

Children Trapped in Gaza: A Multimodal Framing Analysis of English and Arabic News Discourse (2023-2024)

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Abstract

This study examines how the suffering of Gazan children during the 2023–2024 war is framed in English and Arabic news discourse through both textual and visual elements. The study uses the theory of Framing analysis which is an *interdisciplinary theory* that integrates knowledge from communication studies, linguistics, sociology, psychology, and media studies. A total of twenty news articles were selected for analysis, five each from *The Washington Post*, *The Telegraph*, *Al Jazeera*, and *Al Ahram Online*. The study aims at: exploring how the framing analysis of the news articles on children's suffering in Gaza reveals how the audience perceives and conceptualizes the issue; exploring how integrative textual and visual framing analysis of the English and Arabic news articles provides a more holistic understanding of how meanings are constructed and interpreted to influence the audience; and finally, comparing and contrasting the textual and visual framing of children's suffering in Gaza in English and Arabic news articles. This study proves that integrating textual and visual framing analysis provides a more comprehensive understanding of how children's suffering in Gaza is constructed and communicated to the audience. Additionally, visual frames often have an immediate and powerful emotional effect that reinforces the textual message. Moreover, text and image work together in framing Gazan children's humanitarian crises, thereby, influencing audience's perceptions, moral judgements, and calls to action.

Key words: Cognitive linguistics, Theory of Framing Analysis, Multimodal framing Analysis, News Discourse, Children's Sufferings during Gaza war

Introduction

“Gaza is the real-world environment of hell on earth for its one million children” (Elder, 2024). This study investigates the framing of Gazan children's suffering during war (2023 – 2024) in English and Arabic news discourse. The study uses the theory of

framing analysis to analyze both the textual and the visual data. Framing analysis is an *interdisciplinary theory* that integrates knowledge from communication studies, linguistics, sociology, psychology, and media studies. It examines how issues are constructed and presented in media discourse through the use of certain linguistic and visual structures that influence the audience perception, emotional engagement, and policy attitudes. Twenty articles are selected – five each from *The Washington Post*, *The Telegraph*, *Al Jazeera*, and *Al Ahram* online.

The study aims at: exploring how the framing analysis of the news articles on children's suffering in Gaza reveals how the audience perceives and conceptualizes the issue; unveiling how specific interpretation of the issue is constructed through framing elements and framing devices; showing how the textual and visual frames affect moral reasoning and judgments among the audience like identifying perpetrators, victims, and solutions; exploring how integrative textual and visual framing analysis of the English and Arabic news articles provides a more holistic understanding of how meanings are constructed and interpreted to influence the audience; and finally, comparing and contrasting the textual and visual framing of children's suffering in Gaza in English and Arabic news articles.

1. Methodology and Sources of the Data

The study analyzes 20 articles that include 59 images. Ten English articles are drawn from *The Washington Post* and *The Telegraph* online, five from each. Another ten Arabic articles are drawn from *Al Ahram* newspaper online and *Al Jazeera* news website; five articles from each. *The Washington Post* is a leading American newspaper based in Washington, D.C., and was founded in 1877. It's well known for its deep political coverage, investigative journalism, and national and international news coverage. *The Telegraph* is a British newspaper that was founded in 1855. It's known for taking a conservative viewpoint and offers

detailed reporting on politics, business, and international news. *Al Ahram* is one of the oldest newspapers in Egypt, first published in 1875. It's written in Arabic and is run by the government, often reflecting official views. It mainly covers national news, government policies, and events in the Arab region. *Al Jazeera* is a major news channel launched in 1996 in Qatar. It's popular across the Arab world for its bold and independent reporting, especially on political developments, wars, and social issues in the region.

A comparative analysis between the articles from the English sources and those from the Arabic articles is conducted using the textual and the visual framing analysis theory. This is followed by a comparison of the results from the analysis of the English articles and those of the Arabic articles.

2. Theoretical Background

2.1 Framing Analysis Theory

The concept of framing originated with the sociologist Erving Goffman in his 1974 book *Frame Analysis*. Goffman maintains that people use 'frames' to make sense of the world. Frames help people organize their experiences and give them meaning. Entman (1993) explains that Framing involves selection and salience. To frame is to "select some aspects of a perceived reality and make them more salient in a communicating text, in such a way as to promote a particular problem definition, causal interpretation, moral evaluation and/or treatment recommendation for the item described" and these are called frame elements (p. 52). A decade later, Entman (2003) modifies his original interpretation of framing, describing it as selecting and highlighting some aspects of events or issues and making connections among them to reach particular interpretation, evaluation, and solution. From a linguistic perspective, framing analysis explores how language is used to shape the way people understand and think about an issue. It focuses on the words, phrases and structures used in communication to highlight certain ideas while ignoring others (Entman, 1993).

De Vreese (2005) explains that framing is a process based on “an integrated process model of framing that includes production, content, and media use perspective” (p. 51). De Vreese identifies three stages in framing. First is *frame building* that is concerned with how journalists and writers create frames for news stories. Second is *frame setting* that explains how these frames affect learning, interpretation, and evaluation of issues and events. Third are *the consequences of framing* that are conceived by both the individual and the society. The individual changes his attitude about an issue when exposed to these frames and the society makes decisions and takes collective action.

De Vreese (2005) proposes two approaches to news identification: the inductive approach that does not analyze news stories with a priori defined news frames in mind; and the deductive approach that analyzes news stories with a well- defined frames that are defined and tested before the investigation. Frames are categorized into issue-specific frames that are related to specific topics or events, and generic frames that overcome thematic limitation and can be identified in relation to different topics. Generic frames include: conflict frame, economic frame, human interest frame, morality frame, and responsibility frame (De Vreese, 2005). It is noteworthy that the researcher uses a mixture of both types of frames in this study which is evident in the analysis of the data.

In his constructionist approach to framing, Van Gorp (2007) emphasizes the role of culture in framing. He argues that frames are not just cognitive tools but they are part of cultural narratives and values. Moreover, frames gain power because they conform with shared cultural schemata such as myths, metaphors and moral values. He argues that each frame can be represented as a frame package, “a cluster of logical organized devices that function as an identity kit for a frame” (p. 64). A frame package consists of: First, framing devices and tools like metaphors, slogans, and symbols

that are used to reveal the frame; second, reasoning devices which are logical elements like cause- and - effect relationships and moral judgments that justify a frame; and third, an implicit cultural phenomenon that shows the package as a whole (Gamson & Modigliani, 1989, as cited in Van Gorp, 2007).

Matthes (2009) recognizes that the majority of the studies conducted in western contexts, and the non-western ones are under investigated rendering the results specific and cannot be generalized. Hence, the present study fills this gap and analyzes both English and Arabic data, textually and visually.

2.1.1 Textual Framing Analysis

Pan and Kosicki (1993) introduce a systematic model for analyzing news discourse, which they call a constructivist approach. To them, news discourse is conceived as a socio-cognitive process that involves three participants: sources, journalists, and audience members who all share the same culture.

Pan and Kosicki's (1993) model focuses on how language, structure, and organization in texts create certain perspectives or "frames" of reality. Goffman (1974) and Entman (1993) show that the way information is presented affects how audience interprets it. Pan and Kosicki (1993) elaborate this idea by offering a more detailed approach to analyze the structure of news articles. They maintain that news articles are not just collections of facts but are arranged in ways that guide how readers perceive an issue. They add that we can analyze the structure of news texts by exploring how information is organized and emphasized.

As for the structure of news discourse, Gamson and Modigliani (1989) maintain that every news story has a theme that is considered as the central organizing idea (as cited in Pan & Kosicki, 1993). A theme, then, is an idea that links different semantic elements of a story into a coherent unit (Pan & Kosicki, 1993). The intended meaning of a news story is able to direct attention and limit the perspective available to audience. Hence, a

theme is also called a frame. Themes have signifying elements that function as framing devices. These framing devices can be experienced and conceptualized into elements of a discourse that are arranged, manipulated, and used in constructing news discourse by news makers. Moreover, they are psychological stimuli for audience to process (Pan & Kosicki, 1993).

2.1.1.1 Framing Devices

Framing devices are classified into four categories: syntactic structure, script structure, thematic structure, and rhetorical structure (Pan & Kosicki, 1993).

2.1.1.1.1 Syntactic Structure

In news discourse, the syntactic structure is what van Dijk (1988) calls macro-syntax which is characterized by the inverted pyramid structure. Pan and Kosicki (1993) maintain that such structure refers to the sequential organization of structural elements: headline, lead, episodes, background, and a closure. The headline is the most salient element and the most powerful framing device of the syntactic structure followed by the “the lead” and so on and so forth. ‘Objectivity’ is part of the syntactic structure of news and a framing device in three ways; it attains empirical validity by quoting experts opinion or citing empirical data, it appeals to authority by quoting official sources, and it marginalizes certain points by relating them to a social deviant.

2.1.1.1.2 Script Structure

News reports are considered stories because they describe events and they link the audience to their local and global environment. As stories, news discourse has scripts that encompass several components. First, its structure that is governed by rules like the five Ws and one H: who, what, when, where, why, and how. These are categories of information that a reporter should gather. The news script implies that a news story is an independent unit as it contains complete information of an event with a beginning, a climax, and an end. According to Pan and Kosicki

(1993), script structure includes the relationships between events, encompassing context, causal connections, and strategies. In this study, two additional elements—commentary and consequences—are added to further reveal how readers perceive children's suffering, along with its causes and outcomes. Finally, script structure also includes the categorization of the actors in the articles.

Stories that focus on one issue contain hypothesis testing features like events, sources, and propositions that support the hypothesis. A theme is implied in the journalists' observations of actions or quotations of sources that support the hypothesis. This hypothesis - testing aspect of news discourse is called "thematic structure" by van Dijk (1988).

2.1.1.1.3 Thematic Structure

Based on van Dijk's (1988) macro-syntax of news stories, thematic structure consists of a summary and a main body. The summary is represented by the headline, lead, or conclusion and the main body contains evidence that supports a hypothesis in the form of episodes, background information, and quotes. A sub-theme is also identified through the same supporting elements.

2.1.1.1.4 Rhetorical Structures

Rhetorical structures of news discourse are the stylistic choices made by journalists in relation to their intended effects. Gamson and Madigliani (1989) suggest five framing devices: metaphors, exemplars, catch phrases, depictions and visual images. Pan and Kosicki (1993) add other rhetorical devices like lexical choices, imagery and symbolism, and quantification. Van Dijk (1988) maintains that rhetorical structures of news discourse aim to publicize its facticity. Pan and Kosicki (1993) propose that journalists do not differentiate between factuality and persuasion. Hence, a news discourse is a mirror of reality, being factual establishes the authority of news as a mirror of reality.

Vicari (2023) in studying collective action frames proposes a referential approach to discourse based on Steinberg's (1998) definition of the discourse used in framing as a straightforward bearer of meanings. Vicari (2023) studies texts and their discursive features by identifying symbolic devices. She adds in Perego and Vicari (2024) the taxonomy of textual features: framing devices, stylistic choices in a text, reasoning devices that build logic in discourse, syntactical structures, and script structures. Hence, she integrates both Pan and Kosicki (1993) and Van Gorp's (2007) textual features. It is noteworthy that the researcher is using the three models of the abovementioned linguists in the analysis.

