

A Critical Discourse Analysis of Self-Representation in the US News Media Coverage of Pager Explosion

Asst. Lect. Zainab Kareem Ati

Exact jurisdiction (Pragmatics)

Directorate General of Education Baghdad –Third Risafa

zainab197501@gmail.com

م.م. زينب كريم عاتي وزراه التربية - مديره تربيته الرصافة الثالثة

Abstract

The current paper undertakes a Critical Discourse Analysis self-representation in news media coverage of the Pager and Walkie-talkie device blasts in Lebanon harvested in 2024. Focusing on prominent media outlets, including BBC, CNN, Vox, AP News, and Al Jazeera. The research seeks to answer two primary questions: what self-representation devices are used by the U.S. news media during the period of Pager explosion? What are the ideologies represented in the selected data? By applying Van Dijk's Framework (2000, 2006) the current paper assesses the language patterns, framing, and ideologies used in the selected data. The results suggest that the media representations stir between positivizing Lebanon and situating the explosions in relation to geopolitical dynamics that define discursive construction of the occurrences. The data analysis concludes that ideologies involved in the conflict are shown in the text, and the paper compares how characters and events are portrayed or not portrayed. Specifically, it presents Hezbollah as 'the Good', and Israel as 'the Bad'.

Keywords: CDA, Media News, Pager Devices, Media Representations, social practices

تقدم هذه الدراسة الأكاديمية تحليلاً نقدياً للخطاب الإعلامي في إطار نموذج فان دايك (٢٠٠٠، ٢٠٠٦) لفحص تمثيل الذات والبناء الأيديولوجي في التغطية الدولية لانفجارات أجهزة البيجر والواكي توكي في لبنان عام ٢٠٢٤. من خلال تحليل محتوى وسائل إعلامية رائدة مثل BBC و CNN و Vox و AP News والجزيرة، تكشف الدراسة كيف تعمل الأنماط اللغوية واستراتيجيات التأطير الإعلامي على ترسيخ سرديات ثنائية (تصوير حزب الله ك"الخير" مقابل إسرائيل ك"الشر")، مع تذبذب التمثيلات بين تصوير لبنان بشكل إيجابي وربط الانفجارات بالسياق الجيوسياسي. تُظهر النتائج كيف تُشفر المضامين الإعلامية مواقف أيديولوجية عبر اختيار مصطلحات انتقائية وإحالات تاريخية انتقائية وتركيز تفاضلي على الضحايا المدنيين، مما يبرز التفاعل المعقد بين الخطاب الإعلامي وعلاقات القوة في تشكيل الرأي العام. الكلمات المفتاحية: تحليل الخطاب النقدي، الإعلام الأخباري، أجهزة البيجر، التمثيل الإعلامي، الممارسات الاجتماعية.

Introduction

Recently in 2024 pager devices were used in Beirut, Lebanon where a very alarming blast occurred leading to numerous deaths and properties loss. This explosion led to a lot of outcry blast was alleged to have connections to the Israelis, bringing the aspect of the international politics into focus into the works of bereavement. Although this event shed light only on the comparison of one state. Lebanon to its neighbors and the sorry state of safety regulation in the region, it made it clear that suspicion and animosity towards Israel should not be a major issue of concern. Which brings us to the objective of this paper focusing on US media coverage and deployment and discussing the ways in which these have provoked consideration of the explosion within the context of a safety-accountability-international relations narrative. The goal of this paper is to analyze the representations of the pager explosion in the U.S. news media through the Critical Discourse Analysis and apply the theorizing of Teun A. van Dijk to the language, the power, and ideology of such narratives. Van Dijk (1998) in his CDA framework underscored the importance of analysis of discourse as a social practice that reinforces power relations (van Dijk, 1998). It also allows examining the cognitive, social, and textual coordinates of the representations at play in media cultures. As for Beirut explosion, USA media acted as mediators constructing the perception and knowledge of the event by the American public especially regarding the role of Israel.

