A Comparative Critical Discourse Analysis of Language Use in CNN and Al Jazeera English Media Coverage of Gaza War

Duaa Wisam Al-Muhtaseb
English Instructor, Palestine Polytechnic University (PPU), MA in Applied Linguistics, PhD candidate in TEFL
Email: duaa.muhtaseb@ppu.edu
ORCID: 0009-0004-2991-8971

Rama Badwan Mohammad Qnaiby
BA in English Public Relations, Polytechnic University (PPU)
Email: 214748@ppu.edu.ps

Danya Nasser Rije
BA in English Public Relations, Palestine Polytechnic University (PPU)
Email: 214795@ppu.edu.ps

Bayan Ramzi Alhanini
BA in English Public Relations, Palestine Polytechnic University (PPU)
Email: 214747@ppu.edu.ps

ABSTRACT

This study explores linguistic bias and media framing in the coverage of the October 7, 2023 events by CNN and Al Jazeera English. Recognizing the central role of language in shaping perceptions and influencing public opinion, especially during politically charged events, the research aims to identify linguistic differences in the two networks' narratives, focusing on word choice, connotations, and framing strategies. Using a qualitative content analysis approach, twelve English-language news reports (six from each network) published between October 7, 2023, and January 19, 2024, were analyzed. The study examines contextual analysis (who, what, when, where, and why), language analysis (connotation, rhetorical strategies, and voice), and global superstructure analysis (framing and source attribution). The findings reveal distinct differences in rhetorical style, source selection, and sentence structure, along with recurring narrative patterns throughout the conflict. The study concludes that news language is not neutral but strategically constructed to shape political perception, highlighting the importance of critical media literacy and deep engagement with media discourse.

Keywords: content analysis, linguistic bias, media bias, media coverage, media Framing, news language, October 7th Events.

1. Introduction

Media is one of the most influential power tools shaping public opinion; its influence lies not only in disseminating information but also in framing narratives, constructing or distorting realities, and molding collective awareness. During scorching times of war, like the recent war on Gaza, its effect has become even graver, as language and images are strategically employed to manipulate the public view and gain emotional advocacy and political validity. Whether through deliberate bias or via unconscious framing, news outlets often present the same events in dramatically different lights.

In the current status quo, the manipulation of media has become extreme. Media narratives differ significantly based on political affiliation, cultural context, and editorial agendas. While some outlets frame the War on Gaza as a war on terrorism and a form of national defense, others use language like 'resistance' and 'occupation', highlighting a drastically different view. Such contrasting representations raise essential questions about media ethics, accuracy, and responsibility. For instance, how does the labeling of a group as 'militants' versus 'freedom fighters' affect audience perception? What role does syntactic structure, such as 'passive' versus 'active' voice, play in obscuring or assigning roles to agents? And to what extent does the selective use of quotations craft narratives that serves a certain agenda?

Based on that, this study handles the critical discourse analysis of media as a non-neutral tool, by comparing language use in two prominent media giants, CNN and Al Jazeera English during their coverage of the October 7 events. With their influence as news networks around the globe, CNN and Al Jazeera English express competing geopolitical and cultural perspectives that tend to be wrapped up by linguistic choices. By examining their coverage, the researchers have sought to find out when and how far there is bias in the way the two networks cover the events in terms of the words they used, connotations, framing devices, and overall story construction. This variation in linguistic choices is thought of as reflecting ideological agendas and is evident in the way certain meanings are prioritized.

The current study is highly significant and is of added value in that it addresses a gap in the corpus of media literature, covering one of the hottest causes worldwide today_ the War on Gaza. It raises awareness regarding how news of the War is reported. During the coverage of the October 7 aftermath, the use of certain terms may well have affected the way information has been presented and interpreted. Given the vast reach of media and social platforms today, studying how language shapes public perception of major events is crucial to report them with clarity and accuracy so that people can fully understand them (Fairclough 1995; Kramsch 2014).

In brief, this paper sheds light on how media coverage influences the public perspectives by seeking to answer the following questions:

First, what are the linguistic differences between CNN and Al Jazeera English in covering the October 7th events?

Second, how do the chosen terms influence the framing of the events?

Third, what linguistic biases do exist in word choice between the two channels?

Despite its significance, the scope of the study is confined to analyzing news coverage of two media platforms, CNN and Al Jazeera English, published between October 7,

2023 (i.e., the beginning of the war) and January 19, 2024 (i.e., the armistice announcement). Accordingly, any changes or developments in media coverage occurring afterwards fall outside the study time-span. Other media outlets such as the BBC, Fox News, or RT, for example, are not included to ensure that the analysis focuses on a specific comparison without fragmenting the data.

2. Literature review
2.1 Language power in media
Language is a powerful tool that shapes our understanding of the world around us. Kramsch (2014) perceived language not as a way of proceeding actions but as a means of creating a culture. Building on this perspective, language plays an important role in shaping media discourse and influencing public opinion at both local and global levels. Recent studies have indicated that the impact of language in media goes beyond simple framing to fundamentally alter audience perceptions.

In this context, Tang (2024) has demonstrated that linguistic representation can be minimizing, criminalizing, or empathy generating, guided by various linguistic mechanisms such as agenda-setting, information selectivity, metaphors, and framing. The study emphasized that specific linguistic representation stimulates certain responses from recipients, as language is an integral part of cognitive perception, influencing thoughts, beliefs, and behaviors and contributing to the formation of social norms and culture. This phenomenon can be linked to the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis, which assumes that language forms the lens through which we interpret the world. For example, according to Flusberg et al. (2024), using certain rhetoric language, like metaphors and linguistic patterns (e.g., passive voice) guide reasoning and affect incidents and decision-making for or against events without our awareness.

On a global level, the English language emerges as a fundamental tool in shaping media discourse and guiding public opinion. Baker (2015) has indicated that the English language has become a dominant global lingua franca, shaping how language power is expressed, challenged, and negotiated in media. Baker's study has explored this power in English newspapers. According to him, media institutions have consistently used English language as a tool for persuasion, control, and idea dissemination. Through its analysis of English usage, the research highlights the language's crucial role in constructing power relations and influencing global narratives. This exploration asserts that media language, whether in its complex linguistic details or global dominance, serves as a powerful instrument in shaping collective consciousness and directing public opinion.

