



Political Discourse Analysis: Media Framing of HAMAS in World Leaders' Opinion

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Abstract:

This article uses discourse analysis to examine how the media portrays HAMAS from international leaders' perspectives. It investigates the language methods, framing techniques, and underlying narratives used by world leaders to shape public comprehension of HAMAS using political discourse analysis. The research intends to reveal the many viewpoints, prejudices, and geopolitical factors that impacted the formation of HAMAS's image in the world arena by examining speeches, interviews, and official declarations. The findings help to develop a more sophisticated understanding of the intricate interplay between media depiction, political discourse, and worldwide perceptions of HAMAS.

Keywords: Political discourse analysis, HAMAS, Conflict, Framing

Abstrak:

Artikel ini menggunakan analisis wacana untuk mengkaji bagaimana media menggambarkan HAMAS dari sudut pandang para pemimpin internasional. Laporan ini menyelidiki metode bahasa, teknik pbingkaian, dan narasi mendasar yang digunakan oleh para pemimpin dunia untuk membentuk pemahaman publik tentang HAMAS menggunakan analisis wacana politik. Penelitian tersebut bermaksud mengungkap berbagai sudut pandang, prasangka, dan faktor geopolitik yang mempengaruhi pembentukan citra HAMAS di kancah dunia dengan mengkaji pidato, wawancara, dan deklarasi resmi. Temuan-temuan ini membantu mengembangkan pemahaman yang lebih canggih tentang interaksi yang rumit antara penggambaran media, wacana politik, dan persepsi HAMAS di seluruh dunia.

Kata Kunci: Analisis Wacana Politik, HAMAS, Konflik, Framing

INTRODUCTION

In the complex realm of global politics, the study of political discourse provides an important lens through which to understand how power and ideologies are communicated, legitimated, and contested. One important framework within this field is political discourse analysis (PDA), which focuses on how political actors use language to shape narratives, influence public perceptions, and advance particular agendas. This analytical approach becomes particularly relevant when examining how contentious issues are framed by the media and political leaders. One such issue is how Hamas, a Palestinian organization that has played a central role in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict,



is portrayed. (Rimmer, 2006) stated that the portrayal of Hamas by world leaders and the media serves as a case study of how discourse can influence international relations and shape global understanding of a highly polarizing topic. Hamas, officially the Islamic Resistance Movement, emerged in the late 1980s in response to the Israeli occupation, establishing itself as both a social and an activist entity in the Palestinian territories (Post, 2010).

Over the decades, Hamas has become a symbol of resistance for some, while others have labeled it a terrorist organization. These differences in views reflect not only geopolitical tensions but are also shaped by strategic discourses developed by world leaders and disseminated in the media. How Hamas is portrayed in political discourse can have profound effects on international politics, regional stability, and public understanding of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Media framing plays a pivotal role in shaping public perception by emphasizing certain aspects of a story while downplaying others, thereby influencing how audiences interpret events. This process becomes especially significant when applied to the representation of politically sensitive groups like Hamas. The ways in which international media outlets and global leaders present Hamas can differ significantly, with narratives ranging from portraying it as a legitimate resistance movement fighting for Palestinian self-determination to depicting it as a violent extremist group threatening regional peace. These competing narratives are closely tied to the political agendas and strategic interests of various states, and they reflect the broader ideological divides in the international community (Entman, 1993).

Political Discourse Analysis allows us to dissect the language and rhetorical strategies that leaders use when discussing Hamas, providing insight into the motivations behind their statements. By examining speeches, press statements, and interviews, PDA reveals how language is employed to justify policy decisions, shape international alliances, and appeal to domestic audiences. For instance, Western leaders, especially those from the United States and the European Union, often emphasize Hamas's militant actions and describe it using terms like "terrorist organization," aligning with broader counterterrorism frameworks. This framing is not only intended to delegitimize Hamas but also to justify military and diplomatic support for Israel as a key ally in the region.

In contrast, leaders from parts of the Middle East and the Global South often adopt



a different discursive strategy when addressing the issue of Hamas. These leaders may frame Hamas as a legitimate actor within the Palestinian national movement, emphasizing themes of resistance against occupation and self-determination. This alternative framing seeks to highlight the humanitarian crisis faced by Palestinians, positioning Hamas as part of a broader struggle for rights and sovereignty. Such narratives are often tied to historical contexts, drawing on a legacy of anti-colonial struggles and advocating for solidarity with the Palestinian cause (Van Dijk, 2006). The dichotomy in the portrayal of Hamas illustrates the complexity of international discourse and the role of media as an intermediary in shaping these narratives. The media does not merely act as a passive conduit for political messages but is an active participant in framing the discourse around Hamas. The interplay between media representations and political rhetoric influences public opinion, potentially swaying international policy decisions and shaping diplomatic relations between states. Understanding this dynamic is crucial for appreciating how narratives around contentious issues are constructed, contested, and disseminated on the global stage.

