

ABSTRACT

Revanza, Natasyia. 2025. Analyzing Bias: A Critical Discourse Analysis of Hamas's Surprise Attack on Israel in The New York Times and Al Jazeera. A Thesis. English Education Study Program. Faculty of Teacher Training and Education of Jambi University in Academic Year 2024/2025. The first supervisor is Failasofah, S.S., M.Pd., Ph.D. The second supervisor is Drs. Ahmad Ridha, M.A.

Hamas's surprise attack on October 7, 2023, awakened global attention to the longstanding Israel-Palestine conflict. This study examines how news media outlets, specifically the New York Times and Al Jazeera framed the actors and events surrounding Hamas's attack on Israel. Employing Norman Fairclough's Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) which only focused on textual analysis and Richardson's analytical tools to analyze the data. The research used qualitative descriptive, collecting data through document analysis and investigator triangulation. The study aims to uncover potential biases of lexicalization, referential, and predication strategy in both outlets' coverage, which underscores the significance of discourse strategies in shaping media representations and public opinion, revealing how ideological biases influence coverage and framing. The findings reveal that the New York Times predominantly depicts Hamas negatively by labeling Palestinian actors as terrorists, marginalizing Palestine political leadership and civilian presence, while emphasizing Israeli institutional authority and civilian vulnerability. In contrast, Al Jazeera framed Hamas as resistance fighters, presents both side depiction of political actors, and emphasizes civilian casualties. While both outlets employ various referential strategies, however, the New York Times relies more on negative ideological references, whereas Al Jazeera highlights geopolitical context and humanitarian concerns. Predicational strategies further show that the New York Times justifies Israeli actions and underscores the U.S.-Israel alliance, while Al Jazeera emphasizes resistance and humanitarian impacts. These results demonstrate how ideological perspectives influence public perceptions of the event. offers a valuable resource for media literacy education. It can help students critically analyze news coverage, recognize framing techniques, and understand the role of language in shaping perceptions, thereby fostering more informed and critical media consumers.

Keywords: *critical discourse analysis, news media, Israel-Palestine conflict*