2.2 Linguistic bias
Linguistic bias in media clearly manifests in the choice of words used to shape impressions and reinforce opinions. A single word can either disclose new ways of understanding or limit how we see things. Through this strategic selection, events are re-framed according to a particular viewpoint, reflecting the profound influence of language on the audience. As demonstrated in a study by Zurriyati, Rahman, and

Alaqad (2023), linguistic choices are a key tool in shaping media bias. The media relies on systematic linguistic mechanisms that significantly influence the audience's perceptions, especially in political contexts. The study provides empirical evidence on how specific linguistic structures, such as word choice and news framing, contribute to reinforcing ideological stances and guiding public opinion toward particular political sides.

Guo, Huang, and Lee (2025) in their study have summarized the broader impact of media outlets with different political orientations as these do not choose their words randomly but rather strategically to influence their audiences. This means that the words, phrases, and emotional tone used in media are not spontaneous but carefully crafted tools to shape people's feelings and thoughts about what they read.

In the same vein, a recent study conducted by the University of Rochester (2023) on bias patterns in news headlines between 2014 and 2022 revealed a concerning rise in bias within media coverage, particularly in political affairs. Extensive computational analyses of thousands of headlines showed that mainstream outlets increasingly use polarized language aligned with their ideological leanings, with progressive and conservative outlets differing significantly in their vocabulary.

These studies demonstrate how media transform language into a tool for shaping perceptions, whether through selective terminology, framing mechanisms, or biased lexical patterns. Thus, language emerges as a mirror of bias and a powerful force in reinforcing it.

2.3 Media bias and framing

Media bias is defined as a repeated and ongoing pattern in media content that supports a certain side, often aiming to influence public opinion according to Spinde et al. (2023). According to a study by Rodrigo-Ginés, Carrillo-de-Albornoz, and Plaza (2024), media bias is not always obvious or intentional; it can be either deliberate or unconscious, resulting from a journalist's personal background or editorial pressure.

Researchers highlighted three main signs of media bias; first, sharing information that supports a specific viewpoint (Herman and Chomsky 2002; Entman 2007); second, showing this bias regularly over time (D'Alessio and Allen 2000); third, using emotional or persuasive language to make stories more memorable (Falk et al. 2012; Lecheler, Schuck, and de Vreese 2015). These features make media bias different from simply expressing an opinion, as they help shape the overall story in a way that may misrepresent reality. The difference lies in whether the journalist uses certain language to twist the story in favor of their view.

Some authors argue that media bias is a deliberate act intended to skew the perception of events (Mullainathan and Shleifer 2002; Hamborg, Donnay, and Gipp 2019), while others believe that a certain level of bias is inevitable in real-world reporting and not always intentional (Prodnik and Vobič, 2024). Parasie (2022) and Dallmann, Lemmerich, Zoller, and Hotho (2022) have reported that even with unconscious repeated framing, this act shapes systemic bias rather than occasional opinion. According to Ali and Rahman (2019), bias occurs when journalists produce biased or

incomplete stories to support a particular political party. This can be clearly noticed throughout the coverage of the conflict in Palestine.

Media framing, likewise, is a critical mechanism in shaping public perception, as it selectively highlights specific aspects of events to construct meaning. Gitlin (1980) argued that media institutions exert dominance by controlling what is covered and how it is presented, reinforcing hegemonic narratives that guide audience understanding. Similarly, Scheufele and Tewksbury (2007) stressed that framing effects vary depending on the cultural context and the audience characteristics, adding complexity to how media messages are interpreted.

Furthermore, Hopp, Fisher, and Weber (2020) have revealed that media framing is neither random nor static but a dynamic process that adapts to political, social, and cultural shifts. Their study underscores how framing is strategically employed to establish long-term narratives, highlighting its malleability in response to external changes. Otmakhova and Frermann (2025) in their study have introduced the concept of narrative framing in media to show how complex narratives within media have a huge role in shaping public understanding through interpretive structures that align with broader ideological frames.

2.4 Critical discourse analysis

Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) is a powerful tool that help uncover the ideological interpretations in language use, particularly in media discourse. According to Van Dijk (2021), CDA is not confined to surface-level linguistic features, it surpasses to sociocognitive structures that shape public perspective through discourse presentation. CDA is key to interpret media narratives, which often reflect biases usually covered by seemingly neutral language. Wodak (2023), in turn, has discussed the historical and political dimensions of CDA and how ideologies are normalized through strategic linguistic framing. She illustrates how repetitive linguistic patterns shape political hegemony, which crucial for unveiling strategies in contemporary news coverage.

Ekström and Firmstone (2022) have argued that CDA must take news practices into account by analyzing how discourse is produced and legitimized. Similarly, Baker et al. (2021) emphasized the intervention between CDA and corpus linguistics to reveal hidden patterns of bias and representation of minority groups. These studies are examples asserting that CDA remains a necessary method for disclosing the complicit agendas and power relations in shaping media language.

3. Methodology
3.1 Research design, sample and data sources

The study employs qualitative content analysis following Krippendorff's methodology (Krippendorff, 2018), including identifying initial coding categories based on literature (Van Dijk, 1977; Fairclough, 1995).The design has been selected because it allows for an in-depth understanding of the linguistic differences and

discursive meanings that contribute to shaping media coverage, which may carry ideological dimensions.

To answer the questions proposed in this study, the researchers selected a non-random purposive sample of English language written media reports published by CNN and Al Jazeera English related to the events of October 7 (i.e., extending from the beginning of October 7, 2023, until the pre-truce phase on January 19, 2024). These two channels were selected due to their different political and cultural backgrounds; CNN represents Western media, while Al Jazeera English represents Arab media mainly targeting the West.

As aforementioned, twelve written media reports, six from each channel, have been analyzed to ensure a balanced comparison between the two sources and to ensure linguistic and analytical characteristics appropriate to the nature of the study. The time-frame of content analysis is based on three main chronological phases. The first phase includes two reports from the initial war period covering the first days of the events, while the second focuses on reports from the mid-war period that witnessed the peak escalation of events. The third phase encompasses reports from the pre-truce period immediately preceding the ceasefire announcement.

3.2 Data collection and instrumentation

The study employs a mixture of three levels of analysis. The first level is contextual, using the 5Ws model: Who, What, When, Where, and Why. This model was first introduced by Pocock (1962) based on Aristotle's elements of circumstance, and later presented by Kennedy (2007) with reference to rhetoricians like Hermagoras, Cicero, Boethius, and Aquinas. This style aims to understand the broader context in which media coverage takes place, by analyzing the core elements that shape the news content. It also aims to identify the main actors involved, the key events highlighted, the timing of the coverage, the geographical location of the events, and the interpretations or explanations each media outlet offers.

