Functional Linguistic Analysis of Selected News Stories of Sheikh Jarrah

Maha Ahmed Farghali Abdel Majeed
PhD Researcher, Department of English Language
 Faculty of Arts, Minia University

Abstract

This paper conducts a systemic functional linguistic analysis for a selection of published online news stories on Sheikh Jarrah district. The adopted theoretical framework encompasses what Halliday (1994) proposed as the three metafunctions of language analysis. The quest of Halliday's framework is to reach a knowledge of what a text communicates to its readers. The analysis addresses the transitivity system embedded in the sentence to identify actors, action processes, and the surrounding circumstances (ideational). Afterwards, an analysis of mood and modality follows to provide an insight into the created mood in the text and the deployed modals and modalities of perception (interpersonal). Lastly, an analysis of the texture investigates the thematized utterances throughout and the scheme of categorization and lexical cohesion (textual).

The selected news stories of Sheikh Jarrah involve a conflict between the Israeli forces and settlers versus the Palestinian families and residents. Consequently, they demonstrate a great deal of categorization to incriminate certain actors or to sympathize with them. The selected news stories belong to various online platforms such as: Jweekly News, DW, Ara, MAP, etc.

Keywords: *transitivity system, mood and modality, texture, online news stories on Sheikh Jarrah, Halliday (1994).*

_____

Introduction

According to Al-Monitor, the predominantly Palestinian neighborhood is named after the personal physician of Saladin, the Muslim general who captured Jerusalem from the Crusaders. Today, Sheikh Jarrah is home to generations of Palestinian families. The 1948 war that established the state of Israel displaced hundreds of thousands of Palestinians, many of whom fled to territory that was then controlled by Jordan. In 1956, 28 refugee families moved into Sheikh Jarrah with the support of Jordan and UNRWA, the UN agency for Palestinian refugees. But in 1967, Israel captured Sheikh Jarrah, along with the rest of East Jerusalem, and then annexed what is considered occupied territory by much of the international community. The Palestinians envision Jerusalem as part of their future state.

Under a 1970 Israeli law, Jewish property owners and their heirs can reclaim land if they can prove they had ownership prior to 1948. The Palestinians do not have that same right. In the decades since the property law was passed, pro-Jewish settler groups, including the US-based Nahalat Shimon organization, have launched a wave of lawsuits seeking to reclaim land in Sheikh Jarrah. The UN estimates roughly 1,000 Palestinians across East Jerusalem — nearly half of them children — are at risk of eviction. The left-leaning Israel-based rights group Ir Amim says 70 of those families are from Sheikh Jarrah, and from there, a heated dispute emerged.

In this proposed setting of understanding news strategies, the system of transitivity as Halliday (1994) puts it, is "meaning as representation…meaning in the sense of content… things happen, and people, or other actors, do things, or make them happen" (p.106). Hence, a three elements structure is laid by Halliday (1994) in this respect:

_____

1- The process itself (represented by verbal group)
2- Participants in the process (represented by nominal group)
3- Circumstances associated with the process (represented by adverbial and prepositional groups)

The process is further elaborated to include different types of processes such as material (doing), mental (sensing), relational (being), and verbal (saying) processes. Halliday (1994) has assigned two participant roles for each process to be known as an actor and a goal. The actor is the doer of the action and the logical subject of the process, while the goal is the opposite participant at which the action is directed and is affected by it.

Along with the transitivity system, a system of voice is suggested by Halliday (1994) to shed light on the existence or absence of agency. For instance, a sentence as (the war is already won), there is no agency here; thus, it is a middle system of voice. Meanwhile, it is certain to encounter a sentence as (the parliament endorsed the decree), there is an agency here that is foregrounded; thus, it is an effective system of voice. And as what Halliday (1994) has stated regarding the circumstantial element, it is "the location of an event in time or space, its manner, or its cause" (p.150-151).

