

# Yahya Sinwar's Murder in Arabic International Media Platforms: A Norman Fairclough Critical Discourse Analysis

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**Abstract.** Israel's crushing defeat in the Al-Aqsa flood incident led to Yahya Sinwar being pursued by Israel's allies, with his death later making headlines in various international media outlets. This study aims to uncover the ideology, power, and social relations reflected in the text, discourse, and sociocultural contexts of the news coverage of Yahya Sinwar's killing using Norman Fairclough's critical discourse analysis. The research employs a qualitative descriptive approach. Primary data sources include news articles about Yahya Sinwar's killing from international online media, while secondary data is drawn from books and articles relevant to the topic. The results of this study reveal that: (1) text analysis shows how Arabic-language media platforms use diction portraying Yahya Sinwar's death as a representation of Israel's dominance over Hamas and their ongoing relations, with Yahya Sinwar serving as the subject of the reported narratives; (2) discourse practices reveal that BBC News Arabic, France 24, and Al Jazeera, international media platforms targeting African and Middle Eastern audiences, present the discourse in distinct ways; (3) sociocultural analysis highlights that Yahya Sinwar's killing is closely tied to the broader context of the Israel-Palestine conflict, involving various Israeli political elements and the social reactions of the Palestinian people. The findings of this study show that the narrative of Yahya Sinwar's death in various Arab media platforms has proven to have a significant social impact, namely giving rise to tensions between social groups in the Middle East and Africa regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

**Keywords:** *Critical Discourse Analysis; Hamas; Israel-Palestine; Norman Fairclough; Yahya Sinwar.*

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## INTRODUCTION

Critical discourse analysis refers to the use of language that shapes social classifications within ideologies. This led Fairclough to design a reference that integrates discourse analysis by linguistics, social thought, and politics combined in social development. Fairclough integrates the word critical in discourse analysis to focus on analyzing issues and ideologies that are conveyed clearly or implicitly (Malik Umer Ajmal & Tayyaba Zainab, 2024). To reveal the hidden discourse as well as deepen the meaning of the news, critical discourse analysis theory will focus on analyzing communication, language, and ideas in the text (Chittleborough et al., 2023). Discourse analysis emphasizes its analysis of micro- and macro-linguistic phenomena, while critical discourse analysis identifies socially related discourse phenomena so that certain discourses can be formed and socially connected to certain parties (Fairclough, 1995, p. 54). Critical discourse analysis is not limited to analyzing news texts but includes structures related to social shaping elements (Abu Zaghlan et al., 2023). Fairclough divides discourse into three dimensions: text analysis (micro), discourse practice (meso), and sociocultural (macro), which consists of description, interpretation, and explanation, so these dimensions of discourse cannot be separated from one another (Arrafi & Surur, 2024).

The power of language will not be enough to build social reality and form public opinion, and there is a need for media as a forum to achieve ideological goals (Muwafi et al., 2024). Mass media is an important element in influencing public viewpoints and perceptions in assessing an event (Paramitha & Karim, 2022; Sholehkatina et al., 2024; Yuhandra et al., 2024) because discourse can establish frameworks of power, ideology, and identity (Korosh, 2024) so that language use is not free from various ideological perspectives (Fairclough & Wodak, 1997, p. 258). Partisanship is free to have an opinion about the reality that exists (Haslina, 2023), such as the partisanship of the international media that is being stirred up online by the circulation of Israeli video clips showing Yahya Sinwar's last moments before his martyrdom.

News of the assassination of the head of Hamas' political bureau began circulating in Israeli media on Thursday afternoon, accompanied by an image of a body surrounded by rubble, believed to be Yahya Sinwar (BBC, 2024a), so the murder of Yahya Sinwar has been polemicized in various international news highlights over the past few months. International Arabic news platforms such as BBC News'Arabi, France 24, and Al Jazeera tried to cover Yahya Sinwar's death from different angles. The media reported the assassination of the head of the Hamas political bureau as the discourse of Israel's biggest victory, a sign that the Israeli-Palestinian war and conflict will continue, but other media also presented the chronology of the murder that occurred and the possible social impacts for Hamas on Yahya Sinwar's death because the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is a Middle East issue that is still ongoing today, so the Arabic-language media platform will be interesting if it is used to examine the polemic of Yahya Sinwar's murder from the perspective of critical discourse analysis.

With regard to Fairclough's critical discourse analysis research, there are several previous studies that have discussed it, including critical discourse analysis on the declaration of presidential candid (Haslina, 2023), presidential speeches (Harun

et al., 2024), Friday sermons (Gürlesin, 2023), the Israel-Palestinian conflict (Arrafi & Surur, 2024; Sherina & Mardiah, 2024), sexual harassment (Miranti & Sudiana, 2021), ideology (Ananda Dwi Asri & Nurhayati, 2024; Yuhandra et al., 2024), feminism (Malik Umer Ajmal & Tayyaba Zainab, 2024; Setiawan et al., 2022; Suhartatik et al., 2024), public policy (Sasmitha, 2023; Snowdon & Karlsson, 2021; Suntoro et al., 2022), slogans (Mudiawati et al., 2023), symbols (Pratama et al., 2022), covid 19 (Maravia et al., 2021; Samsuri et al., 2022), racism (Elika & Nurhayati, 2024), election (Jamil et al., 2024), social dimensions (Hibtiyah, 2022), hate speech (Vania et al., 2024), political memes (Ismail et al., 2023), and public figures (Baptista et al., 2024; Conte et al., 2024).

