MEDIA POWER AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF REALITY: A CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS USING TEUN A. VAN DIJK'S MODEL ON THE NEWS OF THE EXPLODING PAGER ON AL JAZEERA NET

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Article Info	Abstract
	This research analyzes the news report entitled " ما جهاز البيجر الذي انفجر في عناصر حزب الله؟ " published by Al Jazeera Net, using the Critical Discourse Analysis (AWK) approach of Teun A. van Dijk model. The purpose of this research is to reveal how the media frames reality, shapes public opinion, and represents ideology and power relations in the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This research uses a descriptive qualitative approach with a critical discourse analysis method that includes three main dimensions: macrostructure (theme), superstructure (text scheme), and microstructure (lexical, syntactic, and rhetorical aspects). The results show that Al Jazeera actively shapes social reality through language and representation strategies, by framing Hezbollah as the victim and Israel as the actor suspected of carrying out the cyberattack. The use of technical narratives, quotation of international sources, and the selection of diction that builds a conspiratorial impression shows the media's role as an ideological agent. In this context, Al Jazeera not only conveys information, but also reproduces meanings that favor certain groups. This study confirms that the media has a dimension of power in shaping the construction of social reality through discursive practices.

تجريد

يتناول هذا البحث بالتحليل التقرير الإخباري المعنون "ما جهاز البيجر الذي انفجر في عناصر حزب الله؟" الذي نشره موقع الجزيرة نت، باستخدام منهج تحليل الخطاب النقدي لنموذج تيون أ. فان ديك. يهدف هذا البحث إلى الكشف عن كيفية تأطير وسائل الإعلام للواقع، وتشكيل الرأي العام، وتمثيل الأيديولوجيا وعلاقات القوة في سياق الصراع الإسرائيلي الفلسطيني. ويستخدم هذا البحث منهجًا وصفيًا وصفيًا بمنهج تحليل الخطاب النقدي الذي يتضمن ثلاثة أبعاد رئيسة: البنية الكلية (الموضوع)، والبنية الفوقية (مخطط النص)، والبنية الجزئية (الجوانب المعجمية والنحوية والبلاغية). وأظهرت النتائج أن قناة الجزيرة شكّلت الواقع الاجتماعي بفاعلية من خلال استراتيجيات اللغة والتمثيل، من خلال تأطير حزب الله كضحية وإسرائيل كطرف مشتبه به في تنفيذ الهجوم الإلكتروني. ويُظهر استخدام السرد التقني، والاقتباس من مصادر دولية، واختيار الأسلوب الذي يبني انطباعًا تآمريًا دور الإعلام كعامل أيديولوجي. وفي هذا السياق، لا تكتفي الجزيرة بنقل المعلومات فحسب، بل تعيد إنتاج المعاني التي تصب في صالح جماعات معينة. وتؤكد هذه الدراسة أن للإعلام بعدًا من أبعاد السلطة في تشكيل بناء الواقع الاجتماعي من خلال الممارسات الخطابية

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Abstrak

Penelitian ini menganalisis pemberitaan berjudul "ما جهاز البيجر الذي انفجر في" "عناصر حزب الله؟" yang diterbitkan oleh Al Jazeera Net, menggunakan pendekatan Analisis Wacana Kritis (AWK) model Teun A. van Dijk. Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk mengungkap bagaimana media membingkai realitas, membentuk opini publik, dan merepresentasikan ideologi serta relasi kuasa dalam konteks konflik Israel-Palestina. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif deskriptif dengan metode analisis wacana kritis yang mencakup tiga dimensi utama: struktur makro (tema), superstruktur (skema teks), dan mikrostruktur (aspek leksikal, sintaksis, dan retoris). Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa Al Jazeera secara aktif membentuk realitas sosial melalui strategi bahasa dan representasi, dengan membingkai Hezbollah sebagai pihak korban dan Israel sebagai aktor yang diduga melakukan serangan siber. Penggunaan narasi teknis, kutipan sumber internasional, dan pemilihan diksi yang membangun kesan konspiratif menunjukkan peran media sebagai agen ideologis. Dalam konteks ini, Al Jazeera tidak hanya menyampaikan informasi, tetapi juga mereproduksi makna yang berpihak terhadap kelompok tertentu. Studi ini menegaskan bahwa media memiliki dimensi kekuasaan dalam membentuk konstruksi realitas sosial melalui praktik diskursif.

