



Social Actors in The News of Iran's Attack on Israel in Mass Media: Theo Van Leeuwen's Critical Discourse Analysis

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Abstract

The rising tensions between Iran and Israel have been highlighted by many international mass media, such as Al Arabiya, and BBC Araby. This research discusses mass media strategies in representing social actors in the news of Iran's attack on Israel using Theo Van Leeuwen's Critical Discourse Analysis model. The research method used is descriptive qualitative with data collection techniques including documentation, reading, and note-taking. Then the data analysis technique used is the Miles and Huberman model which includes data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing. The researcher focused the analysis on inclusion strategies described by Theo Van Leeuwen, such as nomination, categorization, assimilation, association, determination, and others. The findings show that Al Arabiya, and BBC Araby media use four strategies to present the social actors involved in their news narratives about Iran's attack on Israel. The four strategies include determination, indetermination, assimilation, and individualization. Of the four strategies used, BBC Arabic media has a greater and more detailed representation of the details of the social actors involved than Al Arabiya media, it can be seen from the high percentage of BBC Araby media in highlighting the various social actors featured in each strategy in the news narrative.

Keywords: *Iran-Israel Conflict, Mass Media, Representation, Social Actors.*

الفاعلون الاجتماعيون في أخبار هجوم إيران على إسرائيل في وسائل الإعلام: تحليل الخطاب النقدي لثيوفان ليون

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*المسؤول لمراسلة البحث

المستخلص

وقد سلطت العديد من وسائل الإعلام العالمية الضوء على التوتر المتصاعد بين إيران وإسرائيل، مثل قناة العربية وبي بي سي العربية. يناقش هذا البحث استراتيجيات وسائل الإعلام في تمثيل الفاعلين الاجتماعيين في أخبار الهجوم الإيراني على إسرائيل باستخدام تحليل الخطاب النقدي لثيوفان ليون. منهج البحث المستخدم هو المنهج الوصفي الكيفي مع تقنيات جمع البيانات التوثيق والقراءة وتسجيل النصوص الإخبارية. ثم أسلوب تحليل البيانات المستخدم هو نموذج مايلز وهوبرمان الذي يتضمن على تخفيض البيانات، وعرض البيانات، واستخلاص النتائج. وقد ركز الباحث في التحليل على استراتيجيات التضمين التي وصفها ثيوفان ليون مثل الترشيح والتصنيف والاستيعاب والربط والتحديد وغيرها. وتظهر النتائج أن وسائل الإعلام في قناة العربية وبي بي سي عربي استخدمت أربع استراتيجيات لتقديم الفاعلين الاجتماعيين المعنيين في سردياتها الإخبارية حول الهجوم الإيراني على إسرائيل. وتشمل الاستراتيجيات الأربع: التحديد، وعدم التحديد، والاستيعاب، والتخصيص. ومن بين الاستراتيجيات الأربع المستخدمة، فإن وسائل إعلام بي بي سي عربي لديها تمثيل أكبر وأكثر تفصيلاً لتفاصيل الفاعلين الاجتماعيين المتورطين من وسائل إعلام العربية، ويمكن ملاحظة ذلك من خلال النسبة العالية التي استخدمتها وسائل إعلام بي بي سي عربي في إبراز مختلف الفاعلين الاجتماعيين الذين ظهروا في كل استراتيجية في السرد الإخباري.

الكلمة الرئيسية: الصراع الإيراني الإسرائيلي، وسائل الإعلام، التمثيل الجماهيري، الجهات الفاعلة الاجتماعية.

Introduction

The Middle East has been the epicenter of international conflict for many years.¹ Many countries have been involved in the situation, including the conflict between Iran and Israel, which has become one of the most controversial. In recent years, tensions between Iran and Israel have increased with various triggers ranging from political, ideological, religious, and opposing interests.

One of the strong factors behind the ongoing conflict between Iran and Israel today is Iran's foreign policy of supporting the Palestinian struggle for independence from Israeli Zionism.² This makes the condition even murkier because on the one hand, Israel is one of the countries that aggressively attacks Palestine. Meanwhile, the Iranian authorities stated that the current tensions in the Middle East could be resolved if Israel stopped military operations against the Palestinians.³

The mutual attacks between Iran and Israel continued until they reached a point of tension in October 2024. When Iran took revenge on Israel by carrying out a massive attack and targeting

¹ wawan budi; Kusuma,Salsabila arini; Purnama,Chandra;Darmawan, 'Diplomasi Publik Dan Media: Penggunaan Jaringan Penyiaran Al-Jazeera Dalam Krisis Diplomatik Qatar 2017-2019', *Jurnal Ilmu Sosial Dan Ilmu Politik*, 10.2 (2020), 141–68 <<https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.15575/jispo.v10i2.8176>>.

² Sekar Anugrah Resky Suhayatmi, Alia Rahmatulummah, 'Eskalasi Konflik Iran-Israel Di Damaskus: Implikasi Terhadap Stabilitas Keamanan Regional Dan Global', *Jurnal Hubungan Luar Negeri Kementerian Luar Negeri Indonesia*, 9.1 (2024), 49–68 <<https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.70836/jh.v9i1.49>>.

