



UNIVERSITAT
POLITÈCNICA
DE VALÈNCIA



PhD in Languages, Literature and Culture and their Applications

**Framing Iraqi Refugees in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*: A Critical
Discourse and Multimodal Analysis Study**

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July 2024

Abstract

This thesis investigates how Iraqi refugees are depicted in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*, analyzing the types of discourses employed to frame them as refugees and displaced people. I conducted an in-depth critical framing analysis and multimodal discourse, employing Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) (Van Dijk, 1988, 1991, 2008, 2014), Framing Analysis (Robert Entman, 1991, 1992, 1993), and Multimodal Analysis approaches (Kress and Van Leeuwen, 1996, 2001, 2002, 2006; Van Leeuwen, 2008, 2021), which were selected in order to extend the scope of the investigation and delve into the topic more thoroughly.

In light of the above-mentioned approaches, I conducted two separate analyses. The first one was based on the linguistic analysis using Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) and Framing Analysis of the discourse headings. The subject analysis of the discourse headings in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* primarily analyzes the Iraqi refugee crisis in relation to the properties of discourse and topics to reveal the macro propositions of the socio-political perspective used by *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*'s coverage. The second part of the analysis for this thesis is the multimodal analysis of *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*'s coverage of the Iraqi refugee crisis, based on multimodal social semiotic approaches, mainly relying on Kress and van Leeuwen's Visual Grammar (1996, 2006) and Van Leeuwen's visual representation of social actors (2008). The multimodal texts, as a whole, are examined in terms of how Iraqi refugees as social actors and represented participants are deconstructed visually and verbally in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*'s coverage.

A purposive qualitative data analysis of news articles is selected from the Google News engine, targeting two outlets, *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*, to obtain plausible results that describe the discourses of the analyzed news headings and multimodal texts. To this end, the findings of this study are classified into two main parts:

Firstly, the news headlines are viewed as performing a political and empathic discourse function in *The Guardian*, especially when it comes the ethnic minorities, such as Yazidis and Christians. On the contrary, the results reveal that the contrastive portrayal of discourses in *Deutsche Welle* is the effect of the political events in Germany. On the whole, the most remarkable finding to emerge from Critical Discourse and Framing Analysis is that the Iraqi refugee crisis is defined as a social problem in the Middle East where the focus is on ethnic-religious minorities, such as Yazidis and Christians. In addition, both *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* reinforce the idea that Iraqi refugees have experienced forced displacement, brutal attacks, exodus, and demographic relocation in Iraq, where Islamic State of Iraq and Syria is the main factor behind the crisis.

Secondly, when it comes to the multimodal analysis, especially visual images, the visual rhetorical and social semiotic strategies constructed four theme positions for Iraqi refugees: the first two themes, known as individualization and distance, aimed to humanize refugees as being vulnerable and innocent victims; they are portrayed maintaining eye contact with the readers and the camera and as friends. In contrast, the rhetorical and semiotic strategies, namely otherness and objectivization, aimed to dehumanize refugees and depict them as ‘people just like any others,’ showing Iraqi refugees as homogenous groups; they are depicted in high-angle shots, and longshots, distanced from the audience, and as strangers.

On the other hand, however, deconstructing Iraqi refugees in the multimodal texts reveals that the use of the text and image does not always reinforce news articles. In some special cases, text and image relations co-occur, but in other cases, there is no mutual resemblance between the information exhibited in the text and the content depicted in the visuals. Furthermore, this thesis also proves that multimodal texts, especially visual images, provide extra information beyond what the linguistic texts convey. That is, the study shows that visual images can rapidly evoke emotional reactions and impact the audience both emotionally and mentally. It also shows that visual images offer a new perspective to the results of the thesis as the analysis emphasizes that multimodality offers practical resources for multimodal texts. Without exploring the visual images, the textual analysis tends to carry fewer tangible things, with some instances showing sympathy for the Iraqi refugees. Taking the former claims into account, the thesis concludes that postulating the superiority of written language over images may run the risk of twisting in the context of interpretation and even skewing research results. For this reason, Bateman (2020) argues that both text and image contribute to shaping the meaning of context, in which semiotic modes are mapped under two perspectives: Firstly, the visual material dimension is inseparable from the human sensory dimension. Secondly, the discourse semantics approach to multimodality offers a new perspective on the study of semiotic resources that multimodal analysis alone is no longer showing what engagement possibilities the materiality may provide. To this end, the connection of text and image in online newspapers is assumed to have a cohesive dimension and this combination should always be seen as a discourse semantics interpretation.

Resumen

Esta tesis investiga cómo se describe a los refugiados iraquíes en *The Guardian* y *Deutsche Welle*, analizando los tipos de discurso empleados para encuadrarlos como refugiados y desplazados. El doctorando realizó un análisis en profundidad del encuadre crítico y del discurso multimodal, empleando Análisis Crítico del Discurso (CDA) (Van Dijk, 1988, 1991, 2008, 2014), Análisis del Encuadre o framing (Robert Entman, 1991, 1992, 1993) y enfoques de Análisis Multimodal (Kress y Van Leeuwen, 1996, 2001, 2002, 2006; Van Leeuwen, 2008, 2021), los cuales fueron seleccionados con el fin de ampliar el alcance de la investigación y profundizar en el tema.

A la luz de los enfoques mencionados anteriormente, el doctorando realizó dos análisis separados. El primero se basó en el análisis lingüístico mediante el Análisis Crítico del Discurso (CDA) y el Análisis del framing de los titulares de las noticias. El análisis temático de los titulares en *The Guardian* y *Deutsche Welle* analiza principalmente la crisis de refugiados iraquíes en relación con las propiedades del discurso y los temas, para revelar las macroproposiciones de la perspectiva sociopolítica utilizada por la cobertura de *The Guardian* y *Deutsche Welle*. La segunda parte del análisis de esta tesis es el análisis multimodal de la cobertura de *The Guardian* y *Deutsche Welle* de la crisis de refugiados iraquíes, basado en enfoques semióticos sociales multimodales, principalmente la Visual Grammar de Kress y van Leeuwen (1996, 2006) y la representación visual de actores sociales de Van Leeuwen (2008). Los textos multimodales, en su conjunto, se examinan en términos de cómo los refugiados iraquíes como actores sociales y participantes representados son deconstruidos visual y verbalmente en la cobertura de *The Guardian* y *Deutsche Welle*.

Se selecciona un análisis intencionado de datos cualitativos de artículos de noticias del motor Google News, dirigido a *The Guardian* y *Deutsche Welle*, para obtener resultados plausibles que describan los discursos de los titulares de noticias y los textos multimodales analizados. Para ello, las conclusiones de este estudio se clasifican en dos partes principales:

En *The Guardian* se considera que los titulares de las noticias desempeñan una función de discurso político y empático, especialmente cuando se trata de minorías étnicas, como los yazidíes y los cristianos. Por el contrario, los resultados revelan que la representación de los discursos en *Deutsche Welle* refleja los acontecimientos políticos en Alemania. En general, el hallazgo más notable que surge del Análisis Crítico del Discurso y del Encuadre es que la crisis de refugiados iraquíes se define como un problema social en el Medio Oriente, centrando la atención en las minorías étnico-religiosas, como los yazidíes y los cristianos. Además, tanto *The Guardian* como *Deutsche Welle* refuerzan la idea de que los refugiados iraquíes han experimentado desplazamientos forzados, ataques brutales, éxodos y reubicación demográfica en Irak, donde el Estado Islámico de Irak y Siria es el principal factor tras la crisis.

En segundo lugar, entrando en el análisis multimodal, especialmente de imágenes visuales, la retórica visual y las estrategias semióticas sociales construyeron cuatro posiciones temáticas para los refugiados iraquíes: los dos primeros temas, conocidos como individualización y distancia, apuntaban a humanizar a los refugiados como víctimas vulnerables e inocentes. Se los retrata manteniendo contacto visual con los lectores y la cámara y como amigos. En contraste, las estrategias retóricas y semióticas, a saber, la otredad y la objetivización, apuntaban a deshumanizar a los refugiados y representarlos como "personas como cualquier otra", mostrando a los refugiados iraquíes como grupos homogéneos; se los representa en planos altos y planos, distanciados del público y como extraños.