In addition, language analysis is a second supporting tool to understand the linguistic and rhetorical strategies used in the media coverage of CNN and Al Jazeera English. This level of analysis was first presented by Fowler et al. (1979) and then emphasized by Fairclough (1989). It focuses on a set of elements that reveal how media messages are constructed and how events are framed. It also includes an examination of rhetorical devices, such as metaphors, exaggeration, and irony, which serve to enhance meaning or create emotional impact. It further explores connotations and denotations by comparing the literal meanings of words with their implied or ideological associations. Moreover, it examines the use of active vs. passive voice to determine whether the agent is explicitly identified or concealed, reflecting potential narrative positioning. Lastly, repetition of words or phrases is studied to identify recurring themes and assess their influence on shaping public perception.

The study also utilizes global superstructure analysis to examine the overall structure of the written news reports and how information is organized and presented. This type of analysis was introduced by Van Dijk (1977) to help understand how media messages are constructed at a broader level through several key elements. This

analysis includes an examination of the structure of the news, specifically how information is ordered and sequenced within the written report, such as what is presented first, and how details are distributed across the headline, lead, body, and conclusion. It also focuses on the framing strategies used to shape the reader's perception of the event by emphasizing certain angles while omitting others. Last of all, it analyzes source quotations to assess the types of sources used and whether they were balanced or biased.

4. Research results
4.1 Introduction

This section presents the findings of the comparative content analysis of language use, framing strategies, and potential linguistic biases employed by two distinct media outlets in their coverage of the events of October 7_ Al Jazeera and CNN. As mentioned previously, the analysis delves into contextual elements, specific linguistic choices, and more general narrative structures . Findings are displayed in the following tables, analyzing six pairs of news reports . First is the coverage of the day of October 7th attack. Second is the coverage of the Al Ahli Hospital bombing. Third is the coverage of the famine in Gaza. Fourth is the coverage of the world universities protests. Fifth is the coverage of ceasefire in Gaza. And sixth is the coverage of the overall martyr numbers until the armistice. In the following section, the results are shown in detail.

4.2 Results and analysis
Table 4.1: Coverage of the day of October 7th attack

Analysis level	Al Jazeera English coverage	CNN coverage
1. Contextual analysis (5Ws)		
What?	Hamas's attack as a political response to the ongoing Israeli occupation; highlighting underlying factors, e.g., violations at Al-Aqsa Mosque and blockade on Gaza.	Presenting Hamas's attack as sudden and unjustified against the Israeli civilians; focusing on the Israeli human casualties
Who?	Referring to Hamas as fighters; highlighting Palestinian civilians	Labeling Hamas as terrorists; highlighting Israeli victims
When?	Contextualizing events as response to occupation	Using phrases like unprovoked attack to frame timing
Where?	Focusing on Gaza as the main site of destruction; mentioning affected areas in Israel; highlighting Al-Aqsa Mosque as part of the background context	Focusing on the attacks inside southern Israel, e.g., Sderot and Tel Aviv; giving less emphasis to the Israeli bombardment of Gaza.

Why?	Portraying the attack as a Palestinian response to ongoing Israeli violations, e.g., Al-Aqsa Mosque incursions, the blockade on Gaza, and ongoing assaults on Palestinians	Presenting the event as a sudden terrorist attack launched by Hamas against Israel; implying the attack was unjustified.

2.   Language analysis

Rhetorical devices	Employing charged terms (e.g., Al-Aqsa Flood operation); framing the Palestinian action as a legitimate struggle against occupation, embedding the event within a broader liberation discourse.	Utilizing language that evokes fear and urgency against attack and terrorism; constructing the Palestinian acts as threats to regional security.
Connotation and denotation	Using terms that highlight legitimacy and resistance, e.g., 'fighters' and 'Al-Aqsa Flood operation'; linking the event to the context of occupation and Palestinian suffering	Using terms that suggest danger, e.g., 'terrorists' and 'surprise attack'; presenting Palestinians as aggressors; implying illegitimacy and imminent threat of the attack
Passive vs. active voice	Using active voice to describe actions by both Palestinians and Israelis, e.g., "Hamas fighters launched an attack", and "The Israeli army carried out airstrikes on Gaza".	Using active voice to attribute actions to Palestinians, e.g., "Hamas attacked Israel"; using passive voice for Israeli actions, e.g., "Airstrikes were conducted."
Repetition	Using terms like 'occupation', 'siege', and 'resistance' to reinforce the Palestinian narrative and frame the event as a political act resulting from accumulated injustice	Frequent use of terms, e.g., 'terror', 'attack', and 'militants', to reinforce a security-oriented narrative and portray the act as an external threat

3.   Global superstructure analysis

Framing	Framing the event within the narrative of resistance against occupation; presenting the attack as a political and military act rooted in clear Israeli violations	Framing the event within the narrative of ' war on terror'; portraying the attack as an unjustified threat to a sovereign state
Sources attribution	Drawing on statements from Hamas spokespeople, Gaza residents, human rights, and humanitarian sources; giving voice to the Palestinian narrative	Relying on statements from the Israeli military, government officials, and Western sources; reinforcing the Israeli narrative

Table 4.1 shows the differences between Al Jazeera English and CNN in covering the day of October 7 attack. First, the terminology used by each outlet differs significantly. Terms like 'fighters' and 'Al-Aqsa Flood Operation', which provide the act a sense of legitimacy and struggle, are used by Al Jazeera English. On the other

hand, CNN uses terms like 'terrorists' and 'extremists', which portray Palestinian actors as illegitimate aggressors and reinforce bias toward the Israeli side.

Moreover, a clear difference is observed in the use of the active and passive voices. Al Jazeera English employed active voice when describing the actions of each side to impart clarity and responsibility in the narration of events. CNN, on the other hand, used active voice with reference to the Palestinian side's actions: "Hamas attacked Israel", whereas they tended to use passive voice for the Israeli side's actions which may diminish responsibility: "Airstrikes were launched". This, in turn, lessens the audience's perception of responsibility on the Israeli side.

As for framing, Al Jazeera English clearly adopted a 'resistance against occupation' concept when examining the coverage's overall framing. The assault is presented as a military and political reaction to existing Israeli policies, including the blockade of Gaza and the crimes at the Al-Aqsa Mosque. The act is framed as a legitimate resistance activity, supporting the Palestinian narrative. In contrast, CNN adopted a 'war on terror' frame, presenting the attack as a sudden and unjustified act against the Israeli civilians, without mentioning the political reasons behind it. This makes the Palestinian actions seem like a security threat and the Israeli response look justified.