³ Bayu Prasetyo, *Iran Konfirmasi Tembakkan Drone, Rudal Ke Israel* (Yerusalem, 2024)

military centers in the state of Israel, Iran took revenge on Israel.⁴ The existence of these events reinforces the continuing nuclear proliferation rivalry between Iran and Israel.⁵ Such aggression often has a variety of negative impacts ranging from damage, losses, loss of life and subsequent attacks. Hikmawanto Juwana, a professor of International Law at UI also highlighted the current situation of state instability in the Middle East Region, he argued that if tensions in the region continue, the potential for World War III may occur.⁶

Iran's attack on Israel has become one of the most complex and controversial international conflict phenomena.⁷ The existence of the conflict is also inseparable from the news in the mass media and has become the main spotlight and center of attention of the international community. This expression is in line with the existence of mass media which often presents the latest news on global political, religious and other issues that can attract the attention of a wide audience.⁸

⁴ emanuel fabian Lazar berman, *Iran Fires 181 Missiles at Israel; PM: They Made a Big Mistake and Will Pay for It* (Israel, 2024)

⁵ Riska Alifia El-Shidiq, 'Kemajuan Nuklir Iran Semakin Pesat Di Tengah Konflik Iran Dan Israel, Siapakah Yang Terkuat?', *LINO: Jurnal Ilmu Hubungan Internasional*, 2.1 (2021), 12–17 <<https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.31605/lino.v2i1.1255>>.

⁶ icha rastika Nicholas Ryan Aditya, *Soroti Ketegangan Iran-Israel, Pengamat: Perang Di Timur Tengah Bisa Menjurus Ke Perang Dunia III* (Jakarta, 2024)

⁷ Sintaya Luchma Fudia and others, 'Konflik Kawasan: Studi Kasus Sengketa Masjidil Al Aqsa', *Journal of Integrative International Relations*, 7.2 (2022), 133–47 <<https://doi.org/10.15642/jiir.2022.7.2.133-147>>.

⁸ Moh Zawawi and others, 'Framing of Hamas Attacks on Israel in Al-Jazeera and BBCCoverage', *Eralingua: Jurnal Pendidikan Bahasa Asing Dan Sastra*, 8.1 (2024), 81–94 <<https://doi.org/10.26858/eralingua.v8i1.59353>>.

One of the internationally renowned media outlets highlighting the situation is Al Arabiya and BBC Arabic. Both mass media are quite intense in covering the turmoil of the conflict between Iran and Israel through their news. The role of mass media in reporting is very important as a forum for distributing discourse, information, knowledge and situations that exist in the public environment so that they can be accessed by everyone freely, voluntarily, publicly and affordably.⁹

The approach to media texts as a form of social construction has become a central focus in various linguistic and discourse studies. Language is viewed as a system of signs that constructs meaning through the relationships between its elements.¹⁰ Thus media employs language as a tool to build certain social realities. Furthermore, meaning in texts including media texts is often not explicitly stated, but rather implied through symbols and complex linguistic structures, especially in political and conflict-related issues.¹¹ Therefore, a news text in mass media is the result of a media discourse process, in which the media's values, ideologies,

⁹ Dimas Alfriandi and Zuhriah, 'Analisis Isi Framing Berita Konflik Israel Dan Palestina Di Media Kompas.Com', *Indonesian Journal of Humanities and Social Science*, 5.2 (2024), 643–54 <<https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.33367/ijhass.v5i2.5469>>.

¹⁰ Khoirul Zaman Al Umma, 'Ferdinand de Saussure : Structuralism and His Role in Modern Linguistics', *Jurnal Lisanu Ad-Dhad*, 02.01 (2015), 1–19 <<https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.21111/lisanudhad.v2i1.469>>.

¹¹ Husnul Hamidah, 'Dahsyat Al-Mawt Fī Shi'r Ḥubb Li-Adūnīs (The Astonishment of Death in Hubb Poetry by Adonis)', *Lisanudhad*, 5.2 (2018), 73–86 <<https://doi.org/10.21111/lisanudhad.v5i2.2456>>.

and interests are embedded. This indicates that the media is “not neutral” in its construction of social realities.¹²

A news report in mass media is not merely a representation of an event, but rather a constructed narrative that embodies specific values and norms upheld by the media outlet publishing it. Each media organization has distinctive way of delivering news ranging from the selection of headlines, diction, writing style, visuals aligned with its agenda-setting, to the content or messages conveyed within it.¹³ Therefore, particular characteristics that distinguish one media outlet from another in presenting a news text. This includes how the media involves and represents social actors in a given event. In news discourse, the meaning and image of social actors are shaped not only by what is said but also by how it is constructed through language and other discursive elements.¹⁴

A text is seen as a means as well as a media place for a social actor, either an individual or a group, to favor themselves or marginalize other groups. It is at this point that representation plays an important role. The term representation refers to how a person, a group, an actor, an idea, or a particular opinion is presented in a

¹² Afif Rofii and Lisa Yuniarti, ‘Analisis Wacana Model Theo Van Leeuwen Pada Berita Tipikor Dalam Rubrik Politik Dan Hukum Surat Kabar Harian Kompas’, *Aksara: Jurnal Ilmiah Pendidikan Bahasa Dan Sastra Indonesia*, 7.1 (2023), 1–12 <<https://doi.org/http://dx.doi.org/10.33087/aksara.v7i1.486>>.

¹³ Muchammad Abdul Ghofur and others, ‘Demonstrasi Mahasiswa “Tolak Reformasi Dikorupsi” Dalam Agenda Media Tirto.Id Hasnidar’, *Komunida: Media Komunikasi Dan Dakwah*, 11.1 (2021), 13–28 <<https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.35905/komunida.v11i01.1924>>.

