Pragmatic Study of Prejudice in American and Iranian Newspaper Articles on Gaza Crisis

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ABSTRACT

The present research focuses on analyzing prejudiced discourse from a pragmatically perspective regarding the Gaza war on October 7, 2023, as reported by journalists from American and Iranian newspapers. In other words, it compares and contrasts the prejudiced content used in the news coverage of the selected data as part of the discursive representation of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict during that war. Thereby, the current research is an attempt to bridge this gap by answering the following questions: (1) what are the prejudice components and function in the selected data?;(2) how are the macro and micro linguistic strategies used to release prejudice in the selected data?(3) what are the frequencies of occurrence of micro level strategies that are used to release prejudice in the selected newspaper articles? The data was collected from two American newspapers (*The New York Times and The New York Post*) and two Iranian ones (*Tehran Times and Kayhan*). The researcher employed both qualitative and quantitative data analysis methods to gain a comprehensive understanding of the nature of prejudice in the selected data. An eclectic model was used to analyze 6 prejudiced articles, drawing on Van Dijk's models of prejudice function (1984),(1988b,1998,2016). The research concludes the following: (1) Prejudiced content in the articles from two opposing newspapers reflects cognitive, affective, and behavioral aspects, using syntactic strategies (e.g., transitivity, role allocation) and semantic strategies (e.g., lexicalization) (2) Major differences include: (a) American newspapers favored a pro-Israel prejudice, while Iranian newspapers were pro-Palestinian; (b) both sets of newspapers presented the news in a prejudiced manner that aligned with their ideological stance, using similar linguistic strategies that supported

1. Section One: The Problem

According to Van Dijk (1984, p.2)," both prejudice and talk are social phenomena that require analysis within an interdisciplinary framework", using certain word combinations and that concurrently create meaning in the world. It is important to realize the fact that prejudiced discourse is a form of language use and interaction of social members in social situations of in-group communication. Discourse has been defined as activities and systems that represent social realities and human thought. scours characteristics therefore act as informational input for theoretical deductions regarding the mechanisms and patterns of prejudice in memory (Van Dijk ,1984). In newspapers, language is used to convey ideas and opinions that reflect values, propositions, and ideologies rather than worldly facts. Thus, language plays a part in how ideas are interpreted in the media by employing certain linguistic patterns. Therefore, although language is not neutral, it is a very positive medium (Fowler, 1991). The unsolved conflict between Israel and Palestine remains for many years (Purnama,2015). The electronic and printed newspapers try to deliver this conflict. In fact, everyone has the ability to see the conflict by using the internet through smartphones. News is not always reported truly, because there are news media that have a special interest of a particular group. The current study is about how the selected newspapers cover and present the Gaza war of the 7th Oct.2023 to their readers. Thus, this study deals with the use of prejudice in the selected mass media discourse. In other words, it is about how language is manipulated in the discourse of the news coverage of the conflict between Palestine and Israel during the 7th Oct. attack as part of the Palestinian crisis. According to the researcher's knowledge, the prejudice content in American and Iranian newspapers articles about the 7th Oct. attack hasn't been investigated before from critical discourse perspective. So,

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this study tries to bridge this gap by integrating methodologies and analytical frameworks from Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) to analyze the discursive portrayal of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in the selected data. The data has been gathered from four major English newspapers; two are American (New York Times and New York Post) and the other ones are Iranian (Tehran Times and Kayhan). This study answers the following questions:

1. What are the prejudice components and functions used in the selected American and Iranian newspaper about Palestinian crisis?
2. Which linguistic strategies (macro and micro) are used to release prejudice content in the selected newspapers?
3. What are the frequencies of occurrence of micro level strategies (transitivity and role allocation) that are used to accomplish prejudice content in the selected newspaper articles?

1.1 The Aims

In accordance with the questions set above, this study aims at:

1. Finding out the components of prejudice and its function found in the selected data about the Palestinian crisis.
2. Identifying the macro and micro linguistic strategies used in the selected newspaper articles.
3. Discovering the frequencies of occurrence of micro level strategies that are used to release prejudice content in the selected newspaper articles.

1.2 The Hypotheses

Based on the aims set above, it is hypothesized that:

1. Cognitive, affective and behavioral are components of prejudice used by the journalists in the function of protecting the interests of their group in the selected newspaper articles.
2. The macro linguistic strategies can be examined throughout the *ideological square*. While *transitivity*, *role allocation* at *syntactic level*, *lexicalization* and *social actor* representation which are at *semantic level*.
3. Palestinian crisis.
4. *Mental processes* are of more occurrences in the prejudiced content in the selected articles, while material are of low occurrences.

2. Section Two: An Introductory Note

This chapter presents a theoretical background of the field of critical discourse analysis, including an explanation of its aims along with some concepts related to it. It also covers the concept of prejudice, its components and functions with a clarification of the relation between prejudice and discourse.