Based on the preliminary study above, this research has similarities and differences with the preliminary study above. The similarity lies in the analytical theory used, namely Norman Fairclough's critical discourse analysis. While the difference lies in the type of object and focus of the discussion, in the form of critical discourse analysis in speeches (Gürlesin, 2023; Harun et al., 2024; Haslina, 2023); stand-up comedy (Sasmitha, 2023); social media (Arrafi & Surur, 2024; Baptista et al., 2024; Conte et al., 2024; Ismail et al., 2023); news (Jamil et al., 2024; Miranti & Sudiana, 2021; Pratama et al., 2022; Samsuri et al., 2022; Sherina & Mardiah, 2024; Suntoro et al., 2022; Yuhandra et al., 2024); advertisement (Ananda Dwi Asri & Nurhayati, 2024; Elika & Nurhayati, 2024; Suhartatik et al., 2024); action (Mudiawati et al., 2023); short story (Hibtiyah, 2022); movie (Setiawan et al., 2022; Vania et al., 2024); poetry (Malik Umer Ajmal & Tayyaba Zainab, 2024); social construction (Snowdon & Karlsson, 2021); and documents (Maravia et al., 2021).

Based on the similarities and differences between the research and previous studies, the novelty of this research lies in the focus of the media framing the murder of Yahya Sinwar as an actor in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in the news discourse of Arabic-language media platforms-BBC News'Arabi, France 24, and Al Jazeera-which present different discourses due to the geopolitical background of each platform. It is hoped that this research will complement and strengthen the findings of previous research and add to the literacy tools of Norman Fairclough's critical discourse analysis in identifying the power of mass media in the form of news discourse that can influence social, political, and historical perspectives on society in a country.

This research tries to examine the Arabic-language international media coverage of the Yahya Sinwar assassination case because the assassination of the head of the Hamas political bureau is a form of Israel's political achievement as an enemy. The killing of an important figure in a socio-political context certainly reaps many responses in society and history, so the news written on various international media platforms such as BBC News'Arabi, France 24, and Al Jazeera is important to study and understand more deeply. Thus, the discourse on the killing of Yahya Sinwar as one of the important figures in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict becomes very interesting when studied using text analysis, discourse practices, and socio-cultural in Norman Fairclough's critical discourse analysis.

## RESEARCH METHOD

The type of this study is a qualitative study because it aims to elaborate on the text analysis of the news of Yahya Sinwar's murder, discourse practices in the news of Yahya Sinwar's murder, and the socioculture contained in the news of Yahya

Sinwar's murder. This study uses primary data from the news on online Arabic media platforms, namely the France 24 website, BBC News'Arabi, and Al Jazeera, reporting the murder of Yahya Sinwar, which was published in October 2024.

To collect the data, researchers use three techniques, namely reading the technique, translation technique, and note-taking techniques. Reading techniques are used to read the news comprehensively and to understand the whole issue based on its context. Translation technique is used to translate some strange words and Arabic idioms of news sentences and to ensure their deep meaning. Note-taking techniques are used to register important parts of the data, which can help researchers in answering research objectives.

To analyze the data, researchers use three stages, namely data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing. Data reduction is used by researchers to select and sort data that is more representative than other data and categorize data based on research objectives. Data presentation is used by researchers to make it easier to interpret data based on the answers to research objectives, then link it to the critical discourse analysis theory used, and draw important points in the discussion. Conclusion drawing is used by researchers to induce data interpretation into a core sentence that can represent research answers and ensure that the answers are correct based on critical discourse analysis study.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### 1. Text Analysis

The textual dimension is analyzed from a linguistic perspective, focusing on the microlinguistic level, particularly in the areas of syntax and semantics (Kabanga et al., 2023). Fairclough divides critical discourse analysis in the textual dimension into three points, namely representation, relation, and identity.

#### a. Representation

يُعد مقتل يحيى السنوار أكبر انتصار لإسرائيل حتى الآن في الحرب التي تشنها ضد حماس في غزة. وتُشكل وفاته ضربة قوية لحماس، المنظمة التي حولها إلى قوة مقاتلة ألحقت أكبر هزيمة بدولة إسرائيل في تاريخها.

The killing of Yahya Sinwar is considered Israel's greatest victory so far in its war against Hamas in Gaza. His death represents a severe blow to Hamas, the organization he transformed into a fighting force that dealt the greatest defeat in Israel's history (BBC, 2024b).

Data (1) illustrates how the killing of Yahya Sinwar became a measure of Israel's power and authority over Palestine. The phrase “أكبر انتصار لإسرائيل” (Israel's greatest victory) indicates that the killing of the head of Hamas' political bureau is the culmination of Israel's successful military resistance against the Palestinians. While the phrase “وتُشكل وفاته ضربة قوية لحماس” (His death was a big blow to Hamas) represents the downturn of Hamas, who lost their leader.

بينما تحتفل إسرائيل بقتل السنوار، لا تزال حماس لديها رهائنها وما زالت تقاتل [2].

While Israel celebrates Sinwar's murder, Hamas still has hostages and is still at war (BBC, 2024b).

