

P-ISSN : 1412-6141

E-ISSN : 2548-7744

Jurnal

ADABIYAH

The Journal of Islamic Humanities

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**FAKULTAS ADAB DAN HUMANIORA
UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI ALAUDDIN**



Theme: Islamic Humanities
VOLUME 25 ISSUE 2, July-December 2025

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This journal receives a national accreditation from Ministry of Research, Technology, and Higher Education Republic of Indonesia, **Nomor: 177/E/KPT/2024** on October 15, 2024 with the **SINTA score: S2**.

The Journal has been published by the Faculty of Adab and Humanity of Alauddin State Islamic University, Makassar, since 1997 and has been online since 2016 with the main themes on Humanities and Islamic Studies with the emphasis on interdisciplinary and intertextuality approach.

This journal are published twice a year, on June and December. The themes related to Islamic Studies are textual studies, scriptural traditions, Islamic law, and theology; and those related to Humanities are language, literature, history, and culture.

The journal of Humanities and Islamic Studies will provide the online collection of articles from 1997 up to now. The most updated information can be found on the website.

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Media Framing of the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict After Yahya Sinwar's Death: a Comparative Study of BBC News Arabic and Al-Jazeera

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Doi: [10.24252/jad.v25i2a3](https://doi.org/10.24252/jad.v25i2a3)

(Submitted:13/07/2025, Accepted:03/09/2025, Available Online:19/09/2025)

Abstract

This research analyzes the framing strategies of BBC News Arabic and Al Jazeera in reporting the Israeli-Palestinian conflict after the death of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar. Using Pan and Kosicki's framing model, a qualitative descriptive-comparative method was applied to examine two news reports across four dimensions: syntactic, script, thematic, and rhetorical. The findings show distinct patterns: BBC News Arabic frames the conflict as unresolved, emphasizing Israel's unachieved objectives, while Al Jazeera challenges Netanyahu's victory claim and stresses Palestinian resilience. Beyond textual framing, these differences reveal contrasting ideological orientations in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict post-2024 context. BBC reproduces a state-centric and diplomatic discourse aligned with Western narratives, legitimizing Israel's continued operations, whereas Al Jazeera advances a counter-hegemonic stance that resonates with Global South audiences by foregrounding resistance and anti-colonial struggle. These findings demonstrate how media framing not only structures news text.

Keywords: Framing; Palestina-Israel Conflict; Sinwar; BBC Arabic; Al Jazeera.

المخلص

تدرس هذه المقالة استراتيجيات التأطير التي اعتمدها بي بي سي العربية والجزيرة في تغطية الصراع الفلسطيني-الإسرائيلي بعد وفاة يحيى السنوار. وباستخدام نموذج بان وكوسيكى، اعتمدت الدراسة المنهج الوصفي المقارن النوعي لتحليل خبرين عبر أربعة أبعاد: النحوي، النصي، الموضوعي، والبلاغي. أظهرت النتائج اختلافاً واضحاً: بي بي سي العربية صوّرت الصراع كعملية لم تكتمل بعد، مؤكدة



أن أهداف إسرائيل لم تتحقق، بينما رفضت الجزيرة رواية نتنياهو عن النصر وأكدت على صمود المقاومة الفلسطينية. و تكشف هذه النتائج عن توجهات أيديولوجية متباينة؛ إذ تعيد بي بي سي إنتاج خطاب دبلوماسي متمركز حول الدولة ومنسجم مع السرديات الغربية يضيف شرعية على العمليات العسكرية الإسرائيلية، في حين تقدم الجزيرة خطاباً مضاداً للهيمنة يبرز المقاومة والنضال ضد الاستعمار، مما يتجاوب مع جمهور الجنوب العالمي. وتؤكد هذه النتائج أن التأطير الإعلامي يتضمن على بناء النصوص الإخبارية و صراعات أيديولوجية أوسع في تشكيل التصورات العالمية حول الصراع.

الكلمات المفتاحية: الإطار، حرب إسرائيل-فلسطين، سنوار، بي بي سي العربية،
الجزيرة

Abstrak

Penelitian ini menganalisis strategi framing BBC News Arabic dan Al Jazeera dalam pemberitaan konflik Israel–Palestina pasca kematian Yahya Sinwar. Dengan menggunakan model framing Pan & Kosicki, penelitian kualitatif dengan menggunakan metode deskriptif-komparatif ini menelaah dua teks berita melalui empat dimensi: sintaksis, naskah, tematik, dan retorik. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan perbedaan yang jelas: BBC News Arabic membingkai konflik sebagai proses yang belum selesai dengan menyoroti tujuan Israel yang belum tercapai, sedangkan Al Jazeera menolak klaim kemenangan Netanyahu dan menekankan keteguhan perlawanan Palestina. Lebih jauh, perbedaan tersebut mencerminkan orientasi ideologis yang kontras dalam konteks pasca-2024. BBC mereproduksi wacana negara-sentris dan diplomatik yang selaras dengan narasi Barat serta melegitimasi operasi militer Israel, sementara Al Jazeera menghadirkan posisi tandingan (counter-hegemonic) yang menekankan resistensi dan perjuangan antikolonial yang dekat dengan audiens Global South. Temuan ini menunjukkan bahwa framing media tidak hanya membentuk struktur teks, tetapi juga mencerminkan kontestasi ideologis dalam membangun persepsi global terhadap konflik.

Kata Kunci: Framing; Konflik Israel-Palestina; Sinwar; BBC Arabic; Al Jazeera

How to Cite This Article: Wachid Hakim, Zumrotul Imanda, and Hisyam Zaini. "Media Framing of the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict After Yahya Sinwar's Death: A Comparative Study of BBC News Arabic and Al-Jazeera". *Jurnal Adabiyah* 25, no. 2 (September 19, 2025). Accessed September 19, 2025. <https://journal.uin-alauddin.ac.id/index.php/adabiyah/article/view/60848>.