This analysis explores the intersection of media framing and political discourse in the context of Hamas, focusing on how world leaders use language to construct particular narratives and the broader implications for international relations. By delving into the various ways in which Hamas is framed, this study seeks to reveal the strategic use of discourse in shaping global perceptions, highlighting the role of rhetoric in one of the most enduring and complex conflicts of the modern era. As media and political discourse continue to evolve in response to geopolitical changes, the framing of Hamas remains a potent example of how language can influence both regional dynamics and the global political landscape.

Research Problem

According to the Introduction and research above, the research questions in this study are:

1. To find out how the media framed the opinions of world leaders about Hamas in the conflict between Israel and Palestine.

Problem Significances

This study aims to enhance the discipline of linguistics, especially in terms of political discourse analysis and fragmenting. The researcher wanted to gain a better understanding of the meaning and context of Media framing of HAMAS in world



leaders' opinions. Finally, this research can be a useful reference for English Department students and comedians who want to learn about the Media framing of HAMAS in world leaders' opinions.

Research Design

The researcher used a qualitative descriptive method. Researchers also use online media, such as CNN, FOX, and many others, to support the data. (Dawson, 2019) " Qualitative research explores attitudes, behavior, and experiences through such methods as interviews or focus groups. It attempts to get an in-depth opinion from participants." Researchers used discourse theory to discover the words of the head of state that framed the conflict between Palestine and Israel.

Research Instrument

The researcher acts as the main instrument in this research, collecting and analyzing data independently. Internet applications on mobile devices and desktops are used to search for data and Opinions from various world leaders opinions that researchers mentioned above.

Research Gap

Previously there had been research discussing this case regarding media framing of the Palestinian and Israeli issues. Researchers found several articles that discussed media discourse, including "Media Framing on Palestine – Israel conflict" by Harun Arrosyid and Umi Halwati (Arrosyid & Halwati, 2021). The article discusses media framing, and how the media depicts events currently happening in Palestine through the lens of discourse analysis. The researcher focused for metaphors, catchphrases, exemplars, depictions, visual images, roots, appeals to principle, and consequences. The results of this research are that the media takes a big role in dissecting news information. From the media results researched by Harun Arrosyid and Umi Halwati, everyone respects what is happening there as it is or is neutral.

DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

In the realm of language and communication, the terms "discourse" and "discourse analysis" are often used, but they represent distinct concepts and methodologies. To understand these differences, it's essential first to grasp the nature and scope of each. Discourse is the broader of the two concepts, encompassing the vast landscape of communication (Yusuf, 2019). It refers to the use of language in its various forms, be it



written, spoken, or even visual, to convey meaning and information. Essentially, discourse is the vessel through which individuals and societies express their thoughts, ideas, beliefs, and identities. It goes beyond simple words and phrases, encapsulating the complex interaction of cultural, social, and contextual aspects of communication. At its core, discourse represents the dynamic environment through which human expression and interaction take place.

Discourse analysis, on the other hand, is a specialized and systematic approach to examining and deconstructing discourse. It operates within a specific and multidisciplinary framework. Discourse analysis aims to uncover the hidden meanings, power dynamics, and underlying ideologies that are often embedded in communication. It seeks to explore the complex relationship between language and its various social, political, and cultural contexts. Discourse analysis, as a methodological and analytical tool, goes deeper into the structure, content, and context of discourse, with the ultimate goal of revealing the complexity of language and its implications. profound society that it brings. Examples of the application of discourse in everyday life are when we speak, interview, and give speeches. Discourse is how language can influence someone to convey an opinion or statement regarding something.

According to Rimmer (2006) Discourse analysis not only studies sentences but also within the sentence. Discourse has several scientific branches, but researchers take one of them, namely the political discourses. In the realm of politics, discourse encompasses speeches, debates, and discussions among politicians, activists, and citizens. It includes the use of language to shape public opinion, debate policy issues, and advocate for particular political ideologies.

Framing

Framing in discourse analysis is a concept that explores how language and communication are used to shape, emphasize, and present specific aspects of a given issue or topic (Tannen, 2003). It is a powerful tool in media, politics, and mass communication because it influences how people perceive and interpret information. Essentially, framing involves highlighting certain aspects of a story or issue while downplaying or ignoring others, ultimately shaping the story and the audience's understanding. fake about that topic. Framing assumes that language is not neutral; it conveys the biases, opinions, and intentions of those who use it. By choosing specific words, phrases, or images, writers can construct a story that advocates a particular point

of view or interpretation of an issue. This narrative can influence how individuals form opinions and make decisions about a certain topic. Capital framing is not negative; it is a fundamental aspect of communication.

