

**A CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS OF THE NEWS COVERAGE
OF THE PALESTINIAN-ISRAELI CONFLICT IN AJE AND CNN
NEWS WEBSITES**

ASHRAF Z. R. TANTISH

**FACULTY OF LANGUAGES AND LINGUISTICS
UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA
KUALA LUMPUR**

2012

**A CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS OF THE NEWS COVERAGE
OF THE PALESTINIAN-ISRAELI CONFLICT IN AJE AND CNN
NEWS WEBSITES**

ASHRAF Z. R. TANTISH

**SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF LANGUAGES AND
LINGUISTICS IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT
FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ENGLISH AS A SECOND
LANGUAGE**

2012

UNIVERSITI MALAYA

ORIGINAL LITERARY WORK DECLARATION

Name of Candidate: **Ashraf Z. R. Tantish** (I.C/Passport No: 2956155)

Registration/Matric No: **TGB100031**

Name of Degree: **MASTER OF ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (MESL)**

Title of Research Report: **A CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS OF THE NEWS COVERAGE OF THE PALESTINIAN-ISRAELI CONFLICT IN AJE and CNN NEWS WEBSITES**

Field of Study: Critical Discourse Analysis

I do solemnly and sincerely declare that:

- (1) I am the sole author/writer of this Work;
- (2) This Work is original;
- (3) Any use of any work in which copyright exists was done by way of fair dealing and for permitted purposes and any excerpt or extract from, or reference to or reproduction of any copyright work has been disclosed expressly and sufficiently and the title of the Work and its authorship have been acknowledged in this Work;
- (4) I do not have any actual knowledge nor ought I reasonably to know that the making of this work constitutes an infringement of any copyright work;
- (5) I hereby assign all and every rights in the copyright to this Work to the University of Malaya ("UM"), who henceforth shall be owner of the copyright in this Work and that any reproduction or use in any form or by any means whatsoever is prohibited without the written consent of UM having been first had and obtained;
- (6) I am fully aware that if in the course of making this Work I have infringed any copyright whether intentionally or otherwise, I may be subject to legal action or any other action as may be determined by UM.

Candidate's Signature

Date

Subscribed and solemnly declared before,

Witness's Signature

Date

Name: **DR. FRANCISCO PERLAS DUMANIG**

Designation: **Supervisor**

ABSTRACT

In the past fifteen years, language, ideology and power of the news articles of two prominent international news websites, namely Aljazeera English (AJE) and CNN has been a controversial topic. The current study explores intertextuality and its function in reproducing the underlying ideology and power relations in the news articles on Palestinian-Israeli conflict in the news Websites of AJE and CNN. The study adopted Fairclough's (1995) approach to CDA, the Three Dimensional Framework, to examine the use and functions of intertextuality in 6 news articles of AJE and CNN. The study focuses on intertextuality, specifically in the inclusion and exclusion of the "voices" in the news articles through the use of direct and indirect reporting of speech. A Critical Discourse Analysis in the news articles of AJE and CNN reveals how the producers of news articles in the news websites construct and incorporate the various voices for ideological purposes. The study demonstrates that the way writers incorporated the voices in the news articles using the direct and indirect reported speech is found to be loaded with ideological bias. The study reveals that there is a relationship between the way writers report the voices of others in the news articles and the objectives of the writers which clearly show the relationship between language, ideology and power in the new articles of AJE and CNN. The study suggests that the issue of intertextuality in the news articles on to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict published in the international news Websites of AJE and CNN needs to be explored and examined in a broader political context which the news articles are embedded.

ABSTRAK

Dalam lima belas tahun yang lalu, bahasa, ideologi dan kuasa dua Web berita antarabangsa terkemuka, iaitu AJE dan CNN telah menjadi satu topik kontroversi. Sehubungan itu, kajian terbaru yang meneroka intertextuality dan fungsinya dalam memperkenalkan ideologi dasar dan hubungan kuasa dalam artikel berita berkenaan konflik Palestin-Israel di Laman Web berita AJE dan CNN. Kajian telah menerima pakai pendekatan Fairclough (1995), CDA, Three Dimensional Model, untuk mengkaji penggunaan dan fungsi intertextuality dalam 6 berita AJE dan CNN. Kajian ini fokus kepada intertextuality, khususnya dalam kemasukan dan pengecualian "suara" dalam artikel-artikel berita melalui penggunaan laporan langsung dan tidak langsung bersuara. Critical Discourse Analysis dalam artikel berita AJE dan CNN mendedahkan bagaimana pengeluar berita kedua-dua AJE dan laman berita CNN membina dan menggabungkan pelbagai suara untuk tujuan ideologi. Kajian menunjukkan bahawa cara penulis-penulis yang diperbadankan suara dalam berita seperti menggunakan ucapan secara langsung dan tidak langsung dilaporkan didapati akan dimuatkan dengan ideologi berat sebelah. Hasil dari kajian ini mendapati bahawa terdapat hubungan antara cara penulis melaporkan suara-suara lain dalam artikel berita dan objektif penulis itu sendiri yang jelas menunjukkan hubungan antara bahasa, ideologi dan kuasa dalam perkara-perkara baru AJE dan CNN. Kajian ini mencadangkan bahawa isu intertextuality dalam artikel berita yang berkaitan dengan konflik Palestin-Israel yang disiarkan melalui laman web berita antarabangsa AJE dan CNN perlu diterokai dan diperiksa di dalam konteks politik yang lebih luas yang berita terbenam.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank Allah for his blessings and his help. This research report would have not been possible without the support of many people. I would like to express my gratitude to my supervisor, Dr. Francisco Perlas Dumanig who was abundantly helpful and offered invaluable assistance, support and guidance. Deepest gratitude is also due to the members of the Faculty of Languages and Linguistics at University of Malaya for their help and support. Finally, I express my gratitude to my beloved family for their understanding and endless love.