A. Introduction

On October 16, 2024, Yahya Sinwar, the leader of Hamas in the Gaza Strip, was confirmed dead following an Israeli airstrike.¹ Sinwar, who had led Hamas since 2017, was influential in shaping the group's strategies against Israel.² While his leadership strengthened the movement's resistance capacity, his controversial background also posed challenges to maintaining diplomatic and regional alliances. The news of his death thus cannot be separated from the broader dynamics of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.³

The media coverage of Sinwar's death reveals striking contrasts. Israeli media framed it as a political and military victory, whereas Arab media; Al Jazeera, interpreted it within the broader resistance narrative. This contrast highlights how media framing constructs competing realities of the same event. Framing involves selecting certain aspects of reality and presenting them more prominently so they become more memorable and influential for audiences.⁴

According to Goffman, that in framing a news story it is necessary to select the facts and language that is generated, but still hold fast to the objectivity of journalists.⁵ Through framing, journalists exercise discretion in diction, narrative organization, and rhetorical emphasis, which in turn influence how readers perceive political actors and conflicts.⁶ Pan & Kosicki (1993) note that "framing, therefore, may be studied as a strategy of constructing and processing news discourse or as a characteristic of the

¹ Mahmoud Al-Rantisi, "Post-Sinwar Hamas and Palestinian Resistance," *SETA VAKFI* 2024, no. 4 (2024): 11–22, doi:10.2307/48803760.

² Durrotun Humaira and Abdul Basid, "Yahya Sinwar's Murder in Arabic International Media Platforms: A Norman Fairclough Critical Discourse Analysis," *Eralingua: Jurnal Pendidikan Bahasa Asing Dan Sastra* 9, no. 1 (2025): 2025, <https://ojs.unm.ac.id/eralingua>.

³ Mukhammad Nafiudin and Abdul Basid, "Framing Analysis of William A. Gamson on the News 'The Death of Yahya Sinwar' in France24 and Al-Hurroh," *LITE* 21, no. 1 (March 3, 2025): 96–113, doi:10.33633/lite.v21i1.12280.

⁴ Robert N. Entman, *Projections of Power: Framing News, Public Opinion, and U.S. Foreign Policy* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2004).

⁵ Karen Sullivan, "Three Levels of Framing," *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Cognitive Science* 14, no. 5 (September 1, 2023), doi:10.1002/wcs.1651.

⁶ Fatima El Issawi and Gerd Baumann, "The BBC Arabic Service: Changing Political Mediascapes," *Middle East Journal of Culture and Communication*, July 1, 2010, doi:10.1163/187398610X509986; Rabi'atul Adawiah, "Modalities Used By Indonesian and American In Political Debate Discourse (A Comparative Study)," *Jurnal Adabiyah* 17, no. 1 (2017): 1–20, doi:10.24252/jad.v17i1i1a1.

discourse itself”.⁷ Frames thus operate not only as temporary shapers of perception but also as discursive structures that reflect ideological orientations.⁸

Although the concept of framing is not new, its relevance continues in contemporary studies of news discourse. For instance, the article *Framing Jordantimes.com terhadap Israel dalam Konflik Palestina* employed Edelman’s framework to show how Israel was framed as an international criminal through genocide narratives.⁹ Another study, *News Framing of the Arab Spring Conflict*, revealed that Pakistani and Saudi news outlets positively framed pro-Muslim protesters seeking change.¹⁰ These examples demonstrate how framing functions as a tool to uncover the aims, orientations, and ideological positions underlying media narratives.

Building on these insights, this research focuses on online news coverage of Sinwar’s death published by BBC News Arabic and Al Jazeera. BBC News Arabic, as a branch of a Western media institution, often reflects diplomatic agendas aligned with Western or Israeli perspectives.¹¹ While Al Jazeera, based in Qatar, positions itself as a counter-hegemonic voice in Middle Eastern discourse.¹² Both outlets are highly influential in shaping Arab public opinion on the conflict. Comparing their coverage offers insights into how ideological orientations are encoded in framing practices regarding the legitimacy of Israel’s actions and Palestinian resistance.

Previous research, such as Moh Zawawi’s study on *Framing of Hamas Attacks on Israel in Al Jazeera and BBC Coverage*, shows that BBC Arabic tends to legitimize Zionist claims, while Al Jazeera aligns itself with Palestinian independence narratives.¹³ This stark contrast provides the rationale for analyzing their framing of

⁷ Zhongdang Pan and Gerald M. Kosicki, “Framing Analysis: An Approach to News Discourse,” *Political Communication* 10, no. 1 (1993): 55–75, doi:10.1080/10584609.1993.9962963.

⁸ Febry Ichwan Busti, “Mengenal Analisis Framing: Tinjauan Sejarah Dan Metodologi,” *Communique: Jurnal Ilmiah Ilmu Komunikasi* 1, no. 2 (2019), www.ejurnal.stikpmedan.ac.id.

⁹ Fadhil Wafi, Ernita Arif, and Emeraldy Chatra, “Framing Jordantimes.Com Terhadap Israel Dalam Konflik Palestina,” *Jurnal Audiens* 5, no. 3 (2024): 539–50, doi:10.18196/jas.v5i3.500.

¹⁰ Muhammad Marwan, “Aljazeera Arabic and BBC Arabic Online News Coverage of the 2011 Arab Spring in Tunisia and Egypt: Critical Discourse Analysis” (University of Birmingham, 2019).

¹¹ Haseeb Sarwar, Afifa Tanveer Malhi, and Iram Naz, “Representation of Israel and Palestine Issue in International Media: An Analysis of BBC and Al-Jazeera Coverage in 2022,” *Annals of Human and Social* 4, no. 3 (2023), doi:10.35484/ahss.2023(4-III)34.

¹² Lamma Zghoul, *Al-Jazeera English and BBC News Coverage of the Gaza War 2008-9: A Comparative Examination*, 2022.

¹³ Moh Zawawi et al., “Framing of Hamas Attacks on Israel in Al-Jazeera and BBCCoverage,” *Eralingua: Jurnal Pendidikan Bahasa Asing Dan Sastra* 8, no. 1 (2024): 81, doi:10.26858/eralingua.v8i1.59353.

Sinwar's death, specifically within news emphasizing Israel's claim of victory in the conflict.

Thus, the researchers aim to (1) identify and to compare the framing of Sinwar's death in BBC News Arabic and Al Jazeera using Pan & Kosicki's framework; (2) to analyze the diction, rhetorical style, and semantic representation employed by both media to construct the images of Israel, Hamas, and Sinwar; and (3) to explain the ideological implications of such framing for international public opinion on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in the post-2024 context.

