



تحليل خطابي نقدي حول الصراع بين غزة وإسرائيل في صحيفتي نيويورك تايمز والشرق الأوسط

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الملخص

يستكشف البحث الحالي التحليل النقدي للخطاب حول الصراع بين غزة وإسرائيل كما هو ممثل في صحيفة نيويورك تايمز وصحف الشرق الأوسط. يتبنى الباحث نموذج فان دايك (2000) "المربع الأيديولوجي" ويركز على ثلاثة أهداف رئيسية. أولاً، يسعى إلى إجراء تحليل نقدي لخطاب الصراع الموجود في هذه الصحف. ثانياً، يميل إلى الكشف عن التحيزات الأيديولوجية الكامنة في الخطاب الإعلامي. ثالثاً، يبحث في التأثير المحتمل للتمثيلات الإعلامية على إدراك الجمهور وتشكيل آرائهم. ومن خلال التحليل النقدي للخطاب لبعض التقارير، تقدم الدراسة رؤى حول التحيزات الأيديولوجية والاستراتيجيات الخطابية المستخدمة في تمثيل الصراع بين غزة وإسرائيل في الصحف المختارة. ومن خلال الكشف عن هذه التحيزات، تساهم الدراسة في فهم أفضل للتأثير المحتمل لوسائل الإعلام على فهم الجمهور وتشكيل الآراء المتعلقة بالصراع.

الكلمات المفتاحية: تحليل الخطاب النقدي، سفك الدماء، بيت المقدس، السياسات

Critical Discourse Analysis of Gaza and Israel Conflict in New York Times and the Middle East Newspapers

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Abstract

The present research explores a critical discourse analysis of the Gaza-Israel conflict as represented in the New York Times and Middle East newspapers. The researcher adopts van Dijk's (2000) 'ideological square' paradigm and concentrates on three key objectives. First, it seeks to critically analyze the discourse of the conflict found in these newspapers. Second, it tends to uncover the underlying ideological biases embedded within the media discourse. Third, it investigates the potential influence of media representations on public perception and the shaping of their opinions. Through the critical discourse analysis of some reports, the study offers insights into the ideological biases and discursive strategies used in the representation of the Gaza-Israel conflict in the selected newspapers. By exposing these biases, the study contributes to a better understanding of the media's potential impact on public understanding and the shaping of opinions regarding the conflict.

Keywords: critical discourse analysis, bloodshed, Jerusalem, policies



1. Introduction

Political tensions, geographical disagreements, and recurring bloodshed between Israel and the Palestinian region of Gaza have defined the long-running and extremely contentious Gaza-Israel conflict in the Middle East. This dispute stems from rival national goals, security concerns, and opposing narratives of land ownership and statehood that have long historical roots. (Gelvin, 2018).

The Zionist movement's hopes for a Jewish state in Palestine and the subsequent creation of the State of Israel in 1948 are what gave rise to the Gaza-Israel conflict in the late 19th century. Numerous wars, uprisings, and sporadic intervals of relative quiet have characterized the struggle, along with multiple attempts at peace agreements and negotiations. (Quandt, 2013).

The status of Jerusalem, borders and geographical divides, the right of return for Palestinian refugees, the creation of a Palestinian state, and control over resources like land and water are the main concerns driving the conflict. Over the years, these issues have been a subject of intense debate, negotiation, and diplomatic efforts, often leading to frustration and escalating tensions on both sides (Gelvin, 2018).

Conducting a critical discourse study of media representations of the Gaza-Israel war requires an understanding of the political and historical background of the conflict. Diverse narratives and interpretations of the conflict have shaped public opinion and debate around it, resulting in major worldwide attention and media coverage of the conflict (Said, 2003).

2. Objectives of the Study

- i. The importance of the research lies in understanding cultural and political differences and their impact on how the conflict is portrayed.
- ii. The research can also help understand how media coverage affects policies and international decisions related to the conflict.
- iii. Additionally, the research can contribute to increasing awareness of the importance of critical analysis of newspapers and their impact on understanding international and regional issues.

