Highlighting Biased Western Media Discourse on Israel-Palestine: A Textual Analysis of News Articles by Mohammed El-Kurd

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ABSTRACT

Western media is evidently biased when it comes to reporting on escalations in Israel and Palestine in a way that disadvantages the Palestinians. However, recently, there has been a visible trend in the rise of Palestinian counter-narratives that interrogate and address the biased discourse in Western media. The rise in Palestinian counter-narratives can be attributed to social media, as it allows Palestinians to bypass the problem of mainstream media censorship, including giving a platform to many Palestinians who advocate for the Palestinian cause. This paper focused specifically on Mohammed El-Kurd, who has used his platform as a journalist, writer, and activist to provide counter-narratives to dispute the misrepresentation and invalidation of the Palestinian people. Using the textual analysis element of Fairclough's Three-Dimensional (3D) model of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), this paper explained the linguistic features of three of El-Kurd's articles published in the American magazine *The Nation.* The study finds that El-Kurd consistently used the active voice, negative expressive values of his Western counterparts, as well as repetition, overwording, and collocations.

Keywords: Counter-narratives; critical discourse analysis; Israel-Palestine; media bias; textual analysis

INTRODUCTION

The news plays an important role in our everyday lives as it is heavily relied on by the public in order to be informed of key events. Western media has consistently misrepresented and disfavoured the Palestinians when reporting on events in Israel and Palestine. This bias can be seen in the ways in which news reports are written as well as in interviews conducted with prominent Palestinian figures. Such bias has contributed to the censorship of the Palestinian experiences in the context of the 76-year Israeli occupation of Palestine, and this bias can result in risks such as the perpetuation of unbalanced power structures, entire masses being misinformed, and, in the worst case, there being rampant journalism malpractice. Thus, addressing this issue is essential in preventing its harmful normalisation.

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Despite the obstacles Palestinians face from mainstream Western media, in recent times, Palestinian counter-narratives have become more prominent and far-reaching, which can be attributed to social media platforms allowing a space for their experiences to be heard and reach a wide audience, bypassing the problem of mainstream media censorship. While many studies have been done analysing and reiterating the instances of biased reporting of Palestine by the Western media, very few studies have looked at how influential Palestinian figures, particularly Palestinian journalists and writers, respond to and address the biased discourse. In addition, specifically in the field of discourse analysis, not many studies exist that investigate the counter-narratives from a linguistic point of view.

This paper focused on the linguistic features of the counter-narratives provided by Mohammed El-Kurd, a writer, activist and journalist from Sheikh Jarrah, a neighbourhood located in the occupied East Jerusalem which became a point of contention when the Israeli Supreme Court threatened the Palestinian residents - despite some of them having lived there for generations - with eviction to allow Jewish settlers and immigrants to move in. El-Kurd and his family were among the residents facing the possibility of losing their homes. Sheikh Jarrah was established in an agreement between Jordan and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) to house Palestinians who were displaced during the 1948 Nakba, as they were displaced by Zionist militias who captured many cities and territories to officially form the State of Israel.

In April 2021, faced with the threat of eviction, the residents of Sheikh Jarrah took to the streets and engaged in demonstrations, which were met with brutal police response and hostility, including confrontations with Israeli settlers. The situation escalated on the night of the 7th of May 2021, when the Israeli police raided the Al-Aqsa Mosque on one of the last 10 nights of the holy month of Ramadan and proceeded to assault the Muslim worshippers with rubber bullets and stun grenades. This event resulted in the Al-Qassam Brigades, the military wing of Hamas, retaliating by firing rockets at Israel, leading to 11 days of violence between Israel and Gaza. The 11-day period began on the 10th of May and ended on the 21st after a ceasefire agreement was reached.

During the 11-day Israel-Gaza violence, Mohammed El-Kurd started gaining influence. El-Kurd campaigned on social media platforms to raise awareness about the issue as well as to document the aggression from the confrontations with the Israeli police and settlers in real time. El-Kurd, alongside other activists, founded the #SaveSheikhJarrah online campaign, which aimed to bring international support and awareness. He was also interviewed on various news outlets such as CNN, MSNBC, as well as CBSN, where he would bring awareness to the Palestinian narrative and experiences living under Israeli occupation and explain how the Western media is complicit in the censorship of Palestinian voices. In the same year, El-Kurd was named in *TIME* Magazine's list of 100 Most Influential People of 2021. Shortly after, he was appointed as the first-ever Palestine Correspondent for the US-based magazine *The Nation,* known for discussing events related to politics, culture, and social issues.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Critical Discourse Analysis