Halliday (1994) then shifts the attention to the mood and modality system that comprises his interpersonal function of language, where a text producer uses modal expressions. "Mood expresses the speech function …giving or demanding information or goods & services, which determines the four basic speech functions of statement, question, offer, and command" (Halliday, 1994, p.363). The structure of mood consists of a subject, a finite element, and a residue.

In the system of modality, the following types are considered:

- Propositions (statement of facts) can refer to degrees of probability (certainly, probably, possibly) or degrees of usuality (always, usually, sometimes).
- Proposals (commands or obligations) can refer to imperatives, either in varying degrees of obligation (required, supposed, allowed) or inclination (determined, keen, willing).

There are different linguistic expressions of modality that are apparent in investigation of texts (in the sense of Halliday 1994; Simpson 1993; Fairclough 1995a; Fowler 1991):

- Modal verbs or modal auxiliaries referring to the judgment of the speaker (must, will, can, may, should, could, etc.)
- Modal adjuncts which occur in the closest position to a modal and is represented by a prepositional phrase or adverbial group.
- Modal quantifiers such as most, some, scores, etc.

Addressing texture, Halliday (1994) clarifies the textual function as creating relevance to context. Thus, "thematic structuring or thematic foregrounding and lexical classification are aspects of skillful linguistic delivery" (Bazzi, 2009, p. 87). Thematic selection in the textual system is achieved through thematic organization and cohesive patterns (Halliday, 1994). For the sake of the study's purpose, the features of foregrounded themes in the thematic structure and lexical cohesion are selected. Moreover, the lexical cohesion will focus mainly on the collocational cohesion, because "this form of cohesion will show us the ideological group schema, habits of categorization, binary opposition, and hegemonic classification" (Bazzi, 2009, p.90).

Data analysis

1. Transitivity

Example (1) - Source: Jweekly, 14 February 2022

Headline: Violence erupts in Sheikh Jarrah area of Jerusalem, where protests helped trigger May 2021 Israel-Hamas conflict

This story from Jweekly forefronts an outrageous photo before its headline; the photo has an incident of clashing between Jewish settlers and Palestinian residents. The clashes, as the photo's caption mentions, come as a result of opening an office in the neighborhood which belongs to Itamar Bin Gvir. The headline foregrounds the eruption of violence without mentioning who has started the violence. The circumstance of location is presented to be "*in Sheikh Jarrah area of Jerusalem*" along with an expansion on the circumstance of location "*where protests helped trigger May2021 Israel-Hamas conflict*".

The producer of this news story is concerned with the main incident of the clashes and the violence. *"Violence, violent protests, violent clashes, the latest violence, more violence, protests over the pending evictions"* are all made foregrounded inanimate actors without showing who has started them. However, the following events shed light on agents, processes, and circumstances.

The mostly Palestinian area has become a focus in recent years of **Israeli settler groups** (agents), who are trying to **have Palestinian residents** (affected participants**) evicted** (material process). The **ensuing legal battle** (inanimate actor) has turned the neighborhood into a tinderbox.

After the alleged firebomb incident (circumstance of cause), **Itamar Ben-Gvir** (agent), a far right-wing member

of the Israeli Knesset, **vowed** (verbal active process) Saturday to **reopen** (material active process) an office in the neighborhood, a step **he** (agent) **had taken** (material process) in May 2021 **to support the settlers** (circumstance of cause). At the time, then-Prime Minister **Benjamin Netanyahu**(agent) **asked** (verbal active process) Ben-Gvir to close the makeshift office **to reduce tensions in the area** (circumstance of cause).

In this part of the story's events, the agency is given to *Israeli settler groups, Itamar Ben-Gvir, Benjamin Netanyahu* to whom mainly material processes are attached *"have evicted, reopen, had taken"*. The circumstantial element comes here to justify the previous processes *to support the settlers, to reduce tensions in the area*.

