

# **ACTOR REPRESENTATION IN THE NEWS OF THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT ON BBC AND AL JAZEERA**

**THESIS**

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**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LITERATURE**

**FARCULTY OF HUMANITIES**

**UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI MAULANA MALIK IBRAHIM**

**MALANG**

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# **ACTOR REPRESENTATION IN THE NEWS OF THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT ON BBC AND AL JAZEERA**

**THESIS**

Presented to

Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang

In Partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of *Sarjana Sastra* (S.S)

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**MALANG**

**2024**

## STATEMENT OF AUTHORSHIP

I state that the thesis entitled “**Actor Representation in The News of The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict on BBC And Al Jazeera**” is my original work. I do not include any materials previously written or published by another person, except those cited as references and written in the bibliography. Hereby, if there is any objection or claim, I am the only person who is responsible for that.

Malang, December 24, 2024

The researcher,



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This is to certify that Mohammad Setya Ananta's thesis entitled Actor Representation in the News of Israel-Palestinian Conflict on BBC and Al Jazeera has been approved for thesis examination at Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang, as one of the requirements for the degree of Sarjana Sastra (S.S.).

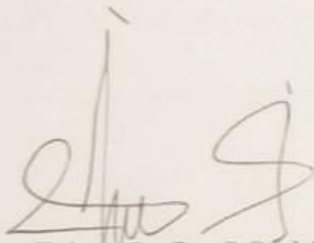
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Board of Examiners

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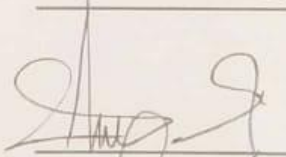
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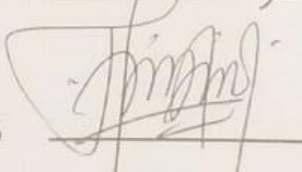
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## MOTTO

*“Allah tidak membebani seseorang melainkan sesuai dengan kesanggupannya (Al-Baqarah 286), tapi tugas yuwin cukup membebaniku 🙄”*

*"Jangan takut untuk bermimpi karena mimpi adalah langkah awal menuju kesuksesan."*

*“jika impianmu tidak kau dapat hari ini, tidurlah. Minimal kamu akan mendapat mimpi-mimpi lainnya.” Ant 2019*

*"If you want to make your dreams come true, the first thing you have to do is wake up." J.M. Power*

## **DEDICATION**

This thesis is proudly dedicated to my investor Mohammad Usnan, Bundahara Shinta Adnrayani, my beloved wife Salsa Aura Marchelina and my thesis supervisor. All parties who have contributed to this thesis. Thank you from my deepest heart, and I'm grateful to have some amazing people who always love and support me.

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Therefore, the researcher would like to express profound gratitude and extend heartfelt appreciation to the following individuals and groups who have played a significant role in the successful completion of this research:

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10. Lastly, thank you to myself for staying strong, healthy, and committed to completing this journey. May this thesis inspire future researchers.

Malang, December 24, 2024

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mohammad Setya Ananta', with a horizontal line crossing through the middle of the signature.

Mohammad Setya Ananta

## ABSTRACT

**Ananta, M. S.** (2024). *Actor Representation in The News of The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict on BBC and Al Jazeera* (Undergraduate Thesis). Department of English Literature, Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang. Advisor: Zainur Rofiq, S.S., M.A.

*Keyword: actor representation, Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Van Leeuwen, BBC, Al Jazeera*

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News media usually have their own way of presenting news and how they present the news can influence how readers understand the news. This study aims to analyze the representation of actors in the coverage of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on the BBC and Al Jazeera. Using Van Leeuwen's (2008) framework on the representation of social actors, this study explores how both media present the main actors in the conflict, both as individuals and groups, and the linguistic strategies used to categorize, identify, or obscure their identities. The research data were collected from news articles published by the BBC and Al Jazeera during the period October-November 2023. Analysis was carried out on word choice, sentence structure, and the use of actor representation strategies such as exclusion strategies related to how actors are removed from the text and inclusion strategies related to how actors are included in the news text. The results of the study show that both media use different approaches in representing actors. The BBC seems providing fair representation to each actor from both sides and trying to seem neutral, while Al Jazeera tends to be more critical of Israel and often emphasizes the suffering of Palestinians. The conclusion of this study is that the use of actor representation in reporting this conflict is influenced by many factors such as ideology, editorial policy or target audience. These differing representations reflect the ideologies underlying reporting practices and how each media outlet frames the conflict to a global audience.

## ABSTRAK

**Ananta, M. S.** (2024). *Actor Representation in The News of The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict on BBC and Al Jazeera* (Undergraduate Thesis). Department of English Literature, Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang. Advisor: Zainur Rofiq, S.S., M.A.

*Keyword: actor representation, Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Van Leeuwen, BBC, Al Jazeera*

Media berita biasanya memiliki caranya sendiri dalam membawakan berita dan bagaimana mereka membawakan berita dapat mempengaruhi bagaimana pembaca memahami berita tersebut. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis representasi aktor dalam pemberitaan konflik Israel-Palestina di BBC dan Al Jazeera. Dengan menggunakan kerangka Van Leeuwen (2008) tentang representasi aktor sosial, studi ini mengeksplorasi bagaimana kedua media menyajikan aktor-aktor utama dalam konflik, baik sebagai individu maupun kelompok, serta strategi linguistik yang digunakan untuk mengkategorikan, mengidentifikasi, atau mengaburkan identitas mereka. Data penelitian dikumpulkan dari artikel berita yang dipublikasikan oleh BBC dan Al Jazeera selama periode oktober-november 2023. Analisis dilakukan terhadap pilihan kata, struktur kalimat, dan penggunaan strategi representasi aktor seperti strategi eksklusi yang berhubungan dengan bagaimana aktor dihilangkan dalam teks dan strategi inklusi yang berhubungan dengan bagaimana aktor dimasukkan dalam teks berita. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa dalam kedua media menggunakan pendekatan yang berbeda dalam merepresentasikan aktor. BBC terlihat berusaha bersikap adil dalam merepresentasikan aktor dari kedua pihak dan seolah-olah berusaha terlihat netral, sedangkan Al Jazeera cenderung lebih kritis terhadap Israel dan seringkali menekankan penderitaan warga palestina. Kesimpulan dari penelitian ini adalah bahwa penggunaan representasi aktor dalam pemberitaan konflik ini dipengaruhi oleh banyak factor seperti ideologi, kebijakan redaksi atau target audiens. Representasi yang berbeda ini mencerminkan ideologi yang mendasari praktik pemberitaan serta bagaimana masing-masing media membingkai konflik tersebut kepada audiens global.

## مستخلص البحث

أنانتا، م. س. 2024. (تمثيل الممثل في أخبار الصراع الإسرائيلي الفلسطيني على شبكتي بي بي سي والجزيرة) أطروحة جامعية. (قسم الأدب الإنجليزي، كلية العلوم الإنسانية، جامعة إسلام نيجري مولانا مالك إبراهيم مالانج. المشرف: زينور روفيق، س. س.، م. أ.

يهدف هذا البحث إلى تحليل تمثيل الممثلين في تغطية الصراع الإسرائيلي الفلسطيني على قناة بي بي سي والجزيرة. باستخدام إطار فان ليوين (2008) حول تمثيل الفاعلين الاجتماعيين، تستكشف هذه الدراسة كيفية تقديم كلا الإعلاميين للجهات الفاعلة الرئيسية في الصراع، كأفراد وجماعات، بالإضافة إلى الاستراتيجيات اللغوية المستخدمة لتصنيف هوياتهم أو تحديدها أو طمسها. تم جمع بيانات البحث من المقالات الإخبارية التي نشرتها هيئة الإذاعة البريطانية (بي بي سي) والجزيرة خلال الفترة من أكتوبر إلى نوفمبر 2023. تم إجراء التحليل على اختيار الكلمات، وبنية الجملة، واستخدام استراتيجيات تمثيل الممثل مثل استراتيجيات الاستبعاد التي تتعلق بكيفية إزالة الممثلين من النص واستراتيجيات التضمين التي تتعلق بكيفية إدراج الممثلين في نص الأخبار. تظهر نتائج البحث أن الوسيطتين تستخدمان أساليب مختلفة في تمثيل الممثلين. تميل هيئة الإذاعة البريطانية (بي بي سي) إلى محاولة الحفاظ على الحياد، بينما تميل قناة الجزيرة إلى انتقاد إسرائيل بشكل أكبر وغالباً ما تركز على معاناة الفلسطينيين. الاستنتاج من هذا البحث هو أن استخدام تمثيل الممثل في تغطية الصراع يتأثر بعدة عوامل مثل الأيديولوجية أو السياسة التحريرية أو الجمهور المستهدف. تعكس هذه التمثيلات المختلفة الأيديولوجية الكامنة وراء ممارسات إعداد التقارير وكذلك كيفية تأطير كل وسيلة إعلام للصراع أمام جمهور عالمي.

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# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter will explain the background of the study, problem of the study, significance of the study, the scope and limitations, the definitions of key terms, and several previous studies related to the research. This aims to provide an introduction to the reader so that the reader knows the direction of this research.

### **A. Background of the Study**

Language is an important part for humans, especially for communication. One of the functions of language is to convey communication either verbally when humans interact or in writing, such as when someone reads news from print media or online news media. Along with the development of the online era, many online news media are circulating, such as CNN, BBC, Al Jazeera, MNSBC and many others. Each of these media definitely has certain themes and ideologies that they adhere to as a reference in presenting the news they do. In the long-standing conflict between Israel and Palestine, of course there is a lot of news that they bring from various perspectives.

In reporting the war between Israel and Palestine, the BBC and Al Jazeera news media are two examples of media that have different backgrounds and perspectives which may influence their reporting on the conflict. BBC media is a media originating from Great Britain, with a long history as a media that often raises global issues and has a global audience with its main base in the UK and Commonwealth countries. Often requiring them to be neutral in their reporting, although there is often a perception that they lean towards a Western perspective

due to their country of origin and primary audience. On the other hand, Al Jazeera is a news media originating from a Middle Eastern country, more precisely from Doha, Qatar. Thus, often providing a more focused perspective on the views and interests of the Arab and Muslim world. This could influence the way they report on Arab-related issues, including the Israeli and Palestinian conflicts. The different backgrounds of the BBC and Al Jazeera media, as well as the position of their respective countries, can influence the way they present news regarding issues related to the Israeli-Palestinian war conflict.

The BBC and Al Jazeera, two leading international news media, are often scrutinized for their different approaches to reporting global conflicts, including the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. However, existing research tends to focus broadly on media ideology or framing techniques. This study delves deeper into how these media outlets represent social actors in their coverage, applying Van Leeuwen's (2008) Representation of Social Actors (SAR) framework to uncover the nuanced strategies they employ.

According to Sivandi and Dowlatabadi (2016) newspapers are reports that are reported from a certain point of view so they are not necessarily neutral. In this sense, the book understands that what is reported is from the media's point of view,

which can shape the reader's understanding of the issue being reported. So, to understand the news conveyed by the media, the ability to understand how the events are reported is needed. One way to uncover the truth of news is with critical



discourse analysis (CDA). We can use CDA to explore how social issues are depicted in news in online media.

In this research I used a discourse analysis approach using the theory put forward by van Leeuwen (2008) to analyze the data. One theory that can help in analyzing news discourse is the theory developed by Theo van Leeuwen (2008), in the theory of critical discourse analysis in representing social actors. Van Leeuwen (2008) focuses on two factors, namely exclusion and inclusion strategy to understand how actors or groups appear or are disguised in a situation. discourse. In this research, the actors in the news in question are Israel and Palestine.

There are several previous studies using Van Leeuwen's theory(2008), such as Sholihah and Degaf (2020) who studied how the Jakarta Post represented each presidential candidate in reporting presidential election 2019. They often use inclusion strategies because inclusion strategies in reporting aim to provide information about actors as a promotional strategy to gain public support. The explanation of the material presented by Nuri is very good, the use of language is quite easy to understand, making it easier for other researchers to understand the results of their research. Prayogi (2021) also examines actor representation using Van Leeuwen (2008). This research discusses how international media such as the New York Times and South China Morning Post represent actors related to reporting on protests/demonstrations in Indonesia. Where the two media are different in representing actors. News from Southern China focused more on the demonstrators and the New York Times focused more on the Indonesian government. A clear explanation of the material and conclusions by explaining the

differences in news coverage between the New York Times and South China really makes it easier for readers to understand the content of the research.

In another study conducted by Ikhrum et al. (2020) who studied how e-paper media represents actors related to news of alleged corruption in the world of education, their research provides several well-explained examples. Only their data comes from one media (e-paper) with data from two similar news stories about corruption that occurred in schools. So, we only see the corruption case in the school from the perspective of the e-paper media. Furthermore, Firdaus et al. (2023) with their research on the daily Chinese media in representing various actors around the world who give their voices regarding the issue of Covid-19. Where in their research there are no limitations on figures who voice the issue and the findings are dominated by official Chinese leaders who voice the issue of Covid-19. This might can affect the results of the study because there are no limitations or figures who are represented by the daily Chinese media.

Evayani and Rido (2019) who conducted a study on how Indonesian media such as the Jakarta Post and Western media such as the New York Times represent actors in reporting sexual violence. In their study, the purpose or impact of the use of exclusion or inclusion strategies carried out by the two media was not explained. Next, research conducted by Utama et al. (2020) who examines how the Middle Eastern media represents migrant workers and the Indonesian government regarding the news of Indonesian migrant workers being executed in Saudi Arabia. In the research he conducted, it was not explained which Middle Eastern media limitations or reasons were used in the news analysis conducted.

The research conducted by Nursya'bani, (2015) which examines how national media convey their point of view through the way they represent the Jokowi-Basuki actors. The analysis and explanation provided covers 10 different media and it was found that inclusion strategies tend to be used to represent actors, but it is not explained which media use the most inclusion to represent the actors. There are also similar studies on Israel-Palestine that have conducted research, but they did not use Van Leeuwen's theory (2008) of social actor representation. Like research conducted by Adnania and Chandra (2022). In their research they used Fairclough's critical discourse analysis approach to represent news coverage about Israel-Palestine by Fox news media as American media and detik.com as Indonesian media. In this research they explain the differences in representations about Israel-Palestine reported by the media.

The next research is about framing carried out by Kompas media and Central Sulawesi radar. This research was conducted by Herman and Nursianda (2010). In their research they used news about the Israeli and Palestinian conflict and used an approach from Entman's framing theory. In this research, they explain the framing carried out by the media towards actors in the news, namely Palestine and Israel. The discussion they provide is clear enough to give readers an understanding that the media can provide a perspective/framing of the "problem", "perpetrator" and "victim" of the actors in the events in the news. In a study conducted by Faizin (2022) who examined how Indonesian media represents actors related to political issues. From the findings, there are actors who are often depicted negatively and other actors tend to be depicted positively. His research did not

specifically explain the reasons why Indonesian media tend to side with certain actors.

