



The Rift in the Donald Trump-Benjamin Netanyahu Alliance: Critical Discourse Analysis by Norman Fairclough

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Received: 30-11-2025

Revised: 14-01-2026

Accepted: 15-01-2026

Abstract

The rift between Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu in the alliance against the Houthi group reflects ideological shifts and political and diplomatic interests in the Middle East, while also marking a change in the direction of US-Israel relations under regional geopolitical pressure. This study aims to uncover the underlying ideology, power relations, and social context reflected in media coverage of the rift between Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu. It also examines their behavioral patterns during critical moments of their alliance, particularly amid the Houthi conflict. Employing a descriptive qualitative method, this research applies Norman Fairclough's Critical Discourse Analysis framework. The primary data consist of two Arabic language news articles from Al-Jazeera and two from I24 News. Data collection involved translation, close reading, and note taking, while analysis followed the stages of data reduction, presentation, and conclusion drawing. The findings reveal that, at the textual level, experiential, relational, and expressive values convey ideology, self-representation, and power asymmetry between Trump and Netanyahu. At the discourse practice level, Al-Jazeera utilizes intertextuality and reported speech, whereas I24 News highlights direct quotations and harmonious narratives. At the sociocultural level, global political dynamics, institutional influences, media roles, and Trump's extreme nationalist ideology shape discourse construction. The study concludes that in critical situations, Trump is opportunistic, while Netanyahu remains cooperative, reflecting Israel's dependence on the United States for security and political legitimacy. This study contributes to critical discourse analysis by expanding the object and focus of analysis in explaining the dynamics of the relationship and behavior patterns of the two strategic alliances between Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu when in critical situations. However, because this study focuses on two media outlets, future research should involve American media and other international media to provide a more comprehensive understanding of US-Israel relations in the Middle East.

Keywords: Benjamin Netanyahu, Donald Trump, Houthi Group, Norman Fairclough, Political Behavior

ملخص

يعكس الخلاف بين دونالد ترامب وبنيامين نتياهو في التحالف ضد جماعة الحوثيين التحولات الأيديولوجية والمصالح السياسية والدبلوماسية في الشرق الأوسط، كما يشير إلى تغيير في اتجاه العلاقات الأمريكية الإسرائيلية تحت ضغط جيوسياسي إقليمي. تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى الكشف عن الأيديولوجية الكامنة وعلاقات القوة والسياق الاجتماعي الذي تنعكس عليه التغطية الإعلامية للخلاف بين دونالد ترامب وبنيامين نتياهو. كما تبحث الدراسة أنماط سلوكهما خلال اللحظات الحرجة من تحالفهما، لا سيما في خضم الصراع مع الحوثيين. باستخدام طريقة وصفية نوعية، تطبق هذه الدراسة إطار تحليل الخطاب النقدي لنورمان فيركلوف. تتكون البيانات الأولية من مقالتين إخباريتين باللغة العربية من قناة الجزيرة ومقالتين من قناة ١٢٤ أخبار. وشمل جمع البيانات الترجمة والقراءة المتأنية وتدوين الملاحظات، بينما اتبع التحليل مراحل اختزال البيانات وعرضها واستخلاص النتائج. وتكشف النتائج أنه على المستوى النصي، تنقل القيم التجريبية والعلائقية والتعبيرية الأيديولوجية والتمثيل الذاتي وعدم التكافؤ في القوة بين

ترامب ونتنياهو. وعلى مستوى ممارسة الخطاب، تستخدم قناة الجزيرة التداخل النصي والكلام المنقول، بينما تسلط قناة ١٢٤ أخبار الضوء على الاقتباسات المباشرة والروايات المتناغمة. على المستوى الاجتماعي والثقافي، تشكل الديناميات السياسية العالمية والتأثيرات المؤسسية وأدوار وسائل الإعلام وأيديولوجية ترامب القومية المتطرفة بناء الخطاب. تلخص الدراسة إلى أن ترامب يتصرف بشكل انتهازى في المواقف الحرجة، بينما يظل نتنياهو متعاوناً، مما يعكس اعتماد إسرائيل على الولايات المتحدة في مجال الأمن والشرعية السياسية. تساهم هذه الدراسة في تحليل الخطاب النقدي من خلال توسيع نطاق موضوع التحليل وتركيزه في شرح ديناميات العلاقة وأنماط السلوك للحالفين الاستراتيجيين بين دونالد ترامب وبنيامين نتنياهو في المواقف الحرجة. ومع ذلك، ونظراً لأن هذه الدراسة تركز على وسيلتي إعلام، ينبغي أن تشمل الأبحاث المستقبلية وسائل الإعلام الأمريكية ووسائل الإعلام الدولية الأخرى لتوفير فهم أكثر شمولاً للعلاقات الأمريكية الإسرائيلية في الشرق الأوسط.

الكلمات المفتاحية: بنيامين نتنياهو، جماعة الحوثيين، دونالد ترامب، نورمان فيركلوف، السلوك السياسي

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Introduction

The rift between Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and US President Donald Trump signals a new chapter in Middle East diplomacy, following a period of tension between Netanyahu and former President Barack Obama.¹ Donald Trump has consistently supported unprecedented Israeli policies, including the annexation of the West Bank and the recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.² In addition, Donald Trump also gave his full support to Benjamin Netanyahu in curbing Iran's influence in the Middle East. The United States willingly withdrew from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) nuclear agreement with Iran in 2018 with a campaign of maximum pressure on Iran and its allies such as the Houthis in Yemen.³

One form of cooperation between the United States and Israel at present is the involvement of the United States in the conflict between Israel and the Houthis group in Yemen. The basic motive for the United States to become involved in the military conflict in Yemen is its national interest in maintaining its influence in the Middle East by supporting its ally, Saudi Arabia. Meanwhile, the Houthis group receives support from Iran.⁴ In addition, the United States' strategic motives in this conflict are closely related to its interests in Israel. The Houthis group in the Red Sea region regularly launches attacks on ships suspected of having affiliations with Israel. This is a form

¹ Robert O. Freedman, "The Erosion of US-Israeli Relations during Obama's Second Term," *Israel Affairs* 23, no. 2 (March 4, 2017): 253–72. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/13537121.2016.1274508>

² Jerome Slater, "The Arab-Israeli and Israeli-Palestinian Conflicts in the Netanyahu/Trump Era, 2017–20," *Mythologies Without End*, November 19 (2020): 328–44. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1093/oso/9780190459086.003.0020>

³ Mehreen Yaseen et al., "US Foreign Policy: Towards Middle East (2018-2023)," *Indus Journal of Social Sciences*, 2024. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.59075/ijss.v2i2.314>

⁴ Romi Habe Putra, "Aksi Militer Houthi di Laut Merab: Proyeksi Kekuatan Politik dan Pembelajaran Bagi Pertahanan Laut Nusantara," *Indonesian Maritime Journal* 12, no. 2 (June 2024): 1–16. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.52307/jmi.v9i2.162>

of support for Palestine and an attack on Israel, including US, British, and French warships, which are also targets of the attacks.⁵

Although in modern history, Donald Trump is known as the most pro-Israel President of the United States, his diplomatic relationship with Netanyahu has often been fractured. This tension arose when, at the height of the conflict with the Houthis, the United States agreed to a ceasefire with the Houthis group, leaving Israel alone to face the attacks. This move caused Israel to suffer losses, as the United States ignored Israel's strategic interests. This phenomenon surprised many parties, giving rise to various forms of discourse on various international and regional news platforms. Furthermore, the difference in attitude between the two leaders triggered a shift in ideology and political interests in the dynamics of Middle East diplomacy, while also marking a change in the direction of US-Israel relations under the pressure of geopolitics in the region.

Therefore, this study was conducted to examine the dynamics of the relationship between two political actors, Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu, and to identify political and geopolitical trends reflected in the discourse constructed by two opposing media outlets. This study is based on the assumption that the rift in the relationship between these two strategic allies is not merely a political event, but rather an ideological construction through media language that has the potential to shape international public perception of the direction of Middle East diplomacy and global power relations.

