







Linguistic Framing of the Qatar Blockade: A Critical Stylistic Analysis of Al Jazeera's News Reports of the Gulf Crisis 2017

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Abstract

The main objective of the current study is to carry out a critical stylistic analysis of Al Jazeera's online news reports of the 2017 Gulf crisis. The study specifically examines the linguistic strategies employed by Al Jazeera newsmakers in order to effectively communicate their ideological perspectives. The research employs Jeffries's critical stylistic framework (2010) and corpus methodologies to examine a corpus obtained from Al Jazeera English, which covers the first month of the crisis. A combination of qualitative and quantitative methodologies has been employed to analyze the ideological implications embedded within the narrative of the platform, focusing specifically on the strategies of naming, describing, equating, and contrasting. The study discloses that Al Jazeera has used specific nouns and phrases to portray the measures against Qatar as deliberate, violent, unjustifiable, and retaliatory, blaming the Saudi leadership. Complex noun phrases and evaluative adjectives have been utilized to intensify this description, while nominalization conceals agency and creates skepticism. The narrative has subtly portrayed Qatar as a passive victim of negative actions, using equating strategies to criticize the Saudi leadership's policies and the blockade. Contrasting strategies have presented contradictory actions, questioned their credibility and legitimacy, and encouraged cohesion among Gulf nations.

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Introduction

During periods of warfare, disagreements, and crises, the engaged parties and states experience a state of division marked by hostility. They employ every available method to win. In such scenarios, media serves as a powerful tool (Talbot, 2007; Wolfsfeld, 2022). Therefore, it is worthwhile to examine media narratives and their role in generating crises and conflicts, particularly from an ideological standpoint, as they have significant consequences. Research in this area has been undertaken by numerous prominent researchers in the field of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA). These scholars have repeatedly shown that news is not always an impartial depiction of the facts because of its very character. This is so because the process of producing news includes meticulous selection, analysis, and presentation of events to the public, therefore creating a reality that is in line with the sponsors' basic beliefs and goals (Koosha & Shams, 2005).

On well-known local media outlets like Al Arabiya and Al Jazeera, critical discourse research has also been done. Researchers using CDA techniques have looked at how news framing is ideologically constructed and how this affects these media giants politically Kharbach (2020) and Abdulmajid (2019). The researchers concluded that these well-known media outlets are ideologically biased and advance the agendas of their individual sponsors.

But earlier studies have not taken into account the relationship between ideological position and lexicostylistic techniques used by text writers to portray the Gulf crisis of 2017. In order to bridge this gap, this study uses corpus linguistics techniques to provide a critical stylistic analysis of the narrative of Al Jazeera online news. The primary goal of this research is to use a critical stylistic method to examine and assess Al Jazeera's reporting of the 2017 Gulf Crisis in order to expose the linguistic choices, framing strategies, and hidden ideologies used in the news reporting. According to current study, ideology and manipulation have shaped the stylistic choices made by this media outlets in depicting the Gulf crisis. The paper recommends further research on its objectivity and use of discourse to depict events in line with its own goals. To achieve this goal, the research will concentrate on the following question:

1. How has Al Jazeera online news used the strategies of naming, describing, equating, and contrasting to convey its ideologies in reporting on the Gulf crisis in 2017?

Based on the above-stated research question, the following are the objectives of this study:

- To examine the most significant topics and narratives in Al Jazeera's reporting on the 2017 Gulf Crisis.
- To identify the ways in which Al Jazeera employs naming, describing, equating, and contrasting tactics when framing the actions of the Saudi-led bloc and Qatar.
- To assess how language used in Al Jazeera English – choice of words, phrases, and descriptions – helps to ideologically construct Qatar as a victim and the Saudi-led bloc as a menace.
- To examine the extent to which the media has employed emotions and appeals in influencing the perceptions and attitudes of the readers towards the crisis.
- To examine how Al Jazeera has influenced its viewers' perceptions and the global community regarding the 2017 Gulf Crisis.

A Brief Overview of the 2017 Gulf Crisis

According to Ehteshami & Mohammadi (2017) the Arab Spring that erupted in 2010 led to notable upheaval and unrest throughout the Middle East region. This major event has been considered a significant historical value for all over the region, particularly among Arab nations (Bilgin, 2018). Agdemir (2016) argues that this is the most substantial transformation in the region's history since decolonization. The Arab Spring has brought about significant and complex consequences, such as the appearance of ISIS, the rise of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, and disputes among Arab nations (Asisian, 2018; Köse & Ulutaş, 2017). It has also resulted in significant security concerns within Gulf states, particularly in the context of Saudi Arabia and Qatar (Bilgin, 2018). There has been a notable and negative impact on the diplomatic ties between them since that time (Ayman, 2017). The present study focuses on the diplomatic crisis that occurred in 2017 between Saudi Arabia and Qatar, making it necessary to look at this situation briefly.

Saudi Arabia and Qatar adopted contrasting stances in reaction to the Arab Spring, aiming to capitalize on the upheaval to enhance their dominance and authority in the region (Ayman, 2017; Khlebnikov, 2015). Both sides backed certain groups and actors in the area, therefore asserting their authority and impacting the prevailing conflicts. Khlebnikov (2015) indicates that both countries have been proactively engaged in the Arab Spring and are competing for supremacy in the Sunni Islamic world through ideological and geopolitical means. Moreover, they perceive threats and respond to them in accordance with their priorities, which can be seen with the key players in the region, Iran and the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt. Saudi Arabia perceives them as the primary threats to its security in the area, whereas Qatar does not perceive them as security risks and maintains positive relations with them (Bilgin, 2018).

The Gulf crisis that erupted on June 5th, 2017, marked a significant turning point in the ongoing competition between Qatar and Saudi Arabia. The Saudi-led bloc, which includes the UAE, Egypt, and Bahrain have terminated their diplomatic ties with Qatar, withdrew their assets, suspended commercial and transportation linkages, and evacuated their respective citizens from Qatar (Kinninmont, 2019; Rashid & Naseer, 2019). The situation has been described as a significant challenge for the Gulf States. The primary disagreement between the Saudi-led coalition and Qatar is based on their contrasting ideological perspectives regarding regional challenges and threats (Khlebnikov, 2015). Other important factors contributing to the situation include the strong connections between Qatar and Iran and the Muslim Brotherhood, in addition to the impact of the Al Jazeera outlet (Kinninmont, 2019; Rashid & Naseer, 2019).