Studying the previous literature, it has been found that in most media representations, there are always ideological connotations regarding how the audiences diagnose blame, victim, and agency (Entman, 1993; Hall, 1997). The representation of the pager explosion is important, especially in the context of the social and political such as conflict with its enemy, Israel and internal-political crises in Lebanon. The geopolitical framework in which the explosion occurs makes a representation in The U.S. news media even more tense. It is established that history has failed Lebanon in the past through conflict and instability narratives — most often with Israeli involvement. This raises critical questions about how U.S. media framed the pager explosion: In what ways was it outlined more or less as a local safety issue, or was it placed in a more global context of conflict? Fortunately, the range of framing strategies is also finite and it is important to understand these various forms of framing, as the way in which an issue is framed can substantially influence the general public's understanding and potentially future public policy (Gamson & Modigliani, 1989). Therefore, this paper, using Van Dijk's (1998) CDA approach, targets at demystifying the media portrayals and effects of the pager explosion such as their overall contribution to framing individual perception and public discussion. The major areas of interest will include identifying and comparing the language used, the tools of framing, and the portrayal of the main characters in order to determine how all these aspects define comprehension of the event under discussion and the global context it belongs to. Such a critical understanding of verisimilitude is important for several reasons: the analysis cannot be separated from concern for public discourse and international relations. Citizens no longer have to rely on word-of-mouth to get information and the stories that the U.S. media tell their viewers and listeners can help shape their understanding of crises and conflicts that happen in Lebanon or the Middle Eastern region. This research will be relevant as it will identify the representation of the pager explosion so as contribute to the analysis on the functions of media in how safety, governance and international accountability is being presented. In addition, the paper will focus on Van Dijk's (1998) framework to analyze self-representation.

The paper seeks to answer the following questions:

1. what self-representation devices are used by the U.S. news media during the period of Pager explosion?
2. What are the ideologies represented in the selected data?

Critical Discourse Analysis: An Overview

CDA is the academic preoccupation with verbalization or text analysis and the social dynamics that underlie them. It aims at knowing how and to what extent discourse reflects and is mobilized by social practices and relations power, and if and how language is used not only to convey information but also to construct, maintain, and transform social realities (Van Dijk, 1998). Despite encompassing all aspects of social life, CDA is most interested in power relations and inequality, how they are reflected and reproduced or challenged in discourse. Norman Fairclough (1995) adopts context as the major factor of his approach in combination with linguistic analysis of discourse and the political and social conditions of its practice (Fairclough, 1995). The author tries to make the reader understand that language is a type of activity which is realized in social practice as well as shapes social practice in return. Fairclough's model involves three interconnected dimensions: It has given rise to a text analytical approach, a discourse practice and a social practice thus enabling researchers to examine all facets of discourse in operation. Ruth Wodak (2001) makes discursive practices more specific and pay more attention to the historical and sociopolitical backgrounds of the discourse, how language sub-forms and establishes social identities and power relations. Her discourse-historical approach is analytic because it focused on the investigation of the discursive strategies used in political and social environments in order to establish the effects they have on the exclusion or giving of power to certain groups in a society as identified by Wodak (2001). In its methodological work, CDA uses a variety of approaches that help with discovering antagonistic aspects of discourse. This entails analysis of the choice of words, sentences and the kind of stories surrounding a text, and historical and cultural variables as identified by Gee (2014). Through the detailed examination of these literal elements, scholarly authorities are capable of uncovering hidden political standings and power balances which shape common discourses. Finally, one can argue that CDA turns not only into a descriptive, but also a normative approach that aims to intervene in social processes. It seeks to educate society, or Members of a society, about how the language patterns work to perpetuate social injustices and having a voice for the voiceless (Luke 1997). Due to its focus on exposing links between language on one side and power and society on the other, CDA serves an important function in critical scholarship designed to achieve socially transformative objectives. Communication technology especially in the mass media greatly determines social attitudes, beliefs, and theories in regard to the position of people and groups in society (Hall, 1997). CDA proposes a model for analyzing text, context, power relations and ideological structures in media texts and they

can either reproduce or transform prejudices (Gee, 2014; Fairclough, 1995). For instance, analysis has shown that media reporting about the in the marginalized groups can either amplify or mute injustice (Scheingold, 1996)CDA explains how language maintains social relations and disparities while uncovering what is negotiable about mediatized representations. Activists like the Black Lives Matter movement, counter narratives with dominant media messages, with topics being oppression and police brutality (Harlow & Johnson, 2011). This will demonstrate how language can help and lead to change and control the shaping of a social agenda. Therefore, this paper examined the connection between CDA and media representation in order to gain insight on how media influences the opinion of the masses. This is because critical analysis of texts provides an opportunity to discover the assumptions and conclusions of these representations so that the consumer asks questions about stereotyped thinking and accepting social difference.

