

DECONSTRUCTING MEDIA NARRATIVES ON THE ISRAEL-PALESTINE CONFLICT: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF AL JAZEERA AND BBC

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ABSTRACT

In addition to its being a longstanding geopolitical conflict, the Israel-Palestine conflict is one that is also communicated, in which news outlets pick events, package them, name them and place them on the map for readers and viewers. The current study compares the way in which Al Jazeera and BBC News narrate the conflict in a six-article corpus in 2023. The original research sequence has been preserved with improved conceptual and methodological aspects. The detection and analysis of data consists of a combination of approaches including: thematic analysis, critical discourse analysis, framing theory, a constructivist paradigm, and grounded-theory-informed comparative coding. Historical context, headlines and labels, emphasis on sources, humanitarian representations, personal testimony, emotive language, metaphors, statistics and the role of Israeli and Palestinian protagonists are highlighted. The results show a systematic variation in the emphasis of the narration and not only a binary distinction between objective versus biased narration approach. Occupation, historical injustice, humanitarian suffering, international criticisms, activism and structural explanations of violence are put more strongly in the selected Al Jazeera texts. The use of specific BBC texts highlights more of the immediate security implications of the 7 October attacks, Israeli civilian experiences, Hamas' military positioning, security failure, deterrence and individual stories of loss. These and other variations illustrate a discursive selection and an importance of framing in reporting processes about international conflicts. The study suggests that the media do not simply report events; they render specific elements of an event more salient and thus create an interpretive context where audiences perceive responsibility, victim and legitimate, as well as potential responses. At the same time, the small purposive sample means generalizing the findings to the whole editorial output of either organization is not warranted. The results are therefore not to be interpreted as a quantitative evaluation of institutional bias but as a qualitative comparison of delineated corpus.

KEYWORDS: Israel-Palestine conflict, media narratives, framing, critically discourse analysis, AL Jazeera, BBC News, thematic analysis, and media bias

INTRODUCTION

The long-lived Israel/Palestine conflict is one of the most reported and politically controversial conflicts in modern international affairs. Its persistence relates to overlapping histories of nationalism, displacement, territorial claims and occupation, security, competing political projects

and many instances of armed violence. These dimensions are historically filled and politically polarized, so it is important that the language in which this conflict is reported. Audiences don't often encounter conflict as a straight presentation of events. Rather, they come face-to-face with specific pieces of information, quotes, pictures,

labels, descriptions and stories presented by specific news organizations. Media reporting therefore becomes part of the broader battle of interpretation as to who is aggressor and who the victim, who/what is relevant and what's not, whose voice is heard and the legitimacy of which political actions. There is a crucial role for the international broadcasters in the process. Al Jazeera and BBC News are international news organizations and well known across the world, and have sizeable international audiences, yet have different institutional, linguistic, geo-political, and journalistic contexts. There is extensive scholarship that shows that coverage of the conflict between Israel and Palestine is driven by selection, sources, language, national frame and institutional queries (Barkho, 2008; Neureiter, 2017). Not that this means that all of the stories either organization creates can be distilled down into one political stance. Instead, it raises the possibility that the attention-grabbing conventions might be analyzed to decipher how news is made of events of contention. Below given study is a comparative study based on a six-article corpus identified by the original study. It still maintains the historical theme, headlines, segmentation, visuals, reoccurrence, language, tone and framing but is now more focused on the conceptual differences between framing and intentional bias. As Entman (1993) has suggested, one could view framing as relating to the choice of the aspects of perceived reality rendered salient within a communicating text. A frame may thus highlight some aspects of a problem while implying a lack of an organization's point of view. This study is thus not designed to determine absolutely who is 'Left' or who is 'Right' in regard to Al Jazeera or the BBC but to recognize the differences in the emphases in the selected texts and what these differences indicate in terms of the construction of the discourse of conflict. The study focuses especially on the link between history and reporting of ongoing events. The events reported by conflict journalists tend to have a dramatic nature, occur in real-time and can be said to be caused by specific agents. Occupation, displacement, settlement policy, blockade, political fragmentation, failure in negotiations etc. are historical phenomena which cannot be carried so well in the formats of day-to-

day news. Similarly, emphasizing structural history may provide an immediate violent action with a more coherent narrative of explanation. The comparison of these orientations enables us to look at what both outlets report and what sort of "explanatory world" the outlets themselves create.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

