

Ethical Dilemmas In Media Coverage Of Israel - Palestine Conflict: Analysis Of The New York Times

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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to assess news articles on the Israel-Palestine conflict and to evaluate the reporting pattern of The New York Times about this conflict. Out of 38 news articles, 23 are classified as highly negative, while 10 are classified as moderately negative, suggesting a significant focus on unfavorable viewpoints. By comparison, a mere 7 pieces were classified as fairly favorable, while 9 were classified as highly positive. These findings give rise to ethical concerns regarding the newspaper's dedication to journalistic integrity, impartiality, and equity. The New York Times content may breach the ideals of accurate, fair, and unbiased reporting, which are essential in journalistic ethics. The study aims to draw attention towards the fact that the ethical reporting pattern of The New York Times has not changed with time; rather it remains the same - that is biased and non-acceptance of the diverse views as underscored by systematic review. This research provides readers with insight into the New York Times' long-standing method of story presentation because it shows that the newspaper's reporting pattern has stayed constant over time.

1. Introduction

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has endured for many years, marked by periods of escalation and de-escalation, yet it continues to be a significant problem in world geopolitics. The conflict offers a captivating and complex narrative for the media to portray, with its diverse range of dramatic events, dynamic personalities, and deeply ingrained historical, cultural, and religious elements. Amidst this long-lasting struggle, the connection between conflict and the media becomes a highly important subject, characterized by continuous accusations of partiality and manipulation from all perspectives. The interaction between conflict and media representation influences both public perception and the course of the conflict. This highlights the importance of responsible and ethical journalism in dealing with the complexities of this long-standing and deeply rooted conflict.

The media landscape serves as both a mirror reflecting the intricate nature of global conflicts and shaping the public's understanding and interpretation of them. The media functions as a potent instrument for spreading knowledge, but its impact carries ethical implications that can significantly affect society comprehension and involvement. The decisions made in choosing tales, constructing narratives, and giving priority to certain voices have significant consequences for matters such as precision, equity, and portrayal. Moreover, media coverage exerts a profound influence that extends beyond immediate perceptions and discussions, shaping enduring attitudes, beliefs, and societal conventions. Reporting biases and inaccuracies have the potential to sustain stereotypes, intensify divisions, and contribute to the continuation of conflicts. Hence, beyond mere adherence to professional norms, ethical considerations in

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media coverage encompass the promotion of social responsibility and the cultivation of a more profound comprehension of intricate matters such as the Israel-Palestine conflict.

Journalists encounter moral challenges when confronted with conflicting values, including the duty to impartially report on events and the responsibility to magnify the voices of marginalized individuals. Maintaining a delicate equilibrium among these factors is critical to preserve the credibility of media representation and cultivate confidence among viewers. Media coverage is of utmost importance in the Israel-Palestine conflict as it shapes narratives, influences public opinion, and frames the discourse surrounding this prolonged geopolitical struggle (Roy, 2012). However, moral dilemmas loom large in the domain of media representation, posing a challenge to the fundamental values of objectivity, fairness, and accuracy (Shupak, 2018).

When considering ethical issues in media coverage of the Israel-Palestine conflict, a thorough examination of publications such as *The New York Times* demonstrates the complexities involved in adhering to journalistic principles in the face of profoundly conflicting narratives. The influence of the newspaper as a prominent news source extends beyond public opinion and influences the worldwide dialogue about the conflict. Nevertheless, its reporting is not prone to criticism, specifically about concerns regarding impartiality, prejudice, and portrayal. This study undertakes a comprehensive examination of ethical quandaries that arise in media coverage of the Israel-Palestine conflict, focusing specifically on *The New York Times*, a highly regarded and influential newspaper on an international scale. By analyzing the editorial choices, narrative construction, and journalistic methods utilized by *The New York Times* in reporting on this multifaceted dispute, this research endeavors to understand the complex network of ethical dilemmas that media practitioners encounter.