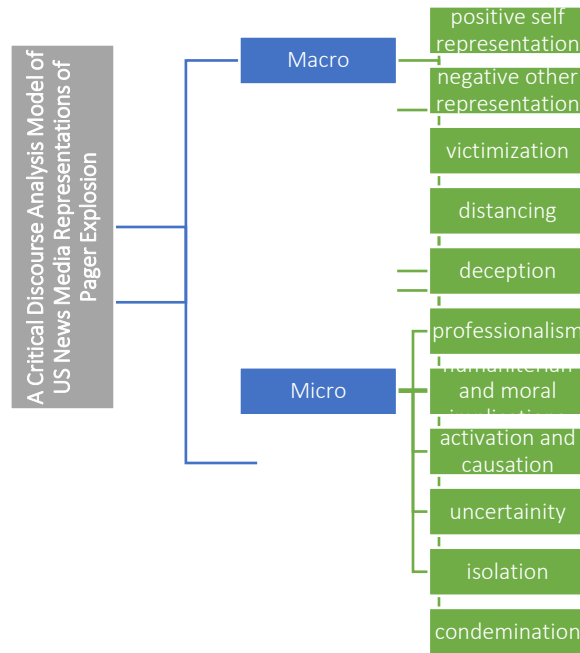
Research Methodology

This work will use qualitative research method in the examination of news media coverage of the explosions of pager devices in Lebanon and Van Dijk (2000, 2006) models of discourse analysis will be used. The paper will involve a purposive sample of articles from prominent Lebanese news sources, and propagate a qualitative content analysis to determine fixations, framings, and lexicon. The aspects of the analysis to be focused on topic/subtopic patterns, tone and mood words, and content topics, which is pursue in an attempt to reveal the hidden rhetoric of the media coverage. Consequently, through critical discourse analysis, the paper aims to unveil how discourses form the observer's vision on technological occurrences and their socio-political environment in Lebanon.

Figure (1) Model of Analysis

Data Analysis

1. "The father of an American hostage still being held in Gaza by Hamas criticized the deadly attacks in Lebanon that caused pagers and walkie-talkies to explode killing dozens, saying that "this pager, Mission Impossible action, it's like treating agony with more agony" (CNN, September 19, 2024)



Macro Analysis

Positive self-representation

Finally, in this extract, the father of the American hostage is portrayed as a reasonable, if not moralistic man. It also reveals that when he criticized the attacks in Lebanon, it was against violence as well as suffering. The phrase is the concise translation of literal interpretation of 'do no harm' and is sensitive of human life and afflicted with compassion. This self-representation makes him—and by extension, Americans—look humanitarian and moral as they face differences. That is why personal experience is highlighted: the speaker's son is a hostage, which humanizes the speaker and means that he is a victim rather than a participant in geopolitical struggle.

Negative self-representation

On the other hand, the allusion to 'dead attacks in Lebanon', and the confusion of exploding objects (pagers and walkie-talkies) brings a negative perception of the unleash violence and those involved.... Hamas is hence indirectly implicated in fashioning such a condition whereby such a violent incident happens, blowing more sufferance at the father's helm. The term Mission Impossible action minimizes the dreadful outcomes of the attacks, might even lead to construe as wild and pointless risks, which to some extent serves a negative stereotyping of the actors in the violent events.

Micro Analysis

The phrase is quite clear that produces identification of the speaker – now it is being esteemed as an American hostage's father, who is detained in Gaza by Hamas. Occasionally the Americans hostage term triggers an emotional response other audience positioning the father as a hero hold back American citizen trapped in foreign wars. The label "still being held" revives suffering and powerlessness impression in compliance with the sense of victimization.

The father uses the saying 'using a remedy to treat sickness with more sickness,' in arguing against the use of forcefulness. It implies that the perpetration of suffering is continuous, one experience of suffering generates another. It not only is mocking the circumstances under which the explosions took place but also speaks about the continuation of other conflicts like Hamas and even the Israeli-Palestinian problem. The emphasis on 'agony' thus makes the victims of violence human again, forcing the reader to view violence with the lens of, what it does to the affected emotionally rather than physically.