An understanding of the historical context of the conflict is crucial to analyzing the ways in which it is portrayed in the media. Contestation for Palestine in modern times emerged in the context of competing national movements, British imperial rule, population change and changes of political power in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In 1948, the state of Israel was founded and many Palestinians were displaced, an event which Palestinians refer to as the Nakba. In 1967, the war then made the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza under military control of Israel, resulting in ongoing conflicts regarding territory, settlement, sovereignty, and Palestinian self-determination. In the course of the 1990s Oslo process, the Palestinians gained limited autonomy, but large issues were not addressed. History here is not a mere "backdrop" to the study but rather becomes part of the media arena. A report that starts with 7 October 2023, the beginning of the occupation of 1967, or the start of the displacement in 1948, or the Oslo process can make a difference in terms of the interpretation of the same contemporary event. In a report that starts with an armed attack security and victimization will be the chief interpretive lens. A story that starts with occupation and displacement can emphasize the importance of inequitable structures and the sense of grievance. Thus, the structure of chronology acts as a causal organisation. Words used when referring to areas of contention have also interpretive implications. The first study states that there is a difference between the formulations evoking occupation and those associated with specific areas as Jerusalem neighborhoods. These differences should not be viewed as word order randomizations. Labels can implicitly have the effect of creating legal status, historical legitimacy, agency and responsibility in conflict discourse. The critical discourse analysis has utility since the apparently 'normal' language

choice involved in producing a discourse helps construct social meanings (Fairclough, 1995).

PROBLEM STATEMENT

Media are, of course, supposedly purveyors of facts but when they report conflict, it necessarily includes selection and organization. The issues involved in this study are thus not so much the ability of journalists to create a completely neutral description as embeddedness in different editorial systems in providing specific interpretations. This issue is particularly relevant in the Israel – Palestine context as accounts of violence, historical causation, territory, civilian suffering, and political legitimacy are all highly contested. The scholarship up to now has led to diverging conclusions about media bias. As an example for patterns of bias varying in different media systems, Neureiter (2017) scrutinized the reporting on the 2010 Gaza flotilla raid in German, British and U.S. newspapers and shows that these patterns are linked to respective political and social environments. Barkho (2008) shows that the study of BBC discourse can be approached from a number of linguistic aspects such as linguistic choices, reporting instructions, assumptions, and the interplay between reporting in English and Arabic language. This could serve as a warning against assuming that media bias exists as an invariable attribute of a media organisation and, therefore, being content to examine specific texts and contexts. The object of the present study is to handle this problem by means of a close comparison exercise on six articles which are qualitative in nature. It compares and contrasts the selected Al Jazeera and BBC texts with respect to historical context, language used, sources, personal testimony, emotive language and theme emphasis. It also invites the question of whether such differences might be seen as an opposition of narrative constructions, and of whether a synthesis based on grounded theory might help illuminate the interplay between "editorial" selection and "audience" interpretation.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- To investigate and analyze the narrative frame, source selection, segmentation/headline, historical context and visual/post-narrative frame

in reporting of Al Jazeera and BBC News on the Israel Palestine conflict.

- To be able to observe common themes, features and construction of the selected texts from Al Jazeera and BBC.
- To analyze the differences in the selected coverage in terms of language, tone, terminology and framing of the discursive.
- To build a theory-based explanation of how patterns of salience and selection form, contribute to different media versions and leads to and from contrasting media versions.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- How does Al Jazeera and BBC News shape and frame coverage of the Israel – Palestine conflict with regards to history?
- To identify any recurring themes and stories in the sample of each outlet. In what ways are there distinctions among the component elements of the selected Al Jazeera and BBC narratives in terms of language, tone, terminology and framing
- What can be generalized from the patterns found throughout the corpus to explain in a grounded theory way how media narratives are constructed?

LITERATURE REVIEW

The study of the Israel-Palestine conflict through the lens of media is rich in history, and has often focused on the interaction between the practices of journalists, their political context, the language used and viewer interpretation. But much of earlier scholarship focused on western news organizations due to their historic part in international news flows. Al Jazeera's arrival as a transnational broadcaster expanded the domain by offering a powerful voice from Arab countries and a critique of western assumptions of the universal applicability of the rules of news. El-Nawawy and Powers (2010) see Al Jazeera English as a unique medium that engages with "conflict saturated and journalistic professionalism and transnational communication." One of the key concepts for understanding such differences is framing. The term "framing" implies taking aspects of perceived reality and making them more salient in a communicating text (Entman, 1993). Using frames to state a problem, to make a diagnosis, to

