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## **Representations of Media Bias in Post-Truth Discourse: The Case of the Aqsa Flood**

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### **Abstract**

The Aqsa Flood" has garnered significant attention from various international media outlets, each of which constructed their narratives in alignment with their respective agendas and perspectives. The media discourse varied across news sites and platforms in conveying the event and providing evidence of the truth. Western media worked to distort reality and showed complete bias towards the Zionist entity, while some Arab media adopted an ambiguous stance, and others sought to expose the crimes of the occupation. This study attempts to track media discourse through a sample comprising three news websites: Asharq Al-Awsat, Al-Jazeera, and The New York Times. By applying certain discourse analysis tools, the study aims to trace the representations of bias in media discourse. The analytical study concluded that The New York Times demonstrated complete bias towards the Zionist entity, while the narratives on the two Arab sites leaned towards the Aqsa Flood, though to varying degrees.

**Keywords:** aqsa flood, media discourse, bias, post-truth media, news websites,

### **1. Introduction**

The third millennium has laid the foundations of an environment built by modern technologies that have propelled media through the tunnel of new media, charged with a purely narcissistic zeal through which words and images are used to demonstrate and clarify some of the biases inherent in the phenomenon. Sometimes, it even detaches entirely from any factual truth tied to reality. **Neil Postman** (1985) critically discusses how this digital space, influenced by the rise of new media, prioritizes entertainment and emotional engagement over factual reporting. This shift has contributed to the establishment of a **post-truth era**, where the fabrication of facts is commonplace. This era feeds on the emotions of users, creating an environment where news is disseminated in the form of unclear information that hinders verification or identification of its corrupted source.

In this context, the global arena has been witnessing, since October 7, 2023, the war on Gaza and the repeated assaults by the occupation on the residents of the Strip. Today, the Aqsa Flood has become fertile ground for philosophical theoretical inquiries into Western thought trends in media coverage and news handling of the war. This process, as explained by **Herman and Chomsky's** (1988) propaganda model, relies on "manufacturing collective consent" through new media platforms that fabricate news in alignment with Zionist

narratives, aiming to shape global public opinion to legitimize heinous crimes targeting innocent children and defenseless civilians. Among the types of falsehoods, misinformation, and media bias is the Zionist claim that Hamas executed Zionist civilians in cold blood in their homes, which Hamas has described as acts of self-defense.

Thus, the world stands on the brink of the post-truth era, where truth and credibility are obscured, and lies and subjectivity are applauded. As **Van Dijk** (1997) and **Fairclough** (1995) argue, media discourse is not neutral but deeply embedded in power structures, allowing emotions to replace objectivity. A single narrative often dominates, leading to the proliferation of rumors and **fake news workshops**, especially during crises. As a result, many Western media outlets have adopted Zionist sources in constructing their news stories, with Zionist figures seeking to garner global sympathy by framing the conflict through narratives of terrorism and barbarism, while promoting hate speech. Conversely, they label their crimes against the rightful owners of the land as a war against a terrorist movement, much like the U.S. narrative following the 2001 attacks.

In this atmosphere charged with hatred and falsehood, Arab media stands hesitant and troubled, as if it has not yet matured. Its media discourse varies in covering the events of the Aqsa Flood, confused by the issue of normalization with the Zionist entity, especially after the recent wave of rapprochement, which may have ignited the spark of Palestinian resistance to bring the Palestinian cause back to the political and diplomatic arena. This hesitant media is divided between resistance media, which believes in the legitimacy of the Palestinian cause and supports the resistance, and submissive media, which is deeply immersed in the American narrative, while the gray Arab media practices a form of media deception in dealing with the issue and is biased against the resistance movement Hamas

## **2 .Methodological Procedures of the Study:**

### **2.1 Study Problem:**

The current study problem investigates media bias and its impact on the Palestinian resistance. We will attempt to identify the levels of bias to reveal the misleading Zionist media practices during their heinous war on Gaza and against human rights and values. We will also analyse the Arab media discourse to trace the structural truth of the content. This concern is summarized in the following question: What are the manifestations of media bias in the discourses addressing the Aqsa Flood operation?

### **2.2 Study Questions:**

- What is meant by "bias" and "post-truth" within the framework of media logic?
- What are the patterns and connotations of media bias in the discourse samples of the study?
- What are the apparent and hidden elements of the media discourse components according to Arab and Western affiliations?
- Are there differences between the three discourses (Western and Arab) in the study sample?
- What are the implications of using images on the coloration of bias in media coverage?

### **2.3 Study Objectives:**

- The research seeks to closely examine the media coverage of the Aqsa Flood in the study sample.
- To analyze the coloration of bias in the media coverage of the Aqsa Flood.
- To clarify the patterns of media bias in addressing the topic of the Aqsa Flood.
- To discuss media coverage in the new media within the post-truth space.
- To trace and elucidate the apparent and hidden elements of Arab and Western media discourse components.

#### **2.4 Study Significance:**

The study addresses the topic of the Aqsa Flood, which has embodied the reality of media bias from varying perspectives, ranging from support and criticism to bias in visions between East and West. Undoubtedly, the current study attempts to stand on the representations of bias in dealing with a sensitive political-military issue, known as the formidable flood that deepened the Palestinian people's emotional and material sufferings, disregarding all human treaties and covenants. The study falls within political media studies, as it addresses an ongoing issue of aggression and tries to trace the representations of bias in the media coverage of the criminal events that befell Gaza, where virtual spaces have become a parallel battlefield to the war and its assaults. Here, new media have attempted to drag us into the contexts of "post-truth" as their backdrop, through narrative storytelling in structural moulds that mirror reality and create a type of cognitive and mental disorientation.

#### **2.5 Study Methodology :**

This qualitative study relies on Discourse Analysis, which initially emerged in literature and later transitioned to other fields, including media studies, where it was adopted for analysing media content through methodological steps consistent with both written and visual, static, or moving media. Mass, one of the pioneers of the German school in media discourse analysis, asserts that this is achieved by determining the content and subject of the text, describing how the content is presented (i.e., linguistic analysis, style analysis, and meaning analysis of the message in relation to the social and historical context), and linking these steps to draw general conclusions (Schumann, 2007, p. 90).

#### **2.6 Study Population and Sample:**

The study population is defined as the total number of electronic news websites, with the focus on a purposive sample of three sites: Asharq Al-Awsat, Al-Jazeera Net, and The New York Times, to examine the differences in coverage and bias of these news outlets regarding the Aqsa Flood. Due to the inability to study all the numerous sites that have not missed the opportunity to write about the event, the current study has adopted a purposive approach by selecting specific units that represent bias, and perhaps differ in their coverage of the event, to subject them to qualitative analysis, either through analyzing the structure of media discourse or by tracking the patterns and routes that reveal bias. The goal of the analysis is not to quantify but to clarify the tools used by the discourse in constructing its parts, which inevitably reflect the orientations and biases of the discourse producer, whether in covering the Aqsa Flood or in their biases towards it.

**Temporal Scope:** The media discourse of October 7, 2023.

**Spatial Scope:** Online news websites (virtual space).

Article's Title	Date	Author	Website	Link
An Attack from Gaza and an Israeli Declaration of War. Now What?	07-10-2023	Steven Erlanger	New York Times Website	<a href="https://www.nytimes.com/war-hamas-palestinians">https://www.nytimes.com/war-hamas-palestinians</a>
Al-Aqsa Flood: The Largest Palestinian Resistance Attack on Israel.	07-10-2023	Al Jazeera / Agencies	Al Jazeera Net news	<a href="https://www.aljazeera.net/new">https://www.aljazeera.net/new</a>
Gaza Again... But With a New Tactic.	07-10-2023	Military Analyst	Middle East News Website	<a href="https://www.aawsat.com">https://www.aawsat.com</a>

### 3 . Definition of Study Concepts:

#### 3.1 Media Discourse:

The term discourse is derived from the Latin word Discourse, which originates from the word Discoursus or Discourere. Media discourse can be defined as a communication process in which messages are transmitted to a large, heterogeneous, and personally unknown audience by the communicator. It employs various means of conveying these messages, such as radio, television, cinema, newspapers, and books. The primary functions of media discourse are to inform, entertain, educate, persuade, and promote, aiming to influence rather than merely transmit messages. Communication is meaningless without achieving goals, and successful communication must induce an impact (Wadi, 2017, p. 45). In this study, media discourse is operationally defined as those media messages addressing the "Flood of Al-Aqsa" as media coverage of the event, published on the websites of media outlets. These messages carry media representations but may reflect the editorial line of each site, which this study aims to monitor.