Kata kunci:

Analisis Wacana
Kritis
Konflik Israel-
Palestina
Framing media
Van Dijk

A. Introduction

The development of digital technology has brought about a major transformation in the world of mass media, including news media. The emergence of various online news platforms such as Al Jazeera Net, Al-'Ilam Al-'Araby, and Al-Arabiyya Net has expanded the reach of information and played a significant role in shaping public opinion on various events, both national and international (Titis Kusumaningrum Witdaryadi Putri, 2021).

The media not only functions as a conveyor of information, but also as an ideological domination tool that can reproduce power through language construction. News coverage is not always objective; in many cases, the media subtly inserts certain perspectives that reflect certain political or ideological interests (Habibie, 2018).

One conflict that has consistently been in the spotlight of the global media is the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This conflict has been ongoing for decades and involves complex political, religious, and humanitarian dimensions (Nikita Majesty Kalengkongan, Youla O.

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Agus, 2024). In this context, Arab media plays an important role in shaping the regional and international community's perception of the dynamics of the conflict.

One of the most recent events to attract media attention was the explosion of a Hezbollah member's pager device in Lebanon on September 24, 2024, which killed nine people and injured more than two thousand others. Hezbollah accused Israel of infiltrating malware into the device. This event is considered part of a broader asymmetric conflict between Hezbollah and Israel (Wulan Permata Sari, Agus Setyonegoro, 2025). Although pager technology is considered obsolete, this case shows how media and technology-both old and new-can still be utilized as tools in contemporary conflict. The involvement of technology in conflict dynamics shows the importance of examining how the media frames events with certain narrative and ideological devices (Yanto, 2024). Therefore, the Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) approach is a relevant tool to reveal the ideological dimensions and power relations in news texts (Darmawan, 2022).

Critical discourse analysis is carried out by examining the form of action, situational setting, historical background, power relations, and underlying ideology. One of the approaches in studying discourse is the critical discourse analysis theory developed by Teun A. van Dijk. In his perspective, discourse consists of three main dimensions, namely text structure, social cognition process, and social context (Dijk, 2008). According to Teun A. van Dijk, critical discourse analysis is also a process to reveal and explain social realities that are being shaped or constructed by dominant individuals or groups, which generally have certain interests in order to achieve goals or satisfaction of their desires (Dijk, 2021).

In this context, the media not only functions as a conveyor of information, but also as an agent of shaping social reality through the way events are conveyed and framed (Habermas, 1962). Van Dijk's approach to critical discourse analysis provides a framework for examining how discourse structures are used to maintain power and convey ideology (Prihartono & Suharyo, 2022). This model allows researchers to analyze macro, micro and superstructure aspects in the text, including revealing the process of social reality construction by dominant actors through linguistic strategies and ideological representations.

Previous research, by Mutiara.S Ramadani, Khaerudin Kurniawan (2024) who used critical discourse analysis theory using the van dijk model, discussed that the Indonesian media in covering the Israeli-Palestinian conflict tended to side with the Palestinians.

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Meanwhile, Solikhin (2023) used Van Dijk's approach to examine the news coverage of Kompas Online and found that religious issues became the dominant factor in shaping news framing. These findings confirm the importance of analyzing the role of the media in framing conflict. However, there are still few studies that specifically analyze Arabic-language media, especially Al Jazeera Net, in constructing the Israeli-Palestinian conflict using a critical discourse approach.

Based on this description, the problem formulations in this study are: how does Al Jazeera Net frame the Hezbollah pager explosion event in the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through a discourse structure that reflects a certain ideology?

