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Critical Discourse Analysis of Al Jazeera and BBC Discourse towards Hamas's Attack on The 7thOctober, 2023.

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Dedication

To ourselves, parents, family, friends, and our beloved people.

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First, we would like to express our deepest gratitude to our supervisor Dr. Amrani Djalel,Eddine for his unwavering support and guidance throughout this research journey. His expertise, encouragement, and valuable feedback have been instrumental in shaping this dissertation.

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Abstract

This study examines the implementation of critical discourse analysis on the 7TH October 2023 Hamas attack, focusing on revealing the potent behavior and ideology of discourse. This study on the 7th October 2023 Hamas attack utilizing critical discourse analysis reveals how language choice and media framing shape identities, influence public opinion, and impact social interactions, particularly emphasizing the power of BBC and Al Jazeera in shaping narratives through language use. It delves into specific linguistic features such as discourse, cognition, and society ("self", "us", "others", "them"), along with comparison words, as an outlined in Van Dijk's (1997)critical discourse analysis framework. The analysis encompasses aspects such as word choice, the use of pronouns, and comparison words. This study's findings highlight how language construct identities, shapes public opinion, and influences social interaction. It particularly explores the role of BBC and Al Jazeera net in framing the event through their use of powerful words and sentence structures, demonstrating how these media outlets can significantly influence others' opinions and ideas.

Keywords: Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA); Van Dijk model (1997); October's Hamas attack (2023); BBC and Al Jazeera net; ideology

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Introduction

- **Background of the study**

News and events are part of our daily routine but we share through various forms of social media. Some events can change the course of life and have a profound impact on us, causing our responses and biases to change. They can even lead us to neutrality through the proper presentation of the event and the use of the power of words and correct rhetoric. News channels rely on this approach. This influence extends to making people follow or not follow, support or oppose a stance or the event, and like all dislike someone based on how the message is delivered. This discourse is defined as how language is used in social settings to shape identities and opinions, highlighting the role of power and influence in communication used between speaker and listener or writer and reader it is the primary way that communication manifests in society.

Discourse analysis uses the language presented in a corpus of body of data to draw meaning. This body could include a set of interviews or focus group discussion transcripts. It focuses on how this language is used to achieve its aims. As wodak and Krzyżanowski (2008), "Discourse Analysis provides in general a framework to problem oriented social research. Foucault defines discourse analysis, M. (1972) as an interdisciplinary methodological approach that aims to reveal how language is used to construct social reality, identity, power, and ideology in various social contexts. One of the approaches of DA in Critical Discourse Analysis. Van Dijk, T.A (2013) defines CDA as an interdisciplinary approach that focuses on the study of discourse as a form of social practice, where discourse is seen as social interaction aiming at social change through the analysis of power, dominance, and inequality; and, in addition to Fairclough (1995) defines CDA as a type of discourse analysis which highlights how discourse can be understood through categorizing people, places, events, and action in relation to social and cultural structures.

The coverage of the global news channels Al Jazeera and BBC about Hamas' invasion of Israel on the 7 October is considered one of the most important events that attract CDA. They are seen as the most followed and credible channels in both the Arab and Western World regarding this invention. They work on activating emotional and intellectual influence by how they convey and present the events, discussing the political, economic, and social aspects of the conflict. Their differences in ideology and the use of the strong language and biases between BBC and Al Jazeera reflect their unique organizational cultures, target audience, and historical context. This study highlights the need to analyze language critically to discover the underlying power dynamics and ideological biases in communication.

- **Statement of the problem:**
- In this study, we will verify the legitimacy of the coverage provided by both the BBC and Hamas regarding the Hamas attack on Israel on October 7, 2023.

- **Objectives of the Study:**

This study aims at achieving the following objectives:

- Investigating the power manifested in the word choice on the 7th Hamas attack 2023.
- Studying the lexical features that using in discourse
- The use of pronouns.
- The comparison words.
- Finding the differences between BBC and Aljazeera net channel**.**

- **Research Questions:**

• How did both the BBC and Aljazeera net manifest on the 7th October 2023.

•What are the differences between BBC and Aljazeera net (ideology, power relation, bias.).

- **Research Design and Methodology:**

This research adopts a qualitative design, utilizing the Van Dijk CDA model (1997) to analyze the social and historical context, power dynamics, and cultural norms within the discourse community. Van Dijk's three dimensions model, focusing on polarization, implication, and comparison, further aids in understanding.

These media platforms possess the power to profoundly shape the perspectives and beliefs of their audience.

- **Significance of the Study:**

This study seeks to add to the current understanding within the field by investigating (articles, videos, and headlines) related to the 7th October Hamas attack, including syntactic structures such as word choice, the use of pronouns, and comparison words. Critical discourse analysis adds value to the research line regarding the issues of Hamas and Israel covered on the 7th of October.

Definitions of Key Terms:

- Critical discourse analysis (CDA): is a method for analyzing how language reflects and shapes power dynamics, social hierarchies, and ideological beliefs.
- Power word: In CDA, "power words" are terms that shape discourse and reinforce social hierarchies.
- Ideologies: are like lenses that shape how people see the world and what they believe in.

CHAPTER-I

Critical Discourse Analysis and Media Theories

Part One:

Literature Review

Introduction

The discourse in the media is instrumental in shaping public opinion and understanding of social and political issues through a systematic analysis of language and messaging that influences perception. Factors such as media ownership, political ideology, and audience preferences significantly impact the narrative, while theories of agenda-setting and framing underscore the media's power in shaping public discourse. In today's digital era, social media platforms play a crucial role in shaping societal narratives, yet concerns arise regarding misinformation and limited exposure to diverse viewpoints. Media consumers are urged to critically assess information to identify potential biases in media discourse. Critical Discourse Analysis, as explored by researchers like Fairclough (2003), examines language beyond its grammatical aspects, emphasizing the social practices that influence communication processes and construct meaning across various contexts. This research delves into different methodologies utilized in discourse analysis, with a focus on critical discourse analysis applied to analyzing content from Al Jazeera and BBC channels on the 7th of October 2023. The chapter includes a comprehensive literature review encompassing media theories, discourse definitions from various scholars, and an exploration of political discourse, culminating in an examination of prior studies employing the CDA model.