**3.2 Bias (Biases):** In Arabic dictionaries, the term "bias" is attributed to the root "حوز" (Hawz) and its plural "أحواز" (Ahwaz), which generally indicate meanings that are sometimes similar and other times divergent. In the "Al-Munjid" dictionary, it is defined as anything a person chooses and possesses, as well as a place or the execution of projects. It also signifies siding with one opinion over another out of favoritism without regard for truth and justice, meaning to favor one of the disputing parties (Al-Munjid, p. 344). In "Lisan Al-Arab," the term "tahyuz" (bias) is derived from "tahawuz," meaning to withdraw. "Tahawuz" follows the pattern of "taf'ul," and "tahyuz" follows the pattern of "taf'il." Its original form is "tahyuz," but the "waw" was changed to "ya" due to its proximity to the "ya" and was merged into it. "Tahawuz" refers to withdrawing from one's place (Ibn Manzur, 2006, p. 366). The term "tahyuz" (bias) also appears in the Quran: "And whoever turns his back to them on such a day — unless it be a stratagem of war, or to retreat to a troop (of his own) — has certainly drawn

upon himself wrath from Allah, and his refuge is Hell — an evil destination" (Al-Anfal, verse 16). In general, the term "bias" in all linguistic and Quranic contexts indicates leaning towards one side over another, whether spatially or metaphorically in terms of stance or opinion. Therefore, in this study, bias is defined as an intentional or unintentional inclination towards one party at the expense of another, meaning a person leans towards one side, adopts their stance or perspective, and defends it.

**3.3 Media Bias:** Media bias cannot be discussed in isolation from its context, as it is linked to backgrounds that manifest in the interactive environment in which a person lives, according to the orientations formed by self-interest in news stories that are not free from motives of distortion and colouring through formulations and choices that serve a specific viewpoint. Media bias encompasses both intentional and unintentional practices by the communicator, whether an individual or an institution, that lead to certain effects on the general context of the message, compromising its objectivity and fairness (Abdul Aziz, 2013, p. 08). Media bias remains an unavoidable issue because, simply put, there is no such sacred fairness that the media field can achieve. The making and contesting of information is a battleground between those who control it and those who use it in their medium. This, without a doubt, reveals a type of bias, whether intentional or unintentional.

Operationally, media bias is defined as the content produced by various media outlets, but tinged with some biases. There is a near consensus that one of the general features of media discourse is clear bias, with some arguing that objective media discourse does not exist, whether concerning the journalist or the media outlet to which they belong. This may affect the media's noble function, which strives to rise above such biases. Through this study, we attempt to uncover the representations of bias in the media discourse concerning the "Flood of Al-Aqsa," which may reflect perhaps conflicting views on the Palestinian issue as a whole and the "Flood of Al-Aqsa" in particular.

**3.4 Types of Media Bias:** The types of media bias reflect the intended goals, with researchers identifying two main types (same reference as above, pp. 9-13):

**A- Non-Structural Biases: These include the following types:**

**-Bias by Commission:** This is one of the most common types, where a journalist acts in favour of one party or more in the story, they are covering at the expense of another or others. This can sometimes occur unintentionally due to the journalist's ignorance of the story's details and background, leading them to favour one side over another. The easiest way to reinforce this bias is by omitting the arguments of one side in favour of the other.

**- Bias by Omission:** In this type, the journalist omits facts and evidence that strengthen a particular viewpoint, aiming to weaken it in favour of the opposing viewpoint.

**- Bias by Story Selection:** Here, the journalist or the media outlet itself chooses between stories, where some stories meet all the criteria but are not presented, while others, though incomplete, are presented to the public to promote a specific viewpoint.

**- Bias by Placement:** This bias is achieved through placement, such as in television, where a news item is labelled as urgent or is placed at the beginning of the bulletin, even if it doesn't warrant the importance, pushing other news to the end of the bulletin. Similarly, in print

journalism, important news is placed on the front pages, while other more important news is relegated to the inside or last pages.

- **Bias by Selection of Sources:** This involves selecting a large number of sources to support a news story in favour of a particular viewpoint while omitting sources that support the opposing viewpoint.

- **Bias by Labelling:** In this type, the journalist assigns roles or labels to some parties in the story, which either elevate or harm their status.

- **Bias by Policy Recommendation or Condemnation:** The journalist endorses a policy or condemns another without attributing it to credible and reliable sources.

- **Bias by Misleading Definition and Terminology:** The journalist selects terms and definitions that serve their orientation and reflect their partisan or sectarian affiliation.

- **Bias by Presenting Opinion as News:** Opinion is presented as part of the news story to serve a particular viewpoint.

- **Bias by Lack of Context:** The journalist intentionally or unintentionally omits the context of the news or the image and its background, serving one side over another.

- **Bias by Using True Facts to Draw False Conclusions:** Facts are presented in a certain order and other facts are omitted to reach false conclusions.

- **Bias by Distortion of Facts:** The journalist distorts the truth through falsification or omission.

- **Bias by Using Unchallenging Assumptions:** The journalist selects facts stripped of their context to support or reinforce the assumptions they make.

- **Bias by Using Loaded Language:** Some journalists use loaded language in their writings to influence their audience and favour certain parties over others.

- **Bias by Headline Not Matching the Story:** Sometimes, the headline does not reflect the content of the story, serving certain parties.

**B- Structural Biases:** These are significant in media coverage, and avoiding them is not easy (Abdul Aziz, 2013, pp. 12-13). These Types include:

- **Fairness Bias:** This involves not providing a balance between news stories in the name of fairness by seeking sources and viewpoints that are difficult to refute. This leads to bias in providing or balancing between parties, despite the imbalance in achieving this balance.

- **Expediency Bias:** The nature of journalism requires speed, which drives the journalist to avoid wasting time by choosing sources that are easily accessible, leading to bias.

- **Bad News Bias:** There is a tendency towards bad news, such as coups and disasters, to achieve a scoop and increase readership and viewership, but this deprives the audience of new news worthy of attention.

- **Temporal Bias:** Novelty is one of the most important news values, but it is often overlooked in bias.

- **Visual Bias:** The image is a crucial support alongside the written news, especially in television compared to print journalism. The use of images, whether good or bad, reflects the extent of bias.
- **Glory Bias:** Some journalists are participants in political, social, and sports activities and are also reporters and news coverage agents, leading to overlap that reflects the extent of bias.
- **Narrative Bias:** Crafting the news story according to narrative conventions, but fabricating it or twisting the truth to fit the narrative harms neutrality.
- **Commercial Bias:** Commercial bias reflects institutional bias aimed at expanding the audience base through supporting advertisements. This bias also conceals other types of bias, such as narrative bias, bad news bias, and visual bias.

**3.5 Post-Truth Media:** The term "post-truth" entered the Oxford Dictionary in 2016 to indicate situations where objective facts have less influence on shaping public opinion compared to the influence of emotions and personal beliefs, which are favoured over scientific facts. The term was also adopted by the German Language Society in the same year with the word "postfaksch," which can be translated to "post-truth," to describe situations where the truth loses its value and meaning (Abed Al-Jabri, 2021, p. 493).

Post-truth media refers to a fluid media that sometimes aspires to rise above merely reporting events and representing the pillars upon which news is built. Bias may be considered one of the pillars of this type of media. The spread of post-truth media has been facilitated by new media, which provided a significant opportunity for communicative processes to occur horizontally. This floating space, in which social media platforms are a major component and representation, has even led traditional media to follow this trend. This is what we intend to analyse in the media discourse related to "Tufan Al-Aqsa".

**3.6 Tufan Al-Aqsa:** The term "Tufan" (flood) is defined in "Lisan Al-Arab" under the letter "Ta" as water that covers everything, or heavy rain that causes flooding due to its abundance. It is also described as a great death. In a hadith by Aisha, may Allah be pleased with her, the Messenger of Allah, peace be upon him, said, "Tufan is death." Tufan can refer to anything that is abundant and encompasses a whole group, such as a flood that engulfs large cities, a sweeping massacre, or a devastating death. It is said to be "Tufan" in all of these contexts, and this is the interpretation of the verse, "And the flood seized them while they were wrongdoers." (Ibn Manzur, p. 2723). The "Al-Waseet" dictionary defines "Tufan" as something that is so large or significant in size or events that it overwhelms everything else, similar to the great flood that destroyed the people of Noah (Al-Waseet Dictionary, 2005, p. 571). Al-Aqsa refers to the well-known mosque in occupied Jerusalem, a religious Islamic symbol that geographically intersects with the Wailing Wall of the Jews in Jerusalem, opposite the Buraq Wall with its Islamic significance.

Procedurally, "Tufan Al-Aqsa" refers to the attack launched by Hamas on October 7, 2023, to break the settlers' dominance. This flood came in response to the continuous assaults faced by Palestinian civilians in the West Bank, violating their blood, honour, and homeland. Therefore, "Tufan Al-Aqsa" is a military operation conducted by the Palestinian resistance against the Zionist entity by land, sea, and air.

**3.7 News Websites:** These are websites on the internet that perform the function of news reporting and are often extensions of traditional media outlets such as television, radio, and newspapers. They are comprehensive media projects with editorial lines, editorial boards, and correspondents. They also create spaces for the audience to interact and express their opinions and ideas, providing news and interactive services to the public.

