



Weapons of War in the Future: An Analysis of M.A.K. Halliday's Semiotics on the Aljazeera.net Media Portal

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Abstract

This study aims to analyze the construction of meaning in the discourse of Al Jazeera news entitled "Tala'ub bi-l-'admaghah wa-l-munākh wa-dh-dhakā' al-iṣṭinā'ī.. ' Ahlan bikum fī ḥurūb al-ghad" (Manipulation of the Brain, Climate, and Artificial Intelligence. Welcome to the War of the Future) – 17 November 2025, which represents the potential and evolution of modern warfare. Using a descriptive qualitative method with M.A.K. Halliday's social semiotic analysis framework, this study investigates how the media shapes public perceptions of the wars that humanity will face. The results of the analysis show that the field of discourse focuses on five main issues: the new phase of technology warfare, the cost efficiency of drone and satellite technology, Cognitive Warfare (brain fog), global trade inhibition, and Climate Engineering. The tenor of the discourse cited includes four speakers, namely anonymous officials, Stevan Audrand, Jerome Henry, and Olivier Blazy, who reinforce the authority of the narrative. In addition, the mode of discourse is used effectively through four visuals that clarify the news narrative. Overall, the study concludes that Al Jazeera not only provides information about the future forecasts of war, but also plays an important role in shaping public awareness of the continuation of global conflicts and promoting the value of military technological advances through a semiotic approach, confirming that warfare has transformed into the realm of artificial intelligence and environmental manipulation.

Keywords: War; Halliday; Aljazeera

Introduction

The speed of evolution of artificial intelligence has changed the face of many industries, and its impact is deeply felt in the military realm (Wibowo, 2024).

Armed conflict has existed since the beginning of human civilization. Over time, the ability of humans to develop and master science and technology continues to evolve. Therefore, the way war is carried out is always adjusted to the level of mastery of science and technology possessed by humans (Azhar, 2023). The applications of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the military field are vast and complex, covering a spectrum from autonomous weapons systems to intelligence data analysis.

While it offers significant potential benefits, these developments also pose global implications and serious impacts that require deep attention. One of the important implementations is in the development of autonomous weapon systems, such as AI-powered combat drones capable of carrying out reconnaissance and precision strike missions without human operators. This capability not only improves operational effectiveness and reduces personnel risk in hazardous environments, but also enables precision attacks with minimal incremental damage.

In addition to drones, autonomous combat robots are also an integral part, used for high-risk tasks such as bomb defuse. The use of these robots improves the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the military, while minimizing the threat to human soldiers' lives (Mauludi, 2024). This research aims to analyze how the Al Jazeera news portal constructs reality and shapes certain points of view in its reporting, especially related to the issue of modern or future war, using the framework of M.A.K. Halliday's social semiotic analysis.

Halliday's theory views language not only as a means of communication, but also as a reflection of social structures and cultural values. This method involves four stages: identification of news texts, linguistic analysis to examine semiotic structures and elements (such as word choice and connotations), analysis of social context to understand the ideologies and conditions that make up the text, and interpretation of meaning to relate linguistic findings to social context.

In accordance with Sudibyo (2001), this analysis focuses on three main concepts: *field of discourse* (social situation of text making), *tenor of discourse* (writer-reader relationship and communicative purpose), and *mode of discourse* (the form of language used). Through this comprehensive approach, the research seeks to uncover the narratives and ideologies that Al Jazeera builds in its coverage (Akhdani, 2023).

There are several studies that use the same theory. Previous research using Halliday's perspective is the research of Ismandianto & Isnaini (2020), Malawat & Hengki (2023), Nugroho & Sulistyowat (2021), Hardiyanti & Firmonasari (2025), Haryono et al (2025). Ismandianto & Isnaini conducted research to see the field of discourse, tenor of discourse, mode of discourse in the reporting of both online media. The results of the study show that in the discussion of the infidel controversy in Kompas.com (Kompasiana.com, 2019) and Republika.co.id is to emphasize more background and pros and cons responses from the public (Republika.co.id, 2019).