Other processes of passive voice are also presented:

More violence (foregrounded agent) followed Ben-Gvir's announcement Saturday. In the late hours on Saturday or early hours of Sunday morning, at least two people **were wounded** (passive material process) and six people **arrested** (passive material process). At least one Jewish man **was injured** (passive material process) and one Arab driver **arrested** (passive material process), according to the *Times of Israel*. Video from the area showed fighting between Jews and Palestinians on the streets.

These processes mystify the agent behind them, and the producer rather seeks to focus the readers' attentions on the results of "*more violence*". Thus, the producer here switches between the active and passive processes accordingly. Furthermore, Gvir plays a role in igniting the incidents of violence through his verbal process and circumstance of cause:

In a tweet, Ben-Gvir **called on** (verbal active process) Israeli citizens to gather in the area Sunday afternoon **to "strengthen the Jewish residents. We are not afraid of Hamas threats!"** (Circumstance of cause).

Table 1.1. summarizes the preferred transitivity system in this news story.

Group schema	Israelis	Palestinians
Agency	-cases of foregrounding	- Not made agents
System of voice	-Active and passive	-Passive
Process	-Mostly material, less verbal and behavioral	-No active processes
Affected participants	Least	Many
Circumstances	Circumstance of location and cause	Circumstance of location and extent

Example (2) - Source: MAP, 16 February 2022

Headline: **Medics** (affected participants) **injured** (passive material process) and **impeded** (passive material process) **during renewed violence in Sheikh Jarrah** (circumstances of extent and location)

Lead: Renewed violence by **Israeli forces and settlers** (delayed agents) **in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood of occupied East Jerusalem** (circumstance of location) is bringing back distressing memories of events in May 2021, which culminated in Israel's most devastating military assault on Gaza in seven years.

This story reports and documents the resulting injuries affecting the medics who were attacked as everyone else. The

headline focuses attention on the passive action processes of *"injured and impeded"* and the circumstances of the extent and location of the whole incident. Following the headline comes the lead to provide more details about what has happened. The Israeli forces and settlers are the main agents behind the renewal of violence in the neighborhood.

> **Over four days** (circumstance of extent), at least 35 Palestinians (affected participants) **have been injured** (material passive process) , including paramedics and a journalist, after **Israeli forces** (foregrounded agent) **fired** (material active process) rubber-coated steel bullets, teargas and stun grenades at **Palestinians** (affected participants) **protesting Israel's discriminatory policies and the imminent forced displacement of families in Sheikh Jarrah.**(circumstance of cause)

The structure of the news story starts with focusing as same as the headline on the resulting injuries and the number of causalities presented in passive voice. Later, the Israeli forces are assigned a foregrounded agents due to the active material process of firing at Palestinians. The cause of the incident is justified through a circumstance of cause where the Palestinians protest the discriminatory policies of Israel and the imminent forced displacement:

> "**We** (agents) have faced a lot of obstacles such as **denied and delayed access to the scenes of the clashes** (nominalization); weapons **raised** (material passive process) against **medics** (affected participants); and medics **told** (material passive process) to leave the area. We have also had an attack on our ambulance where the body of the vehicle **was damaged.**" (material passive voice)

The latest violence **was sparked** (material passive voice) after dozens of **Israeli settlers** (foregrounded agents) **raided** (material active process) Sheikh Jarrah and **assaulted** (material active process) **Palestinians** (affected participants) **who** (agents) **gathered** (material active process) **to stand in solidarity with the Salem family** (circumstance of cause)…

The situation intensified after **a far-right member of the Israeli Knesset** (agent) **re-established** (material active process) his tent 'office' right outside the Salem family's home, **in a provocative display of support for the Israeli settlers** (circumstance of manner). **His supporters** (agents) **were filmed** (material passive voice) **dancing and celebrating** (active material processes) **the threatened displacement of the Salem family**…(nominalization).