As a result, the Saudi-led alliance proposed a set of 13 demands in June 2017 to Doha as prerequisites for resolving the crisis. The demands consisted of cutting connections with Iran, ending backing for extreme Islamist entities including Hezbollah, ISIS, and the Muslim Brotherhood, and formally acknowledging them as terrorist entities. Qatar has also requested to close Al Jazeera news (Al Khalifa, 2019; Asisian, 2018).

Al Jazeera News

In the context of the Arab region, research showed that mass media have been mostly controlled by those in authority, who use them to influence and rally support for their own agendas (Amin, 2001). On top of that, Fandy (2007) argues that these Arab outlets are associated with specific ideologies and agendas that are influenced by geopolitical conflicts.

Al Jazeera, which is the main focus of this research, has commonly been perceived by many scholars as a political tool employed to exert influence on neighboring states (El-Nawawy & Iskandar, 2008; Fandy, 2007). It is a Qatari state-funded news agency situated in Doha / Qatar (Kraidy, 2018) (Kraidy, 2018). Its content has always been controversial, and the freedom it enjoys gives it considerable scope. Many diplomatic tensions between Qatar and other regional countries such as Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Syria were caused by AL Jazeera due to its way of reporting specific political matters and regional events (Al-Rawi, 2017). Critics and scholars described it as a propaganda outlet for the government, and also accused it of holding an Islamist view and promoting the Muslim Brotherhood ideology in the region (Al-Rawi, 2017; Bilgin, 2018; Kraidy, 2018).

Johnson & Fahmy (2010) contend that US-sponsored AL Hurra and Saudi-sponsored AL Arabiya 2004 have threatened AL Jazeera's supremacy in the Arab world. They also said that the emergence of western-style media sources has been fostered by Arab governments as political instruments and cultural phenomena, therefore changing the character of the area. In the same year. Over time, the media dispute between Riyadh and Doha has changed; studies have shown that the political viewpoints of the sponsored states of AL Arabiya and AL Jazeera philosophically shape their competition (Kharbach, 2020). Rashid & Naseer (2019) pointed out in particular that Al Jazeera often covers Saudi issues, which exacerbates the tensions between the two nations.

Critical Stylistics (CS)

This portion offers the theoretical foundation of critical stylistic analysis as a technique for analyzing Al Jazeera news narratives. It also explores a number of pertinent ideas and looks at the analytical techniques that the study will use.

The advent of critical stylistics can be attributed to the release of Jeffries (2010) work on Critical Stylistics, titled "The Power of English." It is a systematic approach of analyzing textual data that integrates techniques from stylistics, Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), and Critical Linguistics (CL). It is, as indicated by Alaghbary, Alazzany, & Al-Nakeeb (2015), a continuation of the CL tradition of prioritizing the text in the examination of ideologies. For Jeffries, this framework focuses on "the stylistic choices and textual analysis" employed by text producers, whether they are deliberate or unintentional. Such texts involve certain ideological content that has an impact on the recipients of these texts. The objective of employing critical stylistic strategies is to enhance the recipient's awareness of these concepts, regardless of whether they manipulate their perception or not (Ahmed & Abbas, 2019). It emphasizes the concept of 'text' as the focal point of its operations, encompassing many manifestations of language usage (Jeffries, 2015).

The investigation of textual meaning holds significant importance within the field of stylistics, as it centers on the manner in which language is employed to convey a certain interpretation of reality, hence yielding ideological implications (Abeed, 2017). In this respect, Halliday argues that the interpretation of textual meaning is consistently influenced by the stylistic choices of language features within texts, that possess the potential to be ideological and manipulating (Jeffries, 2017). Jeffries asserts that CDA mostly focuses on socio-political aspects, whereas critical stylistics primarily focuses on linguistics and provides a comprehensive analytical toolset for textual analysis. Besides, critical stylistics focuses on analyzing the ideological meaning within texts by separating the meaning within the text from the intentions of the author

and the interpretations of the reader. Critical stylistics, as stated by Jeffries (2017), primarily focuses on the initial stages of CDA, which are description and interpretation. Yet, it can also consider the broader socio-political context that influences discourse. In essence, it aims to reveal the hidden meanings within texts by merging stylistic analysis with CDA.

Naming & Describing Strategies

This part provides an elucidation of the critical stylistic analytical tools that serve as the foundation for the analysis conducted in the current research. These strategies are explained by Jeffries as linguistic processes in which individuals, places, and objects are described and recognized using language, primarily through the use of adjectives to describe these items and the resulting ideological implications (Jeffries, 2010). That is to say, text creators tend to utilize language options to label an event or an entity in a specific way that reflects their ideologies. Thus, selecting certain nouns over others can influence readers' perspectives. This is because every stylistic choice carries underlying ideological implications. For instance, the decision to use nouns like 'protester' or 'rioter' can shape how the audience views the subject and convey a particular ideological message (Jeffries, 2007).

According to Jeffries (2010), these strategies are not just about picking a specific noun among other choices; they can also be done using noun phrases, which are the primary way of naming strategies. She also argues that these strategies are important because they allow for capturing concepts or information related to the process of presenting an event or an action, instead of just focusing on specific objects (Jeffries, 2017). The composition of noun phrases includes lexical items that come before and after the main noun, like adjectives and modifiers. The effect here is produced by integrating specific ideological content within the nominal element. In this respect, Fowler (2013) argues that the noun component of an English sentence is less likely to be questioned compared to other components of the sentence. This means that it can package up some ideological content in a way that discourages readers from challenging the relationships described by the nouns in the sentence, as cited in (Ononye, 2014).

Nominalization, on the other hand, is the other mechanism wherein actions are turned into nominals by creating nouns from verbs. This strategy contributes to embedding ideological material within the main nominal element itself (Jeffries, 2010). This linguistic strategy, which has been emphasized by scholars in Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) including Fowler and Fairclough, along with Jeffries, holds considerable ideological importance within text (Richardson, 2017). It can be utilized to leave out the tense, making the action persistent, concealing the agent, or rendering it unknown to others, specifically if the emphasis is placed on other parties. Jeffries posits that the utilization of a nominal element in place of a verb can make the conveyed content seem more factual and less open to be questioned or scrutinized, hence fostering a perception of truth. Besides, nouns can simply be changed or adjusted in different ways (Jeffries, 2017).

Equating and Contrasting

Jeffries (2010) points out that these strategies examine how texts generate a representation of the world by using appositions and equivalences in their textual structures. In a nutshell, they "refer to how texts construct oppositional and equivalent meanings"(Coffey, 2013), or "present different entities as either equivalent to each other or opposed to each other" (Evans, 2016). The strategies are based on the concept that words might have comparable or opposing meanings (Jeffries, 2017). Jeffries also posits that texts possess the capacity to employ linguistic resources in order to come up with novel synonyms and opposites.