This research employs Pan & Kosicki's framing model because it provides a comprehensive framework to analyze news discourse at multiple levels; syntactic, script, thematic, and rhetorical structures.¹⁴ Compared to other framing approaches such as Entman's, which focus mainly on problem definition, causal interpretation, moral evaluation, and treatment recommendation,¹⁵ Pan & Kosicki's model offers a more detailed linguistic and discourse-oriented analysis.¹⁶ This makes it particularly relevant for examining how BBC Arabic and Al Jazeera construct meaning not only through content selection but also through diction, rhetorical style, and narrative organization in reporting Sinwar's death. It is hoped that the novelty of the analysis contained in the latest news can open up new knowledge about the current world conflict. Through framing analysis, researchers hope to open up an understanding of the news framing, as a form of news discourse theory developed by Zhong Dan Pan & Gerald M Kosicki in 1993. So that it can be useful in the application of framing as a News Discourse approach in further research.

B. Research Methods

This research employs a qualitative descriptive-comparative method with a framing analysis approach, focusing on the news discourse of Yahya Sinwar's death. A qualitative approach is chosen because it allows for in-depth description and interpretation of narratives, words, and images used in news texts.

The data consist of ten news articles: five from BBC News Arabic and five from Al Jazeera, all published within the period of October 16–23, 2024, immediately after Sinwar's death. The selection of these articles was based on three criteria: (1) they appeared as headline or feature news in the respective outlets, (2) they specifically reported Sinwar's death and its implications for the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, and (3)

¹⁴ Zhongdan Pan and Gerald M. Kosicki, "Framing Analysis: An Approach to News Discourse," *Political Communication* 10, no. 1 (1993): 55–75, doi:10.1080/10584609.1993.9962963.

¹⁵ Muhammad Nabil Hafidli et al., "Analisis Framing Model Robert Entman Tentnag Kasus Kanjuruhan Di Detikcom Dan BBC News," *JIS: Jurnal Ilmu Sosial* 3, no. 1 (2023): 2548–4893.

¹⁶ Ali Muda Siregar and Hasan Sazali, "Analisis Framing Model Zhongdan Pan Dan Gerald M. Kosicki Dalam Pemberitaan Pemberantasan Pungutan Liar Di Pelabuhan Pt. Pelindo 1 Periode 1 Juni – 30 Juni 2021" 2, no. 3 (2023): 973–80.

they represented the most widely circulated coverage in the Arab-speaking media landscape.

Data were collected using documentation techniques, involving systematic retrieval and classification of texts from the official websites of BBC News Arabic and Al Jazeera. All articles were archived in their original form to maintain accuracy. Following Pan & Kosicki (1993), the analysis requires the segmentation of news texts into analyzable units. As they note, “*one frustration in empirical analysis of news text concerns discourse parsing or ‘unitization’*”. Thus, this research applies a chunking rule where each article is divided into textual units corresponding to Pan & Kosicki’s four structures:

According to Pan & Kosicki, the framing analysis scheme is divided into four structures, including: 1. Syntax, 2. Script, 3. Thematic, and 4. Rhetorical.

Table 1. Schematic of Framing Analysis Theory according to Pan and Kosicki (1993)

No	Structure	Analysis Tools
1	Syntax	<i>Headline, Lead, Episode, Closure</i>
2	Script	<i>5W+1H</i>
3	Thematic	<i>Proposition, Paragraph</i>
4	Rhetorical	<i>Words and Idiom, Picture</i>

Source: Pan & Kosicki¹⁷

In the data Analysis, each unit was coded according to Pan & Kosicki’s categories. Coding was conducted manually by identifying linguistic and rhetorical elements, then comparing their occurrence and functions across the two media. The analysis was carried out at two levels: (1) micro-level; examining each article individually, and (2) macro-level; identifying patterns across the five articles in each media outlet.

To ensure reliability, the coding scheme was applied consistently across all texts. Ambiguous cases were re-checked against the theoretical framework and prior studies on media framing.¹⁸ Validity was enhanced by triangulating findings with existing

¹⁷ Pan and Kosicki, “Framing Analysis: An Approach to News Discourse,” 1993.

¹⁸ Osama Kanaker, Mohamed Oklah Abughazlih, and Mohd Faizal Kasmani, “Media Framing of Minorities’ Crisis: A Study on Aljazeera and BBC News Coverage of the Rohingya,” *Jurnal Komunikasi: Malaysian Journal of Communication* 36, no. 2 (2020): 1–16, doi:10.17576/JKMJC-2020-3602-01; Zainab Abdul-Nabi, “Al-Jazeera’s Relationship with Qatar before and after Arab Spring: Effective Public Diplomacy or Blatant Propaganda?,” *Arab Media & Society*, no. 24 (2018): 1–21, doi:10.70090/zan17dbp.

literature on BBC and Al Jazeera's ideological orientations and by contextualizing them within the political developments of post-2024 Palestine-Israel.

C. Results and Discussion

1. Structure of Syntax

In this structure, framing does not rely on elements of linguistic rules such as the composition of subjects, predicates, and objects. However, the syntactic dimension in question refers to four parts of the news element, those are the headline, lead, episode, and closure. In terms of headline construction, BBC News Arabic employs a mixed strategy, alternating between declarative and interrogative sentence forms. Three of its headlines (BBC1–3) are declarative, presenting Sinwar's death as a factual development and framing it as a "blow" to Hamas but not the end of the conflict. However, two other headlines (BBC4–5) adopt interrogative forms, such as "What do we know about the house that witnessed the last moments of Sinwar's life?" and "After Sinwar's death, what is Netanyahu waiting for to end the war in Gaza?", which invite readers into a space of speculation and uncertainty.

This combination demonstrates BBC's attempt to balance factual reporting with rhetorical engagement, using questions to stimulate curiosity and maintain audience interest in the evolving conflict. In contrast, Al Jazeera headlines remain consistently declarative, often infused with emotive and assertive tones, such as "This is how heroes die.. Gazans are proud of the last moments of Sinwar's life." By employing firm and affirmative wording, Al Jazeera frames Sinwar's death not as a matter of doubt or speculation but as a moment of heroic sacrifice and political symbolism. These differences in headline forms underscore the divergent framing strategies: BBC's reliance on interrogatives highlights ambiguity and open-endedness, whereas Al Jazeera's declaratives reinforce certainty, resistance, and narrative closure.

Table 2. News Headline on BBC News Arabic

No	Publication Time	News Headline	News Code
1	18/10/24	مقتل يحيى السنوار: المشهد الأخير وردود الفعل ¹⁹	BBC1

¹⁹ "مقتل يحيى السنوار: المشهد الأخير وردود الفعل", BBC News Arabic, 2024, <https://www.bbc.com/arabic/articles/c870zdrwwnxo>.

