Levels of Dependence of Iraqi University Students on Arab Satellite Channels to Obtain Information About the Russian-Ukrainian War (A Field Study of a Sample of Baghdad University Students)¹

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ABSTRACT

The Russian-Ukrainian war represented a real test for satellite channels in terms of the public's reliance on them to obtain news and information related to this war, according to the theory of relying on the media, at a time when there is a delicate competition between satellite channels and social networking sites to win the audience. This research came to reveal these facts, and it is one of the descriptive researches that are not satisfied with describing the phenomenon only, but rather go beyond that to analyze the causes and the objective conditions accompanying it in an objective, methodological scientific context. The research consists of a methodological framework, another theoretical, and a third applied through the questionnaire form for a sample of the audience that included 200 individuals. The study concluded with a set of results of the authority of lights on the research problem. University students from different disciplines (humanitarian and scientific).

Keywords: students; university; Iraq; satellite channels; Russian-Ukrainian war

INTRODUCTION

The theory of dependence on the media is described as one of the most prominent theories of the process of influence, and it is related to sociology and social psychology, as it is concerned with analyzing and studying the effects of the media, including satellite television channels, and its ability to shape trends in public opinion or on individuals, societies and groups. International issues, crises, and wars are one of the main indicators that can measure the impact of this theory on the public in general and the university student community in particular, as reliance on the media increases in obtaining news and information about these wars, with the aim of forming a trend or forming a specific position regarding these wars. Wars and conflicts, especially if the public does not have enough information about them. This study seeks to reveal the extent to which Iraqi university students rely on Arab satellite channels to obtain news and information related to the Russian-Ukrainian war and whether this information has contributed to forming their attitude towards the war. The importance of the study stems from the fact that it is related to an international event that is still existing and interacting at the present time due to its global repercussions and its political and economic repercussions on the whole world.

METHODOLOGY

Research Problem:

The university study stage is an essential stage in building the student's personality, developing his political tendencies, and informing him of what is going on around him in terms of local and global issues, political events, and intellectual turns that contribute to enriching his experience and forming his attitudes. University students are exposed to the media, especially satellite channels, as one of the important media, as they rely on the news and

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information it broadcasts related to international issues, crises, conflicts and wars that occur in the world, and their political, economic and intellectual effects, which crystallizes their position towards them. The problem of this research is the question. The following is about the extent to which Iraqi university students rely on Arab satellite channels to obtain information about the Russian-Ukrainian war, the intensity of their trust in them, the amount of their credibility and their role in forming their final positions regarding this war.

Research Methodology:

The research is one of the descriptive studies that aims to depict and analyze the characteristics of a group or situation in order to obtain sufficient and accurate information about it without controlling its causes. This type of study is not limited to data collection, but rather extends to its classification, interpretation and comprehensive analysis (1). The survey is one of the methods that are used in descriptive research, as it is used to study the conditions and needs of society with the aim of presenting programs for reform and development (2). This method was used because it is most suitable for research in terms of collecting adequate information and obtaining facts about the research community related to the research problem. Studies have shown that this approach was appropriate for contemporary topics in political science, media and sociology, which represent the bulk of the studies whose problems need research (3). Was your attitude towards the war the result of watching satellite news only, or was it mixed with the attitudes of friends and relatives, or was it the result of your culture and previous experiences?

Research Aims:

This research is an application of the theory of relying on the media, especially Arab satellite channels, to obtain answers that achieve the objectives of the research, which are:

- 1. Evaluating the extent to which Iraqi university students rely on Arab satellite channels to obtain information about the Russian-Ukrainian war.
- 2. A statement of the extent to which Iraqi university students trust the information of Arab satellite channels about the Russian-Ukrainian war.
- 3. Exposing the effectiveness and adequacy of the information of the Arab satellite channels and forming the attitudes and attitudes of Iraqi university students towards the Russian-Ukrainian war.
- 4. Revealing the nature of the media content preferred by Iraqi university students regarding the war.
- 5. Revealing which Arab satellite channels are the most preferred by Iraqi university students in covering news of the Russian-Ukrainian war.