The uniqueness of this study lies in its approach, which combines media discourse analysis with an examination of the dynamics of political relations between actors in times of crisis. This study not only views the media as a means of conveying information, but also as a social actor that plays an active role in framing the power relations and political attitudes of Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu. The selection of Al-Jazeera and 124 News as objects of study allows for a comparative analysis of discourse arising from different ideological backgrounds and political interests, thereby providing a balanced perspective in understanding the construction of Middle East conflict reporting. Thus, the analytical perspective of this study is the relationship between journalistic practice, political interests, and the global sociocultural context.

Al-Jazeera, a popular media outlet in the Middle East, and 124 News, an Israeli right-wing media outlet, also reported on the rift between Trump and Netanyahu. Although they raised the same issue, they presented different narratives. Al-Jazeera tends to be pro-Muslim Brotherhood and critical of Western intervention.⁶ In this issue, Al-Jazeera highlights Trump's decision to end cooperation with Israel regarding the military conflict in Yemen. Meanwhile, 124 News emphasizes Trump's reasons for severing ties with Netanyahu, with a perspective that supports Israeli policy.

This confirms that when addressing certain issues, each media outlet has a different perspective. These differences in perspective are often influenced by ideological, cultural, and even personal factors.⁷ From there, as a social actor, the media plays an active role in shaping public

⁵ Jonah Carlson, "Houthi Motivations Driving the Red Sea Crisis Understanding How Ansar Allah's Strategic Culture Goes beyond Gaza and Iran," *Journal of Advanced Military Studies* 15, no. 2 (September 1, 2024): 94–114. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.21140/MCUJ.20241502006>

⁶ Khafid Roziki et al., "Framing the Iran-Israel Conflict: Ideological Representation in Al-Jazeera's Nuclear News," *Eralingua: Jurnal Pendidikan Bahasa Asing dan Sastra* 9, no. 1 (April 1, 2025): 182–204. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.26858/ERALINGUA.V9I1.69940>

⁷ Hamdani M. Syam et al., "Ideology and Media Framing: Stigmatisation of LGBT in Media Coverage in Indonesia," *Jurnal Komunikasi: Malaysian Journal of Communication* 37, no. 1 (2021): 59–73. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17576/JKMJC-2021-3701-04>

opinion through the discourse it uses.⁸ In Fairclough's view, discourse is not merely a structured text, but rather language that is part of social practice. Because language is part of society, it is a social process and is controlled by society.⁹ It can thus be understood that discourse is language constructed from social practices and presented systematically, and returned for social purposes.¹⁰ Therefore, discourse is a form of ideological practice that has specific aims and objectives.

Fairclough's critical discourse analysis is used to explore more deeply the ideology and interests of the two mass media outlets in relation to their reporting on the rift between the two leaders. This is because Fairclough's critical discourse analysis is a complex multidisciplinary approach to deconstructing language use, which has a dialectical and causal relationship with social practices.¹¹ Through this approach, which focuses on text analysis, social practices, and sociocultural contexts, this study is not only able to explore the ideologies and interests of Al-Jazeera and 124 News, but also shows the power relations between the two leaders and traces the characteristic behavior patterns of Donald Trump and Netanyahu in establishing cooperation in critical situations, such as in the context of the conflict against the Houthi group.

Fairclough's critical discourse analysis is an effective theory that can be used as an analytical tool in research to uncover the ideology and intentions behind discourse. This theory can be applied to various forms of discourse. For example, research by Umar Fauzan and Nadia analyzed the speech of English lecturers.¹² Meanwhile, there search by Fathiyeh Fattahiza dehand Fereshteh Motamad Langrodi applied critical discourse analysis to verses from the Qur'an,¹³ Meanwhile, Yoseph Wahyu Kurniawan and Ramadhanty Cahyaning Rizki used songlyrics as the object of analysis.¹⁴ Then Lewi Kabanga and others used the Easter manuscript as material for their analysis.¹⁵ These previous studies show that critical discourse analysis can be applied to various forms of discourse, both written and fun written.

Even more interestingly, Norman Fairclough's critical discourse analysis theoretical framework can be used as a theoretical framework for various Middle Eastern issues. For example, research by Muhammad Ghafary Yuh and raetal. Examined the ideology of Al-Jazeera Arabic in its coverage of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 by analyzing lexical choices, discourse structure, and the underlying socio

⁸ Santuso Santuso, Sukarno Sukarno, and Albert Tallapessy, "Representasi Sikap Pejabat Pemerintah Pusat Terkait Kontroversi Pondok Pesantren Al Zaytun: Kajian Analisis Wacana Kritis," *Kandai* 20, no. 2 (2024): 272–90. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.26499/jk.v20i2.7717>

⁹ Norman Fairclough, "Language and Power," *Talking Appalachian: Voice, Identity, and Community* 9780813141 (1989): 141–61. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1075/intp.00099.cam>

¹⁰ Alex Sobur, *Analisis Teks Media*, 7th ed., (Bandung: PT Remaja Rosdakarya, 2015), hlm. 11.

¹¹ Abdul Basid, "Tracking the Death of The Iranian President in BBC ' Arabi News Reports : A Critical Analysis from Norman Fairclough's Perspective," *Onoma: Pendidikan Bahasa dan Sastra* 10, no. 4 (2024): 4089–4100. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.30605/onoma.v10i4.4624>

¹² Umar Fauzan and Nadia, "A Critical Discourse Analysis of Religious Moderation Values in the Indonesian EFL Classroom: Teachers' Perspective," *International Journal of Religion* 5, no. 1 (January 30, 2024): 557–66. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.61707/N9JWG685>

¹³ Fathiyeh Fattahizadeh and Fereshteh Motamed Langeroudi, "Application of Fairclough's Critical Discourse Analysis Model to Quranic Verses Discussing Peaceful Dealing with Hypocrites," *Journal of Islamic Thought and Civilization* 12, no. 1 (March 1, 2022): 184–200. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.32350/JITC.121.13>

¹⁴ Yoseph Wahyu Kurniawan and Ramadhanty Cahyaning Rizki, "Representasi Quarter Life Crisis Melalui Analisis Wacana pada Lirik Lagu 'Takut' Karya Idris Ghozali Terhadap Realita Mental Health Remaja," *Communications* 5, no. 2 (2023): 486–510. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.21009/communications.5.2.4>

¹⁵ Lewi Kabanga et al., "Ideologi Dalam Pesan Paskab 2023: Pendekatan Analisis Wacana Kritis Dengan Model Fairclough," *Diglosia: Jurnal Kajian Bahasa, Sastra, dan Pengajarannya* 6, no. 4 (November 12, 2023): 1095–1110. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.30872/DIGLOSIA.V6I4.792>

political context.¹⁶ Research by Durrotun Humaira and Abdul Basid reveals ideology, power, and social relations through texts, discourse, and cultural contexts reflected in the cover age of Yahya Sinwar's assassination in Al-Jazeera, BBC News Arabic, and France 24 media outlets.¹⁷ Subsequently, research by Dhihyah and others revealed the textual, discursive, and socio cultural dimensions of reporting on famine in Sudan.¹⁸ Research by Rifki Mustofa and Moh Zawawi explores Indonesia's national aspirations as represented in Anis Matta's speech "*Kullunā Fālāstin*" by reviewing the audience's interpretation of the text and the socio-cultural context that contributes to the meaning of the speech.¹⁹ Then, research by Muhammad Naufal Arrafi and Misbahus Surur examined the humanitarian conflict between Palestine and Israel in @rahma_toons cartoons through text analysis, discourse practice, and Norman Fairclough's socio cultural approach.²⁰ All five studies used Critical Discourse Analysis as a tool to analyze various Middle Eastern issues that deserve greater attention. However, these studies were limited to their presentation of conflictor media ideology in general.

Based on the mapping of previous research, it can be concluded that studies on Middle East issues using Norman Fairclough's Critical Discourse Analysis generally still focus on their presentation of conflict, media ideology, and power relations in general. Meanwhile, studies that specifically examine the breakdown of the alliance between two political actors in countries that have been known as strategic allies, and relate this to patterns of political behavior in critical conditions, are still very limited. Therefore, the novelty of this study lies in its attempt to analyze the cover age of the rift between Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu in the Houthi conflict by comparing two media outlets with opposing ideological orientations, namely Al-Jazeera and 124 News. This study not only reveals the ideology of the media, but also traces the patterns of power relations and political behavior tendencies of the two actors in forming alliance amidst political pressures in the Middle East. This study is expected to provide additional contribution and reinforcement to previous research findings on Fairclough's critical discourse analysis in identifying the power of news texts. This study is also expected to provide knowledge to readers so that they can be wiser in reading and consuming news discourse.