2	18/10/24	مقتل السنوار ضربة قوية لحماس، لكنه ليس نهاية الحرب ^{٢٠}	BBC2
3	18/10/24	حماس بعد السنوار: ضربة قاصمة لكنها ليست قاضية ^{٢١}	BBC3
4	19/10/24	هنا قُتل السنوار: ماذا نعرف عن المنزل الذي شهد اللحظات الأخيرة من حياة قائد حماس؟ ^{٢٢}	BBC4
5	21/10/24	بعد مقتل السنوار، ما الذي ينتظره نتنياهو لإنهاء الحرب في غزة؟ ^{٢٣}	BBC5

Source: BBC News Arabic.

The headlines of BBC News Arabic present a framing pattern that appears largely informative and descriptive but subtly aligns with Israel's strategic narrative. The use of the neutral term مقتل ("killed") in reference to Yahya Sinwar reflects a distancing from ideological or emotional connotations, in contrast to terms like "martyrdom" which are prevalent in Arab resistance discourse. Across several headlines—such as "حماس بعد السنوار: ضربة قاصمة لكنها ليست قاضية" and "مقتل السنوار ضربة قوية لحماس، لكنه ليس نهاية الحرب"—BBC consistently frames Sinwar's death as a significant setback for Hamas, emphasizing the organization's weakened position while simultaneously acknowledging its persistence. This construction situates Hamas primarily as a military actor suffering losses rather than as a movement of resistance or a political entity with popular support.

Furthermore, BBC frequently shifts the focus toward Israeli leadership, particularly Netanyahu, as seen in the headline "بعد مقتل السنوار، ما الذي ينتظره نتنياهو لإنهاء الحرب في غزة؟" Such phrasing implicitly positions Israel as the decision-maker with

²⁰ "مقتل السنوار ضربة قوية لحماس، لكنه ليس نهاية الحرب," *BBC News Arabic*, 2024, <https://www.bbc.com/arabic/articles/c0m0eny2jdxo>.

²¹ "حماس بعد السنوار: ضربة قاصمة لكنها ليست قاضية," *BBC News Arabic*, 2024, <https://www.bbc.com/arabic/articles/c8elzxx7e65o>.

²² "هنا قُتل السنوار: ماذا نعرف عن المنزل الذي شهد اللحظات الأخيرة من حياة قائد حماس؟," *BBC News Arabic*, 2024, <https://www.bbc.com/arabic/articles/c4gl1ye255xo>.

²³ "بعد مقتل السنوار، ما الذي ينتظره نتنياهو لإنهاء الحرب في غزة؟," *BBC News Arabic*, 2024, <https://www.bbc.com/arabic/articles/c0lwzl33x2o>.

agency over the continuation or termination of the conflict. Other headlines adopt dramatized but still depoliticized language, such as “هنا قُتل السنوار: ماذا نعرف عن المنزل الذي”، which foregrounds the *scene of death* rather than its symbolic or ideological meaning. Collectively, these linguistic and syntactic choices highlight BBC’s tendency to present Sinwar’s death as a tactical development within Israel’s war aims rather than as a martyrdom or national tragedy for Palestinians.

Table 3. News Headline on Al Jazeera

No	Publication Time	News Headline	News Code
1	17/10/24	إعلان مقتل السنوار لا يمنح نتنياهو نصراً ²⁴	AJA1
2	18/10/24	شاهد.. آخر لحظات السنوار قبيل استشهاده وفقاً لصور الجيش الإسرائيلي ²⁵	AJA2
3	18/10/24	عندما تمنى السنوار أن يموت شهيداً على يد العدو ²⁶	AJA3
4	18/10/24	بعد استشهاد السنوار.. ما خطط نتنياهو في غزة؟ ²⁷	AJA4
5	19/10/24	"هكذا يموت الأبطال".. سكان غزة يفخرون باللحظات الأخيرة من حياة السنوار ²⁸	AJA5

Source: Al Jazeera

In contrast, the headlines of Al Jazeera consistently construct Yahya Sinwar’s death within a discourse of resistance and martyrdom. Unlike BBC’s neutral term مقتل (“killed”), Al Jazeera repeatedly employs the word استشهاد (“martyrdom”), which carries strong religious and ideological connotations in Arab political culture. Headlines such as “عندما تمنى السنوار أن يموت شهيداً على يد العدو” and “بعد استشهاد السنوار.. ما خطط نتنياهو في غزة”

²⁴ “إعلان مقتل السنوار لا يمنح نتنياهو نصراً”, Al Jazeera, 2024, <https://aja.ws/y4h03f>.

²⁵ “شاهد.. آخر لحظات السنوار قبيل استشهاده وفقاً لصور الجيش الإسرائيلي”, Al Jazeera, 2024, <https://www.aljazeera.net/news/2024/10/18/>.

²⁶ “عندما تمنى السنوار أن يموت شهيداً على يد العدو”, Al Jazeera, 2024, <https://www.aljazeera.net/news/2024/10/18/>.

²⁷ “بعد استشهاد السنوار.. ما خطط نتنياهو في غزة؟”, Al Jazeera, 2024.

²⁸ “هكذا يموت الأبطال”.. سكان غزة يفخرون باللحظات الأخيرة من حياة السنوار”, Al Jazeera, 2024.

“غزة” position Sinwar not as a defeated leader but as a figure who achieved his long-desired end in line with the ethos of jihad and resistance. Moreover, the headline “*This is how heroes die... Gaza residents proud of Sinwar’s last moments*”, explicitly frames him as a heroic symbol الأبطال whose death is embraced with pride by the Palestinian community.

Even when referencing Israeli sources, as in “آخر لحظات السنوار قبيل استشهاده” شاهد... وفقًا لصور الجيش الإسرائيلي”, the linguistic framing subverts Israel’s narrative by reinterpreting it as evidence of sacrifice and bravery. This rhetorical strategy highlights Al Jazeera’s ideological alignment with the Palestinian cause, where Sinwar’s death is not a tactical loss but a moral and symbolic gain. Thus, Al Jazeera’s headlines reinforce collective identity, mobilize emotional solidarity, and counter Israeli claims of victory through the elevation of Sinwar as both a martyr and a national hero. Through Pan & Kosicki theory, framing can see the form of framing through the political language used in the news media. In this case, the form of framing on *headline* The news has been adapted to the aims and objectives of each news media.