In terms of sources, Al Jazeera English relied on testimonies from Gaza residents, Hamas spokespersons, and humanitarian and human rights organizations, thereby giving more space to the Palestinian narrative. On the other hand, CNN supported the official Israeli narrative by citing both Western media outlets and official Israeli sources, including the army and government.

Table 4.2: Coverage of the Al-Ahli (Baptist) Hospital bombing

Analysis level	Al Jazeera English coverage	CNN coverage
1. Contextual analysis (5Ws Analysis)		
What?	The bombing of Al-Ahli Arab Hospital by an Israeli airstrike; emphasizing the high civilian toll and the international outrage	Describing the event as a massive explosion at Al-Ahli Hospital, resulting in the death of hundreds of patients and displaced Palestinians
Who?	Attributing the bombing to an Israeli airstrike; portraying the incident as part of a broader Israeli military campaign	Not directly blaming Israel for the attack; reporting that Israel accused the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) of a misfired rocket.
When? .	The evening of Tuesday, October 17 is presented as part of a series of Israeli attacks on Gaza	The explosion occurred during an intense military escalation between Israel and Gaza

Where?	Highlighting Al-Ahli Hospital as a crowded medical facility, where patients and displaced civilians were sheltering	Focusing on Al-Ahli Hospital as place where thousands of displaced people were sheltering at the time of the blast
Why?	Positioning the incident as part of Israel's military campaign in Gaza; implying intentional targeting of a medical facility	Not clearly stating why the hospital was bombed; framing the bombing as a consequence of the ongoing conflict

2.   Language analysis

Rhetorical devices	Using emotive and graphic language to emphasize the human cost of the attack, e.g., 'packed hospital', 'killing nearly 500 people'	Neutral tone with some emotive terms, e.g., "hundreds were killed"; referencing to human concerns to subtly engage sympathy; avoiding metaphors or exaggeration
Connotation and denotation	Strong negative connotation against Israel; attack, airstrike, targeted hospital	Using denotative language: 'explosion or blast' rather than 'attack or strike'
Repetition	Repeated emphasis on targeting civilians, massacre, and international condemnation	Repeated references to 'blockade', 'medical crisis', and 'ongoing conflict'; focusing on the consequences

3.   Global superstructure analysis

Framing	Framing the bombing as part of a deliberate Israeli military campaign with strong political condemnation	Framing bombing as a tragic incident amid ongoing conflict; emphasizing humanitarian impact and limited assignment of blame
Source attribution	Heavily relying on Palestinian health officials and eyewitnesses; citing international NGOs as well	Including statements from both Israeli and Palestinian officials; giving more weight to official Israeli sources

Table 4.2 reveals differences in the media framing employed by Al Jazeera English and CNN in their coverage of the bombing of the Al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza on October 17, 2023. In terms of contextualization (5Ws analysis), Al Jazeera English explicitly presented the incident as a direct Israeli airstrike targeting the Hospital. The coverage emphasized the horrific human toll estimates of around 500 dead civilians and the resulting global indignation. The attack fell within the general frame of the ongoing Israeli military offense, suggesting deliberate targeting and negligence with regard to civilian infrastructure. Al Jazeera English clearly identified the victims as

'patients' and 'internally displaced individuals' escaping for cover to the hospital and directly blamed the Israeli army for the attack based on quotes from Palestinian health authorities.
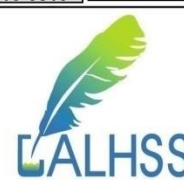
CNN, in contrast, adopted a more reserved framing, presenting the incident as one of the consequences of the escalating conflict, without definitely identifying a perpetrator. Although the report mentioned conflicting narratives, the coverage tended to prioritize official Israeli statements, avoiding conclusive language regarding responsibility. This created a perception of neutrality that ultimately diminished the audience's understanding of the power dynamics and accountability in the conflict.

On the linguistic level, Al Jazeera English and CNN differed markedly in their choice of words and grammatical constructions, revealing a divergence in narrative construction. Al Jazeera English employed emotionally charged terms such as 'massacre' and used the active voice in phrases like: "Israel bombed the hospital." In contrast, CNN favored more neutral language like 'explosion' and used passive constructions such as: "an explosion occurred", which left the actor unspecified. Al Jazeera English also repeatedly used phrases like 'targeting civilians', while CNN focused on terms such as 'blockade', reflecting different emphases in coverage.

In terms of sources, Al Jazeera heavily relied on the Palestinian health officials, Gaza eyewitnesses, and international NGOs which in turn strengthened the Palestinian narrative in delivering testimonies. On the other hand, CNN used the parts of the speech given by the Palestinian and Israeli authorities but leaned too far on the official Israeli account and on the so-called conflict of disputed narratives.

Table 4.3: Coverage of the famine in Gaza

Analysis level	Al Jazeera English coverage	CNN coverage
1. Contextual analysis (5Ws)		
What?	Highlighting famine in northern Gaza; linking it to the blockade and restrictions on aid; strong focus on civilian suffering	Covering famine in northern Gaza with a focus on official statistics and risks; no reference to political causes
Who?	Civilians, UN agencies, Gaza health authorities, and local spokespersons	UN reports, analysts, and international officials
When?	Between March & May 2024, based on IPC warnings	Between March & May 2024, as per IPC assessments
Where?	Northern Gaza, with emphasis on areas cut off from aid	Northern Gaza, with mentions of other areas
Why?	Attributed to the blockade, aid restrictions, destruction, and collapse of essential services	Blaming the war for disrupted supply lines; giving less emphasis to political causes such as the blockade

2. Language analysis

Rhetorical devices	Factual and urgent language; no emotionally charged metaphors or highly dramatic expressions	Using technical and statistical language: 1.1 million at risk of famine, situation is rapidly deteriorating
Connotation and denotation	Terms like 'blocked crossings' and 'no aid delivered' indicate structural causes without overt emotional tone.	Portraying the crisis as a severe humanitarian disaster; omitting clear attribution of responsibility except for one instance directly naming Israel.
Passive vs. active voice	Mostly active: e.g., "Israel prevented aid trucks."; passive is used occasionally	Mostly passive, e.g., "Aid was not allowed in"; active voice was included once: "Israel's throttling of aid…"
Repetition	Using terms like 'blockade', 'closed crossings', and 'humanitarian aid'; reinforcing that the famine is a direct result of Israeli-imposed restrictions on Gaza	Using terms like 'famine', 'starvation', and 'lack of access'; focusing on the severity of the humanitarian crisis. Israel is directly mentioned as a cause only once

3. Global superstructure analysis

Framing	Framing the famine as a direct result of siege and inaccessibility due to conflict	Framing the famine as a worsening humanitarian crisis, with a more technical and decontextualized tone
Sources attribution	UN data, and statements from humanitarian organizations	Relying on UN officials, IPC reports, and international organizations

Table 4.3 reveals the differences between the media frames used by Al Jazeera English and CNN in their coverage of the Gaza famine in 2024. On the one hand, Al Jazeera English focused on framing the famine as a direct result of the Israeli blockade on Gaza. It presented the crisis as an expected outcome of aid restrictions and the collapse of essential services almost as if it was saying to the world: "This is what happens when Gaza is deprived of its basic rights." On the other hand, CNN approached the coverage differently. It avoided delving too deeply into the political context and instead emphasized official numbers and reports. The famine was portrayed as a major humanitarian crisis, but without focusing on the causes or holding any specific actor accountable.