2. "National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby on Wednesday also would only say the US was not involved in that attack or the pager attacks a day prior... On Tuesday, following the explosion of pagers in Lebanon in an attack carried out by Israel, Miller said that "the US was not aware of this incident in advance" (CNN, September 19, 2024)

Macro Analysis

Positive Self-Representation The statements of National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby are used in this extract construct a positive self-presentation for the US government. The US failed to be involved in the attack which makes the country to be perceived as a responsible and peaceful nation in the global society. Such distancing from the attacks can be perceived as an effort to preserve the image of the United States as well as credibility on the matters of securitization. In addition, the expression 'this incident was not pre-arranged with the US,' gives the impression of non-involvement, the U.S. is not only uninvolved but actually avoids unanticipated violence and seeks to limit aggression.

Negative Self-Representation On the other hand, by drawing the contrast between the two looks, the extract also constructs the negative representation of the self. While speaking of non-participation, the need to explain that one does not interfere in this or that conflict indicates a reactive position which means that the U.S. is in a situation when it is drawn into the international conflicts without initiating participation. Such framing could lead to perception of vulnerability or dependence on events in the region something which may be construed as a negative aspect of the American foreign policy. Further, the attribution of the attacks as having been 'carried out by Israel' puts the US in rather a delicate spot, given their support for Israel. Such relations may cause criticism of the United States supporting Israel and in case the actions committed are viewed as unfair. General confusion so much is focused on the non-awareness of the incident might create an image of a lack of intelligence in perceiving events across the world thus negatively impacting the image of the U.S as a world power.

Micro Analysis The phrase "the US was not involved in that attack" also belongs to a passive voice in which power is diminished in the U.S. Such a decision indicates that of the United States more in the realm of a bystander than an active actor in the international process. That can have the effect of distancing the U.S. a bit or somewhat from the violence, as this takes place in other states. Usually people seldom utter such a statement like "would only say" which gives a tone of a limitation or discretion in expressing information. This can imply some sort of deception, when, in fact it implies that Kirby is only able to reveal so much information. The phrase also reflects the fact that the spokesman's statements are calculated, if not choreographed, maybe to avoid any possible direct association of the U.S with anything bad. That is why a defensive framing is observed when saying that 'the US was not aware of this incident in advance.' This presupposes the necessity to explain to others, and defend the image of the United States, which points more to a reply than to an initiative in the foreign policy level. Second, they have a framing that can communicate weakness and disengagement from an environment that could be needing the attentions and interventions of the United States.

3. "Israel was reportedly behind both attacks, though it has not taken public credit. Hezbollah has vowed to retaliate. The Lebanese government has characterized the pager attack as "criminal Israeli aggression." It comes amid rising tensions between Hezbollah and Israel as the war in Gaza rages on without any end in sight" (Vox, Sep 19, 2024)

Macro Analysis

Positive Self-Representation

Towards the end of this extract, one sees favorable portrayal of Hezbollah and the Lebanese government through certain rhetorical approach that are employed. This creates Hezbollah as a protector of Lebanon sovereignty making it to be a legitimate player, reacting to supposed provocation. These discursive structures create a war-like scenario appear as robust and determined, can easily rouse nationalism and constitute Hezbollah as the shield for Lebanese against threats from the outside world.

Also, referring to the pager attack as 'criminal Israeli aggression' by the Lebanese government relaxes the internal audience by painting the image of a government that asserts to defend the violations of national integrity. This portrayal tries to create identification on part of the government with common people, presenting its reaction as virtuous and warranted given external threat.

Negative Self-Representation

On the other hand, that the paper talks of Israel as 'reportedly behind both attacks' and that it does not give Israel 'public credit' gives the country a bad light. This terminus technique speaks directly of Israeli criminality and wickedness calling its actions unlawful and immoral which will definitely arouse public anger and censure. Not only does such Levantine enhance positioning of Israel as negative, but it also implies that the country is acting with hostility and without a pretext.

The specifics such a great focus is made on the fact that the relations between Hezbollah and Israel have been strained meaning that there is a conflict occurring at present where Israel is depicted as the initiator of the hostility. This framing implies that Israel is a country involved in the current violence which creates a volatility of the Middle East findings and makes people to perceive the action of the state in a different way.

Micro Analysis

The use of the word "reportedly" following the statement Israel was reportedly behind both attacks" suggests that the information given is second-hand or rather a rumor. The second choice adds controversial meaning into the definite attitude toward Israel and makes the narrative seem not final. It also makes the speaker look conservative which determine the believability of the audience.

To call the pager attack an act of 'criminal Israeli aggression' is a masterstroke in demagoguery. The term "criminal" refers to a much clearer moral sanctions treatment and portrays that Israeli measures as not only assertive but unlawful. This is consistent with other works that make Israel the cause of wrong doing while depicting those who are against it as innocents.