Next in the *lead*, Pan & Kosicki emphasize that this section is an important opening to attract readers to continue reading the news. BBC News Arabic In the *lead* section, BBC News Arabic constructs a predominantly informative-analytical narrative that underscores Israel’s perspective and interests. Sinwar’s death is repeatedly framed as a “major blow” and even the “greatest victory” for Israel, though the coverage simultaneously stresses that this event does not mark the end of the conflict, as Israel’s broader military objectives remain unfulfilled. The lead paragraphs frequently foreground Sinwar’s alleged role as the mastermind of the October 7 attack, thereby reinforcing his image as a dangerous adversary whose elimination constitutes a strategic achievement for Israel. Even in reports adopting a human-interest angle—such as the story centered on the house where Sinwar was killed—the narrative remains anchored in Israel’s military operation and its consequences. Overall, BBC’s leads frame Sinwar primarily as a threat neutralized by Israel, while simultaneously situating the continuation of the conflict under Israel’s agency and strategic calculations.

Conversely, Al Jazeera employs a distinctly heroic and ideological framing in its leads. Sinwar is constructed not merely as a political leader but as the architect of the “Al-Aqsa Flood” and a figure whose death is interpreted within the discourse of *istishhād* (martyrdom). Several reports dramatize his final moments with vivid imagery—phrases such as “*last moments*” and “*this is how heroes die*”—while also amplifying voices from Gaza that valorize Sinwar’s death as a source of communal pride. Moreover, Al Jazeera highlights Israel’s intelligence shortcomings, presenting Sinwar’s death less as a decisive Israeli success and more as a testament to his enduring symbolic power. Even when acknowledging Netanyahu’s “image of victory,” the

narrative remains critical of Israel's ongoing aggression. In this way, Al Jazeera's leads elevate Sinwar as both a martyr and a collective symbol of Palestinian resistance.

The contrast between the two outlets is striking. While BBC News Arabic adopts a technical, analytic frame that emphasizes Israel's control over the trajectory of the war and reduces Sinwar to a neutralized militant leader, Al Jazeera advances an emotionally charged, ideological frame that reimagines Sinwar as a martyr and enduring icon of resistance. This divergence in *lead* framing reflects not only editorial orientations but also broader ideological positions vis-à-vis the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Table 4. News Lead on BBC News Arabic

Code	Lead	Framing Orientation
BBC1	The announcement of Sinwar's death generated widespread reactions, reinforced by images and official Israeli confirmation. Sinwar is identified as the mastermind of the October 7 attacks.	Sinwar framed as a dangerous militant neutralized by Israel; emphasizes Israeli authority and legitimacy.
BBC2	Sinwar's death is described as Israel's greatest victory to date but insufficient to end the war. Images of his body are foregrounded.	Israel's strength emphasized; Hamas weakened but resilient.
BBC3	Analysts state Sinwar's death is a significant strike but will not dismantle Hamas's organizational capacity. Resistance persists as an idea.	Technical framing: Hamas weakened but ideologically resilient; Israel still central actor.
BBC4	Focus on the Rafah house where Sinwar was killed; residents displaced due to Israeli military orders.	Human-interest but still tied to Israeli military actions.
BBC5	Analysts doubt Sinwar's death will end the war; Netanyahu's unachieved objectives remain central.	Israel's political agenda foregrounded; war continuation normalized.
AJA1	Sinwar described as architect of "Al-Aqsa Flood"; his targeting is a turning point but not a definitive Israeli victory.	Emphasis on Sinwar's agency and legacy; undermines Israeli "victory" claims.

AJA2	Israeli army footage presented as his last moments; framed as martyrdom.	Dramatic, emotive framing; glorification of Sinwar's death.
AJA3	Narrative of Sinwar's long evasion of Israel; stresses Israel's intelligence failures before his eventual death.	Sinwar framed as victorious even in death; critique of Israeli power.
AJA4	Suggests Netanyahu gains only a symbolic "image of victory"; questions continuation of Israeli aggression.	Critical of Israel; questions legitimacy of political leadership.
AJA5	Eyewitnesses celebrate Sinwar's final acts, such as resisting with a stick against a drone.	Martyrdom and heroism discourse; Sinwar immortalized as resistance symbol.

Source: *BBC News Arabic, Al Jazeera.*

As for part closure, BBC News Arabic and Al Jazeera demonstrate contrasting framing strategies that reinforce their respective ideological positions. BBC News Arabic frequently adopts a pragmatic and analytical tone, presenting Sinwar's death within broader structural and political implications. For example, it highlights uncertainty regarding Hamas's leadership succession, Israel's unclear post-war strategy, and expert evaluations of how the conflict might persist. Even when drawing symbolic comparisons (Che Guevara, Saddam Hussein), BBC balances these portrayals with critical voices blaming Sinwar for Gaza's suffering. Thus, the closure in BBC functions as a cautious reminder that despite Israel's tactical victory, the war is unlikely to end, and political challenges remain unresolved.

Conversely, Al Jazeera employs closures that are emotionally charged and ideologically assertive. The narratives emphasize Sinwar's martyrdom, continuity of resistance, and public pride in his legacy, while simultaneously critiquing Israel's arrogance and Netanyahu's weak leadership. By embedding testimonies from civilians and evoking historical parallels with past martyrs, Al Jazeera frames Sinwar's death as part of an ongoing narrative of heroic struggle rather than a decisive blow to Hamas. This creates a sense of ideological resilience, portraying Israel as legally and morally delegitimized.

Overall, BBC's closures construct a discourse of political realism and strategic ambiguity, while Al Jazeera's closures articulate a discourse of resistance and ideological perseverance. Within Pan & Kosicki's syntactic framework, this divergence illustrates how the closure element is mobilized not merely to end the story, but to signal broader ideological alignments: BBC toward pragmatic analysis of war outcomes, and Al Jazeera toward a resistant, pro-Palestinian stance that amplifies the symbolic value of Sinwar's death.