The research presented here holds great importance due to the profound influence that media portrayals have on public opinion, policy formulation, and the wider dialogue concerning the Israel-Palestine conflict. The impact of media coverage extends beyond governmental policies and public opinion; it can also determine the trajectory of negotiations and peace processes (Herfroy-Mischler & Friedman, 2020). Therefore, it is imperative to comprehend the ethical aspects of media coverage to facilitate well-informed public dialogue and encourage responsibility among media professionals.

Furthermore, the ongoing Israel-Palestine dispute is marked by firmly established narratives, historical resentments, and conflicting assertions of territorial control and national identity (Falk & Friel, 2007). Amidst this intensely volatile atmosphere, media coverage frequently transforms into an arena where contradictory narratives contend for credibility and acknowledgment. *The New York Times*, by its wide-ranging circulation and significant impact, holds a pivotal role in determining how the world perceives the conflict (Logan, 2015). Hence, a comprehensive examination of its media portrayal offers significant perspectives on the wider mechanisms of media representation and the inherent ethical dilemmas that accompany it. This research is of the utmost importance and relevance given the ongoing tensions and conflicting narratives surrounding the Israel-Palestine issue. In light of the ethical challenges that media organizations face in presenting this protracted conflict in a balanced, accurate, and contextually relevant manner, a comprehensive examination of *The New York Times*' methodology provides significant knowledge regarding the ethical dilemmas that influence media portrayals of this issue. By conducting a thorough analysis of *The New York Times*' coverage beginning on October 7, 2023, this study aims to clarify significant concepts and connections in the field of media ethics. Specifically, it will emphasize the conflicts that arise

from the need to maintain editorial independence, ensure journalistic objectivity, and deliver accurate and fair news. By thoroughly examining these critical aspects, this research endeavors to make a scholarly contribution towards a more profound comprehension of the ethical intricacies that are intrinsic in media portrayals of the Israel-Palestine conflict. Additionally, it seeks to promote productive discourse that seeks to improve the credibility and accountability of media depictions.

2-Literature Review

The ethical principles upheld in journalism are essential for the functioning of democratic societies, as they protect against the spread of false information and the manipulation of public opinion. The Code of Ethics by the Society of Professional Journalists highlights the significance of truth, accountability, and independence in cultivating public confidence. Nevertheless, the changing media environment and the influence of commercialization have sparked worries over ethical breaches and a decline in quality. In the current age of constant news coverage and widespread use of social media, the focus on generating online traffic and keeping the audience interested often becomes more important than maintaining the principles of ethical journalism.

The pursuit of profit in the business world can result in sensationalism, simplicity, and the prioritization of attention-grabbing stories above in-depth analysis. In the pursuit of viewership and advertising money, media organizations face the danger of compromising the thoroughness and precision of their reporting on intricate matters such as the Israel-Palestine conflict. The ethical dilemmas surrounding media coverage of the war are further complicated by wider apprehensions regarding the decline of journalistic principles in a progressively commercialized media environment. Amidst the complex and intensely polarized narrative of the Israel-Palestine conflict, ethical journalism plays a crucial role in providing context and clarity.

The Israel-Palestine conflict entails more than just a disagreement over land; it involves a battle between historical narratives and conflicting identities. Both Israelis and Palestinians assert their ownership of the land based on historical and religious accounts, which perpetuates a recurring pattern of violence and distrust. Israelis view the area as a place of great importance due to its historical and ancestral connection to the Jewish people, which dates back thousands of years. Similarly, Palestinians perceive themselves as the autochthonous dwellers of the country, possessing a historical and cultural legacy intricately linked to the place they consider their homeland. The contrasting accounts generate a powerful blend of feelings, intensifying a cycle of aggression and suspicion that has endured for many years. Moreover, the struggle about historical narratives and clashing identities goes beyond mere territorial disagreements; it profoundly influences the fundamental essence of national awareness for both Israelis and Palestinians (Caplan, 2019). The desire for acknowledgment, credibility, and autonomy is closely intertwined with issues of individuality and the ability to make decisions for oneself, as both parties strive to establish their entitlement to coexist and prosper in the territory they perceive as their rightful possession. The presence of this existential aspect introduces a level of intricacy to the war, raising it above a simple geopolitical competition to a basic collision of perspectives and goals regarding existence. Media coverage in this environment is essential for molding public views and comprehension of the conflict, exerting influence on attitudes and opinions from both sides of the divide (McCombs, 2011). The involvement of several stakeholders, such as political factions, religious leaders, and external mediators, adds complexity to the task of attaining enduring peace. Journalists must have a deep understanding