Both the overall framing of the extract and the two speeches adhere strictly to the conflict frame based on the aggressiveness of the conflict and retribution. This repetition refers to 'escalating tensions between Hezbollah and Israel' even though such language makes people consider the problem as the cycle of violence. This position makes both parties seem mutual rivals though the moral divide is drawn in favor of Hezbollah.

4. "An American official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said Israel briefed the U.S. on the operation — where small amounts of explosives hidden in the pagers were detonated. The Lebanese government and Iran-backed Hezbollah also blamed Israel for the deadly explosions. The Israeli military, which has a long history of sophisticated operations behind enemy lines, declined to comment" (AP News, September 19, 2024)

Macro Analysis

Positive Self-Representation

When drawing information from the extract, the author points out, information on operation cooperation between the US and Israel which indicates sophistication and operational capacity of the two armies. Foreign Ministries use words like 'briefed the U.S. on the operation.' It means that Israel is being very straightforward and would not do anything that would betray the confidence of the United States. Such representation places the U.S. along with Israel as capable and responsible players in a rather strategic and assuasive political environment. The present 'a long history of sophisticated operations behind enemy lines' is to paint a positive picture of the Israelis as smart HI concede. This representation focuses a lot on their operational capacity as well as infers professionalism when undertaking any action.

Negative Self-Representation

According to the extract, the Lebanese government and Hezbollah's response was to "blame Israel for the deadly explosions." This shows that the use of Israel is framed negatively as an aggressor hence may contribute to paternalistic conditioning of audience to perceive Israel unfavorably regarding these explosions. This publication introduces "who on September spoke on the condition of anonymity" which forces to think that there are some questionable or sensitive moments in the situation which shadows the actions of the US and Israel. It means that disseminated information is rather controversial, which can negatively affect the positive portrayal of these actors. The Israeli military's position to either refuse to respond to the situation may be seen as a negative one. It creates an impression of seclusion which makes people doubt the operations of such firms from a moral and legal point of view.

Micro Analysis

"An American official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity": The notion of 'spice' is and likely to be associated with keeps something hidden or mysterious and possibly contain some sensitive data. The word "anonymity" means that some information cannot be fully trusted or there are consequences that should be concealed. It also locates the American official as one of 'our own' – which aids in an illusion of authority while remaining somewhat anonymous. "Israel briefed the U.S.": It is a formal term which connotes military like professionalism, and the nature of relationship and business between the two countries can therefore be expected to be professional, formal, cooperative, in a structured manner and characterized by mutual trust. "The Lebanese government and Iran-backed Hezbollah also blamed Israel": This construction locates blame with these groups and implied a united front against Israel. The term 'Iran-backed' is again about situating the discussion around Hezbollah in relation to regional conflict lines, they can make it seem like the operations or accusations which Hezbollah make or carry out, involve Iranian motives or say agenda; which thus takes away their self-initiated, agency. "The Israeli military... declined to comment": Given that people who reply in this way do so because they probably want to avoid answering the given questions in public, the phrase 'declined to comment' inoculates itself with avoidance and gives an air of furtive, which might be unhealthy for the perceived image of the military. However, it differs from the earlier depiction of a sophisticated operation and creates a view of a disconnect between the operational capability and the accountability.

5. "While details are still emerging from Wednesday's attack, the second wave of explosions targeted a country that is still reeling from Tuesday's pager bombings. That attack appeared to be a complex Israeli operation targeting Hezbollah, but an enormous amount of civilian casualties were also reported, as the detonations occurred wherever members' pagers happened to be — including homes, cars, grocery stores and cafes" (AP News, September 19, 2024)

Macro Analysis

Positive Self-Representation

The occurrence cited by Roberts as 'a complex operation' that 'appeared to target Hezbollah' sounds as a very efficient and strategic military. These connotations further reinforce the prior impression that by fighting in '48 Israel made itself a conscious and complicated decision and that it did so as a rational actor in a tough world. Such portrayal can create feelings of respect with the Military strategy of Israel. To the reader, this phrase signals that the new information is still being reported piecemeal, as in the way only big news organizations with countless reporters on the ground can: slowly and methodically. This means that professionalism of journalism where the media is assuring people that it will get them the complete details of a story without offering hasty conclusions. It gives the impression that the media – and in extension, the US and its partners – are orderly players in a chaotic state.