Por otro lado, sin embargo, la deconstrucción de los refugiados iraquíes en los textos multimodales revela que el uso del texto y la imagen no siempre refuerzan la misma interpretación de los artículos periodísticos. En algunos casos especiales, las relaciones entre texto e imagen coexisten, pero en otros casos no existe ninguna semejanza mutua entre la información exhibida en el texto y el contenido representado en las imágenes. Además, esta tesis también demuestra que los textos multimodales, especialmente las imágenes visuales, proporcionan información adicional más allá de la que transmiten los textos lingüísticos. Es decir, el estudio muestra que las imágenes visuales pueden evocar rápidamente reacciones emocionales e impactar a la audiencia tanto emocional como mentalmente. También muestra que las imágenes visuales ofrecen una nueva perspectiva a los resultados de la tesis ya que el análisis enfatiza que la multimodalidad ofrece recursos prácticos para textos multimodales. Sin explorar las imágenes visuales, el análisis textual tiende a incluir menos cosas tangibles, y algunos casos muestran simpatía por los refugiados iraquíes.

Teniendo en cuenta las primeras afirmaciones, la tesis concluye que postular la superioridad del lenguaje escrito sobre las imágenes puede correr el riesgo de distorsionar el contexto de la interpretación e incluso sesgar los resultados de la investigación. Por esta razón, Bateman (2020) sostiene que tanto el texto como la imagen contribuyen a dar forma al significado del contexto, en el que los modos semióticos se mapean bajo dos perspectivas: en primer lugar, la dimensión material visual es inseparable de la dimensión sensorial humana. En segundo lugar, el enfoque semántico del discurso sobre la multimodalidad ofrece una nueva perspectiva sobre el estudio de los recursos semióticos en el sentido de que el análisis multimodal por sí solo ya no muestra qué posibilidades de participación puede proporcionar la materialidad. Con este fin, se supone que la conexión entre texto e imagen en los periódicos en línea tiene una dimensión cohesiva y esta combinación siempre debe verse como una interpretación de la semántica del discurso.

Resum

Esta tesi investiga com es descriu als refugiats iraquians en *The Guardian* i *Deutsche Welle*, analitzant els tipus de discurs emprats per a enquadrar-los com a refugiats i desplaçats. El doctorand va realitzar una anàlisi en profunditat de l'enquadrament crític i del discurs multimodal, emprant Anàlisi Crítica del Discurs (CDA) (Van Dijk, 1988, 1991, 2008, 2014), Anàlisi de l'Enquadrament o framing (Robert Entman, 1991, 1992, 1993) i enfocaments d'Anàlisi Multimodal (Kress i Van Leeuwen, 1996, 2001, 2002, 2006; Van Leeuwen, 2008, 2021), els quals van ser seleccionats amb la finalitat d'ampliar l'abast de la investigació i aprofundir en el tema.

A la llum dels enfocaments esmentats anteriorment, el doctorand va realitzar dos anàlisis separades. El primer es va basar en l'anàlisi lingüística mitjançant l'Anàlisi Crítica del Discurs (CDA) i l'Anàlisi del framing dels titulars de les notícies. L'anàlisi temàtica dels titulars en *The Guardian* i *Deutsche Welle* analitza principalment la crisi de refugiats iraquians en relació amb les propietats del discurs i els temes, per a revelar les macroproposicions de la perspectiva sociopolítica utilitzada per la cobertura de *The Guardian* i *Deutsche Welle*. La segona part de l'anàlisi d'esta tesi és l'anàlisi multimodal de la cobertura de *The Guardian* i *Deutsche Welle* de la crisi de refugiats iraquians, basat en enfocaments semiòtics socials multimodals, principalment la Visual Grammar de Kress i van Leeuwen (1996, 2006) i la representació visual d'actors socials de Van Leeuwen (2008). Els textos multimodals, en el seu conjunt, s'examinen en termes de com els refugiats iraquians com a actors socials i participants representats són desconstruïts visual i verbalment en la cobertura de *The Guardian* i *Deutsche Welle*.

Se selecciona una anàlisi intencionada de dades qualitatives d'articles de notícies del motor Google News, dirigit a *The Guardian* i *Deutsche Welle*, per a obtenir resultats plausibles que descriguin els discursos dels titulars de notícies i els textos multimodals analitzats. Per a això, les conclusions d'este estudi es classifiquen en dos parts principals:

En *The Guardian* es considera que els titulars de les notícies exercixen una funció de discurs polític i empàtic, especialment quan es tracta de minories ètniques, com els yazidies i els cristians. Per contra, els resultats revelen que la representació dels discursos en *Deutsche Welle* reflecteix els esdeveniments polítics a Alemanya. En general, la troballa més notable que sorgix de l'Anàlisi Crítica del Discurs i de l'Enquadrament és que la crisi de refugiats iraquians es defineix com un problema social en el Mitjà Orient, centrant l'atenció en les minories ètnic-religioses, com els yazidies i els cristians. A més, tant *The Guardian* com *Deutsche Welle* reforcen la idea que els refugiats iraquians han experimentat desplaçaments forçats, atacs brutals, èxodes i reubicació demogràfica a l'Iraq, on l'Estat Islàmic de l'Iraq i Síria és el principal factor després de la crisi.

En segon lloc, entrant en l'anàlisi multimodal, especialment d'imatges visuals, la retòrica visual i les estratègies semiòtiques socials van construir quatre posicions temàtiques per als refugiats iraquians: els dos primers temes, coneguts com a individualització i distància, apuntaven a humanitzar als refugiats

com a víctimes vulnerables i innocents. Li'ls retrata mantenint contacte visual amb els lectors i la càmera i com a amics. En contrast, les estratègies retòriques i semiòtiques, a saber, l'alteritat i la objectivització, apuntaven a deshumanitzar als refugiats i representar-los com a "persones com qualsevol altra", mostrant als refugiats iraquians com a grups homogenis; se'ls representa en plans alts i plans, distanciat del públic i com a estranys.

D'altra banda, no obstant això, la desconstrucció dels refugiats iraquians en els textos multimodals revela que l'ús del text i la imatge no sempre reforcen la mateixa interpretació dels articles periodístics. En alguns casos especials, les relacions entre text i imatge coexistixen, però en altres casos no existix cap semblança mútua entre la informació exhibida en el text i el contingut representat en les imatges. A més, esta tesi també demostra que els textos multimodals, especialment les imatges visuals, proporcionen informació addicional més enllà de la que transmeten els textos lingüístics. És a dir, l'estudi mostra que les imatges visuals poden evocar ràpidament reaccions emocionals i impactar a l'audiència tant emocional com mentalment. També mostra que les imatges visuals oferixen una nova perspectiva als resultats de la tesi ja que l'anàlisi emfatitza que la multimodalitat oferix recursos pràctics per a textos multimodals. Sense explorar les imatges visuals, l'anàlisi textual tendix a incloure menys coses tangibles, i alguns casos mostren simpatia pels refugiats iraquians.

Tenint en compte les primeres afirmacions, la tesi conclou que postular la superioritat del llenguatge escrit sobre les imatges pot córrer el risc de distorsionar el context de la interpretació i fins i tot esbiaixar els resultats de la investigació. Per esta raó, Bateman (2020) sosté que tant el text com la imatge contribuïxen a donar forma al significat del context, en el qual els modes semiòtics es mapean baix dos perspectives: en primer lloc, la dimensió material visual és inseparable de la dimensió sensorial humana. En segon lloc, l'enfocament semàntic del discurs sobre la multimodalitat oferix una nova perspectiva sobre l'estudi dels recursos semiòtics en el sentit que l'anàlisi multimodal per si sol ja no mostra quines possibilitats de participació pot proporcionar la materialitat. A este efecte, se suposa que la connexió entre text i imatge en els periòdics en línia té una dimensió cohesiva i esta combinació sempre ha de veure's com una interpretació de la semàntica del discurs.

Dedication

This thesis is affectionately dedicated to...

My **father's soul**. But for my father's supplication, I wouldn't have been able to complete my thesis. I kept my promise, and your dream came true. I wish you were still alive to see this moment.

My **lovely mother**, without your patience and supplication, I would have achieved nothing.

My brother, **Maytham**. I appreciate all of your support. You are, without a doubt, my source of encouragement.

Acknowledgments

Pursuing a PhD is undeniably a difficult and challenging journey, and my own experience is no exception. Unfortunately, unforeseen events such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the loss of my father caused me to feel depressed and overwhelmed at the beginning of my studies. Despite this, I was ready for the difficulties that lay ahead. My belief in Almighty God gave me the strength to continue. I am writing this acknowledgment, and I feel the need to reaffirm that it has been a difficult journey to reach this stage.

My father's soul and the promise I made to him to get my PhD were the main forces that drove me to persist and withstand the obstacles that I faced during my studies. Every second, day and night, his soul was with me. May his soul rest in peace.

My mother, you are my strength, my shelter, and the source of success in this hard journey. I am sorry for being away from you and sorry for the pain I caused you. Your patience and prayer were my rescue and provided me with the strength to work hard and to make you feel proud.