of the intricacies of the conflict to deliver precise and comprehensive reporting that accurately portrays the situation on the ground.

The portrayal of the Israel-Palestine conflict by the media frequently aligns with wider geopolitical objectives and power dynamics, which in turn shape public opinion and governmental responses. Research has demonstrated that media portrayals have the potential to strengthen preconceptions and biases, influencing people's attitudes towards other groups or individuals. The New York Times, as a prominent print and digital news source, exerts significant impact in molding worldwide perspectives by reporting on intricate matters such as the Israel-Palestine conflict. The prominence of The New York Times as the "newspaper of record" enhances the credibility of its reporting on global affairs, including the Israel-Palestine conflict (Zelizer, Park, & Gudelunas, 2002). Conversely, objections to the framing and editorial decisions of the newspaper underscore the intrinsic subjectivity of journalistic reporting. The editorial policies and institutional biases of The New York Times have the potential to impact the selection and presentation of news stories, thereby potentially influencing public perceptions and understanding. An examination of the coverage by The New York Times provides significant insights into the complexities of geopolitical reporting and the obligations that media organizations bear in this regard.

The New York Times' portrayal of the history of the Israel-Palestine conflict has changed throughout time, in response to shifts in editorial position, geopolitical factors, and cultural perspectives. The New York Times has faced historical criticism for its alleged pro-Israel bias, since critics contend that its coverage tends to prioritise Israeli viewpoints while downplaying Palestinian voices and narratives. During times of conflict, such as the Arab-Israeli wars of 1948, 1967, and 1973, The New York Times typically presented the conflict from the perspective of Israeli security concerns and the existential dangers they faced (Arikat, 2011). The newspaper emphasized Israel's legitimate right to protect itself against hostile neighboring countries. This framing perpetuated the narrative that Israel is a fragile democracy surrounded by unfriendly Arab nations, effectively portraying the Palestinians as the ones initiating conflict and diverting attention from the fundamental problems of occupation, displacement, and lack of statehood.

Nevertheless, The New York Times has encountered increasing criticism in recent times regarding its reporting on the Israel-Palestine conflict, which has prompted a reassessment of the publication's framing and editorial methodology. Appearances of prejudice and the exclusion of Palestinian viewpoints have prompted demands for coverage that is more equitable and sophisticated, mirroring the intricate complexities of the conflict. In light of this, The New York Times has implemented measures to enhance the breadth of its sources, include Palestinian perspectives, and furnish readers with additional context, recognising the importance of a more holistic comprehension of the historical and political dynamics involved. This research aims to analyze the modifications made by The New York Times regarding its coverage of the Israel-Palestine conflict. It will assess the extent to which the newspaper has responded to past critiques and altered its presentation of the historical narrative (Finkelstein, 2003). This study aims to enhance our comprehension of the ethical challenges involved in media coverage of controversial topics and evaluate the influence of The New York Times' evolving reporting approach on public perceptions and discourse regarding the Israel-Palestine conflict. It will achieve this by conducting a thorough analysis of the newspaper's changing approach to reporting on the conflict.

The influence of media coverage on conflict resolution attempts lies in its ability to shape public attitudes and views, either aiding or impeding the process. Partial or unbalanced journalism can

intensify pre-existing tensions and amplify distrust among opposing factions. On the other hand, providing fair and knowledgeable reporting can help foster mutual comprehension and facilitate productive discussions. Amidst the Israel-Palestine conflict, where deeply ingrained narratives and geopolitical agendas frequently overwhelm humanitarian considerations, the practice of ethical journalism can play a pivotal role in promoting peacebuilding (Gilboa, 2009). Through the act of scrutinizing those in power and disseminating precise and reliable information, journalists have the ability to foster the circumstances essential for the establishment of enduring peace.