Table 5. News Closure on Al Jazeera

Code	Closure	Framing Orientation
BBC1	Analysts uncertain about Hamas's leadership transition and ceasefire negotiations after Sinwar's death.	Mixed framing: heroic symbolism vs. critique, portraying Sinwar as both a revolutionary icon and a cause of destruction.
BBC2	Official confirmation of Sinwar's death by Israel, paralleled with Hamas's mourning statement.	Pessimistic framing of endless conflict; emphasizes futility of Israel's assassinations.
BBC3	Experts argue Israel lacks a clear "day after" plan in Gaza, risking prolonged conflict.	Neutral-analytical framing; highlights instability and political uncertainty.
BBC4	Israel's arrogance deepens its image as a violator of international law, threatening stability.	Institutional framing; presents closure in formal military-political narrative.
BBC5	Military expert avoids prediction, stresses Gaza's complexity and decentralized resistance.	Critical framing of Israel's strategic vacuum; implies ongoing instability.
AJA1	Despite loss of leaders (Sinwar, Haniyeh, Ahmad Yassin), resistance will not end.	Critical framing; portrays Israel as aggressor and destabilizer.
AJA2	Netanyahu lacks political skill or strategy to end war.	Strategic resilience framing; resistance is adaptable and enduring.
AJA3	Gazans glorify Sinwar as a martyr-hero and express hope for stronger successors, though war persists.	Martyrdom framing; death fuels continuity of struggle.
AJA4	Netanyahu lacks political skill or strategy to end war.	Delegitimization framing; portrays Israeli leadership as incompetent.
AJA5	Gazans glorify Sinwar as a martyr-hero and express hope for stronger successors, though war persists.	Heroic-martyrdom framing with communal pride; conflict seen as continuous but dignified.

As seen in the table above, the final paragraph is a form *closure* news from both media shows that there is a conclusion to the problem that occurred. *BBC News Arabic*

concluded various expert opinions, that there is no clarity in ending the war in Gaza considering several goals that have not been achieved. In this case, BBC News Arabic cannot provide confirmation regarding the possibility of ending the Israeli-Palestinian war after the death of Yahya Sinwar. Referring to the perspectives of sources gathered, the BBC closed the news with hopes aimed at Hamas not having control over the government in Gaza.

Meanwhile, Al Jazeera closed its news with a paragraph which emphasized that the Israeli-Palestinian war or conflict had occurred despite the genocide attempt, Al Jazeera saw that Israel's image as a defiant and arrogant country was becoming increasingly clear after several human rights violations committed by Israel. In this case, Al Jazeera emphasizes Israel's arrogance which is increasingly worsening Israel's bad image in the global view.

Through the syntactic structure of Pan & Kosicki's framing theory, it can be concluded that there are quite contrasting differences between the two news media in responding to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict after the death of Yahya Sinwar. From the elements *headline*, *lead*, *episode*, and *closure* used has represented the aims and objectives of each news item. BBC News Arabic emphasizing Netanyahu's perspective as the main reference that has been alluded to in the headline, the results of Netanyahu's declaration after successfully conquering Yahya Sinwar, and several political experts who support Israel's actions. This shows the media's desire to present Netanyahu's voice as the controller in deciding the end or continuation of the war. Meanwhile, Al Jazeera focused on denying the victory declared by Netanyahu by presenting various possibilities regarding Israel's goals in continuing the war. Al Jazeera promotes the spirit of Hamas' struggle which is still and must be against Israeli occupation.

2. Structure of Script

The structure of script is a writer's tool for describing stories in the news. The completeness of 5W and 1 H can support the accuracy of news content in containing information. In this section, BBC News Arabic and Al Jazeera have not attached parts on when to answer when background information is presented. The rest is in the series Who, Why, Where, and How can be found in the news content.

Table 6. Fittings 5W + 1 H on BBC News Arabic

News Code	What	Who	Why	Where	When	How
BBC1	The death of Yahya Sinwar sparked wide reactions in Gaza, Israel,	Sinwar, Netanyahu, Gallant, Hagari, Hamas leaders	Israel targeted Sinwar as the mastermind of the Oct 7	Rafah (Tel al-Sultan), Gaza.	17–18 Octob er 2024.	Israel released photos/videos from a drone; Hamas

	and neighboring countries.	(Khalil al-Hayya).	attack; for Hamas, his death symbolizes resistance.			said Sinwar died in armed clashes.
BBC2	Sinwar's death seen as Israel's biggest victory, but the war continues.	Yahya Sinwar, Benjamin Netanyahu, families of Israeli hostages, Palestinian civilians.	Netanyahu insists war goals are not yet achieved; some argue he prolongs the war to avoid political accountability.	Rafah. Gaza. Tel Aviv, Khan Younis.	18 October 2024	Sinwar was killed in Rafah; Israeli officials and Netanyahu framed it as victory, but Hamas and civilians emphasize war's continuation.
BBC3	Sinwar's death weakens but won't end Hamas.	Sinwar, Palestinian analysts, Hamas leaders	Resistance is an enduring idea; Hamas regenerates leaders	Rafah, Gaza.	-.	Killed in clash; Hamas vows continuity, succession expected
BBC4	Sinwar was killed in a house battle	Sinwar, Israeli army, Ashraf Abu Taha (homeowner)	House became site of Israeli clash with Sinwar	Tal al-Sultan, Rafah, Gaza	17 Oct 2024	Israeli forces clashed; images later spread online

BBC5	Sinwar's death did not end the war	Netanyahu, Fawaz Gerges, Eddie Cohen, dan Matthew Doss.	Netanyahu's other goals in carrying out the war have not been fully achieved.	-	-	Quote of Netanyahu's statement on <i>platform X</i>
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Source: BBC News Arabic.

Table 7. Fittings 5W + 1 H on Al Jazeera

News Code	What	Who	Why	Where	When	How
AJA1	Israel has not been able to 'win' after killing Sinwar	Netanyahu	There is a gap between tactical victory and strategic victory	-	-	-
AJA2	Israeli army released footage of Sinwar's last moments before his death.	Yahya Sinwar, Israeli army, Brig. Gen. Elias Hanna (military expert).	To show narrative of his death, but expert argues it undermines Israel's claim that Sinwar hid behind hostages	Rafah, Tel al-Sultan neighborhood, southern Gaza	Wednesday, October 16, 2024	Sinwar fought in a building, used a stick against a drone, then killed by Israeli tank shell; body later identified.
AJA3	Israel announced the killing of Yahya Sinwar, Hamas political	Yahya Sinwar, Daniel Hagari (IDF spokesperson),	Israel framed it as a military success, but the article	Rafah, southern Gaza.	Wednesday–Thursday, October 16–17, 2024.	Accidentally killed during clashes; fought until last moment

	leader in Gaza.	Hamas, Israel.	highlights that Sinwar died as he wished — a martyr in battle, not hiding.			with limited means (even throwing wood at a drone).
AJA4	Netanyahu's Gaza strategy after Sinwar's death.	Netanyahu, Sinwar, Biden, Harris, Trump, Israeli analysts, Hamas leaders.	Sinwar's death seen as victory, but Netanyahu prolongs war for political survival/regional goals.	Gaza	After Sinwar's killing, Oct 17, 2024.	Rejects ceasefire despite U.S. pressure; no clear exit strategy.
AJA5	Gazans honor Sinwar's last moments as heroic.	Sinwar, Hamas, Gazan civilians	His death seen as martyrdom fulfilling his wish, inspiring pride and resilience despite war's heavy toll.	Rafah	Oct 16-17 2024	Fought until death, even with a stick; Hamas vows continued resistance, civilians share pride online and offline.