3. The Problem of the Study

The research problem is:

- i. The diversity of perceptions and analyses of the conflict between Gaza and Israel in Western newspapers like the New York Times and Middle Eastern newspapers, which requires research and analysis to understand the different perspectives and orientations.



ii. The impact of media coverage of the conflict between Gaza and Israel by global and regional media is important because it can affect public opinion and international policies. Therefore, understanding how the conflict is portrayed in the media is important for understanding its impact.

4. Aims of the Study

The study aims to:

- i. Critically analyze the discourse surrounding the Gaza-Israel conflict in the New York Times and Middle East Newspapers.
- ii. Uncover the underlying ideological biases embedded within the media discourse on the Gaza-Israel conflict.
- iii. Seek the potential impact of media representations on public understanding and shaping their opinion.

5. The Concept of Critical Discourse Analysis.

Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) plays a crucial role in understanding and analyzing media representations of complex issues such as the Gaza-Israel conflict. CDA is a research approach that focuses on the relationship between language, power, and ideology in discourse (Fairclough, 2013). Discourse analysis, today, is an interdisciplinary orientation between humanities and social sciences. Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) is a new approach to discourse analysis and is deemed to be an important branch of it nowadays. In recent years, CDA is considered as a new branch of modern linguistic research. Fowler et al (1979: 185) believe that CDA is a type of linguistic instrument, which should be used and can be applied to specific discourse analysis situations, e.g. the analysis of press discourse through the use of the analytical method of social and linguistic analysis, Fowler (1979); Kress (1983), and many other critical linguists prepared a series of researches on how discourse functions in both the ideological process and the political process. There are many definitions that linguists pose about CDA. Thus, many views in a manner fit with the subject of the research. The first view is that, CDA "is the uncovering of implicit ideologies in texts. It unveils the underlying ideological prejudices and therefore the exercise of power in texts" (Widdowson, 2000: 32). Also, CDA can be best defined as "a framework for examining how language choices, framing, and representations in media reports shape public opinion and perpetuate dominant narratives" (VanDjik, 2006:131); whereas Williams (1977) believes that CDA is based on a view of Semiosis as an essential element of all material of social processes. Another view is concerned CDA as the practical link to political and social participation in construction of society (Krings et al. 1993).



6. Methodology

6.1. Sources of Data

The sources of data for this study are two newspapers: the *New York times* and the *Middle East*. The reports which are written about the Gaza – Israel conflict are collected from the websites of these newspapers. The main reason for the selection of these newspapers is that; the *New York Times* and *Middle East* belong to the countries that are the two main opposing sides of Palestinian situation. Another reason is that the *New York Times* is one of the top American newspapers which is widely circulated and has readers from all over the world.; while the *Middle East* is also one of the well-known Arabian newspapers which is of interest to most Arab readers. Moreover, these newspapers can be easily accessed in their websites.

The study sample consists of two news headlines highlighting the most prominent events in the conflict between Gaza and Israel. Therefore, the study sample consisted of 4 texts of news stories; 2 from the *New York Times* website and the rest from the *Middle East* website.

6.2. Methodological Framework

The adopted model for this term paper is the "*Ideological Square*" proposed by Teun A. van Dijk. The Ideological Square is a framework used in critical discourse analysis to analyze and understand the ideological positions and discursive strategies employed in media texts (van Dijk, 2000).

This ideological square has these four principles: "Emphasize positive things about US. Emphasize negative things about Them. De-emphasize negative things about Us. De-emphasize positive things about Them" (ibid: 44).

Van Dijk (ibid:46) states that many group ideologies including the representation of "**Self** and **Others, Us** and **Them**". Many therefore seem to be polarized "**We** are **Good** and **They** are **Bad**", and the notion '*ideological square*' is to polarize *ingroups* and *outgroups* in order to present the group '**We**' in a good or favourable way and the group '**They**' in a bad or unfavourable way.

Thus, as Van Dijk (ibid:45) explains an additional strategy used to express assimilation is to represent the '**We**' in a **positive** light which is known as '**positive self- presentation**' and the '**Other**' in a **negative** light which is known as '**negative other presentation**'.

This ideological polarization can be carried out through a large variety of forms, such as the choice of lexical items that involve **positive** or **negative** evaluations, as well as in the structure and categories of whole propositions as in



(*active / passive*, etc.). This strategy of polarization consists of “emphasizing *our good properties/actions*; emphasizing *their bad properties/actions*, and softening *our bad properties/actions*; and softening *their good properties/actions*.”