The resource persons appointed as citations are in accordance with their fields. The language in this news shows that Kompas.com agree while Republika.co.id agree and disagree (Ismandianto & Isnaini, 2020). Malawat & Hengki describes and interprets the socio-cultural symbols of the language used in the novel Ghoky Aku Papua by Johan Gandegoay as the subject. The object of the research is the field of discourse, the involvement of discourse, and the means of discourse.

The method used is Halliday's social semiotics of the content analysis model. Data collection techniques include (1) reading GAP novels; (2) writing speeches from figures that contain elements of discourse terrain, discourse involvement, and means of discourse; and (3) classification of data in the form of clauses into tables containing discourse fields, discourse involvement, and means of discourse (Malawat & Hengki, 2023). Nugroho & Sulistyowati conducted a study that discussed the analysis of M.A.K. Halliday's social semiotics applied to the use of hashtags (*Hashtag*) #pakaimaskermu and #lawancovid19 on the social media platform Instagram (Nugroho & Sulistyowati, 2021).

Hardiyanti & Firmonasari describe the meaning and message contained in the Ramadan posters in Kampung Kuningan, using the perspective of M.A.K. Halliday's social semiotics as a framework for analysis (Hardiyanti & Firmonasari, 2025). Haryono et al discussed the design of the mural with the theme "The Impact of Vehicle Pollution on Public Health." This mural is studied as a form of visual language using the Functional Systemic Linguistics (LSF) Approach M.A.K. Halliday. Specifically, the analysis is focused on the context of the situation which consists of three elements: field, tenor, and mode (Haryono et al., 2025).

Overall, this study has fundamental similarities with previous studies, namely both applying Halliday's social semiotics framework, starting from the determination of the field of discourse, tenor of discourse, and mode of discourse. However, the study has significant differences, especially on the theme raised, which is the focus on modern warfare that is not only fought using weapons but also artificial intelligence, brain fog, drone technology and climate change. Although the object of previous research is similar (i.e. news texts), the issue or *angle* used is different.

According to M.A.K. Halliday (1978), language performs three main functions (metafunctions) simultaneously, namely the function to represent experience (ideational), the function to build social relationships (interpersonal), and the function to organize messages into coherent texts (textual) (Farikha & Nuzulia, 2025). The three main metafunctions of language according to Halliday Ideatorial, interpersonal, and textual explain that language plays a role not only as a means of communication, but also as a complex means of representing experiences, building social relationships, and constructing coherent messages.

The ideational function allows language to describe social realities through their actions, actors, and contexts; interpersonal function expresses attitudes, emotions, and relationships between the communicating parties; Meanwhile, the

textual function is responsible for regulating the arrangement of messages so that they become complete and meaningful texts according to their context. These three functions of language have a direct parallel to the concept of Halliday's register in social semiotics, namely: *field of discourse*, which is related to the content of the text and is in harmony with the ideational function; *tenor of discourse*, which refers to the social relationship between the author and the reader and is in line with interpersonal functions; and *mode of discourse*, which is related to the form of message delivery and reflects the textual function in organizing the structure of language (Halliday, 1978).

Thus, through these three metafunctions and discourse concepts, it can be understood how media such as Al Jazeera build meaning, structure news, and form communicative relationships with their audiences in presenting future war issues without weapons of war. The main objective of this research is to dismantle the construction of reality and narrative ideology constructed by the Al Jazeera news portal in its coverage titled "Tala'ub bi-l-'admaghah wa-l-munDharma-Dhaka'Al-iştinā'ī. 'Ahlan bikum fi Ḥurūb al-Ghad," (Aljazeera.net, 2025) through the analysis of social semiotics by M.A.K. Halliday.

Specifically, this study aims to identify how Medan Wacana (*Field of Discourse*) represents the reality of future wars involving cognitive, climate, and artificial intelligence aspects (ideational functions); examine how Discourse Engagement (*Tenor of Discourse*) form attitudes, emotions, and relationships between the author and the reader as well as the cited authority (interpersonal function); and analyze how Discourse Mode (*Mode of Discourse*) regulates the structure and pattern of language so that the message about the threat of "war without sound or fire" is conveyed coherently and persuasively (textual function) can also be in the form of images as a means of conveying discourse.