From several of the studies above that have been carried out using Van Leeuwen's theory (2008), some of them only analyze news and want to know the ideology of the media, and some compare two different media that carry news, such as those done by Amalia (2021) and Adnania (2022). So, research like this is the inspiration for me to conduct research on comparisons of news coverage about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on BBC and Al Jazeera media as international media. The BBC and Al Jazeera, two leading international news media, are often scrutinized for their different approaches to reporting global conflicts, including the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. However, existing research tends to focus broadly on media ideology or framing techniques. This study delves deeper into how these media outlets represent social actors in their coverage, applying Van Leeuwen's (2008) Representation of Social Actors (SAR) framework to uncover the nuanced strategies they employ.

## **B. Research Question**

Based on the research background here, I formulated several questions as follows:

1. How actors are excluded from reporting on Israel-Palestine by the BBC and al Jazeera media.
2. How actors are included in the reporting of the Israeli-Palestinian war carried out by the BBC and al Jazeera media.

### **C. Scope of Limitation**

This research aims to find out how the media represents actors in the news. The theory of actor representation itself was put forward by several people such as Roger Fowler, Van Dijk, Fairclough, Sara Mills and Van Leeuwen. In this research I used van Leeuwen's theory (2008) to analyze news using exclusion strategies, namely 1) passivation, 2) nominalization, 3) clause replacement and inclusion strategies, namely 1) differentiation-indifferentiation, 2) objectification-abstraction, 3) nomination- categorization, 4) nomination-identification, 5) determination-indetermination, 6) assimilation-individualization, and 7) association-dissociation contained in news about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict during the October to November 2024 period carried by the BBC and Al Jazeera media. Where each news period has different content related to the conflict, so this is very possible influence the results of the study.

### **D. Definition of Key Terms**

to make it easier for readers to understand this research. I explain some terms that often appear:

- a. Actor Representation: Actor representation refers to the way social actors (individuals, groups, or institutions) are represented in discourse, including texts, images, and other forms of communication.
- b. Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: The long conflict between Israel and Palestine, which occurred due to many issues including national identity, religion and politics, increased after the founding of Israel in 1948, which triggered

war conflicts between Arab countries which caused tension and violence that was still ongoing until this research was written.

- c. Representation in the News: How the news depicts actors, events and issues related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, including word choice, framing and use of sources.
- d. BBC news: digital news service provided by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC). The service spans multiple platforms, including websites and providing the latest news, analysis and in-depth reports on topics such as politics, economics, entertainment and more.
- e. Al Jazeera: international news service based in Doha, Qatar, founded in 1996. The network is known for its in-depth coverage and different perspectives on global issues, especially in the Middle East. The service offers breaking news coverage, in-depth analysis and reports from around the world, including the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
- f. Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA): A text analysis approach used to reveal power, ideology and bias in written language, including in the context of news coverage.

## **CHAPTER II**

### **REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

This chapter discusses the discussion related to literature and theory. The discussion is about critical discourse analysis and the theory of social actor representation by Van Leeuwen.

#### **A. Critical Discourse Analysis.**

Critical discourse analysis (CDA) is a research method for studying written or spoken language in relation to its social context. The goal is to understand how language is used in real-life situations. Language is considered important in the reproduction of ideology, which in turn is seen as important in building and maintaining identity and social inequality (Wodak 2001). So, CDA is a discourse analysis that examines how language can reflect or reinforce social inequality, power, or ideology. CDA is not understood only to understand language, but CDA uses language in the text to be analyzed. So, it is not only a description of the linguistic aspect but is connected to the context. In this section CDA provides theories and methods that can be used to conduct empirical research on the relationship between discourse and social development.

The representation of social actors is an important element in Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), placed as one of the three main dimensions of discourse, along with the representation of social action and the representation of context social. This dimension refers to the way social actors (individuals, groups, or institutions) are represented in discourse, including the representation of their identities, roles, and relationships, as well as the way they are positioned. By

analyzing how social actors are represented, we can gain insight into the power relations, social identities, and ideological positions that underlie certain discourses.

In the context of CDA, the representation of social actors is seen as a primary site of struggle for meaning, power and identity. By examining how social actors are represented, researchers can uncover the ways in which discourse contributes to social inequality, marginalization and domination. Several key figures in discourse analysis theory, such as van Leeuwen, Roger Fowler, van Dijk and Fairclough, have developed their approaches to the representation of social actors in discourse. They emphasize how social actors (whether individuals, groups or institutions) are represented in texts or conversations, and how this relates to power, ideology and social structures.

Fairclough (1995) sees the representation of social actors as part of a discursive practice that shapes and reflects social relations. He emphasizes how these representations contribute to the reproduction of or resistance to power structures. He highlights the relationship between language and power and how ideology is constructed through discourse. Fairclough argues that the representation of social actors in discourse is not simply a reflection of social reality, but also a way of producing and maintaining power relations.

In the context of the representation of social actors, Fowler (1991) emphasizes the importance of linguistic choices in shaping the representation of social actors. He argues that social actors are often portrayed in ways that reinforce the dominance of certain groups (e.g., the ruling class, a particular gender, or



ethnicity). He analyzes how word choices (such as metaphors and labels) can reinforce stereotypes or influence public perceptions of social actors. Meanwhile, Van Leeuwen (2008) offers a systematic framework for analyzing the representation of social actors in discourse in response to the need for a more structured and comprehensive analysis. This framework provides tools for understanding how linguistic choices reflect ideology and reinforce power relations in society. Its advantages over other theories are its focus on detailed analytical categories and its flexibility for various contexts, such as news, history, and political discourse.

### **B. Social Actor Representation**

Van Leeuwen (2008) introduced a discourse analysis model to detect and examine how actors/agents are marginalized in a discourse. This critical discourse analysis model is often also called social actor representation analysis (SAR). Van Leeuwen (2008) introduced a critical discourse analysis model with two strategies:

1. Exclusion Strategy
2. Inclusion Strategy

Van Leeuwen's (2008) analysis generally shows how actors or agents are presented in the news. In this case, the exclusion strategy raises the question of whether there are actors who are excluded/eliminated in the news text? And the inclusion strategy is related to the question of how actors are presented in the news. In Van Leeuwen's (2008) analytical theory the exclusion process is divided into three parts, including passivation, nominalization and sentence substitution.

Meanwhile, the inclusion strategy is divided into seven, differentiation-indifferentiation, objectification-abstraction, nomination-categorization, nomination-identification, determination-indetermination, assimilation-individualization and association-disassociation. In this case, the mass media is one of the keys that can define an actor/group from what it reports and indirectly the media can provide a certain understanding for the public.

### 1. Exclusion Strategies

The exclusion strategy is the process of excluding/eliminating actors in the news. In discourse analysis, the exclusion process is a process where certain actors/agents are not included in the news. In the process of eliminating the actor, the media has a specific goal for the news they convey. There are several strategies for how actors/agents are excluded from the news.

#### a. Passivation

Passivation is a classic strategy for excluding actors from reporting with passive sentences. By using passive sentences, actors can be omitted in the text because this is not possible in active sentences.

Active: police shot a student demonstrating to death

Passive: a student was shot dead during a demonstration

In this case example, the first news is presented using active sentences which show the perpetrator of the shooting, namely the police. And in the second text the news is presented using passive voice, so that the actor/policeman is omitted/excluded in the news because the priority is the object of the shooting

victim. The impact resulting from the use of passive sentences is that the actor/perpetrator is lost in the news because the news anchor focuses more on the victim than the perpetrator so that the reader also only focuses on the victim and this makes the reader uncritical of the news.

b. Nominalization

Apart from the passivation strategy, the nominalization strategy can also be used to eliminate actors in the news. This strategy does not require a subject (actor) because basically nominalization is the process of changing a verb which means action/activity into a noun which means event.

Verb: police shot a student who was demonstrating to death

Nomination: a student died as a result of shooting during a demonstration

In the sentence the nominalization of the perpetrator of the shooting (police) is removed from the sentence structure when the verb is changed from a verb to a noun (shooting \_ shot). The nominalization strategy not only eliminates the position of the subject who carried out the shooting, nominalization can also change the meaning of the sentence when it is accepted by the reader.

c. Clause replacement

Replacing the subject/actor can also be done by adding a clause which can also function as a substitute for actor.

Without clause: the police shot a student who was demonstrating to death.

Sub-sentence: to control the student demonstration, shots had to be fired.

As a result, a student died.

The report that uses the sentence above explains the reason why the police opened fire to control the demonstration and eliminate the perpetrator in the report.

## 2. Inclusion Strategies

Inclusion strategy is a strategy to include actors who want to be featured in the news by using words, sentences, information, or sentence structure to interpret the actors in the text. Inclusion and exclusion strategies use different ways of presenting social actors. According to Van Leeuwen (2008), there are several discourse strategies to present actors in the text so that they can influence the meaning that reaches the reader.

### a. Differentiation-indifferentiation

A social actor can be presented in the text independently, as something unique and can be contrasted by presenting other events or actors in the text as a comparison. This strategy can be used as a comparison by presenting other actors by isolating one actor so that the other actor is seen as more dominant or better.

Indifferentiation: Maspion factory workers were still on strike until yesterday.

Differentiation: Maspion factory workers were still on strike until yesterday. Meanwhile, the directors' offer of negotiations was not responded to by the workers.

In the differentiation sentence, the statement of the striking workers is clear. Then, to the differentiation sentence, a sentence is added that indirectly differentiates the attitudes between workers and directors. This text marginalizes the position of workers who are forced to go on strike even though other parties (the directors) are presented as a good company because they have offered negotiations to the workers. This differentiation often gives rise to certain perceptions because it provides comparisons that marginalize certain parties and benefit other parties.

b. Objectification-abstraction

Objectification is the process of making social actors into objects, so that they lose their abilities and humanity. While Abstraction, involves the representation of social actors in a more general or abstract way, often by eliminating specific details or characteristics. This strategy relates to the question of whether information about an event/social actor is presented with concrete or abstract instructions.

Objectification: The company fired 500 employees.

Abstraction: The company issued a new regulation.

In the objectification sentence, the company is objectified, and employees are reduced to objects affected by the company's actions. In abstraction, the company is not explained what regulations were issued and whether they were the cause of the dismissal of 500 employees. because it is said abstractly, this can make readers perceive the event differently because there is no concrete number of instructions.

c. Nomination-categorization

In reporting about an event or actor, there is often a choice between whether the actor is shown as is or whether categorization related to the actor is added. This categorization has many types that must be related to actors such as religion, race, physical form and the like.

Nomination: a man was arrested by the police because he was caught carrying drugs.

Categorization: a black man was arrested by the police because he was caught carrying drugs.

Both sentences have the same goal and meaning to report that a man was arrested by the police for carrying drugs. However, in the second sentence, the categorization of the man as black is added. This categorization is sometimes used to add specific information. But sometimes it doesn't add useful information to the news. Van Leeuwen (2008) stated that this categorization appears in the text to provide valuable information to understand the ideology of the media. Because the categorization used can represent these actions as characteristics or attributes attached to a particular category.

d. Nomination-identification

This strategy is almost the same as categorization, only in the identification process, defining actors or events is done by adding clauses as explanations.

Nomination: A woman was found dead, allegedly raped.

Identification: A woman, who often went out at night, was found dead.  
Allegedly previously raped.

Added identification of "those who often go out at night" by the media that carries the news. This identification can be a particular assessment for the reader. Due to the addition of categorization in the clause that often goes out at night, indirectly the woman is considered less good and that may be one of the reasons she was raped. However, why the woman often went out at night was not the only reason why she was raped. The presence or absence of this identification sentence does not actually affect the overall meaning of the incident because this sentence only provides additional explanation.

e. Determination-indetermination

In the news, sometimes actors or events are mentioned clearly, but often they are not mentioned clearly (anonymous). According to Van Leeuwen (2008), this anonymity makes a generalization or non-specific.

Determination: economic observer, Didik J. Rachbini, is pessimistic that the Indonesian economy can recover.

Indetermination: many observers are pessimistic that the Indonesian economy can recover.

In the first sentence it is stated clearly and specifically who the actors are who are economic observers. However, in the sentence indetermination the actor, it is not stated clearly (anonymous). Here it is stated that many observers emphasized that the actors who gave opinions were plural, thus confirming that

there were several observers who stated the statement, thus making readers generalize the statement.

f. Assimilation-individualization

This strategy is related to the question of whether the actors in the news are clearly displayed in their categories or not. This assimilation occurs when the category given to the actor is not specifically stated but rather the community/social group where the actor is located.

Assimilation: Student was shot dead by police during a demonstration in Cendana yesterday.

Individualization: Adi, a Trisakti student was shot dead by Parman, a policeman during a demonstration in Cendana yesterday.

In the individualization sentence, the category of student is clearly stated, even though the category is not explained, the news still explains that the victim who died was a student in this context, Adi. This is different from assimilation sentences. In this sentence there is no clear mention of the victim (Adi), but the group is mentioned, namely the students who carried out the demonstration. Parman as the perpetrator was also not clearly mentioned, only his community (the police) was mentioned. This assimilation strategy can add to the reader's impression that students died as a result of being shot by the police because those mentioned are groups of actors in the news so they are not specific.



g. Association-dissociation

This strategy is related to the question, whether an actor or party is presented independently or connected to a larger group.

Association: Muslims everywhere are always targets of massacre. Once in Bosnia, now in Ambon. As many as 40 people died in the Tabelo, Galela and Jailolo cases.

Dissociation: as many as 40 Muslims died in the Tabelo, Galela and Jailolo cases.

In dissociation data, the Muslims who died were not associated with a wider group so this case was only considered to have occurred in Ambon (tabelo, galelo and jailolo). And in the association data, the Muslims who died are linked to a wider group and are linked to similar incidents with Muslims in other countries. This sentence is associated with a similar case in Bosnia so that this case does not only occur in Ambon. But it became the case that Muslims were always the target of massacres.

## **CHAPTER III**

### **RESEARCH METHOD**

This chapter outlines the methods employed in the study, including the research design, data sources, data collection, and data analysis. So, the reader can find out the process by the researcher in conducting this research.

#### **A. Research Design**

This study used qualitative research methods. Qualitative research is concerned with the dynamics of the relationship between observed phenomena and uses scientific logic, thus emphasizing deductive and inductive analysis of thought processes. According to Creswell, J. W. (2014) qualitative research uses data in the form of words, phrases, schemes and images. The qualitative data from this research consists of three exclusion strategies and seven inclusion strategies based on Van Leeuwen's theory (2008).

#### **B. Data and Data Sources**

The data from this research was taken from news related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict carried by the BBC and Al Jazeera media as international media that have been selected and are suitable for analysis using Van Leeuwen's theory (2008) with exclusion and inclusion strategies. The data used in this study consists of news reports on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, including reports of the attack, Sandra's release, Sandra's murder, the bombing, and other related events. The news period covered in this study runs from October 2023 when Palestine broke through the Gaza-Israel border and attacked southern Israel on October 7 to November 2023

after a ceasefire agreement was reached on November 27, 2023, which marks the end of this study period.

### **C. Data Collection**

The data collection method in this study uses documentation techniques and reading techniques. The reading technique begins by opening the BBC.COM website with the topic of the Israel-Gaza war news and the Al Jazeera.com website with the topic of the Israeli war in Gaza. Then, I read the news on the website, especially news related to the Israeli and Palestinian wars. After reading the news, I selected news items reported by both media and were worthy of being analyzed using van Leeuwen's (2008) theory of social actor representation.