The news reports analyzed in this study revealed several prevalent discursive strategies within this framework, as described by Van Dijk (2000). The following list provides an overview of these strategies:

1. Actor Description: The discourse includes different types of actor description. Thus, actors can be described as members of groups or individuals , by first name or family name , job , role or group name, as specific or unspecific, by their position to other people. The overall ideological strategy is that of *positive self-presentation* and *negative other presentation*. The description of *Others* may be starkly racist, and more skilfully convey *negative* views and vice versa.

2. Burden: It is based on various standard arguments, which represent premises that are taken for granted, as self-evident and as sufficient reason to accept the conclusion.

3. Comparison: A strategy which is used when speakers/writers compare ingroups and outgroups. Such comparisons usually imply the *negative* source of the outgroup and *positive* source of ingroup.

4. Consensus: One of the political strategies, in which ingroup unification, cohesion, and solidarity against outgroup can be organized.

5. Counterfactuals: In argumentation, counterfactuals play an important role because they allow people to show absurd consequences when an alternative is being considered. It is used as a warning and advice, such as ‘*What would happen if we.....*’.

6. Disclaimers: This strategy is used to keep face through stating our *positive* characteristics first, and then concentrates on their *negative* attributes.

7. Empathy: This strategy depends on the political or ideological perspective to show sympathy or compassion with the ingroup.

8. Euphemism: A rhetorical strategy, a semantic move of mitigation of the *positive self-presentation* , the avoidance of negative impression formation. It is used to avoid tough meaning or unpleasant expressions.

9. Evidentiality: Using an argumentation when speakers present some proof or evidence for their knowledge or opinions. How or where did they get the information. Evidential is an important step to convey objectivity, reliability, and credibility.



10. Example/ Illustration: A powerful move in the argumentation is to give examples, or means used to clarify the meaning, illustrating or making more plausible a general point defended by the speaker or writer.

11. History as lesson: A useful strategy which is used to show that the present event or situation can be relatively associated with earlier (*positive* or *negative*) events in history

12. Hyperbole: A semantic rhetoric strategy which is used for the enhancement of meaning, either for *positive self- presentation* or *negative other presentation*.

13. Illegality: A strategy by which the outgroup members are described as criminals or law breakers.

14. Number game: In order to emphasize objectivity, numbers and statistics are used in the discourse to persuasively present objectivity. They present ‘*facts*’ against more opinion and impression.

15. Repetition: A rhetorical device. It of course can play a specific role in the overall strategy to emphasize *Our* good thing and *Their* bad ones.

16. Vagueness: Speakers/writers may use vague expressions like: ‘a lot’, ‘few’, ‘very’, ‘thing’ in order not to present enough information to the readers/ listeners either as *positive self-presentation* or *negative other presentation*.

7. Data Analysis and Discussion

This section presents a critical analysis of two pairs of news reports that share the same subjects. Due to the extensive nature of the analyses, only a selection of the identified strategies in the news reports will be presented.

7.1. Text Analysis of the New York Times Reports

Report (1) ‘Released hostages give Tel Aviv protesters hope for those left behind’ Dec 2, 2023

1. Empathy

‘Released hostages give Tel Aviv protesters hope for those left behind’

The writer employs the strategy of ‘empathy’ with ingroup ‘Israeli hostages’. He uses the term ‘hostage’ to indicate the negative side of Hamas. He attempts to convince the reader that Hamas militants are considered terrorists because they kidnap civilians as hostages.

2. Evidentiality



'Irena Tati, 73. She was also one of the 105 hostages — including Israelis, Thais and other foreign citizens — who have been released and returned to Israel'

The writer uses the strategy of 'Evidentiality' to enhance objectivity to his report, as he relies on the testimonies of kidnapped civilians who have been freed from the grip of Hamas. Through the words of these recently released hostages, the report sheds light on the negative aspects of Hamas militants.