2.1.2 Visual Framing

Visual frames, like textual frames, “call attention to some aspects of reality while obscuring other elements, which might lead audience to have different reactions” (Entman, 1993, p. 55). Images are powerful framing tools because they require less cognitive load than texts, hence, the audience tends to accept visual frames without question. Visual frames often win over textual ones because they are closer to reality and they have more emotional effect on the audience (Rodriguez & Dimitrova, 2011).

Messaris and Abraham (2001) explore how visual elements in news media influence the audience's perceptions and interpretations. They specify three distinctive properties of visual images that differentiate them from verbal language.

- 1) The analogical quality of images: Images closely resemble the things they represent, hence, “images constitute a largely analogical system of communication” (p. 216).
- 2) The indexicality of images: “Because of their indexicality (true-to-life quality), photographs come with an implicit guarantee of being closer to the truth than other forms of communications are” (p. 217).
- 3) Images lack of Explicit Prepositional Syntax: Images do not have a structured syntax. Thus, viewers can have different interpretations for the same image and it depends on the

viewer's ability to make sense of implicit meanings on the bases of contextual factors.

These properties help the news journalists to have more influential framing effects in news stories. Messaris and Abraham (2001) argue that these are properties for framing and displaying ideological analysis.

2.1.2.1 The Levels of Visual Framing

Rodriguez and Dimitrova (2011) propose a four-level model for identifying and analyzing visual frames.

2.1.2.1.1 Visuals as Denotative Systems

Frames are identified by telling the objects and elements shown in the visual. Hence, frames result from recognizing the elements and organizing them into themes. The frames derived from the denotative meanings are also formed by the titles, captions, and inscriptions that accompany the visual.

2.1.2.1.2 Visuals as Stylistic-Semiotic Systems

This level shows how pictorial techniques and styles gain social meanings; a close-up shot signifies intimacy, medium shot signifies personal relationship, a full shot signifies social relationship, and a long shot signifies context, scope and public distance (Berger, 1991, as cited in Rodriguez and Dimitrova, 2011).

Dan (2018) tackles the three aspects of visual communication that are relevant to framing from a symbolic semiotic perspective namely, camera angle, camera distance, and nonverbal behavior. Camera angles and camera distances are known as structural features (Coleman, 2010). The camera angle refers to the placement of the camera higher or lower than the person being photographed or eye-level angle (Bell and Milic, 2002, as cited in Dan, 2018). Camera distance refers to "the distance from the camera of the person being photographed or

recorded” (Berger, 1981, as cited in Dan, 2018, p. 20). Photographers can choose from various options: close-up shots, extreme close-up shots, medium shots, and long shots. As for the non-verbal behavior it includes posture, hands, and facial expressions (Caulson, 2004; Kress & Van Leeuwen, 1996). Other two aspects are important here: positioning and action. Positioning reveals how, in a photo, showing more than one person conveys hierarchy through the positioning of the people relative to one another. As for action, it refers to whether the subject is acting or acted upon (Dan, 2018; Kress & van Leeuwen, 1996).

2.1.2.1.3 Visuals as Connotative Systems

At this level persons and objects shown in the visual denote ideas and concepts linked to them. In addition, news visuals act as signs. There are three types of signs: iconic, indexical, and symbolic. Symbols are the most relevant to framing as they reveal social meaning and frames are derived by critically examining these signs with their cultural-bound interpretations. There are two types of symbols: the abstract symbol and the figurative symbol (Van Leeuwen, 2001, as cited in Rodriguez and Dimitrova, 2011).

2.1.2.1.4 Visuals as Ideological Representations

This level combines the symbols and the stylistic features of an image into a coherent interpretation to explain the reason behind the representation being analyzed. This level shows how news images are used in shaping the public consciousness.

2. Analysis and Discussion

This section is divided into three main parts. The first part addresses the English data, presenting the dominant frames identified in *The Washington Post* and *The Telegraph*, followed by an overview of the framing devices used. This is then complemented by the results of the visual analysis of the same newspapers, highlighting both the similarities and differences between the textual and visual frames. The second part focuses on the analysis of articles from *Al Jazeera* and *Al Ahram*, following

the same analytical steps. The third part- which is the findings and conclusion- offers a contrastive analysis of the findings from the English and Arabic articles. It noteworthy that the frames are interconnected with no clear-cut boundries. Meanwhile, the researcher has made every effort to avoid repetition.

3.1. Textual Frames in *The Washington Post* and *The Telegraph*

The following frames show how meaning is constructed and interpreted by the audience and how the audience conceptualizes Gazan children's suffering. It is noteworthy that the first three frames only are discussed in detail.

Table 1 Textual frames in the English articles

Frame	Frequency
Humanitarian Crisis Frame	26.5%
Victimization frame	24.5 %
Violence frame	19 %
Systemic and healthcare crisis frame	12 %
Injustice frame	11 %
War frame	7 %

3.1.1 Humanitarian Crisis Frame

In *The Washington Post* and *The Telegraph*, this frame focuses on the human cost of war -particularly its impact on children-to highlight the urgency and the scale of the problem.

3.1.1.1 Problem Definition

Both *The Washington Post* and *The Telegraph* share the same humanitarian crises except for skin diseases that are only found in *The Telegraph* and the spread of diseases in *The Washington Post*. This frame focuses on the death of children, the huge number of orphans and injured children, and the effect of

malnutrition and starvation on children: **“Doctors and workers say these unaccompanied children often have grisly injuries; deep tissue burns, lung contusions, brain damage, lost limbs, shrapnel wounds. Some arrive unconscious, some need immediate resuscitation”** (Masih, 2024). In this example, *The Washington Post* journalist focuses on the physical conditions and the injuries of the orphans to reveal how much they suffer and to evoke the reader’s empathy. The example highlights the urgent need for medical care in Gaza.

3.1.1.2 Causal Interpretation

In *The Washington Post*, Israeli airstrikes destroy the sanitation system and are the direct cause of children’s injuries, orphanhood, and death. Moreover, it is Israel that imposes blockade on Gaza causing malnutrition and starvation of children. On the other hand, Hamas is blamed for attacking Israel on October 7, 2023. **“Gaza is a graveyard for children as Israel intensifies air strikes”** (Berger & Harb, 2023).

As for *The Telegraph*, the Israeli airstrikes and the starvation are the direct cause of the death of children. But the journalists use the words **‘conflict’** or **‘war’** when speaking about the cause of orphanhood. When speaking about the cause of malnutrition, they use the passive voice to avoid specifying the actor. They may also use the gerund to highlight the cause of the spread of skin diseases without mentioning the root cause: **“Lacking clean water and basic sanitation causes painful infection”** (Sebouai, 2024).

From the above, it can be concluded that *The Washington Post* attributes the humanitarian crises to Israel's actions, whereas *The Telegraph* tends to avoid direct attribution. This contrast is notable, particularly given the United States' strong support for Israel.

3.1.1.3 Moral Evaluation

Framing analysis involves how the action is morally judged. In *The Washington Post*, Israel is morally condemned for causing all these humanitarian crises. In contrast, in *The Telegraph*, Israel is morally condemned for two crises only: starvation and death.

Additionally, using certain lexical choices, like the word ‘graveyard’, present the humanitarian crises as inherently unjust and avoidable. Both newspapers condemn the international community for failing to protect Gazan children from death, solving their medical problems, and providing medical relief.

3.1.1.4 Treatment Recommendation

Both newspapers share the same recommended treatments: Political solutions like cease fire and peace agreements, humanitarian aid, polio vaccination, and the international community intervention. The only difference is that they are explicitly mentioned in *The Washington Post*, while implicitly expressed in *The Telegraph*: **“Ceasefire and dramatic increase in aid are essentials to eradicate malnutrition and disease”** (Hendrix & Harb, 2024).

3.1.2 Victimization frame

Both newspapers focus on children as weak and helpless victims of war with its horrible consequences. This frames children’s suffering as unjust and avoidable.

3.1.2.1 Problem definition

In *The Washington Post*, it is explicitly mentioned that children are the victims of Israeli airstrikes that cause malnutrition, starvation, and diseases: **“It’s [Gaza] a place where thousands of children had been killed, part of the soaring death toll from Israel’s military campaign since Hamas attacked the country on Oct. 7”** (Masih, 2024). On the other hand, in *The Telegraph*, children are victims of starvation without mentioning the root cause.

4.1.2.2 Causal Interpretation

The two newspapers differ in specifying the causes of children becoming victims. *The Washington Post* blames Israel for killing innocent children. It also includes a broader context of the conflict between Israel and Hamas where both sides are responsible for the death of children. Children are represented as the weakest

victims of this conflict. Meanwhile, *The Telegraph* may use the neutral word ‘conflict’: **“The conflict has filled hospital wards and displacement camps in Gaza with children classified as ‘WCNSF’ wounded child, no surviving family”** (Sebouai, 2024c). The passive voice may also be used: **“The latest war has underscored just how vulnerable these children are”** (Berger & Harb, 2023).

3.1.2.3 Moral Evaluation

In *The Washington Post*, the articles blame Israel for the sufferings of children, highlighting its destruction of the sanitation system and the infrastructure. Such destruction leads to the detection of polio in the sewage, an unjust result that evokes moral anger. The articles also blame the international community for its failure to solve these medical problems: **“The discovery of polio in Gaza’s sewage is a warning sign”** (Berger & Harb, 2024).

As for malnutrition, the death of sixteen children from malnutrition is presented as unfair specifically when it is followed by ‘aid-starved Gaza’ which reveals the cause and the severity of the situation. The article focuses on children’s death as avoidable and an outcome of political failure. This, in turn, renders the international community morally responsible. In addition, framing children as victims, evokes the reader’s empathy: **“16 children have died of malnutrition in aid-starved Gaza”** (Hendrix & Harb, 2024).

As for *The Telegraph*, it only blames the international community for failing to end children’s suffering that are unjust and avoidable. This frames their neglect of children’s suffering as a violation of global moral standards: **“Children are disfigured by painful but easily treatable skin conditions because of the total lack of sanitation”** (Sebouai, 2024a).

3.1.2.4 Treatment Recommendation

By presenting children's suffering of death, malnutrition, starvation, orphanhood, and the spread of diseases, both newspapers call upon the international community and the international organizations to provide humanitarian aid, medical care, food, shelter, and education.

3.1.3 Violence Frame

This frame blames Israel for its violence and for the suffering of children in Gaza, portraying its actions as unjustified. It is one of the major frames in *The Washington Post* and a minor one in *The Telegraph*.

3.1.3.1 Problem Definition

In *The Washington Post*, Israel's violence and aggressive war against Hamas is the direct cause of children's suffering: **"More than 25,700 Palestinians have been killed, many of them are women and children, and 63,700 others wounded in Israel's war against Hamas"** (Berger et al., 2024). Meanwhile, war is not given any attributes in *The Telegraph*: **"This is a war on children and childhood and their future"** (Mousa et al., 2024).