2.1 Research Questions

1. Has The New York Times modified its position on ethical reporting concerning the Israel- Palestine conflict since October 07, 2023, in comparison to its prior positions?
2. As of October 07, 2023, have there been any noticeable changes in The New York Times' ethical position concerning coverage of the Israel-Palestine conflict with respect to objectivity, representation, and bias, in comparison to previous stances?

2.2 Research Objectives

1. To evaluate the degree to which The New York Times has incorporated ethical principles - such as representation, objectivity, and bias - into its coverage of the Israel-Palestine conflict as of October 07, 2023, in comparison to its prior reporting practices.
2. The objective of this study is to analyze the ethical considerations that impact The New York Times' editorial decisions regarding the organization, curation, and delivery of news articles pertaining to the Israel-Palestine conflict.

3. Research Method

Research methodology refers to the structured and theoretical examination of the techniques used in a certain area of study. The term “comprises” refers to the inclusion of the theoretical examination of methods and principles linked to a certain field of knowledge. This analysis is conducted to ensure that the research is conducted with scientific rigor. The purpose of this framework is to guide the researcher in conducting a thorough study, ensuring the accuracy, validity, and dependability of produced data. It aids in delineating the extent of the study, choosing the suitable methodologies, and accurately interpreting the findings, so enhancing the integrity and credibility of the research (Sinha & Dhiman, 2002).

Qualitative Research is a methodological approach and used to understand human behavior, perceptions, experience, and social phenomena in-depth. This method is used for focusing on exploration, interpreting, and comprehending complex social issues especially human issues rather than quantifying them numerically (Smythe & Giddings, 2007). This method involves collecting and analyzing non-numerical data, such as interviews, observations, textual analysis, and focus groups, to gain insights into people's thoughts, feelings, and motivations, but depends upon the nature of research. This research tool is especially useful when studying complicated socio-political situations, like the conflict between Israel and Palestine, where public views and policy responses are greatly influenced by media depictions.

“Believing, with Max Weber, that man is an animal suspended in webs of significance he himself has spun, I take culture to be those webs, and the analysis of it to be therefore not an experimental science in search of law but an interpretive one in search of meaning.” – Clifford Geertz (1973, p.5). These words highlight the significance of meaning and understanding of language in qualitative research. Thus, one can say that qualitative research is

a type of research

that not only focuses on the denotative meaning but also takes into consideration the connotative meaning or interpretation of the language used in the content (to be analyzed) for in-depth analysis (Brennen, 2021). Furthermore, qualitative research is “subjective” in nature in contrast to the “objective” nature of quantitative research. It includes research questions, offers critique, analyzes and interprets information and is imbued with values. As a result, this research has formulated research questions in a manner that are open to exchange of views so that different perspectives and opinions from experts can be taken into consideration for detailed analysis.

Researchers use a methodical, systematic procedure called content analysis to analyze and understand media information. It entails a careful analysis of language, images, and conversation rather than just counting words or phrases. Researchers can identify dominant narratives, biases, and ideological undercurrents by closely examining the content of media sources such as newspapers, magazines, and web articles (Mayring, 2014). This can provide insight into how particular issues are perceived and comprehended in society. Furthermore, by enabling researchers to detect patterns and trends that have developed over time, content analysis offers significant insights into the progression of media portrayal and public dialogue. Researchers are able to discern societal attitudes, political ideologies, and cultural norms by examining development over time in terms of language, tone, and themes (Elo & Kyngäs, 2008). Adopting a longitudinal perspective allows for a more profound comprehension of the intricate correlation that exists between media content and wider social dynamics. This, in turn, fosters well-informed dialogues concerning the media’s capacity to mold public sentiment and exert influence over societal transformation. The ethical challenges that the media coverage of the Israel-Palestine conflict presents have prompted intensified scrutiny of the coverage, particularly that of prominent outlets such as The New York Times. Diverse studies have provided insights into distinct facets of this coverage. CNN’s coverage of the conflict was analyzed by Bhowmik and Fisher (2023) through the lens of peace journalism, with a particular focus on the influence of war journalism frames as opposed to peace journalism frames on public discourse.