Source: Al Jazeera.

The BBC and Al Jazeera construct distinct and contrasting frames around the death of Yahya Sinwar, reflecting their broader editorial orientations toward the Israeli–Palestinian conflict. BBC reporting adopts an analytical and strategic lens, portraying Sinwar's death as a significant but incomplete achievement for Israel. While the elimination of Hamas's political chief is recognized as a military success, BBC emphasizes that Israel's broader objectives namely the destruction of Hamas as a political and military entity and the return of hostages remain unfulfilled. This framing

underscores the complexity and protracted nature of the war, presenting Israel's victory as partial and tempered by the ongoing humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza. In contrast, Al Jazeera advances a highly emotive and normative framing that elevates Sinwar's death to the status of martyrdom. The network highlights Sinwar's final moments in battle, presenting him as a heroic leader who fulfilled his long-stated wish to die at the hands of the occupier. His death is depicted not as a defeat for Hamas but as a source of inspiration and pride for Palestinians, reinforcing narratives of steadfastness, resilience, and continuity of resistance beyond the loss of individual leaders. Whereas BBC foregrounds Israel's strategic dilemmas and political calculations, Al Jazeera foregrounds the symbolic power of Sinwar's martyrdom and its resonance among Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank. Taken together, the two outlets frame the same event in divergent ways: for the BBC, Sinwar's death is evidence of the limits of Israeli success in a drawn-out war, while for Al Jazeera, it represents the enduring vitality of Palestinian resistance and the moral triumph of martyrdom.

3. Structure of Thematic

In Pan & Kosicki's model, the thematic structure highlights how titles, leads, and closings combine with quotations to reinforce the coherence of a news theme. The thematic analysis of BBC News Arabic and Al Jazeera coverage of Yahya Sinwar's death demonstrates significant differences in the focus and construction of propositions. Across its reports (BBC 1–5), BBC News Arabic frames Sinwar's death as a substantial yet incomplete achievement for Israel. The thematic emphasis is placed on Israel's strategic objectives, such as neutralizing Hamas's political and military leadership and securing the release of Israeli hostages, which remain unfulfilled despite the killing. This theme is reinforced by repeated references to Netanyahu's statements, for instance: "لدينا فرصة كبيرة لوقف محور الشر وخلق مستقبل مختلف" ("We have a great opportunity to stop the axis of crime and create a different future"). Such propositions, embedded in both titles and leads, establish a causal relationship in which the continuation of war is justified by the persistence of Hamas's resistance. The closing paragraphs often reiterate expert commentary, such as that the war will only end if Hamas ceases its military struggle, thus situating Israel's military actions as part of a broader struggle for security and stability. The cause–effect logic reinforces a narrative in which Israel's choices appear rational and necessary, while Hamas is presented as constrained to fight by its own ideological stance.

By contrast, Al Jazeera (AJA 1–5) constructs a markedly different thematic narrative. Rather than presenting Sinwar's death as a decisive Israeli victory, Al Jazeera emphasizes its limited strategic value and elevates the symbolic and inspirational dimensions of his martyrdom. The titles and leads frequently employ emotive framing "شاهد... آخر لحظات السنوار قبيل استشهاده" ("Watch... Sinwar's last moments before his martyrdom") or "هكذا يموت الأبطال" ("This is how heroes die"), which underscore themes of heroism, sacrifice, and continuity of resistance. Quotations from Palestinian civilians

and Hamas officials reinforce this thematic orientation, portraying Sinwar as a leader who fought until his final moments and whose death will inspire future generations. For example, the statement “أي رهان إسرائيلي على أن تصفية السنوار ستؤدي إلى انهيار القدرة القتالية للمقاومة” illustrates how the narrative dismisses Israeli claims of victory, suggesting instead that the resistance remains structurally resilient. In Al Jazeera’s thematic structure, Israel’s persistence in war is depicted as unrealistic and politically self-defeating, while Palestinian resistance is framed as enduring and morally elevated.

Thus, the thematic framing in BBC and Al Jazeera diverges sharply: BBC emphasizes Israel’s ongoing strategic calculus, constructing a rational–causal frame of war continuation, while Al Jazeera underscores the futility of Israeli goals and the symbolic triumph of Sinwar’s martyrdom, projecting a narrative of resilience and moral victory for the Palestinian side.

4. Structure of Rhetoric

The rhetorical structure in Pan & Kosicki’s model highlights how diction, idioms, and rhetorical devices function as persuasive strategies in framing news. Across the five reports, BBC News Arabic consistently employs idioms and phrases that reinforce Israel’s political-military agenda. For example, expressions such as “خطة الجنرالات” (the generals’ plan) and “الاستسلام الكامل” (complete surrender) reflect an emphasis on Israel’s strategic vision and its expectation that Hamas must not only cease its resistance but also relinquish its political role. Similarly, the phrase “اليوم التالي للحرب” (the day after the war) frames the conflict in terms of Israel’s pursuit of victory and post-war dominance, while the recurring use of “الصراع” (conflict) positions the situation within the logic of power struggle and security rather than humanitarian disaster. Through this rhetorical lens, BBC constructs a discourse that rationalizes Israel’s operations as structured, goal-oriented, and tied to the broader regional balance of power.

Conversely, Al Jazeera adopts idioms and diction that foreground resistance, sacrifice, and collective memory. Its repeated use of “طوفان الأقصى” (Operation Al-Aqsa Flood) links the war to a broader narrative of Palestinian struggle, while expressions such as “ورقة ضغط” (pressure card) frame Israel’s hostages not as bargaining tools for Hamas, but as symbols of Israel’s vulnerability. Al Jazeera also prefers the term “الحرب” (war) over “conflict,” thereby amplifying the scale of destruction and portraying Israel’s actions as systemic violence and genocide against Palestinians, particularly civilians, women, and children. Rhetorically, Al Jazeera frequently incorporates emotionally charged idioms like “هكذا يموت الأبطال” (this is how heroes die) or “الوعد الحق” (the true promise), which glorify al-Sinwar’s death as martyrdom and elevate his legacy into a source of pride and resilience for Palestinians.