In this study, the news websites refer to the sample study sites: Al Jazeera Net, Asharq Al-Awsat, and The New York Times.

**4. The Study's Practical Aspect:** In the hopes that the intended sample would meet our study goals, we concentrated on recording the "Al-Aqsa Flood" operation and connecting it to October 7, 2023. The three discourses under analysis are published by The New York Times, Al-Jazeera Net, and Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, in that order. The main topic covered in the material is the Al-Aqsa Flood, which is referred to in many ways throughout, including "the attack" and "the operation." The term "Flood" alludes to a concerted military assault by Hamas on land, at sea, and in the air that was carried out at daybreak on October 7, 2023, a Saturday, in conjunction with Jewish holidays and the 50th anniversary of the Yom Kippur War that took place in 1973.

**4.1 Proposition Analysis:** Because the discourse is composed of concepts that are logically organized to support one or more main arguments meant to persuade others, the analysis of this element is based on the intellectual structure of the subject rather than the language structure. These propositions comprise substructures that appear within the paragraphs and basic structures that represent the issues addressed at the text level. Finding the main subjects allows one to identify the propositions that are hidden within the discourse (Barakat, 2012, p. 305):

**- Al-sharq Awsat News website: the title of the report -Gaza once more, but with a fresh approach.** Since the discourse creator is a military analyst, we can deduce from the first analysis that the discourse's structure contains military concepts, methods, and strategies in both its presentation and analysis. Looking at the content structure, the following fundamental ideas become apparent:

**• The First Proposition: The Zionist Entity and the Resistance in Conflict:**

The text discusses the long-running rivalry that has existed for years between Hamas and the Zionist organization. A number of unequal military actions with disparate armies and resources define this conflict, but the general idea is still the same: "The weak fight with what they have, and the strong strike with all they possess." This is not a new political or military struggle; it began when the Zionist entity was granted the right to settle, long before Hamas was established. But the military apparatus has brought about a number of social catastrophes that have grave repercussions for the defenseless Palestinian people and are still getting worse. Sub-ideas in the proposition use metaphorical representations to communicate both the legendary and factual components of the dispute. The attacks' constant goal has been to take out Palestinian leaders in order to destroy the resistance movement and all of its facets.



• **The second proposition: the Al-Aqsa Flood Operation:** Hamas views its assault on the Zionist organization as a comprehensive and well-thought-out operation that goes beyond its earlier activities, which primarily consisted of firing rockets from inside the Gaza Strip. The Al-Aqsa raid was a component of a well-thought-out plan that included air, naval, and ground warfare. It involved a ground invasion on Israeli settlements that momentarily panicked and disorganized the Israeli intelligence apparatus. Substructures in the discourse exposed the Zionist entity's intelligence apparatus's weaknesses by spotlighting Hamas's flood tactics.

- **Al-Jazeera Net News website: The article is headlined The Al-Aqsa Flood:** The Largest Attack by Palestinian Resistance on Israel and was published by Al-Jazeera Net and other agencies. The following claims are made in the discourse:

• **First proposition: The Flood of Al-Aqsa:** On Saturday, October 7, 2023, a strategic surprise attack was launched against the occupying enemy. The flood is regarded as a masterful land, sea, and air tactical operation that stunned the Zionist organization and besieged residents in their houses. via coordinated fighting, Palestinian fighters managed to infiltrate via the border fence, by air with paratroopers from the Falcon brigade, and by sea with frogmen groups. This was seen by the resistance as a key struggle that may put a stop to the occupation and a sweeping flood. Because Saturday falls on two significant dates—the 50th anniversary of the 1973 October War and Jewish holy holidays—Hamas deliberately selected this day.

• **The second Proposition: The Status of War**

After the Al-Aqsa Flood operation, when sirens went out in central and southern Israel as well as in Jerusalem, the Zionist side declared a state of war. This argument is endorsed by the discourse producer, who upholds the declaration of war in light of official pronouncements, media reports, and declarations made by Benjamin Netanyahu and Isaac Herzog, as well as the Israeli army.

According to these reports, following this unexpected onslaught, the Zionist organization had come to the realization that it was at war with the Palestinian resistance.

• **The third Proposition: Material and Human Losses During the War**

The discourse producer provides statistics and facts from the early stages of the Al-Aqsa Flood operation to support this claim. These include the deaths of hundreds of Israelis and the kidnapping and disappearance of over a hundred people, including troops. Two months later, details regarding the material and human casualties of the war were added to the discourse. The Palestinian Ministry of Health announced that 86,000 Palestinians—including 15,694 children, 10,018 women, and 8,000 unaccounted-for—were injured in Israeli airstrikes, while 37,000 Palestinians—mostly women and children—died as martyrs. In addition, 1.9 million people were displaced, and 498 healthcare personnel, 246 educators, and 150 journalists lost their lives.

The Israeli side suffered between 200 and 250 captures, nearly 5,000 injuries, and 1,538 fatalities. There were 223 Israeli soldiers dead and 750 reported missing.

The argument about material losses is also supported by the discourse producer, especially when it comes to the Palestinian perspective and the importance of hospital facilities.

26 hospitals, 46 basic healthcare centers, 56 ambulances, and 56 healthcare facilities were demolished by the Zionist organization (Al-Jazeera Net, 30-06-2024).

- **The Fourth Proposition: Settlement Control**

The assertion made by the discourse producer—that the Palestinian resistance had taken over three settlements and a police station—is supported by quotes from Israeli media and other sources.

The proposal contains sub-ideas that detail the resistance's use of rockets to attack various locations within the Gaza Strip and beyond reaches of the country. On the Gaza border, resistance members also took control of a few Israeli cars. In retaliation, the Zionist organization abolished checkpoints surrounding Jerusalem, blocked the Al-Karama crossing that connects the West Bank with Jordan, and severely limited travel to and from Jerusalem.

- **The fifth Proposition: The Zionist entity 's Reaction to the Flood**

In response to the flood, the Zionist organization launched an operation known as "Iron Swords," which was centered around airstrikes and resembled earlier ones. Five Palestinian fighters were killed during this operation, which took place in eight different places throughout Gaza.

The discourse producer provided evidence for this concept in the form of sub-ideas, such as declarations from Al-Qassam Brigades declaring their takeover of **the Ra'im** military base and the assassination of its company commander. In response to the expansion of attacks from Gaza into Lebanon, Hezbollah likewise declared that it will hit three Israeli outposts in southern Lebanon.

- **The New York Times websites "The article titled "An Attack from Gaza and an Israeli Declaration of War. Now What?"** by Steven Erlanger focuses on the Gaza attack, which includes several propositions that shape the discourse, among them:

- **First Proposition: The Surprise Attack and Its Psychological Impact on the Zionist Entity and Its Decision to Declare War on Gaza**

The Zionist entity was shocked by the surprise attack, which had not been witnessed since the 1973 Yom Kippur War, reflecting the ongoing clashes between the resistance and Israel. The October 7 attack shook Israel's overconfidence and its excessive pride in controlling the region, throwing it into a state of confusion, according to Aaron David Miller, a former U.S. diplomat specializing in Middle Eastern affairs. The psychological impact of the attack resembled the effect of the 2001 attacks on America. However, this situation pressured Israel into declaring war, feeling compelled to launch a large-scale war on Gaza. The article also notes that Netanyahu is under pressure, especially after the killing of 250 Israelis and Hamas' capture of an unknown number of hostages. Netanyahu supported the war declaration by stating, "We will bring the war to them with a strength and intensity that the enemy has never known," emphasizing that Palestinian groups would pay a high price. While the main idea of this proposition is the declaration of war, it also included sub-ideas pointing fingers at Iran, which backs Hezbollah, controlling southern Lebanon and aiding in the opening of a second front in northern Israel. Hezbollah, in turn, supports Hamas. Iran supplies both Hamas and Hezbollah with weapons and intelligence, making it a sworn enemy of the Zionist entity and

the U.S. Another sub-idea suggests that this situation may unite Israelis and end the protests against judicial reforms that Netanyahu plans to implement.

• **Second Proposition: The War Could Derail Diplomatic Efforts for the Recognition of the Zionist Entity**

Undoubtedly, war brings destruction, tragedies, deaths, injuries, and displacements, which will surely impact Biden and Netanyahu's efforts in achieving diplomatic progress in the Middle East, particularly with Saudi Arabia, which had expressed satisfaction with these efforts in the region. The article supports this proposition by pointing out that:

- Saudi Arabia is negotiating a defense treaty with the United States in exchange for normalizing relations with Israel.
- Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman said in an interview with Fox News that the agreement with Israel seems possible and that negotiations on normalization are serious for the first time.