Research Importance:

The importance of research stems from the following considerations:

- 1. The subject of the research is new and has not been previously studied, since the Russian-Ukrainian war is recent and is still ongoing; Therefore, it is worth studying to enrich theoretical and field knowledge in this regard and open the way for new studies.
- 2. It shows the extent of the effectiveness of television media via Arab satellite channels in the field of international media after the decline of the role of satellite channels for the account of social networking sites and Internet applications.
- 3. It reveals the interest of Iraqi university students, who represent the educated and most conscious segment of Iraqi society, in political culture and the extent to which current international issues are pursued.

Data Collection Methods:

In collecting data and information, the researcher relied on the following tools:

- 1. Library sources: It represents Arabic and translated sources such as books, scientific periodicals, research and previous studies.
- 2. The questionnaire: It is defined as a carefully regulated tool for collecting data from the research sample, and it includes a set of paragraphs and questions formulated to obtain specific answers to achieve the research objectives (4), and left the respondents free to answer.
- 3. The researcher presented the questionnaire to a group of specialized arbitrators for the purpose of evaluation and arbitration, and it was modified in the light of their recommendations (5).

Research Limits:

Spatial limits:

• The researcher chose the University of Baghdad as the largest Iraqi university in terms of the number of students, as it includes a mixture of students representing most of the Iraqi cities.

Time limits:

• It extends from March 2022 to December 2022, which is the period since the outbreak of the war in February 2022 and the researcher began collecting data, designing the questionnaire, printing it and distributing it to the sample, and then processing the data statistically and writing the research report.

Human limits:

• It is represented by male and female students of the faculties of the University of Baghdad, and the researcher believes that they represent the segment of Iraqi university youth in a natural way to some extent.

Objectivity border:

• It is limited to the levels of dependence of Iraqi university students on Arab satellite channels to obtain information and news about the Russian-Ukrainian war only.

Research community and sample:

• This research community consists of Iraqi university students. As for the research sample, it was chosen from the students of the colleges of the University of Baghdad, as it is the largest university in terms of the number of its students, and because it represents the spectrum of the Iraqi student community. Because it includes students from most Iraqi cities.

The sample was chosen according to the random method to include students of humanities and scientific faculties, and the number of items in the sample was (100), as shown in Table No. (1).

PREVIOUS STUDIES:

Al-Kaabi Study (6):

- The study adopted the descriptive survey method, and the aim of the research was to find out the public's dependence on satellite channels as sources for news of the demonstrations, to reveal the extent of the public's trust in satellite channels, to determine the adequacy of their information on the events of the demonstrations, and to know the media outlets most followed by the public in the events of the demonstrations.
- The research community consisted of the public of the city of Baghdad, and the sample consisted of (117) respondents, through an intentional sample, who follow the news of the demonstrations.
- The study concluded that 59.80% of the sample relied on satellite channels as sources for obtaining news of the demonstrations, and that 47.90% of the sample believed that the information provided by satellite channels was sufficient. The study also concluded that 48.99% of the sample trusted satellite news regarding demonstrations.

Al-Obeidi's study (7):

- The research aims to identify the extent to which the public of Kirkuk depends on satellite channels to obtain information about human rights issues, and to identify the most important issues related to human rights that the public is keen to follow through satellite channels.
- As well as knowing the size of the contribution of satellite channels in providing the public with information on human rights.
- The research was applied on a random sample of 250 individuals from the city of Kirkuk through a questionnaire.
- The study concluded that the foreign Arabic-speaking channels ranked first among the television channels that the public relies on in acquiring information and knowledge about human rights issues, with a relative weight of 78 and an arithmetic mean of 2.34, and that talk shows ranked first among the programs that the respondents depend on.

Masri and Ayash study (8):

• The study aims to identify the dependence of Palestinian youth on satellite channels and their impact on the system of social values. The study population consisted of students from Hebron University and the University of Palestine. The sample was 300 individuals who were chosen according to the simple random sample.