3.1.3.2 Causal Interpretation

In *The Washington Post*, Israel is the root cause of the death of thousands of children which reflects its aggression. It also destroys homes, schools, and places of worship. Meanwhile, Hamas is referred to as the cause of the conflict when it attacked Israel on the 7th of October: **"The conflict began on October 7 when Hamas militants rampaged through south Israel killing 1400 Israeli and taking 230 other hostages"** (Berger et al., 2024). Meanwhile, in *The Telegraph*, no cause is mentioned. It just focuses on the aggression and violence.

3.1.3.3 Moral Evaluation

The Washington Post frames children's suffering as a moral crisis. The death of children is framed as an act of extreme violence of the Israeli forces; they lost their families and have severe injuries. On the other hand, *The Telegraph* evaluates the situation implicitly as a political failure of the international community to end this war and achieve peace.

3.1.3.4 Treatment Recommendation

Both newspapers call for the intervention of the international community to cease fire and stop Israel's violence. They also call upon the international organizations, like the U.N., to defend human rights.

3.1.4 Framing Devices

Framing devices help revealing **what various frames are**, and make certain aspects of reality more **salient**. These devices are crucial in operationalizing the **frame elements** by giving them linguistic form in the text

3.1.4.1 Syntactic Structure

3.1.4.1.1 Headlines

In both newspapers, the headlines use emotional language and frame the problems that children suffer from as emergency situations. The headlines also highlight the vulnerability of children, stress the terrible consequences of their sufferings, and urge them to act immediately: **"Children disfigured as a skin disease tear through Gaza"** (Sebouai, 2024a). The word 'disfigured' suggest a deformed image of children's bodies, and 'tear through' implies the violent rapid spread of skin disease. This example evokes the reader's empathy and urges him to act immediately.

3.1.4.1.2 Paragraph Structures

In both newspapers, paragraphs usually start with facts to stories evoking emotions and end with calling for actions. For example, in *The Telegraph* an article begins with the scale of the problem -17000 orphans- and its cause: the conflict in Gaza. The following paragraphs include personal stories of orphans that evoke the reader's empathy: **"They [two children] were traumatized when they arrived at the center, the little girl wanted to stay with the doctor who had taken care of her. She was non-stop crying, it was a panicked cry"** (Sebouai, 2024c).

As for the sentence progression, unlike *The Telegraph*, *The Washington Post* usually uses the active voice to ensure that the agent is clearly mentioned as a direct cause for children's suffering: **"Israeli forces have destroyed more than 70,000 housing units and damaged 290,000 others"** (Masih, 2024).

3.1.4.2 Script Structure

3.1.4.2.1 Structure

All the articles in both newspapers have a crisis script. In *The Telegraph*, the introduction focuses on the crisis like orphanhood, malnutrition, skin diseases, death, and starvation: **"Children are dying of starvation in Gaza, UN confirms"** (Mousa et al.,2024). The article starts with UN statements to add credibility to the crisis. While in *The Washington Post*, the introduction includes personal stories like 'Sahar Al Zebdda' that was born in a hospital with no electricity and died 47 days later from complications of malnutrition. It is noteworthy that these personal stories add a human aspect to the crisis and evoke the reader's emotions. On the other hand, the personal stories are included in the development stage which may also include factors leading to crisis complications: **"Grim findings ... severe levels of malnutrition, children dying of starvation, serious shortage of fuel, food, and medical supplies, hospital buildings destroyed. The WHO's director general said"** (Mousa et al.,2024). The development stage may also contextualize the crisis revealing the causes of the crisis such as the Israeli airstrikes, the blockades or the collapse of the infrastructure: **"Israeli forces have destroyed more than**

70,000 housing units and damaged 290,000 others” (Masih, 2024).

The development stage is followed by escalation stage which describes the worsening conditions like the spread of disease, or the increase of the number of casualties, or a warning of a tragic humanitarian crisis if an action is not taken: **“The children of Gaza were already suffering with very high levels of psychological distress ... what’s happening now will have life lasting implications”** (Sebouai, 2024c). Hence, the escalation stage can be considered an implicit call for the international community intervention.

3.1.4.2.2 The relationship between events

It mainly includes context, causal connection between events, strategies, and other two relationships added by the researcher: commentary and consequences. These relationships reveal how the audience perceives children’s suffering with their causes and consequences.

- **Context**

The context reveals the causes and the circumstances of events which help the reader to conceptualize the crisis: **“Shortage of medicine, hygiene products, and clean water are causes of skin ulcers and scabies”** (Sebouai, 2024a). **“Ten months of Israeli airstrikes and ground fighting have damaged or destroyed water pipelines, desalinate plants, reservoirs, and sewage treatment of facilities”** (Hendrix & Harb, 2024). In these examples we can see the real causes of the spread of skin diseases. The Israeli airstrikes that destroyed water pipelines and sewage treatment of facilities that led to the shortage of clean water.

- **Strategies**

They are the explicit strategies that the writers mention to solve children's problems. Strategies link the events together so that the reader can call for the required suitable solutions; **"There is a center in the south of the strip that hosts and cares for unaccompanied children in the besieged enclave"** (Sebouai, 2024c). This shows how the Palestinian people in Gaza tried to face the problem of the orphans.

- **Commentary**

The commentary reveals the evaluation of the crises provided in the articles which helps the reader in conceptualizing the crises and in adopting a stance towards the issue: **"The phenomenon [orphanhood] underlines the indiscriminate nature and the ferocity of these attacks where families sought to try to keep safe"** (Masih, 2024). This example shows the evaluation of the ferocious attack of Israel defense forces. They evoke the reader's outrage, which might drive him to participate in demonstrations and call for international intervention.

- **Consequences**

The researcher adds the relationship of consequences of events because it helps the reader to have a full idea about the crises and their consequences to reach a better conceptualization and act accordingly. For instance, as a result of hunger the Palestinian people eat animal food: **"We don't know how dangerous eating animal food is to our health, but we have no other options"** (Berger et al., 2024).

- **Categorization of Actors**

Categorizing actors affect moral reasoning among audience like identifying perpetrators and victims, and reach a judgment. In both newspapers' articles, the primary actors are children. They are portrayed as innocent victims of malnutrition, violence, starvation, orphanhood, and diseases: **"More children are killed in Gaza in**

four months than in four years of worldwide wars” (Vasilyeva, 2024). The secondary actors in *The Washington Post* articles, unlike *The Telegraph*, are the Israeli forces that are portrayed as the aggressors: **“Desperate crowds rushed on convoy and Israeli troops opened fire”** (Masih, 2024). The international organizations are other actors mentioned in the articles like UN, UNICEF, and WHO that are portrayed as supporters of children. For instance, **“UNICEF estimated this month that about 17,000 children in Gaza are unaccompanied or separated from their families”** (Masih, 2024). Additionally, health professionals are actors framed by their inability to deal with the crises.

By focusing on children as the main victims, the articles evoke the reader’s empathy. The reader sympathizes with the innocent children who are helpless in facing the violent aggression. Hence, the attention is shifted from the political issue to the sufferings of children which urges the reader to see the situation as disastrous and requires urgent intervention.

3.1.4.2.3 Thematic Structure

In each article in both newspapers, we have a basic central theme and several sub-themes. It is noteworthy that these themes help in constructing the four major frames and reveal how the audience conceptualizes the issue of children’s suffering. For instance, the central theme in Berger et al. (2024) article is ‘Hunger as a result of blockades and violence’. The article further explores several subthemes, including the effect of food shortage on children, the international aid failure to reach Gaza, and the persistence of Palestinian families.

3.1.4.2.4 Rhetorical Devices

These devices examine the stylistic and persuasive techniques used in the articles in both newspapers. Concerning the rhetorical device ‘Imagery and Symbolism’, they are discussed in detail in the visual framing analysis section.

- **Lexical Choices and Emotionally Charged Language**

“Gaza’s desperate hunger” (Berger et al.,2024) is a metaphor that conveys the severity of the Palestinian people’s suffering from severe hunger and starvation, suggesting that this situation does not seem to end: **“Families on the brink of collapse - aid starved Gaza”** (Hendrix & Harb, 2024). They show how much people suffer and evokes sympathy and urgency. **‘Lost everything’, ‘traumatized panic’, and ‘dying of starvation’** are emotive lexical choices used in *The Telegraph*. Charged language shows the extent to which children suffer physically and psychologically from these crises.

Additionally, the articles employ strong and emotionally charged language to highlight the severe and often unbearable conditions in Gaza. For example, *The Washington Post* uses phrases such as **‘no surviving family left’** and describes how **“entire families, with terrifying frequency, die of hunger” and are ‘acutely malnourished’**. Similarly, *The Telegraph* includes words like **‘suffering,’ ‘victims’, ‘crises’, ‘starving’, ‘malnutrition’, ‘painful infections’, ‘Israeli shelling’, ‘famine’, ‘dehydration’, ‘traumatized’, and ‘higher level of anxiety’**. These lexical choices evoke a strong emotional response from the reader. They aim to raise awareness and call to action to address the humanitarian crisis.

- **Metaphors**

Metaphors are used to reveal the ideology of the journalists and to persuade the reader. For instance, **“Gaza becomes a graveyard for children”** (Berger et al.,2024) conveys the tragic loss of life, particularly among children due to the Israeli war on Gaza. It describes Gaza as a ‘graveyard’ symbolizing how the region has become a place for mass death especially for the innocent and weak children. **“The collapse of the waste management system in Gaza had created a dangerous recipe for diseases to spread”** (Sebouai, 2024a). This metaphor compares the collapse of the waste management system to the steps

or the ingredients in a recipe that combine to make the final outcome- the wide spread of the disease. These metaphors in addition to intensifying the meaning and reveal the severity of the crises, appeal to the reader's emotions and render the situation an urgent one that necessitates intervention.

- **Source Attribution**

In both newspapers, credibility is achieved by inserting information and quotations of international organizations like UN, UNICEF, and WHO. Also, we have quotations of health aid workers, institutions, orphanage directors, government officials, and local doctors. Adding credibility to the information enhances persuasion and urges the reader to take action: **“UNICEF estimated this month that about 17,000 children in Gaza are unaccompanied or separated from their families”** (Masih, 2024).

- **Quantifications**

Quantification is a very important device that adds to the credibility of information. It also appeals to logic and hence, becomes a persuasive device. **“The WHO has also recorded 11,000 cases of lice, 65,000 cases of chicken pox and 65,000 of skin rashes”** (Sebouai, 2024a). These numbers reveal the number of patients to show how terrible the situation is and urge the reader to take action.

3.1.4.3 Inclusion and Exclusion

By focusing on the suffering of children, the articles reveal the effects of blockades, and the failure of the healthcare infrastructure. They also focus on the lack of water, food, and medical supplies and their impact on children. Moreover, they explain the context behind starvation and hence, provide deeper understanding of the causes of death. On the other hand, the articles exclude explaining the political context of the situation in Gaza and elaboration on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

3.2 Visual Framing Analysis of the English Data

The five articles of *The Washington Post* contain 23 images, while *The Telegraph* contains 15 images. A total of 38 images, 34 images of which focus on children and reveal their suffering. Nine frames are identified in all images: victimization frame, vulnerability frame, humanitarian crisis frame, healthcare frame, displacement and poverty frame, war frame, humanitarian aid frame, emergency frame, and hunger frame.

