

**RESEARCH PAPER****Representation of Israel and Palestine Issue in International Media:
An Analysis of BBC and Al-Jazeera coverage in 2022****¹Dr. Haseeb Sarwar*, ²Afifa Tanveer Malhi and ³Iram Naz**

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***Corresponding Author** haseeb.sarwar@uon.edu.pk**ABSTRACT**

The purpose of this study was to examine how the Israel-Palestine conflict was portrayed in the worldwide media, with a focus on how the BBC and Al Jazeera reported death figures while distinguishing between terrorists and civilians. It also looked at how these publications framed Islam and Muslims and contrasted how they covered the Israel-Palestine conflict. With a focus on the year 2022, specifically, this study included both qualitative and quantitative content analysis. Print Media selected as population and through purposive sampling two newspapers Al Jazeera from Qatar (a Muslim country) and the BBC from the UK (a non-Muslim nation) were chosen as sample of study. Four units of analysis were used in the study: "Image of News," "Sources," "Number of Militants," and "Number of Citizens." The study analysed BBC and Al Jazeera articles using qualitative and quantitative content analysis, classifying them according to how the war was portrayed, the sources that were quoted, whether or not militants and civilians were included, and how the events were presented. The war was extensively covered by the non-Muslim press, with the BBC serving as an example. However, the news was presented as an attempt at peace by the Israeli military. Al Jazeera, on the other hand, gave an objective account that emphasised the everyday toll that Israeli military activities take on innocent Palestinian people. The results point to the need for more impartial and balanced reporting of the Israel-Palestine conflict in worldwide media outlets, one that takes into account the hardships that both parties must endure.

Keywords: Attack on Muslims, Framing, International Newspapers, Israel-Palestine Conflict**Introduction**

Information transferred from one person to another via communication instruments called media. Media is essentially a kind of communication that offers its subscribers news, entertainment, and a variety of other things. According to Landry (2017). Print media is a type of media in which news reported through printed materials like newspapers and magazines. Over time, print media has shifted its emphasis away from the news and toward entertainment and education (Shabir, 2018). Print media has many sources to describe its significant role. They have a supporting or minor role in drawing a sizable audience to one side (Gautam, 2014). One of the businesses that is expanding is print media, where you may pick your target audience with ease and use it as a tool to raise awareness among the public. Local concerns may easily address in this medium, and readers can read it at certain times (Dasgupta, 2018). The most practical type of print media is the newspaper.

Those who adhere to Islam are known as Muslims. Muslims have a strong commitment to Islam and openly declare to believe in and worship just one God. The final

prophet of Allah to humanity, according to Muslims, is Hazrat Muhammad (P.B.U.H). In western communities, stereotypical discourses and media representations about Muslims are widespread, characterizing Muslims as being outside the dominant group and lacking the ability to participate equally in society like other Westerners do (Eid, 2019).

Palestinians who expelled from their country and lost their homes in 1948. After winning the British government's approval for the formation of a Jewish state in Palestine, Zionist forces proclaimed the State of Israel's existence on May 14, 1948, upon the end of the British Mandate. This action precipitated the first Arab Israeli conflict. At least 750,000 Palestinians driven from their homes and lands by Zionist armed troops, who also took control of 78% of ancient Palestine. OCHA records show that between 2009 and 2022, Israeli troops destroyed at least 8,413 Palestinian-owned buildings, uprooting at least 12,491 persons. For Israeli Jews to dwell in, the Israeli government openly sponsored and constructed settlements, providing enticements and sponsored cover. On October 18, 1922, the British Broadcasting Company established, giving rise to the BBC. It founded as a private business with the goal of providing unbiased news and entertainment as a public service. It changed its name to the British Broadcasting Corporation in 1927 and started receiving government funding. A well-known worldwide news organization with a Middle Eastern background, Al-Jazeera is renowned for its thorough coverage of world events and its wide variety of viewpoints. The Qatari government established Al-Jazeera on November 1st, 1996, to create an independent media source that would counter the prevalent Western narrative in the Arab world. Major events like the September 11th attacks, the Iraq War, the Arab Spring uprisings, and the Israel-Palestine conflict helped Al-Jazeera acquire notoriety throughout the world.

Literature Review

The research "Islamophobia and Act of Violence: The Targeting and Victimization of American Muslims" by Turpin and Petrosino (2022) concluded. The fact that the United States and that America run CNN is a sociopolitical synthesis of several social cultures is evident to every one in the globe. Molded Haver (2022) concluded in his study on "Islamophobia" that influential media organizations play a significant impact in shaping public perception, whether it be for the better or worse. Amy B. Becker (2022) made the claim that "Let's talk about the Israel-Palestine conflict: Does exposure to political comedy about the Middle East influence policy attitude?"