Data (2) describes the figure of Yahya Sinwar, who has a big role in making Israel feel threatened. The word “تحتفل” (victory) makes it clear that Yahya Sinwar's death was an achievement and a great benefit due to the reduced threat from the enemy. While the phrase “تحتفل إسرائيل بقتل السنوار” (Israel celebrates the killing of Sinwar) shows hostility towards the Hamas figure, they put aside empathy and show a dehumanizing attitude by celebrating a murder.

وكل القادة ورموز الحركة الذين سبقوه... لن يزيد حركتنا ومقاومتنا إلا قوة وصلابة وإصرارا على المضي [3] "في دربهم".

“and all the leaders and symbols of the movement that preceded him... will only make our movement and resistance stronger, louder, and more determined to continue their path.” (France 24, 2024)

Data (3) shows that Hamas' resistance to Israel will not stop even if all their leaders are killed. The sentence is an emotional portrayal of optimism and courage. The words قوة (courage), صلابة (resilience), and إصرارا (determination) are expressions of Hamas fighters who want to show that the pressure has only strengthened their confidence and unyielding attitude towards Israel.

Data (1) and (2) show the use of the words “انتصار” and “تحتفل” which describe the emotional dynamics associated with power and conflict. The word “victory” can mean the achievement of an individual or group effort in the face of a challenge that makes them appear superior. The word “celebrate” is generally interpreted as an expression of joy over an achievement. These two words are often found in narratives of struggles and competitions in various social contexts.

The social phenomenon used in running the power system is the use of language (Haslina, 2023). Language is usually used to see power inequality (Miranti & Sudiana, 2021). Therefore, the phrase “تحتفل إسرائيل بقتل السنوار” in the BBC News'Arabi text piece shows that the Israeli army has a superior position to Hamas. Israel's revenge for the Al-Aqsa Flood operation by killing Yahya Sinwar was labeled as Israel's victory over Palestine. This shows that BBC News'Arabi framed the killing of Yahya Sinwar as an Israeli achievement while recognizing the influence of Yahya Sinwar's leadership as a Hamas figure who had a major influence until the Al-Aqsa Flood event, which became Israel's biggest defeat.

The results of the France 24 media interview with members of the Hamas political bureau in data (3) show that the killing of Yahya Sinwar strengthens their confidence in fighting for Palestine. The optimistic and courageous attitude can be seen in Khalil al-Haya's phrase containing the words صلابة, قوة, and إصرارا, which shows that even though Hamas lost its leader, they will never stop fighting. Data (1), (2), and (3) show that the clause, as well as the series between clauses, can show how the media can describe a person, group, or situation in a text (Megawati, 2021).



## b. Relation

وأضاف نتنياهو "لقد أوضحنا اليوم مرة أخرى ما يحدث لأولئك الذين يؤذوننا. اليوم أظهرنا للعالم مرة أخرى [4] "انتصار الخير على الشر، لكن الحرب لم تنته بعد. إنها صعبة، وندفع فيها أثمناً غالية".

"Today we showed once again what happens to those who harm us," Netanyahu added. "Today we showed the world once again the victory of good over evil, but the war is not over. It was difficult, and we paid a heavy price." (BBC, 2024a)

Data (4) is a speech delivered by Netanyahu, the prime minister of Israel, after the death of Yahya Sinwar. The phrase "انتصار الخير على الشر" (the victory of good over evil) shows that the killing of Yahya Sinwar was a success of the righteous path in Israel's revenge against the Al-Aqsa Flood operation carried out by Hamas so that the killing of Yahya Sinwar brought a positive response to Israeli officials and their allies.

قُتل نحو 1200 إسرائيلي واحتجاز الرهائن واحتفالات أعدائهم، أعاد إلى عقول الكثير من الإسرائيليين محرقة [5] النازية.

The killing of around 1,200 Israelis, hostage-taking, and celebrations by their enemies brought the Nazi Holocaust back to the minds of many Israelis (BBC, 2024b).

Data (5) describes the number of Israeli casualties in a series of attacks by Hamas forces led by Yahya Sinwar on October 23, 2023. The term "محرقة النازية" (Nazi Holocaust) originates from the genocidal period of World War II, when Adolf Hitler, the leader of Nazi Germany, established a policy of antisemitism that systematically killed approximately six million Jews. Israel therefore views Hamas, and Yahya Sinwar in particular, as responsible for the worst defeat of the Israeli military, in which 1,200 of its citizens were killed and taken hostage.

أثار مقتل العدو اللدود لإسرائيل ردود فعل مرحبة من عدة دول حليفة لتل أبيب، فيما نشر وزير الدفاع يواف [6] غالانت تغريدة على منصة إكس الخميس مرفقة بصورة لحسن نصر الله ومحمد الضيف وصورة لشخص آخر "مجهول. وعلق قائلا: "لا يمكن لأعدائنا الاختباء. سوف نقوم بملاحقتهم والقضاء عليهم".

The killing of Israel's archenemy sparked reactions from some of Tel Aviv's allies, with Defense Minister Yoav Galant taking to Twitter on Thursday with a photo of Hassan Nasrallah, Mohammed al-Deif, and an unidentified man. He commented, "Our enemies cannot hide. We will hunt them down and finish them off." (France 24, 2024)

Data (6) illustrates how Israeli leaders and allies respond to the phenomenon of Yahya Sinwar's murder. Israeli defense minister Yoav Galant took to Twitter to post pictures of three men who played an active role in Israel's resistance. Yoav Galant also added a statement directly aimed at Israel's enemies, which means wherever Hamas and Hezbollah are, Israel will find and destroy them.