Negative Self-Representation Stating that the attacks have caused "an enormous amount of civilian casualties." This framing leads to negative representation from the human side of the conflict and military operation, which is negative representation of the actions of the Israeli military. To extend, concentrating on the civilians, the text poses the readers into consider the ethicality and moral of such military operations. This has the effect of invoking chaos and random destruction; the survivors of the detonations had their homes and cars blown up, they shop at grocery stores and go to cafes. Such detail points to the suffering of the common people, and the aspect underscores the cost of related military operations blamed on Israel. It gives a story of the whole operation as if it targeted Hezbollah while causing a lot of harm to innocents thus making it hard to justify most of such operations. "A country that is still reeling" was used to make a reader sympathetic to the Lebanese and the place where they live. Thus, it constructs the nation as the victim which still endures violence, arguing with the concept of pr sorry for suffering, to which the representation of the carefully planned military actions of

Israel opposes. Such a gap gives a negative patina to the actions of Israelis for the simple reason that they are linked to the traumatic and unstable experiences in Lebanon.

Micro Analysis The word ‘second wave’ brings a sense of continuity, of more violence, which is way more menacing than noting separate incidents of violence. Such framing may produce appealing anxiety and fear over the continued conflict in the region both for the citizen and the spectators. The extract can be seen as providing the six stages in ‘less conflict’ terms: the aims are not just military (as opposed to Hezbollah), but the portrayal of important humanitarian interests and civilian sufferings. Both of these focalizations make the readers think about the potential outcomes of actions with regards to military missions not only in terms of geopolitical calculations. People in general will be encouraged to contemplate on the ethical consequences of certain conducts typical of armed forces where citizens become victims. Such terms as ‘reeling and enormous casualties’, engulfs an emotional aspect which causes reader to empathize with and give them reason to critically analyze the role of warfare. “The explosions occurred in the vicinity of a large crowd that had gathered for the funerals of four victims of Tuesday's simultaneous pager blasts, which killed at least 12 people and injured nearly 3,000” (BBC, 20 September 2024) Macro Analysis Positive Self-Representation Hussein Ashuri, 55, who was interviewed by Reuters, says he knows four victims and adds that ‘at least 12 people have been killed’. Thus, the function of emphasizing the losses may call upon the audience’s compassion, and position the bereaved populations and their pain in a positive way. This can promote an even clearer story of triumph against adversity, and put the victims and their families in the proper role of deserving aid and reciprocation. Another aspect of the choice of the phrase “gathered for the funerals,” as also emphasizing on the unison people’s response to grief. This representation as a reflection of the show, but also the community strength and togetherness, but human connection in such difficult circumstances. **Negative Self-Representation** Their military called it, ‘Explosions occurred in the vicinity of a large crowd.’ The violence was targeted and the civilians suffered. Such framing undermines the concern that those causing the explosions have for lives on the ground and paints the bb organizations in a negative light most probably due to their involvement in a military or terrorists’ act. The number preceding the word ‘crowd’, references the size and density the general population in a threatening way making the brutality of the attack all the more reckless. The information on the carnage is described by such characteristics as the explosions killed at least 12 people and nearly 3,000 were injured. This quantitative approach is used in order to exaggerate the scale of the problem and can be seen to cast aspersions on the officials responsible by implying high levels of violence and indifference to life. In the extract the recent explosions are placed in a timeline of Tuesday and the pager blasts, implying a cycle of violence. Such representation adds to forming the negative attitude toward a situation in Lebanon, which suggest that the situation is rather insecure and unstable. It also questions the solidity of the territory, presenting it as all too often violent and tragic.

6. “Citing US officials, the New York Times said that the pagers received messages that appeared to be coming from Hezbollah's leadership before detonating. The messages instead appeared to trigger the devices, the outlet reported” (BBC, 20 September 2024)

Macro Analysis

Positive Self-Representation

The phrase used as for instance; Citing US officials makes U.S officials as key referees hence providing key information. This representation constructs the U.S. as establishing knowledge and constructing it as vital in helping make sense of the emergent strategic scene.

This along with the claim that the information was built from the data obtained in the New York Times ensures credibility of the report. There are articles composed and published in the newspaper and with a focus on journalistic style, it presents information as presented by credible sources. This has the effect of abetting the culture of responsible journalism; interestingly it supports the bearing of the US based media institutions.

