



THE HEADLINES OF NEWS WEBSITES ON WOMEN OF GAZA: A TEXT ANALYSIS STUDY

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Abstract

The contemporary news websites are dedicated to attract the largest number of the audience through their professional, interactive designs. The current study adopts Carter, Goddard, Sanger, Reah, and Bowring's (2001) model of text analysis. The model is utilized to analyze three headlines from different news websites; from Aljazeera English, CNN, and BBC. The main topic of the headlines is the conditions and states of women in Gaza during the ongoing conflict; Hamas-Israel (2023) war. The study shows that the headlines illuminate the diverse array of challenges confronting women in Gaza, ranging from fundamental deprivations to hazardous quests for security and existential dread. They present a nuanced depiction of the intricate interplay between gender dynamics, conflict dynamics, and the resilience exhibited by women in Gaza, emphasizing the pressing necessity for acknowledgment, compassion, and intervention to alleviate their predicament at regional and international levels.

Keywords

Aljazeera English, BBC, CNN, Gaza, Women.

INTRODUCTION

Peterson and Bunton (2002) explicate the fundamental role of the concept of text in the research works of social nature. The primary focus of the study in the domain of social sciences is the text. This text can take several forms, including written documents, physical or social practices, or a personal sense of identity, all of which are imbued with meaning. These texts are created by human activity and are a product of the historical context in which they were generated. Nevertheless, they are incomplete and are continuously open to reinterpretation, without any single or definitive interpretation.

Comprehending the complete meaning of a text can prove challenging. One way to aid this process is by differentiating it from other related concepts such as discourse and sentence. From a linguistic

perspective, 'discourse' refers to the observable connections between 'sentences' or 'statements' that form a 'text'. The 'text' can vary, ranging from a short 'one-liner' joke to an extensive 'Western philosophy tradition' (Torode, 2016).

Due to its complex nature, Fairclough (2003, p.4) looks at the meaning of discourse in a broader sense:

I shall use the term text in a very broad sense. Written and printed texts such as shopping lists and newspaper articles are 'texts', but so also are transcripts of (spoken) conversations and interviews, as well as television programmes and web-pages. We might say that any actual instance of language in use is a 'text' – though even that is too limited, because texts such as television programmes involve not only language but also visual images and sound effects.

The use of text in research has proven to be quite beneficial in the field of text analysis. Text analysis is a sophisticated process that entails sorting and analyzing data within text for research purposes. The process involves the conversion of text into meaningful data. Through text analytics, it is possible to transform text into a structured format that highlights crucial elements of the written data. Text analytics and text mining are two terms that are sometimes used interchangeably, but there is a slight difference between them. Text mining is the process of using computational analysis to extract information, particularly linguistic features, from a set of text data (Kwartler, 2017). The process is beneficial in detecting patterns and trends that would otherwise go unnoticed.

The present study aims to investigate news media texts as a crucial instrument for communication and the reflection of attitudes and perspectives. These texts, in the form of headlines, depict the critical conditions of women in Gaza during the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas. According to UN reports, women are at a definite risk in the conflict, forming the highest number of casualties, along with children. The data analyzed for this study is sourced from the official websites of Aljazeera English, CNN, and BBC, which are widely regarded as major effective tools in modern mass media. Their coverage of the conflict has been closely observed by media figures worldwide.

Today, news websites have an unprecedented ability to interact with their audience through various engaging mediums, including written language, images, and video clips. The headline is the first impression that visitors get about the content and sets the tone for the entire page. It's the difference between grabbing their interest or losing them altogether. Headlines serve as a hook to draw visitors into the content of a landing page. A clear and relevant headline can provide a quick summary of what the page is about and why it's worth reading. It gives visitors a reason to stick around and explore further. A well-crafted headline can also set the tone for the rest of the page. It can evoke emotion, generate curiosity, or highlight a unique value proposition. A strong headline can create a sense of urgency or scarcity, prompting visitors to take action (Dunaway & Graber, 2017).

In the light of the selected topic and its conditions, the data, and the positions that the channels occupy in the today mass media; as they are main channels over the world, the current study aims to discuss the following questions through adopting Carter, Goddard, Sanger, Reah, and Bowring's (2001) model of text analysis.