The article further argues that the continuation of the war and the casualties could delay or disrupt these diplomatic efforts. Amberin Zaman, an analyst at Al-Monitor, noted in a tweet on X (formerly Twitter) that Israel's response to Hamas' attacks could delay or even cancel U.S. efforts to normalize Saudi-Israeli relations. The article also suggests that, despite Hamas not officially stating so, the attack might have been motivated by the growing relations between Israel and Arab nations seeking normalization. Hamas may have aimed to capture Israeli hostages as leverage to negotiate the release of Palestinian prisoners in the West Bank, Gaza, and Israeli prisons, according to Natan Sachs, director of the Center for Middle East Policy at Brookings. The article reinforces the idea of Hamas' surprise attack through Miller's statement that Hamas feels frustrated by the funds flowing into Gaza from Arab countries and the restrictions imposed on Palestinians seeking work permits in Israel. The attack served as a reminder to Israel that Palestinian resistance still exists.

In supporting ideas for the normalization thesis, the article notes that Saudi Arabia has not recognized Israel since 1948, but is willing to normalize relations in exchange for Israel's agreement to establish a Palestinian state.

• **Third Proposition: Hamas' Surprise Attack Grants the Zionist Entity the Right to Respond on a Large Scale Under the Pretext of Defense** The situation the Zionist entity is facing due to the surprise attack forces it to reconsider its plans, especially amid the internal unrest it is experiencing. Although the entity regularly conducts military operations, it has not succeeded in dismantling or eliminating the Palestinian resistance. The discourse producer refers to Sachs' statement, indicating that the new situation provides Netanyahu with the political cover to do whatever he wants, despite his previous refusal to send thousands of soldiers to Gaza to destroy the resistance. The producer adds that Israel has the right to overrun Gaza, referencing a tweet by former Swedish Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Carl Bildt on X, where he states that the capture of Israeli soldiers will inevitably lead to another war, and the same would be true if the situation were reversed.

• **Fourth Proposition: The Zionist Entity's Withdrawal from Gaza in 2006 and the Argument of Legal Obligations Towards It** The discourse producer explains that, on one hand, Israeli soldiers still control parts of Gaza, and the government refuses to send additional forces. On the other hand, the entity withdrew its soldiers and citizens from one side of Gaza in 2005. However, this withdrawal failed to secure any peace process in the region, leaving

Gaza completely isolated. The withdrawal in 2006 ended the conflict between Fatah and the Islamic movement Hamas, which was labeled extremist, further isolating Gaza. The discourse producer argues that despite the prolonged conflict during 2008/2009, the Zionist entity marched towards Gaza but did not fully invade it, resolving the situation through Egyptian mediation after three weeks of war. In secondary ideas, the producer adds that although Israel is no longer responsible for Gaza, it still maintains significant legal obligations under international humanitarian law, as confirmed by human rights organizations in the occupied territories.

**4-2 Hidden Meaning Analysis:** The analysis of hidden meaning is achieved by asking a set of questions that require the researcher to have a broad cultural understanding of the circumstances surrounding the discourse and deep, methodical knowledge of the subject. The idea behind analyzing hidden meanings in discourse is based on the premise that shaping the perceptions of the target audience is not only done through explicit information but also through underlying ideas, themes, and implicit relationships. The discourse is produced in a way that guides the recipient toward the perspective intended by the discourse creator. Identifying these hidden meanings reveals the true agenda of the discourse producers (Barakat, 2012, pp. 306-307).

**-Al-Sharq Al-Awsat News Website:** The discourse is presented by a military analyst, highlighting the strategic dimension of the Gaza war, specifically the strategic tactics employed by the Palestinian resistance, which require precise military analysis and understanding of the logistical aspects of the resistance's operation. The operation was prepared on three fronts—land, air, and sea—which is known in military terminology as joint combat. Hamas' ability to reach the settlements indicates that Israel's most significant military asset, the air force, was neutralized from participating in the battle due to the internal turmoil within the entity.

The October 7 attack reveals the weakness of Israeli intelligence in detecting Hamas' movements, preventing them from countering the attack before it happened. The resistance's reach to the settlements contradicts what David Ben-Gurion stated, that the entity cannot fight prolonged attrition battles, and he advised that wars should only be fought on enemy territory to minimize human and material losses. After analyzing the military aspects of the Al-Aqsa Flood operation, the discourse producer suggests that the maximum extension of this operation means that Israel will prepare for a swift and massive counterattack by studying the field situation, gathering tactical intelligence, and launching a military operation that surpasses the Al-Aqsa operation, calculating the costs in both manpower and finances, and potentially leading to a full-scale invasion of Gaza. However, whether this invasion would lead to Israel's internal stability while continuing the killing and displacement of the Palestinian people remains uncertain, as do the situations on the Syrian and Lebanese fronts.

This discourse emerged as a result of the attack and the ongoing regional conditions both before and after it. The discourse producer used a range of military terms, such as logistical depth, joint combat, tactical intelligence, restoring deterrence, and security fragility, all of which are used in the military field due to the producer's expertise.

The producer also used the term "political profits" as if Gaza were a political prize, and referred to the "Palestinian victory theory" as though the Palestinian victory might be an abstract concept that is not achievable in reality. The producer also employed the phrase "maximum extension of the Al-Aqsa Flood operation," implying that the responses to the

flood will be extended, harsh, and prolonged, and that the asymmetry between the two sides will result in severe consequences for the Palestinian people, who bear the brunt of this flood's outcomes. The discourse producer tries to guide the audience into believing that what Hamas did was a painful blow to Israel, which did not anticipate it, in addition to being preoccupied with internal issues that exposed its intelligence weakness. However, the response to this will be harsh, possibly leading to the complete recapture of Gaza, a goal Israel has aimed for since the early 2000s and even earlier. All attempts have aimed at displacing Gaza's residents gradually, but the flood now provides full legitimacy for Israel to invade the entire strip.

**-Al-Jazeera Net News Website:** The discourse begins with the announcement of the "Al-Aqsa Flood" by Mohammed Deif, the Chief of Staff of the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, the military wing of Hamas. This announcement was accompanied by a recorded audio message from Deif supporting the operation, confirming Hamas' responsibility for the attack. The military wing of Hamas stated that the strike launched over 5,000 rockets and projectiles within the first few minutes of the operation. Subsequently, Saleh al-Arouri, the Deputy Head of Hamas' Political Bureau, declared that the fighters were engaged in a large-scale operation to defend and liberate Al-Aqsa in response to the ongoing crimes of the Zionist entity, urging participation in the battle and stating that the West Bank was the decisive front. Later, the al-Qassam Brigades provided figures on the number of killed and captured individuals. Meanwhile, the Israeli army declared a state of war, and Isaac Herzog and Benjamin Netanyahu confirmed that the entity was in a difficult situation. Netanyahu added in a recorded statement that Israel was at war but would emerge victorious. These statements by officials confirmed the reality of the discourse.

Hamas representatives expressed optimism about the Al-Aqsa Flood, stating that it was executed with precision and hit all the planned targets. The timing of the announcement was intended as a celebration and a victory over the enemy, marking a moment of pride for the Palestinian resistance. The Zionist entity declared a state of war due to the shock it experienced from the flood, as it had not yet recovered from the magnitude of the attack. The land, air, and sea assault that targeted areas outside Gaza's borders was entirely unexpected. Abu Ubaida later provided details about the captives held by the al-Qassam Brigades. The Israeli Broadcasting Authority reported the human losses immediately following the attack and two months into the war. Gaza's Ministry of Health announced the number of Palestinian martyrs, the majority of whom were women and children, as well as missing persons. The damage mainly impacted hospitals and healthcare centers. The nature of the victims, primarily women and children, highlights the brutality of the Zionist entity. Despite international and local laws that prohibit targeting women and children during wars, Israel continues to commit war crimes against vulnerable groups. It also caused the deaths of a large number of healthcare and educational personnel, who are considered essential pillars in Gaza.

This discourse emerges in the context of war, where facts are often unclear, and developments are unpredictable, leading to significant and costly losses, particularly for the defenseless Palestinian population. However, it has also disrupted the efforts that Israel was aiming to achieve in the Arab region, which had begun to take shape through normalization policies supported by the United States.

The discourse producer employed a variety of terms, including "Al-Aqsa Flood" and "the great battle," indicating that this attack was a decisive blow to the Zionist entity, at least in the

early stages. Terms like "frogman units" and "paratroopers from the Falcon brigade" suggest the high level of military organization within Hamas. The term "destruction of the occupation" (Tadeer al-Ihtilal) refers to the complete eradication of the occupation. The phrase "difficult time" reflects the challenging situation Israel is facing, exacerbated by the Al-Aqsa Flood. The producer differentiated between the words "killed" when referring to Israelis and "ascended" when referring to Palestinian resistance fighters, as "ascension" refers to the soul's rise to heaven and is associated with martyrdom, while "killing" can be either intentional or accidental.