Discourse Analysis, or DA, refers to a way of analysing texts or speech at its language/linguistic level while taking into account its social and cultural contexts. DA is an intersection of various fields such as linguistics, cultural studies, communication, sociology, and education (Johnstone and Andrus, 2024). DA has several approaches, among them politeness theory, speech acts, and conversation analysis. For this paper, the approach of DA used as a theoretical framework was critical discourse analysis (CDA), particularly the Three-Dimensional (3D) Model introduced by the linguist Norman Fairclough in his 1989 book *Language and Power.*

The main idea behind CDA is that ideological beliefs can be spread and reproduced through text, therefore, CDA is used to study and observe the relationship between discourse and ideology. Discourse and ideology have a direct influence on each other, whereby ideologies can be propagated using a certain kind of language that appeals to the masses, and simultaneously, language can be intentionally manipulated to propagate certain ideologies. In Fairclough's 3D model, Fairclough proposed three elements to focus on when implementing CDA on a selected discourse, namely the text, discursive practices, and social practices. This paper focused only on the first element, the textual analysis, of Fairclough's 3D model. The textual analysis involves analysing and describing the text of the selected discourse linguistically, where the focus will be on, for instance, word choices, grammar, and sentence structure.

Role of Social Media Activism in Palestinian Counter-Narratives

Palestinian counter-narratives are essential in ensuring balanced knowledge about Israel and Palestine, challenging dominant Israeli and Western narratives (Rubeo and Baroud, 2021). There is several existing studies done on how social media has contributed to the circulation of the Palestinian counter-narratives during the May 2021 Gaza-Israel violence. The algorithm on TikTok, in particular, has made it easier to promote pro-Palestine content (Abbas et al., 2022). The use and circulation of hashtags related to Palestine on social media platforms has also played a big role in getting more users engaged with content related to the Palestinian perspective, overall aiding in furthering the Palestinian cause (Huda et al., 2022). It also cannot be denied that social media activists and citizen journalists have played a crucial role in allowing for there to be an awareness on the plight of Palestinians as well as a shift in favour of the Palestinian counter-narratives among users of social media (Abbas et al., 2022; Sualman et al., 2024), as these citizen journalists and activists can directly reach and interact with their followers as well as share events in their surroundings happening in real time (Kokeyo, 2023; Vilchis, 2023).

Despite the fact that social media has proven to be an advantage in the propagation of the Palestinian narratives, there still exist some barriers that prove to be problematic. It is known that mainstream media poses the problem of intentionally censoring Palestinian voices, a problem that Palestinian journalists themselves are very much familiar with (Saba, 2021). Although social media has given the advantage of allowing pro-Palestinian activists to bypass this problem,

undoubtedly, social media has also become a place of misinformation and hate speech, and pro-Palestinian activism-related works have faced instances of unwarranted mass reporting which results in their contents being removed from the social media platforms, further adding to the problem of censorship (Supriyanto et al., 2022).

Influence of Political Stances on Israel-Palestine on News Reporting Style

Previous studies have looked at how the foreign policies and political stances of a country may have an influence on the way events in a specific region are reported. For instance, Jackson (2024) found that *The New York Times* repeatedly showed favouritism towards the Israeli perspective when reporting on the First and Second Intifada. This favouritism can be attributed to the fact that the United States has always been consistently supportive of Israel. The findings also support that of another study done by Amer (2017), which found that British and American newspapers, namely *The Guardian, The Times London* and *The New York Times,* have a tendency to over-represent and feature more Israeli actors than that of Palestinians, further proving that the newspapers are more inclined to the Israeli perspective likely because of American and British support. The findings are still consistent and support another study done by Amer (2022), which, using Fairclough's 3D Model of CDA, compared how the *BBC and The New York Times* reported on the May 2021 Gaza-Israel violence, where the study found that both outlets not only over-emphasised the Israeli perspective, but framed the 11-day event in such a way that gave the impression that Palestinians were the sole instigator of that period of violence.