2.1 The Concept of Prejudice

Prejudice has been defined differently by different researchers , prejudice is defined by All port as "an aversive or hostile attitude toward a person who belongs to a group, simply because he belongs to that group, and is therefore presumed to have objectionable qualities ascribed to the group."(Allport 1954, p.10) He contends that prejudice is a natural result of group classification, particularly when in group-out group connection is involved. Prejudice as a classification technique entails oversimplification and generalizations (Allport,1954).

Prejudice towards racial out-groups is ingrained in people from an early age. People get motivated and proficient at hiding many of their biases as they get older and as cultural norms become more hostile towards overt prejudice (Crandall & Eshlman, 2003). According to Paluck (2012) individuals are granted societal license to behave when their own sentiments are in line with the perceived norm. The perceived norm supports suppressing the expression of sentiments when they are out of alignment. It is common and universal for people to behave in a way that conforms

to the consensus of the group. Anywhere prejudice is found, it has been intentionally and purposefully mobilized for the purpose of achieving an aim.

While Brown defines it as "the holding of derogatory social attitudes or cognitive beliefs, the expression of negative affect or the display of hostile or discriminatory behaviour towards members of a group on account of their membership of that group" (Brown 1995, p. 8). According to Van Dijk (1984), prejudice is a social and cognitive phenomenon. It is a common type of social representation that group members have learnt via socialisation processes and have changed and performed in social communication and interaction, rather than just a feature of individual ideas or feelings regarding social groupings.

2. 2 Prejudice Components

1. Cognitive Component

The journalist of Article1 carries negative stereotypes or beliefs against Iran and Palestine as out-group and the positive stereotypes towards America as in-group. It is the journalist's negative judgement towards Iran and Palestine that let him to reject Iran's operation against Israel. The journalist considers his group as supportive (high) and dominated.

2. Affective Component

The journalist carries unwelcomed emotions in the form of hateful negative feelings towards Iran and Palestine, because of their operation against Israel. The journalist neglects the operation and this let him appear as a prejudiced journalist who have negative feelings, sympathy and hatred against them.

3. Behavioral Component

The journalist Article1 writes negatively hatred speech in discriminatory and racist manner towards ***"Iran and Palestine"*** because of carrying negative beliefs about them.

2.3 The Function of Prejudice

According to Van Dijk (1984), prejudice is not merely a characteristic of individual beliefs or emotions about social groups, but a shared form of social representation in group members, acquired during processes of socialization and transformed and enacted in social communication and interaction. Such ethnic attitudes have a social function, e.g. to protect the interests of the in-group. Their cognitive structures and the strategies of their use reflect this function This overtly societal purpose of prejudice, which Van Dijk highlights, is the "rationalization and justification of discriminatory acts against minority groups." (Van Dijk, 1984). He refers to the dominance, distinction, distance, dispersion, diversion, depersonalization or destruction, and everyday discrimination that are used to justify bias against minority groups.

Van Dijk states that these general plan categories will, in general, organize all actions directed towards, or involving members of minority groups. These actions include holding onto power and control, treating minority members differently (a social act function related to the cognitive function of seeing them differently), keeping minority members at a distance (out of our country, town, neighbourhood, street, house, family, etc.), spreading stereotypes about them (mainly through biassed talk), attributing to minority members the social or economic problems of the in-group, treating minority members as inferior, harming or destroying them, and, finally, enacting all these more general actions also in small-scale everyday activities (minor inequities) (Van Dijk,1984).

2.4 The concept of Pragmatic

Each level of linguistics has its own analyses and studies with different and various theories, scholars and schools which have been founded and distributed all over the world throughout centuries. This diversity, by all means, crystalises and proves the profoundness and vital importance of linguistics to mankind whose means of communication and involvement in the social fabric is, first and foremost, language (Sampson, 1980). Apart from

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syntax and phonology, the physical aspects/levels of language, so to speak, the focus here is on the most debatable one related to linguistics, which is meaning. Approaching and dealing with meaning is such an arduous task that one cannot escape the maze holding between semantics and pragmatics. More specifically, the emphasis here is on pragmatics whose area of study is communicative or contextualised meaning, as opposed to semantics, which is concerned with literal, decontextualised meaning (Löbner, 2013). 7 Being concerned with semiotics/semiotic—the science of signs, the philosopher Morris (1938) introduced a trichotomy of syntax, semantics and pragmatics, the last being of philosophical origin. Accordingly then, syntax referred to the formal relations between signs; semantics to the relations between signs and the objects they refer to; and pragmatics to the relations between signs and interpreters (Levinson, 1983). On the one hand, the term pragmatics is still used in book titles that cover topics as different as the psychopathology of communication and the evolution of symbol systems because it has been given the very broad meaning Morris intended. Even in this context, however, there has been a propensity to refer to pragmatics solely as a subfield of language semiotics rather than as having anything to do with sign systems in general. The term is still most frequently used on the Continent in this broad sense, which includes sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, and other things (Levinson, 1983).

