Violence and Humanitarian Crisis in Al-Jazeera's Sudan Conflict Coverage: Teun A. Van Dijk's AWK Analysis

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Abstract

This study analyzes the reporting of the Al-Jazeera network regarding the conflict in Sudan using Teun A. Van Dijk's Critical Discourse Analysis model, focusing on how international media construct the meaning of violence and crisis narratives. The research is based on the premise that news media are not merely neutral information providers, but also actors in shaping public opinion through language, perspectives, and specific ideologies in conflict reporting. The novelty of this research lies in its focus on digital media content from a major Arabic-language international news network and its use of Van Dijk's critical analysis framework to examine the relationship between media discourse, social structures, and power in the context of humanitarian crises. This analysis is conducted at the textual, superstructural, and macrostructural levels, aiming to reveal how Al-Jazeera constructs narratives of victimization, neutrality, and geopolitical interests in its coverage. The findings indicate that Al-Jazeera consistently employs a humanitarian and sympathetic perspective toward the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) group as one of the main actors in the conflict. Teun van Dijk's analysis model highlights the important role of media in shaping public opinion through narrative structures, ideology, and social context underlying news production.

Keywords: *Critical Discourse Analysis, Teun A. van Dijk, Al-Jazeera, Sudan Conflict, Humanitarian Crisis.*

1. Introduction

Since the outbreak of armed conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) on April 15, 2023, Sudan has experienced a rapid escalation of violence and a humanitarian crisis of vast proportions (Abdelrazig et al., 2026). The consequences include millions of internally displaced persons, severe disruption to healthcare services, as well as the threat of famine and serious human rights violations a situation that several international organizations have described as one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world in recent years (Al-Jazeera, 2025). In an ongoing armed conflict such as this, health systems and services have suffered critical disruption, marked by acute shortages of medicines, the forced displacement of families from their homes, the breakdown of continuity of medical care, and a heightened risk of disease outbreak and preventable death (Abdelhafiz et al., 2026). This situation indicates that the conflict in Sudan is not merely a political and military issue, but also has far-reaching social and humanitarian consequences.

In the context of a large-scale crisis like this, the role of the media becomes very decisive, not only in the delivery of factual information, but also in the construction of meaning, framing of conflict actors, and prioritization of issues in the public sphere. Al-Jazeera, as an Arabic and international media network that has a wide reach in the MENA (Middle East and North Africa) region and in the Arab world, has become one of the main sources of coverage of the Sudan conflict. Al-Jazeera's coverage of the Sudan conflict includes maps of the conflict, reports on humanitarian conditions, as well as political analysis, and this coverage has the potential to shape

public discourse about who are the victims, who are the perpetrators, and what deserves to be called a crisis or war crime (Husein, 2024).

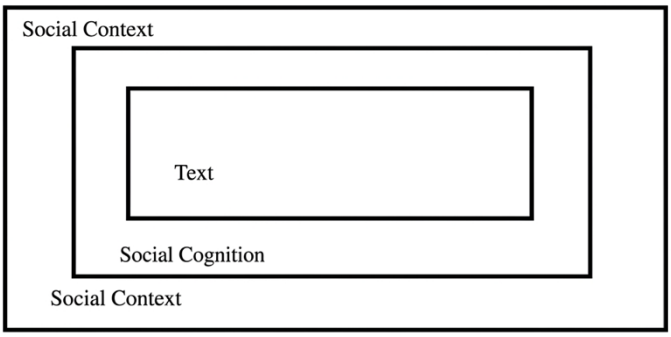
Given that this crisis has been described by international organizations as one of the world's worst humanitarian emergencies (Al-Jazeera, 2025), the way it is represented in international media carries direct and consequential stakes: it shapes which populations are perceived as deserving urgent aid, which actors are held accountable for violence, and how international bodies calibrate their political and humanitarian responses. When such representations are shaped by selective diction, framing, and narrative strategies rather than by a neutral account of events, there is a real risk that public attention, donor support, and diplomatic pressure will be misallocated or delayed at a time when millions of displaced people, as noted above, depend on a timely international response (Abdelrazig et al., 2026; Abdelhafiz et al., 2026). It is this empirical stake, the capacity of media discourse to influence real-world humanitarian outcomes, that constitutes the urgency of examining how Al-Jazeera constructs its coverage of the Sudan conflict, rather than merely describing the general function of international media. Therefore, this research is important and urgent to conduct in order to reveal how international media construct representations of violence and humanitarian crises through language structures, diction choices, and specific reporting strategies. Amid the ongoing conflict in Sudan and the limited number of studies specifically examining the coverage of international Arab media using Teun A. van Dijk's Critical Discourse Analysis approach, this research is expected to contribute academically to understanding the relationship between media, ideology, and the formation of public opinion regarding global humanitarian conflicts.