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• The study concluded that the highest percentage of the sample watches satellite channels constantly, and (MBC4) channel got the first place, and the Turkish series received wide follow-up by the respondents, which indicates that the social values of young people stem from watching these series.

LITERATURE REVIEW

1- The theory of dependence on the media:

The theory of dependence on the media emerged at the end of the twentieth century and is based on the idea of a strong relationship between the media and the public, as this audience depends on the media to obtain news and information that meets its needs and satisfies its aspiration. The process of relying on the media is linked to achieving gratifications and uses, and thus this theory is linked to the theory of gratifications and uses (9). The theory of dependence on the media is based on several hypotheses, including (10):

- 1- The public depends on the media according to the social system, its stability and conditions, and if this system is in a state of war, revolution or crisis, the public is more dependent on the information of the media.
- 2- If the public does not have alternative sources available, it will rely less on the media.
- 3- Controls the social status and educational level of the audience; That is, its characteristics and conditions in the process of relying on the media. The elite audience is different from the popular audience.
- 4- This theory aims to reveal the reasons why the media sometimes have strong and direct effects, and at other times they have indirect and somewhat weak effects. Small and large relate to each other, and then try to explain the behavior of the parts in relation to these relationships.

As the name of the theory suggests, the main relations that govern it are the relationship of dependence between the media, the social system, and the public, and these relations may be with all media systems, or with one of its parts, such as television (11).

These dependent relationships are based on two main pillars:

- Goals: for individuals and groups to achieve their personal goals.
- Sources: Where individuals and groups seek various sources that achieve their goals (12).
- Here the media collects information, coordinates information, publishes information and distributes it to an unspecified audience.
- The theory also believes that dependence on the media increases the ability to receive the required information from personal sources, taking into account the abundance of the required information, evaluating it, and comparing it with the personal sources of the public, and the more complex the information, the greater the dependence on the media outside their groups (13).

The importance of the theory of dependence on the media stems from three effects that it has: (14):

- Cognitive influences.
- behavioral effects.
- Emotional influences.
- The occurrence of these effects is related to the degree of public dependence on information and news provided by the media (15).

Cognitive effects:

- The cognitive effects of the theory of dependence on the media on the part of the public who are exposed to the media include the following:
- Ambiguity, formation of attitudes, prioritization, beliefs and values.

Behavioral effects:

- Communication scientists point out that the behavioral effects of this theory are limited to two basic behaviors: activation and inactivity. Activation means that the individual transforms what he heard from the media into actual behavior, whether it is beneficial or harmful.
- Emotional effects:
- They are the feelings resulting from an individual's exposure to the media and towards his surroundings, as they affect him. These effects include feelings of emotional apathy, anxiety, fear, and alienation.

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Russian-Ukrainian War:

- The Russian-Ukrainian war broke out in February 2022 as a result of the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the occupation of the border cities bordering Russia, and then the annexation of four Ukrainian provinces to Russia after holding a mock referendum in which it was rejected by the United Nations and the majority of countries in the world and the international community, with the exception of Russia's allies Syria and North Korea.
- The Russian attack on Ukraine was preceded by a Russian propaganda campaign against Ukrainian President Zelensky and his regime, as the president's regime was likened to a Nazi nationalist regime and the Russian media called them Ukrainian Nazi nationalists, but the real reason for Russian hostility to Ukraine, according to analysts, is Ukraine's rapprochement with the United States and NATO. NATO and the West in general, what Russia considered a direct threat to its national security and demanded the status of (neutral country) for Ukraine, Russia does not want NATO to be on its borders (16).