1. Media and Media discourse

Discourse refers to the language used in media to convey meaning about a topic or issue, influencing public perception and discourse on social and political issues. " Methodology in media discourse analysis involves the systematic analysis of media texts, with a focus on the social and ideological contexts in which they are produced and consumed." - Van Dijk, Teun A. (2008). Discourse and power. Palgrave Macmillan, factors such as media ownership, political ideology, economic interests, and audience preferences can also influence media discourse. Agenda-setting theory suggests that media can influence the coverage of a particular issue, while framing theory suggests media can influence how an issue is understood. In the digital age, social media platforms play a crucial role in shaping public discourse, but the viral nature can spread misinformation and limit exposure to diverse viewpoints. It is essential for

media consumers to critically evaluate information and be aware of potential biases and agendas in media discourse.

2. Theories of media (BBC and Al Jazeera net)

The BBC and Aljazeera net are two major media organizations, each with its own theories in the field of media and how news is represented and analyzed. It involves various features as vocab and power word to underlying ideological biases and power dynamics.

Both Al Jazeera net and BBC tend to use language as a means to influence their audience. Al Jazeera net relied on covering the ongoing events on October 7th, implicitly conveying the underlying reasons for the attack launched by Hamas on Israel.

On the other hand, BBC also reported the exclusive events of October 7th as a neutral element in the event, but shed light on the suffering of the Israeli people that day. This will be analyzed in this research.

3. The 7th of October 2023in brief

On October 7, 2023, a significant event unfolded as Palestinian resistance fighters launched a surprise large-scale attack on Israeli sites, resulting in casualties and an invasion named the "Al-Aqsa Flood." The meticulously planned operation caught Israel off guard, highlighting intelligence failures and raising questions about its deterrence system. The invasion, seen as strategic, aimed to halt Israeli actions against the Al-Aqsa Mosque and potentially lead to prisoner exchanges and a lifting of the Gaza siege. The repercussions of this operation are anticipated to have far-reaching effects, with Israel facing limited options and potential escalation in various territories. The episode signifies a critical moment that puts the entire Israeli project in jeopardy, marking a challenge that may not be easily overcome.

4. Discourse

Discourse can be interpreted through various theoretical frameworks. Wassniewski suggests that the term "discourse" originates from the Latin word "discursus," which pertains to conversation and speech, implying that discourse encompasses verbal exchange, written expressions, and social interactions. Fairclough (1992) defines discourse as "language use, whether speech or writing, seen as a type of social practice" (p. 28).

Discourse is a complex concept, subject to diverse interpretations by scholars. Michael Halliday emphasizes a systematic functional linguistics approach, viewing discourse as a form of social communication. He discusses "language as social semiotic: the social interpretation of language and meaning" (Halliday, 1978), highlighting how language operates in various contexts, combining grammar and words to convey meaning. According to Halliday (1985), language serves as the medium through which social interactions and affairs are conducted.

Additionally, Norman Fairclough posits that discourse plays a pivotal role in shaping and maintaining social relations and ideologies (Fairclough, 1989).

5. Political Discourse

Channels such as BBC and Al Jazeera Arabic aim to sway their audience by delivering thorough reports, dissecting events, and creating platforms for both experts and viewers to voice their opinions. Language serves as a vital tool for news channels to communicate events and information accurately, thereby earning viewers' trust.

Political discourse can be simply marked as the discourse of politicians, i.e. their text and talk, and their professional activities. The topics discussed usually come from public events that require collective decision-making, policies, regulations or legislation. (Van Dijk 2001. 4).

Modern Translation Studies (TS) are concerned with the relationship between translation behavior and sociocultural factors. Another scholar define discourse as describe political discourse as "a complex form of human activity" that depends on the fact that politics cannot be performed without language.

6. Ideology in discourse

News channels use political discourse to impose their power through language and, also influence the ideological beliefs and thoughts of their audience indirectly through linguistic structures.

According the Oxford Dictionary of Media and communication (2011.p200) defines ideology as “an interpretive framework employed by social groups in order to make sense of the world from their own perspective” (p. 200). In other words, some people or groups, use their collective perspective to validate their behavior.

Critical discourse analysis examines the presence and utilization of ideology in various political reports. According to Wahl-Jorgensen and Hanitzsch (2009), ideology was previously seen as a ‘science of ideas’, but after few decades it has gained a negative connotation that was mirrored in the vague concept of ‘false consciousnesses used by Marx and Lenin. Van Dijk, however, argues that ideologies should not always be perceived negatively because ideologies, as social norms shared by groups, are not only used to legitimate power abuse (domination) but also to bolster resistance.

Ideology and critical discourse analysis (CDA) are connected because CDA helps reveal hidden beliefs in texts where the author's ideology is not clear. CDA techniques make the text easier to understand, uncovering its deeper meanings.

7. Discourse Analysis

Discourse analysis is a method of studying any text longer than a sentence in relation to its context. According to The Oxford English Dictionary discourse analysis as: "Linguistics, a method of analyzing the structure of texts or utterances longer than one sentence, taking into account both their linguistic content and their sociolinguistic context; analysis performed using this method."

As Wodak and Krzyżanowski (2008) put it: “discourse analysis provides a general framework to problem-oriented social research”. Basically, discourse analysis is used to conduct research on the use of language in context in a wide variety of social problems (i.e., issues in society that affect individuals negatively).

According to Snape and Spencer (2003, p. 200), discourse analysis originates from the discipline of sociology and is about:

"Examining the way knowledge is produced within different discourses and the performances, linguistic styles and rhetorical devices used in particular accounts."

Harris (1952), wrote that discourse analysis was valuable in order to study the exemplification of grammar and to focus on how a text sends its messages rather than what the messages within the text may be. In other words , (DA) help to understand how language is used to get attention or influence people's views by looking at how sentences are built, which words are chosen, and how they're arranged.

8. Critical Discourse Analysis

Many scholars employ the term "Critical Discourse Analysis" in a challenging manner. Although they use simplified versions to address various levels of understanding, they still utilize tools in their speeches and reports as hidden messages to demonstrate their power and control, which is what political discourse, seeks to analyze.

Van Dijk (1998a) defines CDA as a field that is chiefly concerned with scrutinizing written and spoken texts to uncover the discursive sources of power, dominance, inequality, and bias in the social and political context. In other words, Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) is about examining texts to uncover how language shapes power dynamics, inequality, and bias in society.

Scholars, of Critical Discourse Analysis agreed on a set of basic principles that guide their analysis.

According to Fairclough and Wodak (1997) summarized the main tenets of CDA as follow:

1. CDA looks at how language reveals social problems.

2. It shows how power dynamics are expressed through language.

3. Language shapes society and culture, not just communicates.

4. Language spreads and reinforces societal beliefs.

5. It considers historical context in studying language.

6. Language and society connect through various factors.

7. Understanding language helps explain social meanings.

8. Language is a tool for social influence and action.

Corson (1995) says that critical discourse analysis applies certain techniques like textual and stylistic features to find out the social relations, identities from the linguistic perspective. Discourses whether they reveal the social issues like dominance, hegemony are reflected through text or it is the discourses related to educational systems like schools, official documents are dealt by the analysis of the text.