This research is important because it contributes to the understanding of how Arab media constructs conflict through language strategies. In addition, the findings of this research can enrich cross-cultural studies in media studies, as well as become a reference in improving media literacy in the midst of global geopolitical complexity.

This study aims to analyze how Al Jazeera Net, as one of the leading Arab media, frames the Hezbollah beeper explosion event in the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Using Teun A. van Dijk's critical discourse analysis model, this study explores the discourse structure and ideology contained in the text, and contributes to the development of Arab media discourse studies in a cross-cultural perspective (Syakur & Sumarlam, 2021).

B. Research Method

This research uses a descriptive qualitative approach that aims to understand and interpret social phenomena in depth (Khaleeda Iman Binti Khalid, Syarifuddin, Zulhelmi, 2025). This method was chosen because it is suitable for exploring the meaning behind the use of language in media texts and revealing the relationship between language, power, and ideology.

The data in this study were obtained through a literature study of primary and secondary sources including news articles, scientific journals, and relevant reference books (Nurhakim, 2024). Th(Muhammad Guruh Achmad Teguh, Rini Riyantini, 2021) e main text analyzed is an article titled "ما جهاز البيجر الذي انفجر في عناصر حزب الله؟", published by Al Jazeera Net in 2024. This article was chosen because it is directly related to the issue of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and involves technological narratives within the framework of ideological battles.

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Data analysis was conducted using Teun A. van Dijk's Critical Discourse Analysis model which includes three main dimensions:

1. Macro Structure - the main theme or big topic in the text
2. Superstructure - the organization or scheme of the text
3. Microstructure - lexical, syntactic, and rhetorical aspects.

To support the validity of the results and data analysis, researchers also used data analysis techniques from Miles and Huberman which consisted of three stages:

1. Data reduction - filtering and selecting relevant important data;
2. Data presentation - compiling data in the form of tables and systematic narratives;
3. Conclusion drawing and verification - ensuring that data interpretation can be accounted for (Mariyadi, 2019).

With this method, it is hoped that the research will be able to reveal the ideological construction in Arabic media texts and provide a deeper understanding of the dynamics of conflict representation in media discourse.

C. Results and Analysis

This research analyzes the news "ما جهاز البيجر الذي انفجر في عناصر حزب الله؟" from Al Jazeera Net, using the Critical Discourse Analysis approach of Teun A. van Dijk model, which consists of three main dimensions: macro structure, superstructure, and microstructure. The aim is to uncover how the text frames reality, shapes public opinion, and represents ideology and power relations.

1. Macro Structure (Thematic)

No	Elements of Discourse	News Excerpt
1.	Topic	ما جهاز البيجر الذي انفجر في عناصر حزب الله؟
2.	Sub topic	**Paragraph 1**
		"البيجر" هو جهاز اتصال إلكتروني لا سلكي صغير **ومحمول، اخترعه المهندس الكندي ألفريد غروس** **عام ١٩٤٩**
		Paragraph 2 تُستخدم أجهزة البيجر -وتُسمى أيضا أجهزة البليب- للتواصل مع الزبائن في المطاعم والمقاهي، أو في المستشفيات والمراكز التجارية الكبيرة، أو في كل مؤسسة تريد تسيير منظومة جماعية والتواصل معها

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بسهولة، وكانت تُستخدم أيضا في التواصل بين
الأشخاص قبل ظهور الهواتف المحمولة

Paragraph 3

وتعمل أجهزة البيجر ببطاريات الليثيوم -التي قد
تعمل أياما متواصلة- وقد تم تطوير النسخ الأولى من
هذه الأجهزة في خمسينيات وستينيات القرن
العشرين، وشاع استخدامها مع نهاية الثمانينيات
وبداية التسعينيات من القرن نفسه قبل انتشار
الهواتف المحمولة