Field study

A field analysis was conducted of the answers of the 200 respondents representing a sample of Baghdad University students, in order to find out the extent to which Iraqi university students rely on Arab satellite channels to obtain information about the Russian-Ukrainian war. The results were as follows:

First: Demographic Information

	Table No. (1) shows gender			
gender	Repetition	percentage		
male	100	%100		
feminine	100	%100		
the total	200	%200		

Table No. (1) shows that 100% of the sample are males and 100% are females, meaning that the sample is divided equally between males and females, as the sample was distributed equally and intentionally.

the age	Repetition	percentage
20-18	59	%29.5
22-20	59	%29.5
24-22	42	%21
and over 24	40	%20
the total	200	%100

Table No. (2) shows the ages of the respondents

Table No. (2) shows that the ages of the sample ranged between 18 years and more than 24 years, as the number of those between the ages of 18-20 years was 59 individuals, at a rate of 29.5%, while those between the ages of 20-22 were at a rate of 29.5 Also, for those between the ages of 22-24, they were 21%, and the percentage of those aged 24 years and over was 20%.

Table No. (3) shows the scientific specialization					
Jurisdiction	Repetition	percentage			
humanity	100	%50			
Scientific	100	%50			
the total	200	%100			

Table No. (3) indicates the specializations of the sample, where the humanitarian specializations were 50%, while the scientific specializations were 50%, meaning that they are equal. Where the sample was distributed evenly and intentionally.

Second: The Point Of View

Table No. (4) shows the respondents' follow-up of war news on Arab satellite channels

th	e answer	duplicates	percentage %
Y	es	85	%42.5
N	0	50	%25
S	ometimes	65	%32,5
Т	he total	200	%100

Table No. (4) shows that 42.5% of the respondents followed the news of the Russian-Ukrainian war, while 25% of the sample did not follow the news, while those who follow the news sometimes were 32.5% of the sample.

preferred time	duplicates	% percentage	Arithmetic mean	standard deviation	Relative % importance
night	61	40.7			
pm	46	30.7			
noon	36	24	37.50	22.78	%76.8
.A.M	7	4.6			
the total	150	%100			

Table No. (5) Shows your favorite time to follow the news of the Russian-Ukrainian war

Table No. (5) shows the preferred timing of the envoys to follow the news of the war, as 4.6% followed the news in the morning, 24% in the afternoon, 30.7% in the evening, and 40.7% at night.

Table No. (6) shows the number of hours the respondents follow the war news on satellite channels

The num of hours	lber duplicates	% percentage	Arithmetic mean	standard deviation	Relative % importance
less than hour	an 91	60.7			
One hour	35	23.3	50	35.9	%81.5
Two hours	24	16			
the total	150	%100			

Table No. (6) indicates that the number of hours the sample followed up on news of the war was varied, as less than an hour amounted to 60.7%, while one hour amounted to 23.3%, and two hours amounted to 16%.

the answer	duplicates	% percentage	weighted arithmetic mean	Relative % importance
Yes	89	59.3		%76.6
no	53	35.3	2.2	
sometimes	8	5.4	2.3	
the total	150	100		

Table No. (7) shows the importance of the information presented in the news in forming a specific position on the war, as 59.3% of the sample answered yes, but those who did not have a position on the war The percentage of information provided by Arab satellite channels was 35.3%. Respondents' Answers Sometimes there is a position on war. The percentage of information provided by Arab satellite channels was 5.4%.

the answer	duplicates	% percentage	Arithmetic mean	standard deviation	Relative % importance
news releases	133	88.6			
reports	11	7.3			
Dialogues	1	0.7			
News briefings	1	0.7			
investigations	1	0.7	25	53.05	96.1
all of the above	3	2			
the total	150	%100			

Table No. (8) shows the preferred news content of the respondents

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Table No. (8) indicates the preferred news content of the respondents, where news bulletins got the highest percentage, which amounted to 88.6%, then reports came with a rate of 7.3%, while summaries and investigations were 1%, while some respondents indicated that they preferred all of the aforementioned Of news content and a rate of 2%.

the answer	duplicates	% percentage	weighted arithmetic mean	Relative % importance
Analysts	53	35.3		76 importance
Military	89	59.3	2.3	%76.6
Reporters	3	5.4	2.5	
the total	150	100		

Refers to the most credible sources in reporting news about the war from the point of view of the respondents, where the choice of the military got the highest percentage, reaching 59.3%, while the analysts got 35.3% of the respondents' follow-up, and the correspondents got the percentage of 5.4%.