¹⁴ Abdul Basid Fasky Randika, ‘Al-Ma’na Al-Tarabuthi Fi Riwayati Mauti Ma’ali Al-Wazir Nawal El-Sa’dawi ‘ala Asasi Nadzariyyati Geoffrey Leech’, *Lisanudhad: Jurnal Bahasa, Pembelajaran Dan Satra Arab*, 8.1 (2021), 115–38 <<https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.21111/lisanudhad.v8i1.6485>>.

news report.¹⁵ It can also be said that representation refers to how a person, group, or idea is presented in the news text, whether it is presented as it is or is deliberately made worse. In addition, representation is also related to how a person, group, or idea is presented through words, sentences, or certain photos.¹⁶

The incident of Iran's attack on Israel has involved many actors, so it is interesting to study the methods or strategies used by the mass media in presenting the parties involved in the event through the news. News about Iran's attack on Israel can be analyzed using a critical discourse analysis approach. Critical discourse analysis is used to understand how language as a social practice is associated with a discourse context that has a specific purpose.¹⁷ Therefore, Theo Van Leeuwen's critical discourse analysis model is seen as a relevant approach to be used as an analytical knife in this research. This model is a critical discourse analysis approach created by Leeuwen to explain how certain figures or social actors are displayed or hidden in discourse or news.¹⁸

¹⁵ Gigit Mujianto, M.Si, 'Analisis Wacana Kritis Pemberitaan Tentang Ormas Islam Pada Situs Berita Online', *Kembara: Jurnal Keilmuan Bahasa, Sastra, Dan Pengajarannya*, 4.2 (2018), 155 <<https://doi.org/10.22219/kembara.vol4.no2.155-172>>.

¹⁶ Wida Wahyuni, Jufri Jufri and Azis Azis, 'Analisis Representasi Aktor Perempuan Dalam Berita Media Daring: Pendekatan Eksklusi Berdasarkan Model Theo van Leeuwen', *Jurnal Onoma: Pendidikan, Bahasa, Dan Sastra*, 10.2 (2024), 1593–1605 <<https://doi.org/10.30605/onoma.v10i2.3517>>.

¹⁷ Achmad Diny Maftuhah Salamatus Ni'mah and Masrokhinc Hidayatullahb, 'The Kanjuruhan Tragedy in Online News: A Critical Discourse Analysis of Michel Foucault's Mode', *Lisanudhad: Jurnal Bahasa, Pembelajaran Dan Satra Arab*, 11.1 (2024), 52–88 <<https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.21111/lisanudhad.v11i01.10977>>.

¹⁸ K Kholisin and Ahmad Affan Haris, 'Taḥlīl Al-Khiṭāb Al-Naqdī Li-Al-Akhhbār 'Alā Al-Internet "an Ilghā" Indūnīsiyā Li-Istiḍāfah Ka's Al-Ālam Taḥta 20 Jurnal *Lisanudhad*

It is interesting, of course, to examine the issue of the appearance of social actors in the news with the critical discourse analysis model of Theo Van Leeuwen's perspective, which the researcher considers quite relevant as an analytical knife to answer these issues. In general, the critical discourse analysis model developed by Theo Van Leeuwen aims to identify and analyze the marginalization of a group or individual in a discourse. According to Theo Van Leeuwen, discourse in mass media is not merely seen as a linguistic structure, but also as a social practice laden with ideological meaning.¹⁹ This model typically illustrates how social actors are represented in mass media.²⁰ Therefore, in analyzing or describing how social actors whether individuals or groups are portrayed in news reporting, Theo Van Leeuwen formulates two specific strategies that serve as the main focus of his theory is the processes of exclusion and inclusion.²¹

The exclusion strategy is the process of excluding or eliminating certain actors from the discourse that will be able to change and legitimize the reader's understanding of the phenomenon. Meanwhile, the Inclusion strategy is a process used

Sanah Min Qibal FIFA 'alá Ṣafḥah Arabic.Rt.Com Bi-Istikhdām Nahj Theo Van Leeuwen', *Al-Multaqā Al-'Ilmī Al-'Ālamī Al-Rābi'* 'Aṣḥar Li-Lughah Al-'Arabiyyah, 2023, 1175–86

¹⁹ Theo van Leeuwen, *Introducing Social Semiotics, Introducing Social Semiotics*, First Edit (USA and Canada: Routledge, 2005) <<https://doi.org/10.4324/9780203647028>>.

²⁰ Khairunnisa Nasution, 'Analisis Strategi Wacana Kritis Menurut Theo Van Leeuwen Dalam Berita Bbc Ḥādīth Ṣan"ā": Maqṭal 'Aṣḥarāt Al-Yamanīyīn Fī Tadāfu' Khilāl Tajammu' Li-Tawzī' Tabarru'āt Fī Ramaḍān', *Research Gate*, 2023, 1–9.

²¹ Rofii and Yuniarti.

by discourse to feature something, someone, an actor or group in a news text.²² According to Theo Van Leeuwen, there are several ways of packaging news carried out by the media through the inclusion process, namely (a) differentiation-indifference, (b) objectivation-abstraction, (c) nomination-categorization, (d) nomination-identification, (e) determination-indetermination, (f) assimilation-individualization, and (g) association-dissociation.²³

Throughout the search conducted by researchers, researchers still have not found previous studies that have focused on the study of news in the mass media on the topic of Iran's attack on Israel. Previous research is more likely to explore the conditions or dynamics of the conflict that occurred in the two countries. The first research focuses on the escalation of the Iran-Israel conflict in Damascus: Implications for Regional and Global Security Stability.²⁴ The second is to reveal the conditions of rivalry between the countries of Iran and Israel.²⁵ Third, it discusses Israel's attitude that always trying to sabotage Iran's nuclear installations.²⁶ The

²² Efaphras Cinta Tyas Gusti, Eti Setiawati and Warsiman Warsiman, 'Strategi Media Daring Kompas.Com Dalam Membentuk Identitas Sepak Bola Nasional: Analisis Wacana Model Theo van Leeuwen', *Jurnal Onoma: Pendidikan, Bahasa, Dan Sastra*, 10.3 (2024), 3099–3118 <<https://doi.org/10.30605/onoma.v10i3.3919>>.