To understand how the news construction is formed and what its implications are, a more in-depth study of the discourse production mechanism behind the news text is needed. Discourse is a series of languages that form the most complete grammatical unit (Jumriah, 2021, p. 81). It can be conveyed orally through direct communication, or in writing which is conveyed through an intermediary medium and does not occur directly (Fendi Setiawan et al., 2022, p. 225). The production of a discourse is strongly influenced by the background of the author. The difference in the way discourse is presented in various media allows us to see the inequality and partiality of the author, so we need to be careful in choosing accurate information. By analyzing discourse, we can find out the motives or ideologies hidden behind news texts more simply. This way of reading and understanding discourse is called discourse analysis (Fitriana, 2019, p. 45). In this regard, media coverage of the conflict in Sudan should be examined through critical discourse analysis.

Critical discourse analysis is the right space to reveal the practice of power, forms of domination between communities, and inequalities that occur in society (Nadifa & Indayani, 2025, p. 106). Critical discourse studies are also very important as a tool to explore the structure of news texts, discourse practices, and ideological implications behind media narratives (Sahmeni & Afifah, 2019, pp. 39–40). One of the most commonly used approaches is Van Dijk's method (Nisa' et al., 2023, p. 66). According to Van Dijk, discourse consists of three main dimensions, namely text, social cognition, and social context (Eriyanto, 2001, p. 224). This model was chosen because it is considered more practical than other models and in accordance with the research objectives, namely uncovering the ideology hidden in the text and understanding how a text is produced (Rafi'i et al., 2025, p. 641).

Discourse analysis according to Van Dijk emphasizes the importance of integrating these three dimensions into a unified analysis. In the text dimension, the focus is on text structure and discourse strategies used to emphasize a particular theme. The social cognition dimension examines

the process of creating news texts, which involves the individual thoughts and perceptions of journalists. Meanwhile, the social context dimension highlights how discourse is formed and developed in society related to an issue (Darma, 2014, pp. 156–157). This is an example of Teun A. van Dijk's three-dimensional Critical Discourse Analysis structure.



Source: Eriyanto (2009: 225)

Figure 1. Teun A. van Dijk's three-dimensional Critical Discourse Analysis structure

Several prior studies employing Teun A. van Dijk's Critical Discourse Analysis framework are relevant as references for this research. First, Fendi Setiawan (Fendi Setiawan et al., 2022) analyzed media coverage of a case of sexual abuse of students by the son of a kiai in Jombang across online media outlets, focusing on how the media constructed the identities of the perpetrator and victims through language choices and news text structures. Second, Zulfan (Zulfan et al., 2025) examined Al-Jazeera's Arabic-language coverage of the appointment of a new Hamas leader, investigating how the outlet represented political figures and events through particular discourse strategies. Third, Arif Bayu Setia Aji (Setiaji & Fajriani, 2022) studied media coverage of the Rohingya conflict, exploring how the media's discursive construction shaped public perception of a minority group subjected to violence. Fourth, Muhammad Mukhlis (Mukhlis et al., 2020) analyzed editorial texts in online newspapers addressing distance learning during the Covid-19 pandemic, with particular attention to the ideological stances and implicit biases embedded in the language choices of those texts. Fifth, Ayu Assa'diah (As'sa'idah & Abdul Basid, 2024) investigated Arabic-language news coverage of the Syrian economic crisis, revealing how media represented the socioeconomic conditions and actors involved through critical discourse analysis. Sixth, Fasilatul Nur Elya (Nur Ellya et al., 2023) examined coverage of the Kanjuruhan tragedy in the YouTube program Narasi Mata Najwa, analyzing how discourse structures and language choices were deployed to frame the event for public audiences. Seventh, Rezzy Saputra (Saputra et al., 2023) studied coverage of ethnic identity in the online media outlet Indozone.id, examining how the media constructed and represented the identity of particular ethnic groups through news texts. Eighth, Delima Astari (Astari et al., 2024) analyzed the screenplay of the film Pulau Plastik, investigating how environmental discourse and specific ideological orientations were constructed through the linguistic structures of that cinematic text.