make a moral assessment and to propose remedies. This is particularly pertinent for reporting on conflict as the same event can have been framed as a security, a terrorism, a resistance, a retaliation, a self-defense, a humanitarian crisis, a political failure or a historical injustice scenario based on a specific selection of elements and the links made between them. Framing patterns have been shown to vary by outlet and country in the case of the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians. In his 2017 study on the Gaza flotilla raid of 2010 in German, British, and American newspapers, Neureiter explains that for every media bias, one finds cross-national differences, and that as such a one-size-fits-all explanation of media bias is hard to find. The result may help to clarify why seemingly opposite results may be found in the literature: varying samples and time, outlets, genres, and politics may yield different patterns. Barkho's (2008) particular foundation is pertinent to look at BBC discourse when examining. Through linguistic analysis and examining material from the mainstream media, interviews and the BBC guidelines, as well as the editors' blogs, his study examines how the discourse can be shaped by institutional beliefs and assumptions. This is not only of substantive importance but also of methodological importance as a method to show how media discourse cannot only be understood as belonging to a vocabulary but is linked to the institutional practice. Framing from a visual and emotional point of view is not as insignificant either. Images of destruction, of grief-stricken families, images of armed troops or fighters, of damaged buildings, even military apparatuses or demonstrations can make a particular interpretation emotionally accessible to audiences. The news original design of present study does not explicitly apply restated and systematic quantitative image coding although it considers the visual as a meaning of a news. An image may be used to personify one population, militarize another one, or make an impersonal geopolitical conflict the story of an individual suffering. Thematic analysis is a supplementary approach that involves searching for patterns of reoccurrence. Thematic analysis is a flexible approach that allows identification, analysis and reporting of patterns in qualitative data (Braun

and Clarke, 2006). The flexibility of the model is useful for a corpus for which the research questions focus on recurring themes, narrative emphases and differences in meanings. However, here thematic analysis is not employed as an organizing process but rather as a kind of interpretative stage, a process whereby ideas are repeated before they get interpreted discursively. Finally, critical discourse analysis involves a step further in posing questions about the relations of language to power, ideology and social relations. Fairclough (1995) has pointed out that discourse analysis should be studied as a text as well as social practice. The words 'security', 'terrorism', 'occupation', 'resistance' and 'retaliation', 'apartheid', 'militant', 'civilian', 'humanitarian crisis', can't be used interchangeably in the present context. The use of them can place actors in larger legality and responsibility. Grounded theory is relevant, because the original study aimed to find an explanatory pattern, in the corpus. Charmaz (2014) emphasizes that categories and theoretical interpretations with a constructivist grounded approach are 'constructed' through researcher and data interaction. Considering an essentially small sized corpus, it would be to state too much that there should be full saturation of grounded theory. Grounded theory can be more defensibly described by using the following analytical steps: themes are coded, case to case comparisons are made, links between themes are made to other categories and a conceptual explanation is developed. The book does not, however, provide sufficient material for further comparative efforts. There is an abundance of existing scholarship that narrowly focuses on one outlet, employs quantitative content analysis or explores the earlier periods. The present study will provide an in-depth qualitative analysis and comparison between chosen texts linked to the war of 2023 emanated by the two TV channels (Al Jazeera and BBC) through thematic, critical discourse, framing and constructivist interpretations. The contribution of this is of an interpretive rather than statistical nature: it shows how two important international news-industries can structure the same conflict in two different ways when it comes to their narrative priorities.

METHODOLOGY

RESEARCH DESIGN

This is a qualitative research work (secondary textual data), taking the comparative approach. The corpus comprises six articles which were cited in the original study, three from Al Jazeera and three linked to BBC News in 2023. Purposive sampling was applied since the aim was not to estimate how often texts related to the 7 October attacks were presented in the various output but rather to analyze texts in which there was ample material on historical background, the civilian experience, political interpretation, security issues and the consequences of the attacks. The design includes multiple four analytical perspectives. Thematic analysis finds patterns within the texts, as in the first analysis, "thematic analysis" identifies recurring patterns across texts (Braun & Clarke, 2006). Secondly, in critical discourse analysis specific attention is given to the role of lexical selection, metaphorical language, rhetorical construction and the presentation of actors in helping to establish the meaning (Fairclough, 1995). Third, framing theory offers a language to interpret the topics of selection and salience (Entman, 1993). Fourth, a grounded-theory-informed approach using a constructivist lens involves a comparison of categories and construction of an interpretation model via frequently occurring relationships (Charmaz, 2014). These approaches are not mutually-exclusive.

SAMPLING AND CORPUS

The unit of analysis will be the individual article. Here are some of the analyses and reports on international condemnation of Israel not included in the Al Jazeera corpus: An article by Rami G. Khouri on international condemnation of Israel, a report about the consequences of the war for children in Gaza, and an article discussing the politics of nuance by Somdeep Sen. Before 7 October, the BBC reported on Hamas's military readiness; on Israeli civilian experience and security failure, and also did a profile on Eyal Waldman after his daughter was killed. The corpus is then not homogeneous; there is both analytical/opinion writing, and reported

journalism, the analytical/opinion writing is not homogenized into the journalism and vice versa.