### **D. Data Analysis**

To analyze the data, I do several steps;

- 1) Formulating the question. This study discusses how BBC and Al Jazeera represent actors and how it can affect the reader's understanding.
- 2) Collecting data relevant to this research. Namely news related to the Israeli and Palestinian conflict during the research period.
- 3) Reducing data which is a form of analysis that sharpens, categorizes, directs, eliminates irrelevant information and organizes the data in such a way that a final conclusion is obtained and verified.
- 4) Presenting data or analyzing data that has been reduced. Then they are grouped into types of social actor representation strategies.

- 5) Interpretating data or drawing conclusions in the form of opinions or theoretical views on the results of data analysis.

## **CHAPTER IV**

### **FINDING AND DISCUSSION**

This section presents the finding and discussion. In this research I discuss van Leeuwen's (2008) discourse analysis in the news of the war between Israel and Palestine in the reporting carried out by the BBC and Al Jazeera.

#### **A.1 Van Leeuwen's exclusion strategy in the news of the war between Israel and Palestine on the BBC media.**

In this section I analyze van Leeuwen's strategy of exclusion in the coverage of the war between Israel and Palestine carried by the BBC. Van Leeuwen (2008) explains that exclusion is a strategy for eliminating or excluding certain actors or groups from discourse. Van Leeuwen (2008) classifies the exclusion process into three, 1) passivation, 2) nominalization, and 3) clause replacement.

Van Leeuwen's exclusion strategy contained in the news of the war between Israel and Palestine on the BBC media can be seen in the following data:

##### **1. Passivation**

In news reporting, actors are often omitted from the text in various ways. One of them is by utilizing passive sentences. Passivation is one of the exclusion discourse strategies about how certain actors or perpetrators or groups are excluded or not mentioned in the news with the aim of protecting the actor by utilizing passive forms.

- Example: *“At least 700 Israelis have been killed since the attack began.”*  
(Israeli music festival: 260 bodies recovered from site where people fled  
in hail of bullets, 9 October 2023)

The data above uses sentences in passive form to remove the actor in the news, the subject who carried out the “killing” action is not explicitly mentioned. This sentence only mentions that “at least 700 Israelis have been killed” the number of victims, but does not explain who carried out the killing. By using passive sentences, the actor who carried out the “killing” action is removed from the discourse, so that no actor is responsible for the incident. This may make the reader or listener not pay attention to who actually carried out the action, and only focus on the victims who fell. In this context, passivation can be used to avoid the impression that Israel is the victim of the Palestinian attack, and vice versa, Palestine is the perpetrator of violence. By eliminating the actor who carried out the "killing" action, this sentence may make the reader or listener have a different perception of the incident.

- Example: *“Six Palestinians were shot dead during confrontations.”*  
(Israel attack: PM says Israel at war after 250 killed in attack from Gaza,  
8 October 2023)

The data above shows the use of passive sentences where the actor who carried out the shooting is not mentioned in the discourse and focuses on the victim. In this sentence, the verb “were shot” indicates that the shooting was carried out by another actor, but the actor is not explicitly mentioned as the subject of the sentence.

Therefore, this sentence focuses on the victim (Six Palestinians) and not on the perpetrator (the person who carried out the shooting). By not mentioning the perpetrator and emphasizing more on the results of the action (the deaths of six Palestinians), this sentence may affect how the reader understands the event and make the reader focus more on the victim and the results of the action rather than on the party who carried out the action. if the text above is changed to an active sentence “The troops/Israel police shot dead six Palestinians during confrontations”. This can clearly make the reader's focus on the actor “troops/Israel police” who carried out the shooting.

- Example: “*The brothers were shot and taken to a local hospital, where they died.*” (Five Palestinian men killed in West Bank violence, November 30, 2022)

The sentences above utilize the passive sentence structure “The brothers were shot” and “were taken to a local hospital” to shift the focus to the actor receiving the action, rather than the actor performing the action. Here, “The brothers” is the subject receiving the actions of being “shot” and “taken”. The perpetrator of the action (the person who shot and took the brothers to the hospital) is not mentioned. This means that the social actor who carried out the action has been removed from the statement, so that the focus shifts from who carried out the action to the victim who experienced the action. By utilizing the passive structure, the reader's attention may be shifted to the situation and circumstances experienced by the brothers who were shot and then taken to the hospital. This structure focuses on the impact or

consequences of the action, namely their deaths, rather than on the actions or identities of the perpetrators who caused the event.

## 2. Nominalization

In addition to the use of passivation, actors can also be omitted or the focus can be shifted to the results of the action. Nominalization is the process of changing a verb or verbal phrase into a noun, which changes a dynamic action into a static or abstract entity. Nominalization is usually used to omit or obscure who is performing the action. Nominalization is also often used to emphasize the result or process rather than the specific action performed.

- Example: *“a huge surprise attack on Israel.”* (Israeli music festival: 260 bodies recovered from site where people fled in hail of bullets, 9 October 2023)

The above data is included in nominalization because it changes the action into a noun. The word “attack” in the sentence above is a noun derived from the verb “to attack”. This process is nominalization because the action of attacking (verb) is changed into an entity or event (noun). by utilizing the noun “attack”, the perpetrator who carried out the attack becomes unclear or unmentioned. This phrase only focuses on the attack itself without providing information about who carried out the attack. Nominalization here aims to shift the focus from the dynamic action (attack) to the result or event (attack). This sentence emphasizes the event “a huge surprise attack” as an entity or event that occurred in Israel, without requiring details about how or by whom the attack was carried out.



- Example: “*The infiltration was accompanied by heavy rocket fire.*”  
(Israel attack: PM says Israel at war after 250 killed in attack from Gaza,  
8 October 2023)

Nominalization is the process of changing a verb into a noun. In the text, the word “infiltration” is the result of nominalization of the verb “infiltrate”. By using nominalization, the act of infiltration is transformed into a concept or event, rather than an act carried out by a person or group. This causes the agent (perpetrator) who carried out the infiltration to be invisible in the sentence, so that the focus shifts to the infiltration event itself, rather than who did it. In the sentence “the infiltration” functions to hide who did the infiltration, so that the reader does not immediately know that there is a specific actor responsible. By using nominalization to eliminate the actor and focus on the event that occurred, it can also allow the event to appear as something that happened by itself, without emphasis on the specific actor who did it. According to Van Leeuwen (2008), the use of nominalization like this can change the way readers understand the events described. By obscuring the agent or perpetrator, nominalization can make the action seem more objective or inevitable, and less connected to a specific human actor. This can reduce the impression of responsibility or focus the reader on the impact or nature of the event, rather than on who is responsible.

- Example: “*The UN has warned that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is 'again reaching a boiling point' after an escalation of violence in the West Bank and Israel.*” (Five Palestinian men killed in West Bank violence, November 30, 2022)

In the sentence above, “escalation” is a noun that replaces the action of “escalate”, and “violence” is a noun that replaces the act of violence. In other words, the act of escalating violence is changed to the concept of “escalation of violence”, which is more abstract and does not directly refer to the perpetrator or specific actor involved in the violence. In other words, the actor who carried out the violence is omitted or not explicitly mentioned. By not mentioning the actors involved, it is possible that the reader has a different perception. The reader may not know who is to blame or responsible for the escalation of violence. In the context of a conflict like this, not mentioning the actors involved can give the impression that the violence occurred spontaneously or naturally, not as a result of the actions of a particular party.

### 3. Clause Replacement

Clause replacement is a strategy used in the representation of social actors to change or reformulate clauses in a way that changes the social actors. In other words, it involves replacing elements or clauses in a sentence with other elements to change the focus or perspective without changing the basic information of the sentence, thus allowing for different emphases or perspectives on the social actors involved.

- Example: *“At least 250 people are reported killed and 1,590 wounded in Israel after the Palestinian militant group Hamas launched its biggest attack in years.”* (Israel attack: PM says Israel at war after 250 killed in attack from Gaza, 8 October 2023)

The data above is an example of clause replacement, because the actor who carried out the Action ( Hamas ) is not mentioned as the direct subject of the main sentence. Instead, the focus is placed on the effects of the action ( the number of victims and injuries ) and on the action itself ( Hamas's big attack ). By utilizing the use of clause replacement, this sentence obscures who carried out the main action ( Hamas ) and emphasizes the results of the action, namely the number of victims and injuries. This can allow the reader's attention to be diverted from the perpetrator of the action and focus more on the impact of the event. It is different if the sentence makes Hamas the subject/perpetrator who carried out the attack “The Palestinian militant group Hamas launched its biggest attack in years, killing at least 250 people and wounding 1,590 in Israel” in this example text, Hamas is presented as the actor/perpetrator who clearly carried out the attack.

## **A.2 Van Leeuwen's exclusion strategy in the news of the war between Israel and Palestine on the Al Jazeera media.**

In this section I analyze van Leeuwen's exclusion strategy in the news of the war between Israel and Palestine carried by Al Jazeera. Van Leeuwen (2008) explains that exclusion is a strategy to eliminate or sideline certain actors or groups from discourse. Van Leeuwen (2008) classifies the exclusion process into three, 1) passivation, 2) nominalization, and 3) substitution of subordinate clauses.

Van Leeuwen's exclusion theory contained in the news of the war between Israel and Palestine on the Al Jazeera media can be seen in the following data:

### **1. Passivation**

Passivation is one of the exclusion discourse strategies about how certain actors or groups are excluded or not mentioned in the news with the aim of protecting the actor by using sentences with passive forms.

- Example: *“At least 232 people have been killed and 1,600 wounded ...”*  
(Israel retaliation kills 230 Palestinians after Hamas operation, 07 October 2023)

The above uses the passive form, where the focus of the sentence is not on the perpetrator of the action (actor) but on the object or recipient of the action. In this sentence, the actions “have been killed” and “wounded” are used in the passive form and this text does not mention who committed the act of killing or who caused the injury so that the focus of the sentence is on the results of the action (the number of people killed and injured) rather than on who committed the action. It is different if this sentence is in the active form “The Israeli army has killed at least 232 people and wounded 1,600 ...” by mentioning the Israeli army as the perpetrator will make it clear who committed the action. By using the passive form, this sentence shifts the focus from the perpetrator to the consequences or results of the action. In the context of news or reporting, this may influence how the information is received and perceived by the audience.

- Example: *“At least 51 Palestinians were injured during a funeral procession for Dumaidi. A Palestinian has been killed when...”*  
(Palestinian killed as Israeli settlers attack West Bank town of Huwara. 6 October 2023)

This data uses the passive form “were injured”. Where the action is conveyed without mentioning who carried out the action, namely causing injury to the Palestinians. Because this sentence does not mention who caused the injury to 51 Palestinians. The perpetrator of the action is not disclosed, thus making the focus more on the results of the action (the number of people injured) than on who did it. By not mentioning the actor who carried out the action in the text, it allows the reader to only focus on the victim and there is no clarity about who did it.

## 2. Nominalization

Nominalization is the process of changing a verb or verbal phrase into a noun. Nominalization is usually used to eliminate or obscure who is performing the action. This strategy is usually used to convey a concept or idea in a more abstract way and reduce the focus on the action or the doer of the action.

- Example: “*making it the deadliest attack in Israel in years.*” Israel retaliation kills 230 Palestinians after Hamas operation. 07 October 2023

The sentence above is included in nominalization. Where in the word “Deadliest” is a nominalized form of the adjective “deadly”. In this context, “deadliest” functions as a noun in the phrase “the deadliest attack”, which changes the adjective into a description indicating the highest level of death. While the word attack is a noun that replaces the verbal form “to attack” so that it emphasizes the concept or event rather than the direct action. So, the actor responsible for the deadliest attack is omitted in the text and only emphasizes the results of the action,

making the statement more general and focusing on the impact of the attack, not on who did it. Readers may not be fully aware of who was responsible for the action, which can cause confusion or reduce the perception of blame or responsibility. Readers may tend to remember the impact or results of an event more than specific details about how or by whom the event occurred. This may shape the reader's perception of the severity of the situation without providing complete information about its cause.

- Example: “*The killing of Dumaidi, a university student.*” (Palestinian killed as Israeli settlers attack West Bank town of Huwara. 6 october 2023)

In the data above, the word “killing” is a nominal form of the verb “kill”. In this sentence, “the killing” functions as a noun that refers to the murder event. The use of this nominal form changes the focus from the murder itself to the result of the action. By using the nominal form “the killing”, this sentence does not mention who committed the murder. The perpetrator of the action (who killed) is not mentioned, only the result of the action (murder) is emphasized. Thus, the focus of the sentence is shifted from the specific action and perpetrator to the more general event or result, namely the murder of Dumaidi. By using nominalization, this sentence emphasizes the murder event more than who committed the murder. The reader may focus more on the fact that the murder occurred without specific information about the perpetrator. Because the actor is not mentioned, the reader may feel less emotionally involved with who committed the act. This can make the reader more interested in the results or impact of the event rather than the individual or group responsible.

- Example: “*The surge in settler violence across the Israeli-occupied West Bank.*” (Palestinian killed as Israeli settlers attack West Bank town of Huwara. 6 October 2023)

In the data above, the words “surge” and “violence” are examples of nominalization of the verb “to surge”. Both are nouns that are derived from a specific concept or action. “Surge” refers to an increase that occurs, and “violence” refers to an act of violence. This nominalization shifts the focus from the action or who is doing the action to a more abstract result or concept. This sentence does not specifically mention who is doing the violence or how the violence is happening, only mentions the increase in violence in general. By not mentioning the direct actions taken by specific actors, the reader may not be fully aware of who is responsible for this violence. This can create the impression that this violence is part of a general trend that is less connected to the actions of specific individuals which can make the violence seem like a more abstract or widespread phenomenon, rather than a series of specific actions.

### **B.1 Van Leeuwen's Inclusion strategy in the news of the war between Israel and Palestine on the BBC media.**

In this section I analyze van Leeuwen's inclusion theory found in the news of the war between Israel and Palestine presented by the BBC. In broadcasting news, actors are often presented in the text with various purposes such as being clearly stated, sometimes anonymously. Van Leeuwen (2008) explains that inclusion strategies refer to the way social actors are presented or included in a text or discourse. Van Leeuwen (2008) classifies the inclusion process into several parts,

1) differentiation-indifferentiation, 2) objectification-abstraction, 3) nomination-categorization, 4) nomination-identification, 5) determination-indetermination, 6) assimilation-individualization, and 7) association-dissociation

Van Leeuwen's inclusion strategy found in the news of the war between Israel and Palestine on the BBC media can be seen in the following data:

#### 1. Differentiation-indifferentiation

Differentiation refers to the process by which social actors or social groups are separated or distinguished from each other in discourse. This process is used to highlight differences between certain groups or individuals based on various factors such as ethnicity, religion, social class, or certain roles. While Indifferentiation is the process by which social actors or social groups are not distinguished from each other.

- Differentiation: *“Palestinian militants stormed the festival and opened fire as part of a huge surprise attack on Israel.”*
- Indifferentiation: *“Fighting between the Israeli military and Palestinian militants is continuing”* (Israeli music festival: 260 bodies recovered from site where people fled in hail of bullets, 9 October 2023)

Differentiation occurs when social actors are separated or distinguished from each other in the text. In the data above, “Palestinian militants” and “Israel” are mentioned separately and clearly, highlighting the difference between the perpetrators of the attack (Palestinian militants) and the targets of the attack (Israel). Social actors are identified based on their group (Palestinian militants) and the



actions they take (storming and shooting at the festival). Differentiation is usually used to emphasize the differences between groups involved in an event. This helps frame the conflict as something that occurs between separate and distinct entities. By doing differentiation, the narrative can strengthen the boundaries of group identity, highlighting who is considered the perpetrator and who is the victim.