During this hard and long journey, I was blessed by the presence of great professors who all had broad-based help and support. As a starting point, a very special thanks must be extended to my supervisor, **Josep Àngel Mas Castells**. I can't thank you enough, Josep, for your ample guidance, patience, and your valuable feedback. You were always there, ready to respond to my questions. Thank you once again for your patience during my PhD. Also, a special thank you for everything I got from you. Never would I have been able to complete this thesis without your remarkable notes and comments.

Professor **Teun A. van Dijk**, thank you for your great help and guidance during my research visit to the Centre of Discourse Studies in Barcelona. Thank you, professor; you were there, always cordial and ready to answer all my questions. I recalled the first meeting at the Centre of Discourse Studies when you encouraged me to market a part of my Ph.D. project in Arabic. Your positive inspiration was among the other wonderful things that encouraged me on this hard journey. A special thanks must also go to the team at the Centre of Discourse Studies in Barcelona. There is more to mention, but I still remember the great help and knowledge I gained from the centre's team, especially from the Coordinator, **Lucía de la Presa**. Lucía, thank you for keeping track of the events in which I took part at the centre.

I would like to thank Orebro University and the staff whom I met at the School of Humanities, Education, and Social Sciences. I am so thankful to you for accepting me to pursue a doctoral course in Multimodality: Theoretical and methodological perspectives. Thank you for your great lectures on 'A number of theoretical and methodological approaches to multimodality'. During my PhD program, I gained a lot of knowledge about 'Mode' from this coursework. Also, during my stay at Orebro University, I was fortunate to have wonderful people who had a significant impact on both my personal

and academic life. To start with, I would like to thank Professor **Anders Björkqvall** for his insightful comments on my work. Thank you, Dr. **Assimakis Tseronis**, for the wonderful thesis you gave me on multimodal critical discourse analysis. I really learned so much.

I would like to thank Professor **John Bateman**, whom I met at Orebro University. Thank you for your great lectures on ‘semiotic mode and discourse semantics’. John, I want to express my gratitude for your valuable advice on the methodological perspective in multimodal research. Thank you.

I express my sincere gratitude to **Theo Van Leeuwen**, Professor of multimodal communication at the University of Southern Denmark, for his insightful feedback as a reviewer of my research paper entitled ‘Visual humanization and de-humanization of Iraqi refugees: A social semiotic and visual rhetorical analysis of Iraq crisis in The Guardian.’ Thank you for your expertise, Professor. I truly appreciated the great opportunity to learn from your knowledge.

I would also like to express my gratitude to all the staff members at the Department of Applied Linguistics at the Polytechnic University of Valencia, especially Professor Lorena Bort-Mir, for her diligent work and collaboration on my research project. I cannot express enough gratitude to you, Lorena.

Also, a special acknowledgment must be extended to **Benno Herzog**, Professor of sociology at the department of sociology and and social anthropology at the University of Valencia for reviewing my research article entitled ‘Deconstructing Iraqi Refugees in Macro-Semantic Headlines: A Critical Discourse and Framing Analysis’; I greatly appreciate your help.

Finally, I want to express my gratitude to my **brothers** and **sisters** for their unwavering support and love.

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List of Acronyms

CDA	Critical Discourse Analysis
MDA	Multimodal Discourse Analysis
MCDA	Multimodal Critical Discourse Analysis
CLA	Critical Language Awareness
TG	<i>The Guardian</i>
DW	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>
ISIS	Islamic State of Iraq and Syria
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
IDMC	Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
IDP	Internally Displaced People
OHCHR	The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ISIL	Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant
UNHRC	United Nations Human Rights Council
CDS	Critical Discourse Studies
DHA	Discourse Historical Approach
GNM	The Guardian News & Media
SCA	Socio-Cognitive Approach
SCDS	Socio-cognitive Discourse Studies
SFL	Systemic Functional Linguistics
UN	United Nations
MSS	Multimodal Social Semiotics
URL	Uniform Resource Locator

Chapter 1. Introduction

1.1. Research Preface

Research topics in relation to media discourse and the deconstruction of identities— especially those of refugees—have dramatically grown in number over the last decades in social sciences, particularly in Critical Discourse Studies (CDS). With the war in the Middle East, especially in Syria and Iraq, refugees have been depicted on different platforms, including newspapers, social media, and TV, within different frames contributing to showing them in terms of solidarity, discrimination, sympathy, and or positive or negative discourse. In 2014, the Iraqi government faced its biggest humanitarian crisis, with 3 million refugees (NRC/IDMC, 2015). Most displaced refugees were victims of conflicts in Northwest Iraq, resulting in Iraq's largest refugee crisis in decades. As a result, the increase in violence, which led to the capture of Mosul by ISIL militants in early June 2014, resulted in a huge displacement and a grave crisis in Iraq. Based on reliable statistics, more than 275,000 Sinjar residents, especially the Yazidis, fled the violence and lived in IDP camps, unfinished structures, and rented housing in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I) (United Nations Human Settlements Programme [UN-HABITAT], 2015).

Increasing violence and worsening living conditions in Iraq, coupled with the deterioration of security in the Middle East, pushed more Iraqis to see Europe as a good destination and as the only possible option (Fusco, 2023). Such actions are a driving force for asylum seekers in Europe (Riordan, 2016). Based on Fontex data, Iraq was among the top ten countries of origin for irregular arrivals in Europe fleeing via the Eastern Mediterranean Sea in 2009 and one of the top three between 2014 and 2017 (Fusco, 2023).

When discussing the Iraqi refugee crisis, especially the ethnic identity, the Yazidi religious minority was notoriously victimized by numerous crimes that were intended to harm their community— and they were the ethnic group that was most targeted as a result of ISIL's takeover. An estimated 250,000 Yazidis were compelled to evacuate their homes, run to Mount Sinjar, and either seek asylum in Iraq's Kurdistan area or leave their city. At that time, ISIL fighters either deliberately destroyed or captured Yazidi settlements and distributed them among their allies. In the Sinjar neighborhood, an estimated 6,000 homes are thought to have been destroyed or burned down. In this sense, most Yazidis who have been forcibly displaced reside in IDP camps dispersed among Kurdistan's cities and towns, and others are homeless, roaming until they find a safe place (OHCHR, 2014).

This brutal action is topicalized by international media as one of the most catastrophic events to have occurred in the Middle East. As a result, the UK and Europe rushed into Iraq— and to provide humanitarian aid for many stranded refugees. For instance, the US, the UK, Australia, and other European countries showed a special responsibility toward the Iraqi refugee crisis in 2014 and rushed into Iraq to save many children and enslaved women surrounded by ISIS, providing humanitarian aid to protect civilians and refugees, especially the ethnic minorities (Ralph & Souter, 2015).

As is always the case with this type of social crises, topics surrounding refugees have been at the forefront of global social, cultural, and political arguments in the last few decades, stirring up the media, which plays a crucial role in side-tracking public opinion on refugees. In 2015, the media paid extensive attention to refugees and their plight, especially those people who escaped from the Middle East and Africa into Europe. It is an undeniable fact that the media has been highly significant, not only in shaping and redirecting public opinion but also when it comes to collective knowledge regarding social movements, events, and identities. The way people perceive knowledge from a basis of common sense of ideologies is the underlying foundation of truths about the social world they live in and the social system that guides their actions in that world (Van Dijk, 2006).

In a world where the media plays an important role in public discourse, news headlines are, therefore, still of crucial importance when attracting readers. In fact, journalistic discourse is quite crucial, as it tends to shape the recipient and even persuade readers using prominent frames the editors are always using in media. For this reason, media headlines are still dynamic and even variable. This means newspapers always tend to publish prominent frames that catch the audience's attention. Referring to the particular features of the media and the sub-genre of discourse practice, former research work has proved that news headlines can even have an influential effect on people's attitudes to these news items (Tymbay, 2022).

By constructing informative assumptions, headlines typically tend to create an interactive structure with the reader, and most headlines, especially those of a normative nature, can thus be perceived as communicative acts and not just a summary of the text (Van Dijk, 1988). Headlines have specific cognitive processes since they tend to frame the news issues on the one hand and select some aspect of perceived reality, on the other, to make them more prominent in a communicating text (Hellsten et al., 2010). Shaping the readers directly through the use of salient headlines can thus be effective, thanks to the growing tendency to get more information from the media by only reading the headlines. The fact is that news headlines always reflect an increasingly structural role in today's fast-paced and stimulating in catching the reader's eye, especially in the online environment. Generally, in both classic and online news formats, headlines are formed as the hook for the readers (Molek-Kozakowska, 2013).

Arguably, headlines create the first topic of the text; the reader first scans the short sentences before moving on to the main text (Dor, 2003). For this reason, the media tends to publish prominent frames at the sentence level that catch the reader's attention. As seen by Van Dijk (1988), headlines always tend to have a crucial role in providing the information that readers perceive first, showing a macro-position, as they provide a concise summary of the news article. According to Van Dijk (1988), headlines serve three crucial functions: First, they create the basic overview of the news article. Second, they simply attract the readers by employing different font sizes as well as via the language used. Third, they represent the first indication of the content and style of the newspaper.