This part of the news story relies heavily on using the passive voice to focus the readers' attention on the "*denied and delayed access to the scenes of the clashes, weapons raised, medics told, the vehicle was damaged*". Later, the foregrounded Israeli settlers who are responsible for the previous passive processes are now given material active processes "*raided, assaulted*". The Palestinians are affected participants who gather for one cause; that is, to support the threatened family. Chain of material processes of Israeli agents continues "*re-established, dancing, celebrating*". There is a circumstance of manner here to show how the material processes are performed "*in a provocative display of support*".

Increasing violence against Palestinians

Violence from **Israeli forces and settlers** (foregrounded agents) also **presents** (relational active process) a growing threat to **Palestinian lives and wellbeing** (affected

_____

participants) elsewhere in the West Bank. According to the UN, 834 **Palestinians** (affected participants) **were injured** (material passive voice) by **settlers and soldiers** (delayed agent) **in just the first six weeks of 2022** (circumstance of extent), nearly three times the number (285) injured in the equivalent period in 2021.

This week, **the Palestinian Ministry of Health** (agent) **reported** (verbal active process) that dozens of people **were injured** (material passive voice) by **live ammunition and rubber-coated bullets** (inanimate actor) **during an armed raid** (nominalization) **to demolish a Palestinian home**... (circumstance of cause).

This part of the news story starts with a sub-headline to present a recurrent case of violence. The foregrounded agents are Israeli forces, settlers, and soldiers. There are two types of material processes here: active and passive. The statements of the Palestinian Ministry of Health are all delivered in passive voice "*were injured*", through inanimate actor "*by live ammunition and rubber-coated bullets*", or nominalization "*during an armed raid*". The Ministry avoids mentioning the agents directly because it is an official report of injuries and their causes, and the harm doer is known from the very beginning. Circumstances of extent and cause are also present to provide the reader with the duration of the misfortunate events and the reasons for their occurrence.

_____

Table 1.2. summarizes the preferred transitivity system in this news story.

Group schema	Israelis	Palestinians
Agency	-delayed cases of agency	- Agents in some positions
System of voice	-Active and passive	-Passive
Process	-Mostly material	-mostly verbal, least material
Affected participants	Least	Many
Circumstances	Circumstance of location and cause	Circumstance of location, cause and extent

2. Mood and modality

Through the mood element, the text producer is able to orient the reader to read the event according to the mood created in the news story. In this excerpt, the text producer uses a declarative mood in order to commit the readership to the truth of the statements. Readers are thus left to question the delivered statements through formation of checking/mood tags.

Example (1) - Source: Axios, 25 April 2022

Table 2.1. illustrates the mood element of questioning to give information and statements.

Original statement			Mood tag	
Subject	Finite	Residue	Finite	Subject
The Biden administration	Has	Asked the Israeli government to take steps to avoid further escalation	Hasn't	It
The Biden administration	Is	Concerned there could be further violence	Isn't	It
The fire	Was	Set intentionally	Wasn't	it
The fire	Was	The result of an electrical malfunction	Wasn't	it
The tent	Is	Outside the home of a Palestinian family	Isn't	It
Palestinians	Were	Settled in Sheikh Jarrah after the 1948 Arab-Israeli war	Weren't	They
Tom Nides	Has	Spoken to Israeli Public Security Minister Omer Bar Lev	Hasn't	he
Prime Minister Naftali Bennett	Is	Very concerned	Isn't	he
We	Are	Following developments very closely in Sheikh Jarrah	Aren't	We
We	Are	Deeply concerned by the events	Aren't	We

| We | Are | Urging calm on the part of all parties | Aren't | We |

Answers to these mood tags differ as pertaining to what is thought, approved, or contested within different societies. This is attributed to what has been legitimized and taken for granted over the years.

Furthermore, another mood of high obligation and command is created through the use of certain verbs. For example, *U.S. presses* (high obligation) *Israel for de-escalation in Sheikh Jarrah*, the verb "*presses*" here comprises a direct obligation on Israel to take real steps. In the same vein, *the Biden administration has asked* (command with high obligation) *the Israeli government to take steps*. A mood of high inclination is present in *the Biden administration is concerned there could* (high inclination) *be further violence*, *he would* (high inclination) *not budge until there was security for Jews*, *Bar Lev told Nides that the escalation could* (high inclination) *spill over to the Gaza strip*, *provocations from Israeli politicians on the far-right and far-left could* (high inclination) *spark another round of violence*. Modal quantifiers are also used such as: *their cars had been set on fire several times in the past, several violent incidents, another round*.