Indifferentiation occurs when social actors are not differentiated from each other or when the differences between them are not emphasized. In the following data, the conflict is described as a “fight” between two large groups, namely the “Israeli military” and “Palestinian militants”, without emphasizing the specific roles of each group or individual. They are not differentiated based on their roles and the focus is on the general action (fighting), not on the specific or unique details of the groups involved. Indifferentiation is used to simplify the narrative by de-emphasizing the differences that exist between social actors. This can be helpful in providing a general overview of the situation without going into more specific details. It can also be used to highlight an action or event as a broader phenomenon without placing too much emphasis on who is responsible.

- Differentiation: *“At least 250 people are reported killed and 1,590 wounded in Israel after the Palestinian militant group Hamas launched its biggest attack in years.”*
- Indifferentiation: *“People in a number of communities called in to Israeli news stations, saying they were trapped in their homes or were taking cover elsewhere.”* (Israel attack: PM says Israel at war after 250 killed in attack from Gaza, 8 October 2023)

Differentiation in the data above is shown through a clear separation between the parties involved in the incident. The text mentions “250 people” in Israel who became victims and identifies “the Palestinian militant group Hamas” as the perpetrators who carried out the attack. This emphasizes a clear distinction between the victims (people in Israel) and the perpetrators (Hamas). This text makes a clear boundary between two opposing groups in the context of the conflict, by showing who was attacked and who carried out the attack. Differentiation functions to emphasize the conflict or difference between two opposing parties. In this case, it clarifies who is considered the perpetrator and who is the victim in the situation. The goal is to frame the narrative by providing specific identification to both parties involved, which can help readers understand the conflict from a more polarized perspective.

The second text is included in Indifferentiation because this text does not provide a clear or specific distinction between the individuals or groups involved. The text only mentions “People in a number of communities” without providing a specific identity about who these people are or which communities are involved. The actions of these people (calling the news station) and their situation (being trapped or taking shelter) are described in general terms without isolating or identifying the specific social actors involved. Indifferentiation here serves to describe the situation in a more general and comprehensive way without focusing specifically on a particular group or individual. This can create a picture of how the event is affecting the wider community, without emphasizing specific details. The goal may be to provide a more global or holistic view of the impact of the situation,

emphasizing that many people are affected by it without necessarily identifying who they are specifically.

- Differentiation: *“Five Palestinian men have been killed by Israeli forces in four separate incidents in the occupied West Bank.”*
- Indifferentiation: *“Palestinian and Israeli officials say.”* (Five Palestinian men killed in West Bank violence, 30 November 2022)

The data above shows differentiation by separating “Five Palestinian men” as victims and “Israeli forces” as perpetrators. The violent acts are clearly identified, and the location “the occupied West Bank” emphasizes the geographical and political context. The use of words such as “in four separate incidents” also strengthens this separation by providing details about the frequency and temporal distribution of the events. Differentiation here is used to emphasize the role of each group in the event, showing who carried out the violent acts and who was the victim. This can help readers understand the conflict narrative more specifically.

The next data includes Indifferentiation because both groups, namely “Palestinian” and “Israeli officials,” are described in general without providing specific details or differences about what they said or the context of their statements. They are mentioned as parties who made statements without distinguishing them. There is no information that distinguishes the roles or views of the two groups in the context of the statements they made. This makes the text neutral and does not provide clear identification of the conflict that may exist. The function of indifferentiation here is to unite statements from both parties without distinguishing

or highlighting one of them. This may be intended to show a consensus or similarity of views between two opposing parties, or simply to avoid taking a clear position in the narrative. The effect on the reader may be to create the impression that both parties agree or share the same view, which can dampen the perception of any conflict or significant differences between them. This can therefore reduce tension in the narrative and provide a more neutral picture.

## 2. Objectification – abstraction

Van Leeuwen (2008) defines objectification as a process in which social actors are represented as objects, rather than as subjects with will and power. In news reporting, objectification is a way of representing social actors by eliminating or reducing their humanity, so that they are seen as objects, rather than as individuals or groups with human characteristics. While Abstraction is a representation of social actors in which the specific identity or characteristics of individuals or groups are simplified into more general ideas or concepts, often by eliminating specific details or characteristics.

- Objectification: *“260 bodies have reportedly been recovered from the festival site.”*
- Abstraction: *“Fighting continues between the Israeli military and Palestinian militants.”* (Israeli music festival: 260 bodies recovered from site where people fled in hail of bullets, 9 October 2023)

In the objectification example, the victims who died, who were actually human individuals with their own identities and social identities, are represented impersonally as “bodies.” The use of the word “bodies” renders the victims as

physical objects rather than human beings, thereby diminishing or minimizing their humanity. By using the term “bodies,” the reader is not exposed to the human reality of the victims, which can create emotional distance. This makes the reader more likely to focus on the statistical or factual aspects rather than the emotional or human aspects of the tragedy. This objectification is often used to maintain a neutral tone or to simplify the reporting of a tragic event. It can also be used to maintain emotional distance between the reader and the event being reported.

In abstraction data, the term “fighting” is an abstraction because it reduces the various acts of violence and conflict that occurred to one general term. The word “fighting” does not provide specific details about what form of violence occurred (e.g., an airstrike or a gunfight). This abstraction is used to simplify a complex event and ensure that the reader understands the gist of the situation without requiring excessive detail. In news reporting, it allows for a more concise narrative and can be used to avoid taking a position or providing details that could be controversial, thereby reducing the intensity or emotional weight of the conflict for the reader.

- Abstraction: *“The UN has warned that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is 'again reaching a boiling point' after an escalation of violence in the West Bank and Israel.”* (Five Palestinian men killed in West Bank violence, 30 November 2022)

The next sentence includes abstraction because it uses very general terms such as “reaching a boiling point” and “escalation of violence” to describe the situation without providing specific details about the actual events or the social actors

involved. "Reaching a boiling point" is a non-concrete metaphor, and "escalation of violence" is a general phrase that does not describe specific actions, locations, or parties involved in the violence. The function of abstraction here is to provide a general picture of the worsening situation without having to mention all the complicated or difficult to explain details in a short context. The reader may understand that the situation is very serious and worrying, but without a deep understanding of the specific details that caused the conflict or escalation. This can lead to feelings of anxiety or alarm without a clear understanding of what is actually happening.

### 3. Nomination-categorization

In a news report, actors or social actors often appear and are shown as they are and sometimes actors are also shown with additional things related to them such as religion, status, or other characteristics. Categorization is a strategy in which social actors are grouped or classified into general categories or specific groups based on their characteristics, social roles, or actions. Usually, social actors are described as part of a broader category and are often abstract.

- Categorization: *"Fifty terrorists arrived in vans, dressed in military uniforms."* (Israeli music festival: 260 bodies recovered from site where people fled in hail of bullets, 9 October 2023)

The data above includes categorization because it uses the term "terrorists" to categorize a group of people and describes those who arrived in vans and dressed in military uniforms which strengthens the categorization by providing a more

specific visual image. This is an example of categorization because the people are not specifically identified, but are grouped into a broad category based on their actions and clothing. By grouping social actors into certain categories that have strong negative connotations (in this case, "terrorists") to create a clear understanding of who they are and how they are viewed by the reader. By directing the reader's interpretation of the group's actions and identity through the use of strong labels that elicit certain emotional reactions. This may make the reader quickly understand the role of this group in the narrative as a threat or a violent party.

- Categorization: *" Hamas claimed that it had captured 53 'prisoners of war'..."* (Israel attack: PM says Israel at war after 250 killed in attack from Gaza, 8 October 2023)

Categorization is a strategy in which social actors are grouped or classified into certain categories based on their roles, actions, or characteristics. In the data above, the term "prisoners of war" is used to categorize people captured by Hamas. This term classifies these individuals into a certain group based on their status as prisoners in the context of the conflict. Grouping individuals into certain categories helps simplify the narrative and makes information easier for the reader to understand. But it can also give legitimacy or certain connotations to the actions taken, for example by using the term "prisoners of war" which may suggest that they are people (war soldiers) who were caught in the fighting, not ordinary people.

- Categorization: “*As the forces withdrew, confrontations broke out with dozens of young Palestinians...*” (Five Palestinian men killed in West Bank violence, November 30, 2022)

Categorization occurs when social actors are described based on certain categories or identities, rather than as individuals. In this sentence, the social actors involved in the confrontation are identified as “forces” and “dozens of young Palestinians”. The phrase “Forces” refers to military groups, but is not specifically described (police, army, or other armed groups). Meanwhile, “Dozens of young Palestinians” are categorized by age (young) and national origin (Palestinians). By using categorization, the media can simplify the complexity of events by describing social actors as part of a wider group, without having to focus on specific individuals. This may make the news easier to understand and avoid over-specification.

#### 4. Nomination-Identification

In addition to categorization, in news reporting actors are often presented as they are or presented with the addition of certain details to increase the actor's identification. Identification is a representation strategy in which social actors are identified not by name, but by the attributes, characteristics, or social roles they have. Identification focuses more on how social actors are depicted in relation to certain categories, such as jobs, relationships, or physical characteristics.

- Nomination: “*Gili Yoskovich told the BBC how she hid in a pomelo orchard.*”



- Identification: “*Among those missing is German tourist, Shani Louk, whose mother believes she was kidnapped.*” (Israeli music festival: 260 bodies recovered from site where people fled in hail of bullets, 9 October 2023)

In the nomination data, the name Gili Yoskovich is specifically mentioned as the person who provided the information. In this context, the full name of the individual is used to clarify who is speaking and what he or she experienced. By giving a specific identity to the social actor (Gili Yoskovich). It can make the reader associate the event with a specific individual. This can also increase the credibility of the report because it mentions the name of the source of the information. Nomination here is used to make the narrative more personal and concrete by mentioning the names of the individuals involved in the event, making the story more relatable and in-depth for the reader. Thus, the reader can feel more connected to the event because the individuals involved are clearly identified. This can also increase the reader's sense of empathy or attention to the story, because of the personal identification that makes the story more “alive”.

The next data includes identification because in text not only mentions the name of the individual (Shani Louk) but also provides additional information that identifies his or her background, such as “German tourist” which is an attribute or classification based on nationality and status as a tourist. Identification usually includes a personal name and certain details that make the social actor easily recognizable and identifiable. Identification serves to provide additional context

about Shani Louk, such as her nationality and her status as a tourist. This helps the reader understand more about the individual's identity and situation.

- Nomination: “*Ofir Liebstein, was killed in an exchange of fire with militants...*”
- Identification: “*Colonel Jonathan Steinberg, the commander of Israel's Nahal infantry brigade, was killed...*” (Israel attack: PM says Israel at war after 250 killed in attack from Gaza, 8 October 2023)

The nomination data above because the text mentions a person's full name, “Ofir Liebstein”. Nomination is when a social actor is directly identified by mentioning their personal name or title. In this case, Ofir Liebstein is identified as the main subject in the event. By mentioning the full name in the narrative makes the event feel more real and can increase the reader's attention. It can also help the reader to connect the event with a specific person, making the story easier to remember and understand.

The next data includes identification because, in addition to mentioning the personal name, the text also provides additional information that describes the social status and role of the individual, namely “the commander of Israel's Nahal infantry brigade”. Identification usually combines a personal name with specific details that identify the individual's role, position, or status within the context of the event. By adding information about the role (infantry brigade commander), the reader can understand that the individual has an important position in the military

context, which adds weight to the story. It also highlights the impact of the event on the important figure, giving a sense of seriousness to the events being reported.

- Nomination: *“Raed Ghazi Naassan was wounded in the chest and died in hospital...”*
- Identification: *“Mufeed Ikhilil, a 44-year-old father of six, was shot in the head by Israeli troops...”* (Five Palestinian men killed in West Bank violence, November 30, 2022)

The data above includes nomination because it clearly mentions the full name of the individual, namely “Raed Ghazi Naassan”. Nomination is when a social actor is identified personally by mentioning their name. In this context, Raed Ghazi Naassan is identified as the subject who experienced the incident. By providing specific information about who was involved in the event, it allows the reader to recognize the individual. So, the reader can feel more emotionally connected to the reported event because they are given the specific name of the person involved. This creates a personalization effect that can influence how the reader views the situation.

In the identification data, the text identifies an individual by mentioning his full name, “Mufeed Ikhilil”, and provides additional details about his social status, namely “a 44-year-old father of six”. Identification occurs when a social actor is not only named but also given further information that explains his social role, status, or other specific attributes relevant to the story. By adding additional information, the reader better understands the social impact of the incident. By

mentioning that he was a father of six, the story emphasizes the human aspect and impact of the act, thereby eliciting more empathy from the reader. The reader may feel a stronger emotional connection knowing that the victim was not just an anonymous individual, but someone with a significant role in his family and community. This information can strengthen the narrative by providing a broader context of what was lost as a result of the incident.

## 5. Determination-Indetermination

In a news, actors are usually clearly stated, but sometimes actors are stated anonymously. This anonymity can occur for various reasons such as protecting the actor's privacy or for certain reasons. Determination is a strategy in which social actors are described clearly and specifically, avoiding elements of uncertainty or vagueness. Determination focuses on the use of pronouns or direct mentions to indicate that the social actor is known and has a clear identity. While Indetermination represents social actors non-specifically so that their identities remain vague or unclear.

- Determination: *“The militants stormed the festival and opened fire as part of a huge surprise attack on Israel.”*
- Indetermination: *“Many festivalgoers hid in nearby bushes and fruit orchards for hours.”* (Israeli music festival: 260 bodies recovered from site where people fled in hail of bullets, October 9, 2023)

The data above includes determination because it clearly identifies social actors using the words “the militants”. Determination occurs when social actors are clearly defined as a particular group or specific entity that carries out an action. In this case,

the attackers (militants) are identified as the main perpetrators of the incident. By using determination, readers will find it easier to blame or associate the incident with a particular group. This can strengthen stereotypes or emphasize certain narratives about the ongoing conflict.

The next data includes indetermination because it uses the phrase “many festivalgoers”, which is a form of blurring or ambiguity in mentioning who the social actors are. Indetermination occurs when social actors are mentioned in general, without specific explanation regarding the identity of the individual or group in question. Conveying that a group of people participated in the action without providing details about who they are specifically. This can be used to create distance between the reader and the subject by blurring their identity. So that the focus is not on the identity of the individual, but on the general actions or conditions experienced. This also keeps the narrative neutral and does not focus on specific identities that can influence the reader's perception. By using indetermination, readers are not directed to think about the identity of a particular individual, but rather on the general picture of the situation that is happening. This can create a collective sympathy effect, where the focus is on shared suffering rather than on the story of a particular individual.