- 1 - How do the linguistic choices of the headlines reflect the states and conditions of women in Gaza?
- 2 - What are the main headlines features through their textual constructions?

LITERATURE REVIEW

News Websites

Contemporary news websites that display images are known to promote recall among their users. Interactive features within such websites have been found to enhance recognition and recall of information associated with the feature. In recent times, major news websites have adopted a similar style of display, where a front page carries headlines for a variety of stories. Each headline is accompanied by an introductory paragraph and a picture that links to the rest of the story on a separate page. This style of display has proven effective in aiding users to recall important information and is widely used in the industry. (Mckane, 2013).

The headlines that appear on internet platforms play a vital role in engaging the reader and attracting their attention to the content. These headlines should contain relevant keywords that increase their visibility in search engine results and social media searches. In websites that host blogs and news articles, headlines are often displayed at the top of the page and may also appear on the left or right-hand side of the page, providing easy accessibility to the reader. These headlines function as a continuation of the story, providing a summary of the content and reminding readers of what they may have missed. (Lnason & Leccese, 2015).

Different Attitudes

The issues of the Middle East are covered differently according to the geo-political factors. In this realm, Aljazeera, CNN, and BBC present different attitudes on the Arab world in general and Palestine in particular. Concerning the ongoing Hamas-Israel (2023) war the well-known case is that Aljazeera views the war through the eyes of the Arab populace. On the other side, CNN and BBC are the voices of Israel according to the opinions of their journalists.

CNN is facing a backlash from its staff over editorial policies they say have led to a regurgitation of Israeli propaganda and the censoring of Palestinian perspectives in the network's coverage of the war in Gaza. Journalists in CNN newsrooms in the US and overseas say broadcasts have been skewed by management and a story approval process that has resulted in highly partial coverage of the Hamas attack on 7 October and Israel's retaliatory attack on Gaza (McGreal, 2024)

BBC journalists are reportedly "crying at lavatories" over concern that the broadcaster was treating Israeli lives "more worthy" than Palestinian ones aimed coverage of Israel's brutal war on Gaza, the Times reported on Wednesday. Employees at the British broadcaster have accused it of being "too lenient" on Israel while "dehumanizing Palestinian Civilians". Moreover, in an email shared with BBC News' international staff, journalists have pointed out words such as "massacre", "slaughter", and "atrocities" were frequently used in reference to the Hamas attack, but Israel's actions were not described using similar vocabulary or outrage (The New Arab Staff, 2023).

The Women of Gaza

According to the latest United Nations reports, the conflict in Gaza has resulted in a disproportionately

high number of civilian casualties among women and children, who represent approximately 70% of the total fatalities. In a deeply concerning account of the situation, it has been revealed that since the onset of hostilities over 100 days ago, fatal outcomes have led to the death of two mothers every hour. Additionally, the data indicates that 951,490 females have been forcibly displaced, leading to immense instability in their living conditions. The ripple effects of the conflict have extended to familial structures, with an estimated 3,000 women assuming the role of primary caregivers and heads of household due to the loss of their spouses. This sudden shift in responsibility is accompanied by the critical healthcare needs of approximately 50,000 pregnant women in the region, of whom 5,522 are projected to give birth within the forthcoming month, exacerbating the urgency for medical and humanitarian assistance (Facts & Figures, 2024).

Text Analysis

The examination of text typically entails a thorough analysis of its linguistic and stylistic components. This involves scrutinizing the use of various rhetorical devices such as similes, metaphors, and ellipses, as well as the different levels of style, text-type conventions, and the organization of literary works. To conduct a comprehensive analysis for translation purposes, it is imperative to identify the "dominant language function," which is a crucial step as elucidated by Koller (1979, p. 33). Determining the dominant language function necessitates considering the external characteristics of the communicative situation and extends beyond intratextual analysis.