3. Illustration

'With roughly 240 hostages taken in the surprise Hamas-led attacks on Oct. 7, more than 100 hostages remain in captivity, according to Israeli officials'

In order to make the report more rational and acceptable to the recipient, the writer uses the strategy of 'illustration'. Here, the writer presents the illustration as a *positive* example by referring to the number of hostages who are still in Hamas grips. So international opinion should stand with Israel against the terror deeds of Hamas.

4. Empathy

'Sasha, 28, and Ms. Tati were kidnapped from their home in Kibbutz Nir Oz on Oct. 7. Mr. Trupanob is still being held in Gaza. Her husband, Vitaly Trupanob, was murdered in the attack'

The writer presents the words of a freed hostage who tragically lost most of her family members due to the actions of Hamas militants. This is an appeal by the writer to evoke the recipient's sympathy towards Israeli civilians, with the intention of garnering support for the affected individuals 'ingroup'.

5. Burden

'Before the temporary cease-fire, thousands of people rallied outside Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office in Jerusalem to call on the government to do more to free hostages held in Gaza'

To illustrate the responsibility of Tel Aviv's government, the writer uses the argumentative strategy of 'burden' *positively* with the 'ingroup'. In this context, the writer explains the efforts exerted by the Israeli government on two fronts: The first is to eliminate the Hamas organization and ensure that it will not return again, the second is to liberate all the hostages who are held by Hamas militants.

6. Comparison

'Amit Shem Tov, 24, whose younger brother Omer, 21, is still being held in Gaza, said, "The end of the cease-fire is the worst thing that could have happened because it seriously delays the release of my brother'



The writer quotes the words of the brother of one of the hostages. By applying the strategy of 'comparison', the writer compares two scenarios (the end of the cease - fire or the continuation of the war). In both cases, the writer intentionally highlights the *negative* side of outgroup ' Hamas' and *positive* side of ingroup 'Israeli forces'.

Report (2) 'Israel, Expanding Offensive, Tells More Gazans to Evacuate' Dec 3, 2023

1. Illustration

'The new orders, coming three days after the collapse of a weeklong truce, sowed confusion and fear among Gaza residents, some of whom have already been displaced at least once before'

The writer , in this context, employs the strategy of 'Illustration' to show that the Israeli forces' prioritization of humanitarian aspects in a *positive* light. The report sheds light on the efforts made by the Israeli forces to warn the civilian population from remaining in conflict areas. It is an attempt to convince readers that the war is against Hamas and not civilians.

2. Consensus

'John F. Kirby, the spokesman for the U.S. National Security Council, defended the Israeli military on Sunday, saying he believed "they have been receptive to our messages here of trying to minimize civilian casualties"'

The writer clarifies in this quotation from the words of *the spokesman for the U.S. National Security Council* to show the *positive* side of the ingroup. By employing the strategy of 'consensus', the reporter aims to persuade the readers that international opinion, led by the United States, supports the military operations carried out by Israel against Hamas. It is worth noting that Hamas is an organization that the United States designates as a terrorist group.

3. History as lesson

'Defense Secretary Lloyd J. Austin III said his experience waging war in urban areas of Iraq had taught him that "you can only win in urban warfare by protecting civilians"'

By using the strategy of 'history as lesson', the quotation from Austin's speech attempts to link the previous event with current circumstances. Therefore, the success of the Israelis in the war against Gaza is attributed to their effort in neutralizing civilians from the conflict areas. This is an invitation from the American administration to the Israeli government to continue military operations against Hamas. This means a *positive* support for the ingroup.

4. Counterfactual

'Mr. Austin said "If you drive them into the arms of the enemy, you replace a tactical victory with a strategic defeat'

By using the strategy of 'counterfactual', the speaker cautions Israel, the 'ingroup' from the threat posed by the 'outgroup' Hamas. Therefore, the writer adopts Austin's words to highlight the support provided to the ingroup through the American assistance in shaping Israel's policies in the Middle East region.

5. Hyperbole

'Mr. Macron said there was no doubt that Hamas was a terrorist organization, but that if the goal was to erase it, "the war will last 10 years'

The inclusion of the French President's words in the report is to support the ingroup 'Israel' by exaggerating the threat posed by the enemy 'Hamas', and their military capabilities. The exaggeration of these capabilities justifies Israel to continue its war for many years to control Gaza.