**- New York Times News Website:** The discourse producer presented the state of the Al-Aqsa Flood operation by including statements from officials. Netanyahu acknowledged that Israel was in a state of war and that it would take the fight to the enemy. However, the war's consequences would be severe, potentially hindering the diplomatic efforts that Israel had been working on previously. Despite this, Netanyahu argued that entering the war was inevitable. Although Israel had previously rejected sending additional troops to Gaza, the legitimacy of self-defense would allow it to respond to and possibly destroy Hamas, according to the producer.

Additionally, the discourse producer enriched the content with political analyses from individuals familiar with Middle Eastern issues, all of whom supported the attack on Gaza and its full invasion. Some raised the question of justifying the attack, linking it to the return of hostages, the funds flowing into Gaza from Arab countries, and the restrictions imposed on Palestinians seeking employment in Israel. Others questioned what would happen after the invasion. Would the political map of the Middle East change? What about the Syrian and Lebanese fronts, and Iran, which is considered Israel's arch-enemy? All of these questions arise amid the internal unrest that Israel is experiencing.

The discourse producer used terms such as "bloody mirage," indicating that the war on Gaza has resulted in nothing but bloodshed. Other terms like "surprise attack," "great war," "shock," and "psychological impact" were employed to illustrate the effect of the Al-Aqsa Flood on Israel. Terms such as "wide-scale infiltration," "Israeli invasion," "comprehensive operation," "prolonged conflict," "withdrawal," "reoccupation," "diplomatic efforts," and "defense treaty" were used to convey Israel's efforts to secure acceptance from most Arab countries, which have largely welcomed normalization and even opened their doors to Israel to establish military bases on their land. The producer also used the term "judicial reforms," indicating that Netanyahu's government is preoccupied with internal issues. Finally, the phrase "complete political cover" was employed to legitimize Israel's response to the flood, but the discourse concluded by stating that the situation is "out of control," suggesting that the war has escalated beyond control, resulting in atrocities, killings, starvation, and displacement of Gaza's residents.

**4-3 Analysis of Reference Frameworks:** This tool in discourse analysis involves identifying the references included in the text, which are presented within the context of the concept being studied. These references may include names of people, institutions, cities, geographic locations, documents, written materials, agreements, treaties, periods of time, and other entities that have significance for the studied concept. Through the analysis of reference frameworks, the implicit references that the discourse relies on to present its central concepts can be identified (Barakat, 2012, p. 312).

**-Al-Sharq Al-Awsat News Website:** The discourse producer referenced various frameworks, including mythological names such as David and Goliath, linking them to the Jewish narrative (religious story), and historical figures like David Ben-Gurion. Names of cities such as Gaza, the Gaza Strip, Israel, and Israeli settlements were also used. Additionally, the producer referenced military operations such as the "Protective Edge" operation carried out by Israel against Palestinians in 2014, the Yom Kippur War in 1973, and the October War, as well as Jewish religious holidays, the Al-Aqsa Flood, the Syrian and Lebanese fronts, and the Palestinian cause. These references served as illuminating elements that supported the discourse and contributed directly to its construction, helping to capture certain meanings within the text's structure, whether present or absent. All these descriptions were directly tied to the narrative framework of the Al-Aqsa Flood news story.

**-Al-Jazeera Net News Website:** The discourse producer employed various reference frameworks, with the majority focusing on cities such as the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, Jerusalem, and specific settlements and crossings like Zikim, Sderot, Mneifot, Kissufim, Deir al-Balah, Khan Yunis, Ashkelon, Tel Aviv, Lod, Ashdod, Beersheba, al-Karama, Qalandia, Shuafat refugee camp, and Beit Iksa.

**The leader, Beit Hanoun Crossing (Erez), Kfar Aza, Nahal Oz, Be'eri, the Lebanese Shebaa Farms, the Iron Swords operation, and the Saturday of October 2023:** The discourse producer mentioned a series of settlements and crossings, which were key elements in framing the background of the attack. He also mentioned the names of organizations such as UNRWA (the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees), and did not neglect to reference certain cities and Al-Aqsa Mosque, which plays a significant role in mobilizing the key forces in the discourse.

**- New York Times News Website:** The New York Times discourse incorporated several reference frameworks, including historical dates and periods. Among these were:

- 2005, the date of Israel's withdrawal from Gaza.
- The Yom Kippur War in 1973, waged by Syria and Egypt against Israel to reclaim Egypt's Sinai Peninsula and Syria's Golan Heights.
- 2006, the year of the "Summer Rains" operation, aimed at retrieving a captured Israeli soldier near Gaza.
- September 11, 2001, the date of the terrorist attacks on the United States.
- 2002, during Ariel Sharon's term in Israel's government.
- 2007, the year Hamas took control of the Gaza Strip.
- The prolonged conflict between Hamas and Israel in 2007/2008.
- 1948, the year Israel was established and granted settlement rights.

The discourse also referenced other frameworks, such as the names of several key figures who were politically analyzed as important references in constructing the discourse. These included Natan Sachs, Mark Heller, Carl Bildt, Amberin Zaman, and Aaron David Miller. The discourse mentioned certain institutions such as the Brookings Institution, the Israel Institute for National Security Studies, and X (formerly Twitter), as well as the Al-Monitor website. The name of the deceased Ariel Sharon was also mentioned.

The New York Times discourse was built on significant historical milestones and relied heavily on the statements of experts specialized in Middle Eastern affairs to support its proposition.

**4-4 Analysis of Active Forces:** The primary goals of this tool are to pinpoint the major players influencing the discourse, the important roles that are connected to them, and the traits that are ascribed to them. This is achieved by comparing these attributes to ascertain their agreement or divergence based on the stance of each newspaper and the active parties it covers, as well as by analyzing how journalistic discourses perceive the active forces involved in the issue under study and the roles and attributes assigned to them in each newspaper's discourse (Ahmed, 2019, p. 351). Based on their behaviors, the active forces are categorized as either positive or negative, giving rise to two different types of active forces: positive helpful forces and opposing forces. We then identify their jobs, or specialized functions, and distinguishing characteristics. This instrument additionally permits an examination of how a certain group interprets supporting and opposing force (or vice versa) in the context of its political ideology (Nasr,1983, p. 44).

**-Asharq Al-Awsat news website:**

Auxiliary actors			Adverse actors		
Actors	Role		Actors	Role	
	Posts	Quality		Posts	Quality
Hamas	-Political Military	An Islamic Movement in the Palestinian Resistance	Israel/Jewish State	Official	The Zionist entity
Palestinian Leaders	government jobs	Official	Entity's air defenses	Military	Device in entity
Palestinian Resistance	Political – Military	Formal and informal	Entity Forces	Military	Device in entity

**- Al Jazeera Net News website:**

Auxiliary actors			Adverse actors		
Actors	Role		Actors	Role	
	Posts	Quality		Posts	Quality
Palestinian Resistance	Political and military activity	Formal and informal	Occupation Army	Military	Official



Mohammed Al, Deif	Chief of Staff of the Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades  The military wing of the resistance	Official	Media	Media	Official
Saleh Laroui	Deputy Head of Hamas' Political Bureau	Official	Isaac Herzog	President	Official
Abu Obaida	Hamas' Official Media Spokesman	Official	Benjamin Netanyahu	Prime Minister	Official
Hamas	Organization	Military/Political	Hebrew Broadcasting Corporation	Media	Official

**-New York Times News website:**

Auxiliary actors			Adverse actors		
Actors	Role		Actors	Role	
	Posts	Quality		Posts	Quality
Palestinian Forces	Political and military activity	Formal and informal	Zionist Army	Military	Official
Gaza	Palestinian City	Official	Occupation	The Zionist entity	Official
Iran	State	Official	Joe Biden	President	Official
Hezbollah	Political	Political	Benjamin Netanyahu	Prime Minister	Official

Hamas	Political/Military	Official movement	Occupier Leaders	Officials	Officials
West Bank	Palestinian City	Official	Saudi Arabia	State	Official
Palestinians	Population of Palestine	indigenous people	Mohammed bin Salman	King	Official
Fateh	Political/Military	Official movement			

#### 4.5 Semantic Field Analysis:

##### Al-Sharq Al-Awsat News Website: Semantic Field for the Concept of "Al-Aqsa Flood"

Characteristics	Participations	Contradictions	Actions on	Actions to
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Operation</li> <li>-Surprise</li> <li>-Strategy</li> <li>-Maximum Extension</li> <li>-Important Achievement</li> <li>- Joint Combat</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Logistical depth</li> <li>- Missile Strike.</li> <li>Paratroopers.</li> <li>-Long-term and Secret Preparation.</li> <li>- Three-dimensional Planning</li> <li>- Land, Air, and Sea</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Upcoming Operational Area.</li> <li>- Regaining the Initiative.</li> <li>-Tactical Reconnaissance.</li> <li>- Major Military Operation.</li> <li>- Sector Assault</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The Deluge Focused on New Dimensions.</li> <li>- The Pursuit of Controlling Land Within Occupied Palestine</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ending the operation involves employing the necessary means to bring it to an end while also working to restore the deterrence image.</li> </ul>