In addition, Roy (2012) examined the ramifications of media portrayal of conflicts, with a particular focus on how the discursive application of terminology shapes perceptions of others that frequently benefit dominant factions. Suwarno and Sahayu (2020) undertook a critical discourse analysis with the objective of uncovering media prejudice in the portrayal of Palestine and Israel by The New York Times and other prominent news organizations. Furthermore, Yarchi (2016) examined the impact of imagefare on foreign media coverage of conflicts as a strategic maneuver employed by states, with a specific focus on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

When analyzing the role of the media in conflicts, issues of trust and bias must be taken into account. The investigation conducted by Aharoni and Tenenboim-Weinblatt (2019) explored the manifestations of skepticism exhibited by journalists who were reporting on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This research brought attention to the intricate nature of relying on media narratives. In addition, Almahallawi and Zauddin (2018) emphasized the tendency of media coverage to depict the conflict in a manner that centers on the effects on Israelis, rather than as a struggle for Jewish nationhood.

In general, these studies highlight the complex and diverse characteristics of media representation of the Israel-Palestine conflict, with a particular emphasis on the ethical complexities, partialities, and deficiencies in trust that impact the media’s depiction of the conflict.

3.1 Research Design

The study design primarily employs a qualitative technique using content analysis. This approach enables a methodical analysis of textual information derived from The New York Times' reporting on the Israel-Palestine conflict, with a specific emphasis on ethical factors such as integrity, professionalism, and respect for diversity. In addition, the study has also conducted systematic literature review of the existing literature on the reporting of the New York Times.

3.1.1 Research Procedure

The research commenced by gathering a comprehensive dataset comprising articles from The New York Times' archives that pertain to the Israel-Palestine conflict from October 07, 2023 till April 07, 2024. In addition, the research has carried out systematic literature review of the existing literature highlighting the reporting pattern of the New York Times in the past decades. The text of both the news articles and the literature for systematic review undergo content analytic techniques to systematically examine them, aiming to find patterns associated with ethical reporting practices.

3.1.2 Collection Procedure

A technique applied once a researcher has a sufficient amount of data for exploration, including both primary and secondary data. In this research the primary data is collected through content analysis. Upon having sufficient data, the study uses a thematic analysis method to analyze the data. Thematic analysis is an effective way to analyze the data by creating themes and matching patterns; thus, help the study to gain effective findings. Secondary data is collected through systematic literature review.

3.2.3 Research Population and sampling

The research population comprises news articles published by The New York Times that are relevant to the Israel-Palestine conflict from October 07, 2023, to April 07, 2024. In addition, research papers/articles highlighting the reporting style of The New York Times about the Israel-Palestine conflict in past decades also constitute the population of this study. News articles reporting the Israel-Palestine conflict have been selected within a two-day interval. This is done to manage the volume of data and to keep the trend of news intact. In addition, for the systematic review around 15 articles have been selected with the focus on the reporting pattern of the New York Times about the Israel-Palestine conflict throughout history. Hence, a purposive sampling was done for this study.