Paragraph 4

وفي الأصل كانت منظومة أجهزة البيجر تعمل عبر
موجات اتصال لاسلكي، يتم إرسالها من هوائيات
متخصصة، ومع التطور التكنولوجي بدأت تستوعب
تقنيات التواصل المتطورة مثل التطبيقات الذكية
وتقنيتي البلوثوت والواي فاي

Paragraph 11

في يوم 17 سبتمبر/أيلول 2024 أعلن حزب الله أن
المئات من مقاتليه وآخرين من المواطنين اللبنانيين
أصيبوا بجراح متفاوتة الخطورة بعد انفجار أجهزة
"بيجر" كانوا يحملونها، واتهم إسرائيل بالوقوف وراء
هذه التفجيرات

Paragraph 13

وبدوره، قال وزير الصحة اللبناني فراس الأبيض إن 9
أشخاص قُتلوا وأُصيب نحو 2750 بانفجار أجهزة
الاتصالات المذكورة، مضيفا أن أكثر من مئتين من
الجرحى حالتهم حرجة، وكشف أن معظم الإصابات
كانت في الوجه واليدين وفي منطقة البطن

Paragraph 12

ووقعت هذه التفجيرات في مناطق عديدة
في لبنان بينها الضاحية الجنوبية لبيروت ومدن البقاع
والنبطية والحوش وبنت جبيل وصور وطرابلس
وبعلبك وغيره

Paragraph 14

وفي السياق ذاته، أوردت صحيفة "وول ستريت
جورنال" الأميركية أن أجهزة الاستدعاء "بيجر"، التي

يحملها المئات من عناصر حزب الله وانفجرت بشكل

غير متوقع كانت من شحنة جديدة تلقاها الحزب في

الأيام الأخيرة

Paragraph 15

وقال مسؤول في حزب الله إن مئات المقاتلين لديهم

مثل هذه الأجهزة، وتكهن بأن برامج ضارة ربما تسببت

في تسخين الأجهزة وانفجارها، وأضاف أن بعض

الناس شعروا بأن هذه الأجهزة تسخن، ولذلك

تخلصوا منها قبل أن تنفجر

Paragraph 16

كما نقلت وكالة الأناضول عن الخبير اللبناني في

الاتصالات هشام جابر قوله إن عملية تفجير أجهزة

البيجر" تقنية رفيعة جدا لا تستطيع إسرائيل"

إجراءها وحدها، وإنما بمساعدة حلفاء

Data analysis of the macro structure of critical discourse

The news article with the title "What is the exploding pager among Hezbollah members?" clearly places the pager explosion event as the main focus of the discourse. This topic immediately directs the reader's attention to the incident that befell hundreds of Hezbollah members, as well as creating a sense of urgency and concern about the incident.

At the beginning, the news explains in detail the definition of a pager as a small and portable wireless electronic communication device, including the history of its invention and use. This explanation serves to provide readers with an in-depth context so that they can understand what a pager is, how it works and why it is still used by groups like Hezbollah. In addition, the explanation of the evolution of pager technology shows that this device is not just an ordinary communication tool, but one that has the advantage of security and stability, especially in situations that require closed and reliable communication.

Next, the news relayed the chronology of the pager explosion incident that occurred on September 17, 2024, complete with data on the injured and dead victims. The mention of the various locations of the explosion in Lebanon, such as the southern suburbs of Beirut and other cities, illustrates the wide scale and serious impact of this

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incident. This detailed information strengthens the weight of the facts and helps readers understand how serious the incident was.

To add credibility, the news quoted a report from international media, The Wall Street Journal, which informed that the exploded pager was part of a new shipment that Hezbollah had received a few days earlier. This reference gives the event a global dimension and raises questions about possible outside interference.

The statement from Hezbollah officials suspecting malware as the cause of the pager explosion added an element of internal conjecture to the story. This suggests that the incident was not just a technical mishap, but rather a possible cyberattack designed to undermine the group. Some members even reported feeling the device overheat and discarding it before it exploded, reinforcing the narrative that this explosion was not spontaneous.