Table 2 The visual frames in the English articles

Frame	No. of Occurrence
Victimization frame	16
Vulnerability frame	11
Humanitarian crisis frame	11
Healthcare frame	10
Displacement and poverty frame	8
War frame	5
Humanitarian aid frame	5
Emergency frame	4
Hunger frame	4

3.2.1 Victimization Frame

It is the most frequent frame in both newspapers. This recurring frame often focuses on children and show their physical and psychological sufferings during war, portraying them as victims.

Example 1

An injured child is brought to Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis on October 26 (Berger& Harb,2023)

3.2.1.1 Visuals as Denotative Systems

A man wearing a cap and a mask is running carrying an injured bleeding girl wrapped in a bed cover. The place is a hospital entrance where bystanders and medical personnel are watching with concern.

3.2.1.2 Visuals as Stylistic Semiotic Systems

The Long shot photograph is at the eye level of the viewer which renders both the image participant and the viewer equal in power. The camera angle is horizontal frontal that attaches the viewer to both the salient man- depicted as an active participant running and carrying a girl- and the injured girl he holds. As for the gaze of the participant, the man does not look at the viewer; he looks down as he runs to save the girl. As a result, he becomes the subject of the look and no contact is made here. The image is an offer; it offers the represented man and the girl to the viewer as items of information. The lighting and brightness are natural but slightly subdued, emphasizing the urgent situation.

3.2.1.3 Visuals as Connotative Systems

The image conveys an emergency situation as a result of Israeli airstrikes. The man running and the grim look of the bystanders reveal that this is a life-threatening situation. Additionally, the young age of the bleeding girl symbolizes

vulnerability and victimization that intensify the emotional effect of the image and evokes the reader's empathy.

3.2.1.4 Visuals as Ideological Representations

This image serves many ideological goals; it represents the effect of Israeli war on the Gazan children, the bleeding girl reveals the violence of the Israeli forces, and the bystanders are the health care personnel and ordinary Palestinian people. Thus, it is the Palestinian voice which is heard. The image serves as a call for the international community to intervene and take action to cease fire.

3.2.2 Vulnerability Frame

It is the second frequently used frame, as many of the images focus on children, highlighting their physical and psychological vulnerabilities.

Example 2



This newborn baby, delivered by caesarean from a dying mother, was born an orphan in Gaza (Sebouai, 2024c)

3.2.2.1 Visuals as Denotative Systems

A newborn baby is in an incubator and we know from the caption that he was delivered by caesarean from a dying mother. Although the background is blurred, it reveals a nurse standing behind the incubator which implies a hospital setting.

3.2.2.1.2 Visuals as Stylistic Semiotic Systems

The close shot photograph is at the eye level of the viewer. The baby lying in the incubator while the nurse is standing nearby, signifies the weakness and powerlessness of the baby in contrast to the nurse's power. The camera angle is a horizontal frontal attaching the viewer to the baby. The baby is represented as a passive participant evoking our sympathy and revealing his weakness. As for the gaze of the baby, he looks directly to the viewer in a demand gaze, implicitly calling for help. The image is natural regarding the degree of light and brightness hence, the image becomes naturalistic. Moreover, the baby extends its hand symbolizing the visual 'you'- as if appealing to the viewer for support. This reveals the point of view of the producer who seeks the viewer's empathy. As for the non-verbal behavior, the baby lying in the incubator reveals its powerlessness and helplessness.

3.2.2.1.3 Visuals as Connotative Systems

The newborn baby in an incubator symbolizes its vulnerability in the Israeli war on Gaza. The nurse's presence symbolizes the importance of the medical care which will be lost later on in Gaza.

3.2.2.1.4 Visuals as Ideological Representations

This image serves multiple ideological purposes. It reveals the devastating outcome of the Israeli war: the destruction of families and the creation of numerous orphans, one of whom is the baby depicted. The baby's voice is the only voice heard, revealing its vulnerability, evoking empathy, and calling for the international community to intervene to ceasefire.

3.2.3 The Humanitarian Crisis Frame

It is the third frequently used frame. It is a central theme across images, revealing the severity of the circumstances and the sufferings of the Gazan people, particularly children.

Example 3

Palestinians receive food rations at a distribution point in a camp for internally displaced people in Rafah (Hendrix & Harb, 2024)

3.2.3.1 Visuals as Denotative Systems

Gazan people carrying empty pots gathered to take food cooked by charity kitchen. Three large pots of cooked food being served by workers wearing yellow vests.

4.2.3.2 Visuals as Stylistic Semiotic Systems

It's a long shot photograph in which all the details are seen. Men and women carrying empty pots are trying to get food so that the focus is not on the three charity workers only but a full view including the background. It is a Bird's eye view which conveys a sense of detachment and shows the Gazan people's attempts to reach the three charity workers to fill their empty pots that would not be easily seen from an eye level camera angle. This camera angle reveals the represented participants as weak and powerless. As for the gaze, none of the represented participants look at the viewer, hence, the gaze is an offer; it offers the participants to the viewer as items of information to consider and take an action to help them. The lighting and brightness are natural portraying the image as real and naturalistic. As for the non-verbal behavior, all the participants are active as they carry pots to collect food and they try to reach the three workers. Their facial expressions are not revealed due to the camera angle and thus are justified because the photographer's aim is to reveal the humanitarian crisis which is the shortage of food.

3.2.3.3 Visuals as Connotative Systems

This image conveys the shortage of food and the place crowded with people carrying empty pots which shows that they are in a desperate need of food. The people who are trying hard to reach the food symbolizes their struggle during the humanitarian crisis.

3.2.3.1.4 Visuals as Ideological Representations

The image represents the humanitarian crisis frame during Israeli war on Gaza. It calls upon humanitarian aid organizations to intervene to provide aid and the international organizations to cease fire.

3.2.4 The Levels of Visual Framing in the English Data

3.2.4.1 Visuals as Denotative Systems

Children are the represented participants in 34 articles out of 38. In *The Washington Post*, they are represented as patients in hospitals who suffer from severe injuries and death. The images portray the Palestinians displaced with their children and streets flooded with sewage water in which polio spreads. As children suffer from malnutrition and starvation due to food shortage, they are represented carrying empty pots to get food cooked by charity kitchens. They are also represented as sick orphans who are being taken care of in hospitals.

The Telegraph has almost the same visual representation except that it does not visually represent the injured children in hospitals, nor the failure of the sanitation systems which is represented in *The Washington Post* in streets flooded with sewage water. On the other hand, *The Telegraph* focuses more on food aid provided by charity institutions and the skin diseases that children suffer from.

3.2.4.2 Visuals as Stylistic Semiotic Symbols

Table 3 Camera Distance

Camera Distance	<i>The Washington Post</i>	<i>The Telegraph</i>
Extremely close	—	3
Close shot	3	5
Medium shot	10	2
Long shot	10	5

In *The Washington Post*, the most frequently used camera distance are medium and long shots, each is used ten times. Medium shots show both the participants in the images and the surrounding environment. They help the audience to sympathize with the participants (children) while observing the surrounding environment (displacement tents, hospitals, etc. ...) to reveal their sufferings. As for the long shots, they capture the Palestinian people including children from a distance while at the same time revealing the context of a larger environment: The Palestinian camps, an area of destroyed buildings, and streets flooded with sewage water. On the other hand, close-up shots are used three times only. They focus on children's facial expressions and they attach the viewer with children's sad emotions which intensify the viewer's emotional engagement and evoke sympathy.

In *The Telegraph*, the close-up and long shots are the most frequently used types of camera distance that have the same focus of *The Washington Post*. The extremely close-up shots are used to reveal the miserable expressions of children carrying empty pots and to focus on children's skin rashes and diseases that wouldn't be clear except through this camera distance.

Table 4 Camera Angles

Camera Angles	<i>The Washington Post</i>	<i>The Telegraph</i>
Horizontal frontal	10	8
Horizontal oblique	5	5
High -level angle	9	2
Bird's-eye-view	1	—

As for camera angles in *The Washington Post*, most angles are horizontal frontal and high -level angles. The horizontal frontal angle, in addition to creating a sense of attachment between the viewer and the children (the participant), hence evoking empathy, they offer a sense of realism to the image. High-level camera angle places the viewer above the children, rendering them to appear weaker and vulnerable. It may also convey a sense of loneliness and emphasize their victimhood. The horizontal oblique angles are used five times only, detaching the viewer from the participants. It also signifies that the crises are beyond children's power, in the sense that they are too vulnerable to bear them. Bird's-eye-view angle is only used once in *The Washington Post* that is discussed in detail in the previous humanitarian crisis frame. According to the previous table, we can conclude that the horizontal frontal and the horizontal oblique angles have nearly the same frequency of usage in the two newspapers images. Meanwhile, the high- level angle which is extensively used in *The Washington Post*, is the least used type of angle in *The Telegraph*. It is noteworthy that the images in *The Telegraph* do not portray children as weak as those in *The Washington Post*, hence, evoking less sympathy.

Table 5 Gaze

Gaze	<i>The Washington Post</i>	<i>The Telegraph</i>
Offer	15	10
Demand	5	3

In both newspapers, the 'offer' is more frequently used than the 'demand': children don't look at the viewer in 25 images, while they look at the viewer in 8 images only. In the offer gaze, children become the subject of the look and an item of information so that the viewer recognizes the various sufferings of those children, sympathizes with them, and is urged to support them. In the demand gaze, children look directly at the viewer asking for help. This evokes sympathy and reveals their vulnerability. Light and brightness are medium in most images, rendering them naturalistic and convincing.

3.2.4.3 Visuals as Connotative Systems

The images in *The Washington Post* and *The Telegraph* symbolize children's suffering. For instance, the empty pots that children carry to take food cooked by charity institutions symbolize children's hunger and their lack of basic needs. The sacks of flour which people are waiting to receive symbolize the importance of humanitarian aid and the scarcity of essential supplies. The pain and desperate look of children symbolize the humanitarian crises they suffer from. Skin rashes on some children's faces symbolize their vulnerability and systemic healthcare failure. The rubbles are symbols of the destructive outcome of war and the absence of the human basic needs.

3.2.4.4 Visuals as Ideological Representations

The images in *The Washington Post* and *The Telegraph* symbolize children's suffering by highlighting issues such as food shortage and the effects of malnutrition on babies and children; the failure of the healthcare system, reflected in the spread of various diseases like skin diseases; and poverty and displacement revealed in the images of displacement camps and the lack of basic human needs. Accordingly, the images call for the international community intervention to enforce cease fire to save these children. Moreover, they highlight the urgent need for humanitarian aid to support the Palestinian people, especially children.