2.5 Context

Wardhaugh and Fuller (2015) referred to the realm of pragmatics as containing the interpretation of utterance "with reference to the context, including the setting, the speakers, background knowledge, and so on". 9 Furthermore, Wardhaugh and Fuller added: "we incorporate topics which involve how the identities and relationships of speakers influence their linguistic choices and how they are interpreted" (p. 248).

Also, Leech (1983) defined context as referring "to the relevant aspects of an utterance's physical or social setting. It is the shared background knowledge that helps the speaker and the listener understand each other's words" (p. 13). As a result, context plays an important role in both spoken and written language. Its purpose is to assist the speaker and listener, or the writer and reader, in delivering and comprehending the meaning of an utterance.

2.6 Contextual Factors

Contextual factors associated with speech events can have an impact on the proliferation of ideologies. Van Dijk (1998) lists the following as the contextual analysis parameters:

A. Domain: Refers to the contextual factors that influence genre classification. It refers to the context or scope of the communication events. Legal discourse, for example, belongs to the sphere of law, political speech to politics, and educational discourse to education. When participants have contextual understanding of the domain, they will employ professional jargon. As with professional group activities like journalists in media, where ideas play a crucial part.

B. Genre: This category covers several types of speech events, such as conversations, casual chats, meetings, newspaper articles, debates, and school lessons. To ensure that the speech event runs successfully, participants should classify the genre in which they are participating for optimal engagement. Genres are unique forms of discourse that include text, conversation, and context. Genres replicate ideologies; hence they need to be investigated.

C. Functions: Each genre serves a distinct purpose in a chain of activities or domains. For example, the role of an exam is to qualify the students, the debate is for election, news stories are for gathering fresh information, etc.

D. Intention: All communication activities have intentions. This is because participants have mental representations of what they say or write. Speakers control and generate their speech based on their objectives. For specific ideological goals, sometimes the true intentions are veiled.

E. Speech events have start and end dates and times. They take place on a certain day and day. Exams, lectures, and sermons all have an introduction and a conclusion. An informal chat has a beginning and an end. Newspapers have publication deadlines and dates.

F. Location: Refers to where communication events occur. An informal chat can occur anywhere, but formal institutional communication activities have a defined venue.

G. Circumstances: Refer to the exact situations under which speech events occur. Sometimes speech occurs in an inappropriate setting, or vice versa;

3. Section Three: Methodology

3.1 An Introductory Note

This chapter presents comprehensive procedures for the data analysis to meet the study objectives. It includes the primary components of the research that deals with data collection and selection method. Additionally, the researcher must describe the contextual factors that surround the prejudiced content. These factors are adopted from Van Dijk's (1998); the next step includes the critical levels of analysis which constitute the eclectic model.

3.1 Levels of Analysis: Macro and Micro

Language use and verbal interchange occur at the micro level of the social order. In general, ideas like dominance, unfairness, and power dynamics among social groups fall within the macro-level of inquiry. CDA needs to encompass the "gap" between micro and macro structures. Macro-structures are necessary to create global coherence, identify global discourse subjects, plan and recollect discourse throughout processing, and characterize different text and talk genre features (Van Dijk, 2012).

According to Van Dijk (2001), CDA is especially interested in taking a close look at the intersections of the local and the global, as well as the discourse and social structures. According to Van Dijk (2016), another objective of the global and local research of discourse meaning and form components of hegemonic discourse is the construction of desired "mental models and social representations," that is, to influence, manipulate, or control the mind.

Combining cognitive, social, and political analysis, CDA places greater focus on the role that discourses play in local and global social structures. Global social activities like law and education, universal relationships like power, or social structures like organizations and institutions typically impose restrictions on local acts and speech. These limitations can be strict obligations and standards (like those outlined in laws, the decisions of judges, or the actions of parliamentarians) or more pliable or "soft" norms (like etiquette guidelines).

Furthermore, Van Dijk (2001) asserts that the limitations may affect a range of discourse features, such as the way in which players participate in turn-taking and session openers, speech acts, topic choice, local coherence, lexical style, and rhetorical devices. Alternatively, these discourse frameworks could be understood as examples of extremely global political or social movements such as immigration or education reform.

The macro analysis in the current thesis is made up of the ideological square (Van Dijk 1998,2006) and thematic and schematic analysis (Van Dijk 1988b).