Finally, the news also featured an analysis from a Lebanese communications expert, who assessed that the operation to detonate the device was highly sophisticated and could not have been carried out by Israel alone without the help of allies. This opinion expands the scope of the discourse to the larger realm of geopolitics and conflict, suggesting that this incident is part of a technological and strategic battle between state and non-state actors in the region.

Overall, the macro structure of the discourse in this news story combines informative, chronological, analytical and political aspects with the aim of providing a comprehensive picture to readers. The news does not only convey technical facts and events, but also builds a critical understanding of the political and security context behind the Hezbollah beeper explosion. This approach leads readers to see the incident as part of a wider and more complex conflict, not just a technological problem.

2. **Superstructure (Schematic)**

In research Prihartono & Suharyo (2022) said that according to Teun A. van Dijk superstructure or schematic is referred to as a general pattern or basic framework that forms the structure of a discourse text.

The following is the superstructure analysis data :

No	Discourse elements	News excerpt
1.	Title	ما جهاز البيجر الذي انفجر في عناصر حزب الله؟

		What is the pager device that exploded in the hands of Hezbollah members?
2.	Opening sentence of paragraph 1	البيجر" هو جهاز اتصال إلكتروني لا سلكي صغير ومحمول، اخترعه المهندس الكندي ألفريد غروس عام 1949، ويُسمى أيضا جهاز النداء اللاسلكي، يمكن استخدامه للتواصل داخل المؤسسات أو ضمن مجموعات ومنظومات مختلفة، ويعمل ببطاريات قابلة للشحن، ويستقبل رسائل مكتوبة واتصالات وإشارات صوتية وضوئية
3.	Story a. Situation (Paragraphs 1-6)	• The pager device was originally an ordinary communication tool • Used by Hezbollah as a coordination tool • There were simultaneous mass explosions in various Lebanese cities
	b. Comments (7th-last paragraph)	• Israel accused of being the mastermind behind the explosion (albeit in the form of conjecture) • Experts say this explosion could not have happened without foreign assistance • Possible sabotage through software • Governments and international media join the narrative

Data analysis Superstructure of critical discourse

The superstructure in the news text "Hezbollah Pager Explosion" shows a typical pattern of news coverage consisting of summary and story elements. In the summary section, the text begins with a questioning title, " ما جهاز البيجر الذي انفجر في عناصر حزب الله؟" (What is the pager device that exploded in the hands of Hezbollah

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members?), which strategically draws the reader's attention while signaling that the news content will reveal the identity and events behind the incident. The lead text provides a technical and historical explanation of the "pager" device as a wireless communication tool, which is informationally neutral, thus establishing initial credibility and setting the context for the reader before entering the main body of the story.

Next, the story section is divided into two: situation and commentary. In the situation section, the text describes the initial use of pagers as a civilian communication tool that Hezbollah later used for internal coordination. The core incident is brought up with a narrative of mass explosions of these devices in different parts of Lebanon, such as Beirut, Baalbek, and Nabatiyeh, which caused thousands of injuries and some deaths. The situation is presented chronologically and descriptively, giving weight to the scale and impact of the events.

In the commentary section, the text presents various interpretations and responses from relevant actors. Hezbollah explicitly accuses Israel of being behind the attack, although it is presented as conjecture or speculation. Comments from communications experts also reinforce the narrative that this incident involved sophisticated technology and could not have been carried out without foreign interference, building the impression of global intelligence involvement. This narrative support is reinforced by quotes from international media such as the Wall Street Journal and Anadolu Agency, as well as official statements from Lebanese health officials. Overall, the superstructure of this text not only conveys factual information, but also frames the event in the context of geopolitical conflict and technological warfare, which is a hallmark of the critical discourse approach.