Comparing both verbal and visual frames, it is evident that there are six textual frames and nine visual ones in both English newspapers. Both the textual and the visual data share only three frames: the humanitarian crisis frame which is dominant in both types of data, the victimization frame, and the war frame. The humanitarian crisis frame is the first frequently used frame in the textual data and the third frequently used in the visual data. In the textual data, this frame includes most of the children's suffering including the death of children, the large number of orphans, injured children, and the effects of malnutrition and starvation. Meanwhile, the visual data focuses on the shortage of food, the injured children, and orphans. The textual frames deal with the same problem, its causes, moral evaluation, and recommended treatment. In contrast, the visual frames portray the sufferings of children, their facial expressions that reveal pain, the surrounding environment of the destroyed Gaza, and the non-verbal behavior of children and other represented participants. The images also include symbolic objects that add to the represented meaning. Accordingly, visuals have more emotional impact than texts.

The second common frame is the victimization frame. It is the second frequent frame in the textual data and the first frequent frame in the visual data. This frame appeals to emotions in both types of data, but it evokes more sympathy in the visual data as it portrays children's physical and psychological suffering during Israel's war on Gaza. The third frame that is used in textual data only, is the frame of violence. It is expressed when speaking about the large number of the dead children and how disabled the Palestinian children become which is not represented visually in the English data. Systemic failure and healthcare crises are the fourth frame used in the textual data represented in the spread of diseases in Gaza and the destruction of the sanitation system. The same frame is used in the visual data addressing the same themes. The fifth frame is the injustice frame which is dealt with in the textual data only but not explicitly shown in the images.

War frame is the sixth frame found in the textual visual data. It is a partial fulfillment of this frame, as it reveals the consequences of war- specifically the destruction of the buildings and the sanitation system in Gaza. Meanwhile, war machinery and the conflict between the Israeli forces and Hamas is not referred to either textually or visually.

As for visual data, in addition to the four common frames mentioned above, there is the vulnerability frame in which the weakness of children is represented in various images, contrasting them with the severe violence they face. Displacement and poverty frame is the fifth frequent frame used in images, showing Gazan children living in the tents of the displacement camps and lacking the basic essentials of living. Humanitarian aid frame is the sixth frequent frame in the images, focusing mainly on the distribution of the food supplied by charity institutions. The seventh frame is the emergency frame which is the least frequent one. It tackles the medical emergency cases involving children. The last frame is the hunger frame.

Finally, it can be shown that both the textual and the visual modes complement each other by introducing both shared and unique frames that are introduced through one mode only. When these frames are conceived, individuals, countries, and organizations are urged to take action- supporting the Gazan children, providing humanitarian aid, and calling for a ceasefire.

3.3 Textual Frames in the Arabic Data

The following frames show how meaning is constructed and interpreted by the audience and how the audience conceptualizes Gazan children's suffering.

Table 6 Textual frames in the Arabic articles

Frame	Frequency
Humanitarian Crisis Frame	24.5 %
Victimization frame	24.5 %
Violence frame	20 %
Child's labor frame	13 %
Education Disruption frame	11 %
Mental Health crisis frame	7 %

3.3.1 Humanitarian Crisis Frame

Al Ahram newspaper and *Al Jazeera* news focus on the human cost of war, particularly children.

3.3.1.1 Problem Definition

In *Al Jazeera* news articles, this frame focuses on children's suffering: starvation, diseases, orphanhood, and family displacement. In *Al Ahram* articles, the frame focuses on children's starvation, diseases, and psychological trauma: "سوء التغذية يفتك -بأطفال غزة Malnutrition is killing children in Gaza" (su:ʔ al tayḏijati,2024). This example highlights the severity of malnutrition, as children are dying, evoking the reader's sympathy and calling for humanitarian aid.

3.3.1.2 Causal Interpretation

Al Jazeera highlights the direct causes of children's suffering: the blockade imposed on Gaza by the Israeli occupation and the Israeli airstrikes. "ويرصد مراسل الجزيرة أنس الشريف كيف باتت حياة آلاف الأطفال في قطاع غزة مهددة بسبب نقص الدواء والغذاء مع منع جيش الاحتلال -وصول الوقود والمساعدات الضرورية للقطاع Anas Alshareef, *Al Jazeera* correspondent, observed that the shortage of food and medications threatens the lives of thousands of children in Gaza while the Israeli occupation prevents necessary aid and oil supply" (su:ʔ al tayḏijati,2024). On the other hand, *Al Ahram* does not do its own journalistic reports, yet it refers to the same

causes by quoting parts of the UN committees' reports or what the Palestinian civil defense spokesman says.

3.3.1.3 Moral Evaluation

In *Al Ahram* and *Al Jazeera*, the moral evaluation frames the humanitarian crisis as a moral failure of the international and the local community to protect children: "وقالت اللجنة الأممية أن الأطفال في غزة يتضورون جوعاً حتي الموت وأنه تم قطعهم عن الطعام، حتي الفتات ليس من السهل العثور عليه - **The UN committee stated that children in Gaza are starving to death and that they have been cut off from food, with even crumbs being difficult to find**" (lad3natun ʔumamijjatun,2023). This example shows how children in Gaza extremely suffer from malnutrition and starvation.

3.3.1.4 Treatment Recommendation

The articles in both *Al Ahram* and *Al Jazeera* call for ceasefire, humanitarian aid, lifting blockades, and the intervention of the local, regional, and international organizations to help end children's suffering: "دعت لجنة حقوق الطفل بالأمم المتحدة الى وقف فوري لإطلاق النار في غزة محذره من ان الأطفال في شمال القطاع يواجهون مجاعة وشيكة في الوقت الذي يتعرض آخرون في جميع أنحاء قطاع غزة لخطر انعدام الأمن الغذائي الكارثي - **The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child has called for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, warning facing imminent starvation, while across the Gaza strip are at a risk of catastrophic food insecurity**" ((lad3natun ʔumamijjatun,2023). This example calls for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza to protect children from imminent starvation.

3.3.2. Victimization Frame

3.3.2.1 Problem Definition

Al Jazeera and *Al Ahram*, through direct quotations of international organizations only, frame children as the first victims of war; they lost their families, they suffer from death, starvation, and diseases, and due to poverty, they are forced to do strenuous

"ان أكثر ما يصددها (جراحه إيطالية) العدد الهائل لضحايا work to survive: أعمارهم بين عامين و15 عاماً أصيبوا بمقذوف واحد في الرأس والعنق What shocks the Italian surgeon the most is the huge number of victims aged between two and fifteen years who were shot by a single bullet in the head and neck" (dʒarra:ħatun itʕa:lijja,2024). This example shows that children are the primary victims of this war, many of whom are brutally shot dead in Gaza.

3.3.2.2 Causal Interpretation

In both *Al Jazeera* and *Al Ahram*, this frame links victimization to the Israeli forces' violence, to the effect of war, blockades, and the international community indifference: "يُضطر: أطفال قطاع غزة للعمل في ظروف تشتد صعوبه يوماً بعد يوم مع استمرار العدوان على القطاع الذي أدى لسقوط ما يزيد عن 40 ألف شهيد معظمهم نساء وأطفال، الى جانب Children in the Gaza strip are forced to work under conditions that are becoming worse every day, as the ongoing aggression on the region has led to the death of over 40,000 martyrs, most of whom are women and children along with the destruction of all aspects of life and the starvation of the Gazan people" (tara: l wulda:na,2024). This shows that the Israeli war on Gaza is the real cause behind children's labor, starvation, and death.

3.3.2.3 Moral Evaluation

In both *Al Jazeera* and *Al Ahram*, children's sufferings are framed as unfair and preventable, thereby emphasizing the obligation to protect them. In the meantime, exposing children to all these sufferings is a moral failure of the international community: "لم يعد بإمكان الأطفال في غزة الانتظار حيث ان كل دقيقة تمر تخاطر -بموت طفل آخر من الجوع. بينما يتابع العالم بانظاره ما يدور في غزة ولا يفعل اي شيء The children in Gaza can no longer wait as every passing minute risks the death of another child from hunger, while the world watches and does nothing" (ladʒnatun ʔumamijjatun,2023). The phrase "بينما يتابع العالم بانظاره" "while the

world watches and does nothing” shows the moral failure of the international community that does nothing to protect these children.

3.3.2.4 Treatment Recommendation

Both *Al Jazeera* and *Al Ahram* suggest that the local and the international community should intervene to protect these children and support them: "وترغب عديد من المنظمات الفلسطينية مثل التعاون وجمعية الأغاثة الفلسطينية وصندوق اغاثة فلسطين في تطوير استجابته طويلة الأمد لمساعدة الأغاثة الفلسطينية -Many Palestinian organizations, such as the Cooperation Organization, The Palestinian Relief Assembly, and the Palestine Children's Relief Fund aimed to develop a long-term response to assist orphans once the war is over" (ħarbu yazza,2024).

4.3.3 Violence Frame

This frame is only discussed in detail in *Al Jazeera* articles.

4.3.3.1 Problem Definition

This frame links extreme violence against children with public health issues. The frame includes injuries, the spread of diseases and death. "أن أكثر ما يصدمها (جراحه إيطالية) العدد الهائل اضحايا. What-اعمارهم بين عامين و 15 عاماً أصيبوا بمقذوف واحد في الرأس و العنق shocks her (the Italian surgeon) the most is the large number of victims aged between two and fifteen years who were hit by a single bullet in the head and neck"(dżarra:ħatun ĩṣa:lįja,2024).This example shows the violence of the Israeli forces that shoot innocent children to death directly in their heads and necks.

3.3.3.2 Causal Interpretation

Al Jazeera mentions various causes of violence: airstrikes, massacres, blockades, food shortage, and malnutrition. On the other hand, *Al Ahram* does not concentrate on the causes and refers only to the Israeli air strikes and the blockade: "وتواصل قوات الاحتلال

ارتكاب جريمة الإبادة الجماعية في قطاع غزة لليوم الـ 276 على التوالي، مع دخول الحرب المدمرة شهرها العاشر بشن الغارات الجوية والقصف المدفعي، وارتكاب مجازر بحق المدنيين - The occupying forces continue to commit the crime of genocide in the Gaza Strip for the 276th day. The devastating war enters its tenth month with airstrikes, bombing, and massacres against civilians, in a catastrophic humanitarian situation due to the ongoing destruction” (su:ʔ al tayǝijati,2024). This shows that the Israeli war on Gaza is the real cause of genocide and the blockade that is the cause of the humanitarian crisis.

3.3.3.3 Moral Evaluation

Israeli's violence against children is evaluated as a moral failure and a violation of the international law. It is also a moral failure of the global community:

"وكان الهجوم الإسرائيلي المستمر في غزة قاسياً على الأطفال الذين يشكلون 47% من سكان القطاع الساحلي حيث قتل ما لا يقل عن 14 ألفاً منهم ضمن ما يقرب من 38 ألف شهيد، كما بتر أحد الأطراف لأكثر من 1500 طفل The continuous Israeli assault on Gaza has been harsh on children, who make up 47% of the population in the coastal enclave. At least 14,000 children have been killed as part of nearly 38000 martyrs, and more than 1500 children have had their limbs amputated” (ḥarbu yazza,2024). This shows the violence and the cruelty of the Israeli forces.

3.3.3.4 Treatment Recommendation

The frame calls for ceasefire and the intervention of the international community to save these children.