3.1.1 Macro level

Ideological Square

According to Van Dijk (2006), the participants' ideologies influence the semantics, style, and syntax of the conversation. So the vocabulary choices are impacted by the speaker's views and ideological position towards the group. The Us versus. Them premise serves as the foundation for the ideological square. Ideologies therefore exert power over individuals and civilizations. "Say positive things about us, say negative things about them" is the typical ideological tactic.

The idea of "positive self-presentation and negative other presentation" is the ideological square that underpins the discourse. This notion applies to the meaning level of conversation. Then is broadened to include additional discourse structure: "Do not say negative things about us, do not say positive things About them." Then, these four principles are adjusted as follows:

1. Highlight and include our positive actions.
2. Highlight their negative behaviors or activities.
3. Reduce emphasis or eliminate Our negative actions.
4. De-emphasize/exclude Their good things.

These ideas might be used to the analysis of speech structures at all levels. They symbolize the ideological square. They concentrate on using spoken and text information(VanDijk,2006a). Van Dijk (2016) asserts that the investigation of ideologically biassed discourses and how they polarise the portrayal of Us (in-groups) and Them (out-groups) is a common topic of CDA research. Both locally and globally, there is a clear implementation of the positive self-presentation and negative other presentation technique. It highlights the merits of the in-group and downplays the drawbacks of the "out-group." . For CDA research, the study of several implicit or indirect meanings— implications, presuppositions, allusions, ambiguity, and so forth—is especially interesting.

Information that is inferred from a text's meaning without being expressly stated is referred to as contextual information. This suggests, theoretically, that hidden information is not a part of the text itself, but rather a part of a person's mental model. That is, Van Dijk (2001) shows how implicit meanings are linked to underlying beliefs but are not stated explicitly, directly, completely, or accurately for a variety of contextual reasons, such as the well-known ideological goal of understating the negative attributes of both "ingroup" as well as out of it. Van Dijk (2001, p.73) argues that the structure of discourse, which is closely tied to the replication of power abuse, may be investigated ideologically using the aforementioned steps. These two methodologies can be realized by studying certain discourse pieces in a specific framework. For example, the employment of certain vocabulary words or sentence constructions. that have a special connotation conveying a good or negative assessment of Us or Them (Van Dijk, 2001). According to Van Dijk (2006, p.66),"discourse has many ways to emphasize or de-emphasize meanings, and as soon as these have an ideological basis".

3.1.2 Micro Level

According to Van Dijk (1998), ideologies and their replication are involved with all levels of discourse, not only text and conversation. Structures and techniques are specific to each level. Therefore, researching the discourse levels

present in a text or chat could provide conclusions about ideological analysis. Stated another way, depending on the various discourse levels, "discourse has many ways to emphasise or deemphasize meanings, and as soon as these have an ideological basis," the analyst can identify the ideologies of the speaker or writer (Van Dijk, 2006a, p.376). As a result, the micro level, which encompasses the syntax, semantics, and rhetorical levels, will be examined.

To conduct a critical analysis of any text, the following strategies are used:

1.Syntactic Strategies

Through syntactic analysis, one can understand how speakers construct their speech to achieve a communicative goal. For the primary goal of sharing a belief or persuading the audience to embrace that idea, a language producer, for instance, may rely on specific sentence patterns, nominalization, passivation, and other tactics (Van Dijk, 2005). This thesis addresses foregrounding and backgrounding and the combination of transitivity and role allocation (passivation and activation) as syntactic devices used by the prejudiced participant to further his goals of influencing the third party and make prejudice.

Transitivity and Role Allocation

According to Crystal (2008), "transitivity is a category used in the grammatical analysis of clause/sentence constructions, with particular reference to the verb's relationship to dependent elements of structure." According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2014), a sentence's syntax indicates procedures or speaking, seeing, being, or possessing, with all of their various players and situations. These verbs generate functionally separate nouns called participants. Each participant can assume multiple functions, contingent upon the verb or verbs with which it is connected in a

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phrase. Furthermore, a multitude of adverbial constructions and prepositional expressions offer an assortment of circumstances about location, timing, and style (Halliday and Matthiessen, 2014).

According to Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (Halliday, 1994), language is viewed as a social semiotic, used to create meaning within a specific context. Transitivity is a key component of this approach. According to Eggins (1994), this approach examines how individuals use language to convey meaning and how language is structured to facilitate this process. The process is achieved via the sentence's verbal part. According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2014), grammar distinguishes between "outer experience," which refers to material processes (MPs), or the activities of the outside world, and "inner experience," which refers to mental processes (MnPs).

B. Processes Types

Material process: Refers to the action of happening or doing. Such clauses examine the degree of change in the sequences of events. Such a process involves three participants: the actor , the goal , and the recipient .

Mental processes: Involves perceiving. It expresses the inner experience known as awareness. It is a mental response, such as emotions, perception, or thought.