This study aims to reveal the ideology, power relations, and socio-political relationships reflected in the text, discourse practices, and sociocultural conditions regarding the reporting of the rift between Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu in the Houthi conflict based on Norman Fairclough's Critical Discourse Analysis. This study also uncovers patterns of behavior reflected in each actor, both Donald Trump and Netanyahu, when forming alliances in critical situations. This

¹⁶ Muhammad Ghafary Yuhandra, Tubagus Chaeru Nugraha, and Fahmy Lukman, "Ideologi Al-Jazeera Arabic Dalam Wacana Pemberitaan Visi Saudi Muhammad Bin Salman (Analisis Wacana Model Fairclough)," *Diglosia: Jurnal Kajian Bahasa, Sastra, dan Pengajarannya* 7, no. 1 (February 10, 2024): 9–24. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.30872/DIGLOSIA.V7I1.808>

¹⁷ Durrotun Humaira and Abdul Basid, "Yahya Sinwar's Murder in Arabic International Media Platforms: A Norman Fairclough Critical Discourse Analysis," *Eralingua: Jurnal Pendidikan Bahasa Asing dan Sastra* 9, no. 1 (April 23, 2025): 163–81. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.26858/eralingua.v9i1.70496>

¹⁸ Dhihyah Dhihyah, Abdul Basid, and Achmad Yani, "Resolving the Sudan Crisis: A Critical Discourse Analysis of Norman Fairclough's Perspective," *Journal of Language and Literature Studies* 5, no. 1 (March 18, 2025): 86–98. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.36312/JOLLS.V5I1.2340>

¹⁹ Rifki Mustofa and Moh Zawawi, "The Aspirations of the Indonesian Nation in Anis Matta's Speech 'Kullunā Fālāstin' Critical Discourse Analysis Norman Fairclough's Theory," *Mantiqutayr: Journal of Arabic Language* 5, no. 2 (June 25, 2025): 206–32. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25217/mantiqutayr.v5i2.5689>

²⁰ Muhammad Naufal Arrafi and Misbahus Surur, "The Palestinian and Israeli Humanitarian Conflict Report in Instagram Caricatures: A Norman Fairclough Critical Discourse Analysis Study," *Eralingua: Jurnal Pendidikan Bahasa Asing dan Sastra* 8, no. 2 (2024): 486. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.26858/eralingua.v8i2.65003>

study examines the rift in the relationship between Donald Trump's strong ally, Benjamin Netanyahu, as it has generated many responses from the public and history. Therefore, the news discourse on this issue written by the Al-Jazeera and 124 News media platforms is important to analyze in greater depth. Thus, examining the discourse on the rift between Donald Trump and Netanyahu from two opposing media outlets is interesting to study using critical discourse analysis, namely text analysis, discourse practice, and the sociocultural context proposed by Fairclough.

Method

This type of research is qualitative because it focuses on explaining the circumstances and nature of a particular object.²¹ The objects of this study include texts, discourse practices, and sociocultural conditions regarding news discourse on the strained relationship between Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu in the context of the Houthi conflict. This approach is used because it can present a comprehensive description and analysis of the research object in an orderly, factual, and accurate manner in accordance with the available data.²² The analysis subsection in this study consists of primary and secondary data. The primary data used in this study are four Arabic-language news texts from the Al-Jazeera and 124 News platforms reporting on the rift between Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu, published in May 2025. The secondary data used consists of various literature in the form of books and articles on critical discourse analysis and Middle Eastern political discourse, as well as various articles and news reports on the dynamics of the relationship between the two allies to support this research. The subject of this research refers to the unit of analysis being studied, namely news texts published by the mass media, not individuals or human participants. The research subjects consisted of four Arabic-language news texts, two each from Al-Jazeera and 124 News, which contained reports on the rift between Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu in the context of the Houthi conflict. The selection of these news texts was based on the similarity of issues, time of publication, and relevance to the research objectives, thus enabling an in-depth and focused discourse analysis.

This research design uses three data collection techniques, namely translation, reading, and note-taking.²³ The translation stage involves translating various Arabic words using available tools to help researchers understand the news. The reading stage was carried out repeatedly on four news articles, namely two from Al-Jazeera and two from 124 News as research objects to obtain an accurate understanding of the meaning and linguistic context of each news article. The first reading was carried out to understand the content and context of the discourse. The second reading was analytical in nature, applying Norman Fairclough's critical discourse analysis theoretical framework and marking every word, sentence, phrase, or quote from sources that was considered relevant to the theoretical framework and research objectives. The note-taking technique was used to document important findings, including ideological aspects, power relations, and the representation of political actors that appeared in the text.

²¹ Zuchri Abdussamad, *Metode Penelitian Kualitatif*, (Makassar: CV. Syakir Media Press, 2021), hlm. 79. https://books.google.co.id/books?id=JtKREAAAQBAJ&pg=PA79&hl=id&source=gbs_toc_r&cad=2#v=onepage&q&f=false.

²² Zuchri Abdussamad, *Metode Penelitian Kualitatif*, (Makassar: CV. Syakir Media Press, 2021), hlm. 80. https://books.google.co.id/books?id=JtKREAAAQBAJ&pg=PA79&hl=id&source=gbs_toc_r&cad=2#v=onepage&q&f=false.

²³ Matthew B Miles and A. Michael Huberman, *Qualitative Data Analysis*, 3rd ed., 2014, hlm. 8.

In the data analysis stage, researchers go through three stages, namely data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing. The data reduction stage was carried out to select the collected data in accordance with Fairclough's three dimensions of critical discourse analysis, namely text, discourse practice, and sociocultural, into tables. The data is presented according to data codes, namely EPT (Experiential Value), RLT (Relational Value), EPV (Expressive Value), PD (Discourse Practice), ST (Situational), IT (Institutional), and SC (Social) to facilitate data reading and analysis. The researcher interpreted the text dimension by examining the experiential value, relational value, and expressive value in the diction, phrases, sentences, and writing structure of the media. In the practice discourse dimension, the author focuses on texts that reflect how the discourse is produced. Meanwhile, in the sociocultural dimension, the author relates the text to the broader socio-political context, such as the ideology, institutions, and political forces behind the construction of discourse. In the conclusion stage, the researcher integrates the three dimensions to find the ideological patterns, power relations, and political behavior patterns of Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu when forming a precarious alliance, as represented in media discourse.

Result and Discussion

The rift between two powerful world allies, Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu, began in May 2025, when Trump visited several Gulf countries, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates without stopping in Israel. This was followed by Trump's decision to sign a peace agreement with the Houthi group, leaving Israel alone to fight the group in the conflict in the Mediterranean Sea, Yemen, on Tuesday, May 5, 2025.²⁴ This issue has sparked various discourses in both regional and international media. Using Fairclough's Critical Discourse Analysis framework, this study finds that both media outlets construct ideologically different discourses, but both reveal the dynamics of power and political interests behind the alliance between the two allies. At the level of text, it represents the ideology, self-image, and power imbalance between Trump and Netanyahu, where Trump is portrayed as dominant and fully authoritative, while Netanyahu is more submissive. At the level of discourse practice, Al-Jazeera highlights the strategies of intertextuality and reported speech. At the sociocultural level, the global political situation, the involvement of military and media institutions, and Trump's extreme nationalism ideology are the main factors shaping discourse construction.