This study is dedicated to my brother, Mahmoud Tantish, may Allah bless him and rest his soul in peace.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
ORIGINAL WORK DECLARATION	ii
ABSTRACT	iii
ABSTRAK	iv
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	v
TABLE OF CONTENTS	vi
LIST OF TABLES	ix
LIST OF FIGURES	x
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 Background of the Study	3
1.2.1 The Palestinian-Israeli Conflict	3
1.2.2 International Media Coverage of the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict	5
1.3 Statement of the Problem	7
1.4 Objectives of the Study	7
1.5 Research Questions	8
1.6 Significance of the Study	8
1.7 Limitations of the Study	9
1.8 Conclusion	9
CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW	11
2.1 Introduction	11
2.2 Critical Discourse Analysis	11

2.3	Intertextuality	15
2.4	Discourse in the News	18
2.5	Discourse in the Middle East	22
2.6	Discourse and the News in Europe	24
1.6	Conclusion	25
CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY		26
3.1	Introduction	26
3.2	Theoretical Framework	26
3.2.1	Text	26
3.2.2	Discursive Practice	28
3.2.3	Socio-Cultural Practice	28
3.3	Corpus of the Study	29
3.4	Data Collection	30
3.5	Data Analysis	31
3.6	Conclusion	33
CHAPTER FOUR: DATA ANALYSIS		34
4.2	Introduction	34
4.2	Intertextuality in the News Discourse of AJE and CNN	35
4.2.1	Direct and Indirect Reporting in the News Articles of AJE and CNN	35
4.2.2	Direct, indirect speech and Scare Quotes in Goldstone Report On War Crime	40
4.2.3	Direct and Indirect Speech and Scare Quotes in Turkish Flotilla	41
4.2.4	Direct and Indirect Speech in Palestine Statehood Bid at UN	42
4.3	Voices in CNN and AJE News Articles	46
4.3.1	Reported Voices in Goldstone Report on War Crimes	48
4.3.2	Reported Voices in Turkish Flotilla	49
4.3.3	Reported Voices in Palestine Statehood Bid	51
4.4.	Voices in Goldstone’s Report on War Crimes	52

4.4.1	Voice of the United Nations/ UNHRC	52
4.4.2	The Voice of the Palestinians and the Palestinian Authority	56
4.4.3	Voice of Israel	60
4.4.4	Voice of The Goldstone’s Report (UNHRC)	62
4.5	Voices in Turkish Flotilla in AJE and CNN	64
4.5.1	The Israelis’ Voice	65
4.6	Voices in Palestine Statehood Bid at UN	68
4.6.1	The Voice of the Palestinian and the Israeli	69
4.6.2	U.S. Government’s Voice	75
4.7	Summary	78
	CHAPTER FIVE: CONCLUSION	79
5.1	Conclusion and Recommendations	80
	REFERENCES	83
	APPENDIX A	87

LIST OF TABLES

Table 3.2	Titles of the News Articles of AJE and CNN and Publishing dates	30
Table 3.2	Titles of the News Articles of AJE and CNN and Publishing Dates	41
Table 4.1	Goldstone Report on War Crimes.	40
Table 4.2	Examples of direct and indirect reported speech and scare quotes in AJE's news Articles and Goldstone report	40
Table 4.3	Turkish Flotilla	40
Table 4.4	Direct/indirect Reported Speech and Scare Quotes in AJE and CNN's News Articles on the Israeli Attack of the Turkish Flotilla	42
Table 4.5	Palestine Statehood Bid at UN.	43
Table 4.6	Direct/indirect Reported Speech and Scare Quotes in AJE and CNN's News Articles on Palestine Statehood Bid at the United Nations	43
Table 4.7	The Voices Included in AJE and CNN's Articles	47
Table 4.8	Reported Voices in Goldstone's Report on War Crimes	48
Table 4.9	Reported Voices in Turkish Flotilla	50
Table 4.10	Reported Voice in Palestine Statehood Bid at UN	51

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 3.1 Three Dimensional Framework for CDA (Fairclough, 1995b, p. 59)

27