²³ Theo Van Leeuwen, *Discourse and Practice: New Tools for Critical Discourse Analysis* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2008) <<https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1093/ACPROF:OSO/9780195323306.001.0001>>.

²⁴ Suhayatmi, Alia Rahmatulummah.

²⁵ Khotibul Umam, 'Rivalitas Arab Saudi, Iran, Dan Israel Di Kawasan Timur Tengah', *Populika*, 10.2 (2022), 1–10 <<https://doi.org/10.37631/populika.v10i2.509>>.

²⁶ Lila Agustin Triana Sari, Pipin Nabila and Depict Pristine Adi, 'Analisis Kebijakan Politik Luar Negeri Indonesia Sebagai Mediator Konflik Antara Arab
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fourth is to analyze Iran's solidarity in response to Israel's attack on Palestine.²⁷ Fifth, it examines how the military components of each country from both Iran and Israel and who is the strongest between the two countries in conflict.²⁸

The use of the critical discourse analysis theory approach of Theo Van Leeuwen's model has been widely applied by various previous studies. The first is to analyze critical discourse through inclusion and exclusion strategies on *Al-Arabiya*, net, and Al-Jazeera news about suicide bombings in Bandung edition 7 December 2022.²⁹ The second is to describe the process of exclusion and inclusion in Deddy Corbuzier's YouTube podcast video about the shooting of Brigadier Joshua.³⁰ The third is to reveal the strategies of exclusion and inclusion, as well as the differences in the use of reporting strategies in news coverage of the Al-Shifa Hospital attack in the online media outlets Republika, Al Jazeera, and BBC News.³¹ Fourth is to reveal the representation of social

Saudi Dengan Iran Tahun 2016', *CERMIN: Jurnal Penelitian*, 4.2 (2020), 233 <https://doi.org/10.36841/cermin_unars.v4i2.768>.

²⁷ Prihandono Wibowo, 'Republik Islam Iran Dan Permasalahan Palestina-Israel', *THE INSIERA INSIGHT*, 1.3 (2024), 1–5 <<https://doi.org/https://journal.insiera.org/index.php/TII/article/view/100>>.

²⁸ El-Shidiq.

²⁹ Lulu Eka Aprilia and Achmad Diny Hidayatullah, 'Al-Ihrab Al-Ijramy Fi Bandung Fi Al-Akhbar Al-Arabiyah Ala Al-Imtirnit; Istinadan Ila Tahlil Al-Khitbah an-Naqdiy Li Theo Van Leeuwen', *Mantiqut Tayr*, 4.1 (2024), 38–59 <<https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.25217/mantiqutayr.v4i1.3953>>.

³⁰ Siti Nur Fatimah, Bambang Yulianto and Heny Subandiyah, 'Representasi Aktor Pada Kasus Penembakan Brigadir Joshua Dalam Perspektif Analisis Wacana Theo Van Leeweun', *Edukasia: Jurnal Pendidikan Dan Pembelajaran*, 4.2 (2023), 2363–68 <<https://doi.org/10.62775/edukasia.v4i2.594>>.

³¹ Lulu Eka Aprililia M. Anwar Masadi, Madinatul Munawwarah, 'The Attack Of Al-Syifa Hospital In The Report Of Online Media Republika, Aljazeera, And
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actors constructed by The Guardia and Al Jazeera in the news of the persecution of immigrant workers and the issue of the 'OneLove' armband during the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.³² Fifth is to reveal the ideological characteristics of exclusion and inclusion as well as the differences between the two strategies contained in the COVID-19 reporting on crime in the online media SINDO news.com and Fajar.co.id.³³

Based on the previous studies described above, this research has similarities and differences with previous studies. The similarity lies in the formal object (theory) used in the form of Theo Van Leeuwen's critical discourse analysis and the selection of the object of study on the news. The difference lies in the content of the news and the focus of the study raised. This study raises several news stories containing the news of Iran's attack on Israel contained in the mass media Al Arabiya, and BBC Arabic, with a focus on how the strategies used by the media on the actors involved to be featured in the news narrative, which this type of research has never been studied before.

Departing from the similarities and differences above, the researcher tries to position this research with previous research to

Bbc News', *Mabasan: Masyarakat Bahasa & Sastra Nusantara*, 18.1 (2024), 145–64 <<https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.62107/mab.v18i1.854>>.

³² Hannafirsta Seroja Mujapasa, 'Analisis Wacana Kritis Theo Van Leeuwen Pada Pemberitaan Piala Dunia FIFA Qatar 2022 Di The Guardia and Al Jazeera', *Madani: Jurnal Ilmiah Multidisiplin*, 1.5 (2023), 972–77 <<https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.8073662>>.

³³ Reski Amaliah, Mahmudah Mahmudah and Mayong Mayong, 'Mengungkap Ideologi Teks Berita Covid 19 Berdasarkan Pendekatan Analisis Wacana Kritis Theo Van Leeuwen', *Fon: Jurnal Pendidikan Bahasa Dan Sastra Indonesia*, 17.2 (2021), 203–15 <<https://doi.org/10.25134/fon.v17i2.4439>>.

provide a renewal in terms of phenomena or issues of the object of study that have never been raised before and tries to fill the gaps in various previous studies.