Unlike previous studies that examined discourse construction in various conflict and social contexts, this study specifically focuses on how language and discourse structures are shaped to represent violence, conflict actors, victims, and humanitarian crisis within the Sudanese conflict a conflict that remains unresolved to this day. This distinctive focus positions the present study as a contribution to the growing body of critical discourse research on ongoing armed conflicts, particularly those involving international media representation.

This focus is significant given that media does not merely function as a conveyor of facts, but also plays a strategic role in shaping how the public understands the Sudan conflict through particular choices of language, text structure, and discourse strategies. This is particularly evident in Al-Jazeera's coverage of the surge of displacement from El Fasher and the Zamzam and Abu Shouk camps toward Tawila, and of the accounts of shootings, sexual violence, and looting attributed to the Rapid Support Forces (RSF): a specific case in which the choice of words, the actors quoted, and the details foregrounded can determine whether readers perceive these events as a humanitarian emergency, a war crime, or merely an ordinary consequence of armed conflict. It is from this specific context that the objective of this research is formulated: this study seeks to uncover how Al-Jazeera represents violence, humanitarian crisis, and the actors involved in the Sudan conflict through critical discourse analysis employing Teun A. van Dijk's model, with the aim of identifying the forms of discourse construction and the ideology underlying such coverage.

Through this study, readers are expected to understand that media coverage is not entirely neutral, but is instead shaped by particular choices of language, ideology, and vested interests in constructing social reality. Furthermore, this study is expected to provide insight into how Al-Jazeera represents violence, conflict actors, and humanitarian crisis in its coverage of the Sudan conflict through discourse structures analyzed using van Dijk's framework. Consequently, readers may develop a more critical stance in understanding and interpreting international media coverage, particularly concerning issues of conflict and global humanitarian affairs.

2. Method

This research uses a qualitative approach with a descriptive analysis method to deeply explore the meaning, representation, and intent contained in the analyzed news texts. This approach was chosen because the focus of the research does not lie on the frequency of data occurrence, but on the interpretation and meaning of the discourse construction built by the media. This is in line with the views of Adhi and Ahmad who emphasized that qualitative research aims to understand the meanings that arise from a social or human phenomenon (Kusumastuti & Khiron, 2019, p. 2).

Within this qualitative framework, Teun A. van Dijk's Critical Discourse Analysis model is specifically employed because it is designed to connect the textual level of a news report with the social cognition and social context that produce it, rather than merely describing linguistic features in isolation (Eriyanto, 2001, p. 224). Since the objective of this research is not only to describe how Al-Jazeera's coverage is linguistically structured, but also to uncover the ideology and power relations underlying that coverage, a model capable of linking text, discourse practice, and socio-cultural context is required. Van Dijk's model meets this requirement through its three levels of analysis, namely macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure, which allow the topic, schematic structure, and local meanings of the news text to be systematically traced back to the ideological positions they construct (Rafi'i et al., 2025, p. 641). This methodological choice is therefore directly derived from the research objective of revealing the hidden ideology and discourse strategies in Al-Jazeera's reporting on the Sudan conflict, rather than being adopted merely as a generic qualitative technique.

The research data consist of a news text concerning the Sudan conflict published by Al-Jazeera on April 19, 2025. Data collection was conducted using the observational method with a note-taking technique, in which the researcher carefully and repeatedly read the news text serving as the primary data source (Sudaryanto, 2015, p. 203). Throughout this process, the researcher acted as

an active observer not merely comprehending the content of the news, but also critically examining how language is employed to construct meaning and represent events. The note-taking technique was applied by documenting all linguistic and discourse elements deemed relevant for analysis, encompassing lexical choices, sentence structures, framing strategies, and rhetorical elements present in the text. The recorded data were subsequently classified according to the three levels of van Dijk's analytical model namely macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure in order to facilitate a systematic process of interpretation.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Macro Structure

The macro structure serves to identify the main topic in a news story (Andika, 2024, p. 66). The topic of a discourse is generally obtained by summarizing various pieces of information (van Dijk, 1988, p. 34). Therefore, the theoretical approach used to describe the topic or theme in this analysis is semantic macro structure (van Dijk, 1988, p. 31). Determining the topic can begin with an initial assumption supported by the presence of thematic signals, one of which is the title. The title of this news article is "UN report shows that one-third of Sudanese citizens have been displaced and those who have fled the Darfur camps face very poor conditions".