News outlets that have different versions, whereby reporting is done in different languages, have been found to have reporting styles not so different overall. This is proven by Abu Hashish et al. (2023), who found that *BBC English* and *BBC Arabic* are still pro-Israel and do not differ much despite reporting in different languages and catering to different audiences. While these studies have proven that Western media are more pro-Israel in their reporting style, studies have also been done by Amaireh (2023) and Eldin (2019) which prove that Middle Eastern media outlets, particularly Arab news outlets like *Al Jazeera* and *Al Ahram Weekly,* report on Israel and Palestine using more emotional language to bring sympathy for the Palestinians, in line with the pro-Palestinian stances of Arab countries. This has also been supported by the research done by Abu Taha and Al-Khanji (2020), who also found that one way news outlets reporting on Israel and Palestine show favouritism is by how often a Palestinian or Israeli source is quoted, overall indicating which actor is over-represented. The research done by Eldin (2019) in particular has also found that how events and actors are represented and reported in the headlines of news outlets, specifically is essential, as the headline is the first thing that attracts the attention of the readers, as also emphasised by AR (2024).

Geographical factors could also play a big role in reporting style, specifically for news outlets which have branches in different countries. For instance, a study done by El Damanhoury (2017) found that the reporting style of *Al Jazeera America* (AJAM) regarding Israel and Palestine is similar to that of the American news outlet *Cable News Network* (CNN), and therefore different from other Al Jazeera branches. This is likely due to the fact that AJAM is a newspaper branch in

the United States and has to appear more mainstream and relatable to the American public, overall adopting similar reporting styles to American newspapers to be more appealing and localised. Geographical proximity could also play a role, as AJAM is further away from Israel-Palestine than Al Jazeera networks in the Middle East.

Studies focusing specifically on Israeli and Palestinian media's reporting of the conflict have found that the "in" group are more likely to engage in positive self-representation while "othering" and negatively representing those in the "out" group, overall reporting in an "us versus them" perspective (Latif and Majelan, 2014). For instance, Israeli media are more likely to portray Israelis and the Israeli government in a more positive light, while negatively depicting the opposition. In addition, in the case of Palestinian news outlets, despite belonging to an "in" group, there are still different ideologies that exist within that group, which affect the way events are reported (Qawariq, 2020).

METHODOLOGY

This research was qualitative and aimed to investigate the linguistic features of the counter-narratives provided by Mohammed El-Kurd in three of his news articles published in the American magazine *The Nation.* Up until March 2024, El-Kurd had published a total of 20 articles, and, after doing a careful reading of the publications, three articles were selected for this research due to their relevance to the topic, as the three articles focused on El-Kurd addressing the biased Western media discourse when reporting on Palestine. This study employed Norman Fairclough's Three-Dimensional (3D) Model of CDA, particularly the textual analysis, when analysing the news articles. When carrying out textual analysis on a selected text, focus will be on the linguistic features of the text, for instance, the sentence voices, grammar, and word/ lexical choices, among others. The three articles were analysed and categorised chronologically in this study based on their publication dates:

Article 1 (published on 25 May 2022): *How the Western Media Missed the Story of Shireen Abu Akleh's Death*

Article 2 (published on 20 October 2023): *Western Journalists Have Palestinian Blood on Their Hands*

Article 3 (published on 27 November 2023): *The Right to Speak for Ourselves*

FINDINGS

From the findings of the textual analysis, El-Kurd, linguistically, provides his counter-narratives by consistently using the active voice, negatively evaluating his Western counterparts as part of his expressive values and engaging in overwording, repetition and collocations to emphasise the point that Western journalists and mainstream media are unreliable when it comes to discussing Palestine, as they are biased and motivated by anti-Palestinian political ideologies.

The findings of the textual analysis of El-Kurd's three articles differ significantly from the findings of the previously published studies discussed in the literature review, which used various CDA-related theoretical frameworks. The previous studies merely compared how different news media reported on certain periods of escalated violence between Israel and Palestine, including explaining how the differences in the styles and methods of reporting are reflective of the inherent biases of the media and how it may be related, ultimately, to the government foreign policies and political stances on Israel and Palestine. The findings of the studies included, among others, the consistent use of passive voice when reporting on Israel's use of violence against the Palestinians in Western media reporting, where there is a failure to directly mention Israel as the perpetrator, overall shielding them from accountability (Amer, 2022; Jackson, 2024). In addition, bias can also be seen in the ways in which the media represent Israeli and Palestinian actors, how comprehensive and in-depth the coverage of each side can be in addition to how often Israeli or Palestinian figures are quoted and sourced in the news (Abu Taha & Al-Khanji, 2020; Eldin, 2019).