##### Al-Jazeera Net News Website: Semantic Field for the Concept of "Al-Aqsa Flood"

Characteristics	Participations	Contradictions	Actions on	Actions to
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Attack</li> <li>-Largest attack</li> <li>-The great battle</li> <li>War</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is a call to participate in the battle by engaging with the settlements. The resisters, including</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The occupation army.</li> <li>-The occupation police.</li> <li>- closing the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Occupation's Reprisal</li> <li>Response to Crimes</li> <li>Killing and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Occupation Bombardment.</li> <li>-Occupation Airstrikes.</li> </ul>

-wide-scale operation	Palestinian activists, are involved in these efforts. Recently, Hamas has taken control of the Ra'im military base	crossings. -Preventing movement to and from Quods. - Iron Swords Operation (heavy air bombardment on Gaza strip - the Clashes Operation	Captivity Airport Closures and Flight Cancellations	
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**New York Times News Website: Semantic Field for the Concept of "Al-Aqsa Flood"**

Characteristics	Participations	Contradictions	Actions on	Actions to
Attack Surprise attack Attack Palestinian dignity blow	- Large-scale invasion. - Iran - Hezbollah. -Conditions of the Growing Relations between the Entity and Arab Countries. - Captivity and Isolation of Gaza. - Hamas's Frustration with the Money Coming to Gaza from Arab Countries. - Workers Not Receiving Work Permits	-wide-scale conflict. - occupation invasion. - temporary reoccupation of the Gaza Strip. forcefully shifting the battle to their territory." - U.S. defense assurances - the large-scale occupation attack on Gaza."	-Psychological shock impact.	-bombing. And Incursion. -Another war.

	in Israel.	attack  Israel's growing relations with Arab states		
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**4.6 Paths of Argumentation:** This is one of the techniques that researchers use to pinpoint the justifications and supporting details that a speaker uses in a discourse or conversation with others in order to provide clear, concise assertions and ideas. Its main purpose is to evaluate the discourse's intellectual and ideological tenets and the arguments made inside (Abdul Hamid, 2000, p. 302). This tool follows the thesis describing a certain attitude and offers the chance to find useful qualities for supporting positions. It follows the justifications (paths) taken by the discourse to support its perspectives on various events and issues, giving us insight into the mental and cognitive processes that underlie the stated opinions. The path of argumentation looks at the speaker's use of citations, instances, evidence, and justifications to determine the factors that contributed to the acceptance of a specific viewpoint (Ahmed, 2019, pp. 349-350). The discourse's creator may draw from current or historical events, philosophical debates, poetry, legal writings, mathematical calculations, political positions, or personal experiences. Every thesis put out in the book has specific arguments and supporting data that the researcher needs to keep track of. The analysis of the argumentation path is unique in that it preserves the text's structure. By doing so, the discourse's flow is preserved, making it simple to categorize arguments and supporting data of any kind (Barakat, 2012, pp. 311-312).

**-Al-Sharq Al-Awsat News Website: Paths of Argumentation in Discourse**

Arguments and Evidence	Content in Discourse
Argument 1: Strategy	If politics is the art of the possible... Politics is the art of give and take, as well as advancing, retreating, presenting, and conceding while framing these as gains... This introduction does not fit the vocabulary of either "Hamas" or the Israeli state...
Argument 2: Slogan	"The weak fight with what they have, and the strong strike with all they have."
Argument 3: Myth	... In ancient times, Gaza was the battleground between David and Goliath according to Jewish historical narratives. David, the Jew, was the weak against the mighty Palestinian Goliath. According to the story, David knocked out Goliath with a fatal blow to his forehead using his sling...
Argument 4: Historical	In all the invasions of Gaza and the Palestinian responses, rockets, drones, and assassinations of Palestinian leaders have been the prevailing patterns...
Argument 5: Data with Numbers	Hamas launched approximately 5,000 rockets, and according to some reports, 7,000 rockets of various types, indicating significant logistical

	depth for this Palestinian movement.
Argument 6: Strategic Planning	The Al-Aqsa Flood operation relied on new dimensions, the most important being: in addition to rocket strikes, a paratrooper operation on the settlements, and most importantly, an effort to seize "land" within occupied Palestine... The planning involved three dimensions: land, air, and sea... Hamas managed to fight in a joint combat style.
Argument 7: Slogan	The following slogan applies to the relationship between "Hamas" and the occupier: "Hamas wins if it does not lose, and the occupier loses if it does not win."
Argument 8: Prediction of the Occupier's Response	The invasion of Gaza requires: a long time to complete the operation, and the occupier lacks the time, means, and financial and human costs. And if the invasion succeeds, who will govern Gaza? When the occupier thinks of retaliation to restore its image of deterrence, it is considering both the Syrian and Lebanese fronts. Will the retaliation come from outside as well as inside?

**-Al-Jazeera Net News Website: Paths of Argumentation in Discourse:**

Arguments and Evidence	Content in Discourse
Argument 1 : Report	The Al-Aqsa Flood operation was launched by the Palestinian resistance in Gaza on the morning of Saturday, October 7, 2023, and included a ground aerial and sea attack...
Argument 2 : Statement	The operation was announced by Mohammed Deif, Chief of Staff of the Al-Qassam Brigades, the military wing of Hamas...
Argument 3 : Recorded Audio Statement	In a recorded audio message, Deif said... "We announce the beginning of the Al-Aqsa Flood operation with an initial strike..." The first strike launched over 5,000 rockets and shells within the first 20 minutes of the operation.
Argument 4 : Statement	Saleh Al-Arouri, Deputy Head of Hamas' Political Bureau, said the fighters of Gaza had launched a large-scale operation...
Argument 5 : Deep Factors	The West Bank is the decisive factor in this battle... "Al-Aqsa Flood" signifies the response to the continuous violations by the occupier of Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Islamic holy sites in Jerusalem.
Argument 6 : Media Report	Hebrew media reported gunfights between groups of Palestinian fighters and security forces in towns in the southern occupied Palestinian territories.
Argument 7 :	Hebrew President Isaac Herzog said in a statement, "The occupation

Official Statement	is going through a tough time."
Argument 8: Official Video Statement	Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a video statement, "We are at war, and we will win."
Argument 9: Media Report	The Israeli Broadcasting Authority reported that the number of Israeli casualties had reached 1,538, while the number of wounded exceeded 5,000...
Argument 10 : Statement	Al-Qassam announced the killing of the commander of the Israeli army's communications battalion...
Argument 11: Gaza Ministry of Health Report	The Ministry of Health in Gaza announced that more than 37,000 martyrs, the majority of whom were women and children, had been killed... More than 86,000 Palestinians were injured in the Israeli bombardment, including 15,694 children, 10,018 women... Thousands missing... 498 health workers, 246 educators, and 150 journalists were killed... 56 ambulances destroyed... 56 healthcare institutions damaged... 26 hospitals and 46 healthcare centers were put out of service... The number of forcibly displaced people reached 1.9 million.
Argument 12 : Press Release	Israeli media reported that resistance fighters took over the police station in Sderot...
Argument 13 : Social Media Posts	Palestinians shared photos and videos on social media showing the seizure of Israeli vehicles in some areas near the border...
Argument 14 : Announcements and Statements	- The Israeli army announced the full evacuation of residents from the border area. - Al-Qassam announced it had taken control of the Re'im military base and reported that Martin Komitszak... a platoon commander in the Directorate of Law Enforcement Operations, had been killed in the operation. - Hezbollah in Lebanon announced its targeting of three Israeli positions in the Shebaa Farms area of Lebanon. - The Israeli Navy reported that it had killed five Palestinian fighters who had infiltrated the Zikim area on the northern border with Gaza. - The Israeli army announced that operations and clashes were taking place at eight locations around Gaza...