Negative Self-Representation

It is further suggested in the extract that the messages supposedly from the “leadership of Hezbollah” was used to set off the explosions. This configuration re-sexualizes negatively Hezbollah by pointing out that the group is involved in the violence through its media outlets. They make them seem like they are planning something bad, attacking the group and this will keep fueling the negativity of the stereotypes of the group. That is why one cannot fail to notice that such qualifiers like ‘it appeared to be coming from Hezbollah’s leadership’ prevaricate. Hedging can thus blunt the authority of Hezbollah, and imply that there may be desire or purpose behind their actions that is, at best, ambiguous. It is questionable for the group since it strived at connecting

them to violence even with an absence of concrete evidence; the public might develop mistrust towards the group. The construction of the messages instead appeared to trigger the devices underlines an aspect of technology as a violence instrument rather than... There is a shift in blame from Hezbollah to an amplification system that was sabotaged or malfunctioning and therefore distances them from the violence and creates their new diminished legitimacy.

Micro Analysis

The phrase can be said to give credibility of the information and source it from people in authority. In this choice, the accent is made on the idea that the US officials are decisive and informed, making their position dominant in this story. In this some cases the verb indicates a kind of activation as in causation suggesting that the messages were not mere accompaniment but the causes of the explosions. This choice of language can lead to some people developing a view that the attacks are premeditated, when in actual sense they are not. The authors add a layer of uncertainty to the nature of the information received through the messages' source identification by using the phrase 'appeared to be'. Such hedging raises the question of the authenticity of the information, and, therefore, the direct connection to Hezbollah. The phrase also puts Hezbollah in sensitive position by linking it with the incidents while the authorities have not produced concrete evidence.

7. "One day after thousands of pagers exploded across Lebanon, more explosions of handheld devices, including walkie-talkie radios, mobile phones, laptops and even solar power cells, have killed at least 20 people and injured 450" (Aljazeera, 19 Sep 2024)

Macro Analysis Positive Self-Representation The role of 'one day after' can be regarded as positive because the processing of the events' emotions is indicated to occur immediately after their occurrence. It shows that networks are observing and bring updates of the situation, which seems to be very dynamic. This minimize journalist's independence and advocate for the ethic of holding the public's right to know, which in turn increases the believability of the reporting media. The list of 'devices which require hands: walkie-talkie radios, mobile phones, laptops and even solar power cells' adds up the technical aspect giving the situation a rather modern and complicated look. This portrayal can make the violence appear more technological elite and give the impression about the current situation being a high level and serious conflict which would appeal to the audiences most worried about the technological aspect of war. **Negative Self-Representation** The phrase "more explosions" means going back to the conditions with intensified violence – this shades at the condition in Lebanon. Such a repetition of explosions can create an element of disorderliness and insecurity that contributes and adds to a negative stereotyping of the region, as being in a state of war. The report continues "have killed at least 20 people and injured 450," In this particular type of news releases, the sheer numbers are listed giving the readers of such news a feeling of the grim aftermath of the explosions and their devastation on civilian lives. It throws much light on how severe the attacks are and even further paints the picture of the events which led to it in a bad light hence inquiring on the forces behind the incidences of violence. These were attributed to the need to manufacture the pager model that had thousands of pagers exploded implying that the situation was uncontrolled. Such representation may also add new layers of instabilities and insecurity into Lebanon and this will also depict a bad image from the authorities to provide adequate securities and orders into the country.

Micro Analysis There is always with a deference of one day after This phrase sets time limit that show some sense of hurriedness. There is a perception that something is constantly happening unofficially and has not yet reached the status of a permanent state, which means that at the moment something is happening actively. It also generates a kind of alertness or concern in the reader, which the author's decision establishes. It is amazing that the word "exploded" was used here- thousands of pagers exploded The use of this word is violent and chaotic. It makes one picture the incident as disastrous, and conveys the intention fully, of painting the picture as disastrous one. The term "thousands of pagers" also give a broad picture of the accident which simply means the explosions were severe and they had a broader impact. 'More explosions of handheld devices' It seems like the public protest is not a one-off incident, and violence just erupts from time to time. The change of specified technology utilization to "handheld devices" makes the violence more extensive; the technology is not allergic to the handheld ones only, is likely to raise the public's sense of danger. **Discussions** The remarks made by the father of the American hostage present the author's anti-violent thematic and present the author as a victim of geopolitics, who continues the cycle of suffering a result of current warfare. His calling the attacks "Mission Impossible action" is also an attempt to belittle the undesirable result by pointing to the reason for violence and emphasizing his and the company peaceful intentions. On the contrary, the officials like John Kirby try to maintain that America is not involved in the conflict in order to maintain its image as a responsible super-power;