When analyzing the linguistic traits of a specific text, it is evident that each feature must be evaluated differently depending on its role within the text. Certain features may be influenced by situational conditions beyond the control of the sender, such as pragmatic factors related to time and space or the geographical and socio-cultural background of the sender. Other features may be predetermined by decisions made before text production, such as the selection of medium or the orientation towards the intended recipient. Moreover, additional features such as the text type or genre may be dictated by social norms and conventions. During the analysis process, the translator must continuously revisit previously evaluated factors in accordance with the principle of recursiveness (Nord, 2005).

METHOD

The current study is utilized to analyze three headlines concerning the women of Gaza under the ongoing Hamas-Israel (2023) war. The headlines are adopted from Aljazeera English, CNN and BBC. The employed model of analysis is Carter, Goddard, Sanger, Reah, and Bowring's (2001) model of text analysis.

The Model

In the text analysis model, the meanings and functions of a text are derived from its syntactic components. It is the interaction between these components that shapes the overall message of the text. Therefore, it is crucial to examine the syntax of a text to gain a deeper understanding of its intended meaning and purpose. By analyzing the structure of a text, we can identify its key themes, motifs, and rhetorical strategies, which are essential for comprehending its underlying message; thus,

Knowing about these patterns and understanding how they function will help you to see how meanings are made in texts and can provide a basis for interpreting what the texts mean to you . Grammar is a central resource for making and communicating meaning, and how the more you understand how it works , the more systematically you can work with texts that interest you (Carter et al., 2001, P. 107).

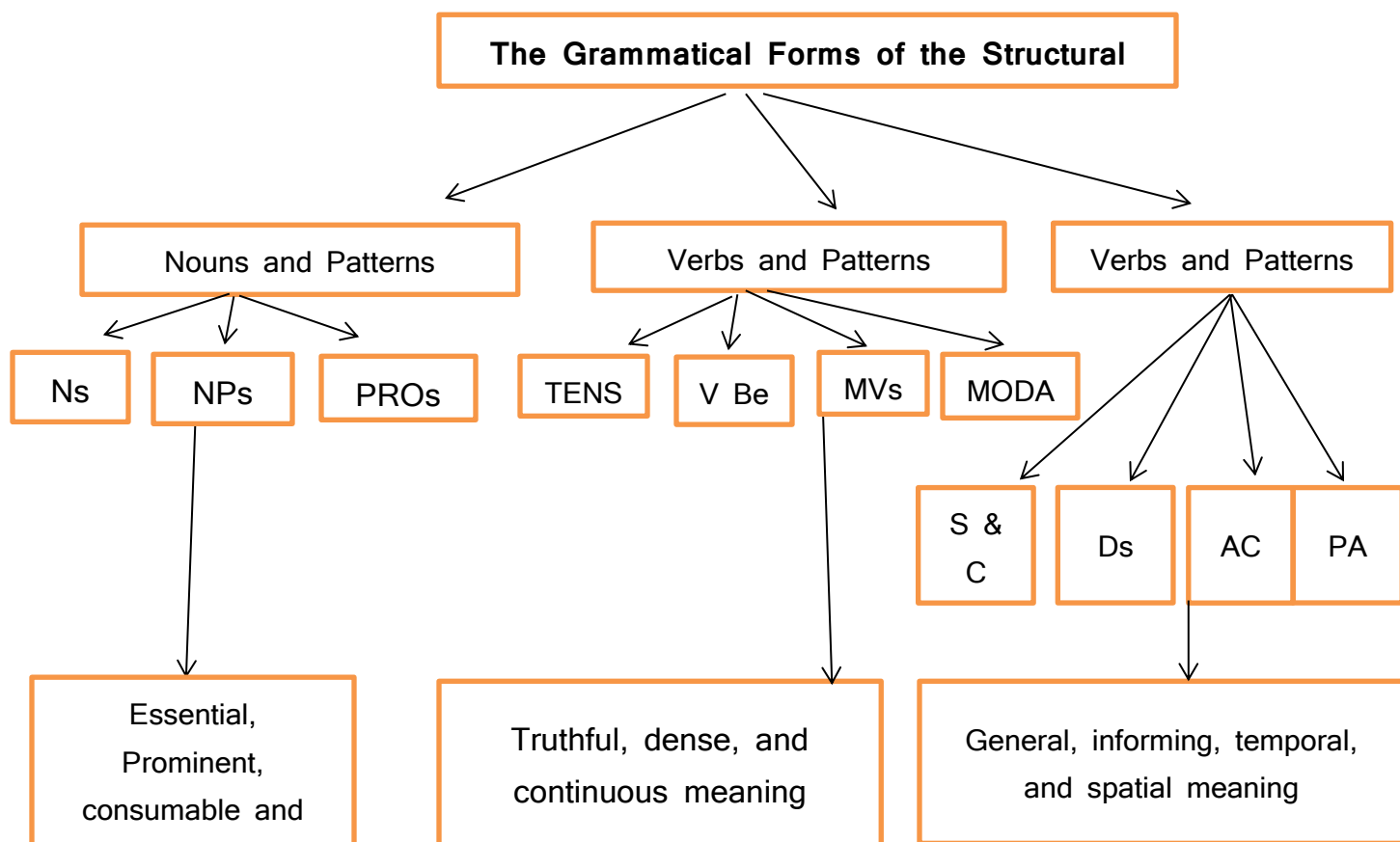
Text analysis is a method used to evaluate various forms of written communication, such as advertisements, headlines, and slogans (ibid. 108). This approach primarily focuses on nouns, as they possess numerous meaning-generating characteristics. However, modifiers can make the text more intricate and challenging to read. There are six types of modifiers: essential, usable, consumable, prominent, signposts, and points of introduction. Verbs can expand the text by, for example, using present participle verbs to create continuity, just as present participle nouns do.