4-Data Analysis

Howard Friel and Richard Falk expose how the New York Times has consistently disregarded international legal norms to protect its readers from Israel's lawlessness in their critical examination of Israel-Palestine coverage in the US media. The Times regularly publishes in-depth commentary and dozens of front-page stories about the killings of Israelis; however, it rarely publishes similar stories about the killings of Palestinians and largely ignores the copious amounts of evidence that show the Israeli government has been violating Palestinian human rights. The Times also routinely underreports or ignores a wide range of important legal issues related to Israel's policies, such as the country's use of lethal force against Palestinians, its expropriation and settlement of Palestinian land, its two-tiered legal system based on national origin that is reminiscent of South Africa's apartheid system, and its demolition of Palestinian homes. These media methods have seriously harmed our understanding of the Middle East and US foreign policy in general, in addition to hiding the

scale of Israel's misdeeds from the American population, which provides Israel with the majority of its financial and military support. (Jackson, 2024) presents a groundbreaking and extensive study that demonstrates historical prejudice toward Palestine in a globally significant newspaper, The New York Times (NYT), during the First and Second Palestinian Intifadas. The author employs advanced natural language processing toolkits and a regression model with a meticulously validated word bank to examine more than 33,000 articles from the New York Times. The analysis focuses on two aspects: the utilization of active/passive voice and the objectivity, tone, and presence of violent sentiment in the language used. After conducting her quantitative study, she proceeds to validate the findings with a qualitative stage, examining biased articles from each period. When considering the historical backdrop, the essay demonstrates that the New York Times exhibited a significant and unfair prejudice against Palestinians, which was particularly pronounced during both times. Furthermore, the bias actually intensified from the First Intifada to the Second. This study builds upon previous qualitative research on anti-Palestinian prejudice in the US media and aims to make a methodological contribution by promoting dialogue between quantitative and qualitative measures of bias.

(Artz, 2014) in his study utilizes the concept of media framing to examine the editorial decisions made by the New York Times when reporting on the bombardment and invasion of Gaza during the summer of 2014. An extensive content analysis was conducted on front-page stories published by the New York Times between 8 July, when the attack started, and 26 August, when a very stable cease-fire was declared. This research aimed to identify the main explanatory frameworks, preferred sources, and selective judgments of events. The findings indicate that the use of a 'both sides' narrative, selective identification, and legitimization of sources, as well as the exclusion of important contextual details, led readers to form unique opinions that favored acceptance and tolerance of Israeli actions, while simultaneously condemning Palestinian conduct. Credible sources, such as the United Nations and alternative news outlets, suggest that additional evidence and perspectives would incriminate Israel for committing war crimes and promote greater backing for ending the occupation.

This study by (Caballero, 2010) examines the influence of media bias on the reporting of catastrophic occurrences related to the Palestine/Israel conflict. This study specifically examines Operation Cast Lead, a 3-week Israeli military offensive in the Gaza Strip that led to the fatalities of around 1,400 Palestinians and 13 Israelis. This analysis examines The Times' coverage of the conflict, which prior research has identified as displaying media bias in favor of Israel. The study explores how the newspaper engages in media manipulation, misrepresentation, framing, slant, and linguistic determinism. This study offers valuable insight into the mainstream media's role in twisting the realities of the Palestine/Israel conflict to convey a biased portrayal that favors Israel. A total of ninety-one pieces were selected from the New York Times' news and editorial coverage of Operation Cast Lead, spanning from December 27, 2008 to January 18, 2009, with an additional week included to account for any necessary edits and further coverage. This study uses content analysis to examine the presentation and frequency of reporting on Palestinian deaths and injuries compared to Israeli deaths and injuries in the New York Times over a catastrophic time. B'Tselem, the Israeli human rights organization, supplies data regarding the quantity of fatalities and injuries during Operation Cast Lead, serving as the quantitative foundation against which the findings of this study are contrasted. Despite the fact that Palestinians had a mortality rate 106 times higher than Israelis, the New York Times exhibited media bias by selectively covering only 3% of Palestinian deaths in their headlines and initial paragraphs. After thoroughly examining the entirety of the stories, this study discovered that the New York Times reported on 431% more

Israeli deaths compared to Palestinian deaths, resulting in a ratio of 25:1. Only a mere 17% of fatalities among Palestinian children were given comprehensive coverage in the complete articles.