Certain syntactic triggers are used by text producers to create associations, conveying their ideology, often resulting in opposites and equivalence through syntactic frames. Based on Jeffries (2010), Table 1 provides a summary of the primary types of these strategies, together with their corresponding syntactic triggers:

Table 1: The Key Categories of Equating and Contrasting.

| Category | Sub-categories | Syntactic Triggers |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Equivalence | Intensive relational equivalence | x is y, x seems y, x becomes y, x appears y, etc. |
| | Appositional equivalence | X, y, (z) etc. |
| | Metaphorical equivalence | X is y, the x of y; x is like y etc. |
| | Negated opposition | X not y; some x, no y; plenty of x, a lack of y etc. |
| | Transitional opposition | Turn x into y; x becomes y; from x to y etc. |
| Opposition | Comparative opposition | More x than y; |
| | Replacive opposition | X instead of y; x rather than y; x in preference to y etc. |
| | Concessive opposition | Despite x, y; x, yet y; x still, y etc. |
| | Explicit opposition | X by contrast with y; x as opposed to y etc. |
| | Parallelism | He liked x. She liked y; your house is x, mine is y etc. |
| | Contrastives | X, but y. |

Literature Review

Introduction to Media Coverage of Political Crises

Media have an important role in influencing the attitude of the public during political turmoil, as people often turn to them as their major source of information and analysis (Han, Xu, & Pan, 2022). During times of increased conflict, for instance, the 2017 Gulf Crisis, media sources act as the primary means of reporting news, opinions, and analysis for how people interpret and engage with ongoing events (Sharmeen, 2023). In their task, media outlets not only state the facts but also set the context for their presentation, some aspects of the crisis are highlighted, while others are partially obscured. This framing is important because it delineates which aspects are featured, which viewpoints are acknowledged, and as a result influences how the crisis is perceived by the audience (Apriliyanti, Utomo, & Purwanto, 2022; Fatima, 2020).

Significance of Media Framing and Agenda-Setting

In times of political unrest, choices are made, and public opinion is shaped in large part by the media framing and agenda-setting processes (Hashim, 2023). According to van Beek et al. (2020), media framing is the process by which news perspectives are used to emphasize certain aspects of concern in order to affect audience opinion. The purpose of this article was to investigate how media framing affected perceptions of the parties involved, the causes of the conflict, and potential solutions in connection to the Gulf Crisis. Another approach to agenda-setting would be to concentrate on how the media shape's public opinion on certain problems or subjects (Buturoiu & Voloc, 2021; Carazo-Barrantes, 2021). Together with the frequency with which each news source covers a story, the media can steer the direction of debates and themes as well as the portfolios of issues and solutions that legislators pursue (Cox, 2020; Furkert, 2022; Zhang et al., 2024). People must therefore get acquainted with media framing and agenda-setting as they shape the way political issues are presented and make them understandable to the global audience.

Previous Studies on the Gulf Crisis Media Coverage

The events of the 2017 Gulf Crisis, which involved the blockade of Qatar by some of its counterparts, continue to draw scholars' research attention in an effort to examine the media's roles in relation to informing the public and as an agenda setter in political crises. Several researchers have examined how many media organizations formulated and/or framed the agendas of the 'Gulf Crisis', for instance, research done by (Abdul-Nabi, 2023; Alluhaidah, 2023; Boéri & Fattah, 2020; Kharbach, 2020). In their findings based on the study of the tone of the selected news articles, the editors, and the writers' opinions regarding the topic, the researchers have discovered that the news has prejudices, stereotyping, and an ideological slant (Alluhaidah, 2023; Horoub, 2022). In the study conducted by Kharbach (2020), there is a discussion about sharing information and user interaction, and evaluation in terms of positive behaviour or negative trend so as to identify such patterns as contouring stories and narration associated with the Gulf crisis. In this way, showing how objectives and audiences are created during crises has contributed to an improved comprehension of the role of digital technologies in the media landscape. The study of Horoub (2022) has put the media representations of the Gulf Crisis in the field of comparative politics and regional media systems. Discriminating between framing and tone between various outlets, countries, and linguistic regions, researchers have highlighted distinct differences in editorial decisions, ownership, and political-orientation of media houses (Berning, 2023; Mayerhöffer & Heft, 2022). A study by Rakshasa-Loots (2021) on the 2017 Gulf Crisis faced by Qatar has therefore pointed to media geopolitics as influencing narratives of conflict and cooperation.

Comparison of Different Media Outlets' Portrayals of the Crisis

Analyzing how the media outlets of various regions and platforms covered the 2017 Gulf Crisis shows the distinctions in the kind of coverage. While some outlets may be more inclined to present information in a way that challenges a particular side of the conflict, others may appear to be neutral or even leaning towards one of the sides (Ajaoud & Elmasry, 2020). For instance, the geographic location of the media houses, media ownership, and political affiliation can alter the nature of news framing and thereby give a different interpretation of the crisis. Besides, other concerns such as language barriers, the choice of images, and other editorial policies play a role in increasing the volatility of media representation (Alluhaidah, 2023). These differences are pivotal to the general media's contextualization and the public's perception of the Gulf Crisis.

Framing and Ideology in Media Reporting

Definition and Significance of Framing in Media Studies

Framing, in the context of media studies, may refer to the manner in which news organizations or journalists choose to present or exhibit information concerning a particular story in a particular manner

to the exclusion of other aspects of the same (Taglo, Moges, & Skjerdal, 2023). Through this selective information relay, the audiences' perception and understanding of the issue are framed, as well as their opinions on the matter at hand (Mensah, 2024). According to Milutinović (2021), framing can be defined as a purposeful strategy of selecting and presenting some aspects of a topic in a certain way in order to achieve a particular goal, whether it is to encourage support or discourage the opposition. Thus, by situating certain events within specific contexts, media companies can be able to guide viewers'/readers' perspective, promote or detract from particular means of interpretation, and affect the policy-making process.

Methodology

The research uses a combination of quantitative and qualitative methodologies. The research is grounded in the blending of corpus linguistic techniques (CL) and the critical stylistics framework (CS). The quantitative aspect of the research employs methodologies based on corpus linguistics, specifically keyword analysis, for the initial stage. The findings derived from the analysis of keywords are subsequently connected to the conceptual framework of critical stylistics to facilitate the process of qualitative analysis.

Research Approach

The study applies a mixed-method approach whereby both quantitative and qualitative data collection methods are integrated to ensure that the two methods complement each other in the analysis of the media coverage of the 2017 Gulf Crisis. Based on corpus linguistics and critical stylistics, this approach presents a comprehensive resource for analysing the specific language usage and potential existing ideologies in media narratives.