According to Bednared and Caple (2012), news headlines are formulated by a specific language style and some linguistic features that are treated in a different way from the other styles of news discourse. Such an action in news may include the deletion of function words, untensed phrases instead of clauses, the use of evaluative/ marked/ emotional words, and specific patterns of idioms and proverbs. However, such headlines in the news tend to be more and more creative than reproductive. Based on the communication perspective, in headlines, frames are exposed to be crucial devices instrumental in framing the article's content and, ultimately, the public opinion on different matters (Hart, 2023).

Since the editors of the headlines usually use different forms of language about the article's content, the implications they write can be viewed as potential means of manipulation. Indeed, headlines, as well as titles in news articles, are like the tip of a huge iceberg, usually including knowledge, references, and underlying meanings about specific events; for instance, refugees and their situation (Van Dijk, 2024). In the news, the effect of headlines on the readers is likely to be stronger since the specific linguistic features of the titles tend to make headlines especially effective and memorable. Broadly speaking, headlines enjoy a rich source of information, especially when it comes to the field of cultural references. This is true since the headlines stand alone without explanation; it is left to the readers to use their cultural references to understand their content (Develotte & Rechniewski, 2001).

Deconstructing news headlines may not just include prominent frames to catch the reader's attention. However, the use of headlines in digital media may have a strong effect on readers' socio-political cognition (Abdel-Raheem & Alkhamash, 2022). This suggests that the analysis of headlines, in particular, includes a number of other aspects at the macro-structural level, including socially shared knowledge, attitude, ideology, and value. These factors are crucial to bear in mind at the discourse level when constructing migrations using our mental models, especially when the refugees are depicted in media in terms of solidarity, xenophobia, and attitude at the social macro-level (Van Dijk, 2009b).

In this sense, however, an analysis of the research literature shows there has been no attention at all, or very little, paid to the editorial headlines in media as macro frames that come first at the top of the news story. As their spatial in the digital design enables readers for a such degree of selectivity in their option/choice of news frames to read (Dor, 2003), their engagement with the readers may potentially carry different senses of the topics being covered. For this reason, the study aimed to unveil the macro resources used by the headline editors to effectively express, for instance, the tend to show aspects of humanization and dehumanization or biased frames they cover. On the other hand, speaking about news headlines as a sub-genre, I intend to explore how headline portrayal is a part of global cultural framings which are included in the media's content, and which, thus, contribute to the reproduction of common ideologies by "powerful institutions", including the media (Van Dijk, 2006: 139).

Additionally, the very initial headlines of the text in news media may help readers presuppose the general meaning of social events as well as specific knowledge about the refugees. Specifically, in the media, opening titles and headlines are like the tip of a huge iceberg of underlying meanings, knowledge, and references about social events. Such headlines may carry different expressions, including metaphors and frames, as well as indexical expressions like “we” and “our”, and may include some implications for the readers (Van Dijk, 2023: 197) since headlines summarize the most important events, goals, and group identities in headline discourses (Van Dijk, 1988).

Since this thesis takes the socio-cognitive approach (SCA) to CDA as a starting point, SCA then focuses on how discourse structure impacts mental representation. As the socio-cognitive approach stresses the role of knowledge and global meaning in the production of discourse, topics in headlines may influence what readers see as the most crucial information in news texts, and, therefore, relate to the top levels of their mental knowledge. For instance, depicting such a headline in the news may strongly influence how a crisis or an event is defined in terms of a global meaning (Van Dijk, 2000). Linguistically speaking, macro-structures have been formulated to account for the ‘global meaning’ of the discourse; it is cognitively assigned in terms of the “theme” or “topic” of a discourse (Van Dijk, 1977: 1).

Chapter five of this thesis especially focuses on how Iraqi refugees are depicted in *Deutsche Welle* and *The Guardian*. In this specific case, my driving interest is to carry out a study on this topic, taking Van Dijk’s (1988) claim of headlines as a starting point to analyze the most important information, group identities, and common goals in the two outlets. That is, the chapter analyzes the headlines to decide the degree to which *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* positioned readers to view the plight of Iraqi refugees sympathetically or unsympathetically, humanizing or dehumanizing them. In other words, by means of a comparison of the two media outlets I might find supportive topics for specific identities or changes in attitudes towards refugees.

On the other hand, I also use multimodal analysis in this thesis because it is important for any kind of discourse study, especially when it is not only the headlines that frame events but also visual images can carry important knowledge. That is, visual images in media may be used to carry different speech acts, such as threats, whether they are included in the text or not (Van Dijk, 2023). This means that this thesis does not deal with only one mode of communication, but also considers others, such as visual images and semiotic resources, for the relevance of this study. For this reason, multimodal discourse analysis (MDA) associates exactly with what I need to focus on in Chapter six: visual images and language.

As is the case for Chapter Six, I will focus on the multimodal aspects, especially images, and their affordances. Arguably, in the media, visual images of refugees are crucial in constructing narratives of prejudice, solidarity, and sympathy and shaping the public perception of and attitudes regarding refugees (Bleiker et al., 2013; Keđra & Sommier, 2018; Irom et al., 2022; Martikainen & Sakki, 2024). It is often held that a picture is worth a thousand words (Korkiamäki & Kaukko, 2023). This claim often shows that visual images have a specific capacity to evoke emotions in readers (Bleiker, 2015). Researchers interested in emotions point to the fact that images have an enormous capacity to tie individual emotions with greater, and even collective, public feelings (Bleiker & Hutchison, 2008).

As media images of refugees play an important role in constructing stories, media consumption has increasingly shifted to online platforms, with a remarkable growth in visual searches (Schwartz, 2019). Based on this sense, Malkki (1997: 234) highlights that media imagery of refugees may function as “a key vehicle in the elaboration of a transnational social imagination of refugees.” This is especially true when the reader lacks personal experience; visual images may serve to fill any gaps in their knowledge (Banks, 2012). On the other hand, freely accessible images in the media are effective in public discourses since they shape readers’ imaginations about who refugees are, what displaced persons look like, and what they need from society (McIntyre et al., 2023).

Machin (2013: 351) argues that the naturalization of multi-semiotics occurs through different modes of communication in discourses. He also argues that there is a need to pay attention to how “discourses are translated into other semiotic forms and into social practices by asking why this is done and what it accomplishes.” Machin (2013), on the other hand, argues that it is essential to pay attention to the study of non-linguistic forms like semiotic resources, including visual images, as they tend to communicate ideas, attitudes, and identities. Since potential meanings of language are, of course, an important component in CDS and MCDS, Machin (2013: 348), therefore, argues that it is important “to understand the way different semiotic resources are employed to communicate values, ideas, and identities and how they enable and constrain different kinds of interactions”. To address this, the media overtly tend to design identities that distinguish between different cultural groups, marking some included as part of us and others excluded as strangers. Visual images are important in this specific context since they have a crucial disposition in the media, and such visual portrayals can, thus, foster a significant, suggestive power (Drücke et al., 2021).

It is explicitly known that the media’s photographs of refugees often serve as the sole way refugees can communicate with the public (Průchová, 2021). This, therefore, suggests that refugees have no power since they can not control their mediated image in the media; they have no direct interaction with “the power to represent someone or something in a certain way” (Hall, 1997: 247). Such power belongs to international press agencies, leaving sometimes little opportunity for changing the overall depiction of refugees in the media. In this specific case, it is often held that visual portrayals of refugees and their suffering due to conflicts never speak purely of humanity but are influenced by institutional, political, and technological contexts, which make universal claims truer (Chouliaraki et al., 2019). Such a claim,

therefore, proposes that macro-structures regarding the international media may shape how individuals are depicted in newspapers (KhosraviNik, 2009).

Moreover, the use of images in online newspapers is crucial since they act as visual materials for persuading viewers to interact with the visual text. This is what the media intends when framing visual images using real scenes to capture the reader's attention. In this specific case, visual images create a more meaningful role in the media. Borchers points out (2002:165, cited in Martínez Lirola, 2006: 380), "images are symbols that are building blocks of persuasive messages in communication in ways that words can't." This suggests that the role of images is essential as they act like words; they provide meaning to the communication process. So, images are perceived as representations and as the aftermath of linking ideas and showing meaning to the reader's experience. To this end, such perceptions reinforce the idea that visual images are used intentionally to create understandable and related content for the readers (Banks, 2012).

