from some perspective, antagonistic actors as to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict (Alghashian et al., 2023). Consequently, the government’s official verbal attitude towards Gaza aims to respond to and acknowledge an abstraction of the state that encompasses maintaining the Palestinian image and arresting the split in the Arab community. Iraq also has to consider the political climate in its country, which is why it remains conservative (Alshamary and Huggard, 2023). To elaborate further on these two significant fields of global discourse, the current study shall carry out a comparison of the discursive features adopted by the Iraqi media and the official communique of the Iraqi government on the war on Gaza.



1.1 Problem Statement

Each side of this conflict comprises history, politics, and culture; the recent operation on the Gaza Strip is one illustration. Media narratives and official discourse in Iraq on the war on Gaza are ideal and relevant for comparison because Iraq expects the public to stand firm in support of the Palestinian people (IISS, 2023 : PNA). During the years, the type of governance in Iraq may have transitioned from the Hashemite monarchy but Iraq has always stood and stood resolutely for Palestine. Therefore, it demonstrates that there are fundamental differences in the approach of countries to the recent step up in Gaza showing the assessed political stance and the geographical view on the actions. As some of those countries may engage in non-interference or directly condemn and condemn the escalation, the Iraqi authorities did not condemn Hamas for the attack on October 7, 2023; on the contrary, the government in power supported the Palestinians in their fight against what is considered by the Iraqi government as the continuation of the seventy-five-year Israeli occupation by the Israeli state (Haddad, 2023. PNA). Such positions take cognizance of the fact that political history plays a key role in modern politics therefore extending from the dictators, and the Hashemite monarchy to the present-day nations including Iraq that have had with the Palestinian cause.

The current study aims to compare the official media discourse in Iraq concerning the Gaza conflict by using the compare and contrast linguistic frameworks. In this regard, the research raises concern about the nature of how specific actors within the context of the political system of Iraq shape the discourses around the Palestinian cause. However, another issue as to the coverage of the Gaza conflict and the rhetoric of responsible governments lies in the fact that this political diversity implies the impact of various ideologies and political orientations on the message of media and government. This means that the Palestinians are part of a discourse that different stakeholders seem to be involved in, hence the major argument that emerges here is that the Palestinian issue is not only an external problem for Iraq, but is also an issue that is involved in the internal political discourse of Iraq. This plurality of voices has a significant impact on the perceptions that circulate in the media and the government and is likely to demonstrate the difference in the narrative frames and ways of acting out this conflict (Carland, 2023: p. 14).

Consequently, media coverage in Iraq may be dictated by some political or ideological consideration whereby some groups try to portray Palestinians in a way that portrays them as having a certain standing that would enhance their affinity with their allied regional or domestic actors. This makes analyzing Iraqi discourse on Gaza a challenging task since contextual factors need to be considered to establish the various forces that inform this discourse. Regarding the fundamental purpose of this research,



it not only focuses on discussing the depictions in terms of language use but also understanding the forces which have shaped the subject, that is, the approaches of Iraq to the conflict in Gaza. This calls for an analysis of the political (such as Iranian or American) as well as the social factors (such as nationhood and the relation with the Palestine resistance) that go into the creation of this discourse.

In a nutshell, this research can be seen as a critique of comparative discourse analysis, and more importantly, an exploration of how qualitative language analysis methods can be used to identify and explain the role of constructing national/political identity, specifically through comparing the media discourses of Iraq to the discourses of the government on the war on Gaza. Due to Iraq's political support for the Palestinian issue, it becomes pertinent to understand how the media sells the issue and how policies are made. Thus, this research will help fill the gaps toward a broader analysis of the role of the mass media and official rhetoric in forming Iraq's internal and external policies regarding the Palestinian question, as well as to outline and reveal the role of language in international relations and within any state at the present stage in the era of a new change in the global political process. Consequently, the problem of this research dishonesties in understanding how language shapes the consideration of the Gaza conflict in the Iraqi context and to what extent these narratives influence public opinion in a fragmented media landscape, which will be achieved through the following sub-questions:

1. In what ways do the semantic and syntactic properties of official releases show the Iraqi government's past support for the Palestinian issue as related to the war on Gaza?
2. In what ways do the plurality of the media sources in Iraq put together their discourses on the war on Gaza, and how do other discourses differ in terms of their politics?
3. How do emotions and rhetoric contribute to the construction and representation of war on Gaza in Iraqi media discourse?
4. How does the depiction of the war on Gaza in Iraqi media influence the collective identity and the opinion of the public?