Relational process :The third key process which refers to a relationship of 'being' and 'having' among people. It serves the purpose of characterizing and identifying. Thus, the verb "be" is utilized in relational processes.

Verbal processes: Refers to the process of communicating. It is a secondary process, but it is crucial in discourse because it allows reporters to contribute vocal comments to their stories. The participants in such a process are the Sayer, who talks, and the Addressee, to whom the verbal process is addressed; the verbiage is what the parties discuss (Halliday and Matthiessen, 2014).

Behavioral processes: It falls between material and mental processes.

Example: sneezing, laughing, and breathing. The individual participating in such a procedure is known as the behaver. For example, people are laughing(HallidayandMatthiessen,2014).

The Existential processes: It is the last small step between Material and Relational processes. It describes the states of being, existing, and happening.

2. Semantic Strategies

A. Lexicalization

Fairclough (1989) claims that vocabulary plays an important part in decoding and representing the world. Fowler (1991) argues that lexicon plays a crucial role in ideological replication in newspapers. The analysis of words focuses on two aspects: first, alternative terms having both (ideological and political) significance, since these words are reworded in response to the social political conflict. Second, their significance in relation to the larger struggle (Fairclough ,1992). Fairclough (2003) describes that vocabulary is a selection of words. Language is not arbitrary, but rather guided by principles. The main distinguishing element of discourse (language) is vocabulary, or how these discourse languages lexicalize the world. Halliday's linguistic theory emphasizes the importance of vocabulary in determining ideational structure. This means that language and dialects; their vocabularies represent culture in terms of objects, concepts, and relationships (Fowler, 1991).

The approach to vocabulary is based on the notion that meaning areas can be lexicalized in a variety of ways, which ideologically need the use of multiple classification systems. Fairclough (1992) explores how to re-lexicalize domains of experience based on different classification ideas. Fairclough's (1989) vocabulary model suggests that vocabulary can be studied in several ways. Fairclough prefers the terms 'significant', 'wording', and 'lexicalization' over 'vocabulary' because they reflect how wording processes vary by location, time, group, and person (1992). In his 1989 approach, the experience value of overwording or overlexicalization is considered alongside the expressive value, which can be positive (e.g., hero, antiterrorist, astonishing) or negative (e.g., diabolical, terrorist, coward).

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Overwording or overlexicalization is an issue of ideological battle focus, and it involves several terms, synonyms or near synonyms, with a single reference (Fairclough, 1989). In terms of expressive values, these characteristics are of great interest in encoding ideological variations in lexicalization that describe the world (Fairclough, 1989). Expressive value is extremely important in persuasive language. Fairclough (1989) argues that the expressive value of various discourse types plays a significant role in disclosing ideology.

B. Nomination and Categorization

Social actors can be represented either by their distinct identity (*nomination*) or by the functions and identities they share with others (*categorization*). It is always interesting to explore which social actors in a given discourse are classified and which are nominated (van Leeuwen, 2008)

Nomination can be realized by three types:

- ***Formal :****(Last name, with or without honorifics).*
- ***Semi-formal****:(first name plus last name).*
- ***Informal :****1st name only.*

On the other hand, Categorization is divided into two categories: *functionalization and identification*. The former refers to social actors by their function or occupation. The functional category can be realized in three different ways:

- Nouns identify a place or a tool and are associated with an activity by the suffix -ist or -eer; for example, *pianist, mountaineer.*
- Verb plus the suffix *"-er, -ant, -ent, -ee, or –ian*, " as in " interviewer, payee, and celebrant".
- Compounding of nouns that denote an activity; for example, *servicemen*.

The concept of identification refers to social actors in terms of who they are rather than their actions. Three categories are distinguishable:

- *Classification:* Social actors are categorized according to their class, gender, race, wealth, religion, and sexual orientation.
- *Relational identification:* categorizes social actors based on family, personal, or professional relationships with others.
- *Physical representation*: depicts social actors based on their physical appearance and body traits, such as a man with long hair (van Leeuwen, 2008).

4. SECTION FOUR: Data Analysis And Discussion Of The Results

4.1 An Introductory Note

This chapter presents the researcher's analysis of two mass media: American and Iranian newspapers.