Table No. (10) shows the best Arabic satellite channel in covering news of the Russian-Ukrainian war among the respondents

favorite channels	duplicates	% percentage	Arithmetic mean	standard deviation	Relative % importance		
Arabic	61	40.7					
Al Jazeera	46	30.7					
free	36	24	37.50	22.78	%76.8		
other remember	7	4.6					
the total	150	%100					

Table No. (10) shows the best Arabic channel in covering war news, where Al-Arabiya satellite channel came with 40.7% and achieved the highest rate, followed by Al-Jazeera channel with 30.7% and Al-Hurra with 24%, and the respondents' choices varied in the preferred channel In coverage of the news of the Russian-Ukrainian war by other channels, it reached 4.6%.

Table No. (11) shows the most effective way to attract the viewer in covering the news of the Russian-Ukrainian war among the respondents

war among the respondents.						
the answer	duplicates	% percentage	Arithmetic	standard	Relative	
	unpiiouros	/o percentage	mean	deviation	% importance	
Live broadcast	56	37.3			%79	
news items	45	30		24.40		
Videos	41	27.3	30			
Still images	6	4				
all of the above	2	1.4				
the total	150	%100				

Table No. (11) shows that the most influential and attractive media material for the viewer in covering the news of the war was for the live broadcast, as it got a percentage of 37.3%. As for the news material, it was 30% of the respondents who find it the most influential and attractive media material for them in covering the war news. 27.3% were the percentage of videos as the most influential and attractive media material in covering war news, and the percentage of still images was 4% of the respondents' answers as an influential and attractive media material for the respondents.

Table No. (12) shows the most effective way to attract the viewer in covering the news of the Russian-Ukrainian war among the respondents

war among the respondents							
themes	duplicate	percentage	Arithmet	standard	Relative		
themes	S	%	ic mean	deviation	% importance		
The historical and political backgrounds of the conflict	36	24	37.50	22.78	%76.8		
Combat stance developments	46	30.7					
The international position on the war	61	40.7					
All of the above	7	4.6	57.50	22.78	/0/0.8		
the total	150	%100					

Table No. (12) shows the most influential issue for attracting the viewer in covering the news of the war for the sample, where the international position towards the war came with a percentage of 40.7%, while the developments of the combat situation ranked second with a percentage of 30.7%, while the two researches referred to the historical and political backgrounds of the conflict and it was by percentage 24%.

Table No. (13) shows the extent to which the respondents formed a final position on the Russian-Ukrainian war

the answer	Repetition	The ratio
Yes	57	%38
no	53	%35,4
sometimes	40	%26,6
the total	150	% 100

Table No. (13) indicates when the final position on the war was formed among the sample, as 38% of the sample answered yes, while 26.6% said it was sometimes, and no attitude towards war was formed among the respondents, as they answered no with a rate of 35.4%.

Table No. (14) explains the reasons for forming the final position on the Russian-Ukrainian war among the

the answer	duplicate s	% percentage	Arithmetic mean	standard deviation	Relative importance %
Your follow-up to satellite channels	47	48.5	24.25	17.02	%78.8
Influenced by the opinions of friends or relatives	24	24.7			
Facts and experts	20	20.6			
all of the above	6	6.2			
the total	97	100			

Table No. (14) shows the reasons for the formation of the final position towards the Russian-Ukrainian war from the point of view of the sample, as the reason for watching satellite channels ranked first with a percentage of 48.5%, while the reason for being influenced by the opinions of friends and relatives was with a percentage of 24.7%, while the facts and opinions of experts were I got 20.6%.