This research focuses on efforts to uncover and identify various strategies applied by the mass media Al Arabiya and BBC Arabic in presenting various social actors involved in the Iranian attack on Israel. The existence of this research is also expected to contribute to the scientific field, innovate findings, and add references.

Method

This study adopts a qualitative descriptive research approach, in which the researcher first seeks to gain a deep understanding and adapt to the social situation or object of study being examined.³⁴ The main focus of this research is to describe the social actors involved in the news coverage of the Iranian attack on Israel, using the critical discourse analysis model from the perspective of Theo Van Leeuwen. The data collection techniques employed by the researcher include documentation, reading, and note-taking. In the documentation technique, the researcher collects online news articles highlighting the Iranian attack on Israel from selected news sources, namely Al Arabiya and BBC Arabic, both of which published reports on this incident on October 2, 2024. The reading and note-taking technique was used by researchers to read carefully to find the social actors involved in the reporting of Iran's

³⁴ Zuchri Abdussamad, *Metode Penelitian Kualitatif*, ed. by Patta Rapanna, Cetakan 1 (Makassar: CV. syakir Media Press, 2021)

attack on Israel in the two selected news sources. Then, the social actors that have been found are classified based on Theo Van Leeuwen's actor performance strategy.

The data that has been collected is then analyzed using the Miles and Huberman model which consists of several stages, including 1) Data reduction, at this stage researchers filter and simplify data from each news text that has been collected, by identifying the strategies applied by each news in presenting the social actors involved in the news event, 2) Presentation of data, at this stage the reduced data is organized in the form of tables and descriptions systematically, by the social actor appearance strategies used by each news media. Each social actor found is categorized based on Theo Van Leeuwen's approach, such as determination, individualization and others, and reinforced with expert opinions to support the analysis process.

This data presentation also includes text excerpts from the news to support the classification, 3) Drawing conclusions and verification, based on the data that has been presented, then researchers draw conclusions about the strategies applied by each news channel in presenting social actors. Then, verification is done by rechecking the data and analysis to ensure that the findings are accurate and in-depth.

Result and Discussion

The Iranian attack on Israel has been reported by various news channels, including Al Arabiya and BBC Arabic. These two channels were selected by the researcher as sources of news in this Jurnal *Lisanudhad*

study because both are credible international media outlets with a wide audience reach in the Middle East region, and they are among those that pay particular attention to the geopolitical conflict between Iran and Israel. Moreover, the two news channels have different backgrounds. Al Arabiya represents Arabic-language media with a Gulf state perspective, while BBC Arabic is a branch of Western media that delivers news in Arabic for a Middle Eastern audience. As such, these two sources present diverse discourse representations in their coverage of the Iranian attack on Israel. Both channels published news articles on the Iranian attack on Israel in October 2024, as shown in the table below:

Table 1. Media coverage of Iran's attack on Israel.

NO	News	News Title	News Source	URL
1.		إيران تؤكد: أطلقنا ٢٠٠ صاروخ على إسرائيل وردنا انتبى	Al-Arabiya	https://www.alarabiya.net/iran/2024/10/02/
2.		ماذا نعرف عن هجوم إيران على إسرائيل بالصواريخ؟	BBC Arabic	https://www.bbc.com/arabic/articles/cdrj61zr31eo

The table above contains key information, including the headline, publication source, access link, and visual elements or images that support the news.

Through its news narrative, each mass media has its own characteristics in presenting its news writing, including various

social actors that appear in the content of the news and a number of strategies applied in displaying these various social actors. In the news coverage of Iran's attack on Israel, there are a number of social actors raised by the media in the news narrative. Sometimes the social actors who appear are still actively involved in an event and sometimes the actors are passive or actors who have been victims of both the event and other events, but are reappeared in a news report. In the analysis section below, the focus will be on identifying the strategies used by each news channel to present the various social actors involved in the news events. The detailed explanation is as follows:

Determination

Determination is a report on events or social actors that are not clearly displayed and contain anonymous elements in it.³⁵ The following table presents several social actors represented by Al Arabiya and BBC Araby using the strategy of determination in their news coverage.

Table 2. Types of Social Actors Represented Through Determination on Al Arabiyah

Social Actors	Data
المجلس الوزراء السياسي والأمني	وقال في بداية اجتماع طارئ لمجلس الوزراء السياسي والأمني في وقت متأخر من مساء أمس "ارتكبت إيران خطأ كبيرا الليلة وستدفع ثمن

³⁵ Rofii and Yuniarti.
Jurnal Lisanudhad

هيئة الأركان العامة للقوات المسلحة الإيرانية	بدورها ردت هيئة الأركان العامة للقوات المسلحة الإيرانية في بيان مؤكدة أن أي رد إسرائيلي سيقابل "بتدمير واسع النطاق
البيت الأبيض	بل تعهد البيت الأبيض بأن تواجه إيران "عواقب وخيمة
مسؤولون عسكريون إسرائيليون	وقال مسؤولون عسكريون إسرائيليون إن الهجمات بدت وكأنها انتهت ولم يعد هناك أي تهديد من إيران
مسؤول أمني إسرائيلي	وقال مسؤول أمني إسرائيلي إن معظم الصواريخ أسقطتها أنظمة الدفاع الجوي الإسرائيلية
الحرس الثوري الإيراني	وأكد الحرس الثوري الإيراني أن ٩٠ في المئة من القذائف أصابت أهدافها