Semiotics, or also known as semiology, is a discipline that is unique and rooted in constructivist views. The main study is to utilize meaning to analyze signs and markers from various points of view. In general, semiology can be defined as the study of all structured communication systems, both linguistic (linguistic) and non-linguistic. Although initially firmly rooted in linguistics, semiology has been widely adopted and adapted by the social sciences, particularly sociology, to analyze communication media, cultural studies, and film studies.

As an approach supported by structuralism, semiology, when applied in the social sciences, has a primary focus on uncovering the ideologies hidden behind signs and messages (Row, 2024). In *Language as Social Semiotics*, Halliday argues that language is a social reality and social reality is a semiotic construct of meaning or construct that is formed through interaction or the praxis of communication.

Semiotic meaning building or constructs or semantic systems encode two fundamental aspects of language, namely language as a tool to reflect on something (ideational) and as a tool for acting/interacting (interpersonal). In semantic systems, language as a tool of reflection is an ideational component of meaning and language as a tool of interaction is an interpersonal component of meaning

(Kurnianta & Maharani, 2020).

According to M.A.K. Halliday and Ruqaiyya Hassan, whose concept was adopted by Ibn Hamad in Social Semiotics, a text is composed of three important components (register): Medan Wacana (*Field of Discourse*) which refers to what is happening or a topic raised by the mass media; Discourse Involvement (*Tenor of Discourse*) relating to the people listed in the text, including their position, role, and reasons for selection as sources, while questioning the potential for media bias in highlighting or belittling certain parties; and Means of Discourse (*Mode of Discourse*) which refers to the role and style of language used by the communicator (mass media) for example, whether the language used is refined (*Euphemistic*), exaggerated (*Hyperbolic*), or is it rather vulgar to effectively describe the situation (*Field*) and the parties involved (*Tenor*) (Tourism, 2017).

Method

This study uses a qualitative type of research with an analytical descriptive design. Qualitative research was chosen because it was able to explore meanings related to Narratives and images in the news Tala'ub bi-l-'admaghah wa-l-munākh wa-dh-dhakā' al-iṣṭiina'ī. 'Ahlan bikum fī ḥUrūb al-Ghad (Panessai et al., 2021). This study uses a qualitative descriptive approach to analyze verbal data (words). The goal is to describe and interpret the object of research, namely findings in the news that will fill the field of discourse, tenor of discourse, and mode of discourse as well as reveal the practical meaning contained behind the news narrative (Adelawati & Arimi, 2025).

The data collection technique in this study was carried out through a literature review (*Literature Review*). Literature review is a standard process for collecting theories and findings from previous studies. This activity involves reviewing and reviewing various relevant literature sources such as books, journal articles, or research reports that have been published by other academics and are closely related to the topic of research being carried out (April et al., 2023).

This study uses primary data in the form of a news on the Aljazeera.net media portal (<https://shorturl.at/LVCr2>) which was last updated on November 17, 2025. The data collection technique is by reading and recording, then using a series of repetitive techniques that include reading, translating, understanding, and recording repeated processes to ensure completeness and minimize data errors. Data collection begins with identifying and searching for relevant primary news sources, with a maximum limit of the last two years.

After the data was collected, the researcher examined the data repeatedly (comparing the primary data with the theory) and involved discussions between fellow researchers to correct and verify the narrative found. Data analysis is the process of processing and compiling data that has been recorded to improve the researcher's understanding of the topic and present it as research findings. After the conclusion of the data is reached, the researcher then pours the new ideas and thoughts into the article in a structured manner. The whole method is designed to

find insights, truths, and bright spots of the problem being researched (Qomaruddin & Sa'diyah, 2024).

Results

Of the three goal points: field of discourse, tenor of discourse, and mode of discourse The results are found as in the following table:

Table 1:

Findings from the news of Tala'ub bi-l-'admaghah wa-l-munākh wa-dh-dhakā' al-iṣṭinā'ī..
'Ahlan bikum fī ḥurūb al-ghad 2025

No.	Component	Number of Findings	Information
1.	Field of Discourse	5	Issues are in the form of technology wars, modern drone wars, brain fog wars, global trade inhibition wars, and climate engineering wars.
2.	Discourse Involvement	4	An officer, expert, Commander, and researcher. In the news there are images that illustrate modern warfare that no longer uses bombs and snipers. But in the form of artificial intelligence, drones and satellites, as well as climate engineering.
3.	Discourse Mode	4	