Corpus of the Study

In this current study, the researcher constructed a corpus that accurately represents the narrative utilized by Al Jazeera outlet in reporting the Gulf crisis. The data of the study has been taken from Al Jazeera English website. The period covered was one month from the beginning of the crisis on June 5th, 2017, up to July 5th, 2017. During this time, the crisis was at its climax, with many articles being issued online. These articles highlighted the significant divide between the disputed parties. It was notable that the conflict was mainly portrayed and shaped through media narratives during this period.

For the purpose of collecting data and constructing the corpus of the study, the researcher conducted systematic and online searches on the archive of Al-Jazeera online. The exploration has been conducted through specific search terms that have a direct association with the crisis being investigated, namely 'Gulf crisis 2017', 'Qatari crisis 2017', and 'Saudi-Qatari diplomatic crisis'. The researcher found a lot of articles with the keywords they were looking for, but many of them were not relevant because they had different topics and dates. So, he tried a new search using specific terms from the initial articles to find more relevant information. Following the procedures for gathering and sieving the data, a total of 89 articles were obtained. These articles were all published by Al Jazeera and focus directly on the crisis event.

Data Collection

The study develops an online archive of the articles from the Al Jazeera English website by aiming to collect all the articles during the time period from June 5th to July 5th, 2017, which is the apex of the Gulf Crisis. To enhance the miracle of retrieving relevant data from the internet, focused key terms such as 'Gulf crisis 2017' and 'Saudi-Qatari diplomatic crises' are employed in the systematic search. Of the articles identified for inclusion in the study, 89 are wholly dedicated to the reporting of the crisis, thus providing sufficient coverage of Al Jazeera reporting on the said issue.

Keyword Analysis (KWs)

The method of keyword analysis from corpus linguistics has been used by the study as an initial stage to find out common themes and issues in the data that are directly connected to the crisis being examined. In order to create the keywords list, the researcher has used a corpus linguistic software named AntConc. The obtained keywords have then been organized into themes according to how they were used in the texts being studied. Initially, there were 243 positive keywords in the list of Al Jazeera-corpus. However, the list of keywords has been too long to manage, so the researcher has followed a method applied by (Abeed, 2017) and Jeffries & Walker (2017), who reduced it by eliminating unnecessary words like pronouns, determiners, conjunctions, prepositions, and modal verbs. This helps focus on only content significant keywords for analyzing the content of the text. Based on this method, the list has been narrowed down to 53 keywords out of 165 as indicated in Table 2:

Table 2: *The Keywords in the Al Jazeera-Corpus.*

| Al Jazeera corpus |
|--|
| Rights, right, human, citizens, freedom, people, protect, separated, petition, thousands, opinion, residents, students, labour, children, democratic, punishing, violations, violation, unjustified, complaints, affect, affected, neighboring, led, measures, demands, lists, siege, rift, demand, blockade, ties, imposed, cut, close, shut down, closure, blocked, media, diplomatic, accusing, terrorism, allegations, supplies, condemned, extremism, airways, allegation, accusation, escalation, rejected, and bloc |

Thematic Categorization of Keywords

The pre-final stage in the procedure of reducing the lists of keywords involves categorizing them into coherent and significant themes. This method has been employed in previous research with a similar objective, including those conducted by (Abeed, 2017), (Kandil, 2009). The obtained keywords were categorized into themes based on their contextual use in the study corpus. Words that did not fit into any category were removed. Consequently, the remaining keywords have been organized thematically owing to their semantic connections and context of use. Concordance lines serve the purpose of validating semantic linkages and ensuring the alignment of keywords with their respective themes.

This allocation of keywords under themes helps in establishing the tendencies that dominate when it comes to Al Jazeera’s coverage of the Gulf Crisis. Included is a major theme named ‘The geopolitical façade of terrorism accusations in the Qatar blockade’ in reference to the conspicuous use of terrorism charges as a tool in international political strategy. It is based on the themes identified in the ideological framing and enables an understanding of how Al Jazeera uses this framing in its reporting.

The reporting of the issue by Al Jazeera consistently highlights a prominent theme, namely "The geopolitical facade of terrorism accusations in the Qatar blockade." Given the limited duration of the study, this particular theme has emerged as a popular topic in the articles of Al Jazeera. Most of the keywords fall within this main theme, as illustrated in the table below:

Table 3: *Categorizing Keywords Within theme of Al Jazeera-Corpus.*

| Category | Al Jazeera-corpus |
|---|---|
| The geopolitical facade of terrorism accusations in the Qatar blockade | Rights, right, human, citizens, freedom, people, protect, separate, petition, thousands, opinion, residents, students, labour, children, democratic, punishing, violations, supplies, bloc, complaints, affect, affected, families, measures, demands, lists, siege, rift, demand, blockade, ties, imposed, cut, close, shut down, closure, blocked, and diplomatic |

The Theme of Geopolitical Facade of Terrorism Accusations in the Qatar Blockade

Amidst the heated debates and intricate geopolitical maneuvers that marked the Qatar blockade, one recurring dominant theme that stands out is the repeated emphasis on the blockade being more a matter of political dispute than terrorism concerns. Analyzing this theme provides insightful revelations into the underlying motivations and power dynamics at play. At the heart of the blockade's justification by Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain, and Egypt have been allegations against Qatar related to its supposed support for terrorism. However, a closer examination of the keywords and the narratives linked to these accusations, it becomes apparent that they may have been used as a cover for more profound political motives. On its side, Qatar has vigorously refuted these allegations, describing them as "unjustified" and "baseless." Qatar's position was not only to deny them but also to demand concrete evidence, which was noticeably lacking.

The blockade imposed on Qatar has often been perceived as a geopolitical tactic in the narrative of Al Jazeera to control Qatar’s growing independence, especially its divergent foreign policy towards Saudi Arabiya. The narrative has repeatedly highlighted that the blockade is not more than a strategic move to curb Qatar’s defiance of regional hegemony. In this context, the credibility of the blocking countries, particularly Saudi Arabia and the UAE, according to the narrative, has been doubted because of their own histories of human rights violations when they accused Qatar of supporting terrorism. This, however, raises questions about their authority in making such a serious accusation against another country. Despite the blockade has been officially justified on the basis of combating terrorism, the focus of the narrative has often shifted towards broader geopolitical issues, power struggles, and concerns over sovereignty. The theme of "political dispute rather than terrorism concerns" highlights the complex relationship between regional politics and the manipulation of terrorism accusations for larger strategic purposes.