A. Text

Fairclough's critical discourse analysis views the structure of text in discourse construction as reflecting certain values and intentions. This can be recognized from linguistic characteristics, namely experiential value, which refers to the experience of the text producer in representing their social world in discourse; relational value, which refers to the way producers choose words in a text so as to maintain social relations between communication participants; and expressive value, which

²⁴ Al-Jazeera, "إعلام إسرائيلي: ترامب سئم من سلوك نتانيا هو ومفاجأته مستمرة | سياسة | الجزيرة نت", Al-Jazeera, May 9, 2025, <https://www.aljazeera.net/politics/2025/5/9/سلوك-من-سئم-من-سلوك-إسرائيلي-ترامب-سئم-من-سلوك>.

refers to the attitude, emotion, or form of judgment of the text writer towards social reality in discourse.²⁵

Table 1. Table of Text Analysis

Text	Code	Data	Description
Experiential Value	EPT 1	إن ترامب توصل إلى اتفاق مع الحوثيين "من وراء ظهورنا، مما أدى إلى تركنا وحيدين في مواجهة الصواريخ الحوثية" Trump reached an agreement with the Hou this "behind our backs, leaving us alone to face Hou thim issiles" ²⁶	This demonstrates Trump's betrayal and Israel's vulnerability due to the loss of ally support. Ideologically, Israel is positioned as a victim of global politics and the US as a violator of strategic loyalty.
	EPT 2	دونالد ترامب إنه يشعر "بخيبة أمل" من رئيس الوزراء الإسرائيلي Donald Trump said he was "disappointed" with the Israeli Prime Minister. ²⁷	The phrase "بخيبة أمل" highlights Trump's subjective interpersonal tensions and power hierarchy by positioning Trump as an actor who takes unilateral political action.
	EPT 3	فأجاب: "لا. انظروا، إنه في وضع صعب." Trump replied: "No. Look, he's in a difficult situation." ²⁸	Framing Netanyahu not as the cause of the conflict, but as a victim of circumstances.
Relation Value	RLT1	ووفق دروكر، فإن ترامب لم يكلف نفسه عناء إبلاغ نتنياهو قبل ذلك، According to Drucker, Trump didn't even bother to inform Netanyahu beforehand. ²⁹	The phrase "لم يكلف نفسه عناء" contains elements of condescension and indicates a deterioration in diplomatic relations between Trump and Netanyahu.

²⁵ Fairclough, *Language and Power*. 1th ed., (New York: Longman, 1989), hlm. 112. https://annas-archive.org/slow_download/1dbbc6a7266ff735e88b7b968956883b/0/0

²⁶ Al-Jazeera, "إعلام إسرائيلي: ترامب سئم من سلوك نتنيا هو ومفاجآته مستمرة | سياسة | الجزيرة نت", Al-Jazeera, May 9, 2025, <https://www.aljazeera.net/politics/2025/5/9/سلوك-من-سئم-من-سلوك>

²⁷ Al-Jazeera, "إعلام إسرائيلي: ترامب سئم من سلوك نتنيا هو ومفاجآته مستمرة | سياسة | الجزيرة نت", Al-Jazeera, May 9, 2025, <https://www.aljazeera.net/politics/2025/5/9/سلوك-من-سئم-من-سلوك>

²⁸ 124 News, "124 NEWS- نتنياهو غاضب" | بعد التقارير عن شرح بالعلاقات مع نتنياهو، ترامب يوضح الحقيقة", 124 news, 2025. <https://www.i24news.tv/ar/أخبار/middle-east/artc-375a5d04>

²⁹ Al-Jazeera, "إعلام إسرائيلي: ترامب سئم من سلوك نتنيا هو ومفاجآته مستمرة | سياسة | الجزيرة نت", Al-Jazeera, May 9, 2025, <https://www.aljazeera.net/politics/2025/5/9/سلوك-من-سئم-من-سلوك>

	RLT2	رد ترامب: "تحدثت مع الثلاثة، بالتأكيد سيكونوا. Trump replied: I have spoken with all three of them, and of course they will participate. ³⁰	The use of the firstperson pronoun "تحدثت" indicates Trump's position of authority over diplomatic relations with the three Gulf countries.
	RLT3	إن كبار المسؤولين في سلطنة عمان عرضوا مخرجا That Omani officials offered a way out. ³¹	This phrase presents Oman as a neutral mediator, emphasizing compromise in diplomacy. The media highlights efforts to find peaceful solutions to ease the conflict.
Expressive Value	EPV 1	فقد سئم ترامب من سلوك نتياهو لدرجة أنه عقد اتفاقا مع جماعة "أنصار الله" Trump was so fed up with Netanyahu's behavior that he made a deal with the "Ansarullah" group. ³²	Contains negative expressive value. Shows Trump's frustration and impulsive character, who judges his own allies emotionally.
	EPV 2	تلقوا ضربات قوية، لكنهم تحملوا ذلك وأظهروا شجاعة كبيرة، على حد تعبيره He added that the Houthis had come under heavy attack, but they were able to hold their ground and show great courage, according to his statement. ³³	Positive evaluation of the Houthi group. The shift in expression from negative to sympathetic shows Trump's political legitimacy strategy.
	EPV 3	وأجاب الرئيس "بيبي رجل غاضب، ويجب	Positive and empathetic expressive value. Demonstrates an effort to

³⁰ 124 News, "124 NEWS، نتياهو غاضب" | | بعد التقارير عن شرح بالعلاقات مع نتياهو، ترامب يوضح الحقيقة، 124 News, 2025. <https://www.i24news.tv/ar/أخبار/middle-east/artc-375a5d04>

³¹ 124 News, "124 NEWS، نتياهو غاضب" | | بعد التقارير عن شرح بالعلاقات مع نتياهو، ترامب يوضح الحقيقة، 124 News, 2025. <https://www.i24news.tv/ar/أخبار/middle-east/artc-375a5d04>

³² Al-Jazeera, "إعلام إسرائيلي: ترامب سئم من سلوك نتياهو ومفاجأته مستمرة | سياسة | الجزيرة نت،" Al-Jazeera, May 9, 2025, <https://www.aljazeera.net/politics/2025/5/9/سلوك-من-سئم-ترامب-إسرائيل-سئم-من-سلوك-نتياهو-مفاجأته-مستمرة>.

³³ Al-Jazeera, "إعلام إسرائيلي: ترامب سئم من سلوك نتياهو ومفاجأته مستمرة | سياسة | الجزيرة نت،" Al-Jazeera, May 9, 2025, <https://www.aljazeera.net/politics/2025/5/9/سلوك-من-سئم-ترامب-إسرائيل-سئم-من-سلوك-نتياهو-مفاجأته-مستمرة>.

أن يكون كذلك بسبب ٧ أكتوبر". normalize relations and

BiBi (Netanyahu's nickname) is an angry man, and rightly so because of what happened on October 7.³⁴

portrays Trump as a figure who understands Netanyahu's emotional state.

Based on table 1, it can be seen that at the microstructural level (text) in the reporting on the rift between Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu in Al-Jazeera and 124 News, there are linguistic values that represent social experiences, power relations, and the media's ideological stance towards the two actors. These findings show that the choice of language in news discourse is not neutral, but rather reflects certain political and ideological interests in framing the dynamics of the relationship between the United States and Israel.

1. Experiential Value

All three data of Experiential Value (EPI) 1, 2, and 3 sets use language and relational structures to describe the social experiences and collective ideologies of both media outlets regarding the dynamics of the relationship between Trump and Netanyahu. The data reveals patterns of behavior that are heavily influenced by personal interests and have implications for instability in the Middle East. The three data points are experiential values because they reflect patterns of behavior in the experience of establishing a cooperative relationship between Trump and Netanyahu. The pattern of behavior reflected in the data is Trump's opportunistic behavior. Opportunistic behavior is an action that prioritizes personal interests, resulting in unequal arrangements with other related parties.³⁵ Trump formed a strategic alliance by changing his relational line to be asymmetrical towards the Houthi group, ignoring Israel. This opportunistic behavior is often reflected in Trump when collaborating with other actors, as seen at the end of Trump's first term in 2020 as his major achievement. Trump affirmed the Abraham Accords, namely the normalization of diplomatic relations between Israel and the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain.³⁶ This alliance prioritizes the strength of the United States' position in the strategic Gulf region, as well as a hegemonic strategy to control the global balance of power by hindering the economic expansion of China as its rival, while Palestine remains neglected.