Overall, there is a significant difference between the findings of this research and the findings of the previous studies. This can likely be attributed to the fact that El-Kurd's articles are concerned with giving counter-narratives to existing news articles and reports on Israel-Palestine, whereas the articles analysed in the previous studies were the actual news articles themselves that only reported on and described events in Israel and Palestine.

DATA ANALYSIS

After carrying out the textual analysis of the counter-narratives of the selected three articles by Mohammed El-Kurd, the findings showed that El-Kurd has consistently used the active voice when writing, in the headlines of his articles as well as throughout the rest of the articles. In addition, El-Kurd has repeatedly engaged in repetition, overwording, and collocations, whereby frequent words are repeated and often collocate in the sense that they are used repeatedly when addressing certain topics. Lastly, El-Kurd has shown negative expressive values of his Western counterparts, whereby he uses negative language to express his views regarding Western media and journalists, particularly when Israel and Palestine are being reported.

The Use of Active Voice

Sentences in the active voice mention the actions carried out when reporting on a certain event, including highlighting the two participants who are involved in the reported scenario: the agent and patient. When using active voice, the actions carried out by the agent and the explicit mention of the patient as a receiver of the action are explicitly acknowledged (Fairclough, 1989). The typical order of active sentences is SVO (subject-verb-object), whereby the subject (agent) is mentioned first, followed by the actions done by the subject and the object (patient) being at the receiving end of the action. Using active voice when reporting ensures that the involved agents are named and specified, leaving no room for doubt and uncertainty as to who or what is responsible for the action reported.

The use of passive sentences when reporting, on the other hand, presents the risk of being deceptive and misleading, as the identity and responsibility of the agent are not made clear to the readers. Such obfuscations and incoherence in passive-voiced news reports can be attributed to ideological motivations (Fairclough, 1989).

Throughout El-Kurd's articles, he has used the active voice to explicitly mention and emphasise how the Western media and journalists are complicit and biased in reporting on Palestine. Instances of these from the articles can be seen as follows:

> Article 1 (headline):
> *How the Western Media Missed the Story of Shireen Abu Akleh's Death.*

> Article 2 (headline):
> *Western Journalists Have Palestinian Blood on Their Hands.*

From the headlines, El-Kurd does not shield the identity of the agents, their actions as well as the patients at the receiving end of the actions. The two headlines are explicitly written to convey the intended information and leave no room for doubt regarding the involved parties. This is essential when writing headlines, as they are the first thing readers will read and focus on (Eldin, 2019).

The same use of active voice can also be found in the subheadings of the articles, giving a clear and brief preview of the topics that the articles will address:

> Article 1 (subheading):
> *…the media proved yet again that it's not equipped to cover Palestine.*

> Article 2 (subheading):
> *The mainstream media's relentless dehumanization of Palestinians is enabling Israeli war crimes.*

The rest of the contents of El-Kurd's articles continue to use active voice as well when highlighting instances of bias, negligence, and the shortcomings of Western media and journalists in their reporting of events in Palestine.

> Article 1:
> *Western newspapers behave as they usually do… parroted Israeli state narratives, fabricated confusion about murder…*
>
> *The New York Times deceived its readers…*

Article 2:

...when MSNBC reported their massacre, the channel cast doubt on their innocence, calling them "what appear to be evacuees".

Article 3:

...journalists and cultural workers used a humanizing framework in their representation of oppressed people… the victimhood that emerges within this framework is a perfect victimhood, an ethnocentric requirement for sympathy and solidarity.

By using the active voice in the articles, El-Kurd does not obfuscate the agency and action when reporting the events, thereby leaving no room for doubt. The opposite is the case in Western mainstream media, as passive voice is often used when covering events related to Palestinians, which can be attributed to the inherent biases and ideological motivations of the media (Amer, 2022; Jackson, 2024).

Negative Expressive Values of Western Counterparts

Expressive values are the speakers' and writers' use of language to express their evaluations of people and practices, where the evaluation can be positive or negative. Expressive values can appear in grammar as well as in vocabulary. The expressive values that appear in grammatical situations are related to experiential values, which are the speakers' and writers' use of language that is reflective of their perceptions, knowledge, and beliefs (Fairclough, 1989).

Throughout El-Kurd's articles, instances of expressive values are present in his representation of Western media and journalists, where he makes clear and emphasises his negative evaluations of the issues caused by the bias, unreliability, and ideological motivations of his Western counterparts.