Moreover, the text contains some occurrences of modalities of perception. For instance, *Israeli police concluded that* (lexical verb of perception)**,** *Palestinian residents of the neighborhood claimed* (lexical verb of perception)**,** *claiming he would not budge* (lexical verb of perception)**,** *Palestinians called Ben Gvir's arrival a "provocative move"* (lexical verb of perception)**,** *arguing Jewish individuals owned the land* (lexical verb of perception)*, the Palestinian Authority called the killings a "heinous crime"* (lexical verb of perception)**.** This structure is committing each party to some previously held and accepted perceptions. Hence, the use of perception modalities casts doubts on what is declared

and creates abstention from complying with the communicated propositions.

Example (2) - Source: UN News, 7 May 2021

Table 2.2. illustrates the mood element of questioning to give information and statements.

Original statement			Mood tag	
Subject	Finite	Residue	Finite	Subject
Eight Palestinian refugee families	Are	Facing forced eviction	Aren't	They
The absentee property law and the legal and Administrative matters Law	Are	Applied in an inherently discriminatory manner	Aren't	They
Forced evictions	Are	A key factor in creating a coercive environment	Aren't	They

Answers to these mood tags differ as pertaining to what is thought, approved, or contested within different societies. This is attributed to what has been legitimized and taken for granted over the years.

Modals prevail throughout to create a mood of high obligation and command. The verbs "*stop, urges*" are commands with high obligation falling on the shoulders of Israel. Two instances of polite obligations are put forth in "*called on Israel to immediately halt, called on Israel to respect*". Next, modals of high obligations are deployed "*must respect, cannot confiscate, cannot impose*" to denote higher authority of the UN office. Modals of high probability are also used "*may amount to a war*"

crime, could violate the rights, may lead to forcible transfer" to provide some of the expected consequences.

Moreover, the text contains one occurrence of modalities of perception. For instance, *according to the office* (perception modality)**.** This structure is committing each party to some previously held and accepted perceptions. Hence, the use of perception modalities casts doubts on what is declared and creates abstention from complying with the communicated propositions. Some modal quantifiers are utilized such as "*all forced evictions, other human rights*".

1.1. Texture

Shifting the focus to the texture, the analysis tends to focus on the foregrounded themes and aspects of lexical cohesion. The textual function of language "should reflect dominant ideologies, commonsensical assumptions, and the editorial control" (Bazzi, 2009, p.157). If we come to consider the thematic line of the above excerpt, it would be as follows:

Example (1) - Source: Ara, 16 May 2021

- Palestinians (Theme) # threatened with eviction in Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood (Rheme)

- The Zionists (Theme) # want the neighborhood for the Jews (Rheme)

- These days (Theme) # are seeing the worst spiral of violence between Israelis and Palestinians since 2014 (Rheme).

- A situation (Theme) # that so far has already cost more than 139 dead (Rheme).

- The restrictions (Theme) # covered by the pandemic led to clashes with the police at the end of April (Rheme).

- The United Nations agency for Palestinian refugees (Theme) # built 28 homes for refugees from the 1948 Arab-Israeli war (Rheme)

- To understand the conflict (Theme) # one has to know that according to the Israeli law only Jewish Israelis can claim property that was theirs before the war of 48 (Rheme).

- We (Palestinian families) (Theme) # received the eviction order, but thank God we were able to stop it until December last year (Rheme).

- We (Palestinian families) (Theme) # have been suffering every day for whether it would be the last day we would live in this house, whether we would become refugees again (Rheme)

- They (Jewish Israelis) (Theme) # will succeed in evicting us (Rheme)

- They (Jewish Israelis) (Theme) # want the neighborhood for the Jews (Rheme)

- A legal battle and a hell (Theme) # that lasted for years began (Rheme).