CODING PROCEDURE

The processes of repeated reading of the 6 texts led to the analysis. First Coding led to the identification of cues known as: actors, events, places, causes, consequences, emotions, historical events, evaluative terminology. The grouping of related codes, through focused coding, enabled the themes of the indicating codes to be defined: humanitarian suffering, historical context, security, civilian experience, political criticism, military threat and peace/deterrence. These categories were then analyzed comparatively, exploring their differing functioning in both outlets. Special focus was given to the placement of articles; whether actors were quoted or described in detail; whether historical material were included; whether information was given via some accredited source; and what terms were used to describe actors and events. The links between individuals' narratives and political assertions were also taken into account. This procedure reasons in a qualitative fashion of comparison while not making any unsupported numerical claims based on a very limited data set

ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK

The analysis involves five dimensions: what the article describes as the problem (problem definition); who/what is blamed for the problem (causal attribution); the value judgments that are used to evaluate the situation (moral evaluation); how the problem is to be solved (implied remedy); or how the problem is related to previous similar events (historical positioning). These dimensions develop Entman's (1993) idea of framing, and echo his focus on language, tone and history.

TRUSTWORTHINESS AND LIMITATIONS

The strength of credibility situates itself through reiteration, comparison between texts, between different categories stemming from their outlet. Interpretive claims were tightly tied to observable patterns in texts and the analysis carefully distinguishes between the whole of the selected texts and what each organization necessarily does, as a whole. The study does NOT representative

statistically. There are only 6 articles from which a summary of the positions of both broadcasters, or causation of audience influence, or over a long-term period of stability, could be calculated. Aside from that, certain discrepancies may be due to genre since the corpus represents a range of genres.

ANALYSIS

The comparison shows a regular difference in the beginnings of the stories. The Al Jazeera text utilizes tend to start with queries relating to the historical wrong, international criticism, the plight of the Palestinians, and governmental structures concerning the battle. Choices of appropriate BBC texts start with immediate events, security, experience of Israelis as civilians, organisation of Hamas and consequences of 7 October. This distinction does not imply any one outlet worldview is devoid of other viewpoints. Instead, it refers to varying degrees of story salience. A simple but obvious example relates to terms. The first study states that there is a difference between the formulations evoking occupation and those associated with specific areas as Jerusalem neighborhoods. In a framing sense, words that suggest an occupation focus readers on the aspects of territorial control, while neighborhood words can provide a localized geographic focus. Repeated terminology provides interpretive clues to readers about what sort of political problem they are being asked to see: The point of the analysis is not that it is a single term that dictates audience attitude but, rather, that repeated terminology provides interpretive clues as to what sort of political problem readers are being asked to see.

THEMATIC ANALYSIS FOR AL JAZEERA

Identified Common themes in the Al Jazeera corpus are opposition of Israel on a global scale, changing public opinion, student protests, counter-protests, Palestinian displacement/ethnic cleansing, history, humanitarian crisis, demands for nuance, ban or crackdown on public criticism and injustice, and calls for international justice. While not all those choices are the same themes in each article, when taken together, there is a coherent interpretive orientation to them.

MAIN OR CENTRAL THEMES OF AL JAZEERA

International criticism and sentiments. An emphasis has been put on international political reactions to Israel's actions in Gaza in the texts selected from Al Jazeera. The issue of public activism and the international criticism is both made explicit by Khoury (2023) and taken as evidence of changing political sentiment. The frame then extends to a preoccupation beyond battles to an emphasis on international legitimacy and public opinion. Students' activism and counter campaign. Among the people that are considered as parts of social life, student "activism" stands out prominently, especially in Sen's (2023) reflection on "nuance." Activism is responded to as part of a general struggle over speech, pressure on institutions and over "acceptable criticism". Hence, the conflict is not only depicting armed confrontations but it's battle for public discourse. Ethnic cleansing, historical background. The Al Jazeera corpus is a typical example of a historical explanation. These texts highlight the "violent themes and patterns" that "should be understood in the context of a broader history of occupation, displacement, colonialism and unequal political power. The chosen texts focus on "violent themes and patterns that should be understood in the context of a broader history of occupation, displacement, colonialism and unequal political power. This is what creates a framework of the structure of historical events where events in the present are seen as instances of a persistent political dynamic. Humanitarian crisis. Suffering is continually emphasized, particularly with regard to children and families. The humanitarian frame renders a purely political conflict on to a tale of vulnerability and moral necessity. Numbers define scale and individual accounts create emotional specificity. When considered holistically, these types of evidence add layers of salience toward the civilian consequences. It is now time to provide a summary of the thematic analysis of al Jazeera, which includes a description of each theme. Contextualization is the prevailing pattern of Al Jazeera. Modern situations are linked to historical buildings—the pain of civilians many of them as proof of the consequences of the buildings. The international