3. Microstruktur

At the microstructure level, this text shows a complex language strategy to frame the narrative ideologically but still appear objective. Semantically, the meanings that emerge revolve around the construction that Hezbollah is the aggrieved party. This is evident from the use of words like "اتهم إسرائيل بالوقوف وراء هذه التفجيرات" which explicitly names Israel as the accused party, although it is still packaged in the form of conjecture, not certainty. In addition, phrases such as "برامج ضارة ربما تسببت" leave room for technical

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interpretation, but implicitly instill the idea of possible advanced technological sabotage.

Syntactically, the initial sentence structure of the text is organized in an informative and descriptive manner, with a technical explanation of the "pager" device. This creates an objective and educative impression as a prelude, so that when the narrative moves on to the explosion incident, the reader has already accepted that this device is in principle a legitimate and commonly used means of communication. The sentences in the technical section also tend to be long and complex, reinforcing the impression that the narrative is scientific and rational.

In the stylistic aspect, word choices such as " تقنية رفيعة"، "برامج ضارة"، 'حرجة'، "انفجار"، جدا" are used to build an emergency, technological and tense atmosphere. This style of language emphasizes the extraordinary and unusual nature of the incident, while evoking empathy for the victims. The emphasis on the large number of civilian casualties and serious injuries also plays a role in adding to the emotional charge of the reader.

Meanwhile, rhetorically, the text uses external authorities such as the Wall Street Journal and Anadolu Agency to justify and reinforce the narrative. By quoting international media and local experts, the text builds credibility and shows that this event has global impact and attention. Placing information about casualties at the beginning of the incident is also a rhetorical strategy to frame Hezbollah and civilians as victims from the start.

Thus, the microstructure analysis reveals that this text, although packaged in an informative style, contains strong ideological and political constructions, positioning Hezbollah as a victim of a complex technological conspiracy involving foreign powers, especially Israel and its allies.

Reality Construction and Dimensions of Power in Media

In the reporting of the Hezbollah pager explosion by Al Jazeera Net, it is clear that the media does not merely convey factual information, but actively shapes social reality through language and representation strategies. The construction of reality in this news text is reflected in the way Al Jazeera chooses topics, structures the narrative, and determines the point of view and sources quoted. By emphasizing the possibility

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of Israeli involvement through cyberattacks, as well as portraying Hezbollah as the attacked party, Al Jazeera shapes the perception that this incident is part of a systematic aggression against resistance groups.

This reality construction shows how the media acts as an ideological actor, not just an information channel. In the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and tensions in the Middle East, media like Al Jazeera also produce meanings that favor certain groups by framing who is the victim, who is the perpetrator, and how events should be interpreted. By emphasizing Hezbollah's point of view, using diction that builds a conspiratorial impression, and quoting international sources to strengthen the narrative, Al Jazeera tries to direct public understanding to a certain framework of the reality of the conflict.

In addition, there is a hidden dimension of power in the way the media process information. In Teun A. van Dijk's framework, the media plays an important role in maintaining and reproducing power through discursive practices. In this case, power does not only mean political or military domination, but also control over social discourse and interpretation. Al Jazeera, as a media that has ideological ties to the Arab world and often takes a critical position towards Israel and its allies, uses its media power to balance narratives that are often dominated by Western media such as CNN or BBC.

Thus, media power appears in the form of the ability to determine what is considered important (agenda setting), how facts are arranged (framing), and how reality is ideologically constructed (discourse reproduction). In the news about this pager explosion, Al Jazeera positioned itself as a party that gives voice to a group that is often marginalized in global discourse, namely Hezbollah and the Arab world in general.

D. Conclusion

This research concludes that Al Jazeera Net, through its coverage of the explosion of Hezbollah members' pagers, not only acts as a conveyor of information, but also as an ideological actor that shapes social reality through a complex discourse structure. By highlighting Israel's possible involvement and using a narrative that places Hezbollah as a victim, the media framed the event within the framework of a high-level political and technological conflict. Analysis based on Teun A. van Dijk's model shows the construction

of ideology and power relations hidden behind the text structure, diction, and source selection. Al Jazeera utilizes its power to set the agenda, frame the facts, and influence public perception in the context of the Middle East geopolitical conflict.

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