In terms of the language used, a clear difference emerges. Al Jazeera English used direct sentences with known agents, such as: "Israel prevented the entry of aid trucks." This style makes it clear to the reader who is responsible. In contrast, CNN frequently used the passive voice. For example, "Aid was not allowed in", which makes the picture less clear as if the famine occurred on its own, with no responsible party. The choice of vocabulary also varied between the two outlets. Al Jazeera English used terms like 'blockade', 'closed crossings', and 'denial of aid', which naturally pushes the reader to consider the political context and underlying causes. CNN, however, opted for more general humanitarian terms like 'famine',
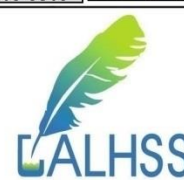
'malnutrition', and 'lack of access', shifting the reader's focus to the scale of the disaster rather than its origins.

Table 4.4: Coverage of the university protests

Analysis level	Al Jazeera English coverage	CNN coverage
1. Contextual analysis (5Ws)		
What?	Protesting inside the University of Southern California with peaceful resistance to the confiscation of tents	Massive pro-Palestine student protests at more than 50 universities, in which thousands were arrested.
Who?	Students, university police; no mention of Hamas or other backgrounds	Students, police, university administrations, Jewish students, American lawmakers. Hamas is mentioned as a catalyst for the events
When?	May 2024, as part of ongoing protests since the war began	Starting April 18, 2024, amid intensifying conflict in Gaza after October 7.
Where?	The University of Southern California was the center of protest.	More than 50 universities in 25 states (e.g., UCLA, Columbia, New York, and Texas); emphasis on wide geographic spread.
Why?	Divestment, opposition to the war on Gaza, against repression; restrictions on freedom of expression; supporting the boycott movement	Motives of the protest are related to the war; restrictions on freedom of expression; highlighting security concerns for Jewish students
2. Language analysis		
Rhetorical devices	No metaphors or exaggeration; Straightforward tone	Using loaded language: 'erupted', 'stormed', 'arrested', 'attacked', 'breached', 'fears'; giving a sense of crisis and tension
Connotation and Denotation	Descriptive and literal language	Connotative terms like 'militants' and 'stormed', implying threat or violence
Passive vs.	Active and clear agency like:	Often using passive: "Protesters were
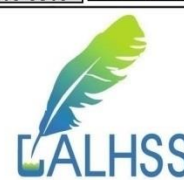
active voice	"Police removed tents", "Students protested."	arrested, "Tensions erupted."
Repetition	No significant repetition	Repetition of phrases like 'pro-Palestinian protesters', 'police', 'arrested', reinforcing security frame

3.   Global superstructure analysis

Framing	Focusing on human rights; portraying students as peaceful advocates	Security/political framing; protests are seen as crisis or disruption
Source attribution	No quotations or sources provided	Quotes from police, campus officials, lawmakers, Jewish students; voices of protesters often absent

Table 4.4 shows the major differences between how Al Jazeera English and CNN covered students' protests in the U.S regarding the War on Gaza. On the one hand, Al Jazeera English portrays the protests as peaceful and student-organized actions in support of the Palestinian cause. It highlights the sit-in at the University of Southern California, portraying how students peacefully resisted when the police tried to remove their tents. The coverage presented the students as aware, responsible, and exercising their right to express themselves calmly. In contrast, CNN presented the protests as a widespread phenomenon involving more than 50 U.S. universities, focusing on the number of arrests, rising tensions, and concerns about the safety of Jewish students, framing the situation as a potential security threat.

Looking at the language, a clear difference emerges. Al Jazeera English chose simple, active sentences such as: "the police removed the tents" or "the students protested", making it clear who was responsible. On the other hand, CNN frequently used passive constructions like "protesters were arrested" or "tensions erupted", which made the responsibility unclear and the events less defined.

The choice of vocabulary also plays a key role. Al Jazeera English used calm and neutral language to describe what happened. In contrast, CNN chose strong and emotional words like 'stormed', 'erupted', and 'attacked', which made the protests seem more chaotic. CNN also repeated words like 'police', 'arrests', and 'pro-Palestinian protesters', which gave more attention to security concerns rather than the reasons behind the protests.

Table 4.5: Coverage of the Gaza ceasefire

Analysis level	Al Jazeera English coverage	CNN coverage
1. Contextual Analysis (5Ws)		
What?	Focusing on ceasefire taking effect in Gaza after weeks of bombardment, with emphasis on humanitarian relief	Covering the start of a ceasefire and prisoner exchange deal between Israel and Hamas, amid ongoing airstrikes and plans to deliver aid to Gaza
Who?	Hamas, Israeli government, Qatari and Egyptian mediators, Palestinian civilians	Israel, Hamas,and mediators including Qatar, Egypt, and the United States
When?	19 January 2025, at 11:15 a.m. local time (09:15 GMT)	Sunday, January 19, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. local time.
Where?	Gaza, border crossings, Rafah	Southern Israel, Gaza, and mention of border regions
Why?	Emphasizing humanitarian need and pressure from mediators to stop escalation	Focusing on negotiation success, pressure on Hamas, and diplomatic breakthrough
2. Language analysis		
Rhetorical Devices	Using terms like 'siege', 'relief trucks', to convey urgency and suffering	Words like 'hostages', 'airstrikes', 'urgent humanitarian aid', 'suffering', and 'devastated Gaza' are emotionally charged
Connotation and denotation	Using terms like 'captives' to refer to the Israelis being held and 'prisoners' to describe Palestinians in detention	Using terms like 'hostages' to suggest innocent civilians unjustly kidnapped and 'prisoners' to refer to individuals as convicts
Passive vs. active voice	Mostly active: "The Israeli military continued its genocide in Gaza"; "Hamas handed over to Israel a list of three female captives".	Using active voice to identify agents: "Israel and Hamas have agreed…"; while in humanitarian contexts, passive voice is used, such as: "Aid is expected to enter Gaza.",
Repetition	Repeating terms like 'siege', 'aid', and 'blockade' to frame ceasefire as a humanitarian necessity driven by the conditions in Gaza.	Repetition of key terms such as 'hostages', 'airstrikes', and 'aid', directing the reader's attention to humanitarian and security aspects.