2. Literature Review

2.1 Comparative Linguistic Analysis: Conception and Principles

Comparative linguistic analysis, especially in critical discourse analysis, is a large and transdisciplinary field that reconstructs the connection between language and power (Wodak, 2014: p . 6). According to Richardson (2017: p .12), critical discourse analysis (CDA) stands as a theory and method concerning how people and organizational entities use language with special attention to the relationship between language practice and other practices of social life. Critical discourse analysis is the



most recent of the linguistic-oriented approaches to the study of discourses. It investigates the interactions between language, discourse, and Society; the authority vested in the interaction; and the changes that emanate from it. As for the modernity of the thoughts and a vision of it by the early specialists within this approach then it can be mentioned that several are logical because of systems of social practices and their actual contexts about each other and racism education –education politics media art history and navy philosophy the capitalist world globalization. are several and intersecting. This richness is due to this interdisciplinary: the link between critical linguistic analysis of discourse and social practice has made this approach available to all fields of knowledge and forced researchers to import into their analysis methods conceptual tools, theories, philosophies, psychologies, educations, and sociologies. This approach does not look at the text in terms of other text-related features, as does the concept of text), but rather at the interconnection between a producer of the text, the text, and its consumer to build meaning. Critical discourse analysis is constructivist in the way that the logic of communicative construction portrays social actors and their positioning within society (Richardson, 2017).

In addition, the call for a critical perspective to critical discourse analysis implies a second stage of analysis that addresses why specific linguistic practices are chosen and the implications of these choices (KhosraviNik, 2008). Thus, this means showing how this critical discourse analysis works in the socio-political context, as in war journalism, and that is how the presence or absence of information exposes ideologies.

According to Fairclough (2013), there are eight basic tenets to critical discourse analysis namely; problem-oriented approach, understanding of discourse as both ideological and historical, and lastly, the view that language represents and creates a society. According to the critical discourse analysis approach, serious emphasis has been provided to the matter of ideological consequences of discursive practice, where ideologies are regarded as the representations of the world and the ideological powers are recognized as the mechanisms by which such representations are rendered 'natural' and become part of an accepted 'culture' at the societal or at the global level. The hegemonic influence is the concept borrowed from Gramsci to mean approaches to meaning-making and negotiation in the interest of domination and normalization of particular representations and the subjection or exclusion of others without necessarily resorting to force. Therefore, there is the bloc that dominates and thus is always trying to reaffirm its power and a bloc that is trying to regain its dominance over its representations so that it can rule, because the position of hegemony is not a permanent one. Hence, Fairclough's notion of ideology allows him to mark out and challenge oppressive relations of



power. In understanding how, power relations are constructed through media language, critical discourse analysis explicates how media producers impact audience perceptions and continue to produce them in their coverage of the Gaza War (2008-2009) (Fairclough, 2014).

2.2 Interplay of Discourse, Media, Representation, and Ideology

Media discourse is defined by Fairclough (2001) as a 'one-sided' communication process in which the active roles that belong to the producer and interpreter are considerable via mediating between the private and public domains. Also, politics, war, crime, the economy, or society are informed through media by television, newspaper, radio, and social media. In addition, both texts and semiotic works and the processes of their creation, are inscribed with media ideologies originating from political and media elites, including politicians and journalists (Richardson, 2017). The study explores how the sampled newspapers portrayed social actors from the 2008-2009 Gaza war and it noted that discourse exists within media texts and at the same time constitutes ideological views (Amer, 2017: p , 2). Additionally, media items feature various forms of social actors' representation as a result of ideological visions that play the role of interacting factors and significantly determine how actions including violence or/and efforts to maintain peace are depicted (Wenden, 2005: P, 90). These representations cannot be considered as being innocent, as Androutsopoulos (2010) has noted; they are associative and indexical signs that contain certain ideological connotations aimed at catering to the needs of some interests. Media hence possesses a great potential, to socially construct the language ideologies of target groups, thus, regulating and giving legitimacy to certain activities. This research posits that the choices made when reporting war and conflict are not free from ideological undertones; the Gaza war is a good example of such, and they play a role in constructing international crises. The further sections will reveal the intertwining of war reporting with international news (Amer, 2016; Connelly and Welch, 2005).