2. Relation Value

The three pieces data of Relation Value (RLT) 1, 2, and 3 above reflect an asymmetrical relationship, constructing Trump as a dominant figure who disregards diplomatic norms, while Netanyahu is marginalized from decision-making. In Al-Jazeera's reporting, the relation value shows Trump as a figure who has complete power over his decisions, sidelining his key ally, Netanyahu. In its reporting, Al-Jazeera presents a confrontational relationship with other media outlets that construct this discourse without clear reasons, so that the relation value in Al-Jazeera's news serves

³⁴ 124 News, "نتنياهو غاضب" | بعد التقارير عن شرح بالعلاقات مع نتنياهو، ترامب يوضح الحقيقة، 124 NEWS," 124 news, 2025. <https://www.i24news.tv/ar/أخبار/middle-east/artc-375a5d04>

³⁵ Hammam Satmaka Hayyu Wibhawa, Rusdianto, and Dewi Amalia, "Fenomena Politik Anggaran Menjelang Pemilu pada Daerah Petahana di Indonesia," Jurnal Akuntansi AKUNESA 11, no. 3 (2023): 217–31. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.26740/akunesa.v11n3.p217-231>

³⁶ Lauren Gambino, "What Would Trump's Israel-Gaza Policy Be If He Were Re-Elected? | Donald Trump | The Guardian," The Guardian, April 25, 2024. <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2024/apr/25/trump-presidency-israel-gaza-middle-east-crisis>

as an ideological strategy to shape readers' perceptions of the moral and political positions of these two figures.³⁷ In contrast, the relation value found in 124 News reports on Relation Value (RLT) 2 and 3 does not focus on Trump's relationship with Netanyahu, but rather highlights Trump's diplomatic relations with Gulf countries and regional actors. Thus, 124 News denies the issue of Trump's deteriorating relationship with Netanyahu by constructing a positive image of the United States as a respected power capable of managing regional political stability.

The relation value in the data above shows the dynamics of power, solidarity, and distance between political actors when conducting diplomatic cooperation.³⁸ This reflects Trump's characteristic as an opportunistic political actor. As US president, Trump used his power to overhaul previous policies for his own benefit.³⁹ Similarly, in the context of the Houthi conflict, Trump immediately shifted his cooperation to his rivals, the Houthi group, ignoring his allies, Israel. Clearly, this move reflects a short-term profit orientation rather than consistency with old norms with his allies.⁴⁰ In this case, political decisions often change according to the situation, in order to prioritize the interests of opportunistic actors, so that decisions are not always based on mutual interests but only on one side.⁴¹

3. Expressive Value

Fairclough asserts that expressive value is displayed in words that contain evaluation.⁴² As the three pieces data of Expressive Value (EPV) 1, 2, and 3 above display expressions that are laden with ideology, each reflects the way the media frames political emotions to influence public perception. Through word choice, Trump's expressions are constructed differently by each media outlet. Al-Jazeera uses expressive value to show Trump's frustration and anger as a form of negative assessment of Netanyahu. Meanwhile, 124 News utilizes Trump's expressions as a form of empathy and appreciation towards his ally Netanyahu and the Houthi group, with whom he wants to make peace. In this case, expressive value not only serves to describe individual emotions, but also becomes an ideological instrument for the media in shaping the image, power relations, and political positions of actors in the discourse of news reporting.⁴³

The expressive value on the 124 News media platform shows Netanyahu's behavior pattern when conducting diplomatic relations with Trump. Netanyahu always applies a cooperative behavior pattern towards his main ally Trump, in various forms of cooperation, even though he has encountered various betrayals, such as in the context of the Houthi conflict. This attitude is

³⁷ Setyo Prasiyanto Cahyono, Galuh Kirana Dwi Areni, and Sumarlam Sumarlam, "Ideology and Power in Political News Text: Appraisal in Critical Discourse Analysis," *Language Circle: Journal of Language and Literature* 15, no. 2 (April 26, 2021): 349–60. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.15294/LC.V15I2.28896>

³⁸ Chuka Fred Ononye, "Lexico-Stylistic Choices and Media Ideology in Newspaper Reports on Niger Delta Conflicts," *Indonesian Journal of Applied Linguistics* 7, no. 1 (2017): 167–75. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17509/ijal.v7i1.6870>

³⁹ Jordan T. Cash and Dave Bridge, "Donald Trump and Institutional Change Strategies," *Laws* 7, no. 3 (2018): 27. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3390/laws7030027>

⁴⁰ Mark Percy and Jeremiah Clabough, "Demagogues and the 'Guardrails of Democracy,'" *Social Studies Research and Practice* 13, no. 3 (2018): 345–56. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1108/ssrp-05-2018-0022>

⁴¹ Emilio J. de la Higuera-Molina et al., "The Political Hourglass: Opportunistic Behavior in Local Government Policy Decisions," *International Public Management Journal* 25, no. 5 (2022): 767–84. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/10967494.2021.1905117>

⁴² Fairclough, *Language and Power*, 1th ed., (New York: Longman, 1989), hlm. 118. https://annas-archive.org/slow_download/1dbbc6a7266ff735e88b7b968956883b/0/0

⁴³ Fathanah Syamsuddin, Jufri Jufri, and Syamsudduha Syamsudduha, "Representasi Nilai Formal Dalam Debat Calon Presiden di Media Sosial Youtube: Model Norman Fairclough," *Bahasa: Jurnal Keilmuan Pendidikan Bahasa dan Sastra Indonesia* 7, no. 1 (May 29, 2025): 244–54. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.26499/BAHASA.V7I1.1300>

understandable given Israel's position of being highly dependent on the United States, as an effort to gain freedom of action in exercising its legitimate right to self-defense in a region where its interests and national security continue to face opposition from all sides.⁴⁴ Netanyahu does not allow Trump's neglect to break their alliance. He continues to strengthen his relationship with Trump because he calculates that the long-term benefits far outweigh the losses of a single event. The US alliance is crucial to Israel's continued security, so whenever Trump's decisions harm it, Netanyahu tends to respond with soft diplomacy rather than severing ties.

B. Practices Discourse

Practice discourse is a strategy used by writers to construct ideas in a text by paying attention to the context of the conversation.⁴⁵

Table 2. Table of Practice Discourse Analysis

Practice Discourse	Data	Description
PD1	وسائل إعلام إسرائيلية ما سمتها مفاجآت الرئيس الأميركي Israeli media outlets discussed what they called surprises from the American president. ⁴⁶	Al-Jazeera uses intertextuality to highlight Israeli media involvement in criticizing the state of relations between Trump and Netanyahu.
PD2	وقال المحلل السياسي في القناة الـ ١٣ الإسرائيلية رفيف دروكر إن ترامب... Political analyst on Israel's Channel 13 TV, Raviv Drucker, said that Trump... ⁴⁷	The mention of the analyst's name serves as secondary source attribution (reported speech).
PD 3	سأل الصحفي بريث باير ترامب عما إذا كان يشعر بالإحباط من نتنياهو، فأجاب: "لا. انظروا..." Fox News journalist Bret Baier asked Trump if he was disappointed in	124 News uses direct quotes in interview format, showing the direct involvement of the primary source (Trump) to give an objective impression.

⁴⁴ Wilson Center, "Coping with the Russian Challenge in the Middle East: U.S.-Israeli Perspectives and Opportunities for Cooperation | Wilson Center," Wilson Center, May 3, 2019. <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/article/coping-the-russian-challenge-the-middle-east-us-israeli-perspectives-and-opportunities-for>

⁴⁵ Lewi Kabanga et al., "Ideologi Dalam Pesan Paskab 2023: Pendekatan Analisis Wacana Kritis Dengan Model Fairclough," Diglosia: Jurnal Kajian Bahasa, Sastra, dan Pengajarannya 6, no. 4 (November 12, 2023): 1095–1110. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.30872/DIGLOSLIA.V6I4.792>

⁴⁶ Al-Jazeera, "إعلام إسرائيلي: ترامب سئم من سلوك نتنيا هو ومفاجآته مستمرة | سياسة | الجزيرة نت," Al-Jazeera, May 9, 2025, <https://www.aljazeera.net/politics/2025/5/9/سلوك-من-سئم-من-سلوك>

⁴⁷ Al-Jazeera, "إعلام إسرائيلي: ترامب سئم من سلوك نتنيا هو ومفاجآته مستمرة | سياسة | الجزيرة نت," Al-Jazeera, May 9, 2025, <https://www.aljazeera.net/politics/2025/5/9/سلوك-من-سئم-من-سلوك>

Netanyahu. Trump replied: "No,
look..."⁴⁸

Based on table 2, it can be seen that production of discourse on the issue of Trump's rift with Netanyahu can be seen through the selection of sources, editorial positions, and reporting strategies of each media outlet. Al-Jazeera, as shown in data Practice Discourse (PD) 1 and 2, displays an intertextuality strategy, in which Al-Jazeera takes various actual elements that explain the issue of Netanyahu's rift with Trump from other texts.⁴⁹ In producing this issue, Al-Jazeera relied on quotes from various Israeli media outlets such as Israel's Channel 13 TV station, the Israeli newspaper Israel Hayom, and sources close to Trump. The selection of these sources is Al-Jazeera's attempt to position Israeli media as a collective subject of Israeli society that acknowledges the rift in Netanyahu's relationship with Trump. However, the quotation strategy used is reported speech, in which Al-Jazeera summarizes or concludes its own knowledge obtained from Israeli media, then rearranges it into a news discourse. Nevertheless, this leads readers to consume the discourse, that the rift between Trump and Netanyahu is real and has been acknowledged by parties within Israel itself, making the claim appear more credible to readers.