Source: Aljazeera.net

Discussion

a. Field of Discourse

M.A.K. Halliday grouped the situational context into three main aspects known as the Register. One of the key aspects is the Field of Discourse, which is an element in the analysis of the situational context of language based on Halliday's Functional Systemic approach. Discourse field refers to the type of social activity or main topic that is being discussed in the text or speech, or simply, what is happening in that communication situation. In an Al Jazeera news entitled "Tala'ub bi-l-'admaghah wa-l-munākh wa-dh-dhakā' al-iṣṭinā'ī.. ' Ahlan bikum fī ḥurūb al-ghad" there are several angles that can be identified:

Data 1:

حدّر خبراء الدفاع من دخول العالم مرحلة جديدة من الحروب التكنولوجية تتجاوز التهديدات العسكرية التقليدية

نحو ساحات غير مرئية تشمل العقل البشري، والمناخ، والتكوين العميق للذكاء الاصطناعي، وفقا لما جاء في مجلة لوبوان الفرنسية.

(Defense experts have warned that the world is entering a new phase of technological warfare that goes beyond traditional military threats into an invisible arena that includes the human mind, climate, and the formation of deep artificial intelligence, according to the French magazine *Le Point*.)

Angle Data 1: What are the views of experts in assessing the threat of artificial intelligence in the military realm?

The terrain built by Al Jazeera in this sentence centers on the paradigm shift of global warfare from conventional military threats to an unseen and high-tech arena of conflict. The main content (or *angle*) emphasized is that the world, according to warnings from defense experts quoted from the French magazine *Le Point*, is entering a new phase of technological warfare. These wars go beyond traditional boundaries and focus on non-physical targets, namely the human mind (cognitive warfare), climate (as a weapon), and the formation of artificial intelligence (AI). Overall, the text constructs a discourse on sophisticated and unconventional future military threats that require global vigilance.

Technological developments and industrialization have consistently driven the evolution of weaponry towards increased efficiency, precision, and range in the context of continuous warfare. In recent years, Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become a major focus of the military due to its ability to transform the functions of weapons and fundamentally change war and defense strategies. Major countries, such as the United States, Russia, and China, have shown clear ambitions to integrate AI into their national military capabilities. The main objective of this integration is to improve the accuracy, destructibility, and efficiency of manpower on the battlefield (Anjani, 2025).

Data 2:

ورغم الاهتمام العالمي بالمسيرات والرادارات الحديثة، فإن تقنيات أشد غموضا تتقدم بهدوء داخل مختبرات الجيوش والأجهزة البحثية، مما يمثل "كوابيس حقيقية للمهندسين العسكريين"، وفقا للمجلة.

(Despite the global interest in modern drones and radar, the lesser-known technology is quietly developing in military laboratories and research institutes, which represents a "real nightmare for military engineers," according to the magazine.)

Angle Data 2: How do modern drone and radar technologies have a negative impact on engineers?

This terrain contains the revelation of a little-known technology that is secretly developing in laboratories and research institutions. *The angle* emphasized here is that these less publicized weapons are actually a "real nightmare for military engineers," signaling that the real threat comes from hidden innovations and not

from commonly known hardware. In summary, his Field of Discourse is "Hidden Threats: The Real Dangers of Secret Military Technology."

Rapid advances in drone technology have created a variety of legal challenges, especially since existing international frameworks are considered outdated and ambiguous. Although Article 8 of the Chicago Convention already defines unmanned aircraft and requires special authorization to fly in the airspace of other countries, this provision is considered inadequate to address modern threats. Drones, with their ability to operate without pilots, directly threaten the security, privacy, and sovereignty of the country. Therefore, more comprehensive and clear global regulations are needed to ensure stability and international order in the face of the widespread use of drones (Ramadhan et al., 2025).

Data 3:

أولاً، تشويش الأدمغة

(First, brain fog)

Angle Data 3: Why is brain fog a weapon of modern warfare?