**The New York Times News Website: Paths of Argumentation:**

Arguments and Evidence	Content in Discourse
Argument 1: Historical	Nearly fifty years after the Yom Kippur War of 1973... In contrast to the series of clashes with Palestinian forces in Gaza over the past three years...
Argument 2:	The psychological impact of these attacks on the Jews has been compared

Comparison	to the shock caused by the September 11 attacks in America...
Argument 3: Causality	With 250 Jewish casualties so far and an unknown number of hostages held by Hamas, an Israeli invasion of Gaza — even a temporary reoccupation — cannot be ruled out.
Argument 4: Declaration	Netanyahu, when announcing the war, said, "We will take the fight to them with a force and scope the enemy has not yet experienced."
Argument 5: Political Analysis	Nathan Sachs, Director of the Middle East Policy Center at the Brookings Institution, said this would give Netanyahu "full political cover to do what he wants."
Argument 6: Political Analysis	Mark Heller, a senior researcher at the Zionist Institute for National Security Studies, said the question remains: What happens next? Almost every year, there have been limited Israeli military operations in the occupied territories, but they have offered no solutions...
Argument 7: Political Analysis	Carl Bildt, former Swedish Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, said that a major Israeli offensive in Gaza is almost inevitable, especially if soldiers are taken captive by Hamas...
Argument 8: X (Twitter) Post	"If Hamas captures Jewish soldiers and takes them to Gaza, a full-scale Israeli operation in Gaza seems highly likely. Another war." The same is expected for Jewish civilians.
Argument 9: Historical	Israel and Netanyahu have been cautious about sending ground forces into Gaza. Even in 2002, when Ariel Sharon was prime minister and Israeli forces were crushing the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank, the government avoided sending large additional forces into Gaza.
Argument 10: Historical	Israel unilaterally withdrew its soldiers and citizens from Gaza in 2005... After the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and the 2006 conflict... The internal conflict between Fatah, led by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, and the more extreme Hamas ended with Hamas' control of the Gaza Strip in 2007... Even in the prolonged conflict of 2008-2009... successive Jewish governments insisted they were no longer responsible for Gaza after the 2005 withdrawal...
Argument 11: Political Analysis	Ambrin Zaman, an analyst at the Al-Monitor news site based in Washington covering the Middle East, said on X (formerly Twitter): "The Israeli response to today's attacks is likely to be on a scale that will delay U.S. efforts to normalize relations with Saudi Arabia..."
Argument 12: Historical	Saudi Arabia has not recognized Israel since its establishment in 1948...
Argument 13: Official	Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman publicly announced that reaching an agreement with Israel seems plausible. In an interview with Fox News last



Declaration	month, he said that talks about normalization are "real for the first time."
Argument 14 : Political Analysis	Sachs from Brookings said that Hamas' goals may be simpler: to take hostages to free Palestinian prisoners from the West Bank and Gaza in Israeli prisons...
Argument 15 : Political Analysis	Former U.S. diplomat Aaron David Miller, a Middle East affairs specialist, said that Hamas is frustrated with the limited amounts of money reaching Gaza from Arab countries and restrictions on workers' permits to work in Israel. He added: "This attack is, in many ways, a blow to pride, to remind Israel that we are here..."
Argument 16: Political Analysis	Mr. Heller noted, "War is coming. And these things tend

### 5- Patterns of Bias in News Websites:

- **Al-Sharq Al-Awsat News Website:**
- **Bias by Commission:** This type of bias is evident in the tendency of the discourse producer to favor the Israeli side by presenting the Gaza conflict through a mythical representation. For example, the reference to the story of David and Goliath sarcastically implies that the victory of the Palestinian resistance can only happen in fantasy. Additionally, when the narrative states, "Whenever Israeli air defenses fail to intercept these rockets, it is seen as a success for the resistance," it downplays the significance of the Palestinian resistance as merely random acts, ignoring their legitimate defense of their land. Furthermore, by saying, "It is enough for the operation to be executed for Hamas to be considered victorious in the short term, not in the long run," the producer reduces the entire "Al-Aqsa Flood" operation to merely its execution, clearly showing bias toward Israel by placing it as the primary actor while relegating Palestine to the secondary role. Moreover, Israel is portrayed as having the right to respond by all means, even if it involves killing children, women, and destroying vital infrastructure, while "the flood" is depicted as an unjust attack on a peaceful Israel, particularly since its withdrawal in 2005.
- **Bias by Using Unchallenging Assumptions:** The discourse producer employs many assumptions, offering a glimpse into politics and its realizations before transitioning into the Gaza conflict, using mythical representations, and then discussing Israel's withdrawal from Gaza and the conflict between Hamas and Israel, culminating in the flood.
- **Bias by Lack of Context:** The producer deliberately omits the context of the news, failing to present the reality of life in Gaza and the West Bank under Israeli siege for the past 17 years. The narrative suggests that Hamas, through this flood, is unjustly attacking Israel.
- **Bias by Distortion of Facts:** The producer claims that Israel withdrew from Gaza in 2005, which is not accurate, as Israel has never truly left Gaza. How else can the repeated attacks on Gaza be explained?
- **Bias by Opinions Disguised as News:** The Al-Sharq Al-Awsat news website conveys opinions in the form of news. The producer, who appears to be a military analyst, presents the Gaza flood from a military perspective, with many subjective comments reflecting an



ideological stance that Israel holds the power and has consistently prevailed over Gaza, from the story of David and Goliath to the present day, with the flood's victory framed as temporary.

- **Bias by Using Loaded Language:** Bias is evident through the use of specific terms such as "military machine," "political gains," "Gaza as the theater of conflict since David and Goliath," "asymmetric war," "Palestinian victory theory," "joint combat," "wars of attrition," "tactical intelligence," "restoring deterrence image," and "security fragility." The producer intentionally uses these terms to influence the audience.

- **Al-Jazeera Net News Website:**

- **Bias by Commission:** "Al-Aqsa Flood"... the largest Palestinian resistance attack on the occupation. "Al-Aqsa Flood" was an operation launched by the Palestinian resistance in Gaza against the occupation on the morning of Saturday, October 7, 2023, including a land, sea, and air attack, with resistance fighters infiltrating several settlements near Gaza. The bias by commission is evident in the discourse favouring Hamas, portraying this attack as a comprehensive flood by land, sea, and air, with the producer emphasizing the Palestinian side by focusing on the flood in the first part of the discourse.

- **Bias by Labelling:** The bias is shown through positive descriptions of the "Al-Aqsa Flood," calling it the largest attack, the day of the great battle, the end of the last occupation on earth, and framing the flood as the destruction of the occupation.

- **Bias by Story Selection:** It seems the news website has chosen to prioritize the story of the flood, opening its media narrative with it and presenting the flood as a victory for the Palestinian resistance, breaking through Israeli security. This suggests a possible stance against Saudi Arabia, which supports the U.S., standing by Israel. It may also reflect Al-Jazeera's pursuit of a journalistic scoop, which it often strives for.

- **Bias by Using Loaded Language:** The producer uses emotional and evocative words such as "Palestinian resistance fighters infiltrated the settlements..." and "We announce the beginning of the flood with the first strike..." **First** Targeting military fortifications... The great battle... A large-scale operation aimed at defending Al-Aqsa Mosque and freeing prisoners... The West Bank is the decisive factor in the battle... Hamas launches a war... They took over police stations in Sderot... Israel responded with the "Iron Swords" operation... Violent airstrikes... Emotional descriptions with numbers, such as the number of wounded, the number of dead, the number of missing, and the number of martyrs, most of whom are women and children—a large number—and those trapped under the rubble and the widespread destruction.

- **Bias by Lack of Context:** The discourse producer seems to have removed the context of the "Al-Aqsa Flood" by omitting the reasons behind it. Its cause is the despair of the people in Gaza and the West Bank due to the oppressive siege on the area, which has lasted for 17 years and has confined the region's population, turning Gaza into an open-air prison.

- **Visual Bias:** This is evident when examining the attached images and videos of the "Flood," which indicate a bias in favor of Hamas and the Palestinian resistance. The video showcases the "Al-Aqsa Flood" and the panic and impact it caused in Israel, with some images documenting the resistance's seizure of military vehicles.

- **New York Times news website:**

- **Commission Bias:** "Gaza Attack and Israel's War Declaration: What Comes Next?" In contrast to the 2001 terrorist strikes on the United States, the discourse producer leaned more toward the Israeli side, undermining the resistance's position and portraying Israel as the victim of this attack, which had a significant psychological impact. However, the producer displays bias by drawing attention to the 250 Israeli deaths and the unidentified number of hostages, omitting to include the number of Palestinian martyrs. He says that the reaction would lead to additional casualties, denounces Hamas, and gives Israel the green light to attack Gaza, even though Israel hasn't done so since 2005. The speech uses Hezbollah's participation and, more importantly, Iran—which is viewed as an enemy of both the United States and Israel—to bolster its case for going to war. Middle East-focused political experts advance the case for revenge without mentioning the "Flood."
- **Omission bias:** The producer of the talk purposefully left out information and proof that would support the "Flood" theory and Hamas's justification for it. Instead, he emphasized Israel's right to retaliate against this attack, portraying Hamas as the aggressor in previous conflicts and intrusions into Israeli land, demonstrating how the producer had purposefully left out information to bolster Israel's stance.
- **Bias by Story Selection:** The producer decided to highlight Israel's story, portraying it as a victim of aggression, despite asserting that it withdrew from Gaza in 2005 and working to promote peace and security in the region, despite the "Al-Aqsa Flood" receiving extensive attention from international media and the Palestinian cause receiving broad sympathy. The producer's prejudice in favor of the media organization he works for, which favors Israel, was justified by ignoring the suffering of the Palestinian people and the continued bombardment on Gaza.
- **Bias in Source Selection:** The discourse is biased because it primarily relies on official sources that uphold Israel's viewpoint. Political analysts and diplomats have bolstered the case for war against Gaza by highlighting sources that contradict the "Flood," devaluing it and portraying it as a terrorist attack akin to the attacks carried out by the United States in 2001.
- **bias by Labeling prejudice:** Phrases like "giving Netanyahu political cover" and "Netanyahu previously refused calls to send thousands of troops to Gaza to destroy groups like Hamas" are blatant examples of labeling prejudice. Gaza is said to be virtually cut off from Israel and Egypt and to be mostly isolated, even from other Palestinians in the West Bank, as a result of the withdrawal's inability to bring about a sustainable peace solution. These assertions use labeling to expose bias.
- **Bias by Policy Recommendation or Condemnation:** The discourse favors Israel's response and accords it complete legitimacy, despite the fact that the Gaza onslaught resulted in the death and capture of several Israelis. It also condemns Hamas's attack, portraying it as an act of terrorism.
- **Opinion-Based Bias Disguised as News:** The conversation reveals that the producer routinely included personal comments into the newscast, especially when the story's ideas were changing.
- **Bias by Lack of Context:** The producer, as previously indicated, took off the background information regarding the Gaza attack, depriving "Al-Aqsa Flood" of its meaning. Only because of the terrible living conditions Gaza inhabitants faced and the 17-year siege of the area, did the flood occur.