The absence of verbs in a text eliminates any reference to time and establishes a sense of generality. Their inclusion, on the other hand, can serve to magnify the message and allude to essential social and political aspects. As an example, Charles Dickens, in his 1852 work *Black House*, employed only main verbs in four paragraphs. Pronouns, too, bear significance. In advertising, the use of the pronoun "we" directly addresses the customer while demonstrating consideration and attentiveness to the individual.

Furthermore, the choice of tense carries weight; the present tense, for instance, conveys a sense of enduring, general, and unchanging truth. Deictic expressions such as "this," "those," and "that" are also utilized in various texts to guide our attention towards specific points and references. Phrases featuring ellipsis are also taken for granted, as speakers expect the audience to discern the intended meaning without further elaboration (p.135).

The model of text analysis can be visualized as the following :

Figure 3.1 . The Model of Text Analysis (Carter et al., 2001).



The Abbreviation	The Name
AC	Active Voice
Ds	Deictics
Moda	Modality
MVs	Modal Verbs
NPs	Noun Phrases
Ns	Nouns
PA	Passive Voice
PROs	Pronouns

S & C	Sentence and Clause Structure
V BE	Verb To Be

The Data

As it was mentioned previously the data is selected from the formal websites of Aljazeera English, CNN, and BBC. The headline of Aljazeera English is entitled "No privacy, no water: Gaza women use period-delaying pills amid Israel war" (Alsaafin& Amer, 2023). The headline from CNN is "'We were walking in water, sand, mud': Palestinian women describe the terror of 12-mile escape on foot from Gaza City" (Salman & Sawalhi, 2024). The BBC's headline is " 'I simply don't want to die at 24' - Gaza woman trapped at Rafah crossing " (Keane, 2023).

Data Analysis

The first headline to be analyzed is Aljazeera's "No privacy, no water: Gaza women use period-delaying pills amid Israel war". The headline encapsulates a stark reality faced by women in Gaza during times of conflict. Semantically, the title emphasizes the profound challenges experienced by Gaza women due to the lack of fundamental necessities such as privacy and water. The absence of these basic elements underscores the harsh conditions under which they live. The nouns "privacy" and "water" carry significant weight in highlighting the essential human rights denied to these women during the Israel war. Moreover, the use of "period-delaying pills" as a coping mechanism reflects the resourcefulness and resilience of Gaza women amidst adversity, shedding light on their creative strategies for managing health concerns under extreme circumstances.