activists' and critics' voices are also highlighted. The result is a frame that is extremely sympathetic to the Palestinian cause and critical of Israeli policy. As an opinion/analysis writing was included as part of the corpus though, this conclusion should not be extended to all Al Jazeera journalism. Themes identified in the BBC News from 1947 to present day are: Themes in the BBC corpus include: Hamas' surprise attack, Israel's security forces overwhelmed, security forces perceived as failing, trying to find relatives, clamoring for more military force, uncertainty among residents, the campaigns of the Israeli military, the Iron Dome defense system, Israeli people's resilience, the human costs of violence, deterrence, trials of democratic accountability and flaws of institutions. Thematic center of gravity is, thus, more "securo" and closer to the present than that of the chosen Al Jazeera corpus.

BBC NEWS – COMMON/MAJOR THEMES FOCUS ON "WHAT IS HAPPENING"

The corpus shows that the BBC's reporting of the story in the month months is mostly centered on events surrounding 7 October and the aftermath. For instance, Ragad et al (2023) estimate the reconstruction of the Hamas and the associated armed groups preparations for the attack. The article includes evidence based on visuals, satellite photos, training video, expert analysis, and Israeli military officials. The organization, preparation and operation capability are becoming dominant in this evidentiary structure that forms an investigative-security structure. Security and threat. Israeli security plays a large role in the narrative of the BBC corpus, and its lack thereof is emphasized, as well as civilian fear and the failure of defense, the surprise caused by the attack, and missile defense. So, security manifests itself as an individual experience and as an institutionality. This frame can motivate readers to read next military action as deterrence and prevention. Personal stories. Eyal Waldman's (2023) profile focuses on Guerin losing his daughter and accepting the future of two states. The personal story puts the reader in the same position as a reader of Israeli loss, but it doesn't simplify the picture of the war so it can be interpreted as a "good war" by a reader, since the

interviewee is also portrayed as a promoter of peace and the creation of a Palestinian state. Is it a good example of the fact that 'framing analysis' shouldn't simply be boiled down to an ideology? Political failure/ Political Accountability. Most of the BBC material is not positive about the successes or the legitimacy of Israel. Note: Reporting of concern for security failure is likely to alert institutional weaknesses and to have political consequences. The featured texts can then be critical of Israeli institutions as well as of the conflict as a consequence of the security threat put forth by Hamas. Thematic analysis of the BBC News: Summary. For the selected corpus, the "immediacy" pattern of the BBC is predominant and used in combination with a security-centered explanation. Human suffering in the conflict is captured via Israeli civilian experiences and investigative reporting gives detail about the ways Hamas prepares and operates. History is there – but not as prevalent as in the texts we selected from Al Jazeera. The attack on 7 October becomes a defining event in the narrative in this way, as happenings are explained based on its surrounding events.

CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

AL JAZEERA NEWS EMOTIVE LANGUAGE

These readings from Al Jazeera, carefully chosen for their content, are highly evaluative in terms of Israeli actions and outcomes. When the words "brutal war", "criminality", "apartheid" are used by the author it implies some sort of moral and political judgment. Their role is to link the current violence with a strong narrative of structural injustice. According to Khouri (2023), speech against public criticism is linked to issues of political legitimacy and moral attribution to others by the international community. Metaphor and comparison. It can be considered in the transnational language of domination and resistance, that of colonialism and apartheid. These metaphors offer an audience an interpretive framework that goes beyond the situation in which they are found. As contested political concepts, however, they should be read as elements of argumentation on the part of the authors and not necessarily as uncontroversial assertions about fact or reality. Statistics and humanitarians' evidence.

Deaths, children, displacement and humanitarian needs provide quantitative references. Numbers provide scale to suffering and testimony emotional specificity. The blend forms a humanitarian frame in which results of military intervention are pivotal to the moral discourse. Rhetorical challenges and nuance politics. Sen (2023) explicitly challenges calls for 'nuance' – in the view of the writer, it can be used to obfuscate history. The form of the rhetorical text can help the reader challenge the idea of neutrality. For this reason, the article is written as argumentative comment as well as a traditional informational straight news story, a style which differs from that of the BBC.