2.3 Shifting Paradigms: The Impact of the Gaza Conflict on Middle Eastern Studies and Regional Discourse

Hamas started an attack on Israel on October 7 which has caused devastating human suffering in the Gaza strip, where Israel's air strikes have killed at least 35000 Palestinians majority of them being women and children in the most recent invasion. Being an occupation force the army has thus been guilty of war crimes and human rights abuses documented the regular use of Palestinian children and their families as human shields during combat by Defense for Children International. Israeli government discourse has raised the level of threats of a new Nakba and fears due to its insistence on a powerful response, in combination with a fully imposed siege, which has caused the worst famine and disease outbreaks seen



(Lynch, 2024). This is in fact not too far from the truth because the International Court of Justice has gone further and said that what Israel is doing may well amount to genocide. Nevertheless, the Palestinian Authority has significantly lost its legitimacy, and President Mahmoud Abbas's approval ratings have dropped because he cannot defend Palestinians against an aggressive Israel (Lynch & Telhami, 2024).

Moreover, the existing conflict media discourses have changed, providing drastically opposite views of the Israeli government thanks to which the military intervention is justified as needed to ensure the defense of the country, and the global reaction, which calls such actions brutal and unnecessary (Valbjorn et al., 2024). This is partly because the community has been involved in a cultural war mainly on the rights of free speech as well as being associated with anti-Semitism, scholars who critically analyze or openly express their dislike for the Israeli policies thus practice self-censorship. The crackdown on voicing support for the Palestinian community on campus has also escalated with the following as samples of the challenges faced by academics and students who stand for Gaza. Nonetheless, it is still uncertain how this will recast the alleged geopolitical map, correspondent political narratives, and future discursive discussions on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict (Lynch, 2024).

2.4 Iraq's Reaction to the Gaza Conflict

The official Iraqi government and the regional Kurdistan government failed to condemn the Hamas attack that happened on October 7, 2023. As it asserts a historically strategic view of the region, it has sustained its support for the Palestinian people against the Israeli occupation from the Hashemite monarchy through the current democratic phase. For the Iraqis, the war is not just a new conflict of political tendency but a continuation of the occupation of the Palestinian territories. This position has not shifted for many years and not even during the years when the country faced many problems internally and externally. Hence, Iraq has been involved in some major Arab-Israeli wars and up to now affirms its stand against Israeli operations saying the opposite in subsequent operations in Gaza (Haddad, 2024).

Of all these countries Iraq has been among the leading nations that has offered its support towards the Arab course in international organizations. Until today, the position of the Iraqi government has been clear in denouncing the actions of the Israeli military against Gaza and the Palestinian people this is because the rights of the Palestinian people remain central in the Iraqi foreign policy agenda. It has been found that Iraq delivers its policy towards the Palestinian issue on its merit without any interference from other influences such as Iran which had at one time or the other adopted a negative stance toward Israel. For decades after the establishment of Israel, Iraq has maintained an official policy not to



recognize the state of Israel and did not sign a ceasefire with Israel after the 1948 Arab–Israeli War. While there is a multi-polar power structure in Iraq today where many actors may declare support for Palestine in a somewhat contradictory fashion, the official stance of Iraq towards the issue of Palestine has remained clear (Al-Shammari and Hoggard, 2023).