Shahid et al. (2023) elaborated that BBC and CNN offered a pro-Israel tilt 74% and 90% of their attention, whereas pro-Palestine and a neutral viewpoint received the least attention. Al-Jazeera contributed 48% of its coverage to the pro-Palestine bias, 46% to the neutral slant, and the least to the pro-Israel tilt. Like this, RT allocated 58% to neutral news and 32% to pro-Palestine coverage. Nawawy and Elmasry (2022) noted that before and after the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Israel formally signed the September 2020 Abraham Accords, a normalization agreement supervised by the United States, the statistical content evaluation examined Emirati and Israeli news framing of Israel-Palestine. Khan (2022), the dispute between Israel and the Palestinians has been a mystery for over 70 years due to Israeli occupation and a demonstrable humanitarian catastrophe in Palestine. Organizations like the UN and OIC played a neutral role in the Palestine conflict, with a mix of failures and triumphs. Israel stepped boosted its defenses against the PLO and Hamas, which were responsible for assaults on Tel Aviv.

H1. Muslim international newspaper Al-Jazeera showed the unbiased behavior while giving coverage of Israel and Palestine conflict.

H2. Non-Muslim international newspaper BBC shows the unbiased while giving coverage of Israel and Palestine conflict.

Theoretical Framework

The theory of agenda setting describes how a particular topic or problem becomes a matter of public concern because of the impact of the media. A public problem is one that is on the public agenda (Mohd Zain, 2014). Three different forms of agendas—the media agenda, the public agenda, and the policy agenda recognized under the agenda setting theory. Media agenda affects public goal and policy agenda. This theory was suited for the ongoing research which examined the editorial priorities of newspapers (such as BBC and Al-Jazeera) about the Israel-Palestine conflict and the Muslim community's response to it. Since the 9/11 attacks, Muslims and Islam have been the subject of controversy in the media worldwide.

The idea of how a certain topic portrayed to mass media consumers is the focus of framing theory. The mass media use several frames to affect how people think and see things. A two-level framing theory exists. The first level of communication is the framing, which includes actors, journalists, news anchors, etc. These frames could or might not be encouraging. The second level of cognition thought framing, which includes mental representation, interpretation, and perception (Arowolo, 2017). This theory is relevant for this research's analysis of the function of foreign media in relation to Israel's onslaught on Palestine. This research examined the frames that international media outlets use to portray Muslims and Islamophobic attacks on Palestine before claiming that this was historically Jewish territory, and that Jews alone had the right to occupy it.

Material and Methods

Quality and Quantitative content analysis was used as research strategy. Content analysis is the interpretation of the information in a communication (Parveen & Showkat, 2017). Topic region and duration are the two dimensions that utilized to create an acceptable population. Print media from the UK and Qatar have chosen for this study's sample. Typically, this method has two steps. The first step is choosing a representative sample of the content sources, and the second is choosing the periods from which issues will chose. The dates 1 January through 31 December 2022 chosen from the "BBC and Al-Jazeera" online archives. The research focused on all the news and editorials about the Israel-Palestine conflict, narrative of Muslims and Islamophobia. This study has focused on the four unit of analysis image, source, number of dead militants and number of dead civilians.

Results and Discussion

Table 1
Selected International Newspapers

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	BBC	60	48.0	48.0	48.0
	Al-Jazeera	65	52.0	52.0	100.0
	Total	125	100.0	100.0	

Table 1 defines the inclusive verdicts of selected international newspapers which are British Broadcasting Company and Al-Jazeera. Rendering to the mentioned figures the total number of remarks is sixty (60) from British Broadcasting Company and sixty-five (65) from Al-Jazeera. The table 5.1.1 tell us about represent, Cumulative and Valid percent.

Table 2
Image of News

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Positive	30	24.0	24.0	24.0

Negative	30	24.0	24.0	48.0
Neutral	65	52.0	52.0	100.0
Total	125	100.0	100.0	

Table 2 tell us about the sorts in contrast to Elements of examination, which news are in the favor of Muslims describe as positive news, which are against to Muslims describe as negative news and which is neither pro muslim nor anti muslims will be taken as neutral news. According to table the number of positive news is thirty (30), the number of negative news is thirty (30) and neutral news is sixty-five (65). The table 5.1.1 tell us about represent, Cumulative and Valid percent.