El-Kurd has depicted Western media and journalists as being unreliable in fact-checking and reporting, including being manipulative, biased, and uncritical when circulating unverified information, or information that is only half-truths. Instances of these can be seen as follows:

Article 1:

Western newsrooms generally love martyrs… men and women they can market to their readers as perfect victims. Shireen Abu Akleh… fit that profile… Palestinian Christian woman with an American passport… because of who killed her, Abu Akleh's very public death and "perfect victimhood" was up for debate.

Article 3:

There are prerequisites these victims must meet… They carry US or European passports.

The news that Shireen was an American was out in the following hours, and her alleged Americanness suddenly made her human.

To the average American, she was a person because she was a woman, a Christian, an American…

In the aforementioned extracts from Articles 1 and 3, El-Kurd negatively evaluates the "Western newsrooms" as being biased when discussing and reporting the death of the prominent Al-Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh, who was killed on 11 May 2022 while reporting a raid that took place in the Jenin refugee camp in the occupied West Bank. El-Kurd mentions how the Western media tend to "market" and amplify the voices of those they deem to be "perfect victims". The criteria of "perfect victims" include being as Western as possible, which Abu Akleh was due to her being Christian and having an American passport (and by extension being an American citizen). Despite Abu Akleh fitting the profile, the Western media did not grant her "perfect victimhood" the attention it usually would, thereby obfuscating information, as mentioning the involvement of the Israeli army would be a requirement.

Article 1:
Western newsrooms behave as they usually do… parroted Israeli narratives and fabricated confusion about a murder that was clear as day.

In the above extract in Article 1, El-Kurd also highlights the unreliability of the Western media when reporting on Abu Akleh's death and the circumstances surrounding it, mentioning that this unreliable nature is something of a regular occurrence ("...behave as they usually do…") and that the media would simply recirculate information solely from the Israeli perspective ("...parroted Israeli narratives…"), overall being biased and one-sided, including concealing information that "was clear as day".

El-Kurd also depicts Western journalists as being dismissive and complicit in the dehumanisation of Palestinians, as can be seen in the following extract:

Article 2:
Palestinian Authority's ambassador to the UK, Husam Zomlot, gave an interview to BBC host Kristy Wark… His family members among the thousands who have been killed in the assault… Wark replied, "Sorry for your own personal loss. I mean, can I just be clear, though, you cannot condone the killing of civilians in Israel, can you?" …

Wark's response to Zomlot's horrifying loss… reveals a troubling phenomenon in the mainstream media: The industry standard is to dehumanize Palestinians… Our death is so quotidian that journalists report it as though they're reporting the weather.

In the above extract, El-Kurd recounts Husam Zomlot's interview with Kristy Wark, where Zomlot recounts his family falling victim to an Israeli bombardment in the Gaza Strip. Wark responds dismissively by bringing up the topic of whether he condones the "killing of civilians in Israel", blatantly disregarding the severity of Zomlot's experience and making it seem as though the interview was more of an interrogation of his values regarding the 2023 Gaza-Israel war.

This is an instance of what Fairclough terms "power in discourse", specifically enforcing explicitness, whereby the less powerful participants in an interaction are forced to be explicit to reduce ambiguity. Enforcing explicitness in interviews can be used as a means of control, where the interviewer can force the interviewee to validate their version of events that occurred, and this can overall limit the options for future input from the interviewees (Fairclough, 1989). Thus, not much voice is given to Zomlot's experience, and by extension the Palestinian narrative, as the incident in the interview reveals a clear inclination towards the Israeli perspective. The lack of focus, validation, and attention on the Palestinian victims is essentially dehumanising, and the coverage is overall unbalanced. Furthermore, there is an important mention of how Palestinian deaths have been under-reported, if not normalised, as reports on the deaths fail to capture the severity and urgency of the situation, which El-Kurd equates to the journalists reporting it "as though they're reporting the weather".

El-Kurd has named the experience for what it is: a hostile interrogation motivated by personal bias and ideologies. He blatantly mentions another instance of this in the following extract:

> *Article 2:*
>
> *I and a few other Palestinians have been hopping between TV channels and radio stations to talk about the atrocities unfolding in Gaza… we have encountered similar hostility. Producers invite us… not to interview us… but to interrogate us. They test our answers against the viewer's inherent bias - a bias well-fed through years of Islamophobia and anti-Palestinian rhetoric.*

Overall, the expressive values in El-Kurd's articles clearly show his negative evaluation of Western journalists and the mainstream media, as he explicitly depicts them as being biased when reporting on Palestine, being hostile and interrogative in an interview setting, being complicit in the dehumanisation of Palestinians, and being dismissive of their perspectives.