Article 1: Newspaper: NYT Date: October 7, 2023 By: Isabel Kershner

"Hamas Attack Has Haunting Echoes of the 1973 Yom Kippur War"

"*For **Israelis, Saturday's surprise assault** from Gaza was **a recurring nightmare**, coming 50 years and a day after invading forces from Egypt and Syria caught Israel off-guard, **setting off a 19-day war that has long traumatized the nation. Israeli television channels and newspapers have been filled in recent days with commemorations of that war,** and many Israelis on Saturday saw parallels between the attack unfolding around them and the events decades earlier. That war also began on the Sabbath, with sirens wailing across the country on Oct. 6, 1973, on Yom Kippur**, the holiest day on the Jewish calendar. On Saturday, many Israelis had been planning to celebrate the holiday of Simchat Torah. Instead,** the armed wing of Hamas, the Islamic group that controls Gaza, fired thousands of rockets toward Israel. Simultaneously, reports flooded in of a major breach of Israel's fortifications along its border with Gaza, the Palestinian coastal enclave that Israel and neighboring Egypt have kept under blockade for 16 years, citing*

*security reasons. Unverified images soon began to emerge of heavily armed Palestinian militants entering Israeli border communities in pickup trucks, on motorcycles and in at least one case **crossing the fenced border by paraglider. Gruesome unverified videos began to circulate, purporting to show the bloodied corpses of Israeli soldiers and of hostages taken into Gaza.** Terrified Israeli residents in border villages phoned in to local television stations from safe rooms. Speaking in whispers, they pleaded for help and said they could hear the militants outside, or even inside, their homes. **As confusion and fear spread, many were asking how the Israeli***

A. Prejudice Components and Functions

The journalist of Article 1 has unfavorable perceptions or opinions about Hamas; a Palestinian militant movement opposed to Israel **Cognitive component**. The journalist believes that Hamas is "a terrorist organization". In addition , the article expresses undesirable sentiments in the form of hostile bad thoughts towards Hamas and Palestine. The opposition to the surprise attack carried out by Palestinian fighters against Israel made the journalist to be biased. The journalist's religious philosophy, along with his favorable feelings, led him to sympathize with Israelis **Affective component .**The journalist's negative beliefs for Palestine and Hamas cause him to approach the topic of Hamas' surprise attack in a negative manner, writing hate speech in a discriminatory and racist manner towards Palestine and portraying Israel and its civilians as victims **Behavioral Component**.

Furthermore, the social role or function of prejudice in *Article 1* is to protect the interests of the in group. The journalist excuses his discriminatory coverage of Hamas' unexpected attack on Israel by showing his in-group as dominating, powerful, and backed, while the victims are innocent.

B. Macro Analysis

1. Ideological Square

The article makes a negative reference to Hamas and Palestinian, while making positive references to Israel. Hamas and Palestinian symbolize the out-group (Them), whereas the Israel represents the in-group. Israel is shown positively as victims, emphasizing their suffering at the hands of Hamas, while Palestinian is portrayed badly. For example in line "For many *Israelis, Hamas's* surprise attack mirrors one carried…" Hamas is presented badly while Israel is portrayed positively. In line "coming 50 years and a day after *invading forces from Egypt and Syria* caught Israel off-guard,' 'Egypt and Syria which are the former enemy of Israel are described as the out group while Israel is the in – group .

C. Micro Analysis

1. Syntactic Level

A. Role Allocation and Transitivity

No	Sentence	Process	Goal	Role
1	Hamas Attack **Has** Haunting Echoes of the 1973 Yom Kippur War	MP	Haunting Echoes	Active
2	Hamas's surprise attack *1mirrors* one*2carried out* 50 years	1MnP 2MP	one	Active Passive
3	"the armed wing of Hamas **fired** thousands of rockets toward Israel."	MP	thousands of roc	
4	On Saturday, many Israelis 1*had been planning* to 2**celebrate** the holiday of Simchat Torah	1VP 2MP	the holiday of Simchat Torah	Active

| 5 | In another echo of the 1973 war, the military scrambled to 1**call up** and 2**mobilize** military reservists | 1VP 2MP | military reservists | Active Active |
| 6 | heavily armed Palestinian militants *1entering* Israeli border communities in pickup trucks | MP | Israeli border communities | |

2.Semantic Level

A. Lexicalization

In Article 1, the journalist tries to represent and describe the attack by using this phrase *"Hamas's surprise attack"* to evaluate their attack negatively. The author compares the attack to another one that happened in 1973 by using the

following phrases *" Haunting Echoes, a recurring nightmare, saw parallels "*. The journalist chooses the following words *" attack, assault, event "*, to describe that event in a negative way that is a threat and danger to the Israeli lives. Palestinians are often labelled and described as militants. They are mentioned with an illustration *" the armed wing of Hamas, the Islamic group that controls Gaza"*. It refers to *"Hamas as Islamic group"*.