6. Disclaimer

"Dear residents of Gaza, obeying evacuation instructions is the safest way to preserve your safety, your lives and the lives of your families," Israel's military wrote on Arabic-language accounts on Facebook and X on Sunday.

The writer cites Israeli forces' leaflets in Arabic that warn the residents of Gaza. This convinces the recipient that the Israeli forces do not want to kill civilians, so such a claim will increase the support of public opinion for Israeli military operations. Moreover, it leads to a *positive* impression that the Israeli forces prioritise humanitarian aspect.

8. Text Analysis of the Middle East Reports

Report (1) 'أشرس قتال في اليوم الـ60 للحرب على غزة'، Dec 5, 2023

1. Illustration

قالت كتائب القسام التابعة لـ«حماس»، إنها كبدت الإسرائيليين خسائر كبيرة في مناطق القتال، بشرية، وفي الدبابات والآليات، وقصفت تل أبيب ومناطق أخرى.

The writer includes a quote from Hamas's statement, which is a strong illustration of the argument. Here, the illustration of the number of losses in soldiers and military vehicles plays a vital role, especially when directed towards *negative other –representation*. The example provided in the report creates an image for the recipient that Hamas's fighters possess the ability to effectively counter Israeli aggression.

2. Vagueness

وأعلن رئيس الأركان الإسرائيلي الجنرال هرتسي هاليفي بأن العديد من القادة في حماس ومنهم بعض كبار القادة، قد تمت تصفيتهم في الأيام الأخيرة.

The speaker employs the strategy of 'vagueness' by using ambiguous quantifiers like 'many', without specifying a precise number. This strategy leads the recipient to infer that the Israelis are uncertain about the accurate statistics regarding Hamas's losses and suggests a lack of control over the territory. The speaker aims to reassure Israeli public opinion by conveying that the ongoing military operation will effectively eliminate Hamas.

3. History as lesson

وعدّ هاليفي أن الجيش يحاول تصحيح الخطأ الذي حدث في السابع من أكتوبر (تشرين الأول).

The speaker employs the strategy of 'History as lesson' to prompt Israelis to recall a significant recent event: the infiltration of Hamas members into nearby settlements from the Gaza Strip. By doing so, the speaker wants to emphasize that such a mistake should not be repeated in the future.

4. Hyperbole

وأضاف: «خلال الأيام الأخيرة، يتصرف مقاتلو الجيش في قلب المعاقل الإرهابية التابعة لمنظمة حماس في جباليا والشجاعة ويخوضون المعارك الشرسة في مواجهة مخربيها.

The speaker uses the rhetorical strategy of 'hyperbole' to garner positive support from Israeli civilians for their army. By using terms like 'يتصرف' (acting) in their vocabulary, the speaker portrays the army's actions as if they are moving freely and without any resistance from Hamas. Additionally, the speaker characterizes Hamas as saboteurs.

5. Evidentiality

وأعلنت كتائب القسام، الثلاثاء، أنها قصفت تل أبيب برشقة صاروخية، كما قصفت بئر السبع واستهدفت تحشدات العدو شرق «ماجين». كما استهدفت غرف قيادة العدو في المحور الجنوبي لمدينة غزة بمنظومة الصواريخ «رجوم» قصيرة المدى من عيار 114 ملم.

In this context, the writer presents evidence or proof in their report, aiming for greater plausibility and supporting their knowledge or opinion. The utilization of evidentiality serves to convey objectivity, reliability, and credibility in the report. The purpose of employing this strategy is to elicit reader support for Hamas's actions. By highlighting the negative aspects of the outgroup, referred to as 'occupiers,' and emphasizing the positive aspects of the ingroup, represented by Hamas, this strategy aims to defend Hamas's existence.

6. Number game

وقالت القسام في بيان صدر مساء الثلاثاء: أحصينا تدمير 24 آلية عسكرية كلياً أو جزئياً فقط في محاور القتال بمدينة خان يونس.



To ensure the objectivity of the report, the writer sets out the numbers and statistics as a rhetorical strategy to convince the reader that the authoritative facts are reliable. As well as these ‘facts’ must be employed against mere impression and opinion. According to the Qassam Brigades, 24 Israeli military vehicles were destroyed. Including specific numbers enhances the strength of the report compared to discussing it without mentioning the losses..