3. Global superstructure analysis

Framing	Framing the event as a humanitarian pause, allowing momentary relief for civilians under siege	Framing the event as a political and strategic success in hostage negotiations and regional diplomacy
Sources Attribution	Quotes from Hamas officials, Gaza residents, and humanitarian workers	Quotes from Israeli officials, esp. PM Netanyahu; referencing to mediator countries (e.g., Qatar, Egypt, and U.S.) without direct quotes.

Table 4.5 shows that Al Jazeera English focused on the fact that the ceasefire came after weeks of the Israeli bombing, presenting it as a humanitarian necessity to bring in aid and ease the suffering of people in Gaza and dying from hunger resulting from the blockade. In contrast, CNN chose a more political and diplomatic frame, focusing on the success of negotiations, the prisoner exchange, and the role of mediator countries like Qatar, Egypt, and the U.S., making the event seem more like a political achievement than a humanitarian moment.

In terms of language, Al Jazeera English used emotionally strong words like 'blockade', 'aid trucks', and 'humanitarian need' to focus on the suffering of Gazan people. CNN used charged terms too, like 'hostages', 'airstrikes', and 'urgent humanitarian aid', which shows a clear difference in wording using 'hostages' for the Israelis and 'prisoners' for the Palestinians. This suggests bias in how the sides are described. When it comes to sentence structure, both sides used active voice when they wanted to clearly show who did what, like "Hamas handed over a list of prisoners" or "both sides agreed on the ceasefire". However, CNN used passive voice like "Aid is expected to enter Gaza", which makes it unclear who is responsible for allowing or stopping the aid.

As for word repetition, Al Jazeera English used words that highlight the humanitarian crisis, like "blockade" and "aid". CNN, on the other hand, repeated terms like 'hostages' and 'airstrikes', which steers the reader to think more about security issues than the human suffering. Finally, when it comes to sources, Al Jazeera English gave space to Gazan voices and officials. CNN mostly relied on the Israeli narrative, especially quotes from Prime Minister Netanyahu and didn't really include Palestinian voices. Based on that, it is clear that the language, images, and sources are not just tools to report the news, they are powerful elements that help shape how the audience understands and feels about the event.

Table 4.6: Coverage of the overall martyrs and distribution

Analysis level	Al Jazeera English coverage	CNN coverage
1. Contextual Analysis (5Ws)		
What?	Killing over 45,000 by Israel, with continuous targeting to civilians, UN schools, hospitals, and shelters	Over 50,000 were killed since Israel-Hamas war began; framing this as a grim milestone in a conflict with no end in sight
Who?	The Gaza Ministry of Health, the Israeli government, Hamas, Palestinian Civil Defense, and human rights organizations	The Israeli army and government, Hamas, the Gaza Ministry of Health, Palestinian civilians, and the United Nations
When?	December 16, 2024 after 14 months of war	Since October 7, 2023 till ceasefire
Where?	Specific locations: Beit Hanoun, Deir el-Balah, Shujayea, Khan Younis.	General references to Gaza; some locations mentioned, (e.g., Deir Al-Balah, Maghazi, Bureij) but less localization overall
Why?	Heavy Israeli strikes	The war between Hamas and Israel
2. Language analysis		
Rhetorical devices	Using highly emotional language, e.g., 'unbearable loss', 'bloody morning', 'massacre', 'bombed-out Strip'; testimonies from reporters on ground	More restrained terms like 'grim milestones', 'no end in sight', and 'militant groups'; avoiding dramatic adjectives; presenting figures with an analytical tone
Connotation and denotation	Terms like 'Israel's war on Gaza' to imply one-sided aggression. Words like 'massacre', 'without warning', and 'targeting civilians'	Terms like 'Israel-Hamas war', 'militant group', and 'civilian harm' to suggest a more balanced interpretation. Israel's role is described within legal frameworks
Passive vs. active voice	Predominant active voice: e.g., 'Israeli forces bomb another…'; 'UN-run school…', clearly naming the agent	Frequent use of passive voice: "Palestinians have been killed", "deaths reported" to distance the actor from the action; Israeli justifications are put in active voice
Repetition	Repeating emotionally heavy terms: 'children', 'schools', 'massacre', 'targeted'; mentions locations of bombings multiple times	Repeating quantitative data: 'number of victims', especially children; using 'militant', 'strike', and 'Hamas' frequently to frame actors

3.   Global superstructure analysis

Framing	Humanitarian catastrophe, unjust war on civilians, failure of international response, no mention of Hamas military actions	Bilateral conflict narrative: 'Israel vs. Hamas'; balancing humanitarian disaster with military justifications
Source attribution	Gaza's Health Ministry, field reporters (e.g., Hind Khoudary), eyewitnesses. No Israeli or Western sources.	Gaza's Health Ministry, Israeli army, United Nations, U.S. State Department, a broad range of sources which defend Israeli actions

According Table 4.6, Al Jazeera English portrayed the Israeli war on Gaza as a violent assault targeting civilians and vital infrastructure. Its coverage emphasized the scale of the humanitarian catastrophe, highlighting the repeated attacks on schools, hospitals, and shelters, and reporting the death of over 45,000 people. CNN, on the other hand, adopted a different angle in its coverage. Rather than focusing on the humanitarian dimension, it presented the war as a conflict between the two sides_ Israel and Hamas. It used terms like 'grim milestone' to describe the event, mentioning the death toll of 50,000 without assigning clear responsibility to any specific party, thus conveying the impression that violence is an outcome of a long and complex conflict.

In terms of language, Al Jazeera English used strong and emotionally charged words such as 'massacre' and 'targeting civilians', reflecting its focus on human suffering. In contrast, CNN's language was more restrained. It referred to Hamas as a 'militant group' and discussed civilian harming in a more analytical tone, which suggests a tendency to frame events in legal or military terms.

Regarding sentence structure, Al Jazeera English relied on the active voice to clearly indicate the actor (e.g., Israeli forces bomb…), while CNN frequently used the passive voice, especially when reporting on Palestinian casualties (e.g., several civilians were killed), which blurs the responsibility for the actions described. Repetition of specific terms also plays a role. Al Jazeera English repeated words like 'children', 'schools', and 'massacre', reinforcing the humanitarian framing. In contrast, CNN focused on terms such as 'militants', 'strike', and 'Hamas', leading readers to engage more with the security aspects of the situation.