Procedures of Data Analysis

As previously stated, the primary objective of employing corpus linguistics has been to establish a way of accessing the data. Once this access has been established, the data analysis procedure will shift from a quantitative stage, namely keyword analysis, to a more in-depth qualitative analysis stage. The analysis of

keywords identified ideological issues that warrant additional investigation in the subsequent phase and promptly established a connection between the analysis and the textual data. From the more traditional technique of counting highlight keywords, the argument moves on to comparing concordance lists, or shifting from identifying patterns of language to viewing the ideology behind them. Online concordance is used to analyze the context of the keywords and find the broader semantic meaning of ideological motivation. Using the structural analysis of critical style, the shifts are examined in greater detail, focusing on the ideological aspects of the patterns, which contributes to a deeper understanding of the media coverage of the Gulf Crisis. After that, the focus has been shifted towards concordance analysis, which has been utilized to examine the list of keywords in order to find linguistic patterns within the targeted data, considering their context of use. These patterns have been linked to the analytical strategies of naming, describing, comparing, and contrasting. This creates a connection between textual forms and their practical interpretations, so revealing their inherent ideological consequences. The final phase will focus on the process of interpreting the ideological contents. In this phase, the analytical conceptual tools of critical stylistics will be applied to uncover the hidden ideological contents involved in the discourse of Al Jazeera online. The analysis here involves moving from describing the texts to interpreting their deeper ideological meanings.

Findings and Discussion

The keywords and concordance analysis have revealed a prominent theme that has been consistently present in the discourse of Al Jazeera during the specified timeframe. The previously mentioned analytical tools will be employed to carry out a comprehensive investigation of the emerging theme and the texts that reflect it.

Text 1

“Decisions such as cutting all diplomatic ties, suspending flights, preventing the use of airspace, closing the land borders, and asking Qatari citizens to leave Saudi Arabia are rarely taken in any diplomatic crisis, even between the most antagonistic states. By taking this decision, Saudi Arabia lost credibility not only in the eyes of the Qatari people, but also in the eyes of fellow Arab citizens throughout the Middle East. By punishing a neighbor in such a manner, Riyadh is forcing its allies to consider getting closer to other regional and international actors, even possibly Iran. Therefore, while trying to contain Iran, the Saudi leadership’s unrealistic approach may result in the opposite outcome”.

Naming and Describing

Lexical choices that have been employed in the text framed the actions of Saudi Arabia as deliberate and punitive and at the same time questioning their efficiency. The text opens by an extended complex noun phrase that lists the measures imposed by Saudi Arabia over Qatar. The head word of the phrase “Decision” which in a political context, particularly in times of crisis, suggests intentional and calculated actions rather than random choices. Moreover, using this word instead of other available alternatives like “measures” or “actions,” implies accountability and prompts readers to consider the motives and benefits behind the measures taken by Saudi Arabia. The noun phrase also provides a list of actions or measures that suggest a serious diplomatic impasse. The list’s ideological impact influences readers’ perceptions of these actions as being extreme and may be the most important or noteworthy, especially when they “are rarely taken in any diplomatic crises”.

Moreover, the list of measures packaged up in the noun phrase emphasizes the extent and complexity of Saudi Arabia’s response and its severity toward Qatar. The noun phrase has also intensively used the nominalizations “cutting”, “suspending”, “preventing”, “closing”, and “asking”. This strategy facilitates listing all the measures inside one noun phrase, making them appear as tangible, ongoing, effective actions, objective and a matter of fact. Another noteworthy lexical choice is the noun “antagonist”, which in literature often refers to the opposite power or villain, but it also entails a significant level of hostility towards governments or countries in political and diplomatic settings. The use of this word in the phrase “even between the most antagonistic states” highlights the amount of opposition and animosity between Saudi Arabia and Qatar and the severity of the measures against Qatar that even the most conflicted countries would not dare to undertake. It at the same time forces readers to think deeply and consider the extremity of the imposed measures.

Similarly, the choice of the noun “credibility”, which holds significant importance in the discussions surrounding Saudi Arabia’s political and diplomatic standing, has implications for both immediate concerns and long-term perceptions. The assertion that Saudi Arabia has “lost credibility” highlights potential doubts in the reliability and honesty of the country’s actions, which may have an impact on its relationships with other Gulf nations, while at the same time raising questions about the action’s alignment with authentic shared Arab values.

The text continues placing full responsibility on Saudi Arabia for the severe measures imposed on Qatar by mentioning "Saudi leadership." It refers to those in charge, or more specifically decision-makers implying authority and accountability. By attributing these actions to the "Saudi leadership," the writer here suggests that the decisions were deliberate and strategic, rather than accidental or bureaucratic blunders. This, however, highlights the seriousness of the situation and indicates that Saudi Arabia's actions are purposeful and carefully cooked at the highest levels.

The nominal element "punishing" combined with the prepositional phrase "in such a manner" frames the actions against Qatar in an extremely negative way. Punishment carries negative implications and often refers to the act of causing pain, distress, or imposing a penalty in response to a perceived wrongdoing. In this situation, it is highly indicative that the imposed measures were not only policy choices, but rather deliberate attempts to inflict harm or disadvantage in Qatar. The immediate ideological implications of this framing are to present these decisions by Saudi Arabia as severe, lacking any strategic aim, or being protective. It also shows readers that these actions can be interpreted as vengeance, or retaliation, prompting an intense emotional reaction.

Equating and Contrasting

The strategy of Intensive Relational Equivalence has been spotted, and the syntactic trigger that creates this form of equivalence is the adjective "unrealistic" in the noun phrase "Saudi leadership's unrealistic approach". It equates the approach followed by "Saudi leadership" regarding the crisis to a concept or a notion out of touch with reality or practical considerations. From an ideological perspective, the choice may not be meant to describe the approach but to criticize it, implying that the Saudi leadership may lack awareness or intentionally disregard the practical facts associated with the situation. This in turn would subtly encourage readers to imagine a plausible, realistic approach and compare it to that of Saudi's, highlighting possible drawbacks or faults of the suggested approach.

Negated opposition is the other strategy; the linguistic trigger of this opposition is identified in the phrase "rarely taken in any diplomatic crisis, even between the most antagonistic states". The sentence in question was initiated by the enumeration of the severe measures implemented against Qatar by Saudi Arabia. Considering the gravity of these measures, readers may expect that such actions are typical or customary in the most heightened instances of international conflicts. However, this expectation has instantly been negated by asserting that these measures are "rarely taken", even in cases including the most aggressive countries. Such framing may alter readers understanding, leading them to be aware, critical, and even questioning the validity of these measures by Saudi Arabia against Qatar.