Data (4), (5), and (6) show a relation that refers to the relationship between the media and the participants in the delivery of texts that are displayed openly or privately. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is a form of social relations because of the relationship that occurs repeatedly with reciprocity between one another. Data (4) shows that the killing of Yahya Sinwar by Israeli soldiers is a form of heroism. The phrase "انتصار الخير على الشر" means that the truth will always lead heroes to victory when trying to eradicate evil, which in Netanyahu's speech, the word "الشر," the

villain, is attributed to Hamas. The choice of words then shows how the form of social relations experienced by Israel and Palestine directly (Haslina, 2023).

The hunting and killing of Yahya Sinwar, the head of the Hamas political bureau, by Israel was based on the al-Aqsa Flood operation as described in data (5). The BBC described Hamas' attack on Israel as an act of terrorism. Hamas is presented as the instigator of the war between the two countries, ignoring Israel's historical wrongs against Palestine (Zawawi et al., 2024). While data (6) shows that Israel is very confident in their military strength, this can be seen in Yoav Galant's speech “لا يمكن لأعدائنا الاختباء” which means Israel will find Hamas and Hezbollah wherever they are. The expression of the two Israeli figures is their successful response to the killing of Yahya Sinwar, so the choice of words shows the Israeli-Palestinian social relations that have long been in conflict, and the peak occurred during the Al-Aqsa Flood operation on October 27, 2023, as described in data (5).

The news of Yahya Sinwar's murder shows that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is not over. The BBC's use of the word “Nazi Holocaust” to describe the Al-Aqsa Flood operation depicts Hamas soldiers carrying out a mass slaughter by referring to the Nazi regime and antisemitism policies as if Israel is a victim that cannot fight back. All of these events are historically connected. Operation Al-Aqsa Flood is a form of Palestinian resistance due to oppression, genocide, and colonization by the Israeli army. The violence and injustice faced by the Palestinians prompted Hamas to defend their homeland by conducting Operation Al-Aqsa Flood on October 7, 2023.

### c. Identity

ولد يحيى السنوار عام 1962 في مخيم للاجئين في خان يونس، في قطاع غزة. كان عمره خمس سنوات عندما [7] كانت عائلته من بين أكثر من استولت إسرائيل على القطاع من مصر في حرب الشرق الأوسط عام 1967. 700 ألف فلسطيني فروا أو طردوا من منازلهم على يد القوات الإسرائيلية في حرب عام 1948 التي انتصرت فيها إسرائيل وأعلنت استقلالها.

Yahya Sinwar was born in 1962 in a refugee camp in Khan Younis, in the Gaza Strip. He was five years old when Israel captured the Gaza Strip from Egypt in the 1967 Middle East War. His family was among more than 700,000 Palestinians who fled or were expelled from their homes by Israeli forces in the 1948 war in which Israel won and declared its independence (BBC, 2024b).

Data (7) provides information that Yahya Sinwar is a young man from Palestine. The text describes the location and situation in the year of Yahya Sinwar's birth. The narrative emphasizes the impact of the Middle East war that took place in 1967 when Israel tried and succeeded in controlling the Gaza Strip through Egypt.

وهو ما يعني أيضاً أن إسرائيل لديها سجلات أسنانه وعينة من حمضه النووي، ما يُمكنها من تحديد هوية [8] الجثة إذا كانت له أم لا.

It also means that Israel has his dental records and DNA samples, allowing them to determine whether or not the body is his (BBC, 2024b).

Data (8) emphasizes the statement of Israel's success in the murder of Yahya Sinwar as seen in the sentence “has dental records and DNA samples.” Both samples are strong evidence in validating the identity of the body they found at the scene of

the crime. Because Yahya Sinwar had previously been detained for 22 years by Israel, they had medical records that were used in the forensic analysis.

“الذي حدث (مقتل السنوار) هو أن رجلاً استثنائياً قُتل قَتلاً عادياً [9]”

“What happened (Sinwar's murder) was that an extraordinary man was extraordinarily.” (France 24, 2024)

Data (9) is a statement by the editor of France 24 news media, Abdullah Al-Ali, regarding the murder of Yahya Sinwar, which is considered normal for someone who has a high position in Hamas and is one of the influential figures in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The Israeli army did not have to go to the trouble of killing Yahya Sinwar in a major war involving a full army and weaponry; that is the meaning of the phrase “قُتل قَتلاً عادياً”

سيدخل السنوار التاريخ من بوابات عِدة، فهو الرجل الذي ارتبطت باسمه شخصياً، أكبر معارك الشعب [10] الفلسطيني ضد عدو استعماري إحلالي – عنصري.. وهو الرجل الذي عاش مشتبكاً ومات مقاتلاً (حتى الرمي الأخير)، لم يضعف ولم يجبن قط

Sinwar will enter history through many doors, as he is the one whose personal name is associated with the greatest battle of the Palestinian people against the colonialist, occupying, and racist enemy. He was a person who lived and died as a warrior (until his last breath), never weakening or giving up (عريب الرنتاوي, 2024).