- The Zionist and government side (Theme) # has sought to portray the case as a simple property dispute (Rheme).

Thematic foregrounding takes place when there are dominant thematic references or repetitions. It is noteworthy from the thematic line above that there is a repetition of *the Palestinian families and the Israeli Zionist government*. It should be noted that this news story thematizes in many instances inanimate actors "*a legal battle and a hell, these days, the restrictions, a situation*". In addition, the marked theme unit of "*to understand the conflict*" serves as a shift of focus to important ideas. Under the theme units, the text producer is putting one entity to the fore, then uses

the rheme units to build assumptions on these entities through processes. The assumptions intend to feed a certain ideology that seeks to be embraced.

Addressing the lexical cohesion, it is better to demonstrate this through Halliday's notion of collocational cohesion in order to examine the co-occurrence of words and the potential associations between them. This can be achieved through a proposed scheme of categorization, thus creating a case of binary opposition between two parties – in our case Israelis and Palestinians. This scheme of categorization includes three components: participant chains related to who, what they do, and why.

Table 3.1. shows the collocational network in this news story.

Scheme of categorization	ARA News Story	
Participant chains related to who	The Zionists, a settler, Israeli police, they (Jewish Israelis), a Jewish lawyer, Jewish Israelis, Israeli Supreme Court, a small Jewish community, the Jewish communities, Zionist pro-settlement NGO Nahalat Shimon, the Zionist and government side	Refugees, a Palestinian resident, Muhammad Sabagh, we (families), a Palestinian demonstrator, Abdal-Fattah Iskafi, Palestinian refugee families, human rights organizations, Human Rights Watch, Muhammad al-Kurd
What they do	Want the neighborhood to the Jews, argue, will succeed in evicting us, have been trying to do it for years, telling that this area belonged to the Jews, signed a paper, can claim property, has ruled,	Argue, lives in the building, received the eviction order, were able to stop it, have been suffering, would become refugees again, detained, explains, hired a lawyer,

	was founded, reclaimed their property rights, succeeded in evicting several families, intends to build housing for Jewish families, has sought to portray the case as simple property dispute	had settled, saw our neighbor Fauzia, being evicted, realized it was real
Why	They want the neighborhood for the Jews, it intends to build housing for Jewish families.	Eviction of 36 Palestinian families, to postpone a hearing, only Jewish Israelis can claim property, it is a clear example of discrimination.

This news story from ARA builds the news story in a skillful way. Its headline starts with powerful references to the threatened families, evictions, and the Zionists to focus attention on the elements of the conflict. Following that, the story unfolds in an agentless structure where the use of inanimate actors takes over to prepare the reader for the upcoming details. First, the conflict is recounted by Palestinian voices, then the text producer intervenes with a hint to the origin of the conflict that lies in the discriminatory Israeli law. And at the end, the story turns to the intentions of the Israeli government with the aid of NGO Nahalat Shimon. The collocational network and the structure of the news story makes the reader aware of proceedings of the issue.

Example (2) - Source: DW, 19 January 2022

- Police (Theme) # evict Palestinian family from Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood in Jerusalem (Rheme)

- Police (Theme) # demolished the disputed property in East Jerusalem (Rheme)

- Israeli police (Theme) # evicted a Palestinian family and destroyed home in the neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah (Rheme)

- the Salhiya family (Theme) # had been threatened with eviction since 2017 (Rheme).

- Israeli police and the Jerusalem city council (Theme) # said in a joint statement that the house had been in the way of a planned school for students with special needs (Rheme)

- Members of the family (Theme) # were given countless opportunities to hand over the land with consent (Rheme)

- City officials (Theme) # said that the plot of land that the building was on belonged to private Palestinian owners who later sold it to the city (Rheme)

- Palestinian activists (Theme) # called the demolition a land grab (Rheme).