Table 3. Types of Social Actors Represented Through
Determination on BBA Arabiya

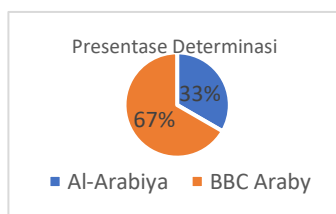
Social Actors	Data
مسعفين إسرائيليين	لكن مسعفين إسرائيليين قالوا إن شخصين أصيبا بجروح طفيفة جراء شظايا
مسؤول إيراني	وقال مسؤول إيراني رفيع لوكالة رويترز للأنباء إن المرشد الأعلى للبلاد، آية الله علي خامنئي، أعطى الأمر شخصيا بالهجوم الصاروخي، الذي نُفذ يوم الثلاثاء
متحدث باسم البنتاغون	وقال متحدث باسم البنتاغون إن مدمرات البحرية الأمريكية أطلقت حوالي اثني عشر صاروخا

Based on the news data excerpts above, researchers identified several social actors who were not clearly displayed by the media. As in the first data that displays Israeli military officials, then Israeli security officials) in the second data, the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) in the third data, medical

personnel in the fourth data, then senior Iranian officials in the fifth data, and a US Pentagon spokesman in the sixth data.

The news editorial excerpts presented by Al Arabiya and BBC Araby media above, use a determination strategy where social actors or events are not clearly mentioned or anonymous in the text. According to Dewi (2021) one of the main reasons is that journalists may not have enough evidence or sufficient information to clearly identify social actors, it could also be because there is a structural fear of a clear category of a social actor when mentioned in the text. This strategy is in accordance with Theo Van Leeuwen's theory which emphasizes that determination refers to mentioning the identity of social actors not clearly and without specific details and to avoid conveying inaccurate information or excessive assumptions.³⁶ The following is the percentage of the use of the Determination strategy used by each media in presenting the social actors involved in the news event.

Figure 1. Percentage of Determination



³⁶ Suharni, Siti Bahirah Saidi and Samantha Medina, 'Theo Van Leeuwen's Theory of Inclusion in Criminal News on Facebook: A Critical Discourse Analysis Analisis Wacana Kritis Teori Inklusi Theo Van Leeuwen Dalam Berita', *Journal of Pragmatics and Discourse Research*, 2.2 (2022), 48–57 <<https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.51817/jpdr.v2i2.205>>.

Indetermination

Indetermination is the treatment of social actors, which is displayed in a news report clearly by mentioning the name as the identity of the actor.³⁷ The following table presents several social actors represented by Al Arabiya and BBC Araby using the strategy of Indetermination in their news coverage.

Table 4. Types of Social Actors Represented through Indetermination on Al-Arabiya

Social Actors	Data
وزير الخارجية الإيراني عباس عراقي	أكد وزير الخارجية الإيراني عباس عراقي في منشور على موقع "إكس" في وقت مبكر من صباح اليوم الأربعاء أن "العملية انتهت
رئيس الوزراء الإسرائيلي بنيامين نتניהو بالرد	في حين تعهد رئيس الوزراء الإسرائيلي بنيامين نتניהو بالرد
مجلسه للأمن القومي جيک سوليفان	وقال المتحدث باسم مجلسه للأمن القومي جيک سوليفان في إفادة صحفية إن بلاده
رئيس الوزراء الإسرائيلي بنيامين نتניהو	كما حذر رئيس الوزراء الإسرائيلي بنيامين نتניהو من "عواقب" الهجوم
محافظ المدينة حسين حمایل	ووفقا لوكالة فرانس برس للأنباء، التي تحدثت إلى محافظ المدينة حسين حمایل
آية الله علي خامنئي	إن المرشد الأعلى للبلاد، آية الله علي خامنئي، أعطى الأمر شخصا بالهجوم الصاروخي

³⁷ Azis Azis Nur Ikraam Syafruddin, Johar Amir, ‘Kajian Pemberitaan Dugaan Korupsi Dalam Dunia Pendidikan: Analisis Wacana Kritis Theo Van Leeuwen’, *Wahana Literasi: Journal of Language, Literature, and Linguistics*, 1.1 (2021), 35–44 <<https://www.neliti.com/publications/554342/kajian-pemberitaan-dugaan-korupsi-dalam-dunia-pendidikan-analisis-wacana-kritis>>.

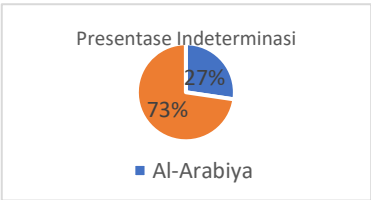
Table 5. Types of Social Actors Represented through Indetermination on BBC Araby

Social Actors	Data
الرئيس الأمريكي جو بايدن	أكد الرئيس الأمريكي جو بايدن دعم الولايات المتحدة لإسرائيل بعد الهجوم الصاروخي
وزير الدفاع الأمريكي لويد أوستن	أكد وزير الدفاع الأمريكي لويد أوستن أيضا ذلك، مدينا "هذا العمل العدواني الفظيع من قبل إيران
وزير الدفاع البريطاني، جون هيلي	وقال وزير الدفاع البريطاني، جون هيلي، إن القوات البريطانية لعبت دورها في محاولات منع المزيد من التصعيد
رئيس الوزراء البريطاني، السير كير ستارمر	وقال رئيس الوزراء البريطاني، السير كير ستارمر، إن المملكة المتحدة تقف إلى جانب إسرائيل
الدفاع الإسرائيلية دانييل هاغ	وقال المتحدث باسم قوات الدفاع الإسرائيلية دانييل هاغاري: "لدينا خطط وسنرد في الوقت والمكان الذي نحدده

Based on the news data excerpts above, researchers again found a number of social actors involved in the news and clearly displayed. As in the first data that displays Benjamin Netanyahu, an Israeli prime minister, then Hussein Hamayel, a governor in the city of Jericho in the second data, Ayatollah Humaini as the supreme leader of Iran in the third data, Joe Biden as the president of the United States in the fourth data, Lloyd Austin, a United States Secretary of Defense in the fifth, then John Healey as the British Minister of Defense, and Sir Keir Starmer, a British Prime Minister in the sixth and seventh data, and Daniel Hagari, a spokesman for the Israeli Defense Forces in the eighth data.