9. Van Dijk CDA Model

In 1997, van Dijk introduced his renowned model, emphasizing the importance of cognitive processes involved in understanding and interpreting context. This model helps in understanding how language is used to construct and affirm power, social identity, and justify discrimination. It also sheds light on how discourse influences our understanding of the world and shapes our perceptions and stances.

Van Dijk states:

"Language is not only a means of expressing thoughts, but also a means of shaping them." (Van Dijk, 1998).

Language is not only a neutral tool for communication; rather, it actively engages in shaping and constructing our thoughts, perceptions, and understanding of the world .Hence, he presented a tow-dimensional model of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) to illustrate how different tactics interrelate when analyzing discourse.

Figure 1 shows the levels and the three-dimensional tactics of CDA

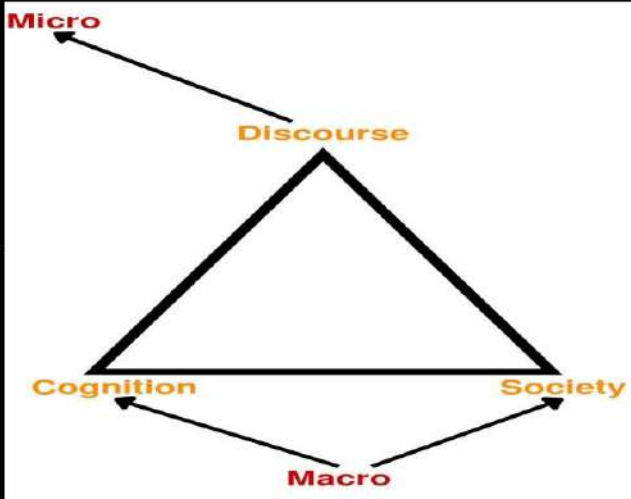
Levels	Dimensional of Discourse	Kinds of Analysis
Micro The micro level of analysis focuses on communication , discourse, verbal interactions, and language usage.	**Discourse:** Discourse covers any form of communication, whether it's spoken words, written text, body language, images, or other signs.	
Macro The macro level deals with social order, power dynamics, dominance hierarchies, and inequality among participants.	**Cognition:** Cognition is all about our thoughts, feelings, values, goals, and other mental stuff, whether it's personal or social. **Society:** society is a mix of small and large structures shaped by how different groups interact, hold power, and deal with inequality.	

Figure 01: Van Dijk's (1997) three-dimensional Model of CDA

9.1. Phases of examination

The Van Dijk model for CDA is considered a type of social activity influenced by social interactions. This approach strongly focuses on examining the hidden social contexts of discourse and how they are utilized to reinforce power structures. This analysis covers two dimensions. The linguistic elements of the dialogue, including grammar, vocabulary, and syntax, constitute the text dimension. Van Dijk (1995) suggests two dimensions of CDA framework analysis:

A. Discourse encompasses diverse forms of communication like speech, writing, body language, images, and other symbols.

B. Society composes dimensions of micro and macro approaches

C. Cognitive approach to dealing with power issues.

1/ Discourse structure:

Van Dijk (1995) sees discourse as a crucial element in analyzing ideology, as ideologies are often implicitly conveyed and perpetuated through discourse and communication, with social cognition serving as the link between society and discourse.

2/ Van Dijk (2009 p. 64) emphasis the cognitive dimensions of both producing and understanding discourse. He contends that there isn't a direct or linear relationship between discourse patterns and social structures, but rather discourses operate through a cognitive interface, which involves the mental representations of language users as individuals and as members of society.

3/ society involves both local and universal structures defined by group relationships, power dynamics, and inequalities.

9.2. Syntactic structure:

According van Dijk's stages, which explain how linguistic elements in discourse are utilized, produced, and understood, it also contributes to enhancing the audience's comprehension by understanding the hidden and complete messages in reports and interviews.

Linguistic forms, as defined by van Dijk, include aspects like how words are chosen and used, the patterns of action and agency in sentences, whether the voice is active or passive, converting verbs into nouns, the speaker's mood or attitude, options for expressing certainty or negation, the use of pronouns, the organization of topics within a text, where attention is directed for emphasis, and methods for maintaining coherence and connection throughout discourse.

This research will focus solely on word choice, the use of pronouns, and comparison words. They will be used to analyze speeches from the news channels BBC and Al Jazeera net regarding the topic of the October 7th Hamas attacks.

9.2.1. The use of word choice

Word choice refers to vocabulary or word which is varied with the particular style or form of the text, personal judgment, social or cultural background of the writers (Van Dijk 1991, p210)

The selection of words to describe a particular view positively compared to another in a negative way; labels used to enhance or degrade a person, place, thing, or group, etc., and pro or con contextual explanations affect the delivery and reception of a story. According to (Dijk 1991: 210). The word ‘said’ is also commonly used in news reporting because it is neutral.

9.2.2. The use of pronouns

Pronouns play a crucial role in analyzing discourse. They are words that replace nouns or noun phrases and can refer to individuals, things, or ideas. By examining pronouns, discourse analysts aim to understand how speakers use language to express social and interpersonal connections and create meaning. To Billig (1995), a speaker’s choice to use we invokes the sense of unity within a particular groups which is addressed and the boundaries between many groups included in we are entangled. He describes the usage of we as a rhetorical device used to present the interests of small fractions as common interests. The usage of he is said to play an important role in the syntax employed for evoking nationalism. The personal pronouns you and we are used to personalize the communication in order to accomplish implicitness towards the audience (Woods, 2006).

Politicians symbolically place themselves at the center of national attention, acknowledging that although they may not reach every individual directly, they are mindful that their communications could extend beyond their intended audience. Pronouns serve as a key linguistic resource through which power relations, identities, and ideologies are negotiated and constructed in discourse. (Fairclough, 2003).

9.2.3. The use of comparison words

The use of comparison words plays a significant role in understanding how language connects to social, cultural, and political power structures.

In contrast to racist talk, which negatively compares outgroups and positively compares in groups, in anti-racist talk, we may negatively compare our country or government with repulsive undemocratic regimes.

According to (bell hooks. 1995) anti-racist discourse, we must confront the injustices within our own society rather than perpetuate narratives of superiority."

Robin Di Angelo (2018) states Racist discourse thrives on the dehumanization of others; anti-racist discourse seeks to humanize all.