Text 2

"The demands issued by Saudi and Emirati leaders have little to do with fighting terrorism and everything to do with barring all forms of dissent in a region where the rise of violent opposition has often been linked to the absence of political freedoms. In supporting these measures, the Trump administration has demonstrated that the terrorist label remains little more than a foreign policy tool of the US and its allies".

Naming & Describing

The syntactic constructions and lexical choices that have been employed in the text underscore the notion that the blockade and the allegations of terrorism are not based on authentic security issues. However, they serve as a facade for underlying political agendas and power dynamics within the region. The demands issued by Saudi Arabia and its allies to Qatar include limiting diplomatic relations with Iran, closing Al Jazeera Network, severing connections with terrorist organizations, and stopping interference in the domestic affairs of surrounding countries. These demands may be understood as a justification to impose the blockade seeking to isolate Qatar at the regional and global levels on the pretext of supporting terrorist entities, interfering in the issues of other states, and the Qatar's cordial relations with Iran.

The analysis delves into the linguistic nuances of the phrase "little to do with fighting terrorism," which diminishes the perceived connection between the proposed demands and the purported goal of combating terrorism, alluding that it is of little importance or consequence. At the same time, it subtly undermined the legitimacy of the stated objectives, hinting at potential deception or insincerity and the underlying motives in the context of counterterrorism efforts. The whole phrase can possibly be seen as criticizing or challenging the established formal narratives that the demands largely revolve around counter-terrorism endeavors.

Going further in the analysis, the complex noun phrase "a region where the rise of violent opposition has often been linked to the absence of political freedoms" gives readers a background context for the Saudi and Emirati leaders' actions. The lexical choices and construction of this phrase conjure an image of a region filled with struggle and turbulence, linked to the absence of political liberties. The strategic choice "rise" indicates the presence of such opposition and its escalation and expansion, suggesting a deteriorating situation that may elicit concern among readers.

Another complex noun phrase that packages up ideological content “the terrorist label remains little more than a foreign policy tool of the US and its allies”. The noun phrase “the terrorist label” is pre-modified by the adjectival phrase “little more than a foreign policy tool” in order to highlight the idea that the label could dishonestly be applied for political ends. The adjectival phrase also suggests that the label is diminished to a state of insignificance or just a tool, rather than being an authentic or honest classification grounded in tangible proof or defined acts. However, when the attribution is made to “the US and its allies” it suggests that these parties may employ the designation of “terrorist label” not just on the basis of the acts or intents of the entities being labeled, but rather for the purpose of advancing their own geopolitical plans and aims. Irrespective of the real nature of the entities under consideration, this noun phrase implies a critique of the potential misuse of highly charged terminology such as “terrorist”, suggesting that they may be strategically exploited for political gain rather than solely driven by legitimate security considerations or even countering terrorism.

Equating and Contrasting

Negated Opposition has been identified in the clause “has little to do with fighting terrorism and everything to do with barring all forms of dissent” which creates this form of opposition by presenting the demands in a contrasting manner. The negation has been achieved by the phrase that says the demands “have little to do with fighting terrorism”. It downplays the connection between the demands and the efforts taken to counter-terrorism. The demands are essentially linked to the banning of all forms of opposition. The phrase posits an affirmative stance that seeks to optimize the association between these demands and the practice of quelling opposition.

Moreover, the juxtaposition of the phrases “little to do with” and “everything to do with” produces a distinct opposing relationship between the two notions in question. The ultimate goals behind the demands do not primarily revolve around counteracting terrorism, as might be anticipated, but instead center on the suppression of dissent. It is noteworthy to see how the sentence makes use of this powerful linguistic technique to effectively underscore the disparity between the purported objective of combating terrorism and the underlined actual aim of suppressing dissent within the demands.

Text Three

“The UAE and Saudi leadership seem to have decided to make Qatar a scapegoat for their fears about regional changes. At the core of the week-old decision by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates to strangulate their smaller neighbor Qatar with a medieval-style siege is a single critical question: What fears and demons drove the Saudi and Emirati leaders to take these drastic measures to bludgeon Qatar into changing its foreign and media policies and submitting itself totally to their demands?”

Naming & Describing

The text in the questions has utilized many lexical choices and structures to depict the conduct of the leadership of Saudi Arabia and the UAE towards Qatar, which is characterized by extremity, irrationality, and is motivated by internal anxieties. The clause “to make Qatar a scapegoat for their fears about regional changes” is telling and loaded. The nominal choice “scapegoat” has the implication of unjustified guilt or blame. The designation of Qatar as a “scapegoat” implies that Qatar is being unfairly singled out or held accountable for issues for which it may not bear culpability.

In addition, the prepositional phrase “for their fears about regional changes” suggests that the leadership is responsive to their concerns about alterations or developments in the region. In this context, the noun “fear” implies emotional responses, potentially unreasonable or reactive, which may be derived from feelings of anxiety, uncertainty, or insecurity. Whereas the post-modifier “about regional changes” further emphasizes these fears, which are tied to the changes in the region. Moreover, the phrase “regional changes” to some extent is vague, suggesting dynamic alterations in the region, possibly political, cultural, or economic, without specifying their nature. The vagueness here allows for a wide range of interpretations, while the presence of doubt may indicate a lack of clarity regarding the nature or consequences of these changes. The whole phrase discreetly criticizes the leadership with the suggestion that their choices may be driven by emotional factors rather than rational considerations.

Another loaded clause is “to strangulate their smaller neighbor Qatar with a medieval-style siege”. It plays a significant role within the broad context of the text in question. It enhances the depiction of Qatar as a nation that has been subjected to external influence or has been specifically singled out by its more powerful neighboring countries. The adjective “smaller” here is in comparative form, comparing Qatar to its neighbors Saudi Arabia and the UAE. It often implies vulnerability, lower significance, and fewer resources or powers, proposing that although Qatar and its neighbors share a geographical proximity, there has been a notable discrepancy in terms of size or perhaps influence. On top of that, the entire phrase suggests a deeper meaning that transcends regional proximity. Describing Qatar as “smaller” implies a sense of disparity and susceptibility to the action imposed on it. This presentation may elicit sympathy from the public, suggesting unjust treatment or intimidation.

Lastly, particular significant ideological content and historical indications have effectively been communicated to readers through packaging them inside the phrase "with a medieval style siege."

This has been achieved by employing the noun "siege" which generally indicates a military tactics that involves surrounding an area for the sake of compelling submission. However, another level of meaning has been added by the lexical choices of "mediaeval" and "style", in which the former implies a historical era classified as being brutal, uncivilized, and using merciless methods, while "style" suggests a similarity to actions observed during the Middle Ages that were outdated. These lexical choices have intensified the severity of the measures implemented over Qatar as being brutal, and rigid and can impact readers' interpretation of the situation and evoke sentimental responses.