In terms of verbs and other linguistic elements, the title employs concise and impactful language to convey the urgency and severity of the situation. The verb "use" signifies ongoing action, indicating that the use of period-

delaying pills is a practical response to the challenges faced by Gaza women during the war. Additionally, the phrase "amid Israel war" provides context, situating the actions and experiences of Gaza women within the broader context of armed conflict. The linguistic choices in the title serve to draw attention to the plight of Gaza women and provoke reflection on the human cost of war. Through its semantic factors, nouns, verbs, and linguistic elements, the title effectively communicates the harsh realities endured by Gaza women and underscores the need for attention and action to address their plight amidst conflict.

The second headline is CNN's, "We were walking in water, sand, mud': Palestinian women describe the terror of 12-mile escape on foot from Gaza City,". The nouns, pronouns, and noun phrases encapsulate essential and prominent meanings central to the headline. "Palestinian women" serves as the focal point, highlighting the specific group experiencing the described events. The phrase "12-mile escape on foot from Gaza City" denotes the arduous journey undertaken by these women, emphasizing its significance within the broader context of conflict. The verbs "walking" and "describe" contribute truthful and continuous

meanings, portraying the authenticity of the women's accounts and the ongoing nature of their narrative. The sentence structure, with its active voice, conveys an informing and general meaning, providing a vivid depiction of the women's ordeal without veiling the agency behind their actions.

Furthermore, the deictics and clause structures within the sentence offer insights into the temporal and spatial dimensions of the headline. The phrase "We were walking" situates the events in the past, indicating that the described journey has already taken place. The inclusion of "water, sand, mud" as elements of the terrain evokes spatial imagery, illustrating the challenging environment traversed by the women during their escape. The active voice employed in the sentence emphasizes the agency and resilience of Palestinian women, foregrounding their experiences and perspectives. Through the use of dense and continuous verbs, the narrative unfolds dynamically, inviting readers to engage with the harrowing account of survival and endurance amidst adversity.

Overall, the headline exemplifies how linguistic choices shape the portrayal of experiences and meanings within a narrative. Through the strategic use of nouns, pronouns, verbs, and sentence structures, the passage effectively communicates the challenges faced by Palestinian women during their escape from Gaza City. The interplay of semantic factors and linguistic elements lends depth and authenticity to their account, underscoring the urgency of understanding and addressing the human toll of conflict on vulnerable populations.

The headline of the BBC " 'I simply don't want to die at 24' - Gaza woman trapped at Rafah crossing" encapsulates a poignant narrative from the ongoing conflict between Hamas and Israel. In terms of nouns, pronouns, and noun phrases, the focus is on the essential and prominent meaning represented by the "Gaza woman" who finds herself trapped at the Rafah crossing. This noun phrase underscores the individual's plight amid the broader conflict, emphasizing her vulnerability and humanity. The inclusion of the pronoun "I" within the quotation highlights the personal perspective and agency of the woman, conveying her fears and desires directly to the reader. These linguistic choices foreground the human element within the larger geopolitical context, compelling empathy and understanding for the individual experiences affected by the conflict.

Verbs in the headline, particularly "don't want" and "trapped," convey truthful and dense meanings, reflecting the woman's candid expression of her desires and the stark reality of her situation. The verb "don't want" captures her sentiment of defiance and hope, emphasizing her reluctance to accept a premature end to her life. Meanwhile, the verb "trapped" conveys the sense of confinement and helplessness experienced by the woman at the Rafah crossing, evoking a feeling of entrapment within the larger turmoil of the conflict. These verbs contribute to the emotional resonance of the headline, drawing attention to the human cost of the ongoing violence in Gaza.

In terms of sentence patterns and linguistic structures, the headline employs an informing and general meaning, shedding light on a specific individual's experience amidst the broader context of the conflict. The use of direct speech within quotation marks adds immediacy and authenticity to the woman's words, allowing her voice to resonate with readers on a personal level. The spatial and temporal dimensions are implicit within the headline, with the mention of the Rafah crossing situating the woman's predicament within the physical landscape of Gaza. Overall, the headline captures the emotional complexity of the

conflict through its nuanced use of language and narrative framing, prompting reflection on the human toll of violence and displacement in the region.