Repetition, Overwording and Collocations

Fairclough (1989) refers to "overwording" as a situation where the speakers and writers use many words that are near synonyms. This is done due to the need to put a strong emphasis on a certain point, or, as Fairclough states, it is due to the "preoccupation of some aspect of reality", which can be attributed to the need to address or highlight an existing ideological struggle.

In one of El-Kurd's articles, there is an instance of overwording when highlighting the ways in which Western media and journalists dehumanise Palestinians by being dismissive towards their deaths, overall invalidating such tragedies and treating it as though it has become completely normalised. The example can be seen as follows:

Article 2:
Our grief is negligible; our rage is unwarranted. Our death is so quotidian…

The three terms used - "negligible", "unwarranted" and "quotidian" - are near synonyms as they all contain negative connotations in this context and overall describe and emphasise the state of being invalidated and dismissed, as though something as severe and tragic as death and grief have become normalised and portrayed as less important than it is.

Examples of collocations can also be seen in El-Kurd's articles, where he uses similar words repeatedly when describing and talking about the Western media and journalists. Instances of these can be seen as follows:

Article 1:
*Western newspapers… **parroted**… **fabricated**….*

*The New York Times **deceived**… The Associated Press **altered**…*

*… the BBC, CBS News, and others **repeated**…*

***Fabrication** is permissible…*

*What makes this **journalistic malpractice**…*
Article 2:
*… we have encountered similar **hostility**.*

*Producers invite us… to **interrogate** us.*

*… took a break from repeatedly **interrupting**…*

*… reporters… repeat **fabrications**…*

*… one could argue it's **journalistic malpractice**.*

*Obfuscation and **fabrication** are permissible…*

The above extracts from Articles 1 and 2 show that El-Kurd has used similar words repeatedly in both articles when he negatively represents the Western media and journalists when talking about their shortcomings and biases when it comes to reporting on Palestine. These words overall collocate as they frequently appear when discussing a common topic in El-Kurd's articles (i.e. of Western media and journalists). In addition, these words are also near synonyms and are further

proof of El-Kurd's habit of overwording in his articles. For instance, in Article 1, the words "parroted" and "repeated" are stated in order to highlight the unoriginality of Western media reports and their inclination towards recirculating information only from an Israeli source without taking into account the authenticity of the information. The same can be said for the words "deceived" and "altered", which indicate that the Western media outlets have a tendency to manipulate or alter their language when reporting in such a way that it can easily mislead - thus, deceive - their readers.

In Article 2, the words "hostility", "interrogate", and "interrupting" all contain negative connotations in the context in which they are used, where El-Kurd highlights the experience he faces as a Palestinian journalist when interacting with the Western media. These terms further emphasise his experience as one in which he is unwelcome in an already hostile environment, where he feels personally targeted and interrogated regarding his own personal views in instances where he is interviewed, including being continuously interrupted and not given the room to completely express himself.

Both Articles 1 and 2 contain the word "fabrication" several times, including the word "journalistic malpractice". The repetition of the word "fabrication" shows El-Kurd's strong need to emphasise the unreliability and manipulative nature of Western news reports, whereas for "journalistic malpractice", El-Kurd uses this term twice to ultimately highlight what all these practices - fabrication, deception, biased interviewing and intentional manipulation of language - lead to: the Western media and journalists, blinded by their own biases and ideologies, failing to do their jobs and thus complicit in malpractice.

CONCLUSION

The findings of this research highlight the linguistic features of El-Kurd's counter-narratives, which aim to address and dismantle biased representations and reporting of Palestinians by the Western mainstream media. Overall, this research has found the main linguistic features - active voice, negative expressive values, overwording, repetition, and collocations - employed by El-Kurd in his news articles when providing a counter-narrative.

The limitations for this study include time and sample. The duration of this research was merely three months, and the sample of this study was limited to only three articles written by one writer. For future research, it is recommended to focus more on the ideas of counter-narratives in journalism, generally. Regarding Israel-Palestine specifically, there may be more research that could be done on how other Palestinian journalists and writers provide their own counter-narratives. In addition, providing more elaborations on the impact of the normalisation and continuous practice of providing counter-narratives against biased media discourse in the journalism field could also be done, ultimately explaining how counter-narratives can shape and/or change the journalism field.

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