In addition, Al Jazeera's position as a writer is also evident in the phrase "اعلم اسرائيلية" (Israeli sources), which positions it as a mediator to convey the claims of other parties. This strategy has a dual function, namely to strengthen the narrative by borrowing claims from the closest parties concerned. On the other hand, the media presents distance or reduces responsibility for these claims so that the media does not claim complete truth. As a result, readers who consume this discourse feel that it is internally verified, even though the level of independent verification and the context of the source are often not elaborated. When viewed from the perspective of discourse production, this kind of strategy is effective in shaping public interpretation while minimizing the possibility of criticism of the media for errors or bias. Thus, Al Jazeera uses intertextuality and reported speech as strategies to borrow the authority of the relevant parties while distancing itself from verification, so that the narrative about the rift in Trump's relationship with Netanyahu appears to be justified by internal actors without any direct claims from Al Jazeera.

In contrast, 124 News produced coverage of the rift between Trump and Netanyahu through direct quotes, question-and-answer interactions, and giving space to the first source in official statements. Various direct quotes were presented from the primary source in this issue, namely Trump, as in PD3. 124 News' use of direct quotes in this issue was to respond to the allegations circulating, so that 124 News could refute or dampen speculation about the rift between Trump and Netanyahu. Thus, the direct quotes in this news report can be consumed by readers as a form of verification and correction of the speculation surrounding the issue. In its consumption, 124 News strives to shift the discourse toward a measured dialogue. This allows the media to reduce the distance with readers and create an impression of transparency and accountability.

⁴⁸ 124 News, "124 NEWS، تنبيهو غاضب" | | بعد التقارير عن شرح بالعلاقات مع تنبيهو، ترامب يوضح الحقيقة، 124 News, 2025. <https://www.i24news.tv/ar/أخبار/middle-east/artc-375a5d04>

⁴⁹ Norman Fairclough, *Analysing Discourse Norman Fairclough*, Routledge, (New York: Longman, 2003). <https://www.routledge.com/Analysing-Discourse-Textual-Analysis-for-Social-Research/Fairclough/p/book/9780415258937>

C. Sociocultural

The sociocultural dimension in Fairclough's critical discourse analysis is an external interpretation of the media that can influence media discourse practices.⁵⁰ This dimension focuses on the socio-cultural context in which a discourse is constructed. Fairclough states that discourse construction is always influenced by three dimensions, including situational, which refers to the social situation; institutional, which indicates the involvement of institutions in the text; and social, which refers to social, cultural, political, and economic relationships.⁵¹

Table 3. Table of Sociocultural Analysis

Sociocultural	Code	Data	Description
Situasional	ST1	إنه قرر عدم انتظار إسرائيل لفترة أطول، ويمضي قدما في خطوات بالشرق الأوسط دون "انتظار نتياهو". Trump has decided not to wait any longer for Israel, and will proceed with his plans in the Middle East without "waiting for Netanyahu." ⁵²	Al-Jazeera uses intertextuality to highlight Israeli media involvement in criticizing the state of relations between Trump and Netanyahu.
	ST2	قال الرئيس الأمريكي دونالد ترامب خلال مقابلة مع قناة فوكس نيوز ليلة (الجمعة-السبت)، إن ليس "محبطا" من رئيس الحكومة الإسرائيلية بنيامين نتياهو، رغم هذه التقارير. US President Donald Trump stated in an interview with Fox News on Friday evening (local time) that he did not feel "disappointed" with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, despite the reports. ⁵³	Describing the diplomatic situation that I24 News is trying to normalize in order to restore stability to public discourse and maintain the image of harmony in the US-Israel alliance amid political tensions.
Institutional	IT1	وكانت إذاعة الجيش الإسرائيلي قد نقلت عن مقرين من ترامب أبلغوا وزير الشؤون	Al-Jazeera involved the Israeli Minister of Strategic Affairs through strategic actor Ron Dramer.

⁵⁰ Durrotun Humaira and Abdul Basid, "Yahya Simwar's Murder in Arabic International Media Platforms: A Norman Fairclough Critical Discourse Analysis," *Eralingua: Jurnal Pendidikan Bahasa Asing dan Sastra* 9, no. 1 (April 23, 2025): 163–81. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.26858/eralingua.v9i1.70496>

⁵¹ Efaphras Cinta Tyas Gusti and Eti Setiawati, "Ideologi Dalam Slogan Aksi Demonstrasi Mahasiswa Terhadap Revisi UU Pilkada: Analisis Wacana Kritis Norman Fairclough," *Diglosia: Jurnal Kajian Bahasa, Sastra, dan Pengajarannya* 8, no. 1 (2025): 197–212. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.30872/diglosia.v8i1.1134>

⁵² Al-Jazeera, "إعلام إسرائيلي: ترامب سئم من سلوك نتانيا هو ومفاجأته مستمرة | سياسة | الجزيرة نت," Al-Jazeera, May 9, 2025, <https://www.aljazeera.net/politics/2025/5/9/سلوك-من-سئم-سلوك>.

⁵³ 124 News, "124 NEWS، نتياهو غاضب" | بعد التقارير عن شرح بالعلاقات مع نتياهو، ترامب يوضح الحقيقة،" 124 news, 2025. <https://www.i24news.tv/ar/أخبار/middle-east/artc-375a5d04>

الإستراتيجية الإسرائيلية رون ديرمر ...

Israeli Army Radio reported that people close to Trump informed Israeli Minister of Strategic Affairs Ron Dermer....⁵⁴

IT2

سأل الصحفي بريت باير ترامب

Fox News journalist Bret Baier asked Trump.⁵⁵

124 News involves official US media institutions, through Bret Baier.

IT3

خاطر وزير الدفاع الأمريكي بيت هيجمست

بحياة الطيارين الأمريكيين من خلال نشر

خطط عملياتية للهجمات في دردشة على

124 News involves US Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth.

تطبيق

US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth endangered the lives of American pilots by leaking attack plans through conversations on the Signal app.⁵⁶

IT4

وقال ستيف ويتكوف، مبعوثه إلى الشرق

الأوسط، والذي كان بالفعل مشاركا في

المحادثات النووية مع إيران بوساطة سلطنة

عمان، إن كبار المسؤولين في سلطنة عمان

124 News involves Trump's diplomatic envoy for Middle East affairs.

عرضوا مخرجا

Steve Witkoff, Trump's envoy to the Middle East, who has also been involved in nuclear talks with Iran mediated by Oman, said that senior Omani officials offered a way out.⁵⁷

Social

SC1

وخلص إلى غياب ما سمّاه "التنسيق الودي"

Indicates a deterioration in political relations between the US and Israel due to

⁵⁴ Al-Jazeera, "إعلام إسرائيلي: ترامب سئم من سلوك نتنياهو ومفاجأته مستمرة | سياسة | الجزيرة نت", Al-Jazeera, May 9, 2025, <https://www.aljazeera.net/politics/2025/5/9/سلوك-من-سئم-من-سلوك>.

⁵⁵ 124 News, "124 NEWS، 124 news، -نتنياهو غاضب" | | بعد التقارير عن شرح بالعلاقات مع نتنياهو، ترامب يوضح الحقيقة، 124 News, 2025. <https://www.i24news.tv/ar/أخبار/middle-east/artc-375a5d04>

⁵⁶ 124 News, "124 NEWS، 124 news، -نتنياهو غاضب" | | بعد التقارير عن شرح بالعلاقات مع نتنياهو، ترامب يوضح الحقيقة، 124 News, 2025. <https://www.i24news.tv/ar/أخبار/middle-east/artc-375a5d04>

⁵⁷ 124 News, "124 NEWS، 124 news، -نتنياهو غاضب" | | بعد التقارير عن شرح بالعلاقات مع نتنياهو، ترامب يوضح الحقيقة، 124 News, 2025. <https://www.i24news.tv/ar/أخبار/middle-east/artc-375a5d04>

بين إسرائيل والولايات المتحدة في ما يتعلق
بملفي الحوثيين وإيران

differences in strategic interests, signaling a weakening of alliance solidarity.