Equating and Contrasting

In terms of contrasting, the text has employed the strategy of negated opposition to discuss the previous condition of Qatar in relation to the present. This has been achieved by the phrase "submitting itself totally to their demands", which also underscored the notion of total adherence to the list of conditions enforced by Saudi Arabia and the UAE. The utilization of negation within this particular situation denotes a notable departure from a prior condition of autonomy or opposition. In addition to that, the magnitude of this submission has been further emphasized by the use of the adverb "totally" which signifies a total relinquishment of previous stances in favour of unwavering compliance with the obliged demands. The main function of this strategy was to present and highlight how the demands have been enforced on Qatar, as well as the intensity of the pressure that has been practiced, and simultaneously showing how previous policies and the sovereignty of Qatar have been breached. On top of that, it also implies an unequal power dynamic, portraying the situation as an unfair imposition rather than a negotiated agreement.

The strategy of intensive relational equivalence has been exemplified by the phrase "is a single question", in which the decisions and measures imposed on Qatar have been equated with a single focal matter. The verb "is" here connecting previous events related to the leaderships of Saudi Arabia and the UAE to the central topic under discussion. This technique simplifies the intricate nature of the situation by integrating multiple factors and situations into one major question. On top of that, the phrase stimulates curiosity among readers' regarding the nature of the question, prompting them for further investigation. Addressing this crucial question can provide readers with knowledge regarding larger geopolitical manoeuvres, with the implication that they may have been motivated by particular, albeit potentially concealed agendas.

Text 4

"The future of the Gulf looks grim, as differences between neighbors are turning into hostilities. The attempt by Riyadh and Abu Dhabi to politically ostracize Doha is more likely to isolate Riyadh than to force Qatar to its knees. Therefore, rather than clashing with each other, Gulf nations should find a way to unite against common threats such as terrorism, extremism and economic challenges".

Naming & Describing

The text reflects an ideological stance that presents the Qatar crisis as a deliberate political maneuver led by Saudi Arabia and the UAE, resulting in regional discord and animosity. The writer has used specific lexical items and syntactic structures to convey this perspective and also advocates for fostering solidarity among Gulf states to collectively address shared challenges such as extremism and terrorism.

The text is initiated by the phrase "The future of the Gulf looks grim," which presents an ideological representation of an ominous future facing the Gulf region. The word "future" suggests that the writer can predict what lies ahead, indicating expertise in the issue. On the other hand, the evaluative adjective "grim" portrays the future as terrible, unsettling, and depressing. The juxtaposition of the abstract noun "future" and the negative "grim" in the phrase epitomizes the future, causing a foreboding visual aspect. This negative outlook may impact the readers' attitude and possibly their ideological position towards the future of the Gulf.

The other phrase that packages up ideological content in the same context is "as differences between neighbors are turning into hostilities". The deliberate choice of the word "hostilities" instead of "disputes" or "tensions" portrays the current situation among Gulf states as antagonistic and marked by aggression or force. "Hostilities" typically describe a state of active conflict or antagonism resembling warfare between opposing parties. In contrast, using the word "differences" would have depicted the divergences among Gulf states in a more impartial and restrained manner without necessarily implying overt enmity or conflict. The shift in positions from "peaceful disagreements" to "aggressive conflicts or enmity" in Qatar's narrative signifies a significant ideological change, indicating a more serious and intense situation. The use of "hostilities" instead of "differences" has intensified the narrative, shaping readers' perceptions and comprehension of the issue.

Equating and Contrasting

Through the metaphorical equivalency reached in "to force Qatar on its knees," the concept of Qatar's surrender has been equated with obligatory obedience without the actual use of physical force. This has in fact added life to the depiction and enhanced the message that is being presented. Politically speaking, the Saudi-led coalition has been presented as having authoritarian inclinations and holding powerful and authoritative positions, whereas Qatar has been seen as weak and submissive. The different dynamic factors in the region were thus brought to light. The representation could also influence readers' opinions, encouraging pity for Qatar and animosity for its competitors, hence bolstering "us" against "them" narratives. Another tactic used has been replace resistance, as shown by the statement "rather than clashing with each other, Gulf nations should find a way to unite." With this kind of resistance, one proposes a different scenario. The word compares, in the context of Gulf nations, the ideas of "clashing" and "uniting" as mutually incompatible alternatives. "Rather than," which expresses a preference for one option over another, is the verbal trigger for this antagonism. Criticizing the existing state of "clashing" and putting up "uniting" as a better option, this tactic highlights the need for a change in behavior or approach. It also suggests the presence of alternative choices and possible readings or fixes.

Text 5

“Along with punishing Qatar for past offences, this battle appears to be more about crushing the last vestiges of hope for any independent political thought in the Middle East. That would explain why, in its supposed battle against terrorism, the Saudi Emirati bloc would target internationally established media organizations and research institutions and seek to ban prominent Arab intellectuals and thinkers”.

Naming & Describing

The book purposefully captures the ideological aspect of the fight by using exact selections for nouns and the construction of noun phrases. The storyline put out suggests that the actions done against Qatar and other organizations are seen as unjust or untrustworthy. "Along with punishing Qatar for past offenses," which starts the sentence, implies a more general relationship between previous actions and current results. Conversely, the word "along with" suggests that there may be other contributing factors outside Qatar's penalty. This suggests that "punishing Qatar" has been done as part of a larger series of events, suggesting that other elements could possibly be involved. Moreover, nominalization has been used to turn the verb "punish" into a nominal "punishing," hence enhancing the impersonal and abstract aspect of the action. Time and context would be eliminated as a result, the punishment seeming normal or ongoing, and the agent would be hidden. Furthermore, readers are forced to depend on their imagination or previous information, which may result in biased interpretations, since the term "past offences" is too implausible. The impreciseness might lead readers to depend on their own prejudices or perceptions. Furthermore, the grammatical decisions made in the text—which portrayed Qatar as a passive recipient—have put Qatar in the forefront of attention and action. Such word choices might suggest that Qatar is helpless or that it lacks agency. They may also provide light on the ingrained ideas of the writers. Presenting Qatar in this way might also be seen in two distinct ways: as a victim of unfair treatment or as experiencing unjustifiable repercussions.