- Determination: *“An Israeli military spokesman confirmed that 'soldiers and civilians' had been abducted...”*
- Indetermination: *“Medical aid group Medecins Sans Frontieres said a nurse and an ambulance driver were killed in Israeli strikes...”* (Israel

attack: PM says Israel at war after 250 killed in attack from Gaza, 8 October 2023)

The above data includes determination where the actor “An Israeli military spokesman” provides specific information about the source of the statement, namely an Israeli military spokesperson. This is an example of determination because it clearly states the entity that made the statement, so that the reader knows where the information came from. By providing an authoritative source that provided the information, it can strengthen the credibility of the statement made. So that readers associate this information with an official authority (the Israeli military), which may influence how they interpret the truth or relevance of the statement.

Indetermination occurs when the social actor is not specifically or clearly identified. In the indetermination data, the social actor is mentioned generally as “Medical aid group Medecins Sans Frontieres”. Although the organization is named, the specific individual or group making the statement is not identified, making the social actor not clear. By obscuring the identity of specific individuals or sources within the organization, focusing on the message or context conveyed by the group as a whole, the message can feel more general and universal, reducing the likelihood of bias associated with the identity of a particular individual.

- Determination: *“Palestinian health ministry said the brothers were shot and taken to a local hospital, where they died.”*

- Indetermination: “*As the forces withdrew, confrontations broke out with dozens of young Palestinians...*” (Five Palestinian men killed in West Bank violence, November 30, 2022)

The data above includes determination because the social actor is clearly and specifically mentioned. In the text, “Palestinian health ministry” is identified as the authority that conveyed the information, and “the brothers” are also specifically identified as victims. Although the victim's name is not mentioned, the use of the word “the brothers” refers to the identity of the individual clearly in the context of the event. By linking the statement to a specifically identified authority source (the Palestinian Ministry of Health) legitimizes the information conveyed and also strengthens the impression that the statement is based on facts from a reliable source for the reader.

The next data includes indetermination because the social actor is not specifically identified. The term “dozens of young Palestinians” is a general category that does not mention the identity of individuals, but rather highlights a large group without providing specific details about who they are. By Generalizing a group of people without mentioning specific identities to show that the event involved an unidentified mass. This allows the news to focus more on the overall narrative of the conflict rather than the specific individuals involved.

#### 6. Assimilation-individualization

In a news report, this strategy is related to the question of whether the actor in the news is presented alone or represented by a larger group. Assimilation occurs

when a social actor is depicted as part of a larger group or category. While individualization is when a social actor is depicted as a separate individual with a clear personal identity.

- Assimilation: *“Friends and family members of missing loved ones are now desperately hoping to find them.”*
- Individualization: *“The parents of 23-year-old American-Israeli Hersh Golberg-Polin are also looking for their son.”* (Israeli music festival: 260 bodies recovered from site where people fled in hail of bullets, October 9, 2023)

The data above includes assimilation because it groups individuals into one unit without mentioning their specific identities. The terms “friends and family members” and “missing loved ones” refer to groups of people who are presented as part of a larger category, without highlighting names or specific details. They are represented as part of a larger group experiencing the same feeling, which is the hope of finding their loved one. The use of assimilation here is useful to describe the larger scale of the event, showing that many people are suffering and hoping. This gives the impression that this situation has a wide impact. The reader may be able to understand that there are many people experiencing the same situation, which can make the reader feel the weight of this event on a collective level. The reader may also feel that this attack was very detrimental and had a negative impact on many people.

The next data includes individualization because it provides a specific identity by stating the full name, age, and background of the individual, namely “23-year-



old American-Israeli Hersh Golberg-Polin”. In addition, his parents are also mentioned as social actors who are looking for their child, focusing on a specific individual. By providing details about the individual, the reader can more easily feel empathy and understand the emotional intensity of the situation. Because the use of individualization is to make the story more real and close to the reader, the reader may feel more emotionally connected to this story because of the personal details about the individuals involved. This can increase emotional involvement and make the story feel more profound and touching.

- Assimilation: *“Residents said they did not remember a situation like this for a long time...”*
- Individualization: *“Sderot resident Shlomi said, 'I went out, I saw loads of bodies of terrorists, civilians, cars shot up.’”* (Israel attack: PM says Israel at war after 250 killed in attack from Gaza, 8 October 2023)

The data above includes assimilation because it combines individuals into the general category “Residents” without mentioning their personal identities. They are considered part of a larger group that experiences and responds to a particular situation. assimilation here is used to convey the collective feelings of a community or large group about the situation that occurs. This shows that this experience or perception is not just owned by one person, but is felt by many people in the community and provides a general picture of the feelings or experiences of a group without focusing on a particular individual, thus emphasizing the broad impact of the event.

The next data includes individualization because this sentence specifically mentions the identity of an individual, namely “Shlomi”, who is a resident of Sderot. Her experiences and observations of the situation are described from her personal perspective, rather than from a larger group or community. The individualization in this sentence serves to provide a more specific and personal narrative of what is happening from the perspective of a particular individual. This helps the reader to better connect with the story because it presents a real person with real experiences. The effect is that the reader may feel a stronger empathy for the situation being described, because of the emotional connection created through the individual's story. By knowing the person's name and location, the story becomes more vivid and can be felt more deeply by the reader.

- Assimilation: *“Israeli forces are carrying out search-and-arrest raids almost every night in the West Bank. where at least 140 Palestinians have been killed this year, most by Israeli fire.”*
- Individualization: *“Raed Ghazi Naassan was wounded in the chest and died in hospital, Wafa said.”* (Five Palestinian men killed in West Bank violence, November 30, 2022)

The data above is assimilation because it combines “Israeli forces” into one generalized entity and no specific individuals are identified. Instead, the entire action is seen as a collective operation carried out by the forces as a whole. Assimilation here serves to provide an overview of the ongoing military operation and its impact on the Palestinian population. It emphasizes the collective action without detailing the identities of the individuals involved or affected. The reader

may see this as part of a larger conflict, in which large groups are involved, and may feel less emotionally connected because there is no focus on a specific individual.

The next data includes individualization because the text identifies a specific person by full name, namely “Raed Ghazi Naassan” And “wafa” The use of this name refers to one specific individual and provides detailed information about what happened to the victim “Raed”. The use of individualization here is to make the narrative more relatable and to trigger empathy from the reader by featuring individual statements that address victims who are directly affected by the conflict. This way the reader may feel more emotionally connected to the story because they know who is giving the statement and the specific identity of the victim and the fate of the individual. This may increase empathy and concern for the suffering of individuals in the conflict.

#### 7. Association-Dissociation

In the news, this strategy relates to whether the actor is shown and connected or separated from other groups. Association is a strategy in which social actors or entities are depicted and connected together with other groups in a particular context or event. Dissociation is a strategy that separates social actor that might previously have been considered related or connected in a context.

- Association: *“ Hamas military commander Mohammed Deif called on Palestinians everywhere to join the group's operation.”*
- Dissociation: *“ Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas - a political rival of Hamas - said the Palestinian people had the right to defend*

*themselves...*” (Israel attack: PM says Israel at war after 250 killed in attack from Gaza, 8 October 2023)

The data above includes association because it links Mohammed Deif, a Hamas military leader, with the call “called on Palestinians everywhere to join” to invite all Palestinians to join the operation organized by Hamas, the text links the actions and calls of the Hamas leader with mass mobilization efforts. This links Deif’s leadership to the group’s actions and focuses attention on efforts to expand support and involvement in the operation. Association is used to emphasize the important role of a leader in directing or mobilizing the group’s actions. In this case, highlighting Mohammed Deif as the director and motivator reinforces the view of who is in charge and leading the operation. By associating a prominent leader with the call to join, the media can raise awareness of the group’s internal dynamics and create controversy or interest in the operation. Readers may see this as an indication that Hamas is trying to increase the power or scale of their operations, which may reinforce the narrative of conflict and potential threat.

The next data includes dissociation because “Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas - a political rival of Hamas” implies a separation or distance between Mahmoud Abbas and Hamas. By stating that Abbas is “a political rival of Hamas”, the text emphasizes the differences and conflicts between Abbas and the Hamas group. This dissociates Abbas’s statements from Hamas’s positions or actions. Abbas’s statement that “the Palestinian people had the right to defend themselves” shifts the focus from political disagreement or internal conflict to the principle of the right to self-defense. This removes Abbas’s direct involvement with Hamas and

instead highlights the principle of human rights in a broader context. The media may use dissociation to highlight different political perspectives and underscore the diversity of views within the Palestinian leadership. By mentioning the political rivalry between Abbas and Hamas, the media may show that there are differences in political views and positions among the Palestinian leadership.

## **B.2 Van Leeuwen's Inclusion strategy in the news of the war between Israel and Palestine on the Al Jazeera media.**

In this section I analyze van Leeuwen's inclusion theory found in the news of the war between Israel and Palestine presented by Al Jazeera. In broadcasting news, actors are often presented in the text with various purposes such as being clearly stated, sometimes anonymously. Van Leeuwen (2008) explains that inclusion strategies refer to the way social actors are presented or included in a text or discourse. Van Leeuwen (2008) classifies the inclusion process into several parts, 1) differentiation-indifferentiation, 2) objectification-abstraction, 3) nomination-categorization, 4) nomination-identification, 5) determination-indetermination, 6) assimilation-individualization, and 7) association-dissociation

Van Leeuwen's inclusion theory found in the news of the war between Israel and Palestine on the BBC media can be seen in the following data:

### **1. Differentiation-Indifferentiation**

In a news report differentiation refers to the process by which social actors or social groups are separated or distinguished from each other in discourse. This process is used to highlight differences between certain groups or individuals based on various factors such as ethnicity, religion, social class, or certain roles. while

Indifferentiation is the process by which social actors or social groups are not distinguished from each other.

- Differentiation: *“In response to the Hamas attacks, Israel launched a ground and air assault on the Gaza Strip.”*
- Indifferentiation: *“Some 4,400 people had reportedly been at the event that Saturday.”* (Hamas had not planned to attack music festival, 18 Nov 2023)

The data above includes differentiation because it clearly distinguishes between two different actions, the attacks carried out by Hamas and the retaliatory attacks by Israel. In this context, there is a specific distinction between the actions taken by the two main actors (Hamas and Israel), and the consequences of the first action (Hamas attacks) which triggered a certain response (Israeli attacks). By mentioning “ground and air assault”, the text differentiates the types of military responses taken by Israel in response to the Hamas attack, providing specific details about the actions taken. Differentiation in this text serves to emphasize the cause-and-effect relationship between the actions of both parties, which can help readers understand the chronology or flow of events in the conflict being presented. Readers can see both parties involved with different roles more clearly, making it easier for them to assess and understand the roles and motivations of each party in the conflict. This may also shape readers’ perceptions of the legitimacy or reasoning behind the actions taken by the different parties.

The following data includes indifferentiation because it does not differentiate or separate the festival participants as a distinct group of individuals. Instead, they

are referred to as “4,400 people” without further detail, making the festival participants appear as a homogeneous mass without distinction. Indifferentiation is used in this case to unify a large group without paying particular attention to individual characteristics. Indifferentiation is used to emphasize that the event involved a large number of mass casualties, allowing the focus to shift to the large impact of the event rather than to the identity of the individual. Thus, readers may focus more on the scale of the incident (large number of people) rather than on the identities or stories of individuals, which may influence how they view the incident in terms of its impact on the wider community.

- Differentiation: *“Israelis living around the Gaza Strip to stay in their homes and warned Hamas would pay a “heavy price for its actions.”*
- Indifferentiation: *“At least 250 people were killed and hundreds wounded, making it the deadliest attack in Israel in years.”* (Israel retaliation kills 230 Palestinians after Hamas operation. 07 October 2023)

The data above includes differentiation because it clearly distinguishes between two entities, namely Israelis (Israelis living around the Gaza Strip) and Hamas. Israel gave a warning to Hamas, emphasizing the difference between the group threatened and the group considered responsible for the action. This differentiation provides clear information about who is the target of the threat and who is considered a threat. The aim is to highlight Israel’s response to the actions taken by Hamas, and convey that there will be retaliatory action by Israel. By using differentiation, the reader can easily identify the parties involved in the conflict and

how each party is positioned in the narrative. This may help shape the reader's perception of the situation by showing the different roles of the victims and perpetrators in the context.

Indifferentiation is included in the next text. This sentence mentions the number of victims without specifying who they are or what group they are from. The use of the phrase "250 people" here does not differentiate between different groups (for example, civilians, or people from a particular background or ethnicity), which is a feature of indifferentiation. By using indifferentiation, the media can provide a general picture of the impact of the attack without emphasizing the differences between victims. This can help the reader focus on the scale and gravity of the attack as a whole rather than on the specific identities of the victims.

## 2. Objectification – abstraction

Van Leeuwen (2008) defines objectification as a process in which social actors are represented as objects, rather than as subjects with will and power. In news reporting, objectification is a way of representing social actors by eliminating or reducing their humanity, so that they are seen as objects, rather than as individuals or groups with human characteristics. While Abstraction is a representation of social actors in which the specific identity or characteristics of an individual or group are simplified into a more general idea or concept, often by eliminating specific details or characteristics.

- Objectification: *"The police investigation also found that an Israeli military helicopter opened fire on the assailants."*



- Abstraction: *“Israel launched a ground and air assault on the Gaza Strip that has killed more than 12,000 Palestinians, including 5,000 children.”* ( Hamas had not planned to attack music festival, 18 Nov 2023)

The data above includes objectification because the social actors involved (the people behind the shooting) are not mentioned directly. Instead, the action is attributed to "an Israeli military helicopter" which is an object. The Israeli military helicopter here is reduced to an object that carries out the action (shooting), without mentioning the individuals or personnel directly involved in the action. By using this strategy, the personal responsibility of the social actor (soldier/pilot) is obscured or eliminated, and the focus is shifted to the tool used (the helicopter). Objectification in this text is used to reduce attention to the human agent behind the action and emphasize the action and its effects. This is often used in news to give the impression of objectivity or to focus attention on the action or outcome of the event. The reader may focus more on the action of "shooting" by the Israeli military helicopter, without paying attention to who was actually involved or the motivation behind the action. This can create an emotional distance between the reader and the event being reported and can reduce the complexity of the narrative.

The following data includes abstraction because it simplifies and generalizes the complexity of the military action carried out by Israel by calling it “a ground and air assault”. This action is described in general terms without detailing the specific actions taken, who did it, or the process behind it. This also involves omitting details that would provide a deeper understanding of the nature and impact

of the attack. The use of the term “more than 12,000 Palestinians including 5,000 children” is also abstraction because the term “more than” does not specify the number of casualties, it also refers to a large group of Palestinians without identifying or providing specific details about the casualties, and it describes the event in general terms without detailing the individuals involved or affected. Abstraction is often used to provide a broad picture of a military action without going into more specific details, and to describe a large event by simplifying the complexity of individuals into general categories or actions. This can make the action appear to be something that happened in its entirety, without the need for more specific, complex details. Readers may get a sense of the magnitude of the attack in terms of the number of casualties, but may not fully understand the process or individuals involved in the action. This can reinforce the perception of scale or brutality without going into specific details that might raise questions or require deeper assessment.