Data (10) describes Yahya Sinwar as a hero of nationalism who is ready to sacrifice his body and soul against colonialism. The discourse explains that Yahya Sinwar will always be remembered in history for his influence that suppressed Israel, as well as his courage and resilience against the Zionist army until the end of his life.

Data (7), (8), (9), and (10) show Yahya Sinwar's identity and position by using the depiction of journalists built into the text on the current issues (Arrafi & Surur, 2024). The depiction of Yahya Sinwar shown in data (7) becomes the reader's identification, that since birth Yahya Sinwar has breathed the atmosphere of war and conflict in his homeland, so the situation led him to become one of the Hamas fighters. The former head of Hamas' political bureau was repeatedly arrested and detained by the Israeli army until he was sentenced to life imprisonment; therefore, the Israeli army has Sinwar's DNA data so that Israel can validate his death (Al Jazeera, 2024) as the text in data (8).

The depiction of Yahya Sinwar's identity can also be found in the portrayal of journalists, the public, news text, and participants presented in the news text (Megawati, 2021). Like the news of Yahya Sinwar's death, which drew many responses regarding his personality. The phrase “رجلاً استثنائياً” (extraordinary man) in data (9) and the expression “عاش مشتبكاً ومات مقاتلاً” (a person who lived and died as a warrior) in data (10) are statements of flattery and respect for the head of the Hamas political bureau who until the end of his life fought for the freedom of his homeland.

The social structure of the text creator usually influences the content of the news text presented (Fairclough, 1995, p. 8). However, the results of the analysis of the data above show that the relationship between the news discourses above constructs Yahya Sinwar's identity as a homeland fighter who has felt the bitterness of colonization since birth so that Yahya Sinwar grows into a figure who can sacrifice his soul and body for the independence of Palestine, and for his sacrifice Yahya Sinwar



will always be remembered throughout history. This discourse builds the identity and social relations of Yahya Sinwar's figure in society as it is (Mudiawati et al., 2023).

## 2. Discourse Practice

News texts are composed through a discourse process that directs how the text is produced. The consumption process of news texts and social context are different things because the pattern and type of text depend on the aspects of the entity attached to the text (Haslina, 2023; Miranti & Sudiana, 2021). As with work patterns, different work schemes and activities will generate news from different processes (Harun et al., 2024).

### a. Process of production

وأظهرت عدة صور تم تداولها بكثافة على منصات التواصل عدة مواقع على الإنترنت، جنوداً إسرائيليين [11] يحيطون بجثة شخص مصاب بجرح كبير في الرأس، ملقاة تحت الأنقاض ومغطاة بالغبار، ويرتدي ساعة كبيرة ويشبه إلى حد كبير يحيى السنوار.

Several photos widely circulated on social media platforms and several websites show Israeli soldiers surrounding the body of a man with a large head wound, lying in the rubble and covered in dust, wearing a large watch and bearing a striking resemblance to Yahya al-Sinwar (France 24, 2024).

الإسرائيلي، فقد تم العثور على أموال ووثائق هوية مع جثث المسلحين، وتم فحصها Ynet وبحسب موقع [12] أولاً بواسطة طائرات مسيرة.

According to the Israeli website Ynet, money and identity documents were found with the bodies of the militants, which were first examined by drones (France 24, 2024).

In data (11), France 24 utilizes visual elements in the form of photographs as a news text production process, while in data (12), France 24 includes Ynet, an Israeli news website, as a source of information. Both of these are used by France 24 to support and strengthen the narrative it wants to convey.

وقال الدكتور رمضان فارس: "هذه الحرب لا تعتمد على سنوار أو هنية أو مشعل، ولا على أي زعيم أو [13] مسؤول، إنها حرب إبادة ضد الشعب الفلسطيني، كما نعلم جميعاً ونفهم. القضية أكبر بكثير من سنوار أو أي شخص آخر".

Dr. Ramadan Fares said, "This war does not depend on Sinwar, Haniyeh, or Meshaal, or any leader or official; this is a war of annihilation against the Palestinian people, as we all know and understand. The problem is much bigger than Sinwar or anyone else," Dr. Ramadan Fares said (BBC, 2024b).

Data (13) is a statement from one of the Palestinians from Khan Younis, Yahya Sinwar's hometown, which has been destroyed by the prolonged war and conflict. This statement shows that even though Israel has succeeded in killing all Hamas leaders, they will continue to massacre the Palestinian people because their goal is to seize Palestinian land. The war is only used as a stepping stone to continue to exterminate the Palestinian people.

وقال الصحفي إلياس كرام للجزيرة نقلا عن وسائل إعلام إسرائيلية إن عملية الاغتيال تمت بمحض الصدفة [14] دون توفر معلومات استخباراتية سابقة، وذلك خلال استهداف الجيش لمبنى كان يتواجد فيه السنوار ومقاتلون آخرون.

Journalist Elias Karam told Al Jazeera, citing Israeli media, that the killing was carried out by chance, without prior intelligence information, when soldiers targeted a building where Sinwar and other militants were hiding (Al Jazeera, 2024).

ونقل موقع أكسيوس عن مسؤولين إسرائيليين أن الاشتباك الذي من المرجح أنه أدى لمقتل السنوار حصل [15] أمس الأربعاء جنوبي طاع غزة.

Israeli officials were quoted by Axios as saying that the clashes that likely led to al-Sinwar's death took place on Wednesday in southern Gaza (Al Jazeera, 2024).