Table No. (15) shows the dependence of the respondents on Arab satellite channels to obtain information about the

Russian-Ukrainian war						
the answer	duplicates	% percentage42.622				
I depend	64					
Adopt a little	33					
not adopted	53	35.4				
the total	150	100				

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Table No. (15) shows the extent to which the sample relied on Arab satellite channels to obtain information related to the war, as 42.6% reported that they depended on Arab satellite channels to obtain information, while 22% relied little and 35.4% did not.

Table No. (16) explains the reasons for relying on Arab satellite channels to obtain information about the Russian-Ukrainian warReasons for accreditationduplicate
spercentage
%Arithmet
ic meanstandard
deviationRelative
% importance

Reasons for accreditation	duplicate	percentage	Arithmet	standard	Relative
Reasons for accreditation	S	%	ic mean	deviation	% importance
Characterized by credibility	47	48.5			
Direct coverage of war events	24	24.7			
Confidence in the information					
provided by Arab satellite	20	20.6	24.25	15.00	0/50.0
channels about the war			24.25	17.02	%78.8
Accurate handling of events	6	6.2			
the total		100			
	97	100			
			1		

Table No. (16) indicates the reasons for relying on Arab satellite channels to obtain information about the war, as 48.5% answered that the reason for relying on Arab satellite channels to obtain information about the war is credibility. Direct coverage of the events of the war reached 24.7%. As for other reasons for relying on Arab satellite channels to obtain information about the war, confidence in the information provided by Arab satellite channels about the war reached a rate of 20.6%. As for the accurate treatment of events, it reached 6.2%.

ANALYSIS OF THE RESULT

- 1- The results showed that more than half of the respondents always or sometimes follow war news via satellite channels, and this is a fairly good percentage, especially when compared to the dominance of social networking sites at the global media level.
- 2- The peak numbers of television viewing at night maintained its lead, which is a percentage that was expected due to the association of this time with the viewers' rest time.
- 3- The hours of follow-up to the news were less than an hour, which is almost normal if we take into account the geographical aspect of the location of the event and the public's preoccupation with local issues that affect their daily life more.
- 4- The information provided had an impact on forming a specific stance towards the war at an average rate and not at a greater rate than that, which negatively affects the role of television media in forming decisive positions regarding hot events.
- 5- The news came at the forefront of the preferred media content for the sample, which confirms the importance of the television news genre and its effectiveness with the audience.
- 6- The military personnel obtained the most credible percentage compared to the analysts and correspondents, and this is due to the fact that the military personnel are more knowledgeable and knowledgeable about war issues than the analysts or correspondents.
- 7- The live broadcast of the war events came as the most influential and attractive media material for viewers in the media coverage of the war news by satellite channels, which confirms the importance and effectiveness of the live satellite image and its growing ability to influence the viewer visually.
- 8- The international position on the war was at the forefront of the most followed media materials by the envoys for humanitarian reasons, compared to the historical backgrounds and the developments of the combat situation.
- 9- Observing the events of the Russian-Ukrainian war resulted in the formation of a final position among the respondents about the war, with a medium percentage of the sample, and this came from the follow-up of Arab satellite channels.
- 10- The credibility was one of the most important factors for the respondents to rely on Arab satellite channels, as the credibility in transmitting news about events via satellite channels makes the viewer depend on one channel and not others to obtain information about the news that interests him and draws him towards it.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1- Conducting a comparative research study of viewership and follow-up of news of the Ukrainian-Russian war among university elites between social networking sites and Iraqi or Arabic satellite channels, and deducing the differences between the two sides.

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- 2- Creating satellite TV programs that shed light on the humanitarian aspects of the war through reports on the lives of the civilian population and their human suffering as a result of the war.
- 3- Conducting dialogues with specialized experts from Ukraine and Russia to talk about the backgrounds of the war, its political motives and historical backgrounds
- 4- Holding dialogue seminars on Arab satellite channels with citizens from Russia and Ukraine to express their personal positions and opinions regarding the tragedy of the war
- 5- Seeking the help of stars and celebrities from the two countries to make appeals calling for peace between the two countries, and transmitting that via satellite channels.

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Conflict of Interest: None

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