3. Research Methodology

To acquire the objectives of the study and to compare the samples of the Iraq media narrations and the official governmental policies towards the war on Gaza. The current study uses the quantitative method of research, this approach seeks to establish a towing pattern for data collection and analysis hence proffering clear results to test the developed hypotheses (Gleaner, 2011). Where this research aims to identify the language that is employed to construct the representational domain of the war of the Gaza conflict in Iraq, at the governmental level and in various forms of media.

3.1 Research Design

The quantitative approach tends to focus on the numerical data collected from a well-chosen sample after completing the structured survey distribution and then it disseminates once the results are out so as to make the researcher attain the desired goal. Media analysis and writing on the features of language that are used to describe the Gaza crisis makes use of this particular technique useful in identifying the cyclicity of the calamity (Bloomfield and Fisher, 2019). Through such structure, the study aims to examine how processes of discursive and linguistic control are employed in the manipulation of narratives and perceptions for consent in order to obtain a proper comparison between the media coverage and governmental discourses.

3.2 Research Sample

The intended audience in this research consists of media experts, journalists, Iraqi politicians and people from various political and sectarian influences. The sample contains of 100 persons enlists that are of varied political leanings and media consumption habits. To collect this data, makes a large and representative sample that enables to describe the multifaceted political environment in Iraq and, based on the results of quantitative analysis, reliable determine the impact the government and media have on Iraqi citizens.

3.4 Data Collection Tool

Structured questionnaires that examine four key areas related to the hypotheses are the main data collection instrument used and are the most popular data collection instrument:

- **Demographics:** This section contains on personality information about age, gender, political affiliation, and media consumption patterns.



- **Government Rhetoric:** Notes regarding the language issues in the Iraqi government coverage of the Gaza crisis were gathered through a questionnaire asking respondents about the themes of resistance, solidarity, and historical commitment to the Palestinian issue.
- **Media narratives:** In this section, the participants evaluate how various Iraqi media reported the crisis in Gaza concerning the contributions of political Sectarian affiliations of the media reporting on the conflict, where asked to rate stories based on elements of anti-Israelism, defiance, and support of the Palestinian cause.
- **Emotional appeal and public perception:** This section look at which particular media reports have the most influence over audience disposition then looks at the way in which appeals to reason and pathos can move public opinion.
- **National identity and influence:** Last of all, this section focuses on the impact of media coverage of the Gaza war on opinion and on the national identity in Iraq in light of its diversity of the political.

3.5 Research model

In this research, which examines the linguistic representation of the war on Gaza in Iraqi media narratives and official government discourse, an analytical model is identified as essential to understanding how this war is represented through language. In order to conduct a thorough analysis of Media Narratives and Official Government Rhetoric in Iraq, the discourse analysis theory of ideology, introduced by van Dijk (2001), can be utilized. This theory is based on understanding the relationship between language and ideology and the cognitive impact of discourse in shaping perceptions and opinions among the public.

Through this model, it is possible to analyze how language is used in Iraqi media and government discourse to shape a certain image of the war on Gaza, whether it is described as “aggression” or “self-defense,” as well as how different parties (such as Israel and Palestine) are presented in these narratives. Van Dijk's approach to critical discourse analysis relies on selective tools that emphasize the social and cultural resources and contexts for understanding and using texts, which are more oriented toward perception, meaning, and identity. Van Dijk (2001) addresses the macro versus micro level in his theoretical framework for critical discourse analysis.

The study applied Van Dijk's socio-cognitive model for critical discourse analysis, which includes analysis at the micro and macro levels, along with ideological principles framed under the general principle of “positive self-presentation” and “negative presentation of the other.” Van Dijk's model provides a suitable framework for understanding the ideological discourse used in Media Narratives and Official Government



Statement, and is based on analyzing the cognitive structure that influences how the public understands events.