- **Bias via Fact Distortion:** By inverting the story and making Hamas appear to be the main aggressor and alleging Iranian support, the producer twisted a number of facts. Additionally, he misrepresented the facts to suggest that attacks, including the wars in May 2021 and August 2022, have never stopped and that Israel never really left Gaza, despite claims to the contrary made in 2005.
- **Bias via Loaded Words:** Phrases such as "Netanyahu is under pressure to launch a large-scale military response" are biased. "The illusion of stability in the Middle East is a bloody mirage," "Hamas and its allies are launching a wide-ranging conflict," "incursion... killing... psychological impact of the attack... invasion... bringing the fight to them... Iran, the arch-enemy."
- **Fairness Bias:** In the account of the Gaza onslaught, the producer took the side of the weaker party and offered a lot of reasoning and explanations for Israel's reprisal. These defenses and arguments, however, seem flimsy given that the facts of the Gaza War demonstrate that Israel is murdering and violating the Palestinian people, particularly focusing on civilians, women, children, and persons with disabilities. Given these transgressions, what level of fairness can the media hope to achieve?
- **bias by Narrative prejudice:** The producer distorted and twisted numerous facts to support the Gaza attack tale, undermining the media outlet's objectivity and demonstrating its prejudice in favor of Israel.

#### **6- Results of the Applied Study:**

- We found that "Al-Jazeera Net" clearly addressed the "Flood" and dedicated prominent main ideas to it, while "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" did not construct an explicit discourse supporting the Palestinian resistance, as its narrative language did not reflect the seriousness of the discourse producer. Meanwhile, "New York Times" ignored the Al-Aqsa resistance, mentioning it only in a secondary manner that diminished its value.

- The underlying meaning reveals that the "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" website granted the discourse producer the role of a military analyst, which aligns in part with the approach taken by "New York Times" analyst. It's important to clarify that these analysts are familiar with the Middle East and carry out political agendas, with their names and roles well-known. However, the "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" analyst remains anonymous. On the other hand, "Al-Jazeera Net" built its discourse by compiling reports from news agencies. Analyzing the underlying meaning in the discourses reveals that "Al-Jazeera Net" leans toward Hamas, while "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" presents the situation as it is, and "New York Times" harbors a deep resentment toward Hamas and any entity or organization sympathetic to it.

- All the sample discourses focused on the key players: Hamas, Palestinian leadership, and some representatives of Hamas as supporting forces, with the occupying state and its army as opposing forces in both "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" and "Al-Jazeera Net." In contrast, "New York Times" takes a different approach.

- The three discourses presented different arguments and supporting data.

"New York Times" provided event timelines, official declarations, and testimonials from political and diplomatic analysts to bolster their discourse, whereas "Al-Jazeera Net" placed a greater emphasis on data and numbers, particularly when reporting the number of victims.

- The design and content of the headlines make the prejudice quite evident. "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" headlines were larger than those in "Al-Jazeera Net" and "New York Times."

"Regarding substance, "Al-Jazeera Net" specifically mentioned the flood in its headline, whilst "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" made reference to Gaza instead of Hamas or the flood.

In the meantime, the attack was presented in "New York Times" title as a declaration of war, Blatantly biased reporting.

- The three discourses' descriptions of the event had different structures. The opening paragraphs of "Al-Jazeera Net" and " New York Times" both summarized the event, but "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" began with political generalizations before launching a fictitious story that exposed the editor/writer's sarcasm regarding the seemingly never-ending struggle. While "The New York Times" depicted the occupant as a victim of hostility, "Al-Jazeera Net" made it evident that they supported the flood operation.

- The research showed that "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" was hesitant in its endeavor to portray the tremendous cost of the war on Gaza, while " New York Times" was unmistakably on the side of Israel. Even though the media discourses favored one side using comparable techniques, this does not imply that the discourses were impartial. The sample's language and graphic components used rhetorical and visual devices to support the editors' and their organizations'

Points of view.

- "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat News website " represented its positions with slogans and allusions to mythology or history, whereas "Al-Jazeera Net News Website " relied on data from both the occupying and the legitimate landowners. "New York Times" primarily relied on historical

Justifications and political analysis from middle East specialists.

- The examination of the accompanying photos, which are significant visual components in media discourse, showed that "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" and " New York Times" were clearly aligned in their bias in favor of the occupying power. For example, "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" supported Israel's position by showcasing its response to the flood (the outcome). "The New York Times" used a comparable strategy. On the other hand, "Al-Jazeera Net," which is renowned for its never-ending pursuit of controversy and exclusive information, attached a video that summarized the flood operation and included footage from the ground. It took a clear stand when it included a video of Abu Ubaida declaring the commencement of the Al-Aqsa Flood operation. The visual discourse that supports the written prejudice is reinforced by the deliberate selection of images.

- The examination of the three news websites' bias reveals that " New York Times" follows American policy, which continuously backs Zionism militarily and politically while attempting to justify its existence on Arab territory in international fora. It produced discourse that was nearly entirely biased as a result. On the other side, "Al-Jazeera Net" adheres to a media strategy that prioritizes journalistic scoops and sensationalism while also displaying blatant prejudice in favor of the Al-Aqsa Flood operation. "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" developed a policy of equivocation and employed mythical reasons, depicting Gaza as a battlefield between Hamas and the occupier for political gains, while it deftly maneuvers in its prejudice. Due to this, its rhetoric is ambiguous and indecisive, ultimately supporting the occupying state. This is comparable to Saudi Arabia's position, which negotiated a military treaty with the United States prior to October 7 in exchange for normalization.

## **7-Conclusion:**

Dictamental analysis in media material offers flexibility in analyzing discourse patterns and revealing several meanings that content analysis frameworks could obstruct. Additionally, it offers crucial instruments for examining discourse's surface-level as well as underlying structures, giving scholars the flexibility to apply analytical methods however they see fit. Van Dijk (1997) argues that critical discourse analysis enables researchers to uncover power relations and ideological frameworks embedded within media texts.

This study utilized tools for assessing semantic fields, active forces, arguments, and visual elements, in addition to a thesis analysis tool, to capture the ideological structures and reference frames of the discourse. This comprehensive analysis facilitated a deeper understanding of bias patterns. Fairclough (1995) highlights that media discourse is shaped by social and political power dynamics, making it a critical area for examining bias. It is noteworthy that the three websites' media discourses did not coherently present the incident.

The analytical results make clear that the Arab broadcasters did not openly denounce the Israeli occupation. However, unlike "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat," which displayed some hesitancy and ambiguous viewpoints, the editor at "Al-Jazeera Net" brought the flood front and center in the discussion. The discourse producer claims that the editor of "New York Times" denounced Hamas' operation and demanded a bloody counterattack to restore Israel's legitimate position. Herman and Chomsky (1988) explain that such bias reflects the influence of political and economic interests on media narratives.

The examination of the three news websites leads us to the conclusion that the facts the media presents to us are frequently distant from reality, and that we live in a "post-truth" media environment. Postman (1985) describes how the media landscape, driven by entertainment and emotional engagement, has contributed to a post-truth era, where facts take a backseat to narratives. For instance, "New York Times" framed the Palestinian conflict in a narrative that implies the land belongs to the Zionists legitimately, portraying Hamas as a terrorist organization producing unrest in the area and advocating for the bombardment of Gaza as a means of destroying it. This supports Entman's (2007) framing theory, which suggests that media outlets emphasize certain aspects of a story while downplaying others to create a biased narrative.

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