10. Empirical Studies

The intricate and meticulous nature of the CDA model has sparked the interest of discourse analysts, who have endeavored to scrutinize various political speeches delivered by politicians globally, thus unveiling the underlying power dynamics and ideologies at play. The following are some articles highlights select studies in the realm of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA).

The article from "The Times of Israel" about the 'Nature Party' near Kibbutz Re’im is analyzed using Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), specifically the Van Dijk model. It 3 examines the power relations and media portrayal of the event, which was disrupted by rocket and gunfire, causing casualties. The incident, linked to an attack by Hamas on "October 7, 2023", is depicted as a terrifying ordeal for the attendees. Through CDA, the article's language use is scrutinized to reveal how it shapes the narrative around power, social inequality, and ideology amid conflict. This analysis underscores the need for critical examination of media narratives to gain a nuanced understanding of societal challenges.

The article provides a comprehensive account of the October 7 attacks, as reported by Isabel Kershner in The New York Times. It details the Israeli military's strategic release of raw footage to international journalists, capturing the violent aftermath of the Hamas-led assaults. This includes body camera, dashcam, and social media content that vividly illustrates the chaos and suffering of those affected. Academically, the article can be examined through Critical

Discourse Analysis (CDA), using the Van Dijk model to analyze the power dynamics and media representation of the incident. This method scrutinizes the language and portrayal within the media narrative, connecting it to the wider conflict context and its societal implications. The analysis underscores the critical need to engage with media narratives for a deeper understanding of the intricacies of social conflicts.

In the next article by Yolande Knell, Raffi Berg and David Gritten from BBC News is critically examined using Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), particularly employing the Van Dijk model. This analysis explored the power dynamics and media representation of the event, considering the varied international reactions and the language used to describe the attacks. It delved into how the narrative is constructed and the implications it has on perceptions of power, social inequality, and ideology within the context of the conflict. Such an examination highlight the importance of critically engaging with media narratives to understand the complex societal challenges they reflect. It presented a multifaceted view of the international response to the attacks by Hamas. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas asserts the right of the Palestinian people to self-defense against what he terms the "terror of settlers and occupation troops." This stance is juxtaposed with strong international denunciation, including US President Joe Biden's firm support for Israel's right to self-defense and UN Secretary General António Guterres's expression of horror at the attacks on civilians. The UK's Foreign Secretary, James Cleverly, also unequivocally condemns the attack, while Qatar's foreign ministry holds Israel solely accountable for the violence escalation.

The CNN article discussing the conflict between Israel and Hamas on "October 7, 2023" is analyzed using Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) of Van Dijk model, focusing on power dynamics, ideological positioning, social inequality, and media representation. The report details the escalation of violence between the two sides, with Israel declaring itself "at war" following extensive rocket attacks from Gaza and incursions by Palestinian militants into Israeli territory. The analysis using Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) focuses on how language in media coverage of the Israel-Hamas conflict emphasizes destruction, casualties, social inequalities, and human suffering. This framing influences public perceptions by highlighting power struggles and ideological differences between the two parties. It stresses the significance of critically evaluating media representations to reveal the underlying structures of power, inequality, and ideology inherent in narratives surrounding complex societal issues like this conflict.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this theoretical chapter has explored various aspects of discourse, including its definition, political discourse, ideology within discourse, discourse analysis, and Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) with an emphasis on Van Dijk's CDA model. It is evident that discourse is a powerful tool that shapes our perceptions of the world and influences social and political processes. By employing discourse analysis and the critical approach of CDA, scholars can uncover the underlying ideologies and power dynamics embedded in discourse, leading to a more comprehensive understanding of societal frameworks and striving towards a more inclusive and just society. In the other hand, the coverage of the October 7th, 2023 events by major media outlets like Al Jazeera net and BBC illustrates how media discourse influences the presentation of complex issues. While Al Jazeera net delved into the reasons behind Hamas' attack on Israel, BBC maintained a more neutral stance, focusing on the human impact of the conflict. This discrepancy highlights the role of language and narrative framing in shaping public perception, with implications that extend beyond immediate reporting to impact broader geopolitical dynamics and the role of media in society.

CHAPTER-II:

Methodology and Discussion of the Findings

Part Two:
Practical Part

Introduction

This chapter primarily outlines the research design and methodology, detailing the data collection and analysis techniques utilized in this study. It delves into the examination of speech content reported by the news channels Al Jazeera net and the BBC on the date of the Hamas attack on Israel on October 7th. Additionally, it elaborates on the analytical tools employed for data analysis and the methodologies applied in the research process. Ultimately, the chapter presents and discusses the findings derived from the study.

1. Design and Methodology

This descriptive research is aimed at analyzing Al Jazeera net and BBC channels discourse about Hamas attack on Israel of the 7th October using Van Dijk's CDA model. Gay (1992: 217) claims that descriptive research entails gathering information in order to test theories or respond to inquiries about the existing condition of the study's subject. Descriptive research establishes and documents the state of the world. Therefore, this study describes how language constructs identities and shapes public opinion used by the channels on the 7th October, and it explains the images of power and ideology portrayed.

The approach adopted in this study is the qualitative method approach, which is defined by Creswell & Poth (2018) as a systematic, subjective approach used by, researchers to explore complex social phenomena from the perspective of those being studied. It emphasizes understanding the context, meanings, and experiences of individuals to gain rich insights into human behavior. The qualitative approach is used to explore and understand how to convey and communicate information to others and influence them and ideology.

2. Instrument of the study

The collected data are analyzed using the van Dijk CDA model (1997), which aids in examining the linguistic features of the 7th Hamas attack. This model consists of three interconnected analyses, each representing an aspect of the model.

These elements include:

1. Discourse: How language shapes social interaction.

2. Cognition: Mental processes for understanding and interpreting the world.

3. Society: A group of people living together with shared norms and values.

These elements are frequently used by news channels indicating the success of the analysis. They help in delivering accurate and comprehensive reports, as well as assisting viewers in developing their critical understanding of media messages.

3. Corpus of the Study

On October 7, 2023, the Palestinian resistance in Gaza launched Operation Al-Aqsa Flood against Israel, encompassing ground, naval, and aerial attacks. This resulted in Palestinian elements infiltrating numerous settlements in Gaza. The commencement of the operation was announced by Mohammed Deif, the chief of staff in the Al-Qassam Brigades, and it was regarded as the most potent response to Israel in a long time. This event was chosen for study due to its geopolitical significance, as well as being a global issue that attracts the attention of individuals and international organizations.