To address the multi-semiotics, MCDA aligns with what I need to achieve in Chapter six. Through this process of analysis, I, therefore, seek to analyze what texts and images as discourses are used to depict Iraqi refugees. To address this need, Van Leeuwen (2008) shows the main divergence between words and images, where the former provides factual information about the things that need to be expressed, while images are viewed as interpretations, providing the audience with implicit connotations and suggesting meanings. Likewise, a close resemblance between visual and verbal does the same job of construing meaning; therefore, their central claim is that images show raw materials while languages inform or provide information (Bateman et al., 2017).

Based on the reader's cognition, the reaction to each visual image would differ from viewer to viewer. In this specific case, I aim to prove the need to look at visual discourses through a social semiotic lens (Kress and Van Leeuwen, 1996-2006; Van Leeuwen, 2008). Such analysis highlights the importance of the semiotic perspective in understanding the relationship between the viewers and the depicted people on a large-scale image analysis to explore its impact on social issues, such as the refugee discourse in newspapers.

Inspired by the arguments proposed by Van Leeuwen's claims (2008: 137-183), some questions arise, such as "How are Iraqi refugees depicted in newspapers' pictures?" and "How are the depicted refugees related to the viewer in these pictures?" Chapter Six provides a social semiotic analysis of the Iraqi refugee crisis. The analysis may lead us to see the refugees depicted in multimodal texts as though they are friends or strangers, depending on whether they are shown as manifesting interaction with the camera or not. Also, I adopt the concepts of humanization and dehumanization to see the refugees depicted in the visuals as though they are friends or strangers, depending on whether they are shown as manifesting interaction with the camera or not.

To address this, Barthes (1980) argues that the camera's lens automatically depicts what is in front of it to the readers, and it is crucial to explain the shot, using words based on its true perspective to make this process understood. However, the distance between the refugees portrayed and the viewers is highlighted by symbolic means, such as a lack of eye contact, close-distance shots, and long-distance shots, which this perspective may include or prevent any symbolic interaction between the viewer and the represented participant. Such a shot reinforces the dichotomy between "us" and "them" (Wilmott, 2017: 67-82) or may also reinforce the social interaction as though they are "below us" or "above us," as though they have direct interaction with us or not (Van Leeuwen, 2008: 138). Such a perspective may help us understand how Iraqi refugees are depicted by the cameramen. That is, it is essential to analyze the depicted shots since they include or exclude social actors.

For this reason, I attempt to explore the strategies of humanization and dehumanization, inclusion, and exclusion in visual discourses and, in so doing, to state the knowledge of the forms of representation in the fields of ethnic studies and visual semiotic communication studies. Thus, I believe that the social semiotic approach allows us to unpack the subtle selections through which visual productions occur. The focus on visual images and their contents, forms, and functions may enable us to conduct a thorough analysis of how social semiotic analytical strategies are used in the visualizations of displaced people to elucidate aspects in which social interactions between the refugees and viewers are rendered salient to construct, depict, uphold, or challenge the depictions of refugee and viewer relations.

Departing from the social semiotic approach (e.g., Kress and Van Leeuwen, 1996, 2002, 2006), I also base my understanding of a mode on Kress's definition (2010: 70): "Mode is a socially shaped and culturally given semiotic resource for making meaning". To this end, I will analyze text and image, as they are multimodal modes whose meanings shape and organize meaningful resources in media; therefore, these modes are equal to discourse and genre in critical discourse analysis. Machin (2013) argues that it is essential to pay attention to the study of non-linguistic forms, like semiotic resources, as they tend to communicate ideas, attitudes, and identities. As potential meanings of language are also an important component in CDS and MCDS, Machin (2013: 348) therefore argues that it is important "to understand the way different semiotic resources are employed to communicate values, ideas, and identities and how they enable and constrain different kinds of interactions".

Therefore, I assume that the social semiotic approach allows us to examine: firstly, to investigate how refugees are depicted visually in public discourse and, in so doing, to state the current understanding of the forms of representation in visual communication and semiotic studies. Secondly, to focus on the content in these visual images, thus conducting a thorough analysis of how they are employed in the media and can, for example, show displaced people, culture, and society. Thirdly, I use the perspective of multimodal critical discourse analysis (MCDA) to analyze and deepen the focal types of discourses on refugees, especially Iraqis, shown in the pictures that illustrate the news segments .

All in all, in Chapter six, the discourse of *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* is multimodal since it incorporates different modes of communication to construct meanings. Media visuals are crucial since they have a key role in news items; they are essential, which determines that sometimes readers just focus on them and give the linguistic text a secondary role (Martínez Lirola, 2022b). When this occurs, visuals tend to produce power interactions and reproduce ideology (Fairclough, 2002). Taking this claim into account, I especially focus on the meanings conveyed by the news shots that demonstrate multimodal news items on Iraqi refugees. In this sense, I seek to dig more deeply into our perceptions of social semiotics by focusing on the multimodal depiction of Iraqis as refugees in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*.

This introduction concludes as follows. First, I locate framing theory (Entman, 1991, 1993) as a micro-textual analysis to identify the frame functions. In framing analysis, I also wanted to analyze the journalistic discourse of the news headlines by “highlighting some bits of information about an item that is the subject of a communication, thereby elevating them in salience” (Entman, 1993: 52). Besides, I use a socio-cognitive approach as a macro-analysis to delve deeper into the depiction of Iraqis. Employing Van Dijk's (2008, 2014) socio-cognitive approach, a well-established principle under CDA direction is to examine the integration and the relationships between textual, social, and cognitive structures at a broader level. The reason for introducing these notions and concepts is to show how I conducted the analysis for this thesis, specifically in Chapter five.

In CDA, more specifically the socio-cognitive approach, the way to understand or perceive the actions relating to our daily reality can be constructed through the so-called mental models. Van Dijk (2000: 21) clarifies that these models are “personal and subjective.” That is, they depict the way I observe and understand events. For this thesis, I needed a research methodology that would help me to carry out a thorough analysis of how Iraqi refugees are depicted in the media and how they are represented as part of specific events. I additionally wanted a multidisciplinary approach, including critical discourse analysis, framing analysis, and multimodal discourse, a well-established tradition under Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA). CDA is not a direction of research, like systemic linguistics and transformational grammar, nor a theory. Ideally, CDA can be conducted in and integrated with any discipline and approach in the social sciences and humanities. CDA is a social movement and “should be essentially diverse and multidisciplinary” (Van Dijk, 2001: 95-120).

As Fairclough (2001) claims, discourse is a movement of social practices. CDA is a broad line of critical linguistic research which highlights the role of semiosis as a complex part of material social processes. That is, Fairclough argues that semiosis incorporates all forms of meaning-making, including language and visual images. Since Chapter six takes multimodal critical discourse analysis (MCDA) as a main grounded theory, the interest of the analysis in MCDA is the same as CDA, but the main focus expands beyond language to all forms of modes, including semiotic material, images, designs, etc. The essential

focus in MCDA is on how these communicative modes or resources are used in the media, which shapes how people, things, and events are depicted.

Additionally, I selected multimodal critical discourse analysis (MCDA), a well-formulated direction under critical discourse analysis (CDA). In MCDA, the disposition and interest are the same, but the focus is on other modes, such as visual images. The basic focus of MCDA is on how these semiotic and communicative resources are used in different ways, which shape how refugees, people, things, and events are depicted. In this thesis, it is hoped that the analysis will be of interest to researchers interested in discourse studies, multimodal discourse studies, and media studies.

1.2. Research Problem

Topics and issues framing refugees and displaced people are defining features of the 21st century. However, media depictions usually steer readers, feelings, and attitudes towards refugees explicitly and inexplicitly, in humanizing or dehumanizing ways, from negative or positive stances. On the other hand, the media depictions tend to produce effects towards the exclusion and inclusion of refugees (Pandir, 2020). The point of departure of this thesis is the problem of how the media plays an important role in both the shaping and redirecting of social inclusion and exclusion by producing positive or negative frames.

Inspired by the differences observed in media portrayals of refugees over decades, this thesis provides a critical framing analysis and multimodal critical discourse analysis of the Iraqi refugee crisis in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*. Such a topic allows for a comparative analysis of the different-sided media based on different publications and may have separate editorial and ideological stances towards refugees. Also, it strengthens the possibility of constructing the broader political and societal implications of the media depiction of refugees.

To this end, this thesis deals with how displaced Iraqis are linguistically and visually represented in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*'s coverage during the global refugee crisis. Overall, different studies have examined how refugees are often depicted in the media negatively and positively, and in ways both humanizing and dehumanizing. In this regard: Is the case of the Iraqi refugees linked to humanization rather than dehumanization? Was there a reaction to the Iraqi refugees?

1.3. Research Aims and Questions

Overall, this thesis aims to explore how Iraqi refugees are depicted in the multimodal discourse i.e., in news headlines and visual images in *Deutsche Welle* and *The Guardian*. The study seeks to discover whether it would be possible to observe any changes in the framing of Iraqi refugees in these two sources that might coincide with the clear shift in perceptions or attitudes. I can, thus, assume that the media plays an essential role in constructing the cumulative idea readers have about crises and refugees.