The main theme of a discourse can be understood by examining its relationship with the sub-themes, as both contribute to shaping the overall topic being discussed (Rahmawati, 2017, p. 63). Based on the relationship between the main theme and sub-themes in this news report, the focus of the discourse is on the massive refugee crisis and the collapse of humanitarian conditions in Darfur due to the conflict between the Sudanese army and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). This news report highlights the drastic surge of refugees to Tawila, as well as the extremely poor living conditions, such as a lack of water, food, and health services. In addition, the news also highlights the violence and human rights violations experienced by refugees, including the shooting of civilians, sexual assaults, and systematic looting.

3.2. Superstructure

Superstructure relates to the framework or scheme formed by a discourse. According to van Dijk, the framework of a news text is generally divided into two parts, namely the summary and the story. The summary consists of the headline and the lead (van Dijk, 1988, p. 53). The story is the content of the news as a whole.

3.2.1. Summary

This news was published by Al-Jazeera on April 19, 2025, with the title:

ارثية للفارين من مخيمات دارفور

Meaning: "UN report shows that a third of Sudanese have been displaced and those fleeing Darfur camps are facing extremely poor conditions".

News displayed by Al-Jazīrah is considered appropriate because it matches the content of the news, so it does not show elements of dramatization or misinformation. The news contained two main points of information to be conveyed, namely related to the extreme scale of displacement and the poor conditions experienced by refugees,

In addition to the headline, there is also a news terrace, usually also called lead (in English), news introduction, beginning of news, and intro (Chaer, 2010, p. 25). The headline is the first paragraph in the news located after the title, which usually serves as a summary of the news (Nura'ini, 2024, p. 30). The leads in this news are:

كشفت مفوضية الأمم المتحدة لشؤون اللاجئين عن أن واحدا من كل 3 أشخاص في السودان أجبر على النزوح. بينما يواجه مئات الفارين من مخيمات دارفور ظروفا كارثية في أعقاب الهجوم الدامي الذي شنته قوات الدعم السريع.

Meaning: "The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) revealed that one in three people in Sudan have been forced to flee their homes. Meanwhile, hundreds of people fleeing Darfur camps are facing desperate conditions following deadly attacks by Rapid Support Forces".

This news lead highlights 3 things that are considered the most important, namely the large scale of the evacuation, the poor condition of the refugees, and the cause of the evacuation. The news lead above fulfills the basic requirements of a news lead. It is classified as an AP news lead because it includes all the essential elements (5W+1H), namely who is involved, what happened, where and when the event took place, why it happened, and how the process took place (Barus, 2010, p. 70).

3.2.2. Story

The body of the news article, also known as the story, typically follows the lead and extends to the end of the article. Here is a breakdown of the body of the news article:

وأفاد المتحدث باسم منسقية النازحين واللاجئين بدارفور، آدم رجال، بأن تدفق النازحين من مدينة الفاشر ومخيمي "زمزم" و"أبو شوك" استمر بأعداد كبيرة إلى بلدة "طويلة" غربي الفاشر.

Meaning: "Adam Rijal, spokesman for the Darfur Refugee and Displaced Persons Coordination, reported that the influx of refugees from El Fasher town and Zamzam and Abu Shouk camps continues in large numbers to Tawila town, west of El Fasher."

This paragraph explains that the influx of refugees from El Fasher town and Zamzam and Abu Shouk camps continues to move to Tawila town, which is located west of El Fasher. This information was conveyed by Adam Rijal, the spokesperson for the Darfur Refugee and Displaced Persons Coordination, and emphasizes that the flow of refugees is still ongoing in large numbers, signifying the ongoing humanitarian emergency situation. This paragraph is categorized as a verbal recount, usually containing important comments from important figures (van Dijk, 1988, p. 53).

وأشار رجال إلى وصول نحو 400 ألف نازح خلال أسبوعين فقط، بالإضافة إلى آلاف آخرين فروا منذ تصاعد المعارك بين الجيش السوداني وقوات الدعم السريع في مايو/أيار الماضي.

Meaning: "The men indicated that some 400,000 displaced people had arrived in just two weeks, in addition to thousands of others who had previously fled since the escalation of fighting between the Sudanese army and the Rapid Support Forces in May."

This paragraph also falls under the category of consequences, explaining that around 400,000 displaced people had arrived in just two weeks, in addition to thousands of others who had previously fled since the escalation of fighting between the Sudanese army and the Rapid Support Forces in May. This emphasizes the large number of refugees and the serious impact of the escalating conflict on civilians.