3.3.4 Framing Devices

Framing devices help revealing **what various frames are**, and make certain aspects of reality more **salient**. These devices are crucial in operationalizing the **frame elements** by giving them linguistic form in the text

3.3.4.1 Syntactic Structure

3.3.4.1.1 Headlines

Al Jazeera and *Al Ahram* use emotionally charged headlines to frame the suffering of children in Gaza to evoke the reader's empathy and urge for immediate intervention: "حرب غزة ... مأساة"

Gaza war ... the tragedy of orphans and the destruction of the social Fabric" (ḥarbu yazza,2024). The strong noun تمزيق (tearing of the social fabric) and the noun مأساة (The tragedy of orphans) are two metaphors used to evoke the reader's sympathy and show the severity of the children's sufferings.

3.3.4.1.2 Paragraph Structure

The leads focus on the sufferings of children followed by paragraphs that give details of the problems. Meanwhile, it is *Al Jazeera* only that provides personal stories to be more persuasive. Then the articles conclude with a paragraph that implicitly call for the intervention of the international community. For instance, the following lead deals with children's suffering: "أن تقديرات المجتمع"

المدني الفلسطيني تشير إلى أن عدد الغزيين الذين فقدوا والديهم أو كليهما ، يتراوح بين 15 و 25 ألفاً ، مما يشكل مأساة إيتام وتمزقاً عميقاً في الأسرة و النسيج الاجتماعي

Estimates by Palestinian Civil Society indicate that the number of Gazans who have lost one or both parents ranges between 15,000 and 25,000, representing a tragedy of orphanhood and a deep rupture in the family and social fabric " (ḥarbu yazza,2024). This reveals the problem of shooting young children in the head and neck and comment on this problem by inserting the commentary of the Italian surgeon.

3.3.4.2 Script Structure

Both *Al Jazeera* and *Al Ahram* use the crisis script which shapes how the reader conceptualizes Gazan children's suffering. The introduction focuses on the crises that children suffer from like: orphanhood, malnutrition, child's labor, diseases, injuries, and death. All the articles of *Al Jazeera* include personal narratives to

evoke the reader's emotions of sympathy- a device which is not used in *Al Ahram* – then the articles move to deal with the causes of the crises. For instance, malnutrition is caused by blockades and insufficient aids: "حذرت الأمم المتحدة في منشور لها من خطر حدوث مجاعة في غزة:"

The United Nations warned in a statement of a significant risk of famine in Gaza as the conflict continues and humanitarian aid access remains restricted" (su:ʔ al tayðijati,2024). This is followed by escalation stage that links the crises to their long- term effect on children and how the crises have become increasingly complex: "حذرت اللجنة من ان الغزو الوشيك لرفح سوف يأخذ الوضع الهش إلى نقطة الإنهيار مما **The** يعرض حياة 600 طفل لخطر مباشر ويصل بسرعة إلى نقطة اللاعودة للمجاعة. **The committee warned that the imminent invasion of Rafah will push the fragile situation to the breaking point, putting the lives of 60 children at direct risk and quickly reaching a point of no return for famine**" (ladʒnatun ʔumamijjatun, 2023).

3.3.4.3 The Relationship between Events

It mainly includes context, causal connection between events, strategies and commentary. These relationships reveal how the audience perceives children's suffering with their causes and consequences.

- **Context**

This section provides the causes of children's suffering. It is equally found in *Al Jazeera* and *Al Ahram*. For instance, starvation is caused by Israel's war on Gaza and the blockades imposed by Israel: "ان سلطة الاحتلال قد منعت وفرضت قيوداً صارمة على الغذاء وغيره من **The occupying authority has imposed strict restrictions on food and other essential supplies and humanitarian aid**" (ladʒnatun ʔumamijjatun,2023).

- **Strategy**

While strategies are not frequently used in *Al Ahram* articles, they are not used at all in *Al Jazeera* articles. In *Al Ahram*, the strategies are followed by organizations to help the Gazan children overcome their psychological problems: "وتابع ممثل منظمة اليونيسيف في مصر" ما نفعه الآن من فريق العمل في غزة هو انشاء عدد من المساحات الآمنة للأطفال، وعندما أقول مساحات آمنة فأنا أعني آمنة من الناحية النفسية حتى يستطيع الطفل الذهاب إليها ويتصرف كطفل ويلعب باللعب والدمي تحت أنظار وأعين شباب متدرب.

The UNICEF representative in Egypt continued, "What our team is currently doing in Gaza is setting up several safe spaces for children. And when I say safe spaces, I mean psychologically safe—so that the child can go there, act like a child, and play with toys and dolls under the supervision and care of trained youth" (*mumaθilu al junisef, 2023*).

- **Consequences**

The consequences appeal to both logic and emotions and urge the reader to take actions: "ان الأكيد أن مجتمع غزة القادر سينكب بجيش جرار من

Gaza will have a huge army of disabled people" (*d3arra:ħatun iṭa:lijja, 2024*). Shooting children and bombing their houses in Gaza resulted in a devastating number of disabled children.

- **Categorization of Actors**

Categorizing actors affect moral reasoning and judgements among audiences, particularly through the identification of perpetrators, supporters, and victims. In *Al Jazeera*, the primary actors are children, who are framed as victims. The secondary actor is Israel, portrayed as an aggressor, and the last actors are the local, regional, and international organizations, and aid workers that are framed as the supporters of children. In contrast, *Al Ahram* articles also present children as primary actors and victims; however, the secondary actors are the international organizations, and the last actor is Israel which is mentioned in two articles only out of five.

Children are portrayed as victims of malnutrition, orphanhood, diseases, child labor, and violence: "أن جميع أطفال غزة يعانون من صدمات

-عصبية All the children of Gaza suffer from psychological trauma" (*mumaθilu / junisef,2023*). Israel is negatively represented as responsible for malnutrition through blockade and for the injuries and death of children through airstrikes: "وحتى الحين أدى العدوان الإسرائيلي على قطاع غزة لإستشهاد ما لا يقل عن 40 ألفاً و476 فلسطينياً - Up till now, the Israeli aggression on Gaza Strip has led to the martyrdom of at least 40,476 Palestinians, most of them are women and children" (*tara: / wulda:na,2024*).

3.3.4.4 Thematic Structure

Each article presents a central theme and several sub-themes which help in constructing the frames and reveals how the audience conceptualizes the issue of children's sufferings. A recurring theme is 'the destructive effect of war on children'. This is supported by two subthemes like 'the loss of family and its social effect, and the blockades and airstrikes that worsen the crisis'.

3.3.4.5 Rhetorical Devices

These devices examine the stylistic and persuasive techniques used in the articles in both newspapers. Concerning the rhetorical device 'Imagery and Symbolism', they are discussed in detail in the visual framing analysis section.

- **Lexical Choices and Emotionally Charged language**

Al Jazeera frequently employs emotionally charged language as a rhetorical device to evoke sympathy. Phrases such as "**orphans tragedy**-مأساة الأيتام" and "**died** أنفاسه الأخيرة" immediately frame the narrative with loss and injustice. A phrase like "**bullets blowing in the head**-مقذوفات تنفجر في الرأس" intensifies the emotional effect on the audience and reveals Israel's violence and innocence loss.

Al Ahram also includes other expressions like “*severe traumas* -صدّماّت قاسية-” and “*imminent famine* -مّجاعة وشيكه-” that reveal the psychological and physical effect of war on children. Through this emotionally driven language, *Al Jazeera* and *Al Ahram* highlight the suffering of children and aim to generate a strong emotional response from its readers.

The articles include strong and emotionally charged language to convey the devastating situation in Gaza and its profound impact on children. Words such as “*coma* -غيبوبه-” and descriptions like “*their limbs are amputated* -بترت أطرافهم-” highlight the severe physical suffering many children endure. References to “*the remains of dead bodies* -أشلاء-” and “*dehydration* -الجفاف-” add to the grim reality faced by many, highlighting both the physical toll of the conflict and the collapse of basic humanitarian conditions. This powerful language is used to draw attention to the human cost of the crisis and to evoke empathy and urgency.

• Metaphors

Metaphors are used to reveal the ideology of the journalists where the Gazan children are represented as victims of the Israeli war on Gaza. These metaphors are also used as a persuasive tool used by the journalists. They also intensify the emotional and symbolic meaning of the suffering of the Gazan children. For instance, “*a humanitarian crisis is about to take place in north Gaza and the ghost of famine looms on the horizon*” (su:ʔ al tayḍijati,2024) evokes a sense of an approaching disaster and urgency. The image of a ‘ghost’ is used to symbolize the impending threat of famine. The phrase “*looms on the horizon* -يلوح في الأفق-” implies that the threat is inevitable and about to take place. This metaphor conveys the severity of the situation in northern Gaza; famine is a real threat to the strip and the use of a ghost emphasizes the inevitability of famine. This metaphor makes the situation seem more serious and

strengthens the idea that children are innocent victims caught in a destructive war. *Al Ahram* also includes various metaphors: الحرب "تسرق مستقبل الأطفال"-**War steals the future of children**" (*al ga:rdija:n*,2024). In this metaphor, war is personified and it is able to steal and it is the future of children that is being stolen. This metaphor highlights the destructive effect of war on children and their future.

- **Source Attribution**

Al Ahram establishes its credibility by citing a range of national and international organizations that focus on children's rights and humanitarian issues. These include the UNICEF representative in Egypt, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, the International Labor Organization, and the United Nations Information Centre. On the other hand, *Al Jazeera* attains the same target by citing credible international and local organizations and bodies such as the United Nations, UNICEF, the Palestinian Children's Relief Fund, the Palestinian Medical Relief Society, and the Palestinian News Agency. These references help to validate the information presented, especially in articles highlighting the humanitarian crisis and the suffering of children in Gaza. The inclusion of such sources also appeals to global audience familiar with these institutions rendering the reporting responsible and reliable.

- **Quantification**

Quantification is used to emphasize the victimization of Gaza's children by presenting powerful statistics. For instance, "استمرار العدوان على القطاع الذي أدى لسقوط ما يزيد عن 40 ألف شهيد معظمهم نساء واطفال - **The continued aggression on the Gaza strip has led to the martyrdom of over 40,000 people, most of whom are women and children**" (*tara: l wulda:na*,2024). This number is used not just to inform but to emotionally affect the reader and draw attention to the severity of the situation, especially for the vulnerable children.

3.3.4.6 Inclusion and Exclusion

The articles highlight many of Gaza's children suffering, their causes and rights like orphanhood, malnutrition, death, injuries, and skin diseases. Moreover, they reveal the causes of these sufferings like Israeli's attacks and airstrikes, blockades, the destruction of the infrastructure and the failure of health care systems. *Al Jazeera* succeeded in identifying the real cause of the children's suffering, while *Al Ahram* failed to do so. *Al Ahram* quotes official sources without providing any analysis or commentary from the writer. Additionally, all the Arabic articles exclude any explanation of the political context of the situation in Gaza and provide no elaboration on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

3.4 Visual Framing Analysis of the Arabic Data

The total number of images in the Arabic articles are 21 images, 16 images in *Al Jazeera* and 5 in *Al Ahram*. Nine frames are identified in all the images, four of which are common ones in both *Al Jazeera* and *Al Ahram* articles; vulnerability frame, displacement frame, humanitarian crisis frame, and war and destruction frame. In addition, there are four frames identified in *Al Jazeera* articles only: victimization frame, hunger frame, poverty frame, and child's labor frame. Moreover, one frame is found in *Al Ahram* newspaper only; solution and call to action frame.