According to this model, the vocabulary and linguistic structures used to guide understanding and influence the prevailing ideology in society are analyzed. It can be used in the research to compare how Iraqi media narratives portray the war on Gaza differently from the official government discourse, and how these discourses reflect certain political or social positions towards the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. It can be analyzed how the discourse creates certain mental images about the war, thus strengthening Iraq's official or media position in this regional and international context. By applying this model in the research, the researcher can delve into the linguistic strategies used to present political positions and determine how media discourse influences Iraqi public opinion on the Palestinian issue and the war. Gaza, as well as how the official government discourse is reflected in reinforcing or challenging these trends.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1 Demographic Data Analysis

Table 1 offers demographic data for participants in this study, which the results show that 43% of the participants were women while 57% of the participants were men; these mean men were slightly preponderate over women in this distribution, with both sexes represented fairly in the study population. As for Category, it revealed that politicians comprise 25% of the participants, media analysts 32%, 31% are citizens and 12% are the journalists. On the other hand, the results show that 22% of the participants consist of a specific party and 32% of the participants are independent, with 46% of them do not anyone belong to any party, that mean do not anyone belong to any party participants make up the largest portion of the participants. In addition, the results indicate that the media consumption patterns of the participants vary which 17% relying on newspapers, 33% get their news mainly from television. Only 8% of people use online news sources. 42% of the population uses social media to get their news. Regarding to Experience, the results show the range of experience among the participants, while the largest group, 41%, has between 1 and 5 years of experience, whereas 24% have less than a year. 19% have more than ten years of experience, and 16% have six to ten years.

Table (1) Demographic Data

Variables	N	%
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Gender	Male	57	57
	Female	43	43
	Total	100	100
Category	Politician	25	25
	Media analyst	32	32
	Journalist	12	12
	Citizen	31	31
	Total	100	100
Political affiliation	Independent	32	32
	Political from a specific party	22	22
	I do not belong to any party	46	46
	Total	100	100
Media consumption habits	TV	33	33
	Newspapers	17	17
	Internet (news sites)	8	8
	Social media	42	42
	Total	100	100
Experience	Less than 1	24	24
	5-Jan	41	41
	10-Jun	16	16
	More than 10	19	19
	Total	100	100

4.2 Descriptive Analysis

In this section, presents the assumptions drawn from the current research to generate important new knowledge about the participants' perceptions of Iraqi official textual media and verbal statements of the Gaza conflict.

Table (2) Linguistic features of the Iraqi government's statements about the war on Gaza



No.	Statements	Means	SD	Practices degree
Linguistic features of the Iraqi government's statements about the war on Gaza				
Q1	Iraqi officials view the conflict as a continuation of the long-standing occupation of Palestinian territories, not as a new conflict.	3.99	0.772	High
Q2	The linguistic features of Iraqi government statements regarding the war on Gaza affect how behaviors and actions, such as violence or efforts towards peace, are portrayed	4.09	0.830	High
Q3	The representation of social actors in Iraqi media discourse is shaped by particular ideological views towards the war on Gaza	3.11	0.909	High
Q4	The ideological nuances in the language used by the Iraqi government in its speeches and statements on the Gaza war are numerous, which help frame global crises and perception identity and public opinion.	3.03	0.904	High
Q5	Government statements reflect strong solidarity with the Palestinian people and are clearly expressed.	4.10	0.798	High
Q6	Government discourse uses strong language that clearly reflects the concept of resistance.	3.77	0.993	High
Q7	Government statements include historical references that reflect commitment to the Palestinian cause.	4.31	0.465	Very High



Q8	The language used in the Government statements reflects the diversity of opinions and positions towards the war on Gaza.	3.76	1.016	High
Q9	Government statements contribute to raising awareness of the Palestinian cause among Iraqi citizens.	3.90	0.990	High
Q10	Government statements reflect the spirit of Arab unity towards the war on Gaza	4.12	0.769	High
	Overall	3.82	0.273	High

The results of Table (2) indicate a high degree of agreement across the board where the ranged mean between (3.03, 4.31) and it was overall mean of 3.82, this means that most participants believe that the Iraqi government's discourse on the Gaza crisis has had a significant impact, particularly when it comes to demonstrating resistance, solidarity, historical commitment, and Arab unity. Hence, Participants of this study acknowledged the vociferous attitudes used in these statements on the Gaza war, as a constitutive of the government's larger discourse on the politics of opposition. Moreover, Participants of the current study also confirm that political and ideological perceptions about the war on Gaza affect visual representations of social actors in Iraqi media discourse with slightly more variance.