There has been a loss of what he called "friendly coordination" between Israel and the United States on two key issues: the Houthis and Iran.⁵⁸

SC2 وكان ترامب قال إنه يحترم وعود جماعة الحوثيين بوضع حد لاستهداف السفن في البحر الأحمر، مضيفاً أن الحوثيين تلقوا ضربات قوية، لكنهم تحملوا ذلك وأظهروا شجاعة كبيرة، على حد تعبيره.

Referring to the change in the US's pragmatic political stance towards the Houthis in the interests of its maritime and national interests.

Trump said he respected the promises made by the Houthi group to end attacks on ships in the Red Sea. He added that the Houthis had been subjected to fierce attacks, but they had managed to survive and show great courage, according to his statement.⁵⁹

SC3 يذكر أن ترامب فسر في بيانه هذا العمل بقوله "الحوثيون لا يريدون القتال، وسوف نتوقف عن الهجوم"، وأضاف "الحوثيون يقولون لنا إنهم لن يهاجموا أي سفن أخرى، وأعتقد أن هذا أمر إيجابي للغاية".

Reflecting Trump's populist political strategy of projecting an image of peace and rationality, even if it harms his ally Israel.

Trump explained the decision in his statement: "The Houthis don't want to fight, so we're going to stop the attacks," he added. "The Houthis told us they won't attack any more ships, and I think that's a very positive thing."⁶⁰

⁵⁸ Al-Jazeera, "إعلام إسرائيلي: ترامب سئم من سلوك نتانيا هو ومفاجأته مستمرة | سياسة | الجزيرة نت", Al-Jazeera, May 9, 2025, <https://www.aljazeera.net/politics/2025/5/9/سلوك-من-سئم-من-سلوك>.

⁵⁹ Al-Jazeera, "إعلام إسرائيلي: ترامب سئم من سلوك نتانيا هو ومفاجأته مستمرة | سياسة | الجزيرة نت", Al-Jazeera, May 9, 2025, <https://www.aljazeera.net/politics/2025/5/9/سلوك-من-سئم-من-سلوك>.

⁶⁰ 124 News, "124 NEWS، نتنياهو غاضب | بعد التقارير عن شرح بالعلاقات مع نتنياهو، ترامب يوضح الحقيقة"، 124 news, 2025. <https://www.i24news.tv/ar/أخبار/middle-east/artc-375a5d04>

Based on table 3, the sociocultural dimension shows that the discourse construction regarding the strained relationship between Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu cannot be separated from the surrounding socio-political context. The analysis was conducted through three aspects, namely situational, institutional, and social.

1. Situational

The tense situation depicted in Situational (ST) 1 triggered Trump's opportunistic behavior in abandoning his ally, Israel. Historically, the relationship between the two countries has been built on pragmatism and mutual interests.⁶¹ When faced with crises or international tensions, such as in the context of the Houthi conflict, Trump's leadership style often triggers opportunistic actions in the interests of the United States. As an individual with a business background, Trump is known as an opportunist, seeing economic opportunities from all angles.⁶² This characteristic is reflected in foreign policy, especially when facing difficult situations, Trump tends to make unilateral decisions to benefit the United States, even at the expense of alliance cooperation. As in the case of the escalation between Pakistan and India, the United States immediately moved to embrace Pakistan, even when relations with India were deteriorating.⁶³ In fact, during Trump's term, India and the United States signed important defense agreements such as COMCASA (Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement) and BECA (Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geospatial Intelligence). This formed the basis of New Delhi's expectation that Trump's second term would accelerate cooperation in various fields, and did not assume that there would be any rifts. However, when faced with a difficult situation, namely the India-Pakistan conflict, Trump's opportunistic behavior pattern was reflected, due to his national interests as a short-term unilateral actor.

The situation created in data Situational (ST) 2 reinforces Netanyahu's cooperative behavior pattern in his dependence on Donald Trump, who guarantees security amid pressure from various directions. When faced with this difficult and detrimental situation, Netanyahu, as an actor sheltering behind the leader of the superpower, did not respond seriously. Netanyahu did not prolong the issue and believed that this was temporary behavior while his ally Donald Trump was in a difficult situation. The emergence of news by right-wing Israeli media platforms is merely a formality on Netanyahu's part to appease and maintain his good image so that he can continue to maintain a good alliance with Donald Trump. Upon further review, Netanyahu has always supported Trump's various decisions, even if they are risky for Israel.⁶⁴ From his experience as a long-time ally of Donald Trump, Netanyahu believes that the risks he takes are only short-term. In the long term, the alliance between the two will continue with unpredictable dynamics.

When viewed from a situational perspective, it is clear that the Al-Jazeera and 124 News news platforms represent different social and ideological contexts. Al-Jazeera, which operates in countries critical of Israel, constructs this discourse as a symbol of the weakening coordination between Israel

⁶¹ Oxford Analytica, "Israeli Annexation Plan May Be Watered down or Delayed," Emerald Expert Briefings, Emerald Expert Briefings, oxan-db, no. oxan-db (June 19, 2020), 35. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1108/OXAN-DB253393>

⁶² Arfin Sudirman, Windy Dermawan, and Fairuz Nadhira Nur Salsabila, "Kebijakan Luar Negeri Amerika Serikat Era Donald Trump: Kajian Mengenai Faktor Psikologis Dalam Free and Open Indo Pacific," Jurnal Polinter : Kajian Politik dan Hubungan Internasional 9, no. 2 (2024): 71–86. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.52447/pol.v9i2.6932>

⁶³ The Washington Quarterly, "India-US Relations : Pakistan Re-Emerges in Trump India-US Relations : Pakistan Re-Emerges In" 9177 (2025): 70. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/0163660X.2025.2558275>

⁶⁴ Jerome Slater, "The Arab-Israeli and Israeli-Palestinian Conflicts in the Netanyahu/Trump Era, 2017–20," Mythologies Without End, (November 19, 2020): 328–44. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1093/oso/9780190459086.003.0020>

and the United States. Meanwhile, 124 News, as a right-wing Israeli media outlet, attempts to normalize tensions between the two allies by highlighting diplomatic harmony. This difference proves that media discourse construction is influenced by the socio-cultural context in which the media operates.⁶⁵ This reinforces Fairclough's idea that discourse is not always neutral; there is always a dialectical relationship between language, power, and the social changes that influence it.⁶⁶ However, behind these differences, both news platforms reveal the fragile reality of leadership, where diplomacy is conducted on the basis of figures and images, rather than collective principles and policy rationality.

2. Institutional

Al-Jazeera constructed this report by including various negative statements from strategic Israeli institutional figures directed at Netanyahu regarding the rift that had occurred. In addition to Ron Dramer as Israel's Minister of Strategic Affairs on the data Institutional (IT) 1, the involvement of Raviv Drucker, as a political analyst; Oren Abman, former commander of the Israeli military division; and Kobi Marom, an Israeli security expert, are strong institutional figures in legitimizing public opinion regarding Al-Jazeera's ideology. They emphasized their disappointment with Trump's unilateral leadership style in proceeding with the agreement with the Houthis without coordinating with Israel.

While 124 News constructed this report, it involved US institutions directly. The involvement of Fox News journalist Bret Baier and Defense Secretary Pete Hegesth on the data IT2 and Institutional (IT) 3 shows the role of the media and the military as channels for Trump to maintain his leadership image. However, the leak of military operation plans and irregular communication patterns between institutions under Trump's leadership on the 18th showed weak institutional governance. This phenomenon was the result of Trump's populist leadership style, in which he made quick and spectacular decisions. Meanwhile, on the data Institutional (IT) 4, Steve Witkoff, as Trump's envoy to the Middle East, institutionally represented the role of US diplomacy as an extension of the US executive branch in the agreement with the Houthi group. His presence explains that the US agreement with the Houthis was not the will of the United States itself, but rather an offer from high-ranking Omani officials. In this case, senior Omani officials were also involved as third-party diplomatic actors and neutral mediators who sought to bridge the political and security interests between the United States and the Houthis, who were in conflict. The involvement of third parties such as Oman shows that regional stability depends on cross-institutional negotiations to overcome the impact of impulsive decisions by world leaders.