Table 7 Number of visual frames in the Arabic articles

Frame	No. of Occurrence
Vulnerability frame	10
Displacement frame	9
Humanitarian crisis	9
War and destruction frame	7
Victimization	6
Hunger frame	3

Poverty frame	3
Child's labor frame	2
Solution and call to action	2

3.4.1 Vulnerability frame

It is the most frequently used frame in both *Al Jazeera* and *Al Ahram*. Children are the salient participants in the images who are framed as the victims of war.

Example 1



Children of Gaza أطفال غزة (*alʿamalu l duwalijja*, 2024)

3.1.1 Visuals as Denotative System

A group of children with a crying young girl represented in the foreground as the salient participant. The girl's facial expressions convey fear, desperation and sadness. At the blurred background, we have a group of displaced children.

3.4.1.2 Visuals as Stylistic Semiotic Systems

The close-up shot with a high-level camera angle positions the viewer as more powerful than the vulnerable and innocent girl. The horizontal oblique angle which conveys tension, is also used to portray chaos in the displacement camps. The girl is portrayed as passive and her crying conveys a sense of helplessness. As for the girl's gaze, she does not look at the viewer; instead, she looks upward. She becomes the subject of the image; thus, the gaze functions as an offer, presenting the crying girl to the viewer as an item of information that conveys her vulnerability. The lighting and brightness are natural making the image naturalistic and enhancing

the emotional effect. The viewer is now aware of the suffering of children during Israel's war on Gaza.

3.4.1.3 Visuals and Connotative System

The girl's tears and fearful expressions symbolize innocent sufferings and the salience of the crying girl symbolizes weakness in facing war. In addition, the girl's gesture implies a call for help to protect them from the crisis of war.

3.4.1.4 Visuals as Ideological Representations

The image frames children as the innocent victims of war and focusing on them intensifies the sense of urgency for action to save them. Children are used to reveal the horrible consequences of war, aiming to evoke sympathy and outrage.

3.4.2 Displacement Frame

It is the second common frame that is used in both *Al Jazeera* and *Al Arham*. The images show the impact of war on the Gazan people in general and children in particular, one of which is displacement. The Gazan people are displaced from the north and the middle of Gaza to live in Rafah in the south. This is particularly evident in the images in the tents and the camps.

Example 2



(*tara: I wulda:na*, 2024)

3.4.2 .1 Visuals as Denotative System

A family is sitting outside a tent. A veiled woman sits with two young boys and a toddler, while a girl in pink pajamas sits on a white plastic chair. Two women sit in the background near

another tent. The woman is interacting with the children. The image is typical of a displacement camp.

3.4.2.2 Visuals as Stylistic Semiotic Systems

The long shot is at the eye level of the viewer which renders both the participants and the viewer equal in power. Although the long shot creates distance between the viewer and the participant, it enables the viewer to look at the context and the details in the image which reveal part of the Gazan people's life in a displacement camp. The camera angle is horizontal frontal which allows the participants to be seen clearly for the viewer to sympathize with the participants. The family members do not look at the viewer; hence, the image is an offer. They become an item of information to the viewer who now sees part of the life of the displaced families. As for light and brightness, the light is natural making the image naturalistic. All the family members seem to be communicating verbally, but they are sitting and doing nothing, thereby represented as passive.

3.4.2.3 Visuals as Connotative System

The tent and the hanging clothes symbolize the camp of the displaced Palestinians as a result of the Israeli war. The presence of children in these harsh conditions shows how their rights are violated.

3.4.2.4 Visuals as Ideological Representations

This image criticizes the Israeli war as the direct cause of the Gazan people's displacement. Moreover, living in a displacement camp reveals the harsh conditions that the Palestinian people live in and the failure of the global community to solve their problems. Despite these harsh conditions of war, the family interaction conveys family resilience.

3.4.3. Humanitarian Crisis Frame

Many images highlight the vulnerability of children and their need for protection and aid. This frame is created through the themes of suffering, hunger, displacement, unhealthy living

conditions, and human rights violations that appeal to the reader's empathy and moral responsibility.

Example 3



(ħarbu yazza,2024) أطفال من غزة ينتظرون في طابور لتلقى مواد غذائية

توزعها منظمات خيرية وسط الهجمات الإسرائيلية

Children from Gaza wait in line to receive food supplies distributed by charity organizations amid Israeli attacks

3.4.3.1 Visuals as Denotative Systems

A group of children of different age and gender wearing worn clothes reflecting their poverty. They carry empty pots, waiting to get food cooked by charity institutions.

3.4.3.2 Visuals as Stylistic Semiotic Systems

The long shot reveals the full body of children, the context, and the setting of the image, suggesting a displacement camp. It also shows the number of children waiting in lines to get food. As for the camera angle, it is a low-level angle where the camera is positioned below the subject. This renders the children more powerful than the viewer and reveals how strong they are in bearing the sufferings of war. Some children look at the viewer and others do not. Hence, it is both an offer and a demand; The offer conveys the information about those needy children and the demand asks the viewer to help those children and protect them from war. The light and brightness are natural, making the image naturalistic. Children are standing waiting for food and they look tired and bored, thereby they are positively represented because they help

their family in bringing food. In addition, they evoke sympathy for their young age.

3.4.3.3 Visuals as Connotative Systems

The empty pots symbolize hunger and the image of children waiting in lines symbolizes the insufficiency of humanitarian aid.

3.4.3.4. Visuals as Ideological Representations

The image criticizes the effect of war on children and the international community failure in supporting them. It also criticizes the starvation crime committed by Israel. The image uses visual framing to elicit understanding, empathy, and a call for intervention transforming specific moment into a representation of the consequences of war.

3.4.4 War and Destruction Frame

The images of destruction, bombed building, explosions, and injured and dead children signify the effect of war.

Example 4



جثث الأطفال الفلسطينيين الذين قتلوا في غارة إسرائيلية على رفح جنوبي قطاع
(dʒarra:ħatun itʕa:lijja, 2024) غزة

The bodies of Palestinian children who were killed in an Israeli airstrike on Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip

3.4.4.1 Visuals as Denotative Systems

The image shows several dead children bodies wrapped in white shrouds. The youngest one is the one that arouses our sympathy the most because it is a typical symbol of weakness and helplessness.

3.4.4.2 Visuals as Stylistic Semiotic Systems

It is a medium shot that reveals the three dead children together and we can see the details of their uncovered faces clearly. It is the youngest baby that is in focus surrounded by the other two dead children as the context. This shot keeps the viewer engaged with these children. The high camera angle shows the bodies of the children and reveal their weakness. As they are dead, they are represented as an item of information that drives the viewer to take action to stop children massacre. The light and brightness are natural making the image naturalistic.

3.4.4.3 Visuals as Connotative Systems

Children are a symbol of innocence and helplessness and the shrouds are cultural symbol of death and grief. Several dead bodies put beside each other are a symbol of war and violence.

3.4.4.4 Visuals as Ideological Representations

This image criticizes war and the violence of Israel that kills a large number of children. It also criticizes the international community for failing to stop the war and protect the children. Moreover, it arouses our emotions of grief, empathy, and anger.

3.4.5 Visual Analysis of the Arabic Data

3.4.5.1 Visuals as Denotative Systems

Gazan children are the represented participants in 17 images out of 21. In *Al Jazeera* articles, children are represented as suffering from skin diseases, orphanhood, malnutrition, hunger, injuries, and death. They are portrayed as doing hard labor to survive. They are suffering in displacement camps and walk in debris. But, in *Al Ahram* articles, there is only one natural image—repeated twice—showing a girl crying in a displacement camp. There are two logo images—one of UNICEF and the other of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. As a result, *Al Ahram* does not focus on images of children or their suffering, making the coverage less emotionally effective.

3.4.5.2 Visuals as Stylistic Semiotic Systems

Table 8 Camera distance

Camera distance	<i>Al Jazeera</i>	<i>Al Ahram</i>
Close-up shot	4	2
Medium shot	6	—
Long shot	6	1

In *Al Jazeera* articles, the most frequently used camera distances are the medium and long shots, each is used six times. Medium shots show both the participants in the images and the surrounding environment. These images help the audience sympathize with the children by showing them within their surrounding context, thereby revealing their suffering. The use of long shots presents the children within a broader environment—such as displacement camps, tents, destroyed buildings, and hospitals. Meanwhile, close-up shots are used four times and they focus on the facial expressions of children revealing their pain and distress which evokes the viewer's empathy. In *Al Ahram*, a close-up shot is used in the only photo—repeated twice—of a crying girl, revealing her facial expression of fear and sadness. A single long shot is used to depict the destruction, smoke, and debris caused by the war.

Table 9 Camera Angle

Camera Angle	<i>Al-Jazeera</i>	<i>Al-Ahram</i>
Horizontal frontal	8	1
Horizontal oblique	4	3
High-level angle	1	—
Low-level angle	2	1

In *Al Jazeera*, the horizontal frontal camera angle is the most frequently used which attaches the viewer to the children, thereby evoking sympathy. They are also used to add a sense of realism to the images. This angle is only used once in *Al Ahram* with the logo of The Convention on the Rights of the child to render the logo

clear. The horizontal oblique camera angle is the second most frequently used in *Al Jazeera*, appearing four times to suggest that the crises are beyond the children's control, highlighting their vulnerability. In *Al Ahram*, this angle is used most frequently. The low-angle shot is the third most frequently used camera angle in *Al Jazeera* in which it is used twice. It positions the children as more powerful than the viewer, highlighting their strength in bearing the hardships of war. The high-level angle is the least used type of angle. It is used only once in *Al Jazeera* to show the weakness of children and their victimhood, but it is not used at all in *Al Ahram*.

Table 10 Gaze

Gaze	<i>Al Jazeera</i>	<i>Al Ahram</i>
Offer	12	2
Demand	4	—

Children do not look at the viewer in 12 images in *Al Jazeera* and the two repeated images in *Al Ahram*. As a result, they become the subject of the look and are represented as items of information so that the viewer recognizes the various sufferings of those children and is urged to support them. In contrast, the demand gaze—where children look directly at the viewer, implicitly asking for help—is used four times in *Al Jazeera* but not used at all in *Al Ahram*; hence, evoking sympathy and revealing children's vulnerability. Light and brightness are used to make the images naturalistic.

3.4.5.3 Visuals as Connotative Systems

The images in *Al Jazeera* are full of symbols. A child's tears represent sadness and helplessness. The girl selling desserts reflect her family's financial problems. Children carrying empty pots symbolize the shortage of food and deprivation. A baby's physical weakness signifies malnutrition and starvation. A tent is a symbol of a displacement camp and life in refugee camps. The destroyed buildings symbolize war and air strikes. A boy's face full of blood symbolizes physical harm, violence and psychological pain. A

child's face and body covered with sores is a symbol of victimization and lack of health care. As for *Al Ahram*, explosion and destruction symbolize the consequences of war in Gaza and the loss of peace. The UNICEF logo has a child and an adult figure that represent care and protection. A globe in the background signifies universality. These two figures are surrounded by olive branches that symbolize peace. The presence of the international logos signifies the involvement of aid organizations and the need for external intervention.