To achieve the aims of this thesis, the following objectives are set:(a) to examine the depiction of the multimodal discourse i.e., in headlines and visual images in the media on the basis of communication and discourse concepts; (b) to formulate a methodological perspective to study the formation of the Iraqi refugees on the basis of analyzed discourse theories;(c) to explore the different ways in which *Deutsche Welle* and *The Guardian* have depicted the Iraqi refugees in online discourses during the refugee crisis, determining if the overall depiction of the Iraqi refugees was more or less sympathetic ;(d) to conduct a multimodal analysis of the text and image and to explore the interaction of language and visual images in this sense. As a result, my driving interest is to carry out a study on this topic. The research questions guiding this study are as follows:

1. How are Iraqi refugees depicted in *Deutsche Welle* and *The Guardian*? How are they portrayed in the macro-semantic headlines and sub-headlines? All in all, my aim is to see if there are differences concerning ideologies, discourses, frames, and how they are represented in the media.
2. What social relations are suggested between the audience and the participants represented in relation to the visual images? And how can we specify the news images that depict Iraqi refugees as displaced people in the visual texts analyzed? Are the images humanizing or dehumanizing?
3. How does multimodality become manifest in multimodal texts?

1.4. The Structure of the Thesis

Chapter One provides a general overview of the study, setting out the topic and the introduction of this thesis with a specific focus on the Iraqi refugee crisis. It essentially shows the background of the topic, presenting the main context for the reader to perceive the importance of this thesis. Also, Chapter One outlines the aims, research objectives, and questions, establishing a clear direction for this study.

Chapter Two goes beyond a general description of the Iraqi refugee crisis and delves into a detailed investigation of the leading factors that drive Iraqi refugees to migrate both internally and externally. By providing a large-scale description, Chapter Two provides a real scene of the complex factors that contribute to the displacement of the Iraqis, thus enhancing the reader's understanding of this topic.

In Chapter Two, thus, I provide an overview of the scholarly literature review of refugee media discourses. I start by providing general research on the nature of refugees and asylum seekers in the news media as displaced people and migrants, pointing to their depiction in the international newspapers in cultural, social, and linguistic terms and, thus, in terms of the levels of depiction, whether positive or negative. This literature helps, or indicates, the levels of depiction we often find in the discourses used to frame refugees in media discourse. I provide a description of my reading based on my former studies. I highlight the interest in the topic and the research gap that exists, and I place my present thesis into the academic field.

Chapter Three provides a general theoretical description of critical discourse analysis (CDA), offering an account of the history and development of the CDA. In this chapter, I introduce the focal theoretical framework, with a specific focus on Van Dijk's socio-cognitive approach (1988, 2008), Entman's framing theory (1993), and the social semiotic approach, particularly the multimodal discourse approach of Kress and Van Leeuwen (1996, 2006). Additionally, I explore Van Leeuwen's (2008, 2021) depiction of social actors, multimodality, and identity. The former frameworks serve as crucial perspectives in analyzing and understanding critical framing discourse and multimodal analysis, thus offering insights into the analysis of the complexity of genre in media discourse.

In Chapter Four, a general description of the methods and theories employed for analysis is presented. The chapter explains the tools employed in relation to both critical discourse analysis (CDA) and multimodal critical discourse analysis (MCDA). A particular focus is assigned to presenting the analytical methods employed in this thesis, which help to understand the discourses employed to portray the Iraqi refugees in news articles. The chapter provides the empirical materials, followed by a description of the data selection process and a general overview of the empirical sources used in this study. Furthermore, Chapter Four explores some issues in relation to *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*,

including aspects such as publication, target audience preferences, ideological directions, and cultural differences.

In Chapter Five, therefore, I report on the analysis of my findings of a sample of news headlines and sub-headlines from *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*, which report on the crisis of the Iraqi refugees as displaced people. The analysis shows how the Iraqis, as refugees and displaced people, were depicted in different topics. Also, the chapter focuses on the most crucial discourses used in the description of the refugees. Moreover, the chapter examines how the present-day perception of the refugees in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* is depicted using a macro-discourse level. The chapter then reaches some plausible concluding remarks based on the analysis and findings.

In Chapter Six, additionally, I continue to report on my analysis of the depiction of the Iraqi refugees in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*. More specifically, in this chapter, I turn my analysis from CDA to MCDA, using multimodal texts to examine the refugees. I use multimodal critical discourse analysis to examine how the Iraqi refugees are depicted in visual and linguistic terms. The chapter reaches the conclusion that there is a divergence among the Iraqis depicted.

Chapter 7 concludes the thesis; it outlines the findings as well as the research questions. The chapter discusses the emerging results of the data analysis in terms of a critical discourse analysis study and, thus, a multimodal critical discourse analysis. I provide my conclusion on how the Iraqi refugees are depicted in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*. I additionally reflect on the limitations, contributions, and future directions of this thesis.

Chapter 2: Review of context and literature

2.1. Iraq crisis and displacement— A contextual review

Internal displacement is the term used when a person or group of people move within the boundaries of a state. Due to external factors that force people to flee their homes in search of safety, such as famine, war, drought, desertification, or other disasters, displacement occurs against the will of the displaced people. In addition, “persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights, or natural or man-made disasters, and who have not crossed any international borders” are considered to be internally displaced (Global Protection Cluster Working Group, 2010: 8).

War, armed conflict, and ethnic and sectarian violence have historically caused many waves of displacement in Iraq. These waves began with the 1980 Iran-Iraq War, continued with the US invasion of Iraq in 2003, and ended with internal armed conflicts. More than 6 million people were displaced internally between 2014 and 2017 as a result of the most recent battle with ISIS. Although the displacement began in January 2014, it reached its peak in the second half of the year after ISIS took control of major swathes of Iraq. In an effort to reclaim the territory it had lost, the Iraqi government initiated military operations against Islamic State of Iraq and Syria. They received assistance from the Kurdish armed forces, the US-led international coalition, the Joint Task Force, the Popular Mobilization Forces, various local and tribal fighters, and air support. At that time, large numbers of individuals and refugees were displaced as a result of military activities. On December 1, 2017, the Iraqi government declared the end of its military operations against ISIS and its presence in all areas under its control (Euro-Med Monitor, 2021).

Due to military operations that started after the Islamic State organization (ISIS) seized control of significant swathes of Iraq, especially the country's western and northern provinces, Iraq had its greatest record of internally displaced people in June 2014. Since then, thousands of families have relocated to neighboring provinces in Iraq in an effort to avoid death and abuse. More than 6 million individuals have been relocated over the course of the last six years. In the case of other Iraqi governorates, including Baghdad, Kirkuk, Anbar, Nineveh, Salah al-Din, Diyala, and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, they have fled conflict-ridden areas. While 1,198,940 people are still homeless, approximately 4,867,050 people who were displaced have returned (UNHRC, 2016).

Iraq has had a difficult time addressing the humanitarian needs of the displaced population and coming up with long-lasting solutions ever since this vast wave of displacement started. The extent of the displaced people's humanitarian suffering was captured on film by a Euro-Med Monitor field team. IDPs struggle with a severe food shortage, a lack of sources of income, a lack of clean water, a lack of

fuel for cooking and heating, power outages, as well as several other health and educational issues. Many of them are also unable to return to their original homes.

Statistics of Internally Displaced People in Iraq have varied from source to source. As far as internal displacement in Iraq is concerned, this is a problem of enormous proportions; it is believed that since the start of 2014, nearly 3 million people have been forced to leave their homes. In fact, the International Organization for Migration reported that there were more than 4 million internally displaced people as of June 22, 2015, including those who had already been relocated before the current crisis, which started in 2014. Following ISIL offensives, 2.9 million people abandoned their homes between January 2014 and August 2015 in three additional large-scale waves of displacement. There were other smaller incidents as well. In Anbar Province, intense fighting between the Iraqi security forces and insurgent organizations resulted in the displacement of 480,000 people from January to May 2014.

An estimated 500,000 people fled their homes after ISIL gained control of Mosul, the second-largest city in Iraq, in June 2014. Many of them went to other areas of the Ninewa Governorate and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. A total of 1.2 million people were newly displaced from June to August 2014; 833,800 of them left their homes in the Ninewa province in the northwest. An additional 1,378,200 people were displaced by the fighting from September 2014 to June 2015 (UNHRC, 2016).

When it comes to the distribution of IDPs, the eight Iraqi governorates with the most IDPs are depicted in the graphs in Figure1 below.





Figure 1. Source: (IOM, 2023).