The findings of this study are in harmony with all earlier studies that have been carried out concerning the impact of media and public opinion especially in connection with the war on Gaza. The results also indicated a high response regarding the level of agreement that the discourse of the Iraqi government influences people's perception of the situation in Gaza. This is in line with critical discourse analysis whose main focus is how language constructs, reinforces or largest power dynamics and cultural common-sense templates (Wodak, 2014; Richardson, 2017). The results also backed up the assertion of critical discourse analysis that discourse also constructs ideological frames in society, as the average score of 4.31 reinforces the historical support of the Iraqi government to Palestine (Fairclough, 2013). Furthermore, the study discusses the ideological framework of official discourses both on anti-vaccination sentiments (Amer 2017, Khosravinik 2008) and on what has received attention in the literature on portrayals in media that shape public opinion and maintain specific narratives. As previously stated, this current work recognizes that



participants' perspective on the extent to which such discourse is saturated with ideology differs slightly.

Table (3) Narratives on the themes of resistance, Palestinian solidarity, and anti-Israel sentiment

No.	Statements	Means	Standard deviations	Practices degree
The narratives on themes of Palestinian solidarity, resistance, and anti-Israeli sentiment				
Q1	The Iraqi media has the power to shape the language ideologies of its audience in covering the war on Gaza	4.31	0.465	Very High
Q2	The Iraqi media has the ability to frame and legitimize certain views or actions in covering the war on Gaza.	4.09	0.830	High
Q3	Iraqi media reflect strong solidarity with the Palestinian people in their coverage of the war on Gaza	4.26	0.441	Very High
Q4	Language of resistance is clearly used in news reports on the war on Gaza.	4.28	0.451	Very High
Q5	Media coverage reflects the political and sectarian affiliations of the media on the war on Gaza.	3.04	0.942	High
Q6	Iraqi media contributes to the promotion of anti-Israel sentiment through their reports on the war on Gaza.	4.28	0.451	Very High
Q7	Iraqi media adequately and objectively highlight the violations suffered by Palestinians in the war on Gaza.	3.82	0.968	High



Q8	The war on Gaza is portrayed in a way that promotes Arab and Islamic unity.	3.89	0.952	High
Q9	Iraqi media provides a balance in presenting different viewpoints on the war on Gaza.	3.78	1.088	High
Q10	Iraqi media contributes to raising awareness of the Palestinian cause at the local and international levels.	3.75	1.095	High
	Overall	3.95	0.267	High

The findings of Table 3 highlighted participants' views on Iraqi media narratives on the themes of Palestinian resistance, solidarity, and anti-Israeli stance in their coverage of the Gaza conflict, which illustrates that a high level of consensus regarding the degree to which ranged mean between (4.31, 3.04). Altogether, the results of the current study reveal a strong consensus on the multiple effects of a range of Gulf-based Iraqi media on shaping the public perception of the war on Gaza, with a mean value of 3.95. It means that the Iraqi media frames the conflict within a broader framework of regional solidarity.

From the findings of this study, conform with the existing literature on the social influence of ideological perspectives of the media especially the war in Gaza. The form of CDA used in this study focuses on how media language and discourse replicate and compose societal norms and belief systems (Wodak, 2014; Richardson, 2017); hence the elevated mean scores demonstrating participants' perceptions of the impact of the Iraqi Media on people's opinions (mean score 4.31) and a media mission to champion Palestine solidarity and resistance themes. The outcome of the current study supports other studies that have underscored media narratives as being potent means of constructing ideologies and altering the perception of the masses (Amer, 2017).