BBC NEWS EMOTIVE LANGUAGE

When describing and reporting on the attack of 7 October and on its aftermath, the BBC texts employ descriptions which are emotionally impactful. Words of shock, horror, fear, blood and loss provide time lapse. But this emotional power is often given to the facts witnesses tell and events they describe; it is not, usually, given merely to the ideological label. This provides another rhetorical style to the chosen BBC narrative texts which do not have as clearly stated opinions as the Al Jazeera articles. Framing of Hamas. In the chosen BBC content, Hamas is invariably portrayed as a belligerent group which is a serious security threat to Israel. Ragad et al. (2023) emphasize training, exercises taking hostages, coordinated exercises and preparation for the 7 October assault. The central explanatory factors of this frame are the organizational agency and military ability. Israeli civilian experience, personal experience. Each individual story used by the BBC humanizes violence. Guerin (2023) profile of Waldman is especially noteworthy for its inclusion of both grief and anger, security and support of the two-state solution. There is emphasis on the suffering of the Israeli people in the story but not on the interviewee as necessarily representing the policies of the Israeli government. Institutional accountability. The BBC material offers an accountability frame as well, focusing on the travesties and failures in security and decision making upon which it constructs a political frame. This makes the idea that a BBC text chosen merely represent an Israeli official line difficult. They

highlight Israeli victimizations and security and allow criticism of Israeli institution.

MEDIA BIAS

The results suggest there is some difference in editorial emphasis but caution must be exercised when interpreting the use of the word "bias". A dimension of a conflict, genre, newsworthiness, evidence or for some other reason, may be emphasized in a text where it is not actually being misrepresented, represented in this manner instead of an attempted misrepresentation. For this reason, present study biases in the sense of providing description of patterned selection and salience in the selected corpus rather than with the intention of deception. Al Jazeera. The chosen Al Jazeera texts have a critical stance towards Israeli policy and highlight Palestinian suffering and historical injustice, occupation, international criticism and structural inequality. In this orientation we will find a highly sympathetic representation of Palestinian claims. As key texts are opinion pieces or analyses – they are not intended generally to apply to all Al Jazeera reports. BBC News. The chosen texts by the BBC are focused more on Israeli civic experience, the attack on 7 October, the military strength of Hamas, deterrence and security and what it means to Israeli society. This helps to establish the atmosphere of a story that makes Israeli security issues very salient. However, there is some criticism of security failures included, together with a personal story that expresses a more peaceful sentiment than the impression of strictly pro-Israel. It can thus be safely inferred that outlets differ in terms of their salience. Al Jazeera tows a line towards highlighting a structural injustice and Palestinian humanitarian experience, while BBC News tows a line towards highlighting all things immediate about Israeli security and civilian experience. This is in line with framing theory and does not make an unwarranted statement about the complete body of journalism of either organisation. Comparing and Constructivism Paradigm.

COMPARISON

The comparison illustrates two alternative ways of telling a story of the same conflict. The Al Jazeera

pathway is largely contextual/structural. It covers a progression from the international activism and criticism of contemporary violence through occupation, displacement, historical injustice, humanitarian consequence. The BBC pathway is primarily event-based, and oriented to security. It comes to a gradual progression from the 7 October attack, to Hamas's preparations, Israel's civilian memories, institutional security failures, Israel's response, deterrent and political consequences. These pathways have an impact on the understanding of causation. The Al Jazeera texts addressed the issue by describing the issue in a more extended manner of Palestine's dispossession and disparity of power. In the BBC texts there is a stronger correlation with the deployment of the term 'immediate causes' in the case of the 7 October attack, and security threats provided by Hamas. Both explicate but by no means exhaust the history of this conflict. Rather, each generates a distinct causal chain as salient. Another case is the terminology which is used in the comparison of territories. It's important to note that all mentions of occupation introduce the subject of territorial control in a legal and historical context, while reference to neighborhoods is used to emphasize on local geography. It is important first of all not that one-word should necessarily give one lasting clue to the audience about how to think about the political problem that is being created, but that the repetition of words provide such clues. There is also a dissimilarity in the number of civilian figures that are displayed in a comparison of the two depictions. Palestinian civilians, children, families, the vulnerable are key protagonists of Al Jazeera's picked-up stories, and are also its chosen protagonists in the weighty Humanitarian issues agenda. In the selected corpus, Israeli civilians being impacted by the 7 October attack are foregrounded in BBC reports. In both instances this is a conflict made personal, with the distinction that in one case, it is the population of one that is the primary human reference point, and in the other, it is the other population.