Regarding the demographic areas of the IDPs, the following map shows the key figures of the internally displaced people distributed in three focal areas.

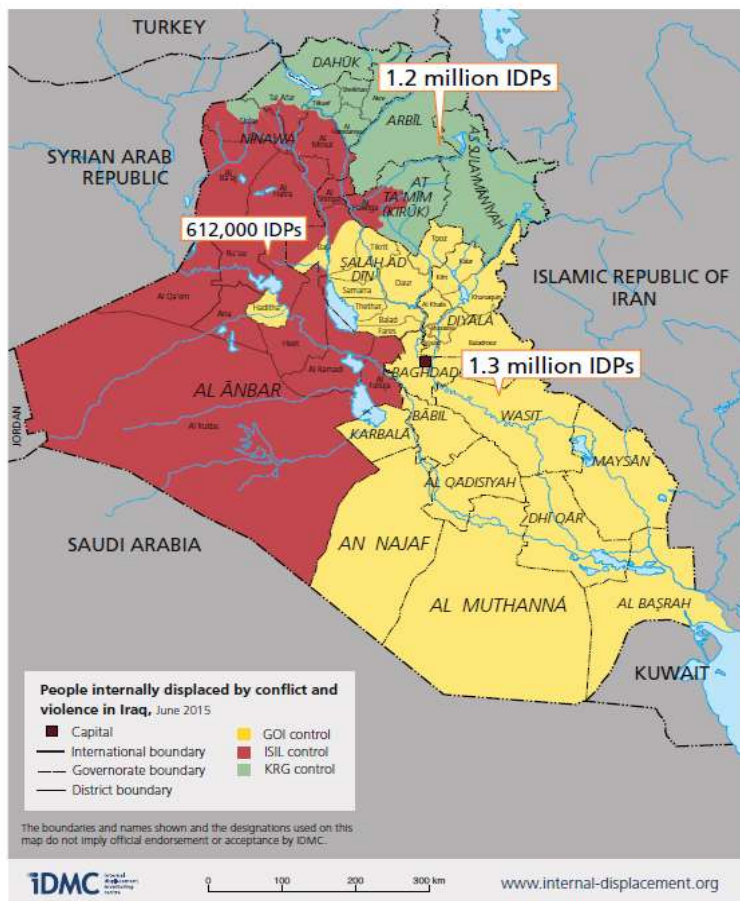


Figure 2. Source: (IDMC, 2015). Available at: www.internal-displacement.org/search?Type=Map

Three national and international organizations that assist IDPs in Iraq, the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoDm), the UNHCR, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), divided internal displacement into three periods: the displacement crisis, which began in 2014, the protracted displacement situation that resulted from the sectarian conflict from 2006 to 2008, and previous protracted conflict-induced displacement essentially stemming from the policies implemented by Saddam Hussein.

When examining these events, it becomes evident that the displacement crisis of 2014 was the most severe wave. It started in early 2014, coinciding with the escalation of armed conflict between ISIS and the Iraqi Government, and resulted in millions of displaced people roaming different parts of Iraq (IDMC, 2015).

2.1.1. Sectarian rift as a cause of displacement

Factually, internal armed conflict, brutal violence, discrimination based on race, religion, or political affiliation, and other factors have all driven millions of Iraqis to internal displacement. When discussing the causes, it is worth mentioning that sectarian violence is the main factor. In this sense, Iraq has experienced waves of sectarian violence after the US invasion in 2003. The root of displacement was primarily based on sectarian factors. Many reports proved that all forms of displacement are grounded in ethno-sectarian purification, as confirmed by substantial evidence of brutal torture, human rights abuses, and sectarian violence. Consequently, the use of armed violence against the identity of minority groups and the religion they practise by “extremists” played a significant role in triggering and increasing the number of IDPs in Iraq. It is widely acknowledged that many Iraqi refugees have become victims of a sectarian conflict from which they had no choice but to escape (Dawn Chatty & Nisrine Mansour, 2011).

Generally, IDPs have fled their homes due to the high levels of sectarianism and ongoing violence in the country. Even though displacement was caused by a collection of factors - varying from socio-economic issues to personal considerations – sectarian violence often stood out as the prominent factor behind their displacement (Cotter, 2019). To this end, the increase in sectarian violence was one of the major effects of the Iraq War. Displacement increased as a result of the ensuing sectarian strife, especially among Sunni extremists, like Al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI) and, later, the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS). Using brutal actions, such as beheadings, mass executions, and suicide bombings, all these actions contributed to the growth of displacement among individuals who were either directly or indirectly affected by the conflict (Sageman, 2017).

2.1.2. Generalized Violence and Conflict

In late 2013, Iraq experienced a significant displacement crisis triggered by a brutal attack carried out by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), the largest displacement of its kind. Composed mainly of radical Sunni Muslims, ISIS launched an attack on Mosul, the country's second-largest city. This violent attack forced many IPDs to flee, seeking refuge in Baghdad and other locations. By June 2014, the level of violence escalated dramatically, resulting in widespread displacement across various areas of Iraq, including the western province of Anbar and its neighboring provinces. Consequently, approximately 200,000 individuals were forced to flee and sought shelter in western Baghdad (Chatelard, 2016). Also, the invasion of Mosul, the second-largest province in northern Iraq, by ISIS in June 2014 led to an enormous wave of displacement. In this sense, it is estimated that a large number of 900,000 IPDs fled Mosul due to this attack (IDMC, 2015).

Additionally, tens of thousands of people were displaced by fighting between the Peshmerga and ISIL in Sinjar, a neighborhood in Iraq's Ninewa Governorate close to the Syrian border, during the first week of August 2014. The majority of these IDPs are Yazidis, an ancient syncretic religious group whose followers are spread widely over Sinjar. Also, Shiite Turkmen who had fled to Sinjar when ISIL seized control of Tal Afar were displaced once more when ISIL seized Sinjar. 200,000 Yazidis were displaced as a result of ISIL's entry into Sinjar City and the neighboring villages on August 3, 2014 (IDMC, 2015). ISIS has targeted non-Muslim Iraqi minorities, as well as Shiites and those Sunnis who reject their doctrine. Since Sunni leaders refused to announce allegiance to extremists, ISIS has also targeted several Sunni Arab tribes. Consequently, 1,000 Turkmen, the third-largest (predominantly Sunni) ethnic minority in Iraq, displaced Tal Afar for the southern governorate of Karbala on June 10, 2014. Turkmen Sunnis have also experienced violent retaliation. As a result, 90% of Tal Afar's inhabitants had left the city by the end of June (IDMC, 2015).

At the end of 2015 and in mid-2016, ISIS aggressively clashed with two remarkable forces in Iraq: The Iraqi army and the popular mobilization movement, Shiite Muslim forces that have backing from the Iraqi parliament. As a result of these extended conflicts, there was a sharp rise in displacement in 2016. During this period, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) reported an estimated 3.4 million refugees since the initial invasion of ISIS in northwestern Iraq. Accordingly, a huge number of IPDs were obliged to flee their homes, seeking refuge and security in other places (IOM, 2016).

2.1.3. Displacement as a result of economic decline

In addition to generalized violence and sectarian factors, IPDs have also been displaced from their homes as a result of the country's economic decline. In fact, the regions affected by conflict face unsafe living conditions, with 40 percent of Iraqis living in a state of absolute poverty. Moreover, essential services, such as access to clean drinking water, electricity, and vital infrastructure, are severely lacking, leading to significant hardships in various parts of areas experiencing armed conflict. International agencies have issued warnings concerning the unemployment rate and challenging living conditions, emphasizing that on average, 65 percent of the Iraqis in certain provinces lack access to piped drinking water. Unemployment rates in Iraq are estimated to be as high as 40 to 60 percent. Although the available data on this issue may be inaccurate and show some variations in figures, there is considerable evidence indicating that internally displaced people (IDPs) are likely to be unemployed, with no income or means to financially support their families (Ferris, 2008).

On top of the causes mentioned previously, Iraqis have faced critical plights that have contributed to the high rates of displacement. These include threats of war and violence, social disintegration, political divisions, and the breakdown of Iraqi society. Besides, the healthcare system has been strained, statelessness has become a pressing issue, and the country has struggled with economic problems and a widespread sense of instability. All these factors have had a negative impact on the lives of Iraqis, especially IDPs (Harding & Libal, 2012).