Each media outlet, both Al Arabiya and BBC Araby in their news editorials above, present the social actors they involve in an indeterminate manner. This refers to the way in which social actors or events are mentioned by the media in a clear and identifiable way in the text. Information about who or what is involved is very clear and unambiguous. This supports Theo Van Leeuwen's theory that indetermination strategies are used by the media to create specific and straightforward representations of social actors, which allows readers to easily identify the social actors in question or the events discussed.³⁸ The following is the percentage of the use of indetermination strategies used by each media in presenting the social actors involved in the news event.

Figure 2. Percentage of Indetermination



Assimilation

Assimilation is the appearance of social actors or actors who are positioned as victims and appear not clearly, mentioned only to the extent of their community or social status.³⁹ The following table

³⁸ Moch Nurcholis Majid and M Wildanil Mubarak, ‘Critical Discourse Analysis Of Campus News Text : Model of Theo Van Leeuwen (Case Study of UIN Malang News on Online Media Jatim.Nu.or.Id)’, *Jurnal Komunikasi Islam Dan Kehumasan* (JKPI), 7.1 (2023), 9–15 <<https://doi.org/https://jurnal.radenfatah.ac.id/index.php/JKPI/article/view/18450>>.

³⁹ Nanik Yuliana, Adi Syaiful Muchtar and Moh Atikurrahman, ‘Kuasi Narasi, Kuasa Gramatika: Strategi Inklusi Van Leeuwen Dalam Pemberitaan Mahasiswa Tolak Kenaikan Harga Bbm (Narrative Quality, Gramatic Power: Van

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presents several social actors represented by Al Arabiya and BBC Arabic who are using the strategy of assimilation in their news coverage.

Table 6. Types of Social Actors Represented through Assimilation.

News Source	Social Actors	Data
Al Arabiya	مقتل رجل	إلا أن أي أنباء عن وقوع قتلى في إسرائيل لم ترد، باستثناء الضفة الغربية حيث أعلنت السلطات الفلسطينية مقتل رجل
	مع مستشار في الحرس الثوري الإيراني	في يوم ٢٧ سبتمبر مع مستشار في الحرس الثوري الإيراني
	رجلا	إن رجلا توفي خلال القصف الصاروخي الإيراني. ووفقا لوكالة فرانس برس للأنباء
BBC Arabic	قالوا إن شخصين	لكن مسعفين إسرائيليين قالوا إن شخصين أصيبا بجروح طفيفة جراء شظايا
	لأحد كبار قادته وزعماء الميليشيات المسلحة	إن الهجمات كانت ردا على قتل إسرائيل لأحد كبار قادته وزعماء الميليشيات المسلحة المدعومة من إيران في المنطقة

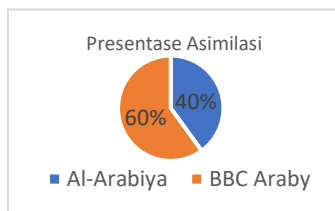
Based on the news data excerpts above, researchers again found a similar victimized social actors involved in the news and displayed not clearly. As in the first data which shows one man who has been killed, then two people who suffered minor injuries in the

second data, and senior leaders and Iranian armed militia figures who were killed in the third data.

In the news editorial quote above shows that Al Arabiya and BBC Araby media use an assimilation strategy, where the social actors who are victims or the events that occur are not clearly and specifically disclosed in the text. This is in accordance with Theo Van Leeuwen's theory that the assimilation strategy is used to disguise the identity of the victim's social actor and information about the identity of the actor tends to be general, so this strategy creates ambiguity that makes it difficult for readers to identify the actor specifically and sometimes readers guess personally the identity of the victim or the party in question, as seen in the news data.⁴⁰

The following is the percentage of the use of assimilation strategies used by each media in presenting the social actors involved in the news event.

Figure 3. Percentage of Assimilation



Individualization

Individualization is the reporting of social actors or actors who are positioned as victims who are clearly reported by showing

⁴⁰ Mujahid Taha, Ery Iswary and Dafirah, 'Analisis Wacana Kritis Teori Inklusi Theo Van Leeuwen Dalam Berita Kriminal Di Media Daring Koridormalutnews.Com Edisi 23 November 2021', *Journal of Innovation Research and Knowledge*, 2.2 (2022), 329–36 <<https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.53625/jirk.v2i2.2773>>.

their category firmly in the text or discourse.⁴¹ The following table presents several social actors represented by Al Arabiya and BBC Araby using the strategy of individualization in their news coverage.

Table 7. Types of Social Actors Represented Through Individualization.