DISCUSSION

The study presents a discussion of the questions in the introduction. The first question is "How do the linguistic choices of the headlines reflect the states and conditions of women in Gaza?"

The linguistic choices in the headlines of news articles from Al Jazeera English, CNN, and BBC reflect the dire states and conditions of women in Gaza amidst conflict and crisis. The headline from Al Jazeera English, "No privacy, no water: Gaza women use period-delaying pills amid Israel war," underscores the scarcity of basic necessities like water and privacy for women in Gaza, even during times of conflict. By highlighting the use of period-delaying pills, the headline sheds light on the challenges women face in managing their health amid the ongoing turmoil. The absence of privacy and essential resources amplifies the vulnerability of women, showcasing the harsh realities they endure. Similarly, CNN's headline, "'We were walking in water, sand, mud': Palestinian women describe the terror of 12-mile escape on foot from Gaza City," vividly portrays the harrowing experiences of Palestinian women as they flee violence and seek refuge.

The use of descriptive language like "terror" and detailing the arduous journey of escaping on foot through challenging terrain highlights the immense hardships and dangers women in Gaza confront during times of conflict. This headline underscores the urgency and severity of the situation, emphasizing the resilience and determination of women striving for safety and survival. Lastly, BBC's headline, "'I simply don't want to die at 24' - Gaza woman trapped at Rafah crossing," captures the profound fear and uncertainty experienced by women trapped in conflict zones like Gaza. The personal plea of the woman trapped at the Rafah crossing underscores the human toll of prolonged conflict, where individuals, particularly women, are forced to confront the constant threat of death and destruction at a young age. The headline's emphasis on individual voices humanizes the crisis, amplifying the urgency for humanitarian action and intervention to protect the lives and rights of women in Gaza. In summary, the linguistic choices in these headlines effectively convey the hardships, resilience, and urgent needs of women in Gaza amidst ongoing conflict and crisis.

The study also discusses the second question, "What are the main headlines features through their textual constructions?"

The headlines from Al Jazeera English, CNN, and BBC employ distinct textual constructions to convey the profound challenges faced by women in Gaza amidst conflict. Each headline emphasizes different aspects of the women's experiences, reflecting the nuanced nature of their struggles. Al Jazeera's headline employs a straightforward and declarative structure, focusing on the lack of privacy and water for Gaza women during the Israel war and their use of period-delaying pills as a coping mechanism. This construction directly highlights the deprivation of basic human needs and the adaptive measures women must resort to in the face of adversity. CNN's headline utilizes vivid and descriptive language to evoke the visceral experiences of Palestinian women as they undertake a perilous 12-mile escape on foot from Gaza City.

The use of sensory details such as "walking in water, sand, mud" and the word "terror" captures the intensity and urgency of the women's journey, effectively conveying the gravity of their situation. The textual construction of the headline emphasizes the physical and emotional challenges these women encounter, drawing attention to the bravery and resilience required to navigate such treacherous circumstances. BBC's headline adopts a more personal and introspective tone, centering on the individual perspective of a Gaza woman trapped at the Rafah crossing. The use of direct quotation, "I simply don't want to die at 24," humanizes the plight of women in Gaza, highlighting their fears, hopes, and aspirations amidst the chaos of conflict. The headline's construction prioritizes the human dimension of the crisis, foregrounding the voices and agency of women who are often marginalized in mainstream narratives of conflict.

CONCLUSIONS

Studying of the news website headlines can reflect important faces of any story over the world. In examining the headlines from Al Jazeera English, CNN, and BBC regarding the experiences of women in Gaza amidst conflict, it's evident that each headline employs unique textual constructions to highlight different facets of their struggles. Through straightforward declarations, vivid descriptions, and personal narratives, these headlines shed light on the multifaceted challenges faced by women in Gaza, from the deprivation of basic needs to the perilous journeys for safety and the existential fears of death. Together, they offer a nuanced portrayal of the complex intersection of gender, conflict, and resilience in the lives of women in Gaza, underscoring the urgent need for attention, empathy, and action to address their plight on both local and global scales.

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