- Hagit Ofran (Theme) # questioned the need to demolish the house since the school is to be built on a nearby empty plot (Rheme).

- European diplomats (Theme) # visited the site during the standoff with police, criticizing the evictions. (Rheme).

- Dozens of other Palestinian families (Theme) # are also facing eviction (Rheme).

- Israel (Theme) rejects claims in many circumstances that the families legally own their homes. (Rheme).

- The UN Security Council (Theme) # ordered a halt to the building of Jewish settlements in occupied territories such as the West Bank and East Jerusalem (Rheme).

- the Israeli government (Theme) # considers the whole city its own capital. (Rheme).

Thematic foregrounding takes place when there are dominant thematic references or repetitions. It is noteworthy from the thematic line above that there is a repetition of *Israeli police* who are the foregrounded agents of the news story. This is due to the actions related to them and the consequences that follow. Later, there are other thematized subjects who include the Palestinian families, activists, and European diplomats providing statements about the events. Under the theme units, the text producer is putting one entity to the fore, then uses the rheme units to build assumptions on these entities through processes. The assumptions intend to feed a certain ideology that seeks to be embraced.

Addressing the lexical cohesion, it is better to demonstrate this through Halliday's notion of collocational cohesion in order to examine the co-occurrence of words and the potential associations between them. This can be achieved through a proposed scheme of categorization, thus creating a case of binary opposition between two parties – in our case Israelis and Palestinians in addition to a third party represented by the international community. This scheme of categorization includes three components: participant chains related to who, what they do, and why.

Table 3.2. shows the collocational network in this news story.

Scheme of categorization	DW News Story		
Participant chains related to who	Israeli Police, Jerusalem city council, city officials, Israel, the Israeli government, more than 600,000 people	The Salhiya family, members of the family, Palestinian activists, Yasmin Salhiya, dozens of Palestinian families,	Hagit Ofran, European diplomats, UN security council
What they do	Demolished, evicted, destroyed, said, rejects claims, occupied, considers	Were protesting, Had been threatened, allegedly threatened, were given countless opportunities, facing eviction, accused, called, purchased, settled	Questioned the need, visited the site, criticizing the evictions, Ordered a halt.
Why	To make way for a school, court gave permission for the eviction, the plot of land the building was on belonged to private Palestinian owners who	To hand over the land with consent	Since the school is to be built on a nearby empty plot, the expropriation can be done without

later sold it to the city	evicting them, evictions are a violation of international humanitarian law

This news story from DW reports the news story based on three perspectives: the Israeli police, the Palestinian families, and international community. Mainly, the events are centered on the actions of destroying a Palestinian family's home. The family was successful at stopping the first attempt of demolishing their house, but later the police carried out the action. The international parties intervene with statements and European diplomats visit the place to which they express disapproval of the actions of the Israeli government. Thus, the collocational network of this news story shows maximum awareness of all perspectives and delivers a clear view of the whole situation for its readers.

Conclusion

This paper has provided a linguistic functional analysis based on Halliday's (1994) three metafunctions of language. Each of the news stories has a preferred transitivity system throughout, where the Palestinians are represented as affected participants and the Israeli forces as main agents performing material processes. The created mood and modality perceptions help the text producer in the interaction between the text and the readers. In addition, the perception modalities help in casting doubt on what is stated. Lastly, the textual function focuses attention on the presented themes throughout and on the scheme of lexical cohesion between the conflicting parties. The three metafunctions work together to give an overall view of the events, the actors, the affected participants and the underlying perceptions and ideas.

Works Cited

Al-Monitor Staff. (2021, May 13). How Sheikh Jarrah became a flashpoint in latest Israeli-Palestinian conflict. *Al-Monitor.* Retrieved from https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/05/how-sheikh-jarrah-became-flashpoint-latest-israeli-palestinian-conflict

Bazzi, S. (2009). *Arab news and conflict: A multidisciplinary discourse study*. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamin Publishing Company.