The other complex expression, "crushing the last vestiges of hope," goes beyond just outlining the problem. With the inference that they are about to collapse, particularly the free political thought in the area, the situation here has been portrayed as an attack on intellectual variety, political thought, and freedom of speech. Readers are made to feel pity for the author, who also conveys a feeling of urgency and warns of a serious and inevitable predicament. Furthermore, emphasized have been the counterterrorism initiatives and their legitimacy; the word "supposed" in "supposed battle against terrorism" has important ideological ramifications. It suggests ambiguity and casts question on the legitimacy, hidden motivations, and goals of these initiatives. This could entice readers to consider other goals or motivations, including regional geopolitical hegemony.

Equating and Contrasting

Metaphorical equivalence has been identified, the linguistic realization of this form of equating can be seen in "crushing the last vestiges of hope for any independent political thought in the Middle East". It has successfully established an equivalence between an abstract activity, which is the repression of free political thinking and the concrete action of "crushing". Thus, providing a more profound understanding of the ideological underpinning within the context of the narrative. By employing this strategy, the conceptual and emotional effects of the act of repression are amplified. The intentional use of a vivid and aggressive metaphor has the ability to elicit a profound emotional reaction, possibly inducing feelings of indignation or grief in the readers towards the depicted act of oppression.

Conclusion

Al Jazeera platform, in its reporting, has overtly promoted ideologies that were antagonistic to the Saudi-led bloc, which implemented severe measures against Qatar. By applying the tools of critical stylistics, the analysis revealed framing the issue in a manner that showed sympathy for Qatar and victimizing it and emphasized the claimed hostility, irrationality, and concealed political motives and agendas behind it.

Naming & Describing

Al Jazeera purposefully chose words and noun phrases to use in order to ideologically frame the acts against Qatar. Instead of principally based policy, the platform portrayed the Saudi-led bloc's activities on Qatar as intentional, aggressive, unjustified, and punitive measures using terms like "siege," "punishment," and "hostilities." Other terms that explicitly gave Saudi leadership complete responsibility and decision-making authority were "leadership" and "credibility." Complex noun formulations, like "last vestiges of hope for independent political thought," have also used a range of ideological presumptions. Al Jazeera has also skillfully heightened the description with modifiers like evaluative adjectives, like in the case of "smaller neighbor," which conjures up the idea that Qatar is more vulnerable than its more powerful adversaries. Other terms used to characterize the blockade as harsh and akin to a siege include "medieval style." Readers are prompted to feel something as this includes moral assessments. The study has also shown how Al Jazeera uses nominalization to accomplish several ideological goals, like "crashing hope" and "punishing Qatar." Paints act as impersonal, abstract, generic, repeated, and continuing, which removes accountability and encourages scepticism, hence hiding agency. By depicting Qatar as an inert victim of bad acts without naming the offenders directly, the story gently encouraged an anti-Saudi mentality, therefore producing an ideological narrative that was favorable to Qatar.

Equating & Contrasting

According to the investigation, AL Jazeera used these tactics to critique or gently nudge readers to consider certain behaviors and deeds, as with the relational equivalency method. It has called the Saudi leadership's activities against Qatar "unrealistic," drawing comparisons to acts unconnected to or disconnected from reality. Another approach has portrayed the situation and the embargo in a moving way to successfully convey the tyranny that the Saudi-led bloc is imposing on Qatar and arouse strong feelings in readers. Al Jazeera has also used opposing, ideologically and strategically based methods. For example, a negated opposition tactic would have readers mistrust and question the legitimacy of the person by showing acts that go against expected results. A critical viewpoint is encouraged when it is implied that actions such as erecting barriers were not often used. The replacive opposition method, meanwhile, subtly criticizes the existing state of things while providing a different and better future. Instead of fostering hostility, promoting the unity of the Gulf countries promotes peace.

Implications

Practical Implications

The practical implications of this study are vast and relevant to the field of media analysis and communication, in particular. Therefore, the findings of this study enable media practitioners, journalists, and communication professionals to understand the specific linguistic strategies used by Al Jazeera in relation to the Gulf Crisis. It is vital for media organizations that want to remain impartial and credible to understand how certain words and phrases can impact people's perceptions and promote specific narratives. Therefore, by recognizing the possible bias when using language, media practitioners can try to give a more accurate picture of geopolitics to the public, thus increasing trust. Moreover, it provides recommendations for media literacy campaigns that intend to help people understand the value of a critical approach to news media consumption. In this way, by helping people identify and analyze the language used in media texts, this study responds to the need for encouraging critical and responsible media consumption.

Theoretical Implications

Theoretically, this research contributes to the literature and theories of media studies by offering a new and valuable approach for explicating the connection between language/communication, ideology, and media representation. The present study advocates for both — the methods of corpus linguistics and critical stylistics — as the integrated approach to media analysis is beneficial. It underlines the dynamic relations between discursive practices and power relations for the construction of media ideological subject positions, thus, it enlightens the processes by which people in a society think or are made to think about certain issues. Furthermore, this investigation makes a theoretical contribution to the literature on media framing and agenda-setting by elucidating how these activities function in times of political instability. In using this approach, this research as a form of socio-linguistic analysis contributes to knowledge in the field by revealing how media outlets achieve certain political and social agendas in social discursive practices. Altogether, it can be noticed that the theoretical contributions of this investigation are not limited to explorations of the Gulf Crisis narrative solely; thereby shedding light on many aspects of media representation and communication in modern society.

Limitations & Future Research Directions

The major limitation of this study is that it only includes Al Jazeera in the analysis and does not consider other media organizations. While this assignment can be helpful in identifying the overt framing techniques used by the selected news organization, it may not necessarily offer a wealth of insight into every aspect of media representation concerning the crisis. Future studies could also try to overcome this limitation by conducting cross-sectional research and comparing the coverage across different media sources, including domestic media and international media sources. They would also help researchers uncover the systematic variation of formatting implemented by numerous media organizations, thus creating a broader outlook on the role of the media in creating public awareness of political crises. Future researchers could measure the way media framing impacts the overall perception change of the public by conducting audience reception studies or content analysis of the public discourse. Furthermore, future studies may also examine the effect of social media platforms on sharing certain types of messages related to the Gulf Crisis and how they interact with the previous media message types.

Disclaimer Statement

This academic research is an attempt to linguistically analyze the discourse surrounding the 2017 Gulf Crisis, which is possibly a politically sensitive and controversial topic. I acknowledge the diverse perspectives and potential sensitivities involved; therefore, I tried to approach this topic with the utmost impartiality and objectivity, relying solely on factual evidence from credible sources and on systematic methodology. This research is purely academic and does not promote or advocate any specific viewpoint or stance or contribute to the conflict. The goal is to enhance scholarly knowledge through rigorous analysis. Readers are encouraged to critically evaluate the analysis presented and draw their own conclusions.

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