Finally, in terms of sourcing, Al Jazeera English relied heavily on voices from Gaza, such as the Palestinian Ministry of Health, field reporters, and eyewitnesses, with a noticeable absence of Israeli or Western sources. In contrast, CNN drew from a broader range of sources, including the Ministry of Health in Gaza, the Israeli military, the United Nations, and the U.S. State Department. This gives its coverage a greater diversity of viewpoints but sometimes dilutes the visibility of the Palestinian perspective. To sum up, both Al Jazeera English and CNN offer distinct narratives of the same event, shaped by their editorial priorities and target audiences. This demonstrates that media outlets do not merely reflect reality; they actively shape it through language, imagery, and sources they choose to emphasize.

5. Discussion and Conclusion

5.1 Discussion

With reference to the contextual, linguistic, and super-structural analyses of the findings presented in the previous tables, it is clear that media is highly impactful in creating messages and how the public perceives the world, in addition to disseminating information about occurrences. Employing language and sources is not just a tool for communication, but also a means of influence, persuasion, and distortion.

In Table 4.1, which addresses the coverage of the day of October 7th, it is clear that word choice plays a vital role in shaping meaning and re-framing the event in the minds of the audience. Al Jazeera English used terms like 'fighters' and 'Al-Aqsa Flood Operation', which give the Palestinian action a sense of legitimate resistance. In contrast, CNN uses terms such as 'terrorists' and 'surprise attack'. These are not mere descriptive labels; they reflect a political perspective that primes the audience to view the Israeli response as justified.

In Table 4.2, which focuses on the coverage of the Al-Ahli Hospital bombing, it is evident that direct language enhances accountability, while vague or passive language reduces the severity of the act and conceals the perpetrator. For instance, Al Jazeera English explicitly stated: "Israel bombed the hospital," while CNN used the phrase: "An explosion occurred at Al-Ahli Hospital," without specifying who was responsible. This difference in the syntactic structure influences how the audience interprets the event and affects their ethical and political response.

Table 4.3, which examines the coverage of the famine in Gaza, reveals a stylistic divergence between the two networks. Al Jazeera English employed direct and human centered language, such as: "Israel prevented aid trucks from entering," which clearly links the suffering to political action. CNN, on the other hand, relied on technical and decontextualized phrasing like: "The humanitarian situation is deteriorating," which presents the crisis as a natural disaster with no clear cause, thus reducing the emotional impact and sense of urgency in the audience.

It is clear from Table 4.4, which discusses protests by American university students, that the audience's opinion of the demonstrators is influenced by the descriptive language used. CNN used words like stormed, tensions erupted, and hundreds were arrested, which led readers to interpret the events via a security-focused lens, while Al Jazeera English described the students as "having protested peacefully against the removal of tents". This demonstrates that the same individuals can be portrayed as either heroes or rioters with nothing more than a shift in linguistic framing.

Table 4.5, which focuses on the humanitarian ceasefire, illustrates how language can either highlight the human aspect or bury it beneath political terminology. For example, Al Jazeera English wrote: "Relief trucks entered Gaza to rescue civilians.", emphasizing humanitarian urgency. Meanwhile, CNN framed the event politically, stating: "Israel and Hamas reached an agreement on a temporary ceasefire and

prisoner exchange." This shows that word choice determines whether the focus is placed on people or politics.

Finally, the importance of language in defining the aggressor and the victim is made evident in Table 4.6, which addresses the overall coverage of the war on Gaza. Al Jazeera English used expressions such as: "Israeli forces bombed a UN run school housing displaced people", whereas CNN wrote: "Dozens of civilians were killed in Gaza due to airstrikes", using the passive voice and omitting the actor. This grammatical choice softens the act and obscures responsibility, reinforcing the narrative that the war is mutual rather than a one-sided assault.

5.2 Conclusion

In a time marked by intensifying conflicts and the rapid flow of news, the role of the media is no longer limited to merely reporting events. It has evolved into a partner in crafting narratives, shaping perceptions, and influencing public opinion. This responsibility becomes even more complex when addressing an issue as significant as the aggression on Gaza, where political and humanitarian dimensions intertwine, and every term or image becomes an implicit stance reflecting a clear media alignment.

It is clear that the media coverage of the October 7 events by CNN and Al Jazeera English was neither neutral nor similar. Instead, it revealed fundamental differences in language and framing, reflecting distinct ideological and cultural backgrounds. The editorial approaches of both networks remained largely consistent throughout the stages of the war. While CNN continued to adopt a security and political discourse aligned with the Western perspective, Al Jazeera English maintained a resistant, human-centered discourse that highlights the Palestinian tragedy. This consistency indicates that media outlets do not merely transmit events but actively participate in constructing and directing them. Language is not just a tool for transmission, but a powerful means of influence used to convey political and moral positions.

The linguistic difference disclosed in the analysis underscore the critical role media plays in constructing reality and guiding public perception through word choice and event framing. Whether intentional or not, linguistic bias significantly influences how audiences understand the nature and causes of a conflict. This highlights the importance of critical awareness of media language and its ability to shape perceptions especially in covering complex and sensitive conflicts like the Palestinian issue.

After all, this study supposedly has contributed to offer a replicable model for future comparative media studies and open further inquiry into the psycho-political impact of media framing on international audiences by systematically and consistently revealing the ideological filters applied by the current media outlets and other networks. This, in turn, help advance the call for critical media literacy as a civic necessity, especially in contexts of war, occupation, and human rights.

References

1. Ali, A., & Rahman, S. I. u. (2019). Media Bias Effects on Voters in Pakistan. Global Regional Review, IV(IV), 557-567. https://doi.org/10.31703/grr.2019(IV-IV).50

2. Baker, W. (2015). Culture and identity through English as a lingua franca: Rethinking concepts and goals in intercultural communication (Vol. 8). Walter de Gruyter GmbH & Co KG.

3. Baker, P., Gabrielatos, C., & McEnery, T. (2021). Discourse analysis and media attitudes: The representation of Islam in the British press. Cambridge University Press.

4. Cambridge Dictionary. (n.d.). Content analysis. In Cambridge Dictionary. Retrieved April 19, 2025, from https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/content-analysis

5. D'Alessio, D., & Allen, M. (2000). Media bias in presidential elections: A meta-analysis. Journal of Communication, 50(4), 133–156. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1460-2466.2000.tb02866.x

6. Dallmann, A., Lemmerich, F., Zoller, D., & Hotho, A. (2015). Media bias in German online newspapers. In Proceedings of the 26th ACM Conference on Hypertext & Social Media (pp. 133–137). ACM.