وتخضع "طويلة" لسيطرة حركة تحرير السودان بقيادة عبد الواحد محمد نور، وقد أصبحت في الآونة الأخيرة مقصدا رئيسيا لعشرات الآلاف من النازحين الهاربين من العنف المتصاعد شمالي دارفور.

Meaning: "Tawila is under the control of the Sudan Liberation Movement led by Abdul Wahid Mohamed Nour, and has recently become a major destination for tens of thousands of displaced people fleeing the escalating violence in North Darfur".

This paragraph specifically explains that Tawila is controlled by the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLA) led by Abdul Wahid Mohamed Nour, and is therefore outside the control of the Sudanese government. Due to this situation, Tawila has become the main destination for tens of thousands of refugees from North Darfur trying to escape the escalating violence in their home region. In other words, the town serves as a relative safe zone for people fleeing the conflict, demonstrating the link between local militant control and refugee movements.

وصفت منظمة "أطباء بلا حدود" الأوضاع في مخيم "طويلة" بالكارثية، حيث يعاني النازحون من نقص حاد في المياه والغذاء والرعاية الصحية.

Meaning: "Meanwhile, Doctors Across Borders described the situation in Tawila camp as catastrophic, with displaced people suffering from severe shortages of water, food and health care."

This paragraph confirms that humanitarian conditions in Tawila camp are critical. Doctors Across Borders (MSF) describes the situation there as catastrophic because the refugees are living in very serious deprivation. They don't have enough clean water, lack food, and barely get adequate healthcare. In other words, this paragraph shows how severe the suffering of the displaced people is and highlights the need for immediate assistance to prevent things from getting worse.

وقال ممثل المنظمة، تيبو هندلر، للصحافة الفرنسية "لا يوجد مصدر مياه ولا مرافق صرف صحي ولا طعام المنطقة التي كانت أرضا خالية قبل أسبوع أصبحت مكتظة بالعائلات اليائسة."

Meaning: "No water source, no sanitation facilities, no food The area, which a week ago was an empty lot, is now crowded with desperate families," the organization's representative, Thibault Hendler, told AFP".

This paragraph is also a verbal reaction from Thibault Hendler, he explains that the conditions in the refugee area are very bad and unfit for habitation. There is no clean water, sanitation facilities, or food, so the refugees live in very poor conditions. The area that only a week before was still an empty lot has now been filled with families who came in desperate conditions to find shelter. In a statement to AFP by Thibault Hendler of the humanitarian organization, this paragraph emphasizes how quickly the crisis has developed and how severe the humanitarian conditions are for the refugees.

وأضافت المنظمة أن 1600 نازح يحتاجون لخدمات طوارئ عاجلة نتيجة الجفاف الشديد، بينما يعاني الأطفال من آثار العطش وسوء التغذية.

Meaning: "The organization added that 1,600 displaced people were in urgent need of emergency services due to severe drought, while children were suffering from thirst and malnutrition."

The paragraph conveys that the organization reporting on the situation emphasized the emergency conditions experienced by about 1,600 displaced people. They are in urgent need of

immediate relief services, especially as the region is experiencing a severe drought that has made access to clean water almost unavailable. This situation affects children the most, who are now suffering from thirst and malnutrition. In other words, this paragraph highlights how bad the humanitarian conditions are in refugee camps, especially for vulnerable groups such as children who are deprived of the basic necessities for survival.

كذلك، قالت ماريون رامشتاين، منسقة مشروع منظمة "أطباء بلا حدود" في دارفور، إن فرقها عالجت أكثر من 170 شخصا من جروح ناجمة عن طلقات نارية وشظايا انفجار، بما في ذلك عدد كبير من النساء والفتيات.

Meaning: "Marion Ramstein, project coordinator of Médecins Sans Frontières in Darfur, also said that her team treated more than 170 people for gunshot wounds and blast injuries, including a large number of women and girls."

That paragraph describes the statement of Marion Ramstein, project coordinator of the humanitarian organization Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) in Darfur. She revealed that her medical team had treated more than 170 people with gunshot wounds and blast injuries. The casualties mentioned are included in the consequence form, which is the causal relationship of the events that occur (van Dijk, 1988, p. 53). In the report, he emphasized that the number of victims was not only among adult men, but also included many women and girls, showing that the violence in the region had a wide impact and did not discriminate between victims. This paragraph highlights the worsening humanitarian situation and high civilian casualties in the ongoing conflict in Darfur.