The discourse on angle is the threat and development of "Cognitive War" as a form of extreme warfare. *Angle* what Al Jazeera emphasized was the shift of the military's focus from physical targets to the human mind as the main combat arena. The text constructs the discourse that the ability to target the enemy's minds directly through long-range physiological techniques is rapidly evolving. Furthermore, the official authorities of the French Ministry of the Armed Forces reinforced this Terrain of Discourse, asserting that cognitive warfare will be a "central theme in future wars" with the specific aim of "directly deceiving the enemy's brains." This effectively builds a narrative about a new reality in which cognitive manipulation becomes the main strategic weapon.

Covid-19 can affect the nervous system and cause neurological problems such as confusion, delirium, and brain damage. Some people infected with Covid-19 may experience cognitive impairments such as confusion or difficulty concentrating. This is often referred to as "brain fog" or "brain fog" and can occur even in people who do not have severe symptoms during an infection. This is a form of modern warfare, without firearms, only in the form of pressure and disturbance to the brain (Ansyori, 2023).

One of the modern forms of warfare that many countries have begun to learn is the strategy or condition of combat that aims to create chaos, mental confusion, and decreased cognitive function (*Brain Fog*) on targets, both individuals and populations. One of the symptoms *Long COVID* What often happens is *Brain fog* or brain fog. This term refers to a common designation used to describe a wide variety of disorders in cognitive function. These disorders include difficulty concentrating, dizziness, confusion, and short-term memory loss problems (Wahyuni et al., 2022).

Current research highlights the emergence of Post-COVID Neurological

Syndrome (PCNS), a component of Long COVID that involves a wide range of nerve and cognitive disorders persisting long after the initial infection. A major meta-analysis revealed that roughly one-third of survivors experience these symptoms three months post-recovery, with the most prevalent issues being fatigue and "brain fog" a state of cognitive decline marked by slow thinking and confusion. Alarming, data suggests that these neurological problems, including memory and attention deficits, often intensify or first appear during a six-month follow-up period, indicating that the impact on the brain and nervous system may worsen over time rather than resolve immediately. (Michelle & Wreksoatmodjo, 2024).

Data 4:

ثانياً، خنق التجارة العالمية

(Second, hindering global trade)

Angle Data 4: How is one of the trends of modern warfare hindering global trade?

The terrain in the content of the sub-chapter constructs the discourse that method of exploitation no longer requires major military action; as quoted from international risk expert Stefan Audrand, it is enough to "create a permanent threat". This discourse is reinforced by the prediction of the emergence of surface and underwater drones that are low-cost but capable of sinking large cargo ships. This situation was reinforced by the official acknowledgment from the French Navy, through Captain Jerome Henry, who emphasized that the military is currently already practicing facing a sudden and continuous "swarm of drones".

In addition to the brain war, and the climate war, of course, countries are also always at war in terms of trade. Given that most trade is carried out by sea, it is important for every country to maintain the stability of transactions at sea. Drones, or unmanned aircraft, are remotely controlled or autonomous unmanned vehicles. The types of drones vary, including military drones for reconnaissance and attacks (such as tactical drones and MALE/HALE), civilian drones for hobby and photography, and industrial drones for mapping and inspection.

The advantages of drones are their ability to reach difficult areas, the efficiency of air data capture, and the reduction of personnel risk, particularly in unmanned aerial patrols in conflict-prone areas to detect threats and send live visual data. Unlike drones, satellites are artificial objects that orbit the Earth on a specific path for a variety of purposes. Despite their different shapes and orbits, the use of both technologies, both satellites and drones, in marine defense systems brings significant strategic benefits to the country (Fajar et al., 2025).

Data 5:

ثالثاً، حرمان العدو من الشمس أو إغراقه

(Third, remove sunlight from enemies or drown them)

Angle Data 5: How can climate be a weapon of war?

Containing one of the issues raised in the news object, the field of discourse of this quote centers on the subject of climate engineering technology (geoengineering) which is now seen not only as a science, but as a security and military threat. The discourse specifically addresses the dangers of *dual-use* technologies that can be converted into weapons of destruction or disruptiveness, such as using cloud seeding to overwhelm enemy forces, aerosol dispersal to block the sun, or cloud bleaching to disrupt satellite surveillance.

Quoting *Le Point* magazine and comparing it to the "Soviet dream," the narrative constructed is about the rapid realization of a once-fictional scenario into a dangerous technology that can be used to "create a mystical catastrophe." Therefore, the main purpose of this discourse is to warn the public about the potential harm and militaristic implications of the progress of climate science. As the climate crisis worsens, 2025 marks a global intensification in research on weather control technologies, where countries such as China, the United Arab Emirates and the United States are beginning to test complex systems to trigger rain or mitigate natural disasters.