7. Repetition

وتحدثت القسام عن استهداف 18 جندياً بالهجوم المباشر، وأوقع قناصتها 8 جنود بين قتيل وجريح، ونسفوا منزلاً تحصنت به قوة خاصة بالعبوات، كما أوقعوا قوة أخرى في حقل ألغام أعد مسبقاً.

In the report, the Qassam Brigades use the rhetorical strategy of ‘repetition’ to emphasize the *positive* aspects of us ‘*Hamas and its supporters*’. The reporter achieves this by repeatedly using the verb ‘أوقع’ ‘inflict’. As a result, the receiver infers that the speaker, through the use of repetition, emphasizes the goal of eliminating the Israeli army from Gaza.

8. Euphemism

إعادة المحتجزين في غزة، كانت محل نقاش حاد بين رئيس الوزراء الإسرائيلي بنيامين نتنياهو والأهالي الثلاثة ومادة للنقاش في وسائل الإعلام الإسرائيلية.

The use of ‘المحتجزين’ ‘detainees’ instead of ‘الرهائن’ ‘hostages’ in the report signifies a rhetorical strategy of ‘euphemism’ to *mitigate a negative self-presentation* of the ingroup ‘Hamas’. The writer attempts to convince the recipient that the Israelis are detainees and not hostages, because the term ‘hostages’ is typically associated with terrorist operations.

9. Disclaimer

وقالت وسائل إعلام إسرائيلية إن نتنياهو أبلغ عائلات المحتجزين في اجتماع مشحون أنه لا إمكانية لاستعادتهم جميعاً الآن.

The writer mentions the statement from the Israeli media to employ the strategy of ‘disclaimer’ by using the apparent denial ‘لا إمكانية’ ‘no possibility’. The use of ‘disclaimer’ shows the *positive* side of ingroup ‘Hamas’, as it imposes a *fait accompli* on the Israeli government.

10. Empathy

وفي ذروة المعارك البرية الموسعة، واصلت إسرائيل قصفاً عنيفاً لمعظم مناطق قطاع غزة وأحدثت دماراً أوسع في المناطق المستهدفة، وقتلت المزيد من الفلسطينيين.

The writer employs the strategy of ‘empathy’ in a *positive* way with the ingroup ‘civilians’ by gaining public sympathy about what happens to the citizens in Gaza. He also tries to exhibit the *negative* side of the Israeli policy towards Palestinians.

Report (2) ‘واشنطن تضغط لـ«تسريع» إنهاء الحرب’ Dec 6, 2023

1. Hyperbole

شهدت غزة أمس (الثلاثاء) يوماً من أشدّس المعارك بين القوات الإسرائيلية وحركة «حماس»

By using the rhetorical strategy ‘hyperbole’, the writer seeks *positive* support for the people of Gaza by depicting the extreme cruelty of the war they face. Here, the reporter exaggerates the use of the word ‘أشّرس’ ‘ferocity’ to create a supportive impression in the reader’s mind that the people of Gaza are suffering from the cruelty of war. In other words, the writer wants to convey that the people of Gaza are unable to defend themselves against the ongoing hostilities..

2. Euphemism

وقالت مصادر سياسية في تل أبيب، إن الإدارة الأميركية تمارس «ضغوطاً ناعمة» على إسرائيل للإسراع في إنهاء الحرب في غضون أسابيع.

The phrase ‘soft pressure’ is used in the report as a rhetorical strategy of ‘euphemism’ to *mitigate a negative self-presentation* of the ingroup ‘Israel’ as supported by the United States. The use of this phrase is an attempt to convince the recipient that America does not want to end the war, so it is not serious about exerting pressure on Israel to pursue that outcome.

3. Illegality

في حين يستمر الإسرائيليون في الحديث عن «حرب طويلة تستمر شهوراً

The writer uses the strategy of ‘illegality’ to describe ‘Israel’ the ‘outgroup’ *negatively*. This means that the Israelis do not care about international law and continue with genocide in Gaza despite the opposition of many countries.

4. Actor description

إن إدارة الرئيس الأميركي جو بايدن تحاول منذ أسابيع حث رئيس الوزراء الإسرائيلي بنيامين نتنياهو على وضع تصور جدي لقطاع غزة ما بعد الحرب.