The recent Israeli offensive in Gaza in May 2021 highlighted the significant impact of the international media as a powerful means of acquiring knowledge, forming agendas, and influencing opinions among different socioeconomic groups and viewers. This study by (Amer, 2022) seeks to investigate the coverage of the Israeli onslaught on Gaza in May 2021 by the New York Times and the BBC, using theoretical conceptions and analytical tools derived from Critical Discourse Analysis (Fairclough, 1992, 1995). I analyze the primary subjects and significant linguistic patterns employed by two important media organizations in portraying Palestinian and Israeli individuals and their acts of violence. I also explore how this coverage leads to the formation of a specific ideological portrayal of these events. The findings indicate that the two media outlets primarily prioritized Israel's arguments and objectives, disregarding the Palestinian narrative and rights. This was achieved by merging two key subjects in their portrayal of the Israeli attack on Gaza. The Israeli conflict was framed as a military operation against Hamas, rather than the Palestinian population as a whole. The depiction portrays the bombardment as a retaliatory response to Hamas's rockets. Moreover, Israel's actions in Gaza resulted in significant human and material casualties. These losses were justified by the notion that there were victims on both sides. These two topics diminish Israel's ethical and political accountability for the huge casualties and devastation suffered by the Palestinians in Gaza. This study demonstrates the influential role of the media in shaping, validating, or discrediting political figures and their activities, while also perpetuating power imbalances among various political factions.

The objective of this study is to determine the primary news frames utilized in American newspaper websites when discussing the Israeli settlement issue. Additionally, it aims to identify the key topics related to Israeli settlement that receive the most attention on these websites, as well as the prominent framing mechanisms and tools employed. The study also seeks to uncover the characteristics and patterns of news frames and trends, and to identify the key figures associated with the framing of reasons and outcomes. This study is a descriptive research by (Issa & Al Hamarna, 2020) that applies content analysis to a specific news topic on the websites of the New York Times and the Washington Post. The selected time frame for the analysis is from January 1st, 2015, to December 31st, 2017. During this period, a total of 365 news articles were found on the topic of Israeli settlement, with 175 articles in the New York Times and 190 articles in the Washington Post. The study revealed that the frames depicting the expected results were ranked highest among the news frames related to the Israeli settlement issue on the websites analyzed. Following this, frames related to responsibility were ranked second, and frames related to proposed solutions were ranked last. Additionally, the study found that Israeli key figures outnumbered International and Palestinian key figures on the analyzed websites, indicating a lack of Palestinian presence in this crucial issue.

The New York Times' coverage of the Israel-Palestine conflict has been the focus of critical critique and scientific investigation. Roy (2012) examined The New York Times' portrayal of the conflict in relation to important political events, emphasizing possible biases and framing techniques used by the newspaper. In the same way, Yousaf et al. (2020) observed that The New York Times has a tendency to depict Palestinians as the primary instigators of the conflict, rather than Israel. This suggests a distinct narrative bias in the newspaper's coverage. Furthermore, research conducted by Gaber et al. (2009) has revealed the presence of partiality towards Israel in specific areas of The New York Times' news coverage. However, the extent of this bias may differ depending on the particular conflict or event being reported. In addition,

a study conducted by Noakes & Wilkins (2002) has brought attention to changes in the focus and presentation of Palestinian matters in The New York Times. This suggests that there have been developments in the viewpoints and stories being portrayed. The media's portrayal of the conflict focuses on the effect it has on Israeli citizens, presenting it as a pursuit of Jewish statehood that is impeded by Palestinian concerns (Almahallawi & Zauddin, 2018).

Ozohu-Suleiman (2014) did a quantitative analysis that compared the depiction of the conflict in The New York Times with that in Israel's Haaretz newspaper. The analysis revealed a pro- Israeli bias in The New York Times' coverage. In 2003, Viser conducted a quantitative analysis of bias indicators in the coverage of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict by the New York Times and Israel's Haaretz newspaper. The study revealed that the New York Times exhibited a greater pro-Israeli bias compared to Haaretz. Viser argues that the New York Times' portrayal of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict not only displayed an unnecessary aspect of war journalism but also revealed the influential position of the United States, which some historians consider to be the primary catalyst behind the conflict.