However, these futuristic advances immediately raised significant geopolitical concerns, especially regarding the potential of one country to control transboundary rainfall, as well as the ecological impact of changes in natural rainfall patterns. In addition, there is an ethical debate about the human right to manipulate the climate for political gain. These concerns prompted organizations such as Greenpeace to call for a temporary moratorium so that artificial weather research is not unilaterally abused (S, 2025).

Not only brain fog, climate change is also a trend for future wars. The world's climate change is now exacerbating natural disasters (floods, droughts, and storms) that are becoming more frequent and intense. Simultaneously, the evolution of digital technology opens up a larger gap for cyberattacks targeting a country's critical infrastructure (Purify et al., 2025). The issue of climate change has now gone beyond the limits of environmental concern and is developing into a strategic threat that affects global stability as a whole.

Changes in climate patterns, such as rising Earth's average temperature, extreme droughts, and other weather disturbances, have a direct impact on millions of people, especially in countries where adaptation is still limited. These climate pressures often exacerbate the fragility of existing social and economic conditions, while triggering new tensions in structurally vulnerable communities. Several international agencies have emphasized the importance of seeing climate change as a factor that increases the risk of conflict.

Studies have shown that extreme climate events, such as major floods and protracted droughts, contribute to prolonging the duration of conflict and deepening the escalation of violence, especially in regions with high structural vulnerability. For example, research from *Stockholm International Peace Research Institute* (SIPRI) highlights that increasing environmental pressures can accelerate

social disintegration, especially in regions with a history of inter-ethnic conflict and weak governance systems (Windessy & Nugraha, 2025).

b. Tenor of Discourse

The tenor of discourse refers to the social relationships that are established between individuals involved in a communication or language interaction. In essence, *tenors* explain who is communicating and in what kind of social relationships they interact. This includes determining the role and status of each participant in the context of the discourse, for example whether the relationship is formal or informal, equal (symmetrical) or unequal (hierarchical), and how intimate they are.

Table 2.

Tenor of discourse in the preaching of Tala'ub bi-l-'admaghah wa-l-munākh wa-dh-dhakā' al-iṣṭinā'ī.. 'Ahlan bikum fi ḥurūb al-ghad 2025

Publication Date	Discourse Involvement	Information
November 17, 2025	مسؤول رفيع	A senior official in the French Ministry of the Armed Forces
	ستيفان أودراند	International risk expert
	جيروم هنري	Commander of the French Navy
	أوليفييه بلازي	Researchers

Source: Aljazeera.net

Table 2 contains all the figures involved and listed in the news. Although most of the information was taken from a magazine called *Le Point*, the main source was a senior official in France. He emphasized that one of the weapons of war is brain manipulation. Cognitive warfare will later be very influential and become a nightmare for anyone who is under the control of the opponent. The senior official from the French Ministry of the Armed Forces holds a strategic position as the holder of defense policy authority. In the context of news, its existence serves to turn the issue of "cognitive warfare" that initially sounds like science fiction or speculation into a real threat that is institutionally recognized.

As a representative of one of the world's major military powers, each statement reflects the future security doctrine and the direction of military technology research that is being developed in secret. His relevance as a resource person is crucial because he provides legitimacy and validation. When he describes the use of microwaves or nerve manipulation to knock out enemies without fire, he is not just giving an opinion, but giving official confirmation of the capabilities of current military technology.

The narrative he builds about "creating nightmares" gives the reader

emotional weight and urgency, while also confirming that the center of the future battle has shifted from the physical terrain to the direct manipulation of the human brain and perception. Furthermore, an international risk expert named Stevan also commented, about the war at sea. For him, there is no need to bother sinking ships, it is enough to develop underwater drone technology that can monitor and destroy foreign merchant ships.

Stevan Audrand is positioned as an international risk expert, a strategic role that bridges military analysis with global economic impacts. Within the news structure, Audrand's position provides a strategic-pragmatic dimension, as his expertise focuses on vulnerability assessment. He is a highly relevant source because he can translate advancements in drone technology into their tangible effects on the stability of world trade.