Table (4) The role of rhetorical strategies and emotional appeals in shaping public opinion



No.	Statements	Means	Standard deviations	Practices degree
The effectiveness of emotional appeals and rhetorical strategies in shaping public opinion				
Q1	The rhetorical strategies in covering the war on Gaza are saturated with ideological shades, which contribute to influencing public perception.	3.94	0.952	High
Q2	Emotional appeals in Iraqi media contribute significantly to shaping public opinion towards the war on Gaza	4.09	0.793	High
Q3	The rhetorical strategies used in media coverage make messages more influential in shaping public opinion towards the war on Gaza.	4.06	0.814	High
Q4	Emotional appeals that highlight the suffering of civilians in Gaza have a greater impact on shaping public opinion towards the war on Gaza	3.86	0.995	High
Q5	Emotional appeals that focus on Arab solidarity with the Palestinians have an impact on shaping public opinion towards the war on Gaza.	4.17	0.587	High
Q6	Media narratives that highlight stories of success and resistance contribute to enhancing feelings of hope and support among the audience.	3.97	0.969	High
Q7	Media narratives that contain dramatic elements increase	3.87	1.012	High



	the effectiveness of the message in influencing the audience.			
Q8	Media narratives that highlight the violations suffered by Palestinians arouse feelings of anger and denunciation among the audience towards the war on Gaza.	3.87	0.884	High
Q9	Media narratives that include personal testimonies and human experiences have a greater impact on the audience's feelings compared to objective narratives.	3.86	0.876	High
Q10	Media narratives that address experiences of loss and deprivation enhance the audience's ability to empathize with the Palestinian cause.	3.77	1.033	High
	Overall	3.95	0.284	High

The results of Table 4 provide important new information about how media coverage's use of rhetorical devices and emotional appeals affects public perception of the war in Gaza. Opinions and attitudes towards the conflict are significantly influenced by the media, with an overall mean score of 3.95 indicating a high level of effectiveness in various communication tactics. Furthermore, items illustrated a high degree where the ranged Mean between (4.17, and 3.77). It means Iraqi media plays an important role in influencing public opinion, encouraging sympathy, and arousing the public's emotions. This emphasizes the importance of Iraqi media in shaping public opinion during conflicts and wars, and thus the need to follow ethical and responsible reporting methods. The results of the current study seem to be in good agreement with previous studies on the important influence of media discourse and its impact on public opinion and ideology, especially when it comes to the war on Gaza.

Accordingly, the way CDA approach conceptualized language reveals the profile of its social semiotic function. According to



participants' understanding of this approach, the match of narrative structures can effectively convey viewpoints to the public with a mean score of 3.95 (Wodak, 2014; Richardson, 2017). For instance, Khosravnik (2008) who reviewed the influence of using emotional language in literature doing represent of the Palestinians in the media to attract audience sympathy and to elicit perceived collective identity scores a mean of 4.17 in support of the effectiveness of using Emotions in appeals.

Table (5) The influence of media portrayal of Gaza Conflict on public opinion and national identity

No.	Statements	Means	Standard deviations	Practices degree
The impact of media portrayal of the Gaza conflict on national identity and public opinion				
Q1	Media coverage of the Gaza War reinforces feelings of national pride among Iraqis.	4.20	0.550	High
Q2	Media narratives of the Gaza War influence how Iraqis view regional and international issues.	3.76	1.215	High
Q3	Media narratives of the Gaza War help shape a shared collective identity among Iraqis, regardless of sectarian affiliations.	3.82	0.947	High
Q4	Media help create a collective awareness of the Palestinian cause and its impact on Iraq.	3.84	1.117	High
Q5	Media portrayals of the Gaza War reinforce national identity among Iraqis.	4.14	0.667	High
Q6	Media coverage of the Gaza War reinforces feelings of national pride among Iraqis.	4.01	0.893	High
Q7	Media narratives of the Gaza War influence how Iraqis view regional and international issues.	3.86	0.921	High



Q8	Media narratives of the Gaza War help shape a shared collective identity among Iraqis, regardless of sectarian affiliations.	4.28	0.712	Very High
Q9	Media help create a collective awareness of the Palestinian cause and its impact on Iraq.	4.04	0.931	High
	Overall	3.99	0.310	High

The results in Table 5 demonstrate a high degree of the ranged Mean of (3.76, 4.28) and show that there is broad agreement among respondents about the influence of the media on Iraqi public opinion with an overall mean of 3.99, especially regarding the Palestinian issue. This therefore points to the extent to the media portrayals of the Gaza war have influenced the perception of national identity and opinion amongst Iraqis, where the mean scores generated on the various assertions indicate a very high level of belief that indeed there is acceptance of a realization that the media plays a big role in the shaping of a national identity of Iraq which goes beyond the sectarianism. Where indicates to that emotional impact enhances the feeling of the common responsibility among Iraqis in supporting the Palestinian issues in rebuilding unity in view of the fact that the region is facing many challenges until now.