B. Categorization: Identification and Functionalization

The negative representation of *"Hamas"* which is categorized (identification or classification) by their political orientation as *"the Islamic group"* and according to their function and nation as **"armed Palestinian militants"**

Article 2: Newspaper: Tehran Times Date: April 14,2024 By: Soheila Zarfam "Clean Victory"

Iran acts legally and morally in punishing Israel. TEHRAN- "*Iran* executed its *long-awaited retaliation* against *Israel* on Saturday and the early hours of Sunday morning by directly targeting the *occupied territories* from its soil. The New York Times claimed *Operation Truthful Promise* was carried out with at *least 185 drones* and *around 150 missiles*. Despite *Israel's egregious* claim at having intercepted "99%" of the projectiles, footage captured by *Israeli settlers* in the vicinity of the targets showed *Iran's missiles* had landed exactly where they were meant to descend. *The missiles and drones* were red from regions all across *Iran*. They passed by *populated cities in Iraq, Syria, Jordan* and *occupied Palestine* before hitting two *Israeli military targets*, one of them being a large intelligence base, *Nevatim Airbase*, from where an F-35 jet took off to target *Iran's consulate in Damascus*. No *civilian sites* were damaged in the process, which proves the high precision of *Iran's domestic-grown weapons*. As mentioned by *Iran's permanent mission* to the *United Nations*, the attacks also did not breach any international law. Article 51 of the UN Charter pertains to the inherent right of individual or collective *self-defense* in the event of *an armed attack* against a *member state*. It reads: "Nothing in the present Charter shall impair the inherent right of *individual* or *collective self-defense* if an *armed attack* occurs against a Member of the *United Nations*, until the *Security Council* has taken measures necessary to maintain *international peace* and *security*. Measures taken by Members in the exercise of this right of *self-defense* shall be immediately reported to the *Security Council* and shall not in any way affect the *authority* and responsibility of the Security Council under the present Charter to take at any time such action as it deems necessary in order to maintain or *restore international peace and security*." *Iran and Israel* innately different What's evident is that *Iran's recent attacks and the assaults* carried out by *Israel* across the *West Asian region* have been different in nature. Every strike *the regime* has carried out in the past 7 months and before that, was to *assassinate individuals* inside residential buildings, packed streets or even diplomatic premises. *Israeli moves* have all been in *violation of international law*. Topped with the genocide it is currently committing in *Gaza*, where every hospital, school, mosque, church, and home has been systematically destroyed, *Israel* has probably become *the biggest breacher* of *international law* in history. *Tehran* could have easily destroyed *big gatherings* to give Israel a taste of its *own medicine*, or hit critical infrastructure to plunge it into social chaos. It, however, decided to play by the rules, and it still somehow got condemned by *Israel's Western patrons*, while Israel continues to enjoy full *impunity*. *The West* denounced "in the **strongest terms**" *Iran's lawful attempt* at *defending itself* from a rogue regime that knows no limits, saying it's worried the move could escalate into a widespread convict. *Ironically months of witnessing*

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genocide, heartbreaking scenes of *mutilated* and starving children, and *Israel's continual aggressive assaults* on neighboring regions, did not make *the West* feel any danger. For *Western states*, the death of *over 34,000*

Palestinian civilians is nothing to fret over. What matters is *Iran* or any other country under *Israeli aggression*, would agree to come under attacks without an attitude. *Western* officials will spend *their people's hard-earned tax money* to help protect *Israel's military sites*, and defend the *regime* at *UN* meetings with unbelievable audacity. What they won't do, however, is make sure the *over 2 million people* in the besieged Gaza will not starve to *death* or get bombed into oblivion. In the eyes of the *U.S. and Europe*, *a free and democratic world* is one where *Israel* can commit *unimaginable crimes* without anyone hitting back at it. *Iran* here, has decided it is time the *situation* changes.**"**(Web Source 18)

A. Prejudice Components and functions

Article 2 presents the negative stereotypes or beliefs that the journalist carries towards Israel **(cognitive component)** and refers to the journalist negative judgments towards Israel by rejecting it's criminal and bad actions against Iran in exaggerated manner. The notion of belonging to the same class or nation caused the journalist to sympathize with and favor Iran and Palestine, because Iran and Palestine share the same religion and have the same opponent, the Zionist regime **(Affective Component)**. That's why the journalist expresses undesirable sentiments in the form of hostile bad attitudes towards Israel. Concerning the **(Behavioral component)**, the article expresses the journalists hatred speech in discriminatory manner towards Israel because of his negative beliefs about Israel. Prejudice performs a social function by protecting the journalist's in-group interests. The journalist explains his biased coverage of Iran's operation against Israel by portraying his own group as supported and powerful in order to bring an end to Israel .

B. Macro Analysis

- Ideological Square

Article 2 speaks favorably of Iran and Palestine while demeaning Israel because Palestine stands for the in-group(Us) and Israel for the out-group. Positive photos of Palestine and Iran highlight their suffering under the Zionist state ,whereas negative images of Israel are displayed.