3.4.5.4 Visuals as Ideological Representations

Most images in *Al Jazeera* criticize the global neglect of the suffering of children in Gaza through revealing their hardships; orphanhood, economic problems, child's labor, injuries, malnutrition, skin diseases, and displacement camps. In *Al Ahram*, the image of a child in a displacement camp and the UNICEF logos criticize the global neglect and call for the international community intervention. Accordingly, all the images call for the international community and humanitarian aid to ceasefire and save the children.

By comparing both the verbal and the visual frames, it can be noticed that there are six frames in the verbal data and nine frames in the visual data. Both types of the data share four frames: humanitarian crisis frame, victimization frame, violence frame, and child's labor frame. Humanitarian crisis frame is the first frequently used frame in the verbal data and the third frequently used in the visual data. This frame in the verbal data includes most of the sufferings of children; starvation, physical and psychological diseases, orphanhood, and family displacement. In the visual data, the frame focuses on children's sufferings, displacement, their need for aid, and human rights violations. The verbal frame deals with the problem itself, its causes, its moral evaluation, and its recommended treatment. On the other hand, the visual frame emphasizes children's suffering through their facial expressions and displays the destruction in Gaza. Consequently, the images are more emotionally effective than the text. The second common frame is the victimization frame. It is the second used frame in the

verbal data and the fifth frequently used frame in the visual data. This frame appeals to emotions in both types of data, but it evokes more sympathy in the visual one as it vividly portrays children's physical and psychological sufferings during Israel's war on Gaza. The third common frame is child's labor frame. It is the eighth frequently used frame in the visual data. In the verbal data, this frame explains the critical economic situation in Gaza that drives children to do hard work to survive. In the visual data, children are portrayed doing very hard work and appearing visibly exhausted, thereby evoking the viewer's sympathy.

Violence frame, education disruption frame, and mental health frame are used in the textual data only. The violence frame tackles the extreme violence of the Israeli forces against Gazan people, specifically children, that results in severe injuries and death. Education disruption frame tackles the negative effect of war in disrupting the educational system. Mental health frame deals with the psychological trauma of Gaza's children as a widespread and critical issue.

Meanwhile, the visual data has six frames that are used in the visual data only; vulnerability frame that portrays children as the most vulnerable victims of war. They suffer from severe injuries, deaths, malnutrition, orphanhood and physical diseases. Displacement frame portrays children living in tents and displacement camps as a result of the Israeli war. War and destruction frame portrays the massive destruction of Gaza. Hunger frame portrays children waiting in long lines, carrying empty pots to take charity food. Poverty frame portrays children wearing worn-out clothes. The Solution and call to action is framed through the UNICEF and the Convention of The Rights of the Child logos. These logos implicitly symbolize the solution by suggesting the involvement of the international organizations and urging them to take action.

4. Findings and Conclusion

A comparison of the framing analysis in both the English and Arabic articles reveals two dominant frames common across both languages and in both textual and visual data: the humanitarian crisis frame and the victimization frame. The humanitarian crisis frame tackles the various forms of children suffering: starvation, physical and psychological diseases, orphanhood, injuries, and death. The victimization frame reveals how children are portrayed as innocent and helpless victims of war. It also appeals to the emotions of the audience in both types of data and evokes their sympathy.

The English and Arabic articles share a common textual frame which is the violence frame. This frame tackles the extreme violence of the Israeli forces against Gazan Children, resulting in severe injuries and death. The English and Arabic images share two common frames: the vulnerability frame and the displacement frame. The vulnerability frame portrays children's weakness in facing Israel's severe aggression. They suffer from severe injuries, death, malnutrition, orphanhood and physical diseases. The displacement frame illustrates the extremely difficult living conditions of the Gazan children living in displacement camp tents and lacking the basic essentials of living.

The English and Arabic data differ in salience by focusing on different frames. Some frames appear in the English articles only, with a few found in both the textual and visual data—such as the healthcare crisis frame and the war frame. Three frames are used solely in the English textual data: the systemic crisis frame, which addresses the destruction of sanitation infrastructure; the injustice frame, which highlights the shortage of food essential for young children; and the international responsibility frame, which criticizes the failure of the international community to protect and support these children. Additionally, two frames are unique to the English visual data: the humanitarian aid frame, which depicts food distribution by charitable organizations, and the emergency frame, which focuses on children's urgent medical conditions. On the

other hand, the Arabic data has one frame that is used textually and visually which is child's labor frame. This frame portrays children as doing strenuous work to survive. Two frames are used in the textual Arabic data only: Education disruption frame that deals with the effect of war that disrupted the education system in Gaza and Mental health crisis frame that deals with the traumatic effect of war on children. Moreover, five frames are used in the visual data only; war and destruction frame, hunger frame, poverty frame, systemic crisis frame, and solution and call to action frame.

Consequently, it is evident that both the textual and visual frames complement each other in shaping the audience's perception and conceptualization of children's suffering. The frame elements in the textual data under study play a central role in shaping how children in Gaza suffer during Israel's war in Gaza, thereby, guiding the audience's interpretation of reality. Through these frames, the audience interprets the suffering of children in terms of problem definition, causal interpretation, moral evaluation, and treatment recommendation. As for the problems they tackle, both English and Arabic articles focus on children's injuries and death, orphanhood, diseases, malnutrition, starvation, and child's labor. On the other hand, the Arabic articles focus, in addition to the above problems, on families' displacement and education disruption. *The Washington Post* and *Al Jazeera* identify common causes behind children's suffering, with Israeli airstrikes presented as the direct cause behind children's injuries, orphanhood, death, and the destruction of the health care and sanitation systems that contributes to the spread of various diseases. Additionally, blockades imposed by Israel are the direct cause behind malnutrition and starvation. Both the English and Arabic articles share the same moral evaluations of children's suffering. Israel's violence against children is evaluated as a moral failure of the international community that fails to end the unjust and preventable children's suffering. Additionally, it is morally evaluated as a violation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and a breach of the international law. As for treatment

recommendation, the English articles suggested several treatments explicitly like ceasefire, peace agreements, humanitarian aid, polio vaccination, and the intervention of the international community. Meanwhile, the Arabic articles call for ceasefire and implicitly call for the intervention of the regional and international community.

Framing devices in both the English and the Arabic data are structured to influence the audience's interpretation through syntactic choices. Headlines use emotional language to frame children's suffering as urgent crises to evoke the reader's sympathy and urge him to act immediately. Paragraphs start with factual information, elaborate on the problems, and often include stories that evoke emotions. Both the English and Arabic articles use the crisis script structure, consisting of an introduction, development stage, escalation stage and concluding stage. The relationship between events provides the causes of children's suffering and its consequences. For instance, as a result of the blockade and food shortages, people eat animal food. In addition, Israeli airstrikes have destroyed the sanitation system, leading to the spread of diseases. The categorization of actors affects moral reasoning and judgements among the audience. The portrayal of actors—such as aggressors, victims, and rescuers—plays a key role in shaping the audience's moral judgement of the conflict and supporting calls for action. In both the English and Arabic articles, the primary actors are children who are represented as the victims of war. In the English articles, specifically *The Washington Post*, Israeli forces are positioned as the secondary actors. Similarly, in the Arabic articles, Israeli forces appear as secondary actors only in *Al Jazeera*, but not in *Al Ahram* which quotes official sources without providing any analysis or commentary by the writer. The third group of actors includes international organizations like UNICEF and WHO. The thematic structure in both English and Arabic articles covers the suffering of Gazan children during Israel's war on Gaza. The main themes focus on children's suffering of war including orphanhood, malnutrition, starvation, diseases, child's labor and healthcare crisis. The subthemes provide details about

these hardships. This thematic structure reveals how the audience conceptualizes children's sufferings.

Both the English and Arabic articles use several rhetorical devices to persuade the reader. Emotionally charged language is used to evoke the reader's sympathy towards children's suffering. Metaphors are used to intensify the portrayal of children's suffering and to enhance the persuasive effect of the message. Moreover, specific lexical choices are carefully selected to appeal to the reader's emotions and urge him to take action. Source attribution and quantification are other key rhetorical devices that add to the credibility of the information included in the articles and appeal to the reader's logic. Most of the inserted numbers refer to the number of sick and dead children.

Rodriguez's four levels of visual analysis are used to identify and analyze visual frames, showing how images are structured and interpreted at multiple levels. This approach reveals how visual elements communicate messages and contribute to the overall framing of children's suffering. The total number of images in the English articles is 38 - nearly twice the number of images in the Arabic articles, which contain 21 images. Meanwhile, children in both the English and Arabic articles share similar denotations. They are portrayed as suffering from hunger, carrying empty pots to get charity food, performing hard labor to survive, suffering from severe injuries, and as living in difficult conditions in displacement camps. However, it is only in *Al Jazeera* articles that children are represented as dead and wrapped in shrouds. In contrast, *Al Ahram* articles provide only a single image of children that is repeated twice.

The level of Visuals as Stylistic Semiotic Systems reveals how different visual semiotic styles shape the viewer's perception and evoke the viewer's sympathy. Both the English and Arabic articles used medium and long shots to contextualize children's suffering by showing their surrounding environment. They also use close-up shots to reveal children's facial expressions of pain and distress to

evoke empathy. They both use horizontal frontal camera angle to create a sense of attachment between the viewer and the children. In most of the images, children's gazes are *offer gazes*—where the subject does not look directly at the viewer—positioning children as the subject of information and the viewer is urged to offer support.

Visuals as Connotative Systems involve the viewer's critical engagement with images to grasp the deep meanings and cultural associations in the image that guide him to identify the frames and reach better interpretations. Both the English and Arabic articles share common symbols that are common in both cultures. For instance, children carrying empty pots symbolize their hunger and the lack of basic needs. The expressions of pain and desperation on children's faces reflect their suffering. children's skin rashes symbolize their vulnerability and the healthcare failure, while the rubbles are symbols of destruction and war.

Concerning visuals as ideological representations, the viewer places the images within a larger ideological context. The images in the English and Arabic articles criticize the global neglect of the Gazan children suffering. Hence, they call for the international community intervention to ceasefire and save these children. Moreover, they call for the urgent humanitarian aid for the Palestinian people including children.

Finally, this study has proven that framing analysis of the news articles across the four media outlets reveals that the audience conceptualizes Gazan children's sufferings in terms of several major frames. It also proves that children are often portrayed as victims, while Israel is explicitly represented as the aggressor in the articles. Integrating textual and visual framing analysis provides a more comprehensive understanding of how children's suffering in Gaza is constructed and communicated to the audience. Additionally, visual frames often have an immediate and powerful emotional effect that reinforces the textual message. Moreover, text

and image work together in framing Gazan children's humanitarian crises, thereby, influencing audience's perceptions, moral judgements, and calls to action. Ultimately, the consistent portrayal of innocent children amid conflict highlights the urgent need for a fair solution, where the protection and rights of all children are prioritized above everything else.

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