In this study, both BBC and Al Jazeera approached the subject from different perspectives. The article, titled "An unprecedented resistance attack from Gaza on Israel and Tel Aviv 'prepares for war'", by Al Jazeera Net. On the other hand, BBC's report titled "Hamas raped and mutilated women on October 7th" and "what happened during the Hamas attacks on Israel?"

4. Data Analysis procedures

Van Dijk’s (1997) CDA model's the study utilized theoretical steps to examine the structure, the researcher chose the following linguistics aspects:

1- The use of pronouns

2- The comparison words

3- Power choice

The research select this techniques aligns with research objectives.

- Polarization, implication meaning and comparison Van Dijk elements.

- The researcher studied goals and took these elements.

- Gathering Hamas attack reports and analysis.

- Applying Van Dijk CDA elements to examine the syntactic structure

A- The use of pronouns.

B- The comparison words

C- Power choice.

- Advancing the elements to demonstrate their effectiveness.

5. Results

5.1. Ideology reflected in Al Jazeera net and BBC Word Choice

5.1.1 Al Jazeera net:

The ideology reflected in the excerpt from Al Jazeera news portrays Palestinian resistance and shows a clear bias in favor of the resistance and Hamas, in a positive light, highlighting their military operations as a force against Israeli aggression. The language used emphasizes the Palestinian perspective of resistance and revenge, using terms that support the resistance. This narrative leans towards supporting the Palestinian resistance cause while portraying Israel as the aggressor. Additionally, the selective reports of casualties and the capture of Israelis by Hamas further reinforce this pro-resistance ideology evident in Al Jazeera's news coverage.

5.1.2 BBC

Both BBC and Al Jazeera Arabic present various words related to Israel and Hamas in their reports and breaking news, highlighting the ideologies associated with each. Most repeated words are: Hamas, killers, victims, Massacres,

5.2 The use of pronouns:

5.2.1 Al Jazeera net:

Al Jazeera's use of pronouns in the news extract primarily focuses on highlighting the actions and positions of the different parties involved in the conflict. The pronouns "it", "its", "there", and "its own" are used to refer to different entities like the Israeli army, media reports, hospitals, and the Palestinian resistance. This neutral and objective use of pronouns helps maintain clarity and specificity in identifying the subjects and their actions within the ongoing events without introducing unnecessary ambiguity or bias.

5.2.2. BBC

In covering the Israel-Hamas conflict, the BBC and Al Jazeera net use different pronouns like "we" and "they". These pronouns help shape the story, showing who's involved and what they're doing. This helps viewers understand the conflict from each outlet's perspective.

5.3 The use of comparison words

5.3.1 Al Jazeera net:

Al Jazeera's news article analyses the ongoing conflict between Gaza and Israel, highlighting Hamas' actions as resistance and the seriousness of the situation. The article uses military terms and detailed information on casualties, contrasting with

Israeli media's lack of transparency. The article also highlights the strategic response of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defence Minister Yoav Gallant to the situation

5.3.2 BBC

Comparison words are used to show differences or similarities between Hamas and Israel, frame issues, and construct different perspectives. They help reveal underlying meanings and power dynamics in discourse. And play a crucial role in enhancing audience's understanding.

6. Discussion

6.1 Ideology Reflected in Al Jazeera and BBC discourse word choice

6.1.1 Al Jazeera net

The analysis of the ideology reflected in Al Jazeera news' word choice demonstrates a clear emphasis on portraying the actions of Hamas as acts of resistance against Israel. The use of phrases such as "an unprecedented resistance attack" and "Operation Al-Aqsa Flood" conveys a narrative of defiance and opposition, framing the conflict as a struggle against perceived oppression. The language employed, such as "massive military operation", "firing of thousands of rockets", and "infiltration operations", aims to highlight the strength and determination of the resistance movement. Additionally, the reference to Hamas as the "Islamic Resistance Movement" and the mention of the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades as the military arm of Hamas further underscores the ideological perspective presented in the news coverage. The contrast in language used to describe the actions of Hamas and the Israeli military, such as "Resistance bombing" versus "Operation Iron Swords", serves to frame the conflict in a specific ideological context, emphasizing the narrative of resistance and struggle against perceived aggression.

Extract 01: "**An unprecedented resistance attack** from Gaza on Israel and Tel Aviv "prepares for war"

Extract 02: "The Commander-in-Chief of the Al-Qassam Brigades, Muhammad Al-Deif, announced the start of **Operation "Al-Aqsa Flood"** against Israel and the firing of thousands of rockets towards it.

Extract 03: "launched a **massive military operation** against Israel",

Extract 04: "Which included the **firing of thousands of rockets** and missiles,"

Extract 05: "**Infiltration operations**, storming settlements, and capturing Israelis."

Extract 06: "The military arm of the **Islamic Resistance Movement** (Hamas)",

Extract 07: "**Resistance bombing** targeted a large number of towns from south of Tel Aviv to north of the Gaza border"

Extract 08: "For its part, Israeli Channel 13 said that the Israeli army is launching **Operation "Iron Swords"** against the Gaza Strip."

BBC

After analyzing what was stated by the BBC channel, we noticed that firstly, the word 'killing' was repeated many times throughout the BBC analysis in order to alert the audience to the

dangerous situation. Secondly, the BBC used both the words 'raped' and 'mutilated' to enhance understanding of the seriousness of the issue. Thirdly, the BBC used the term 'sexual violence' or sexual abuse 'to sensationalize this bad action. Fourthly, using terms like shot, blood, and rocket strikes to show how Hamas attacks aggressively. Lastly, using the term 'victim' to describe the suffering of the Israeli people.

Extract 09:"On the morning of 7 October, waves of Hamas gunmen stormed across Gaza's border into Israel, **killing** about 1,200 people. Those killed included children, the elderly, and 364 young people at a music festival."

Extract 10: "Palestinian officials say 161 people killed"

The word 'killing' or 'killed' is repeated many times in order to influence the audience by directing their attention to the clarity of the danger resulting from the Hamas and Israel war.