C. Micro Analysis

No	Sentence	Process	Goal	Role
1	Iran **acts** legally and morally in punishing Israel.	MP		Active
2	Iran **executed** its long-awaited retaliation against Israel	MP	its long awaited retaliation	Active
3	The New York Times 1*claimed* Operation Truthful Promise was 1*carried out* with at least 185 drones and around 150 missiles.	MP MP		Active Passive
4	Iran's missiles had *landed* exactly where they were **meant** to descend.	MP MP		Active Passive

1. Syntactic Level

Transitivity and Role Allocation

2.Semantic Level

A. Lexicalization

 The article explains the event using terminologies that are selected to depict it in a conservative manner, avoiding negative words based on biased notions such as ***"Clean victory, attacks, Operation, Iran's lawful attempt"***. The journalist used the phrase ***"occupied Palestine"*** to positively describe and evaluate Palestinians that they are victims.

B. Categorization: Functionalization and Identification

 The article categorizes the ***"Israeli settlers"*** according to their occupation that they are ***"settlers"*** not ***"civilians"*** who live in their original country. Additionally, they are categorized (classified) according to their nation that they are "Israeli ". The categorization of ***"United Nations" or (UN)*** according to their identification which it is classified as an organization of international law and security.

Quantitative Analysis of the American and Iranian Articles
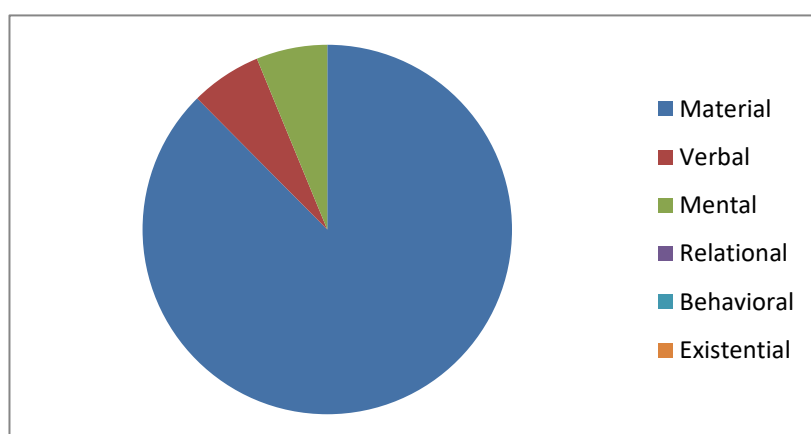 **Syntactic Strategies (Transitivity and Role allocation)**

Process Type	Fr.	Perc.	Role Allocation	Fr.	Perc.
Material	14	88%	Passivation	3	30%
Verbal	1	6.25%	Activation	7	70%
Mental	1	6.25%			
Relational	0				
Behavioral	0				
Existential	0				
Total	16	100%		10	100%

Table 1
    Frequency of Syntactic Strategies in American and Iranian Articles
Figure 1
    Frequency of Syntactic Strategies in American and Iranian Articles

The frequencies and percentages of the syntactic methods, transitivity and role allocation, are shown in the above table . Starting with transitivity, there is a quantitative analysis of transitivity strategy with respect to its process types that are conducted. The total number of applicable processes in ***"the American and Iranian articles"*** Shows that the MP is in the first rank which counts 14 in the skull with 88% percentage followed by verbal and mental process that

repeated once with equal percentage for both 6.25% and zero mention to the other processes . This reflects the journalist's tendency to explain the incidents and it's actors and goals.

4.3 Hypotheses Verification

1. The first hypothesis which reads *"Cognitive, affective and behavioral are components of prejudice used by the journalists in the function of protecting the interests of their group in the selected newspaper articles."* Is verified in both American and Iranian articles as indications of a single attitude towards intergroup judgement.
2. The second hypothesis which states *" macro linguistic strategies can be examined throughout the ideological square. While transitivity, role allocation at syntactic level, lexicalization and social actor representation which are at semantic level. "* is fully verified .
3. The third hypothesis which states " *Mental processes* are of more occurrences in the prejudiced content in the selected articles, while material are of low occurrences." Is not verified .

5. Section Five: An Introductory Note

The current chapter contains the conclusions derived from the analyses are addressed in order to answer the questions asked in the first chapter

5.1 Conclusions

 "Cognitive, affected and behavioral" are components of "prejudice" which constitute a representation of a single attitude utilized by the journalist. They are interrelated and connected in the sense that cognitive and affective represents the negative beliefs and feelings , while the behavioral one represents the manner in which the journalist represents his prejudiced. The most commonly used linguistic strategies to write prejudice content in American and Iranian newspapers are the syntactic strategies of transitivity and activation, the semantic strategy of lexicalization . The most common ideologies that encourage journalists to write prejudiced content on mass media, especially newspapers, are the polarization of positive self-presentation of the in-group and negative-other presentation of the out-group in discriminatory manner.

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