Data (14) and data (15) provide information about how the head of the Hamas political bureau was killed. The information sourced from Israeli news then became a reference for Al Jazeera media, so that information on how Yahya Sinwar was killed became public consumption with a wider scope in the international news media. That way the public can interpret that Yahya Sinwar's death was not caused by a major war event.

Data (11), (12), (13), (14), and (15) are the main sources of information in the context of the news of Yahya Sinwar's murder. The news of Yahya Sinwar's death stems from photos and video footage of the seconds of death of the head of the Hamas political bureau uploaded by the Israeli military, which was disseminated through various Israeli media platforms and became the official source of information for international media such as BBC News'Arabi, France 24, and Al Jazeera. The relationship between the media, the Israeli military, domination and bias, and the Palestinian population is important in the process of text production; discourse that is deliberately spread by individuals or groups will be the implementation of strategies and projects with specific goals (McGlynn & Tacon, 2024). Fairclough (1995) states that critical discourse analysis can review the actions of social power, harassment, domination, and bias that are produced and reinforced by the discussion text and are associated with social and political aspects (Dhihya & Basid, 2024).

The interpretation process involves understanding the text, context, and intertextuality relationships. The text production process is divided into four dimensions, namely, (1) what's going on; (2) who's involved; (3) what relationships are at issue; and (4) what's the role model of language (Suntoro et al., 2022). The head of Hamas' political bureau, who was hunted by Israel for over a year, was accidentally killed to illustrate the issue at hand. Netanyahu, Tel Aviv's ally Hamas, and the Palestinian population are the subjects directly involved in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Yahya Sinwar's murder was motivated by the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which culminated in the Al-Aqsa Flood on October 7, 2024. That way the position of language is parallel to the discourse, which in this case emphasizes more the case of content, function, and social meaning in the application of language.

The discourse on the news of Yahya Sinwar's murder in the BBC News'Arabi, France 24, and Al Jazeera news media is one example of the use of language that is produced into an act of conveying messages. Although each media outlet reported Yahya Sinwar's death, BBC News'Arabi, France 24, and Al Jazeera have their interests

and perspectives in constructing news texts that will be accepted by the general public. As with work patterns, different work schemes and activities will produce news from different processes (Harun et al., 2024). But in this case, BBC News'Arabi, France 24, and Al Jazeera produce news according to the data and facts that occur in the field to maintain the professionalism of international media.

### b. Consumption of teks

The Arabic news texts presented on the BBC News'Arabi, France 24, and Al-Jazeera platforms show that the target audience of these international media are readers who can use Arabic even though the three media sites come from different companies and owners. BBC News Arabic is part of the BBC World Service (WS), which is based in the city of London, but the BBC has many freelancers in various Arabic-speaking countries, one of whom is in Cairo, which is the largest bureau outside London (Michalski & Śliwa, 2021). France 24 is an international news channel with four language versions-French, English, Arabic, and Spanish-funded by the French government that covers science, arts, and culture (Zhang et al., 2023). France 24's Arabic platform has the same topics and ideological affinities as France 24's English platform (Al-Rawi et al., 2021). Meanwhile, the audience of the Al Jazeera platform is mostly from Africa and the Middle East (Yuhandra et al., 2024).

The distribution of the text depends on the pattern, type of text, and the nature of the institution attached to the news text (Haslina, 2023). The proximity of countries to the conflict often influences the news presented, but this can be reduced or even overridden because of the political disputes and economic strategies that occur. Arab audiences tend to understand the conditions on the ground, so Arabic-language international media platforms present graphic images related to the war to attract more attention (Damanhoury & Saleh, 2024). This way, the texts will be tailored to the target audience, who are mostly from Africa and the Middle East, even though BBC News'Arabi, France 24, and Al Jazeera are from different companies.

## 3. Sosio-Culture Practice

The socio-cultural dimension is a form of external interpretation of the media that influences the discourse within the media (Miranti & Sudiana, 2021; Yuhandra et al., 2024). The sociocultural dimension is the study of sociocultural structures that occur in society; the relationship between texts and sociocultural practices occurs through the intermediary of discourse practices (Samsuri et al., 2022). Fairclough divides socio-cultural conditions into three parts, namely situational, institutional, and social.

### a. Situational

يعتقد العديد من الإسرائيليين أن نتنياهو يريد إطالة أمد الحرب في غزة لتأجيل يوم الحساب عن دوره في [16] الإخفاقات الأمنية التي سمحت للسنوار ورجاله باقتحام إسرائيل، وتأجيل ربما إلى أجل غير مسمى استئناف محاكمته بتهمة فساد خطيرة.

Many Israelis believe that Netanyahu wants to prolong the war in Gaza to postpone the day of reckoning for his role in the security failures that allowed Sinwar and his men to enter Israel and to delay, perhaps indefinitely, the resumption of his trial on serious corruption charges (BBC, 2024b).

Data (16) illustrates how the complex political and social situation in Israel is due to the Israeli Prime Minister's failure to protect its population from the Al Aqsa Flood operation, so many Israeli residents assume that Netanyahu is using the war as a diversionary issue for the failure of the security system under his responsibility. In addition, allegations of corruption are also one of Netanyahu's reasons for prolonging the war so that the trial process can be postponed indefinitely.