Extract 11: Breaking news

Emergency services said "40 victims killed and 700 reported to be injured"

Victims ranged from children, teenagers to elderly. BBC reported all human losses, including injuries and deaths caused by Hamas, without exception. (Children, elderly and women)

6.2 The use of Pronouns

6.2.1 Al Jazeera net

Al Jazeera presented a detailed account of the escalating conflict between Gaza and Israel, employing distinct pronouns to delineate the involved parties. Throughout the report, Gaza and Palestinian forces are consistently referred to with pronouns such as "Palestinian resistance", "Hamas", and "the attacks from Gaza". This choice of pronouns creates a clear narrative positioning these entities as the primary aggressors in the conflict. In contrast, Israel is consistently depicted through pronouns like "Israel", "the Israeli army", and "Israeli media", illustrating them in the context of defense or response to the attacks. By using such distinct pronouns, Al Jazeera reinforces the perceived roles of both sides in the conflict, highlighting the tensions and polarization inherent in the situation. Additionally, the incorporation of direct quotes and updates from individuals involved further solidifies the portrayal of differing viewpoints and actions within the conflict. Overall, the strategic use of pronouns in the report

serves to emphasize the dichotomy between Gaza and Israel, shaping the reader's understanding of the ongoing hostilities between the two parties.

Extract 12: "Since this morning, the **Palestinian resistance** has launched intense missile barrages from the Gaza Strip towards Israel,"

Extract 13: "For its part, Israeli Radio said that **Hamas** had captured 35 Israelis since the start of the attack from Gaza."

Extract 14: "An unprecedented **resistance attack** from Gaza on Israel and Tel Aviv "prepares for war"

Extract 15: "lunched a massive military operation against **Israel**, which…"

Extract 16: "the start of Operation "Al-Aqsa Flood" against **Israel** and the firing of thousands..."

Extract 17: "... and shells that targeted **Israel.**"

Extract 18: "Since this morning, the Palestinian resistance has launched intense missile barrages from the Gaza Strip towards **Israel**,"

Extract 19: "Al Jazeera's correspondent said that the attacks against **Israel** led to the death of one person in..."

Extract 20: "While the **Israeli army** announced "preparedness for a state of war after Palestinians infiltrated the heart of Israel."

Extract 21: "Israeli Channel 13 said that the **Israeli army** is launching Operation "Iron Swords" against the Gaza Strip."

Extract 22: "**Israeli media** indicated that "it is not possible to count" the numbers of dead and wounded yet,"

6.2.2 BBC

Pronouns in the BBC news excerpt guide the narrative of the Israel-Hamas conflict, showing who's involved and what they're doing.

Extract 23: "We are at war and we will win." Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu quoted using personal pronoun "we" in his political speeches to make citizens feel included share responsibility and share solidarity at this difficult time.

Extract 24: “several people involved in collecting and identifying the bodies of those killed in the attack they told us they had seen multiple signs of sexual abuse”.

•The pronoun "They" is used to refer to survivors. Emphasizing that Hamas has harmed the Israeli people.

•The use of demonstrative pronoun "those” is used to refer to killed in the attack.

• The Use of "Us” to separate The BBC as news channel work to convey evidence as much as possible.

Extract 25: “Videos of naked and bloodied women filmed by Hamas on the day of the attack, and photographs of bodies taken at the sites afterwards, suggest that women were sexually targeted by their attackers”.

• The use of Possessive pronoun “Their " is used to refer to Hamas to confirm that the sexual violence is do by Hamas.

Extract 26:"Hamas fighters gang rape a woman and mutilate her, before the last of her attackers shot her in the head as he continued to rape her."

• The use of possessive pronouns her refer to the woman who raped and killed by Hamas.

Extract 27:"**He** penetrated her, and shot her in the head before he finished. **He** didn't even pick up his pants; **he** shoots and ejaculates".

• The use of personal pronoun "He" refer to gunmen who raped and shot her in her head.

6.3 The use of comparison words

6.3.2 Al Jazeera net

The comparison words used in Al Jazeera’s report serve to highlight the contrasting actions and consequences between Gaza and Israel in the ongoing conflict. Phrases such as “an unprecedented resistance attack from Gaza on Israel” juxtaposed with “Tel Aviv prepares for war” underscore the asymmetry of power and threat perception between the two sides.

Additionally, the comparison of Hamas launching a “massive military operation against Israel” with Israel’s activation of “Iron Dome” and “preparedness for a state of war” showcases the differing strategies and responses employed by each party. The report’s use of comparison words accentuates the escalating tensions and violence while framing the conflict through contrasting actions and preparations undertaken by Gaza and Israel.

Extract 28: “**An unprecedented resistance attack from Gaza on Israel** and Tel Aviv “prepares for war”

Extract 29: “An unprecedented resistance attack from Gaza on Israel and **Tel Aviv “prepares for war”**

Extract 30: “launched a **massive military operation against Israel**, which...”

Extract 31: “The Israeli military spokesman announced the activation of **Iron Dome** and the sounding of sirens,”

Extract 32: “while the Israeli army announced “**preparedness for a state of war** after Palestinians infiltrated the heart of Israel.”

6.3.2. BBC

The BBC uses comparisons in their Critical Discourse Analysis reports to highlight the differences between Gaza and Israel's actions and consequences in the ongoing conflict, aiding people in better understanding the situation.

Extract33:"On the morning of 7 October, waves of Hamas gunmen stormed across Gaza's border into Israel, killing about 1,200 people. Hamas also fired thousands of rockets.

Those killed included children, the elderly and 364 young people at a music festival. "

"An Israeli military campaign has followed, which has killed thousands in the Palestinian territory.

More than 33,000 Palestinians have been killed, and tens of thousands injured by Israeli strikes since the start of the war, according to Gaza's Hamas-run health ministry. It says most were women and children."

•Here, the BBC focused on the military actions initiated by Hamas and the subsequent reactions from Israel.

Extract34:"Hamas took more than 250 others to Gaza as hostages."

"Hamas also wants thousands of Palestinian prisoners in Israel to be freed and for an end to the blockade of the Gaza Strip by Israel and Egypt."

•Here, the BBC reported that Hamas took hostages with the aim of securing the release of thousands of Palestinians held by Israel.

Extract35:"Hamas justified its attack as a response to what it calls Israeli crimes against the Palestinian people."

•The October 7th attacks by Hamas were just a reaction to what they see as Israel's crimes against the Palestinian people.

7. Recapitulation

From the previous analysis and discussion of Al Jazeera and BBC discourse towards invasion Hamas Attack on The 7th October, the researcher arrived to the following concluding points

- Al Jazeera's word choice reflects a bias favoring the Palestinian resistance movement and portraying Israel as the aggressor, highlighting resistance actions in a positive light.

- Pronouns are neutrally utilized in Al Jazeera's coverage to identify entities involved and maintain clarity without introducing bias.

- Comparison words are employed by both Al Jazeera and the BBC to contrast Hamas's military actions with Israel's responses, illustrating differing strategies and consequences in the conflict.