Given his background, he discusses more than just the technicalities of weaponry; he also addresses the "psychology of conflict," where a permanent threat is considered more effective than a direct physical strike. His relevance is further strengthened when he highlights the cost-efficiency of modern warfare. His statements regarding underwater drones capable of disabling massive cargo ships at a low cost provide economic validation for the theory of asymmetric warfare. Audrand acts as a mouthpiece for global concerns regarding maritime security; he explains that adversaries no longer require a vast naval fleet to disrupt the world's logistics systems.

His presence ensures that the news narrative is not merely focused on technological sophistication, but also on the real-world consequences for international commodity distribution, which is heavily dependent on sea lanes. In fact, Jerome Henry, who is a Commander of the French Navy, has begun to train their military forces to practice defending against underwater drone attacks. Captain Jerome Henry is positioned as an active military practitioner holding the rank of Commander in the French Navy.

While previous sources (such as Audrand) provide a theoretical perspective on risk, Captain Jerome's position adds a very tangible tactical and operational dimension. As a field commander, he represents those on the front lines of defense; consequently, his statements carry direct authority regarding military readiness in the face of emerging threats. His relevance as a source lies in his ability to provide firsthand testimony that validates the fears surrounding asymmetric warfare. His remarks concerning continuous training to counter "drone swarms" offer proof that such threats are no longer mere future predictions, but a reality currently being addressed by the military.

Captain Jerome's presence in the news narrative serves to heighten the sense of urgency; he emphasizes that the nature of warfare has become unpredictable and occurs "without warning," effectively building reader awareness regarding the vulnerability of conventional defenses against low-cost, efficient drone technology. A researcher named Olivier Blazy emphasized that warfare using artificial intelligence is no less dangerous, especially if it produces wrong information.

Researchers here recall obvious mistakes that occurred before, such as a rounding error on a Patriot missile in 1991 that led to the deaths of 28 American soldiers. Olivier Blazy is positioned as a technical expert and academic researcher focusing on cybersecurity and software code integrity. Within the news narrative, Blazy's role is crucial as he serves as an interpreter of abstract concepts such as "data poisoning" translating them into easily understood risk simulations. As a researcher, he brings the necessary intellectual perspective and scientific skepticism to dissect how military Artificial Intelligence (AI) can be sabotaged from within its own system. Blazy's relevance as a source lies in his ability to link future technological vulnerabilities with tangible historical precedents.

By reminding readers of the 1991 Patriot missile tragedy, he provides context showing that a minor error in code or digital calculation can have fatal real-world consequences. The concrete example he provides regarding the manipulation of "friend or foe" narratives in AI models highlights the latent dangers of information warfare embedded within algorithms. His presence ensures the news report has a solid scientific foundation, reinforcing the idea that "silent" threats within software code are just as deadly as conventional weapons on the battlefield.

c. Mode of Discourse

Mode of discourse refers to the way in which communication channels are used in a language event, as well as the role of language and images in that context. Language is used to inform and influence readers' perceptions factually and emotionally. Images provide additional visual context, shaping the reader's response through a visual representation of the reported reality (Putri et al., 2024). In the news titled "*Tala'ub bi-l-'admaghah wa-l-munākh wa-dh-dhakā' al-iṣṭinā'ī. 'Ahlān bikum fī Ḥurūb al-Ghad* " published on the media portal Al Jazeera, four modes of images found in the news were examined:



Figure 1: Illustration of an ever-evolving war technique

Figure 1 is a news cover that represents the entire content of the news. Featuring This Image is a complex visualization centered on the convergence

between Artificial Intelligence (AI), global data, and geopolitical conflicts. At the heart of this visual is a transparent head silhouette filled with a digital neural network, emitting a connection to a large computing cloud, symbolizing the Digital Intelligence or Consciousness that is the center of control. In the background, this connection extends to the globe, flanked by satellites and *drones*, which confirms the global reach and role of surveillance technology in communications and intelligence.

Most strikingly, the digital stage in the form of a luminous grid floor becomes an arena for armed figures (soldiers) who symbolize physical conflict (war), implying that modern warfare is no longer separate from digital infrastructure, but rather is fully driven and influenced by cyberspace and data dominance. Overall, this image conveys a powerful message about an era where the boundaries between mind (AI), information, and the physical battlefield have blurred, making data and digital intelligence a decisive force on the world stage.