من جهتها، قالت منظمة حقوقية محلية إن أكثر من 280 ألف نازح وصلوا حديثا إلى طويلة، لينضموا إلى نصف مليون شخص سبق أن لجؤوا إلى هناك منذ بداية النزاع المسلح بين الجيش السوداني وقوات الدعم السريع في أبريل/نيسان 2023

Meaning: "Meanwhile, a local human rights organization said that more than 280,000 displaced people have recently arrived in Tawila, joining the half a million people who have been displaced there since the beginning of the armed conflict between the Sudanese army and the Rapid Support Forces in April 2023."

This paragraph is a verbal reaction from local human rights organizations, they assert that the Tawila region is now a highly congested shelter due to the conflict in Sudan. This paragraph shows that the number of refugees in Tawila continues to grow dramatically, so that the humanitarian situation in the region is getting worse due to the protracted conflict. This paragraph is categorized into background history, which is history that relates to the events given (van Dijk, 1988, p. 54).

وروى ناجون من الهجوم على مخيم زمزم تفاصيل مروعة، شملت عمليات إعدام ميدانية واعتداءات جنسية، بالإضافة إلى النهب والحرق الممنهج.

Meaning: "Survivors of the attack on Zamzam camp recounted horrific details, including extrajudicial executions and sexual assaults, as well as systematic looting and burning."

This paragraph describes the cruelty and suffering experienced by the victims of the attack on Zamzam camp. Survivors recount their traumatic experiences, including extrajudicial executions, sexual assaults, and systematic looting and burning. The content of this paragraph emphasizes that

the attack was not only physical in nature, but also planned and involved various forms of horrific violence, thus demonstrating a very serious impact on the safety and lives of civilians in the camp.

وأظهرت لقطات مصورة مقاتلين من قوات الدعم السريع وهم يطلقون النار على المدنيين العزّل ويحتفلون وسط جثث الضحايا، فيما نفت القوات الاتهامات بارتكاب انتهاكات، زاعمة أن المعسكر كان يُستخدم كقاعدة عسك رية من قبل قوات موالية للجيش.

Meaning: "The recording shows Rapid Support Forces fighters shooting unarmed civilians and celebrating amid the bodies of the victims, while the forces deny allegations of wrongdoing and claim that the camp was used as a military base by forces loyal to the army".

This paragraph contains a description of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) shooting unarmed civilians who appeared to be celebrating amid the bodies of the victims. However, the RSF strongly denied allegations that they had committed violations or attacked civilians. They claim that the area seen in the footage is actually a camp used as a military base by forces loyal to the Sudanese army. Thus, there are two conflicting versions between the visual evidence showing alleged atrocities and the RSF's defense statements denying their involvement in acts of violence against civilians.

وتشهد دارفور تصعيدا عنيفا في الصراع بين الجيش السوداني وقوات الدعم السريع منذ أبريل/نيسان 2023، مما أسفر عن مقتل عشرات الآلاف ونزوح أكثر من 13 مليون شخص. وتحذر الأمم المتحدة ومنظمات الإغاثة من انهيار كامل للوضع الإنساني، في ظل تعطل المساعدات وصعوبة الوصول إلى المناطق المنكوبة.

Meaning: "Darfur has witnessed an escalation of violence in the conflict between the Sudanese army and the Rapid Support Forces since April 2023, resulting in the deaths of tens of thousands of people and the displacement of more than 13 million people. The United Nations and aid organizations warn of a total collapse of the humanitarian situation, given the disruption of aid and difficulty of access to affected areas."

This paragraph describes the severity of the conflict in Darfur since the outbreak of war between the Sudanese army and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in April 2023. Escalating violence has killed tens of thousands of people and forced more than 13 million to flee their homes, making it one of the world's largest refugee crises. The United Nations, along with various humanitarian organizations, has warned that conditions could collapse completely, as aid is difficult to deliver and access to affected areas is increasingly hampered by fighting. Thus, this paragraph highlights the depth of the humanitarian crisis and the urgency of intervention to prevent a greater catastrophe.

3.3. Microstructure

Microstructure can be analyzed through local meanings in the text, such as word choice, style, and even graphic aspects. At this level, legal and ethical norms tend to be more flexible, opening up space for practices of power known as domination (van Dijk, 1993, p. 261). In van Dijk's critical discourse analysis, microstructure comprises four main elements, namely semantics, syntax, stylistics, and rhetoric (Eriyanto, 2001, p. 227). These four elements are explained below.