- Objectification: *“Dozens of [Israeli military] fighter jets are currently striking a number of targets belonging to the Hamas terrorist organization in the Gaza Strip.”*
- Abstraction: *“We’re fighting in certain locations around the Gaza Strip.”* (Israel retaliation kills 230 Palestinians after Hamas operation, 07 October 2023)

In the objectification data, the social actor is represented as “fighter jets”. Fighter jets are treated here as agents or perpetrators of the action (striking). This is a form of objectification because the military action is attributed to the object

(fighter jet) rather than mentioning the individual operating it (e.g., pilot or military commander). The identity of the humans involved in the attack is not mentioned, and the focus is placed on the machine or tool used to launch the attack. This sentence describes the military action specifically and concretely. The focus is on the action carried out by the fighter jets “striking a number of targets” and mentions the entity involved “ Hamas’s terrorist organization” and the specific location “Gaza Strip”. The presentation of specific, measurable information, such as the number of fighter jets and the purpose of the strike, emphasizes the factual and observable aspects of the action. This strategy is used to provide a clear and concrete account of the military action. It provides details about the type of operation that was carried out, its targets, and its context. The reader may get a concrete picture of what happened, clarifying how and against whom the strike was carried out. This can reinforce the perception of a specific and targeted military action.

The following data includes abstraction because it uses the word “we” which is an abstraction, because it is not clear who exactly is being referred to. This could refer to the Israeli military, a specific group, or the country as a whole. The specific identity of the individual or group is not mentioned, but rather is represented by a larger, undefined group. Additionally, the use of the phrase “certain locations” is also a form of abstraction because the specific locations of the fighting are not mentioned. This provides a general overview of the fighting without providing specific details. This abstraction serves to provide a general picture of military activity without revealing specific details that may be sensitive or strategic. The reader may be aware of a conflict or military operation, but not have enough

information to understand who is specifically involved or where exactly the fighting is taking place. This can reduce emotional involvement and increase the perception that the actions are part of a broader, coordinated operation.

- Abstraction: “*a rise in settler violence against Palestinians in the West Bank.*” (Palestinian killed as Israeli settlers attack West Bank town of Huwara, 6 October 2023)

The above data is abstraction because the sentence states “A rise in settler violence” implies a general increase in violence but does not provide specific details about specific incidents or individuals involved. And the phrase “settler violence” does not mention specific individuals or groups on either side. “Settler violence” is a form of abstraction because it does not identify specific individual perpetrators or groups, but rather describes the actions in general as violence carried out by “settlers”. Abstraction here is used to highlight general phenomena in the conflict without providing specific details that might distract from the bigger picture. Readers may perceive a pattern of increasing violence, but without detailed information about specific individuals or incidents. This can influence how readers respond to the issue, seeing it in a broader context than individual cases.

### 3. Nomination-categorization

In a news report, actors or social actors often appear and are shown as they are and sometimes actors are also shown with additional information related to them such as religion, status, or other characteristics. Categorization is a strategy in which social actors are grouped or classified into general categories or specific groups

based on their characteristics, social roles, or actions. Usually, social actors are described as part of a broader and often abstract category.

- Nomination: *“Israeli newspaper Haaretz reported that.”*
- Categorization: *“The report also found that most of the festival goers had managed to leave the event.”* ( Hamas had not planned to attack music festival, November 18, 2023)

The data above includes nomination because it mentions a specific entity or social actor, namely “Israeli newspaper Haaretz”. By mentioning the name “Haaretz”, this text provides certain legitimacy or authority to the information conveyed. Mentioning the name of the newspaper specifically also helps shape the audience's perception of the source of the information, which can be considered a representation of authority or a reliable source. Readers may perceive the information as more credible because it comes from a recognized source. This naming may also help readers remember and associate the information with a specific source, in this case, the Israeli newspaper Haaretz.

The next data includes categorization because it uses the term “festival goers” to group individuals who attended the event into one general category based on their activity (i.e., attending the festival). This is used to group individuals without naming or identifying them specifically and they are represented as part of a larger group that shares a common experience. The purpose of using this category may be to describe a group of people in a more efficient way, especially when the focus of the news story is on the event as a whole rather than on a specific individual. The effect may be that readers have an easier time understanding the overall situation,

but it can also reduce attention to individual stories and make the narrative feel more general.

- Categorization: “*the Palestinian group running the Gaza Strip launched the largest attack on Israel in years.*” (Israel retaliation kills 230 Palestinians after Hamas operation, 07 October 2023)

The above data includes categorization because the group that runs the Gaza Strip is referred to as “The Palestinian group running the Gaza Strip” rather than mentioning the specific name of the group (e.g., Hamas), this sentence uses a general category to describe the group based on the territory they control and their national/ethnic identity. This can obscure the specific identity of the social actor and emphasize their role as the ruler of the territory. Categorization is used to simplify or generalize information about a group or entity based on their function or role. This helps in presenting information more broadly without mentioning more specific details. Using categorization and mentioning “the Palestinian group running the Gaza Strip” can create emotional distance and obscure the specific identity of the social actor involved. This may influence the reader to focus on their role as the ruler of the territory rather than on the specific identity or motivation of the group.

- Categorization: “*A group of Israeli settlers attacked the town of Huwara...*” (Palestinian killed as Israeli settlers attack West Bank town of Huwara, 6 October 2023)

The above data includes categorization because it groups the individuals involved in the action as part of a broader category, namely “A group of Israeli

settlers”. The use of this term reduces the focus on the specific identities of the individuals involved and emphasizes them as part of a group with a common identity. Categorization is used to group individuals into broader categories to simplify reporting and convey common characteristics or roles. It helps frame the story in the context of the conflict and broader group dynamics. Categorizing the attackers as “Israeli settlers” may influence how readers view the attack. It may help readers understand the conflict as involving specific groups with different identities and roles. It may also influence readers’ attitudes toward the groups involved and their actions.

#### 4. Nomination-identification

In addition to categorization, in news reports actors are often presented as they are or presented with the addition of certain details to increase the identification of the actor. Identification is a representation strategy in which social actors are identified not only by name, but also by the attributes, characteristics, or social roles they have. Identification focuses more on how social actors are depicted in relation to certain categories, such as jobs, relationships, or physical characteristics.

- Nomination: *“In a speech broadcast on Hamas-run Al-Aqsa television, Haniyeh added: ‘We are on...’*
- Identification: *“A senior police source quoted by Haaretz...”* (Hamas had not planned to attack music festival, November 18, 2023)

The data above includes nomination because the individual who provided the information is clearly named “Haniyeh”. Nomination here provides clarity about

who made the statement, which adds credibility or responsibility to the statement. Nomination allows readers to directly connect the statement to a known leader, which can increase understanding and emotional response to the information.

The next data includes identification because it identifies the source of the information by their role as “a senior police source” without mentioning specific names or personal details. This provides enough general identification to show the authority or credibility of the source, but still maintains the anonymity of the individual. Identification is usually used to protect the identity of the individual providing sensitive information or to maintain the confidentiality of the source. However, by identifying the source as “senior police” the media suggests that the information provided has weight and credibility because it comes from someone in a high position or in-depth knowledge. Even though the source is anonymous, the words “senior police” indicate that the individual is in a significant position, making their statements worthy of attention.

- identification: *“Ismail Haniyeh, the leader of Hamas, told fellow Arab countries that Israel cannot provide protection...”* (Israel retaliation kills 230 Palestinians after Hamas operation, 07 October 2023)

The above data includes identification because it mentions the specific name of an individual, namely “Ismail Haniyeh,” and the title “leader of Hamas.” Mentioning the name and title of “Ismail Haniyeh” gives authority to the statement made and context about who made the statement. By mentioning the name and title, the media provides clarity about who made the statement and why the statement is important or relevant. This helps readers understand the background of the



statement and gives weight to the information conveyed based on the individual's position and affiliation.

- Identification: *“The killing of Dumaidi, a university student, has come amid a rise in settler violence against Palestinians in the West Bank...”*  
(Palestinian killed as Israeli settlers attack West Bank town of Huwara, 6 October 2023)

The above data includes identification because it mentions the specific name “Dumaidi” and provides additional information about his social status as “a university student”. By providing the name of the individual and additional information about his social status, the text provides more context about who was involved in the incident. By identifying him as a student, readers may feel more connected and empathetic to the victim. This can increase the emotional impact of the news and highlight the tragic nature of the incident.

#### 5. Determination-indetermination

In a news report, usually actors are clearly listed, but it is not uncommon for actors to be mentioned anonymously. This anonymity can occur for various reasons, such as protecting the actor's privacy or for other reasons. Determination is a strategy in which social actors are described clearly and specifically, avoiding elements of uncertainty or vagueness. Determination focuses on the use of pronouns or direct mentions to indicate that the social actor is known and has a clear identity. While Indetermination represents social actors non-specifically so that their identities remain vague or unclear.

- Determination: *“The Palestinian group running the Gaza Strip launched the largest attack on Israel in years.”*
- Indetermination: *“An unknown number of Israeli soldiers and civilians were also seized and taken into Gaza.”* (Israel retaliation kills 230 Palestinians after Hamas operation, 07 October 2023)

The data above includes determination because it provides clear and specific information about who carried out the action “The Palestinian group running the Gaza Strip” and what they did “launched the largest attack on Israel in years”. The mention of the group as “the Palestinian group running the Gaza Strip” shows a fairly specific identification of, even though it does not mention the name of the organization directly. However, the context is clear enough for the reader to understand who is being referred to. By using determination, it can provide clarity regarding the perpetrators and their actions, which helps the reader understand the event directly and specifically. Thus, the reader gets clear information, allowing them to understand who is involved and what actions are taking place without ambiguity. This can strengthen the reader's perception of the group involved and their actions.

The next data includes indetermination because the social actor is identified non-specifically or vaguely, without mentioning the exact number or identity of the individual. The phrase “an unknown number of Israeli soldiers and civilians” shows ambiguity or uncertainty regarding the identity and number of people involved and this shows that the information provided is not completely specific. In this context the media may use indetermination to convey an uncertain situation or complete

information regarding the incident is not yet available. This allows the media to report the incident quickly even though the details are not yet completely clear. The reader may feel uncertainty or unclear about the situation being reported. This may create a sense of anxiety or concern because the facts are not fully known.

- Indetermination: *“a suspect was shot after throwing a brick at a vehicle.”* (Palestinian killed as Israeli settlers attack West Bank town of Huwara, 6 October 2023)

The above data includes indetermination because the social actor is identified in a non-specific, vague, or incomplete way. The text simply states that someone is a “suspect” without providing additional information that could identify the individual more specifically. This leaves the social actor unclear or unknown to the reader. The use of indetermination creates a sense of anonymity and vagueness, which may make the reader feel that the individual is less important and draws attention to the action “throwing a brick at a vehicle” rather than who did it. This can help maintain focus on the event rather than the social actor itself.

#### 6. Assimilation-individualization

In a news report, this relates to the question of whether the actor in the news is presented alone or represented by a larger group. Assimilation occurs when a social actor is depicted as part of a larger group or category. While individualization is when a social actor is depicted as a separate individual with a clear personal identity.

- Assimilation: *“The large majority of (people who were at the event) managed to flee following the decision to disperse the event made four*

*minutes after the rocket attack.” ( Hamas had not planned to attack music festival, November 18, 2023)*

The data above includes assimilation because it uses the phrase “the large majority of (people who were at the event)” to refer to people who were present at the event and were represented as part of a larger group, without mentioning their individual identities. Assimilation may be used to emphasize that the large majority of the group at the event reacted in the same way, namely fleeing after the decision to disperse the event after the attack. This can help readers see how large groups react to threats.

- Individualization: *“Enas Keshta, a resident of Rafah in southern Gaza, said Palestinians are looking...”* (Israel retaliation kills 230 Palestinians after Hamas operation, 07 October 2023)

The above data includes individualization because the individual “Enas Keshta” is specifically mentioned and identified by name and given additional details about his residence, which is Rafah in southern Gaza. Individualization is usually used to provide personal context and details about the individual conveying information or opinions. This may help the reader understand the event or situation from a more personal and specific perspective. In addition, the reader can feel that the information comes from a concrete and reliable source.

- Individualization: *“Labib Dumaidi, a university student, has been killed...”*

- Assimilation: *“Palestinians have said that the impunity is part of a deliberate campaign to push them off their land.”* (Palestinian killed as Israeli settlers attack West Bank town of Huwara, 6 October 2023)

The above data includes individualization because the individual is specifically mentioned with a name and relevant personal information. In this text, “Labib Dumaidi” is the name of the individual who is specifically identified. This text provides details about the individual as a university student. Individualization is used to provide personal context and details about the individual involved in the event. By specifically identifying the individual, this text may be able to increase the reader's empathy and emotional connection to the individual. Names and personal details make it easier for the reader to feel connected to the experiences and tragedies experienced by the individual.

The next data includes assimilation because it generalizes the views or claims expressed by a large group, namely “Palestinians”. By referring to “Palestinians” as one entity, the text combines individual experiences and perspectives into one narrative, creating the impression that there is a shared view or experience among all members of the group. Assimilation is used to simplify the narrative by presenting the views or experiences of the group as a whole. This text may help the reader understand how personal experiences connect to the views or situations of the larger group.

## 7. Association-dissociation

In news texts, this strategy relates to how actors are presented in the text. Are actors presented and connected or separated from other groups? Association is

a strategy in which social actors or entities are depicted and connected with other groups in a particular context or event. Dissociation is a strategy that separates social actor that might previously have been considered related or connected in a context.

- Dissociation: *“The report also found that most of the festival goers had managed to leave the event by the time Hamas showed up and the massacre began.”* (Hamas had not planned to attack music festival, November 18, 2023)

The data above includes dissociation because it explains that most of the festival goers had left the location before the attack occurred “most of the festival goers had managed to leave”. This text separates visitors who survived the violence carried out by Hamas, by emphasizing that they were no longer at the location when the attack began. By emphasizing that the attack occurred after visitors left the location, this text reduces the connection between festival goers and the violent incident. This can reduce the impression that the festival itself was the main target. By highlighting that most of the attendees had already left before the violence began, the text could have lessened the emotional impact of the event on the people attending the festival or their families. By clarifying that most of the attendees had already left before the attack began, the text could have changed the perception for readers that the music festival was the primary target or that the violence was simply incidental to the location.

- Association: *“In a statement posted on the Telegram messaging app, Hamas called on ‘the resistance fighters in the West Bank’ as well as*

*‘our Arab and Islamic nations’ to join the fight.*” (Israel retaliation kills 230 Palestinians after Hamas operation, 07 October 2023)

The above data includes association because it links Hamas to two main groups, “resistance fighters in the West Bank” and “our Arab and Islamic nations”. This highlights Hamas’s direct ties to these groups, suggesting that they are perceived as allies or part of a larger network. By mentioning “resistance fighters” and “Arab and Islamic nations”, the text associates Hamas with the ideology of resistance and solidarity among Arab and Islamic nations. This creates the image that Hamas is not just a stand-alone entity, but is part of a larger movement or ideology. In this way, readers who are in the groups or countries mentioned may feel more connected and more encouraged to support Hamas or the causes they promote.

### **C. DISCUSSION**

This section will critically position the findings of this study, which uses Van Leeuwen’s (2008) discourse analysis framework of exclusion and inclusion, within the broader academic discourse on media coverage of the Israeli and Palestinian conflict. By comparing the findings of this study with previous studies, we aim to highlight the consistencies and inconsistencies that exist in the way the media use language that can shape public perceptions. In addition, the role of Western versus non-Western media in framing the Israeli and Palestinian conflict will be discussed in terms of exclusion and inclusion strategies.