7. Ekström, M., & Firmstone, J. (2022). Discourse, media and power: The political mediation of journalism. Journalism Studies, 23(5), 603–619. https://doi.org/10.1080/1461670X.2022.2024101

8. Entman, R. M. (2007). Framing bias: Media in the distribution of power. Journal of Communication, 57(1), 163–173. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1460-2466.2006.00336.x

9. Fairclough, N. (1989). Language and power. Longman.

10. Fairclough, N. (1995). Media discourse. London: Edward Arnold.

11. Falk, E. B., Berkman, E. T., Mann, T., Harrison, B., & Lieberman, M. D. (2012). Predicting persuasion-induced behavior change from the brain. The Journal of Neuroscience, 30(25), 8421–8424. https://doi.org/10.1523/JNEUROSCI.0063-12.2010

12. Flusberg, S. J., Holmes, K., Thibodeau, P. H., Nabi, R. L., & Matlock, T. (2024). How everyday language shapes the way we think, feel, and act. Psychological Science in the Public Interest.

13. Fowler, R., Hodge, R., Kress, G., & Trew, T. (1979). Language and control. Routledge & Kegan Paul.

14. Fowler, R. (1991). Language in the news: Discourse and ideology in the press. London: Routledge.

15. Gitlin, T. (1980). The whole world is watching: Mass media in the making and unmaking of the new left. University of California Press.

16. Guo, L., Huang, G., & Lee, T. (2025). The media trust gap and its political explanations: A cross-national analysis. The International Journal of Press/Politics. Advance online publication. https://doi.org/10.1177/19401612251315597

17. Hamborg, F., Donnay, K. & Gipp, B. Automated identification of media bias in news articles: an interdisciplinary literature review. Int J Digit Libr 20, 391–415 (2019). https://doi.org/10.1007/s00799-018-0261-y

18. Herman, E. S., & Chomsky, N. (2002). Manufacturing consent: The political economy of the mass media (2nd ed.). Pantheon Books.

19. Hopp, F. R., Fisher, J. T., & Weber, R. (2020). Dynamic transactions between news frames and sociopolitical events: An integrative, Hidden Markov Model approach. Journal of Communication, 70(3), 335–355. https://doi.org/10.1093/joc/jqaa015

20. Kramsch, C. (2014). Language and culture. Oxford University Press.

21. Krippendorff, K. (2018). Content Analysis: An Introduction to Its Methodology (4th ed.). SAGE Publications.

22. Lecheler, S., Schuck, A. R., & de Vreese, C. H. (2015). Emotional appeals and journalistic reactions: Theory and experimental evidence. Journalism, 16(3), 307–325. https://doi.org/10.1177/1464884913511564

23. Mullainathan, S., & Shleifer, A. (2002). Media bias. The Quarterly Journal of Economics, 117(4), 1197–1239. https://doi.org/10.1162/003355302320935437

24. Otmakhova, Y., & Frermann, L. (2025). Narrative media framing in political discourse. Preprint.

25. Parasie, S. (2022). Implicit media framing and its societal effects. In Bridging the Cross-disciplinary Disparities in Media Bias and Framing (pp. 15–38). ACL Anthology.

26. Prodnik, J. A., & Vobič, I. (2024). News sources in the sociology of the media: A critical re-examination. Critical Sociology, 50(4–5), 795–812. https://doi.org/10.1177/08969205231217306

27. Rodrigo-Ginés, F.-J., Carrillo-de-Albornoz, J., & Plaza, L. (2024). A systematic review on media bias detection: What is media bias, how it is expressed, and how to detect it. Expert Systems with Applications, 237, 121641. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eswa.2023.121641

28. Scheufele, D. A., & Tewksbury, D. (2007). Framing, agenda setting, and priming: The evolution of three media effects models. Journal of Communication, 57(1), 9–20. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1460-2466.2006.00326.x

29. University of Rochester. (2023). Bias patterns in political news headlines (2014–2022). [Institutional report].

30. Van Dijk, T. A. (1977). Text and context: Explorations in the semantics and pragmatics of discourse. Longman.

31. Van Dijk, T. A. (2021). Critical discourse studies: A sociocognitive approach. Routledge.

32. Wodak, R. (2023). The politics of fear: The shameless normalization of far-right discourse (2nd ed.). SAGE Publications.

APPENDIX
News Coverage Reports: CNN and Al Jazeera English (Oct 7, 2023 – Jan 19, 2024)

Chronological phases	Event/Topic	Al Jazeera English report	CNN report
War Initial Period	October 7 Attack (7/10/2023)	https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/10/7/palestinian-group-hamas-launches-surprise-attack-on-israel-what-to-know	https://www.cnn.com/2023/10/07/middleeast/sirens-israel-rocket-attack-gaza-intl-hnk/index.html
	Al-Ahli Hospital Bombing (17/10/2023)	https://www.aljazeera.com/amp/gallery/2023/10/17/photos-an-israeli-air-raid-on-al-ahli-arab-hospital-kills-an-estimated-500	https://amp.cnn.com/cnn/2023/10/17/middleeast/israel-gaza-rafah-crossing-week-2-tuesday-intl-hnk
Peak Escalation	Famine in Gaza (18/3/2024_19/3/2024)	https://www.aljazeera.com/amp/news/2024/3/18/famine-expected-in-gaza-between-now-and-may-what-to-know	https://edition.cnn.com/2024/03/19/middleeast/famine-northern-gaza-starvation-ipc-report-intl-hnk/index.html
	University Protests (25/4/2024_7/5/2024)	https://www.aljazeera.com/amp/gallery/2024/4/25/photos-pro-palestinian-protests-spread-at-us-universities	https://edition.cnn.com/2024/04/25/us/gallery/university-campus-protests-gaza/index.html
Pre-truce phase	Gaza Ceasefire (19/1/2025)	https://1-e8259.azureedge.net/news/2025/1/19/israel-hamas-ceasefire-takes-effect-in-gaza	https://www.cnn.com/world/live-news/israel-hamas-ceasefire-war-palestine-01-18-25/index.html
	Overall Aggression, Martyrs, and Distribution (16/12/2024_24/3/2025)	https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/12/16/death-toll-from-israels-war-on-gaza-tops-45000	https://www.cnn.com/2025/03/23/middleeast/50-000-killed-in-gaza-since-start-of-israel-hamas-war-intl/index.html