- The use of distinct pronouns and comparison words by both news outlets shapes the narrative of the ongoing conflict between Gaza and Israel, emphasizing different perspectives and ideologies in their coverage.

Conclusion

In this chapter were outlined the methodology, results, and discussion. The analysis of news excerpts from Al Jazeera and the BBC on the Israel-Hamas conflict reveals contrasting ideological biases, word choice strategies, pronoun usage, and comparison words employed by each outlet. Al Jazeera portrays a pro-resistance perspective, emphasizing Hamas actions against perceived Israeli aggression, while the BBC focuses on human costs and atrocities through emotive language. Pronouns shape narratives differently, with Al Jazeera neutrally identifying involved parties and the BBC utilizing personal pronouns for engagement. Both outlets utilize comparison words to contrast actions, showcasing power dynamics and differing strategies. These distinct approaches highlight how media outlets frame conflicts through nuanced techniques, shaping audiences' perceptions and understanding of complex issues.

Conclusion

General Conclusion

The purpose of this analytical study is to uncover the hidden meanings and interpretations behind the use of specific vocabulary and linguistic constructions by both BBC and Al Jazeera in their coverage of the Hamas attacks on October seventh. The analysis process was divided into three stages: society, cognition, and discourse structure.

To achieve the study objectives, the following questions were posed:

1) How do both BBC and Al Jazeera choose their words, pronouns, and comparison words?

2) What are the differences between BBC and Aljazeera net (ideology, power relation, bias.)To answer this question, van Dijk's CDA (1997) model was applied.

The use of choice words demonstrated the proficiency of both BBC and Al Jazeera in conveying information and uncovering facts through the media. Additionally, the use of pronouns showcased the skill of the news channels (BBC and Al Jazeera) in revealing underlying intentions in reports and speeches. Also, the use of comparison words clarified and differentiated between both sides (Hamas and Israel). Importantly, news channels (BBC and Al Jazeera) played a crucial role in enhancing the audience's way of thinking through the subtle messages conveyed.

Al Jazeera's coverage delves into the military confrontation between Gaza and Israel, detailing Hamas' Operation "Al-Aqsa Flood" as a response to Israeli aggression. The report highlights intense missile barrages from Gaza towards various Israeli cities, prompting the activation of defense systems and a state of war readiness by Israel. Casualty reports indicate deaths and injuries on both sides, with Hamas allegedly, capturing Israelis and causing significant harm. The narrative emphasizes the volatile situation and the escalation of violence.

Contrastingly, the BBC's report focuses on the heinous acts committed during the conflict, specifically highlighting incidents of rape, sexual violence, and mutilation carried out by Hamas fighters. Detailed descriptions of the attacks include graphic evidence gathered from witnesses, morgue staff, and survivors, portraying a harrowing picture of the atrocities inflicted on women during the Hamas assaults in October. The story underscores the trauma and enduring psychological impact on victims, survivors, and witnesses, shedding light on the brutality and systematic nature of the crimes perpetrated.

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Appendices

BBC

The BBC has seen and heard evidence of rape, sexual violence and mutilation of women during the 7 October Hamas attacks.

WARNING: CONTAINS EXTREMELY GRAPHIC DESCRIPTIONS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND RAPE

Several people involved in collecting and identifying the bodies of those killed in the attack told us they had seen multiple signs of sexual assault, including broken pelvises, bruises, cuts and tears, and that the victims ranged from children and teenagers to pensioners.

Video testimony of an eyewitness at the Nova music festival, shown to journalists by Israeli police, detailed the gang rape, mutilation and execution of one victim.

Videos of naked and bloodied women filmed by Hamas on the day of the attack, and photographs of bodies taken at the sites afterwards, suggest that women were sexually targeted by their attackers.

Few victims are thought to have survived to tell their own stories.

Their last moments are being pieced together from survivors, body-collectors, morgue staff and footage from the attack sites.

Short presentational grey line

Police have privately shown journalists a single horrific testimony that they filmed of a woman who was at the Nova festival site during the attack.

She describes seeing Hamas fighters gang rape a woman and mutilate her, before the last of her attackers shot her in the head as he continued to rape her.

In the video, the woman known as Witness S mimes the attackers picking up and passing the victim from one to another.

"She was alive," the witness says. "She was bleeding from her back."

She goes on to detail how the men cut off parts of the victim's body during the assault.

"They sliced her breast and threw it on the street," she says. "They were playing with it."

The victim was passed to another man in uniform, she continues.

"He penetrated her, and shot her in the head before he finished. He didn't even pick up his pants; he shoots and ejaculates."

One man we spoke to from the festival site said he heard the "noises and screams of people being murdered, raped, decapitated".

To our question about how he could be sure - without seeing it - that the screams he heard indicated sexual assault rather than other kinds of violence, he said he believed while listening at the time that it could only have been rape.

A statement he made through a support organisation describes it as "inhuman".

"Some women were raped before they were dead, some raped while injured, and some were already dead when the terrorists raped their lifeless bodies," his statement says. "I desperately wanted to help, but there was nothing I could do."

Police say they have "multiple" eye-witness accounts of sexual assault, but wouldn't give any more clarification on how many. When we spoke to them, they hadn't yet interviewed any surviving victims.

Hamas has rejected Israel's accusation that its men sexually assaulted women during the attacks.

Israel's Women's Empowerment Minister, May Golan, told the BBC that a few victims of rape or sexual assault had survived the attacks, and that they were all currently receiving psychiatric treatment.

"But very, very few. The majority were brutally murdered," she said. "They aren't able to talk - not with me, and not to anyone from the government [or] from the media."

Videos filmed by Hamas include footage of one woman, handcuffed and taken hostage with cuts to her arms and a large patch of blood staining the seat of her trousers.

In others, women carried away by the fighters appear to be naked or semi-clothed.

Multiple photographs from the sites after the attack show the bodies of women naked from the waist down, or with their underwear ripped to one side, legs splayed, with signs of trauma to their genitals and legs.

"It really feels like Hamas learned how to weaponise women's bodies from ISIS [the Islamic State group] in Iraq, from cases in Bosnia," said Dr Cochav Elkayam-Levy, a legal expert at the Davis Institute of International Relations at Hebrew University.

"It brings me chills just to know the details that they knew about what to do to women: cut their organs, mutilate their genitals, rape. It's horrifying to know this."

spoke with at least three girls who are now hospitalised for a very hard psychiatric situation because of the rapes they watched," Minister May Golan told me. "They pretended to be dead and they watched it, and heard everything. And they can't deal with it."

Israel's police chief Yaacov Shabtai said that many survivors of the attacks were finding it difficult to talk and that he thought some of them would never testify about what they saw or experienced.