However, it is important for individuals to be aware of framing techniques and to critically analyze how issues are presented in the media and other forms of communication. Understanding framing can help individuals become more informed consumers of information and develop a deeper understanding of complex topics. Additionally, those involved in communication activities, such as journalists, policymakers, and public speakers, must be aware of the potential impact of their framing choices on public opinion, audience's scores and decisions.

RESULTS

Researchers found data from the mass media regarding the views of heads of state regarding the conflict in Palestine and Israel:

Country	Statement	Explanation	Source Link
Canada (Justin Trudeau)	"HAMAS'S actions are absolutely indefensible and Israel has the full right to defend itself in accordance with international law"	according to Trudeau, Israel has the full right to defend itself using international law. This sentence frames Israel as an oppressed country even though the real evidence in the field is that Palestine was colonized by Israel and Palestine is fighting for its rights in international law.	https://www.google.com/amp/s/halifax.citynews.ca/2023/10/20/canada-firm-and-steadfast-in-call-for-two-state-solution-for-israel-palestinians/amp/
Europe Union	"EU stands in solidarity with Israel, which has the right to defend itself in line with international law, in the face of such violent and indiscriminate attacks."	European Union gives full support to Israel for the oppression carried out by Palestine. This statement was made to make the public believe that Palestine especially HAMAS'S troop is a war criminal, but the facts on the ground are that Israel is the mastermind behind the creation of this conflict.	https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2023/10/07/statement-by-the-high-representative-on-behalf-of-the-european-union-on-the-attacks-against-israel/#:~:text=The%20EU%20stands%20in%20solidarity,such%20violent%20and%20indiscriminate%20attacks
France (Macron)	"Hamas does not represent the Palestinian people."	Based on the statement of Emanuel Macron as the prime minister of France. Here it is clear that Prime Minister Macron is not pro-Palestine because it is clear that HAMAS is a Palestinian fighter who feels moved by the injustice that is happening in his own land. they fought back on the basis of defending their homeland which was colonized by Israel.	https://www.france24.com/en/middle-east/20231024-F0%9F%94%B4-live-china-fm-tells-israeli-counterpart-all-countries-have-right-to-self-defence

<p>United Kingdom (Rishi Sunak)</p>	<p>"Meeting with President Abbas today I expressed my condolences for the loss of civilian lives in Gaza, including at the Al Ahli hospital. We know Hamas doesn't speak for the Palestinian people. The UK supports the Palestinian Authority in trying to establish stability,"</p>	<p>In this case, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak stated that Hamas does not represent Palestine, even though Hamas is actually a fighter who defends the Palestinian people who are oppressed by the colonialism carried out by Israel.</p>	<p>https://www.livemint.com/news/world/hamas-doesnt-speak-for-palestinian-people-uk-pm-rishi-sunak-meets-president-abbas-11697854815718.html</p>
<p>Israel (Benjamin Netanyahu)</p>	<p>"Once we defeat Hamas, we have to make sure that there's no new Hamas, no resurgence of terrorism, and right now the only force that is able to secure that is Israel."</p>	<p>Hamas has not been defeated and is still fighting against their country and Netanyahu said that there was "no resurgence of terrorism". Hamas here is labeled as a terrorist group, according to researchers, Netanyahu can say this because of the Hamas attack on Israel in October 2023, but this happened because of Israeli atrocities against the Palestinian people previously.</p>	<p>https://www.npr.org/2023/11/17/1213684429/benjamin-netanyahu-israel-hamas-gaza</p>
<p>Italia (Giorgia Meloni)</p>	<p>"I have the impression that this was the real aim of the Hamas attack, not to defend the rights of the Palestinian people, but an attack that would create an unbridgeable gap between the Palestinians and the Israelis, meaning that the target is all of us, and we cannot fall into this trap, which would be very stupid."</p>	<p>Based on her statement, we can conclude that Meloni's statement does not represent what Hamas is doing.</p>	<p>to-hamas-trap-2023-10-21/</p>

CONCLUSION

The Political Discourse Analysis article meticulously dissects the intricate interplay between media framing and formulating world leaders' opinions on Hamas. This insightful examination reveals the substantial influence wielded by media narratives in shaping political perspectives. Throughout the comprehensive analysis, the article elucidates how specific aspects of Hamas are selectively emphasized or marginalized in media portrayals, contributing to the construction of nuanced and, at times, biased narratives. By shedding light on these dynamics, the research underscores the profound impact of media framing on the geopolitical landscape. It advocates for a heightened



awareness among policymakers and diplomats regarding the potential biases inherent in media representations, prompting a more discerning approach to interpreting information. The article contributes significantly to the ongoing dialogue on the intersection of media, politics, and international relations, urging a more critical examination of the sources that shape global opinions on contentious issues like Hamas.

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