3.3.1. Semantics

Semantics in this context refers to the meaning conveyed in the news text. Semantic aspects can be seen through several elements, including background, details, intent, presuppositions, and nominalization (Kristina, 2020, p. 18). In this case, the semantic elements found are background, details, and intent, as described below.

a) Background elements

كشفت مفوضية الأمم المتحدة لشؤون اللاجئين عن أن واحدا من كل 3 أشخاص في السودان أجبر على النزوح. بينما يواجه مئات الفارين من مخيمات دارفور ظروفا كارثية في أعقاب الهجوم الدامي الذي شنته قوات الدعم السريع.

Meaning: "The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) revealed that one in three people in Sudan have been forced to flee their homes. Meanwhile, hundreds of people fleeing Darfur camps are facing desperate conditions following deadly attacks by Rapid Support Forces"

In the paragraph above, the background that is revealed is the background of the consequences of prolonged conflict. From the text presented, Al-Jazeera wants to bring readers to highlight the severity of the humanitarian crisis in Sudan due to the ongoing conflict. Thus, place, time, social, and atmosphere in this text function as framing tools that build the impression that the Sudanese conflict will never stop.

b) Detail elements

وصفت منظمة "أطباء بلا حدود" الأوضاع في مخيم "طويلة" بالكارثية، حيث يعاني النازحون من نقص حاد في المياه والغذاء والرعاية الصحية.

Meaning: "Meanwhile, Doctors Across Borders described the situation in Tawila camp as catastrophic, with displaced people suffering from severe shortages of water, food and health care."

The paragraph above is a continuation of the news narrative published by Al-Jazeera on April 31, 2025. In the text above, Al-Jazeera added narration in the form of detailed elements regarding the description of the condition of the Sudanese people due to this conflict. The provision of details in this news gives a strong impression that Al-Jazeera wants readers to see that this conflict has reached an emergency level that threatens the safety and survival of refugees.

c) Elements of intent

In addition to details, news texts also contain elements of meaning, which serve a similar function to details. The difference is that details of beneficial information are usually explained at length and in detail, while elements of meaning are used to assess whether the beneficial information is conveyed explicitly or implicitly (Eriyanto, 2001, p. 241).

3.3.2. Syntax

Syntactic elements are related to the basic meaning that emerges through the structure and expressions used by speakers. These components include sentence structure, coherence, and pronouns (Eriyanto, 2001, p. 229) The following is a number of analyses of syntactic elements found in Al-Jazīrah news texts.

a) Sentence Structure

وأظهرت لقطات مصورة مقاتلين من قوات الدعم السريع وهم يطلقون النار على المدنيين العزّل ويحتفلون وسط جثث الضحايا، فيما نفت القوات الاتهامات بارتكاب انتهاكات، زاعمة أن المعسكر كان يُستخدم كقاعدة عسكرية من قبل قوات موالية للجيش.

Meaning: The recording shows Rapid Support Forces fighters shooting unarmed civilians and celebrating amid the bodies of the victims, while the forces deny allegations of misconduct and claim that the camp was used as a military base by forces loyal to the army.

In the sentence يطلقون النار على المدنيين العزّل is an action verb (*Jumlah Fi'liah*). The use of an active verb clearly identifies the subject of the sentence, namely the Rapid Support Forces fighters, allowing readers to easily identify the party carrying out the attack. This shows that Al-Jazeera is indeed trying to clearly highlight the actions carried out by the Rapid Support Forces fighters.

b) Coherence

وروى ناجون من الهجوم على مخيم زمزم تفاصيل مروعة، شملت عمليات إعدام ميدانية واعتداءات جنسية، بالإضافة إلى النهب والحرق الممنهج.

Meaning: "Survivors of the attack on Zamzam camp recounted horrific details, including extrajudicial executions and sexual assaults, as well as systematic looting and burning."

In this paragraph, coherence is established through the use of the conjunction waw (and). The word "and" serves to connect parallel elements, whether they are nouns, adjectives, phrases, clauses, or sentences. In this news report, Al-Jazīrah uses this word to link various acts that occurred during this conflict, namely extrajudicial executions and sexual assaults, as well as systematic looting and burning. The use of the word "and" shows that Al-Jazīrah wants to group all these actions as part of a series of equivalent acts. Thus, "and" unites these various actions in the same context, namely a series of acts of sexual violence that occurred in the Zamzam Camp area.