"ونعت حركة حماس الجمعة رئيس مكتبها السياسي يحيى السنوار، مؤكدة أن ذلك سيزيدها "قوة وصلابة" [17]

Hamas on Friday mourned the death of political bureau chief Yahya al-Sinwar, saying this would make it "stronger and more solid" (France 24, 2024).

Data (17) explains how Hamas members express their grief over Yahya Sinwar's departure and their attitude of resistance and struggle when they lose a leader while fighting with the enemy. Through the phrase "قوة وصلابة" Hamas wants to show the optimism and strength of their movement that will never be extinguished to fight Israel.

Data (16) and (17) are situational forms because the text and the social situation of the community are bound together (Harun et al., 2024). Situational is interpreted as a unique condition during the text creation process (Suntoro et al., 2022). Fairclough states that changes in society affect discourse in the media (Samsuri et al., 2022). Mass media always presents an essential phenomenon to the public; phenomena such as conflict, deviation, human interest, sex, and so on have their own value in news (Miranti & Sudiana, 2021). Data (16) briefly shows the reaction of the Israeli population to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The accusations thrown against Netanyahu show a loss of trust in the government. War is no longer considered a defense of the state in protecting its population; the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has become an ambition of the Israeli government to occupy Palestinian land. Meanwhile, data (17) highlights that the killing of the head of Hamas' political bureau makes their movement stronger and more solid. Both texts are generated from certain identical situations that are different from other texts (Haslina, 2023). This is certainly inseparable from the various phenomena of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that have occurred.

If analyzed through a situational perspective, the killing of Yahya Sinwar resulted in various social responses from both Israelis and Palestinians that influenced international news platforms such as BBC News'Arabi, France 24, and Al Jazeera. The discourse on humanitarian conflicts related to the Israeli-Palestinian situation has led to various social and political movements. The international community is trying to voice the defense of humanity in various forms, such as diplomacy to boycotting Israeli products as a form of economic jihad (Idris Siregar et al., 2024). The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is a contextualized event; the discourse experiences a meeting of reports with a global scale shift so that discourse can circulate nationally (Fairclough, 2003, p. 35). Therefore, the dialectical relationship between discourse and social context has an impact on social situations that participate in driving social change (Fairclough, 2001, p. 30).

## b. Institutional

كرر رئيس الوزراء أهدافه في الحرب عدة مرات "تدمير حماس كقوة عسكرية وسياسية وإعادة الرهائن [18]" إلى الوطن.

The Prime Minister repeated his war aims several times: "destroy Hamas as a military and political force and bring the hostages home." (BBC, 2024b)

وقال الجيش الإسرائيلي في بيان إن "عشرات العمليات التي نفذها جيش الدفاع الإسرائيلي وجهاز الأمن العام [19] (الشاباك) خلال العام السابق، وفي الأسابيع القليلة الماضية في المنطقة التي تمت تصفيته فيها، ضيّقت الحركة العملياتية ليحيى السنوار خلال ملاحقة القوات له وأدت إلى تصفيته".

"Dozens of operations conducted by the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) and the General Security Service (Shin Bet) over the past year, and in recent weeks in the area where he was eliminated, limited Yahya Sinwar's operational mobility during the pursuit of the forces and led to his elimination," the IDF said in a statement (France 24, 2024).

وأكدت هيئة البث الإسرائيلية أن الطب الشرعي فحص عينة حمض نووي أخذت من جثة يعتقد أنها للسنوار، [20] مضيضة أن النتيجة تظهر خلال 4 ساعات، فيما قالت الشرطة الإسرائيلية إنها تعرفت على جثة السنوار بناء على صور أسنانه ويتم إجراء مزيد من الفحوص.

Israel Broadcasting Corporation confirmed that forensic medicine had examined DNA samples taken from the body believed to be Sinwar, adding that the results would be available within four hours, while Israeli police said that they had identified Sinwar's body based on photographs of his teeth and further tests were underway (Al Jazeera, 2024).

Data (18), (19), and (20) have institutional influence in the practice and production of discourse shaped by platforms and external forces to determine the news to be presented (Vania et al., 2024). Netanyahu, IDF, Shin Bet, Israel Broadcasting Corporation (IBC), and the Israeli police are parties involved in verbal interaction and have roles and identities within the institution. Meanwhile, the head of Hamas' political bureau, Yahya Sinwar, is an outsider who is involved and interacts with the institution. Meanwhile, the media audience becomes the target of institutional discourse without any interaction with the subject of the institution. This is following the terms used by Fairclough to reveal institutionally recognized goals in the form of the term 'subject' for members of an institution; 'client,' who are outsiders and non-members; and 'public,' who are the targets of the messages set by an institution (Fairclough, 1995, p. 38).

The institutional dimension refers to the impact of institutions on discourse production (Samsuri et al., 2022). The institutional dimension explores how organizations construct discourse production practices, and the institutions involved are likely to originate from the text creators (Haslina, 2023). Thus, institutions will always be related to the production of texts and the context of the situation. Data (18) illustrates how the writing of news texts involves the Israeli government as an institution in the practice of discourse production; this is because Netanyahu has a big role and impact on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as the acting state. Netanyahu became a controversial cause of division in the world of international politics; his harsh approach to the Palestinian territories sparked a lot of anger and revenge



against attacks from the Israeli side. The Israeli army's attacks were unable to deal with Hamas, allowing Netanyahu to maintain his shaky power to achieve his goals without worrying about the ongoing humanitarian crisis (Yeşil, 2024).

