

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

5.1 Conclusion

This study has examined the exclusion and inclusion strategies used by Al Jazeera, USA Today, and The Jakarta Post in representing Israeli and Palestinian/Hamas actors within the Israel-Palestine conflict discourse. Applying van Leeuwen's (2008) social actor framework revealed that each media outlet employs distinct linguistic and representational tactics to shape their narratives. Al Jazeera tends to portray both sides as active agents while occasionally depersonalizing individuals through collective references. USA Today leans towards indeterminate and aggregated representations, particularly obscuring Palestinian actors, thus limiting their individual visibility. In contrast, The Jakarta Post uses explicit nomination and differentiation to personalize and contrast the key figures from both sides, highlighting their distinct roles and responsibilities.

These varying strategies reflect different editorial choices and ideological positions that influence how responsibility, agency, and legitimacy are attributed. Consequently, the media not only inform audiences but also frame the conflict in ways that include or exclude certain social actors, thereby shaping public perception and discourse. Understanding these representational mechanisms is crucial for critically engaging with media coverage of complex conflicts and recognizing the power of language in constructing social realities.

In terms of practical implications, this study highlights the need for media practitioners to reflect on the ethical and ideological dimensions of their reporting. Journalists should be aware of how linguistic strategies influence public understanding, especially in reporting on conflicts where the stakes are high and narratives shape perceptions of the real world. Media literacy educators can use these findings to teach students how to critically evaluate actor representations in news texts, leading to more informed and reflective news consumption.

Despite its contributions, this study has limitations. The sample size was limited to fifteen articles, which, while sufficient for in-depth analysis, may not capture the full range of discourse across time and platforms. The analysis also focused only on English-language coverage, which excluded perspectives from local-language reporting. Furthermore, while steps were taken to ensure reliability and transparency, future research would benefit from using multiple coders and more extensive inter-rater testing.

5.2 Suggestions

The findings of this study on the representation of social actors in the Israel-Palestine conflict within Al Jazeera, USA Today, and The Jakarta Post are not universally applicable to all media outlets from the respective regions. The study specifically focuses on news articles from these three media organizations and cannot be generalized to all Western, Qatari, or Indonesian media, nor can it be extended to all coverage of the Israel-Palestine conflict. The analysis is confined to a limited time frame and selection of articles, which may not fully represent the diversity of coverage on the topic. Furthermore, the study only explores how language and social actor representation are used in text, without considering the potential impact of visual media, such as photographs or videos, which may play a significant role in shaping public opinion.

Here are some recommendations for future research:

1. Future research should expand the scope to include a wider range of media sources, such as television broadcasts, online platforms, and social media outlets, to gain a more comprehensive understanding of how social actors are represented across different media forms and regions.
2. Further studies could explore the impact of biased representation on public perception, attitudes, and understanding of the Israel-Palestine conflict.
3. Another important avenue for future research would be to investigate the role of social media platforms in shaping social actor representation and the public discourse surrounding the Israel-Palestine conflict.

4. Since this study focused on textual analysis, future research could incorporate visual media into the analysis of social actor representation. By studying how images, videos, and other visual elements in news coverage contribute to the framing of the Israel-Palestine conflict, researchers can explore the interplay between text and visuals in shaping public discourse and perception.