Table 3
Sources of News

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent	
Valid	Govt officials	7	5.6	5.6	5.6
	Reporter	51	40.8	40.8	46.4
	Agencies	51	40.8	40.8	87.2
	Not Mention	16	12.8	12.8	100.0
	Total	125	100.0	100.0	

The table 3 tell us about the sorts in contrast to Elements of examination that news was gather by different sources, include Government officials, News agencies. News reporters and some news sources not mentioned. According to table seven (7) news gathered by Government officials, fifty-one (51) news gathered by News-reporters, fifty-one (51) news gathered by News agencies and only sixteen (16) news sources not mentioned.

Table 4
Number of Militants

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent	
Valid	Nil	110	88.0	88.0	88.0
	Mention	15	12.0	12.0	100.0
	Total	125	100.0	100.0	

The table 4 tell us about the sorts in contrast to elements of examination that the number of expired Palestinian militants by selected newspaper mentioned or not, which dead by Israel. According to table only fourteen (14) news mentioned about exact number of militant while one-hundred and ten (110) news not cleared that rather the dead people were civilians or militants.

Table 5
Number of Civilians

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent	
Valid	Nil	66	52.8	52.8	52.8
	Mention	59	47.2	47.2	100.0
	Total	125	100.0	100.0	

Table 5 tell us about the sorts in contrast to Elements of examination that the exact number of defunct Palestinian civilians, which departed by Israeli daily raid. According to table fifty-nine (59) news mentioned about the number of dead Palestinian citizen while sixty-six (66) news does not clear rather this news was about Palestinian citizens death or about Palestinian militants.

Table 6
Chi-Square

Images	Source	No. of Militants	No. of Civilians
Chi-Square	42.807a	16.987a	0.437a
Df	2	3	1
Asymp. Sig.	0.001	0.001	0.509

Table 6 shows the statistical results using chi-square the overall respond regarding. Images is significant as chi-square is 42.807 whereas p=0.001 Source is significant as chi-square is 16.987 whereas p=0.001 No. of Militants as chi-square is 0.437 whereas p=0.509 No. of Civilians as chi-square is 0.224 whereas p=0.636

Discussion

This research focused on four units of analysis. The 1st is "Image of News" have three categories that are positive, negative, and neutral. The 2nd unit of analysis is "Sources" have four categories that are government officials, reporters, agencies and not mention. The 3rd unit of analysis include as "Number of Militants" have two categories nil and mention. The 4th one unit of analysis as "Number of Citizens" have two categories as nil and mention. According to this research the Al-Jazeera newspaper epitomize 67.7% neutral news and 32.3% positive news about the Israel-Palestine conflict. They portray positive image of Palestinian citizens, this newspaper stated that Palestinian Muslims are being pulled-out from their native land. While BBC newspaper epitomize 50% negative news, 15% positive news and 35% neutral news about the Israel-Palestine conflict according to their news historically Palestine is the native land of Jews and they have right to stay here with eminence. There is a clear difference in reference of source between both newspapers. The BBC newspaper gather their news from 1.7% government officials, 45.0% from their reporters, 30.0% international agencies and 23.3% news sources not mentioned. On the other hand, Al-Jazeera newspaper gather their news from 9.2% government officials, 36.9% from their reporters, 50.8% international agencies and 3.1% news sources not mentioned.

HI and H2 has been approved as the findings showed that Muslim international newspaper Al-Jazeera showed the unbiased while giving coverage on Israel and Palestine conflict because the number of neutral news was more than the number of positive news and Non-Muslim international newspaper BBC showed the biased behavior while giving coverage of Israel and Palestine conflict because the number of negative news more than the number of neutral news.

Conclusion

This research concluded that Israeli military attack on Palestinian citizens at daily bases happen to extract Muslims from their land by Al-Jazeera coverage. "Al-Jazeera" giving the unbiased news coverage on Israel and Palestine conflict. Because according to this research the number of neutral news was more than the number of positive news. While the "BBC" coverage on Israel-Palestine conflict, was in the favor of Jews. Because according to this research the number of negative news more than the number of neutral news. This research concluded that there was a clear difference in reference to source between both newspapers. The BBC newspaper gather their news from 1.7% government officials, 45.0% from their reporters, 30.0% international agencies and 23.3% news sources do not mention. On the other hand, Al-Jazeera newspaper gather their news from 9.2% government officials, 36.9% from their reporters, 50.8% international agencies and 3.1% news sources do not mention. UN whispered that, the 2022 is the deadliest year in past sixteen years for Palestinian citizen. Affording to this research, the coverage of Al-Jazeera two-hundred and eleven (211) Palestinian citizens died in the result of Israeli military daily raid. While according to BBC coverage one-hundred and seventy-three (173) Palestinian passes away in the year of 2022.

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