The literature also suggests that media discourse is not just a way of providing information but an effective tool within a society. Where the results of the current study clearly support this assertion in as much as the high average score of 4.28 is an indication of how the use of media narratives aided the formation of a collective identification among the Iraqis. Thus, this proves that Iraqis are associated with the feelings concerning the Palestinian issue, as the media maintain increasing belonging to the same national and religious group that encompasses divisions within the country. Also worthy of consideration is the fact that the findings of the study support the statements of Wodak (2014), Richardson (2017) to the extent that media discourse can form ideologies. Thus, discourse about Gaza demonstrated the capacity of such narratives to mobilize emotions and to draw solidarity in addition to shaping individuals political and ideological orientations to major political issues within the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and beyond. Also, the high average is evidence of how media discourse in Iraq ‘contributes’ to the development of ideological positions that embrace such values as resistance and unity against Occupation. The findings also affirm views that media discourse is an effective agent of shaping and sanitizing



ideological stands and sentiments in the population consistent with the participatory discourse analysis proposed by Fairclough (2013).

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

5.1 Conclusion

This research offers a descriptive-contrastive analysis of governmental texts and media reports on the Gaza war in Iraq and the use of language for constructing official perceptions and collective sentiments in a post-conflict nation. This research presents an understanding of media stories and governmental rhetorics and their impact on public perceptions as well as solidarity and nationality sentiments in Iraq focusing on the Palestinian- Israeli conflict. It also shows the trends of the government discourse in Iraq: its discourse is anti-Israel and formally pro-Palestine, its discourse is genuinely passionate about the Palestinian issue, and its discourse is in line with its political history of supporting Palestinian rights enthusiastically during the pre-2003 period. As with this solidarity, media stories differ based on the political alignment of the different stations. Addressing the interaction of the Media with the War on Gaza and their ability to give it an identification within the Arab world requires an examination of the Media's effectiveness in the use of Rhetoric and Appeals to emotions for its ability to sway the public. Such official media discourses represent resistance, and solidarity as significant values that reconstructs the New Iraqi nation-identity and rejuvenate the community's collective memory against Israeli domination.

While the positive government discourse is nearly unanimous, the portrayal of the military in media discourses in Iraq tends to be more diverse depending on the political coloration of the media. The current study shows that Iraqi media vary in their coverage of the conflict over Gaza by the political discourse of the media organizations in which some of the media organizations amplify Arabic emotion to push Arab solidarity while others portray political facts and figures in a more mechanical manner. Media also presents strong imagery and the stories of Palestinians in their plight which brings the affinity of Iraqis to the Palestinian issue. The viewers develop a strong emotional connection with such messages inspired by the themes of Arab unity and solidarity to enhance the perception of the main challenges on the regional and international agenda and improve the national identity of Iraqis.

Thereby, narratives help build up the experience of togetherness and establish the general view of how the country with the Arab-Islamic orientation "Iraqi" continues fighting for Palestine alongside the occupied forces. Such stories ensure the backing of national opinion and assist in reconstructing cohesion within the Iraqi poppy. The present research also confirms through the high average scores which were received on the questions that directly and obviously reflect how these narratives affect the



perceptions of Iraqis through their political stance on the Palestinian issue and the war on Gaza that the Iraqi people have a good and clear understanding of how this discursive construction operates on them politically. The main findings of this research also show that whether for a local policy or against it, Iraqis have a common view of determining the role of the media in their views on major regional issues of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Thus, this awareness indicates the role of the media in the steering and construction of opinion and perception of society not only in Iraq, but in the whole of the region.

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