Institutionally, the IDF and Shin Bet forces in data (19) show how Israel's process of pursuing and capturing Yahya Sinwar by conducting military operations many times over the past year has succeeded in limiting the movement of the head of the Hamas political bureau; the siege is one of the institutional influences in producing the discourse of Yahya's killing. From the institutional aspect, the Israel Broadcasting Corporation (IBC) and the Israeli police in data (20) validate that the murdered body is the head of the Hamas political bureau. DNA results from forensic doctors and Yahya Sinwar's data owned by the Israeli military since his detention have become the reality of discourse that runs socially and becomes a component in the institutional and societal stages (BBC, 2024b).

### c. Social

قال عدنان عاشور إن بعض الناس حزنوا، وكان آخرون غير مباليين بشأن السنوار. وأضاف عاشور: "إنهم [21] لا يلاحقوننا فقط. إنهم يريدون الشرق الأوسط بأكمله. إنهم يقاتلون في لبنان وسوريا واليمن ... هذه حرب بيننا وبين اليهود منذ عام 1919، أي منذ أكثر من 100 عام". سئل عما إذا كان موت السنوار سيؤثر على "حماس. أمل ألا يكون كذلك، إن شاء الله. دعني أشرح: حماس ليست السنوار فقط ... إنها قضية شعب

Adnan Ashour said that some people were saddened, and others didn't care about Sinwar. Ashour adds, "They're not just after us." They want the whole Middle East. They are fighting in Lebanon, Syria, Yemen... This is a war between us and the Jews since 1919, more than 100 years ago." He was asked whether Sinwar's death would affect Hamas. "I hope not, God willing. Let me explain: Hamas is not just Sinwar. This is the struggle of a nation." (BBC, 2024b)

Data (21) is a statement that emphasizes that Hamas does not depend on one person, which in this context refers to Yahya Sinwar. The Hamas movement has never depended on a particular individual; the Hamas organizational entity is much larger than the Hamas dreamers themselves. The scale of Israel's conflict is not limited to Hamas but almost covers the entire Middle East, such as Lebanon, Syria, and Yemen.

Data (21) explains the social aspects in the form of the reaction of the Palestinian people in responding to Yahya Sinwar's death. The war is not limited to the Hamas and Israeli camps that focus on structural organizational issues to defeat each other. The war that occurred illustrates Israel's goal of trying to destroy the rights and existence of the Palestinian population as a whole. Socially, Palestinians think that the death of an important figure in an organization is common in large-scale conflicts. Israel and the Jews only want to control the entire Middle East; therefore, the war that occurred in the Gaza Strip is the struggle of the Palestinian people, not only Hamas.

Death is a common occurrence in the Gaza Strip during the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, but that does not mean that Yahya Sinwar's killing was in vain. The discourse production presented in data (21) is in accordance with the situation and social changes made by the Palestinian people (Elika & Nurhayati, 2024). In the news text delivered, it can be seen how the Palestinian people reacted to the death of Yahya Sinwar and the ongoing social conditions in Palestine. So that the social context

becomes a bond between the text and the social conditions of society that continue to be connected (Harun et al., 2024). Thus, discourse can become a reality and function socially because it integrates into the process of institutional and societal struggles.

Discourses and interviews presented in the mass media are certainly influenced by the social and cultural situations that exist in society (Miranti & Sudiana, 2021). The social level in the sociocultural dimension works as a macro aspect that focuses on political, economic, and cultural systems (Samsuri et al., 2022). So the phrase that emphasizes that Hamas does not depend on one person alone, in this context, refers to Yahya Sinwar. The Hamas movement has never depended on a particular individual; the Hamas organizational entity is much larger than the Hamas dreamers themselves. The scale of Israel's conflict is not limited to Hamas but almost covers the entire Middle East, such as Lebanon, Syria, and Yemen.

## CONCLUSION

The news about Yahya Sinwar's murder that appeared on various Arab media platforms in October 2024 had a very significant impact on Palestinian society. Al-Jazeera represented Yahya Sinwar as a hero who strengthened the struggle of the Palestinian people, while the BBC and France24 highlighted Israel's victory, which, of course, had the potential to further exacerbate tensions among the Palestinian people.

How these media framed Yahya Sinwar's death certainly had an impact on the emergence of social polarization and continued to increase tensions that had been going on for a long time. The way Al Jazeera, BBC, and France 24 media presented the murder of Yahya Sinwar has proven to have contributed greatly to influencing the conflict between Palestine and Israel that has been going on for centuries. The different approaches in presenting this news certainly not only affect the audience who reads the news but also the geopolitical direction in the Palestinian and Israeli regions and globally. Readers will be able to see more clearly the political ideology of each news media platform and the direction of their political interests between supporting peace or triggering new conflicts.

The limitations of this study lie in the limited media, namely Al Jazeera, BBC, and France24, only looking at the news of the murder of Yahya Sinwar in the October 2024 edition, and one theory of critical discourse analysis by Norman Fairclough. To see other aspects of this study, further researchers should focus more on how the choice of diction, choice of sentences, and framing of the use of diction and sentences have a major impact on society, social actors, and public policymakers.

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