CONSTRUCTIVISM PARADIGM

Constructivism focuses on the role of meanings, categories and interactions in the mediation of

social reality. News discourse is not therefore viewed as being transparently a mirror of an independently provided conflict. Journalists and institutions engage in meaning-making representations via selection, categorization, quotation, sequencing and language. That is not a denial of the existence of facts – it refers to the fact that facts are given meaning through their socially organizing interpretation. The chosen texts are an example of this process. You could be looking at the same conflict, but crisis is being defined as an occupation and a justice issue, an armed organization driven security crisis, a humanitarian emergency, a political failure, or a conflict that needs re-diplomacy. All these are constructions that co-exist, but with different stories different constructions dominate. Constructivism can be used to explain that two organizations may be reporting on the same historical period, but readers may have very different experiences when reading the narratives. The constructivist approach is also an argument against so-called objectivity. Selection cannot be avoided in the process of verification, sourcing, attribution and the editorial process in professional journalism. Choices of voice to be interviewed, where to start a story, background to provide and the terms to use always help to express meaning. Hence, critical analysis does not have to invalidate journalism as subjective—the results of which are becoming apparent as being 'made visible'.

GROUNDNED THEORY

GROUNDNED THEORY INFORMED SYNTHESIS

The comparative coding resulted in a higher-order category, which may be called 'contextualized narrative salience'. This category provides an interpretive context to identify those certain dimensions that are salient through each outlet, and the central pattern across the corpus, given the categories of each outlet. Salience of texts in the selected ones from Al Jazeera is achieved in humanitarian and justice-oriented construction of their structures. In the chosen BBC texts, violence is immediate, leading to security salience and salience of the experiences of civilians. Narrative anchoring forms part of the first component of the model. The anchors of Al Jazeera target stories in

the context of historical and structural conditions, while the anchors of BBC News target stories on immediate events and their security implications. The second part is the positioning of the actors. Palestinian civilians and international activists have greater prominence as meaningful actors in the Al Jazeera corpus, as do Israeli civilians, Hamas, security institutions and military actors, in the BBC corpus. The third part is an assessment of its moral value. Al Jazeera's chosen commentaries feature explicit evaluative language and condemn Israeli policy, while the BBC reporting is more descriptive, more reliant upon testimony and investigation, and upon security sources. The 4th is "implied remedy" Palestinian rights, political accountability, international criticism, and justice are issues which are salient in the Al Jazeera texts. Security, deterrence, the demand for accountability for the 7 October attack and military power, and peace and a two-state solution in the Waldman profile, are key in the BBC texts. The fifth is the Position of the Audience. And readers are challenged to interpret the struggle in a variety of primary questions: What were the historical and structural conditions that led to this violence? But how did it happen, who was involved and what does it signify for security and future deterrence? Based on this, the conceptual argument is that not only has the media the power to polarize through explicit pro- and contra-statement, but it also can polarize through selective contextualization. An audience can be exposed many times to a conflict in a single causal chain that is salient in the story and the other causal chains may become less visible. This does not give a direct connection between media and effect because in the present study we do not take into account the audiences of the media. It does reveal, however, a credible way in which news framing can lead to a differentiation of understandings of responsibility and legitimacy. The results of the synthesis are not a complete grounded theory, but rather a theory that was grounded in the data. It is economically small, in terms of the number of sources analyzed, and it is not necessarily representative of the media field as a whole, being purposively selected. However, the conceptual labelling provided by the model is useful in outlining how the four issues of historical

context, event salience, actor selection and moral evaluation occur in relation to each other in the chosen texts, as well as their interplay with the implied remedies

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The Israel-Palestine conflict is not just a longstanding geopolitics clash, but also an interactive field of communication, where news media choose, frame, name and package events for audiences. This study reviews and analyzes how Al Jazeera and BBC News present narratives in their six articles on the war of 2023 and establishes a comparative perspective. The original sequence of the research is preserved and a conceptual and methodological strengthening is carried out. This is a qualitative approach, using thematic analysis, critical discourse analysis, framing theory and a constructivist paradigm in conjunction with grounded theory-informed comparative coding. Great care is paid to historical contextualization, headlines and labels, positioning of the source, humanitarian representation, emphasis on personal testimony, use of emotive language, metaphor, and statistics, and the positioning of Israeli and Palestinian characters. The research results mark a consistent shift of weight in narration and not merely a dichotomy between objectivity and bias. The texts chosen from Al Jazeera emphasize more heavily occupation, historical injustice, humanitarian suffering, international condemnation, activist groups and structural violence. While the broader political and strategic implications of the 7 October attacks are important, the selected BBC texts focus more on the immediate security implications, experiences of Israeli civilians, Hamas's military organization and security failures, deterrence, and individual stories of losses. This indicates the significance of framing, and discursive selection, in international conflict reporting. The study suggests that media reports do not just report on events, but rather highlight specific aspects of events and thus create a receptive conditions space for audiences to think about problems of responsibility, victimhood, legitimacy and ways of reacting. However, the findings cannot be extrapolated to the full range of publication of either of these organizations because of the small