This study conducted by (Elmasry, 2009) examined the newspaper coverage of killings in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in the New York Times and Chicago Tribune. The study was to investigate the framing techniques employed by two newspapers in portraying the political violence between Israelis and Palestinians. The objective was to identify the unique framing devices utilized by the newspapers to convey their respective perspectives. The results of the content analysis conducted in this study indicate that the New York Times and Chicago Tribune portrayed the violence in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in a manner that justified Israeli killings by tacitly supporting Israeli aggression and giving greater importance to the Israeli viewpoint. The results also indicate that the publications discredited Palestinian violence by indirectly denouncing Palestinian killings.

The study has also analyzed news pieces published by The New York Times between October 7, 2023, and April 7, 2024, for a duration of six months. Articles were purposely selected with a two-day gap between each published news article to ensure that important information was included without being overwhelmed by a large amount of material. Once the news articles were selected themes were created out of the initial codes generated. Once themes were generated they were analyzed on the basis of ethical dimension containing values as defined by the UN including biasness, impartiality, and neutrality in reporting. For this purpose NVivo software was used to analyze the sentiment of the Israel-Palestine conflict portrayal in the news articles of The New York Times.

5- Discussions

The New York Times' coverage of the Israel-Palestine issue has been under scrutiny for its perceived bias and absence of objectivity, as underscored by systematic review. Howard Friel and Richard Falk's analysis demonstrates that the New York Times frequently disregards international legal standards in order to protect its readers from being exposed to Israel's infringements on Palestinian human rights. This prejudice is apparent in the unequal attention given to Israeli losses as opposed to Palestinian casualties, the exclusion of crucial legal matters such as Israel's utilization of deadly force and settlement policies, and the inadequate reporting of the demolition of Palestinian homes.

Jackson (2024) provides a quantitative analysis that clearly illustrates this prejudice by employing sophisticated analytical methods. The study reveals that the New York Times' bias against Palestinians became more pronounced over the period between the First and Second Intifadas. Additionally, Artz (2014) and Caballero (2010) show proof of the New York Times'

deliberate manipulation and distortion of information during important occurrences such as the Gaza bombing and Operation Cast Lead, respectively. These investigations indicate that the New York Times' editorial decisions and reporting practices have consistently promoted a narrative that is biased towards Israeli perspectives, therefore distorting public comprehension and exerting an impact on U.S. foreign policy.

The examination of the chosen New York Times stories spanning from October 7, 2023, to April 7, 2024, indicates a largely pessimistic sentiment in the reporting. Among all the articles, 23 were classified as highly negative against Palestine, while 10 were classified as moderately negative, suggesting a significant focus on unfavorable viewpoints. By comparison, a mere 7 pieces were classified as fairly favorable, while 9 were classified as highly positive. The distribution of publications over the analyzed period indicates a notable bias towards negative reporting, with almost three times as many pieces reflecting negativity compared to those with a favorable perspective.

Therefore, drawing from a comprehensive evaluation and qualitative examination, it can be inferred that The New York Times consistently adheres to a comparable structure, marked by generally pessimistic portrayal of the Israel-Palestine conflict. The research reveals a notable prejudice and absence of neutrality, which demonstrates unethical factors in the newspaper's approach to reporting on this matter.

6-Conclusion

The available literature along with the sentiment analysis on The New York Times reporting pattern of the Israel-Palestine conflict indicated that the newspaper has always had a pessimistic approach towards the conflict. In addition, sentiment analysis also indicated that the majority news articles had a negative approach compared to a positive or neutral stance; thus, indicating that the reporting pattern on the said conflict has not changed with time. Consequently, this questions the ethical standards of journalism about fairness, accuracy, objectivity, and impartiality. The findings suggest that despite The New York Times coverage of the Israel-Palestine conflict being pessimistic there have been a few news articles that were positive and a few others moderately positive too; therefore, it ought to consider the ethical journalistic standards to provide readers both sides of the story in a balanced way.

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