The rhetorical divergence is therefore stark: while BBC News Arabic relies on political-strategic idioms to normalize Israel's continuation of the war as a matter of unfinished objectives, Al Jazeera foregrounds emotive idioms and moral language to depict Palestinian endurance and heroism. This distinction not only shapes how audiences interpret the same events but also reflects broader editorial orientations—BBC aligning its rhetoric with conflict-resolution discourse, whereas Al Jazeera embeds its rhetoric in the moral and symbolic dimensions of war.

In the rhetorical dimension, one of the most recurrent images used by BBC News Arabic depicts an Israeli protester holding a placard that reads *"NOW END THE SIN-WAR BRING THEM HOME."* The choice of diction here is highly symbolic, as the phrase *"SIN-WAR"* functions as a play on words that conflates Yahya al-Sinwar's name with "sin" and "war," thereby framing him as the embodiment of both immorality and conflict. The red lettering visually reinforces associations with violence, bloodshed, and wrongdoing, while the phrase *"bring them home"* underscores the centrality of the hostage issue in Israeli public discourse. This rhetorical strategy situates Sinwar as the direct cause of ongoing suffering and presents his death as a potential pathway to ending the war, while simultaneously highlighting the pressure on Israeli leaders to secure the return of captives. By selecting such imagery, BBC constructs a framing that privileges the Israeli perspective, presenting the conflict as both a national trauma and a political challenge, thereby aligning visual representation with its broader thematic narrative of optimism intertwined with domestic pressures.

In contrast, Al Jazeera predominantly features visual material of Yahya al-Sinwar himself, particularly the widely circulated video capturing his final moments. In its reporting, Al Jazeera highlighted an expert analysis which emphasized that the images revealed Sinwar to be wounded yet still resisting, attempting to repel an Israeli drone with a wooden stick. This interpretation directly challenges the Israeli narrative that Sinwar had used hostages as human shields, reframing his death instead as a moment of solitary defiance and coincidence rather than premeditated assassination. The visual rhetoric thus constructs Sinwar as a symbol of resilience and martyrdom, reinforcing the discourse of steadfast resistance that Al Jazeera repeatedly foregrounds. By privileging such imagery, Al Jazeera shifts the framing from Israel's narrative of tactical victory to one of Palestinian endurance, thereby positioning Sinwar's death as both inspirational and politically consequential for the continuity of resistance.

Image 1. Demonstrators call on Sinwar to return the Israeli hostages



Source: BBC News Arabic

Image 2. Benjamin Netanyahu & Yahya Sinwar in Al Jazeera



Source: Al Jazeera

Rhetorically, this shows BBC News Arabic places more emphasis on the use of idioms and images to complement news content. Thus, the theory of analysis *framing* which was developed by Pan & Kosicki as a form of study of news critical discourse. Through this theory, researchers can see the aims and objectives of each news story in

conveying the message content through news framing by reviewing 4 structures such as syntax, script, thematic, and rhetorical.

From the analysis that has been carried out, it is proven that the two major news media presented news about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict after Sinwar's death in a form of framing that was packaged using political language. Through four structures of framing Pan & Kosicki, BBC News Arabic is more complete in framing the news in order to realize the purpose of the news. The purpose of the content of the news is to inform that the continuation of the war is very possible because several goals have not been achieved. Meanwhile, Al Jazeera only summarized Israel's ideas regarding Netanyahu's claim of strategic victory after successfully killing Yahya Sinwar. The form of framing built from the four elements is able to shape the reader's perspective in knowing the latest information regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

5. Framing and Ideological Orientations in Post-2024 Context

The ideological implications of the framing strategies employed by BBC News Arabic and Al Jazeera reveal two contrasting orientations in shaping international public opinion on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in the post-2024 context. BBC News Arabic, through its frequent use of interrogative and cautious headlines, constructs the conflict as an open-ended process whose resolution depends on Israel's strategic objectives, thereby reinforcing a state-centric discourse that aligns with Western diplomatic priorities and legitimizes the continuation of Israel's military operations. This reflects an ideological stance that privileges the logic of international diplomacy and securitization over grassroots narratives of resistance. In contrast, Al Jazeera adopts declarative and assertive headlines that emphasize martyrdom, resilience, and heroic resistance, presenting the death of Yahya Sinwar not as an Israeli victory but as a reaffirmation of Palestinian steadfastness. Such framing resonates strongly with Global South audiences and positions Al Jazeera as a counter-hegemonic voice that challenges Western narratives, highlighting the asymmetry of power and the moral legitimacy of Palestinian resistance. In the shifting political climate after 2024, these divergent framings have significant ideological weight: BBC contributes to sustaining the international status quo by contextualizing the war within the logic of diplomacy, while Al Jazeera rearticulates the conflict as part of a broader struggle against colonial domination and global injustice.

D. Conclusion

This research shows that BBC News Arabic and Al Jazeera adopt contrasting frames in reporting the Israeli-Palestinian conflict after Yahya Sinwar's death. BBC News Arabic frames the event through Israel's strategic goals and diplomatic calculations, while Al Jazeera highlights Sinwar's martyrdom and the continuity of Palestinian resistance. Beyond these textual differences, the research reveals deeper ideological orientations: BBC reproduces state-centric and Western-aligned narratives that sustain the status quo, whereas Al Jazeera advances a counter-hegemonic discourse

that resonates with Global South audiences by legitimizing resistance as a struggle against colonial domination.

The contribution of this research lies in demonstrating how Pan & Kosicki's multidimensional framing model can uncover not only the structural construction of news discourse (syntactic, script, thematic, rhetorical), but also its ideological implications in the post-2024 context. By connecting textual analysis with ideological critique, this research enriches scholarly debates on Arabic media discourse and conflict representation.

Nevertheless, this research has limitations. The analysis focused on a small number of news reports within a limited time span (October 16–23, 2024). It also relied solely on textual data, without triangulation from audience reception or interviews with journalists. Future studies could expand the dataset to include more media outlets, employ mixed methods (textual + audience analysis), or compare Arabic with Western-language coverage to capture transnational dynamics of framing.

Through these findings, this article highlights how framing studies remain a powerful tool for examining political language and media discourse. It is expected that subsequent research will further explore the interplay between news framing, ideology, and public perception in ongoing conflicts beyond Palestine.

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Example in footnotes:

¹Mircea Eliade (ed.), *The Encyclopedia of Religion*, vol. 8 (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1995), h. 18.

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10. Article in Internet

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