but such positioning may, in fact, reveal weaknesses and a more reactive position in interstate relations. At the same time, Israel's character as a perpetrator, especially in the light of Hezbollah's description of its actions as 'criminal aggression,' strengthens the victim identification for Lebanon and distorts the 'warrior image' of Israel. This is compounded by anonymity of sources where it pertains to operations mounted by the US and Israel, an issue of opaqueness. Altogether, such stories develop a rhymed pattern of victimization and moral authority, moral statements, positioning within and geopolitics, with all the actors striving for legitimacy and officially sanctioned roles amidst the growing tension, thus contributing to the ethical reconsideration of warfare and humanitarian suffering which such circumstances demand.

Conclusions The paper reaches the following conclusions:

1. The ideologies found in the text provided are: The text also provides several levels of analysis of morality, victimization, distancing, deception, professionalism, humanitarian and moral implications, activation and causation, uncertainty, isolation and condemnation. Therefore, these ideologies blend into offer a complex picture of the conflict, and how it is to be done, and the moral consequences and cost of human lives involved in a complex process of attempting to analyze the militarily and political strategies of the region.

2. Positive self-representation and negative other representation can be also identified in the text in connection with the given characters and events. The protagonist is well placed amid personal tragedy and is portrayed as a man of moral compass berating the violence in Lebanon with sensitivity. On the other hand, the U.S officials while they strive to appear passive and non-interested in any form they seem to expose major cracks in their foreign policies and appear to be in a reactive rather than a proactive position. I called Israel 'an aggressor' through Hezbollah's description of its operations as 'criminal aggression,' which strengthen the victim image of Lebanon and points out the grim reality of suffering in a war. These represent abhorrent qualities more associated with suffering in Lebanon than achieving any strategic military advantage adding an ethical question mark to the military's operations while, at the same time aligning with the negative imagery that depicts the US and Israel's participation in the conflict as strategically reckless.

References

- Entman, R. M. (1993). Framing: Toward clarification of a fractured paradigm. *Journal of Communication*, 43(4), 51-58. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1460-2466.1993.tb01304.x>
- Fairclough, N. (1995). *Critical discourse analysis: The critical study of language*. Longman.
- Gamson, W. A., & Modigliani, A. (1989). Media discourse and public opinion on nuclear power: A constructionist approach. *American Journal of Sociology*, 95(1), 1-37. <https://doi.org/10.1086/229213>
- Gee, J. P. (2014). *An introduction to discourse analysis: Theory and method* (4th ed.). Routledge.
- Hall, S. (1997). The spectacle of the "Other". In *Representation: Cultural representations and signifying practices* (pp. 223-290). Sage.
- Harlow, S., & Johnson, T. J. (2011). The protest paradigm in the news: A longitudinal analysis of global protest coverage. *The International Journal of Press/Politics*, 16(3), 389-411. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1940161211407323>
- Luke, A. (1997). Critical discourse analysis. In T. van Dijk (Ed.), *Discourse as social interaction* (pp. 134-159).
- Scheingold, S. A. (1996). *The politics of protest: Social movements in America* (2nd ed.). Longman.
- Van Dijk, T. A. (1998). *Discourse and society: A new handbook of discourse analysis*. Sage.
- Van Dijk, T. A. (2000). Political discourse and ideology. In D. Schiffrin, D. Tannen, & H. E. Hamilton (Eds.), *The handbook of discourse analysis* (pp. 354-371). Blackwell.
- Van Dijk, T. A. (2006). Discourse and manipulation. *Discourse & Society*, 17(3), 359-383. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0957926506060250>
- Wodak, R. (2001). The discourse-historical approach. In R. Wodak & M. Meyer (Eds.), *Methods of critical discourse analysis* (pp. 63-94). Sage.

Online References

- <https://apnews.com/article/lebanon-israel-hezbollah-pager-explosion-e9493409a0648b846fdcadffdb02d71e>
- <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cz04m913m49o>
- <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/9/18/more-devices-exploding-across-lebanon-whats-happening>
- <https://www.vox.com/world-politics/372399/pager-explosions-lebanon-syria-hezbollah-israel-gaza>
- <https://edition.cnn.com/world/live-news/lebanon-pagers-explode-hezbollah-israel-09-18-24-intl-hnk/index.html>