News Source	Social Actors	Data
Al Arabiya	حسن نصرالله	كما أوضحت أن هجوماها جاء ردا على اغتيال زعيم حزب الله، حسن نصرالله يوم ٢٧ سبتمبر
	إسماعيل هنية	مع مستشار في الحرس الثوري الإيراني، فضلا عن اغتيال رئيس المكتب السياسي لحركة حماس إسماعيل هنية يوم ٣١ يوليو الماضي في طهران
BBC Arabic	حسن نصر الله	وأشار الحرس الثوري الإيراني إلى مقتل الأمين العام لحزب الله حسن نصر الله
	عباس نيلفورشان	وقائد الحرس الثوري الإيراني عباس نيلفورشان في العاصمة اللبنانية بيروت في ٢٧ سبتمبر/أيلول
	إسماعيل هنية	كما أشار إلى مقتل الزعيم السياسي لحركة حماس إسماعيل هنية في طهران في يوليو/تموز

Based on the news data excerpts above, researchers again found several social actor victims involved in the news and displayed clearly and specifically. The first data displays the assassination of Hassan Nasrallah, the Secretary General of Hezbollah, then the death of Abbas Nilforushan, an IRGC

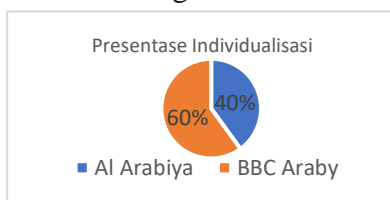
⁴¹ Bakti Mardikantoro H, Wati M Rustono R, 'Theo Van Leeuwen Critical Discuss Analysis on Murder Theme of Criminal News in Cnn.Com and Detik.Com', *KREDO: Jurnal Ilmiah Bahasa Dan Sastra*, 7.1 (2023), 137–59 <<https://doi.org/https://dx.doi.org/10.24176/kredo.v7i1.11254>>.

commander in the second data, and the killing of Ismail Haniyeh, a Hamas political leader in the third data.

The news editorial quote above reflects the individualization strategy used by Al Arabiya and BBC Araby media, by presenting social actors or groups who are victims clearly and their categories are mentioned straightforwardly in the text or discourse. This mention reflects the characteristics of individualization described by Theo Van Leeuwen, where information about who the victim actors are or what is involved is presented explicitly in the news narrative and avoids ambiguity, so that readers can easily identify specifically the victim social actors and other parties referred to.⁴²

The following is a percentage of the use of individualization strategies used by each media in presenting social actors involved in news events.

Figure 4. Percentage of Individualization



Based on the analysis of the representation of social actors in the news coverage of the Iran-Israel attack, using two news sources Al Arabiya and BBC Arabic it was found that not all seven types of social actor representation strategies proposed by Theo Van Leeuwen could be applied in this study. These seven types include;

⁴² Haru Deliana Dewi Emir Salim, 'Perbandingan Strategi Pemberitaan Bjorka Dalam Media Berita Daring: Analisis Wacana Kritis Dengan Teori Van Leeuwen', *Jurnal Ilmiah Wahana Pendidikan*, 10.8 (2024), 81–89 <<https://jurnal.peneliti.net/index.php/JIWP/article/view/8446>>.

(a) differentiation-indifference, (b) objectivation-abstraction, (c) nomination-categorization, (d) nomination-identification, (e) determination-indetermination, (f) assimilation-individualization, and (g) association-dissociation. This limitation is due to the lack of linguistic evidence supporting the presence of these types within the corpus of news texts analyzed. Therefore, the focus of the analysis in this study is limited to strategies that can be explicitly identified in the data, such as Determination–Indetermination and Assimilation–Individualization. The other types are still mentioned as part of the theoretical scope of Theo Van Leeuwen's model as a whole, but their application in the analysis is selective due to the absence of factual evidence supporting their occurrence in the news texts examined.

Conclusion

Based on the analysis of two online news portals, namely Al Arabiya and BBC Arabic. It is concluded that each media uses its strategy in presenting social actors involved in news events related to Iran's attack on Israel. Al Arabiya displays three active actors in a Determined manner, namely (the Council of Ministers of Security and Politics, the General Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces, and the White House). As well as three other active actors in Indetermination (Benjamin Netanyahu, Abbas Araqchi, and Jake Sullivan). This media also elevates social actors who are positioned as victims with the strategies of Assimilation (a dead man and an advisor to the Iranian Revolutionary Guard) and Individualization (Hassan Nasrullah and Ismael Hanieyah).

BBC Araby features six active actors by Determination (Israeli military and security officials, Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps, medics, senior Iranian officials and Pentagon spokespersons). And eight other active actors in Indeterminacy (Benjamin Netanyahu, Hussein Hamayel, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Joe Biden, Lloyd Austin, John Healey, Sir Keir Starmer, and Daniel Hagari). It also used Assimilation for one killed, two wounded and one leader killed, and Individualization for three other victim actors (Hassan Nasrullah, Abbas Nilforushan, and Ismael Hanieyah).

The conclusion narrative above shows that BBC Araby media has the highest percentage of highlighting various social actors in its news. It can be seen from the number of social actors featured in the news narrative. So this strategy shows that BBC Araby has greater attention to the details of the events and actors involved, so that it can be present a more comprehensive picture to readers. Meanwhile, Al Arabiya media shows a more limited approach to the representation of social actors. Al Arabiya tends to focus its news on several active actors and victims with the use of a more balanced strategy between Determination, Indetermination, Assimilation, and Individualization.

The weakness in this study lies in the limited scope of data on two news portals, namely Al Arabiya and BBC Arabic, so it has not been able to provide a broader picture of the patterns of representation of social actors in other international media. In addition, the focus of the research only uses inclusion strategies based on Theo Van Leeuwen's model, while the exclusion aspects that are also important in shaping media discourse have not been the

main concern. Future research is recommended to expand the object of study by involving media from various geographical areas and different ideologies, as well as integrating analysis of exclusion strategies to provide a more holistic perspective in understanding the dynamics of international conflict reporting.

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