#### **1. Exclusion Strategy**

This study reveals that BBC and Al Jazeera use exclusion strategies such as passivation and nominalization to exclude certain actors from the discourse,

although with different frequencies and emphases. For example, BBC tends to use more exclusion strategies with 16 data and Al Jazeera with 8 data. According to Van Leeuwen (2008), exclusion serves to disguise responsibility, which often reduces accountability in political conflicts. Western media such as BBC tend to exclude actors from the discourse more. This may be due to Israel's dominance as the party that carried out most of the attacks in the Israeli and Palestinian conflict. In this context, Western media such as BBC are often considered to be trying to maintain the impression of neutrality by not explicitly naming the perpetrators of the attacks. In contrast, Al Jazeera, which focuses more on the interests of the Arab and Muslim world, may shift the focus from the actors to showing the impact of violence on Palestine such as the number of victims.

Both media tend to use passivation strategies to exclude actors, there are 10 passivation data on BBC and 5 passivation data on Al Jazeera media. Passivation strategy is a strategy that utilizes passive sentences to eliminate actors in the narrative and focus on the victims. This strategy is usually used by the media to shift focus from the perpetrators and focus more on the impact and suffering of the victims.

This study found that BBC mostly uses passivation, such as in the phrases "At least 700 Israelis have been killed" and "Six Palestinians were shot dead," where the perpetrators in the incident are removed from the text. This might be influenced by the principle of strict objectivity and neutrality in the regulation of news carried out by the BBC. One way to achieve this is by using passivation, which obscures or avoids direct reference to the perpetrator of the action. By using



passivation, BBC can reduce the impression of bias and focus more on the events or impacts experienced by both parties rather than mentioning who is responsible. So, it seems neutral and does not show partiality towards a particular party because it eliminates the actors and focuses on the victims from both sides, Israel and Palestine.

In an article by Osman (2023), it is shown that the BBC often uses passivation to maintain the impression of neutrality in conflict coverage and reduce the use of sentences describing war crimes committed by Israel. Al Jazeera also uses this strategy to eliminate the perpetrators and focus on the victims. This media is known for its more critical approach to several international events, especially related to the foreign policies of major countries, in addition, this media also tries to report with objectivity and often emphasizes points of view that can give voice to the weaker party in the conflict, in this case Palestine. In the data found, Al Jazeera does use a passivation strategy and focuses only on Palestinian victims, such as in the sentences "At least 51 Palestinians were injured during a funeral procession for Dumaidi", "A Palestinian has been killed when ...", "At least 232 people have been killed and 1,600 wounded ...".

The nominalization strategy is the process of changing an action into a noun, thus obscuring who carried out the action. In the BBC media, there are 4 nominalization data that focus more on the incident but do not explicitly mention the perpetrator of the action. "A huge surprise attack on Israel", "The infiltration was accompanied by heavy rocket fire" only focuses on the attack and infiltration actions but does not explicitly mention the perpetrator. While in Al Jazeera, there

are 3 nominalization data that focus more on the incident itself, which reduces the focus on the actor responsible for the action “The surge in settler violence”, “making it the deadliest attack in Israel in years”. Al Jazeera also often takes actors out of the text by focusing on the victims or the event itself and using passivation and nominalization strategies. By using early nominalization strategies, Al Jazeera tends to focus on the event itself without mentioning the actors involved. Because it operates in a complex geopolitical environment, especially with a focus on the Arab world and Muslim-majority countries. In sensitive issues such as the Israeli and Palestinian conflict, the use of nominalization allows Al Jazeera to avoid directly accusing a particular party, which could lead to criticism or undermine tensions. Al Jazeera also often reflects a pan-Arab perspective that highlights injustices against Arab or Muslim communities.

In line with Bello (2014), who found that Arab media often use nominalization to depersonalize violent acts in conflict. In an analysis of coverage of “Operation Cast Lead,” it is argued that Arab media tend to avoid directly attributing the perpetrators of violence to shift the focus from who is responsible for the violence to the impact of the violence itself. In doing so, the media emphasizes the consequences or outcomes of the violence (such as the number of casualties or damage) rather than who perpetrated it. This helps to keep the focus on humanitarian issues and the situation on the ground without getting caught up in debates about who is more responsible for the violence.

Then, the clause replacement strategy was only found in the BBC media and not in the Al Jazeera media. Clause replacement is a strategy that utilizes the

replacement of clauses involving actors with other elements that can change the focus without changing the basic information of the sentence. BBC media uses this strategy to describe the results of an event or action without having to mention the perpetrators “least 250 people are reported killed and 1,590 wounded in Israel...” and “Three men, including two brothers, were shot dead during overnight clashes”.

The omission of perpetrators in news texts like this is often used by the media with certain goals such as to protect the perpetrators or lack of data or other reasons from the news reporter or the news media. By comparing the two media, it becomes clear that BBC uses exclusion strategy to report events involving victims on both the Israeli and Palestinian sides. When the BBC chooses not to highlight the perpetrators and tries to appear neutral by focusing on victims from both the Israeli and Palestinian sides, this may seem to create a more neutral or impersonal perception. The public may not be able to easily identify who is responsible for the violence, which in the end can dampen criticism of the perpetrators or give the impression that violence is a natural part of the broader conflict.

In contrast, Al Jazeera focuses more on Palestinian victims, especially in their coverage of Israeli settler violence. They use exclusion strategies to shift the focus from the perpetrators to the victims or the incident itself for certain purposes and tend to highlight the structural violence experienced by the Palestinians. Although not naming the perpetrators of the violence, this allows the public to strengthen the view that there is systematic and ongoing injustice against Palestinians, which can trigger sympathy for the victims and strengthen the narrative of partisanship.

## 2. Inclusion Strategy

Inclusion strategies were also widely observed in this study, with both media outlets selectively including actors in their narratives. Based on the data analyzed, this study identified 64 instances of inclusion in BBC media and 43 instances in Al Jazeera media. This significant difference suggests that BBC used inclusion strategies more frequently than Al Jazeera.

The BBC's higher use of inclusion strategies can be attributed to its efforts to present a more balanced narrative and maintain a perception of neutrality. By including more actors in its reporting, the BBC aims to reflect diverse perspectives and acknowledge the involvement of various parties in the conflict. This approach is in line with its role as an international media outlet serving a global audience. In contrast, Al Jazeera's use of inclusion strategies, while present, tends to be more selective in focusing on actors central to its ideological stance, such as Palestinian civilians as victims and Israel as the aggressor. This narrower inclusion is in line with Al Jazeera's regional focus and its emphasis on highlighting Arab and Muslim perspectives on the conflict.

The differentiation-indifferentiation strategy relates to the question of whether the actors in the news are trying to be differentiated or not. In this strategy, there are 7 differentiation data and 6 indifferentiation data on BBC. While in Al Jazeera, there are 3 differentiation data and 3 indifferentiation data. In research conducted by Elmasry (2023) explains that the framing of the Israeli and Palestinian conflict by the Western media shows a clear separation between Israel as the victim

and Palestine as the aggressor. In this study, BBC used a lot of differentiation to differentiate Palestinian and Israeli actors. For example, in a phrase “Palestinian militants stormed the festival and opened fire as part of a huge surprise attack on Israel.” Media BBC directly emphasizes the Palestinian militant as the perpetrator of the attack, in contrast to the passive treatment of Israeli victims. Although in another example “The Israeli military launched a wave of air strikes on Gaza in response to the attack” it is also mentioned that Israel carried out the attack, there is a difference where they carried out the attack in response to the previous attack. Here the BBC seems to be trying to use differentiation fairly by naming both sides as perpetrators of the attack and creating distance between the warring groups, without openly supporting one side or the other.

On the other hand, Al Jazeera tends to use differentiation to emphasize the injustice experienced by the Palestinians and criticize Israel's actions "A Palestinian was killed when a group of Israeli settlers attacked the town of Huwara". This strategy strengthens a more pro-Palestinian narrative and can influence readers to better understand the suffering of the Palestinians. Al Jazeera often highlights aspects of the suffering of the Palestinian people because their background and target audience are mostly Arab and Muslim countries, so they will tend to report news and side with Palestine. This differentiation is usually used to create differences or differentiate actors, in this context it is usually used to emphasize who is the perpetrator and who is the victims. Indirectly, differentiation can affect the reader's understanding to categorize a group, reinforcing stereotypes or

assumptions about who is considered the perpetrator and who is considered the victim.

Furthermore, both media also use indifferentiation by mentioning groups in large numbers or in contexts where individual actors are not specifically identified. By eliminating differences between these social actors, the strategy of indifferentiation can help reduce polarization by minimizing extreme distinctions between social groups. Readers may be more likely to see the problem as a common challenge that needs to be addressed collectively, rather than a conflict between two different parties.

In the objectification strategy, 1 data was found on the BBC and 2 data on Al Jazeera. In addition, 3 abstraction data were found on the BBC media and 4 abstraction data on Al Jazeera, here both media tend to use abstraction in many reports to describe conflict situations in more general terms, such as “attacks” or “humanitarian crises”. This provides a broader view of the impact of the conflict without focusing too much on individuals or specific events. In addition, Al Jazeera media tend to use objectification to change the subject of the perpetrator into an object such as “Israeli military helicopter” or “fighter jets”. By focusing on military actions carried out by Israel, the narrative is directed at military actions, such as helicopter and fighter jet attacks, without directly describing the impact experienced by victims. This approach tends to emphasize technical or operational aspects, which can strengthen the narrative that these actions are part of a planned military operation. In addition, the use of this objectification may be intended to emphasize the power and weaponry of a group to show military superiority. Which may

influence how readers see these actions as part of a larger aggressive effort in the conflict.

In the categorization strategy, 7 data were found from the BBC media and 10 data from the Al Jazeera media. Both media outlets use this strategy extensively to describe the parties in the conflict. Here BBC categorize hamas as “terrorist” or “militant”. As Edward Said (1994) has argued, " *...some scholars and journalists in the United States to find in an Orientalized Islam a new empire of evil. Consequently, both the electronic and print media have been awash with demeaning stereotypes that lump together Islam and terrorism, or Arabs and violence, or the Orient and tyranny...*" (Said, 1994, pp. 347-348)

In Orientalism, such categorizations reflect a broader narrative that positions the West as rational and civilized while framing "the East" or its representatives in ways that suggest violence, irrationality, and a threat to global stability. The BBC's use of terms like "terrorist" aligns with this Orientalist framework, shaping public perceptions and reinforcing power structures that marginalize certain groups in geopolitical conflicts.

While Al Jazeera categorize Hamas as “Palestinian fighters” or “the group that runs Gaza” because it is in line with the views of international law and they recognize the right to self-liberation from occupation to fight colonialism. The difference in the two media in categorizing the actor can affect how readers understand the actors in the news.

Quoted from KBBI.kemendikbud, these two words have different meanings *te.ro.ris* (terrorist) is a person who uses violence to instill fear. While *pe.ju.ang*

(fighter) is a person who fights; a person who works hard to defend or fight for something; soldier. From these two definitions, we can see the difference in the connotation of meaning in each word which can change the reader's perception of who is considered a fighter who fights for their goals or who uses violence to instill fear for a particular goal. The use of the term “fighters” carries a more neutral or even heroic connotation, depicting the actors as fighters with a specific goal, such as defending territory or holy sites. This is in line with Al Jazeera’s reporting style, which often shows sympathy for the Palestinian struggle.

In this study, I found 7 identification data on BBC and 8 identification data on Al Jazeera. Here, both media use this strategy to introduce actors or figures in the news such as “Colonel Jonathan” or other individuals and add identification related to the actor so that it can provide clearer information such as rank or other things that can identify the actor and refer to a particular person.

Next, determination and indetermination strategies related to whether the actor is mentioned clearly or anonymously. 4 determination data and 3 indetermination data were found on the BBC media and 1 determination data and 2 indetermination data were found on the Al Jazeera media. Here, BBC and Al Jazeera use indetermination to generalize the actor due to various factors such as lack of information about the actor in the text. On the other hand, the use of determination is usually to clearly show who the perpetrator of the Action is. The BBC uses this strategy to show who the perpetrators of the Action explicitly “The militants stormed the festival”, as well as Al Jazeera which clearly mentions the



perpetrators of the Action “The Palestinian group running the Gaza Strip launched the largest attack” although it does not explicitly mention a specific social actor.

The assimilation and individualization strategies are related to whether the actor is shown alone or depicted as part of a larger group. Here, I found 9 individualization data and 8 assimilation data on BBC. Meanwhile, in Al Jazeera media, I found 3 assimilation data and 3 individualization data. The BBC uses assimilation and individualization strategies more often than Al Jazeera in its coverage of the Israeli and Palestinian conflict. As a globally oriented media with a broad and diverse audience, the BBC often uses assimilation to group actors as part of a particular group, in order to maintain their neutral image. This strategy allows them to avoid highlighting certain parties individually that could be considered biased. BBC uses assimilation to describe collective action and reduce focus on certain actors by emphasizing events that occur in general. “Israeli forces are carrying out search-and-arrest raids almost every night in the West Bank”, “More than 30 Israelis have also been killed amid a spate of gun and knife attacks by Palestinians”.

Meanwhile, Al Jazeera uses assimilation to emphasize the context of the larger group in the Joint Action including emphasizing the collective struggle of Palestine, and how the large group of “Palestinian people” face the situation that occurs. “Most of the festival goers had managed to leave the”, “Palestinians have said that the impunity is part of a deliberate campaign to push them off their land”. On the other hand, the use of individualization from both media is equally used to

show focus on certain figures including victims, civilians or certain figures so as to give a stronger personal impression.

The last inclusion strategy is related to whether the actor is separated or associated with another group. In BBC, I found 1 association and 1 dissociation data. In Al Jazeera I also found 1 association data and 1 dissociation data. Al Jazeera uses association by linking social actors to a larger group or a certain ideology, such as “‘ Hamas called on 'the resistance fighters in the West Bank' as well as 'our Arab and Islamic nations' to join the fight’”, here Al Jazeera is seen trying to associated Hamas with Islamic or Arab countries to join the struggle with the wider Islamic brotherhood. Where this news covers a larger relationship by connecting Hamas with Arab and Islamic countries. This may be motivated by their ideology, target audience and regional relations as Arab and Muslim countries. Al Jazeera uses associations with Arab and Islamic countries as a narrative strategy to strengthen solidarity and legitimacy of the Palestinian struggle in the eyes of Arab and Muslim audiences.

While BBC seems to use social actors collectively, such as “‘ Hamas military commander Mohammed Deif called on Palestinians everywhere to join the operation’” BBC seems to limit by focusing on the individual Mohammed Deif (Hamas military leader) with a call for Palestinians to join the operation. This approach attempts to isolate Hamas’ actions as part of a particular group and does not lead to associations with a particular religion or region in order to maintain balance and avoid controversy.

On the other hand, Al Jazeera uses dissociation to reduce the effects of the attacks carried out by Hamas by separating most of the visitors who have left the location. "The report also found that most of the festival goers had managed to leave the event". Meanwhile, BBC uses dissociation to separate Abbas as Hamas' political rival, "Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas - Hamas' political rival". This shows the difference in political views and the lack of unity between Palestinian leaders.