"Eighteen young men and women have been hospitalised in mental health hospitals because they could no longer function," he said.

Others are reportedly suicidal. One of those working with the teams around survivors told the BBC that some had already killed themselves.

Much of the evidence has come from the volunteer body-collectors deployed after the attacks, and those who handled the bodies once they arrived at the Shura army base for identification.

One of the body-collectors volunteering with the religious organisation Zaka described to me signs of torture and mutilation which included, he said, a pregnant woman whose womb had been ripped open before she was killed, and her fetus stabbed while it was inside her.

The BBC has not been able to independently verify this account, and Israeli media reports have questioned some testimony from volunteers working in the traumatic aftermath of the Hamas attacks.

Another, Nachman Dyksztejna, provided written testimony of seeing the bodies of two women in kibbutz Be'eri with their hands and legs tied to a bed.

"One was sexually terrorised with a knife stuck in her vagina and all her internal organs removed," his statement says.

At the festival site, he says small shelters were "filled with piles of women. Their clothing was torn on the upper part, but their bottoms were completely naked. Piles and piles of women. […] When you took a closer look at their heads, you saw a single shot straight to the brain of each."

Hundreds of bodies were collected from the attack sites by volunteers.

Investigators admit that in those first chaotic days after the attacks, with some areas still active combat zones, opportunities to carefully document the crime scenes, or take forensic evidence, were limited or missed.

"For the first five days, we still had terrorists on the ground in Israel," May Golan said. "And there were hundreds, hundreds of bodies everywhere. They were burned, they were without organs, they were butchered completely."

"This was a mass casualty event," police spokesman Dean Elsdunne told journalists at a briefing.

"The first thing was to work on identifying the victims, not necessarily on crime scene investigation. People were waiting to hear what happened to their loved ones."

2. BBC

Israel and the Palestinian group Hamas have been at war since early October.

It began when Hamas gunmen launched an unprecedented attack on Israel from Gaza - the deadliest in Israel's history.

An Israeli military campaign has followed, which has killed thousands in the Palestinian territory.

What happened during the Hamas attacks on Israel?

On the morning of 7 October, waves of Hamas gunmen stormed across Gaza's border into Israel, killing about 1,200 people. Hamas also fired thousands of rockets.

Those killed included children, the elderly and 364 young people at a music festival.

Hamas took more than 250 others to Gaza as hostages.

The BBC has also seen evidence of rape and sexual violence during the Hamas attacks.

Hamas became the sole ruler of Gaza after violently ejecting political rivals in 2007.

It has an armed wing and was thought to have about 30,000 fighters before the start of the war.

The group, whose name stands for Islamic Resistance Movement, wants to create an Islamic state in place of Israel. Hamas rejects Israel's right to exist and is committed to its destruction.

Hamas justified its attack as a response to what it calls Israeli crimes against the Palestinian people.

These include security raids on Islam's third holiest site - the al-Aqsa Mosque, in occupied East Jerusalem - and Jewish settlement activity in the occupied West Bank.

Hamas also wants thousands of Palestinian prisoners in Israel to be freed and for an end to the blockade of the Gaza Strip by Israel and Egypt - something both countries say is for security.

It has fought several wars with Israel since it took power, fired thousands of rockets and carried out many other deadly attacks.

Israel has repeatedly attacked Hamas with air strikes and sent troops into Gaza in 2008 and 2014.

Hamas, or in some cases its armed wing alone, is considered a terrorist group by Israel, the US, the EU, and the UK, among others.

Iran backs Hamas with funding, weapons and training.

More than 33,000 Palestinians have been killed, and tens of thousands injured by Israeli strikes since the start of the war, according to Gaza's Hamas-run health ministry. It says most were women and children.

Following a temporary truce in late November, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) extended ground operations to southern Gaza.

Troops reached the heart of the second biggest city, Khan Younis, where the IDF said it believed top Hamas commanders were hiding. The IDF also pushed into refugee camps in central Gaza.

More than 33,000 Palestinians have been killed, and tens of thousands injured by Israeli strikes since the start of the war, according to Gaza's Hamas-run health ministry. It says most were women and children.

Mr. Netanyahu said in March that 13,000 Palestinian fighters had been killed, while about a month earlier the IDF said it had killed about 9,000 Hamas fighters, in addition to more than 1,000 of the attackers inside Israel on 7 October. It has not said how it came to this figure.

Israel says more than 250 of its soldiers have been killed in Gaza.

Homes and other buildings in Gaza have suffered from extensive damage and destruction.

They included elderly people and those with disabilities and medical conditions. The youngest was nine months old.

In Gaza, Hamas hid them in tunnels and fighters' homes. Unconfirmed reports suggest some have been held by other militant groups.

During November's truce, 105 hostages (81 Israelis and dual nationals, and 24 foreigners) were released in exchange for 240 Palestinians held in Israeli jails.

Four hostages had previously been freed by Hamas and three rescued by the IDF - one on 29 October and two on 12 February.

Three hostages were accidentally killed by Israeli troops who mistook them for Hamas fighters.

3.Al Jazeera net

Unprecedented attack by the resistance from Gaza on Israel, and Tel Aviv 'prepares for war.

> The Al-Qassam Brigades, the military wing of Hamas, launched a wide-ranging military operation against Israel today, including the firing of thousands of rockets and shells, infiltration

operations, and raids on settlements resulting in Israeli captures. The operation, named "Aqsa Storm," was announced by Al-Qassam Brigades' commander Mohammed Deif, who stated that over 5,000 rockets and shells were launched towards Israel. The Palestinian resistance intensified rocket barrages from Gaza towards Israel, alongside ground, sea, and air infiltrations, prompting alarm sirens in various areas including Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Ashdod, and Ashkelon. The Israeli military activated the Iron Dome defense system and sounded alarm sirens, declaring readiness for war after Palestinian infiltration into Israel. Meanwhile, Israeli Channel 13 reported the launch of Operation "Iron Swords" against Gaza. Attacks on Israel resulted in one death in Ashdod and direct injuries in Ashkelon, Be'er Sheva, and Kiryat Gat, with orders to seek shelter. Israeli radio reported that Hamas had captured 35 Israelis since the start of the Gaza offensive. Israeli media indicated that the numbers of casualties couldn't be determined yet, while Soroka Hospital in Be'er Sheva reported receiving over 80 injured. Medical sources confirmed two martyrs and five injuries arriving at Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in central Gaza. Israeli broadcasting authority mentioned that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Ya'akov Galant would hold an evaluation session with top security officials later today.