purposive sample. The results, as they stand should consequently be interpreted as an approximation of a qualitative comparison of a delimited corpus and not as a quantitative evaluation of institutional bias. The study analyzed the narrativization of events via Al Jazeera News and BBC News related to the Israel–Palestine conflict, aimed to find out the differences in historical contextualization, themes, language, tone and framing. The analysis shows that the texts selected do not report a similar set of events in the same ways. Rather they structure those events by an alternative ordering of the narrative. History of injustice, occupation, Palestinian civilian suffering, international criticism of the actions, activism, and structural explanations are the foci of Al Jazeera's selected articles. BBC News' articles chosen highlight the attack on 7 October, Hamas' military setup, Israel's civilian experience, security, Israeli deterrence and institutional failures. The differences are mainly differences in salience – so the findings are consistent with the framing theory. Entman (1993) thinks "framing" refers to the process of making particular parts of the reality more salient and significant. This is the case in the example of the present corpus. An article about Palestinian children, Israeli occupation and international criticism creates a different interpretive environment, than an article about Israeli families, preparation by Hamas and failures of security networks. Both have knowledge in fact, but the conclusions concluded in both narratives enable different conclusions to causation and responsibility. The outputs also help to validate the potential of critical discourse analysis. The terms occupation, apartheid, terror, security, reprisals, suffering and resistance are not synonymous labels. They take actors and events into account in reference to bigger moral and political contexts. In conclusion, the findings from the analysis validate that wording plays an important role in the media building the narrative. Meanwhile, the strongest statements on institutional bias made in the original paper are revised. It is illusory and unwarranted to draw a sweeping conclusion about Al Jazeera or the BBC, either as being consistently pro-Palestinian or pro-Israeli, from six articles. The quantity of texts is too limited and the genre of the texts is not the same.

A more defensible conclusion would be that the selected Al Jazeera texts reveal a greater Palestinian-centered and structural framing as opposed to the selected BBC texts revealing a greater framing relating to Israeli security or to the events of the moment. Personalization is also found to be key in both outlets, as the analysis shows. Whether civilians get humanized is not the difference; civilians' experiences which ones are subject to foregrounding is the difference. Palestinian children and families are the protagonists of Al Jazeera's chosen storylines of humanity. In BBC's chosen stories, Israelis, victims, families and security concerns are all top-notch. Personalization can humanize and, at the same time, envelop the attention of the audience. If this suffering of a population is repeatedly experienced in the individual and in the image, then that population can become the main human signifier for a conflict. The study's contribution is the combination of thematic analysis, framing, critical discourse analysis and constructivist grounded theory informed interpretation in a small comparative corpus. It is not so much a piece of statistics as of conceptual contribution. It explains that media bias must be viewed as a multifaceted phenomenon, including but not limited to selection, salience, terminology, chronology, sourcing, genre and implied causation. This approach is justified by the belief that it avoids the conflict between the notion of "objective reporting" and the notion of "propaganda," but it also explores the ways in which narratives become persuasive. There are a number of caveats to recognize. First, the corpus is limited to just six articles, and does not properly reflect either organization's entire output. Second, audience effects are not measured as a separate, independent variable in the study but as a suspended variable that is only measured as an effect of textual and narrative features. Third, there is a difference in tone that a certain extent might be a function of the fact that the corpus contains both opinion/analysis and reported journalism. Fourth an aspect of visual framing is known conceptually, but there is no systematic image coding. Finally, the analysis is restricted to 2023 and does not attempt to determine the extent of continuity of the trends before or after

this year. Future research should be extended longitudinally, incorporate television and social-media content and compare headlines and images systematically as well as include audience research. A bigger mixed-method design would be able to quantify the thing called “frame frequency” while maintaining the qualitative analysis of discourse. It would also be worthwhile to cross-compare between different languages, such as between BBC English and BBC Arabic, Al Jazeera Arabic and Al Jazeera English, as there may be significant differences between different languages in the same organisation, depending on institutions and language. Finally, from the chosen texts of Al Jazeera and BBC it can be concluded that reporting of international conflict is a process of narrational construction and transmission. In Al Jazeera's selected coverage, there is increased salience given to historical structure, Palestinian suffering and international criticism; in BBC News's selected coverage, there is increased salience given to immediate violence, Israeli civilian experience, and security. These are significant differences because audiences make sense of an event by the historically and causally inflected lenses they bring, and thus define what is the central issue, who is - or is not - at fault, who suffers and becomes visible, and which potential solutions are seemingly possible. It is productive scholarly work, then, to not look for one supposedly “neutral” media discourse but to compare, show, and critique media discourses.

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