In representing social actors, each media can play with words or strategies and try to control the direction of the narrative of the news they present. In the analysis of van Leeuwen's representation of social actors (2008), actors in the news are often presented or not presented in the text because they are influenced by many factors such as protecting the actor or because of the lack of data related to the actor or to focus more on the victims or impacts that occur.

On the other hand, the media usually have different approaches in reporting which are influenced by various factors such as perspective, focus, and editorial objectives in their reporting. This can be influenced by ideology, target audience, editorial policy or even the influence of the government, which can ultimately determine the media's bias in presenting an event. Herman and Chomsky (1988) explain that the mass media in democratic societies such as the United States and England, function to serve the economic and political interests of the elite who control society, by forming public opinion through the selection of news that supports their agenda. In addition, media coverage can also be influenced by the target audience or algorithm. The media tends to adjust news content to suit the preferences and views of their audience, with the aim of attracting more readers or

listeners. This makes the media more susceptible to shaping narratives that support viewpoints deemed more appealing to their audiences.

In this study, BBC coverage of the conflict between Israel and Palestine try to seems neutral, as it presents news based on data and fair in mentioning both Israeli and Palestinian actors as the perpetrators of the attacks or the victims. Although in some strategies it seemed to use wordplay such as calling Hamas a terrorist with its negative connotation. In line with the research conducted by Nawawi & Kulsum (2023) who used Van Leeuwen's (2008) discourse analysis on BBC Arabic regarding the news of the death of Al Jazeera reporter Shireen Abu Akleh, who was shot by Israeli soldiers while covering a military operation in Jenin, West Bank. Showing that BBC Arabic attempted to provide comprehensive and balanced coverage, focusing on the victims. However, it is necessary to note the possibility of interests in presenting the news, which requires readers to be more critical, understand the context, and the potential for bias that may exist. So, BBC media tries to seem neutral in its reporting to maintain its reputation as a global media trusted by a diverse international audience who sometimes have their own views on conflict. As a public media funded by the British government, the BBC is bound by an editorial policy that prioritizes balanced and impartial reporting to avoid criticism and maintain its credibility amidst pressure from various stakeholders.

On the other hand, there are some media that are not neutral and tend to side with certain parties, in a study conducted by Hilda (2015) where the results of her research showed that the Republika media was not neutral and sided more with

Palestine in reporting on the Israeli Palestinian conflict. The Republika media tended to represent Israel as the group being blamed and Palestine as the victim who was suffering. She also explained that the Republika media was biased in reporting because it was influenced by their media ideology. In line with my analysis in reporting the conflict between Israel and Palestine, the Al Jazeera media tended to side with Palestine in presenting the news they did, such as using categorization by calling Hamas a fighter and tending to highlight the suffering of Palestine as the victim and Israel as the perpetrator. This is certainly motivated by various factors such as the media background or the origin of Al Jazeera media which comes from Qatar or is included in the Middle Eastern country with a majority of its people being Muslim and their target audience who are Arabs or Muslims so they will be more biased towards Palestine because there are many similarities such as religion and race to attract more target interest from their readers or listeners.

## **CHAPTER V**

### **CONCLUSSION**

This conclusion is answer to the research question used in this study. Furthermore, this chapter provides suggestion for readers and subsequent researchers who want to conduct further research with a similar framework

### **CONCLUSION**

After conducting discourse analysis using Van Leeuwen's theory (2008), I can conclude that exclusion and inclusion strategies play an important role in how the media, especially the BBC and Al Jazeera, represent social actors in the Israeli and Palestinian conflict. Each media has a certain way and pattern in depicting or eliminating actors, both through linguistic choices and the narrative perspective taken.

First, Van Leeuwen's exclusion strategy which includes passivation, nominalization, and clause replacement is found in BBC and Al Jazeera's reporting. This strategy relates to how the perpetrators of an event can be hidden or obscured to create a certain focus on the narrative, especially on the victims. In using the exclusion strategy, both the BBC and Al Jazeera use more passivation to eliminate the perpetrators of the action in the news and focus on the victims. The Nominalization strategy is also used in both media to obscure the perpetrator of the Action by changing the Action into a noun, BBC often uses nominalization to focus on the event without explicitly identifying the actor, while Al Jazeera uses nominalization to highlight the structural violence experienced by Palestinians. In

the clause replacement strategy, which involves replacing a clause to eliminate the actor in the text, it is only found in the BBC media. The BBC uses this strategy to divert attention from the perpetrator of the action by describing the outcome of the event, this strategy effectively focuses attention on the victims and the impact of the event rather than on who is responsible for the violence.

Second, unlike the exclusion strategy that removes actors, the inclusion strategy focuses on how social actors are presented in the news narrative. In inclusion strategy, there is a significant difference between the use of strategies by BBC and Al Jazeera. BBC uses more inclusion strategies with a total of 64 data, while Al Jazeera uses 43 data. Some of the dominant strategies used by both media are differentiation-indifferentiation, objectification-abstraction and categorization. In inclusion strategy, The BBC and Al Jazeera use differentiation to distinguish which groups are considered perpetrators and victims. only Al Jazeera uses differentiation more often to highlight Israeli attacks on Palestinians, while BBC trying to be fair in representing both parties. Both media also use indifferentiation strategies to describe large groups without focusing on specific individuals.

In the next strategy, both media tend to use abstraction in many reports to describe conflict situations in more general terms and provide a broader view of the impact of the conflict without focusing too much on specific individuals or events. On the other hand, the use of objectification strategies tends to be used by Al Jazeera media to change the subject of the perpetrator into an object such as “Israeli military helicopter” or “fighter jets” which may be used to focus more on the attack action that can cause more victims or show differences in military strength rather than

mentioning the human actor. In the BBC categorization strategy, it is more common to categorize the Hamas group with terms such as “terrorist” or “militant”, which give negative connotations to Hamas. Meanwhile, Al Jazeera uses more positive terms such as "Palestinian fighters" to refer to the Hamas group.

Overall, in my research, it is seen that the BBC and Al Jazeera use different approaches in constructing the narrative of the Israeli and Palestinian conflict through exclusion and inclusion strategies. The BBC seems providing fair representation to each actor in the conflict. In contrast, Al Jazeera is more critical of Israel and often emphasizes the suffering of Palestinians and structural violence in their narratives. Although their approaches are different, both BBC and Al Jazeera use this discourse strategy to influence how their audiences understand the conflict. This can be influenced by various factors such as the background or ideology of both media outlets and their target audiences which may influence how they narrate the news or represent actors related to the news about the Israeli and Palestinian conflict.

## **SUGGESTION**

As I have explained in the previous discussion, the representation of social actors in Critical Discourse Analysis is important to discuss because the style of news delivery of each media is different and it can affect the reader's understanding of the actors in the text.

This study has several limitations, one of which is its scope which only focuses on news coverage of the conflict between Israel and Palestine in a fairly



short period of time, namely from October 2023 to November 2024. That might allow for differences result in representation in other periods. Furthermore, to fill the gaps in this research, I suggest that further researchers use a longer period and a more diverse coverage of news about the conflict. In addition, you can also use the theory of representation of social actors put forward by several other figures such as Roger Fowler, Fairclough, Van Dijk, and Sarra Mills.

Finally, the researcher is fully aware that this research is still far from perfect both in terms of writing and description. Therefore, I always expect criticism and suggestions for better research.

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## APPENDIXES

### APPENDIX 1: DATA SAMPLE FROM BBC

No	Tittle	Social Actor Strategy	Excerpt
1	Israeli music festival: 260 bodies recovered from site where people fled in hail of bullets (9 October 2023)	Passivation	Dozens of people were taken hostage
		Passivation	Many people were killed or injured in the attack.
		Differentiation	The Israeli military launched a wave of air strikes on Gaza in response to the attack
		Indifferentiation	Friends and family members of missing loved ones are now desperately hoping to find them
		Indifferentiation	“Many people were killed or injured in the attack.”
		Indifferentiation	“Many festivalgoers hid in nearby bushes and fruit orchards for hours,”
		Abstraction	“There was a humanitarian crisis in the region.”
		Categorization	The victims included Israelis
		Categorization	“He said it was a planned ambush. As people came out of the emergency exits, squads of terrorists were waiting for them there and just started picking them off.”
		Nomination	“Esther Borochoy told Reuters she was driving

			away when her vehicle was rammed into.”
		Identification	“Another woman, 25-year-old Noa Argamani is believed to have been taken hostage at the festival.”
		Identification	“The parents of 23-year-old American-Israeli Hersh Golberg-Polin are also looking for their son.”
		Assimilation	“Festivalgoers - like Ortel - hid in nearby bushes and fruit orchards for hours, hoping for the military to arrive and rescue them.”
		Individualization	“Ortel said the first sign that something was wrong was when a siren went off at around dawn, warning of rockets”
		Individualization	“Among those missing is German tourist, Shani Louk, whose mother believes she was kidnapped.”
2	Israel attack: PM says Israel at war after 250 killed in attack from Gaza, 8 October 2023	Passivation	At least 250 people are reported killed and 1,590 wounded in Israel...
		Passivation	Barrages of rockets are also being fired at Israeli cities and towns
		Nominalization	Fighting is continuing with militants who still hold pockets of southern Israel (to fight)
		Differentiation	Dozens of gunmen from Gaza infiltrated southern Israeli communities
		Differentiation	“Israel has responded with a wave of air strikes on Gaza that have killed 232

			people and wounded 1,600, medics say.”
		Categorization	“The Israeli military said it targeted 17 Hamas military compounds and four operational headquarters in the first few hours of what it called 'Operation Iron Swords.’”
		Categorization	“Dozens of gunmen from Gaza infiltrated southern Israeli communities after dawn under the cover of heavy rocket fire.”
		Identification	“Ismail Haniyeh, the leader-in-exile of Hamas, claimed that Palestinian factions intended to expand the violence to the occupied West Bank and Jerusalem.”
		Identification	“English author and journalist Gideon Levy told the BBC: 'There is a heavy feeling of surprise, of shock and of fear from what is still expected to happen’”
		Identification	“Hamas military commander Mohammed Deif called on Palestinians everywhere to join the group's operation.”
		Identification	“Shlomi, a resident of Sderot, said: 'I went out, I saw loads of bodies of terrorists, civilians, cars shot up. A sea of bodies, inside Sderot along the road, other places, loads of bodies.’”
		Assimilation	“The Palestinian people have the right to defend

			themselves against the 'terror of settlers and occupation troops'."
		Individualization	"Including the commander of Israel's Nahal infantry brigade Col Jonathan Steinberg"
		Assimilation	"The Israeli military has mobilised tens of thousands of reservists and is now expected to launch a ground operation in Gaza."
		Individualization	"The leader of one regional council in southern Israel, Ofir Liebstein, was killed in an exchange of fire with militants when he went to defend his community"
3	Five Palestinian men killed in West Bank violence, 30 November 2022	Passivation	Three men, including two brothers in their 20s, were shot dead...
		Passivation	The fifth reportedly died after fresh clashes near Ramallah in the
		Differentiation	"The Palestinian health ministry said the brothers were shot and taken to a local hospital, where they died. The IDF said that a 'riot was instigated by a number of suspects' during a 'routine' overnight activity."
		Identification	"Jawad Rimawi, 22, and Thafer Rimawi, 21, who were students at Birzeit University"
		Determination	The IDF said a man rammed one of its soldiers



			with a vehicle near Kokhav Yaakov, a Jewish settlement about 2km south-east of Ramallah.
		Assimilation	“Palestinian sources said the brothers had visited a relative in the village of Beit Rima...”
		Individualization	“Mufeed Ikhilil, a 44-year-old father of six, was shot in the head by Israeli troops...”
		Assimilation	“More than 30 Israelis have also been killed amid a spate of gun and knife attacks by Palestinians.”
		Individualization	“Jawad Rimawi, 22, and Thafer Rimawi, 21, who were students at Birzeit University...”

## APPENDIX 2: DATA SAMPLE FROM AL JAZEERA

No	Title	Social Actor Strategy	Excerpt
1	Israel retaliation kills 230 Palestinians after Hamas operation. 07 October 2023	Passivation	An unknown number of Israeli soldiers and civilians were also seized and taken into Gaza
		Passivation	At least 250 people were killed and hundreds wounded
		Abstraction	“In response to the Hamas attacks, Israel launched a ground and air assault on the Gaza Strip”
		Categorization	“And attacked military posts and villages in southern Israel, killing 1,200 people, mostly civilians”

		Categorization	“ Hamas fighters who attacked a music festival in Israel on October 7”
		Assimilation	“Most of the festival goers had managed to leave the event by the time Hamas showed up and the massacre began.”
2	Palestinian killed as Israeli settlers attack West Bank town of Huwara. 6 october 2023	Passivation	A Palestinian has been killed when
		Categorization	“Israel’s national rescue service said at least 250 people were killed”
		Categorization	“Israeli media reported Palestinian fighters opened fire on passers-by in the town of Sderot”
		Categorization	“Palestinian fighters were defending their sacred site in occupied East Jerusalem”
		Identification	“Munir Nasser, a Gaza grocery vendor, said 'We have been as surprised and frightened as the occupation since the operation began”
		Identification	“Tor Wennesland, United Nations special coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process”
		Identification	“Mohammed Deif, a senior Hamas military commander, said the rocket fire marked the start of “Operation Al-Aqsa Flood”.
		Identification	“Saleh al-Arouri, an exiled Hamas leader, said

			'Operation Al-Aqsa Flood' was a response to the crimes of the occupation..."
		Individualization	"Munir Nasser, a Gaza grocery vendor, said 'We have been as surprised and frightened as the occupation since the operation began'"
3	Palestinian killed as Israeli settlers attack West Bank town of Huwara, 6 october 2023	Differentiation	"A Palestinian has been killed when a group of Israeli settlers attacked the town of Huwara..."
		Indifferentiation	"More than 200 settlers gathered in the middle of Huwara after midnight..."
		Categorization	The Palestinian Red Crescent reported that at least 51 Palestinians were injured
		Categorization	More than 200 settlers gathered in the middle of Huwara after
		Identification	<i>"Labib Dumaidi, 19, was shot in the heart by an Israeli settler."</i>

## CURRICULUM VITAE



Mohammad Setya Ananta is the name of the person who wrote this thesis. Born in Banyuwangi, East Java Province, on November 7, 2001. He is the first child of 2 siblings, from Mr. Mohammad Usnan and Mrs. Shinta Andrayani. He started his elementary education at MI Al-Ma'ruf Denpasar and graduated in 2014, then decided to continue his junior high school while studying religious education at SMP Bustanul Makmur and graduated in 2017, and continued his high school education at SMAN 2 Taruna Bhayangkara, Banyuwangi and graduated in 2020 when the Covid-19 virus broke out. During high school he actively participated in various OSIS and Scout activities until he participated in JOB training (Banyuwangi OSIS network) and various activities related to OSIS and other scouts such as Jamborees and LKBB competitions and those related to scouts. After graduating from high school, he decided to pursue a bachelor's degree at the University of Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang in the Faculty of Humanities with a study program in English literature. At the beginning of the lectures, online learning was carried out due to the Covid outbreak, so he decided to work while studying online in Bali as a private employee in the field of medical devices. In the fifth semester after everything returned to normal, lectures were continued offline, which means it is mandatory for the campus. Until finally in the year this thesis was written in 2024 which signified his graduation from college in 2024-2025.