By directly involving US institutions, 124 News highlights the suffering and military pressure experienced by the US as a result of the Houthi attacks. 124 News implicitly frames Netanyahu as a strategic partner who remains loyal and rational in the face of a crisis. This narrative shows that the media not only reports events but also performs an ideological function in maintaining a positive image of diplomatic relations between the two countries. This shows that the construction of discourse by 124 News plays an important role in covering up the internal tensions of the Trump-Netanyahu alliance and diverting public attention to external threats as a unifying factor. Thus,

⁶⁵ M. Zaenul Muttaqin and Sriyono Sriyono, "Konstruksi Opini Publik Melalui Media Sosial: Studi Pendekatan Analisis Wacana Kritis Grup Facebook Lintas Kejadian Kota Jayapura Pada Bulan Juni 2021," *Politicos: Jurnal Politik dan Pemerintahan* 1, no. 2 (September 16, 2021): 113–29. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.22225/POLITICOS.1.2.2021.113-129>

⁶⁶ Norman Fairclough, *Language and Power 2nd Edition*, Routledge, 2nd ed., (New York: Longman, 2003): 23. https://annas-archive.org/slow_download/ca0dcba17f4b7a9281d3f66d6a8121e8/0/0

internal and external institutional involvement in a discourse has a crucial role in discourse production, so that it can guide and legitimize public opinion towards the ideology of each discourse.

3. Social

Socially, the data of Social (SC) 1, 2, and 3 confirms Trump's opportunistic political style in conducting cooperative relations. Trump's opportunism reflects an excessive nationalism towards the United States, so that every policy he agrees upon with other country leaders always prioritizes the national interests of the United States, as reflected in the context of the conflict with the Houthi group. Similarly, in previous alliances, Trump's motivation was solely for his nationalist agenda, even if it meant neglecting his allies. Furthermore, this extreme nationalism is in line with his slogan, Make America Great Again, which places absolute priority on the domestic superiority of the United States. Trump has pursued this slogan since his election as US President, but it has been marked as an unwise foreign policy because it does not trust US allies.⁶⁷

Beyond the context of the Houthi conflict, Trump's excessive emphasis on this slogan was clearly reflected in his decision to withdraw from the Paris Agreement, which had been a key pillar of global climate governance. This step was taken on the grounds of protecting manufacturing jobs and safeguarding the short-term economy through carbon emissions exemptions and regulations.⁶⁸ This decision caused shockwaves among the international community, given that the United States had previously played a central role in the negotiation process and the formation of global climate policy.⁶⁹ This confirms that alliances with the United States will be relevant as long as they are in line with US national interests.

From Israel's perspective, as a country that is heavily dependent on the United States in its alliances, it will accept all the risks it faces. They believe that these risks are temporary and calculable, with only short-term impacts, while the long-term benefits will be greater. This is reflected in Israel's alliance with the United States. Even though it is at a "critical moment" and despite tensions, Israel is still very dependent on the US and believes that cooperation needs to continue.⁷⁰ This confirms Netanyahu's cooperative political behavior towards Trump, which would be meaningless without Donald Trump's support.

The reason for the strength of the two allies in establishing cooperative relations is their shared fundamental principles of populism and identity politics, despite Trump's opportunistic actions and unilateral decisions. Trump's identity politics are reflected in his nationalist slogan "Make America Great Again," while Netanyahu uses the narrative of an existential threat to Israel to maintain domestic support. Meanwhile, populism operates by creating an identity dichotomy between "us" and "them" in order to mobilize public support and justify a hardline and transactional

⁶⁷ Abigail White, "Profiling the President: Explaining Donald Trump's Nationalistic Foreign Policy Decisions Using Leadership Trait Analysis and Operational Code Analysis," *Contemporary Voices: St Andrews Journal of International Relations* 1, no. 1 (2022): 5. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.15664/jtr.1569>

⁶⁸ Hai Bin Zhang et al., "U.S. Withdrawal from the Paris Agreement: Reasons, Impacts, and China's Response," *Advances in Climate Change Research* 8, no. 4 (2017): 220–25. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.accre.2017.09.002>

⁶⁹ Hancheng Dai et al., "Effects of the US Withdrawal from Paris Agreement on the Carbon Emission Space and Cost of China and India," *Frontiers in Energy* 12, no. 3 (September 1, 2018): 362–75. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/S11708-018-0574-Y/METRICS>

⁷⁰ Dov Waxman and Jeremy Pressman, "The Rocky Future of the US-Israeli Special Relationship," *The Washington Quarterly* 44, no. 2 (April 3, 2021): 75–93. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/0163660X.2021.1934999>

foreign policy.⁷¹ Thus, even though Trump is opportunistic, his foreign policy can still be framed as a form of protection of American national identity, so that ideologically it cannot be considered contrary to the logic of populist politics. For Netanyahu, this similarity in populist ideology makes an alliance with Trump strategically valuable in the long term, so that any short-term losses or neglect are seen as tolerable risks. Netanyahu consistently uses US support as "political identity capital" to strengthen his domestic legitimacy by positioning Israel as a fortress state protected by a powerful ally.⁷²

Closing

Based on an analysis of the discourse surrounding the breakdown in relations between Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu in the context of the conflict against the Houthi group on the Al-Jazeera and 124 News platforms using Norman Fairclough's Critical Discourse Analysis theoretical framework; textual dimension, discourse practice dimension, and sociocultural practice dimension, this study concludes that the rift between Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu in the context of the Houthi conflict reflects the fragility of the US-Israel strategic alliance when faced with geopolitical pressures and differing national interests. In critical situations, Trump tends to display opportunistic behavior patterns influenced by extreme nationalism and US domestic interests, while Netanyahu chooses a cooperative stance as a strategy to maintain Israel's security and political legitimacy. This research is important because it contributes to Critical Discourse Analysis studies by expanding the object and focus of analysis, not only on the representation of conflict or media ideology, but also its ability to explain the dynamics of the relationship and behavior patterns of the two strategic alliances of Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu when in critical situations. The findings of this study complement previous research that tends to portray the US-Israel relationship as a solid and strategic alliance by showing that the relationship between the two countries is not always harmonious. In critical situations, Trump displays opportunistic behavior due to his extreme nationalism in order to support his political slogan, "Make America Great Again." Meanwhile, Netanyahu prioritized cooperation with all of Trump's decisions in order to maintain Israel's security stability and political legitimacy. Thus, this research is relevant to media studies, critical linguistics, Middle Eastern studies, and international relations, particularly in understanding the role of media language in shaping public perceptions of Middle Eastern diplomatic dynamics. However, this study is limited in that it focuses on only two media outlets, thus failing to cover the broader discourse of other media. Therefore, further research is recommended to expand the data sources by adding media from the United States in order to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the dynamics of the political alliance between Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu in the Middle East.

⁷¹ Andrés Velasco, "Populism and Identity Politics," *Populism: Origins and Alternative Policy Responses* 1, (November 2022): 9–34. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.31389/lsepress.pop.b>

⁷² Yonatan Levi and Shai Agmon, "Beyond Culture and Economy: Israel's Security-Driven Populism," *Contemporary Politics* 27, no. 3 (May 27, 2021): 292–315. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/13569775.2020.1864163>

Acknowledgment

I dedicate this article to myself, my parents, my teachers, and my friends who have always given me their full support in the process of writing this article. I would like to express my gratitude to myself for my determination and perseverance in overcoming every obstacle during the writing process. I also express my deepest gratitude to my parents for their prayers, moral, physical, and material support, which enabled me to complete this article successfully. I would like to express my utmost appreciation and gratitude to Ustadz Misbahus Surur as my supervisor for his patient, diligent, and attentive guidance throughout every stage of writing this article. I would also like to thank my fellow students, the KONAD Community, and my friends from the Arabic Language and Literature Nawaza 2022 program for their meaningful support and encouragement, which enabled me to complete this article successfully.

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