Figure 2: Illustration of the human brain made up of billions of nerve cells that communicate with each other through complex networks (Pixabay)

Figure 2 is an illustration that represents the following narrative:

وتشمل الوسائل المحتملة لتحقيق ذلك استخدام موجات الميكرويف، والروائح، والفيرومونات، والأصوات، مع إمكانية شلّ طاقم غواصة كامل من دون طلقة واحدة.

(Possible ways to achieve this include the use of microwaves, scents, pheromones, and sounds, with the potential to incapacitate the entire submarine crew without firing a single shot.)

It explains how the military can attack through the inside of the brain without causing physical harm. So that it can overthrow the entire crew. Cognitive Warfare Capabilities are an emerging form of warfare, focusing on directly targeting the opponent's mind through psychological manipulation and techniques that operate remotely, as emphasized by a senior official of the French Ministry of the Armed Forces as a "central theme in future warfare." The main goal of this type of war is to deceive the enemy's brains directly, not only through the spread of false information, but also through the exploitation of human cognitive

vulnerabilities to alter perceptions, trigger emotions, and influence decision-making, so as to win the conflict without the need to use physical force on a massive scale.



Figure 3: Ukrainian naval parade (Reuters)

Figure 3 is an illustration that represents the following narrative:

وتضيف أنه عما قريب ستنتشر مسيرات سطحية وتحت مائية قادرة على التنقل بالتيارات أو بمحركات بسيطة، وعلى إغراق سفن شحن ضخمة بتكلفة زهيدة.

(He added that soon there will be surface and underwater drones capable of navigating with currents or simple engines, and sinking large cargo ships at low cost.)

The image shows a fast-moving Unmanned Surface Ship (USV) or military naval *drone*, complete with a long-range weapons station and advanced sensors, visually representing a serious threat to the previously discussed global maritime trade route. Low-cost, autonomous ships like this are the embodiment of Stefan Audrand's warning, which states that it is enough to create a "permanent threat" in the ocean to disrupt 90% of global trade, without the need to deploy traditional warships. The ability of USVs to operate autonomously in *swarms* and attack large cargo ships suddenly and without warning is the reason why the commander of the French Navy, Captain Jerome Henry, emphasized that their forces are intensively training to deal with *drone* attacks day and night, showing that this technology has fundamentally changed defense and maritime security strategies.



Figure 4: Cloud seeding has increased (Getty Images)

Figure 4 is an illustration that represents the following narrative:

تلقيح السحب باليوديد الفضي لزيادة الأمطار وإغراق قوات معادية.

(Seeding clouds with silver iodide to increase rainfall and flood the enemy troops.)

This image serves as a very relevant and contextual visual illustration for the previous explanation of *Cloud Seeding*. Clouds like this that are dense, high, and potentially contain enough moisture are the main target types that will be sown with substances such as silver iodide (as mentioned in the military narrative) to trigger or increase precipitation. This image directly represents a key element in the discussion of the Weather War.

Conclusion

The study concluded that Al Jazeera's story was titled "*Tala'ub bi-l-'admaghah wa-l-munākh wa-dh-dhakā' al-iṣṭinā'ī. ' Ahlan bikum fī ḥurūb al-ghad*" represents how the potential for modern warfare develops various types of wars. Not only does it see potential, but it also contains information on how developed countries have begun to learn war techniques using artificial intelligence, drone and satellite technology, and climate engineering. Using M.A.K. Halliday's social semiotic analysis, it was found that this news discourse field focuses on five cases, namely a new phase of technology warfare, drone and satellite technology that minimizes military costs rather than using firearms, cognitive warfare in the form of brain fog, global trade inhibition, and climate engineering.

Participants involved included an anonymous official, Stevan Audrand, Jerome Henry, and Olivier Blazy. The mode of discourse is used effectively through visuals that evoke the reader's understanding of the narrative before and after. Overall, this news not only informs future forecasts, but also builds awareness that global wars will continue. Through Halliday's semiotic approach, it can be concluded that Al Jazeera plays an important role in shaping public perception and promoting the value of progress.

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