The writer introduces the actor ‘Joe Biden’ as an individual through his full name and his job as US president. He is presented in a *negative* way because he is not serious about pressuring Israel to stop the aggression, and also does not know what strategy will be followed after the war.

5. Comparison



حث رئيس الوزراء الإسرائيلي بنيامين نتانياهو على وضع تصور جدي لقطاع غزة ما بعد الحرب يضع في الحسبان عودة السلطة الفلسطينية بشكل أو بآخر إلى الحكم؛ بوصف ذلك بديلاً أفضل لحكم «حماس»

The writer presents the strategy of 'comparison' when he compares the formation of the new authority (Palestinian authority) with the previous one ' Hamas authority'. In fact, such a comparison would include the *negative* side of 'Others' which is represented by Hamas authority. This means that the Palestinians cannot, under any circumstances, to form a government with full sovereignty and powers.

6. Burden

وفي الواقع، لا تجد الإدارة الأميركية أجوبة سهلة في تل أبيب ورام الله للأسئلة الكثيرة حول «اليوم التالي»

Through the use of the "burden" strategy, the writer attempts to show the challenges facing the American administration if the war on Gaza continues. This means losing support from many countries and will also expose the false pretension of the slogans of humanity and democracy.

7. Consensus

وإسرائيل بحكومتها الحالية لا تريد حل الدولتين ولا الدولة الفلسطينية ولا السلطة الحالية ولا حتى سلطة متجددة، بحسب ما تكشف عنه تصريحات مسؤوليها.

The writer employs the 'consensus' strategy to show the *negative* side of the *outgroup*. Here the reporter aims to persuade the reader that the Israeli intentions are clear to control Gaza and annex it to the occupied territories.

8. Number Game

شهدت محاور غزة يوماً من «أشرس المعارك» في الحرب على القطاع، بينما أشارت وسائل إعلام إسرائيلية إلى مقتل سبعة جنود، في حين أعلنت «كتائب القسام» قتلها 10 جنود.

The writer ,in this context, uses the strategy of 'Number game' to demonstrate the different opinions about the number of Israeli soldiers who killed during a fierce day of battles. The writer supports the *ingroup* by inflating the number of dead soldiers according to Hamas statement.

5.3. Findings

In analyzing all of the above strategies, the *Middle East* tends to support (Hamas organization, describing them as resistance fighters defending their land) as a *positive self – presentation* of the *ingroup*. It stands in the face of (the Israeli government, America as the main supporter of military operations) as a *negative other – presentation* of the *outgroup*.



In contrast, the *New York Times* tends to support (military operations carried out by Israeli forces, calling for the elimination of Hamas as well as the release of hostages) as a *positive self – presentation* of the ingroup. It stands in the face of (Hamas militants, the countries that support them, and describing them as terrorists) as a *negative other – presentation* of the outgroup.

9. Conclusion

In summary, the purpose of this study was to critically evaluate the discourse surrounding the Gaza-Israel conflict in the *Middle East* and the *New York Times*, identify underlying ideological biases present in the discourse, and investigate the possible influence of media representations on public perception and opinion formation. The analysis showed that in their reporting of the Gaza-Israel conflict, the *New York Times* and the *Middle East* newspapers demonstrated blatant ideological biases.

The study showed that the *New York Times*, is an example of American mass media, and the *Middle East*, is an example of Arabian media. Both of them embraced ideas that favoured one group over another. This ideological bias affected how the conflict was framed and which news stories were given more or less attention.

Language is a major influence in creating the conflict's skewed portrayal. The study made clear that one important factor contributing to the skewed portrayal of one social group over another in news coverage was the employment of language devices. While the *Middle Eastern* media used impassioned language and first-hand accounts to stir sympathy for the Palestinian cause, the *New York Times* used neutral and objective language, frequently citing government sources.

Essentially, this study emphasizes how crucial it is to critically examine media discourse in order to identify ideological biases and provide insight into the possible influence of media representations on public perception and opinion formation. Understanding how the media shapes narratives and viewpoints is essential to promoting a more complex and fair understanding of conflicts like the one involving Gaza and Israel.

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