3.3.3. Staylistics

Stylistics is the aspect that discusses how a news story chooses and uses words (van Dijk, 1988, p. 81). The choice of diction used can reflect a certain attitude or ideology that the text wishes to convey (Eriyanto, 2001, p. 255). Several lexical items in the news that are indicated as containing ideological elements are the following words.

In this news report, Al-Jazeera uses the word يطلقون, which means to shoot. The use of the word يطلقون in the news is used to represent the actions carried out by the Rapid Support Forces fighters. The report also uses the phrase تصعيدا عنيفا (violent escalation), which Al-Jazeera uses to refer to a situation in which the intensity of violence in a conflict is increasing and becoming more severe. This term describes a worsening situation, marked by an increase in attacks, a rise in the number of victims, the expansion of the affected area, or increasingly brutal acts of violence. In other words, this phrase indicates that the conflict is not in a stable state, but continues to move towards a higher and more uncontrollable level of violence.

3.3.4. Rhetoric

In rhetoric, the aspects that are considered are the parts of the text that stand out, such as the use of graphic elements, metaphors, and photos in news reports. Graphic elements are usually seen through differences in font, such as bold, italics, underlining, or the use of images and tables that reinforce the information (Nura'ini, 2024, p. 49). Meanwhile, metaphors include the use of figurative language, proverbs, traditional advice, and quotations from sacred texts. In this news text, the rhetorical form that is apparent is the use of graphic elements in the headline, where the headline is made larger and printed in bold so that readers immediately focus their attention on that part. In addition, this news text contains numbers that serve to give an impression of accuracy and reinforce readers' belief in the truth of the information presented.

In addition, repetitions were also found that served to emphasize or reinforce an idea. Repetition itself is the repetition of sounds, syllables, words, or parts of sentences that are considered important to give emphasis in a particular context. The word يطلقون was used twice by Al-Jazeera, and the repetition of the word يطلقون served to emphasize that the shootings that occurred were not a single event, but were carried out repeatedly and intensely. This repetition reinforces the impression that the attacks were continuous and aggressive, so that readers understand that the level of violence was very high. In addition, this strategy also has a rhetorical effect, namely to build an image that the party carrying out the shooting was acting brutally and systematically. Thus, the repeated use of the word "shooting" shows Al-Jazeera's intention to highlight the intensity of the attack and clarify who was acting as the aggressor in the incident.

Then, at the beginning of the news, there is a photo of the situation at the Tawila camp. The addition of visual elements such as photos generally aims to reinforce the ideas conveyed and provide visual evidence to support the content of the news.



Figure 2. photos of the situation at Tawila camp

4. Conclusion

This study concludes that Al-Jazeera's coverage of the Sudan conflict is not a neutral account of events, but a discursively constructed narrative that positions the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) as the primary aggressor and the Sudanese civilian population, particularly the displaced communities of Darfur and Tawila, as the principal victims of the crisis. This framing is produced consistently across all levels of the text: the topic selected for coverage foregrounds mass

displacement and the collapse of humanitarian conditions rather than, for instance, the political or military dimensions of the conflict; the schematic organization of the report privileges eyewitness testimony, humanitarian-organization statements, and numerical data on casualties and displaced persons over other possible sources or perspectives; and the choice of diction, repetition of emotionally charged terms, and accompanying visuals intensify the perception of urgency and suffering. Taken together, these findings indicate that Al-Jazeera's reporting performs an advocacy-oriented, humanitarian framing of the Sudan conflict, one that amplifies the visibility of civilian suffering and casts the RSF in a consistently negative light, rather than presenting the conflict as a contest between two comparably weighted parties.

These findings confirm Van Dijk's premise that news texts are never ideologically neutral: the linguistic structures, sourcing choices, and narrative strategies identified in this study reveal an implicit ideological stance embedded within Al-Jazeera's humanitarian reporting, one that shapes how international audiences come to understand who is responsible for the Sudan conflict and who deserves urgent sympathy and assistance.

This study has limitations because it only uses one news source from Al-Jazeera and only analyzes one text at a time, so it does not describe the wider variation in discourse. The analysis also did not explore the social cognition of journalists and the news production process comprehensively, but was limited to discourse text analysis. Therefore, future research should compare several different media outlets and use more texts over a longer period of time. Future research also needs to review editorial policies and media ideological factors to gain a more complete understanding of the discourse.

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