Fairclough, N. (1995a) *Media discourse.* London: Edward Arnold.

Fowler, R. (1991) *Language in the news.* London and New York: Routledge.

Hanau, S. (2022, February 14). Violence erupts in Sheikh Jarrah area of Jerusalem, where protests helped trigger May 2021 Israel-Hamas conflict. *J-The Jewish News of Northern California*. Retrieved from https://jweekly.com/2022/02/14/violence-erupts-in-sheikh-jarrah-area-of-jerusalem-where-protests-helped-trigger-may-2021-israel-hamas-conflict/

Human rights. (2021, May 7). Stop evictions in East Jerusalem neighbourhood immediately, UN rights office urges Israel. *UN News*. Retrieved from https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/05/1091492.

Israeli police evict Palestinian family from Sheikh Jarrah in Jerusalem. (2022, January 19). *DW*. Retrieved from https://www.dw.com/en/israel-police-evict-palestinian-family-from-sheikh-jarrah-neighborhood-in-jerusalem/a-60481181.

Medics injured and impeded during renewed violence in Sheikh Jarrah. (2022, February 16). *MAP*: *Medical Aid for Palestinians*. Retrieved from https://www.map.org.uk/news/archive/post/1334-medics-injured-and-impeded-during-renewed-violence-in-sheikh-jarrah

Ravid, B. (2022, April 25). U.S. presses Israel for de-escalation in Sheikh Jarrah. *Axios*. Retrieved from https://www.axios.com/2022/02/16/us-presses-israel-deescalation-sheikh-jarrah-palestinians.

Ripoll, P. (2021, May 16). Palestinians threatened with eviction in Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood: "The Zionists want the neighbourhood for the Jews". *Ara*. Retrieved from https://en.ara.cat/international/palestinians-threatened-with-eviction-in-sheik-harrah-neighbourhood-the-zionists-want-the-neighbourhood-for-the-jews_130_3986323.html.

Simpson, P. (1993). *Language, Ideology and Point of View*. London and New York: Routledge. Sontag, S. (ed.) (1982) A Barthes Reader. London: Cape.

_____

تحليل لغوي وظيفي لمجموعة مختارة من القصص الإخبارية عن حي الشيخ جراح

ملخص

يقدم هذا البحث تحليل لغوي وظيفي لمجموعة مختارة من القصص الإخبارية عن حي الشيخ جراح، ويتبنى في ذلك منهج هاليداي (1994) الذي ينص على وجود ثلاث وظائف لغوية في النص. كان المسعى الرئيسي من منهج هاليداي (1994) الوصول إلى ما يقصده النص، حيث يتناول التحليل نظام اللزوم والتعدي في الجملة، للوقوف على الفاعلين، وأنواع الفعل، ونوعية الظروف المحيطة (الوظيفة الفكرية)؛ ثم يتجه التحليل إلى تناول الحالة النحوية والأسلوب كي يجعل القاريء على دراية بالحالة النحوية للنص والأفعال الناقصة وأساليب الإدراك المستخدمة (الوظيفة التفاعلية)، وأخيرا يركز تحليل النص على العبارات المحتوية على نقاط هامة وكذلك التخطيط التصنيفي والتحام المفردات (الوظيفة النصية).

تنطوي مجموعة القصص الإخبارية على صراع بين القوات الإسرائيلية والعائلات الفلسطينية، ولذلك نجد أنه هناك قدر كبير من التصنيف بغرض تجريم بعض العناصر أو التعاطف معها. تأتي القصص الإخبارية من عدة مصادر متنوعة منها دويتشه فيله، وجيه ويكلي نيوز، وآرا، وغيرها.

الكلمات المفتاحية: نظام اللزوم والتعدي (الوظيفة الفكرية)، الحالة النحوية (الوظيفة التفاعلية)، تحليل النص (الوظيفة النصية)، القصص الإخبارية عن حي الشيخ جراح، منهج هاليداي.

_____