2.1.4. Displacement as a result of flooding

In April and May 2014, extensive displacement occurred as a result of severe flooding in Iraq. The situation was intensified by an incident in February when armed groups took control of a dam located 5km from the city of Fallujah in western Iraq. This dam, which regulated the flow of the Euphrates River through 12 gates, became a target of radical groups. To manipulate the water flow, the armed groups decided to close eight of the gates responsible for directing water towards the southern areas. Instead, they opened the remaining four gates, redirecting the water into irrigation channels that supplied Abu Ghraib, a city northwest of Baghdad International Airport. The aftermath of this action was the unexpected flooding that affected both Abu Ghraib and Fallujah, which is a significant governorate in Iraq known as Anbar. As a result, approximately 42,500 people, belonging to around 7,085 families, were displaced and sought refuge in six other Iraqi governorates, namely Anbar, Diyala, Baghdad, Karbala, Qadisiya, and Salah Alden (IOM, 2014).

2.1.5. Displacement as a result of the Sinjar Massacre

In 2014, Sinjar, an Iraqi town mainly inhabited by Yazidis, became the target of ISIS militants during the Yazidi Genocide. This horrific event resulted in the loss of thousands of Yazidis' lives, with estimates varying from 3,000 to 5,000 men and women who were killed during the invasion. The surviving Yazidis, including men, women, and children, lived unimaginable suffering, including sexual violence, forced conversions, physical abuse, torture, captivity, and enslavement (Cetorelli et al., 2017). On August 3, 2014, ISIS launched a barbaric and brutal attack on Sinjar, targeting its people and families. As a result, many Yazidis were killed, and others left, causing a shocking wave of displacement, leading to what came to be known as the Sinjar genocide. According to international reports, ISIS executed many men and obliged other Yazidis to flee. By August 14, thousands of families found themselves trapped in the mountains as they tried to escape from these armed groups. As a result, there were over 740,000 internally displaced people, 365,000 of them Yazidis (IOM, 2018).

The Sinjar crisis is considered to be the most remarkable of its kind ever to have occurred in Iraq. It has been widely highlighted and framed in the media. Many people from Sinjar were displaced into different locations. In this sense, as indicated earlier, on August 3rd, a group of internally displaced people (IDPs) began fleeing their homes near the border between Syria and Iraq and headed toward the Duhok Governorate. Most of them used vehicles as their means of displacement. However, on August 4th, as a consequence of conflict escalation at the Rabia'a Crossing on the border, the road became inaccessible for the IDPs.

As a result, around 130,000 IDPs found themselves stuck on Mount Sinjar. Hence, thousands of IDPs faced severe scarcity of food, water, and shelter. In addition, they were under attack by armed opposition groups. To this end, the action of rescuing the IDPs began on August 4th after the Kurdish armed forces opened a secure pathway. Most of the IDPs were evacuated from August 9th to 13th, making their way through Syria to reach Nawroz Camp, located in Northern Syria, and various camps and communities in the Duhok Governorate in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI). Displacement to Syria was made possible with the assistance of trucks provided by members of the Yazidi community, Kurdish groups, and local residents (UNHCR, 2014).

2.1.6. Factors behind the fall of Mosul in 2014

When discussing this specific topic, it is noteworthy to mention that there is no single reason behind the fall of Mosul. That is, there were different factors that acted as the driving force behind it, including internal and external involvements in the fall of the second-largest city in Iraq. One of the reasons behind this event is the so-called sectarian policies. Many argued that the marginalization of the Iraqi army post-2003 resulted in thousands of individuals losing their positions in the local city and the government. This was because Mosul had been a firm stronghold of support for Saddam's regime. Since the US invasion of Iraq in 2003, many radical Sunnis and the Iraqi army post-2003 built a great deal of training camps. This was also because Mosul had shown core anti-government support in 2014 (O'Driscoll, 2016).

Another reason behind the fall is the lack of a post-2003 roadmap. The fact is that the US's deficiency of a strategy for the post-Saddam regime has been mentioned as a key factor behind the quick rise of Daesh (O'Driscoll, 2016). That is to say, the failure of Obama's policy to manage the US mission in Iraq ended up increasing the number of radical groups (Smith, 2014). On the other hand, the fall of Mosul in 2014 was a result of the Iraqi political system. That is, the political system was based on *Muhasasa*, which simply means that the main political positions were based on sectarian formulas. All political cabinets, prime ministers, and speakers of parliament are allocated in favor of sectarian seats. However, this system has resulted in the deliberate growth of sectarian identities by a political elite that makes the Iraqi political system promote personal and political corruption and, thus, an incoherent approach to this political system (Dodge, 2014). To this end, all these factors directly contributed to the fall of Mosul in 2014 by ISIS.

As regards the external factor behind the fall of Mosul, there is literature on Saudi Arabia's secret role in this event. Millions of Iraqi refugees escaped Northern Mosul in huge waves in June 2014 when ISIS invaded the city. There is a generally held belief that the invasion of Mosul was driven by sectarian conflicts arising from the Iraqi civil war in 2006. Despite numerous international reports focusing on this matter, none have identified the leading factor behind the invasion. In this sense, it is said that Saudi Arabia had a part in backing ISIS, working with them to destroy Mosul. *The Independent*, a British newspaper, reported on a complex and confidential exchange of messages between Sir Richard Dearlove, a senior British intelligence official, and Prince Bandar bin Sultan, the Saudi Arabian ambassador in Washington and head of Saudi intelligence. All these communications were uncovered a few weeks before the capture of Mosul by Islamic State of Iraq and Syria in 2014 (Cockburn, 2014).

Based on these correspondences, *The Independent* revealed a secret plot by Bandar bin Sultan to help ISIS in capturing Mosul and the northern parts of Iraq. It was revealed that Bandar bin Sultan informed Sir Richard Dearlove that ‘The time is not far off in the Middle East, Richard, and ‘God help the Shia’ where more than a billion Sunnis have simply had enough of them’. Undoubtedly, this moment held great worth and interest for Saudi Arabia and Prince Bandar, who had expected the growth of anti-Shia reaction among many Sunnis in Iraq. It is vital to note that Saudi Arabia had former connections with jihadists in Iraq, which could reveal their involvement in this plot (Cockburn, 2014).

The former head of MI6, Dearlove, made a dangerous confession exposing Saudi Arabia's hand in the ISIS invasion of Mosul, Iraq. Prince Bandar, who held a top-secret job in Saudi Arabia's intelligence, had anticipated a terrible scenario for over 100 million Shia Muslims in the Middle East. This was due to the rising power of Sunni-majority forces in the region, as discovered by Dearlove's disclosure. At that time, many Shias began to perceive that they would eventually fall victim and would be burned alive as a consequence of Saudi Arabia's campaign.

The Saudi-led act is, therefore, not only seen as a military assault but also as an ideological conflict based on Wahhabism, an extreme movement of Islam that Saudi Arabia funds in the region (Cockburn, 2014). To this end, based on this reading, it becomes clear that Saudi Arabia's plot with ISIS is an external social factor behind the invasion of Mosul; therefore, this suggests that Saudi Arabia's crucial role in that crisis is directly to blame.

2.2. Causes of External Displacement

Migration is a historical event that continues to exert impact in Europe. In the last nine years, factors such as legal protection, employment opportunities, and educational prospects, have influenced the decision to migrate. The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), founded by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), is a general system used to monitor and analyze the displacement and mobility of displaced people. Its purpose is to regularly collect, analyze, and share data to obtain deeper insights into the patterns and changing requirements of displaced communities. The aim is to enhance understanding of the migration patterns from Iraq to Europe and the factors driving such movements (IOM, 2016a).

Based on the DTM, in 2015, Europe experienced a substantial influx of migrants, with more than one million individuals making risky and complex journeys to reach its shores. Among these migrants, Iraqis formed the third largest group, with approximately 85,000 individuals arriving in Greece by sea during the latter half of 2015 alone. The year 2015 marked a notable escalation in migration flows towards Europe, as over one million migrants arrived along various routes, particularly the eastern Mediterranean route via the Aegean Sea, from Turkey to Greece, and the central Mediterranean route, from Libya to Italy (IOM, 2016a).

2.3. Drivers of Migration to Europe

Several factors contributed to this flood of displaced people, including violence, war, and the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Iraq. In addition to these factors, drivers, including a lack of security and the threat posed by ISIS, economic instability, have contributed to the emigration from Iraq. All in all, these drivers led to a stock of 353,881 foreign migrants as of 2015 and a population of 315,998 refugees as of 2016 (IOM, 2016a). To this end, Iraqi migrants accounted for around 10% of the overall migrant population and primarily traveled to Europe using the eastern Mediterranean route (IOM, 2016a). As far as this topic is concerned, many reports have conducted a research study to examine the reasons behind the flow of Iraqis towards Europe. For example, one study entitled “Migration Flows from Iraq to Europe - Reasons Behind Migration,” conducted by the IOM in 2016, investigates the perspectives of migrants regarding Europe. According to the participants in this study, Europe was perceived to offer advantages over Iraq and other potential immigration destinations due to its higher levels of social justice and security. Descriptive keywords commonly coincided with Europe, including “security, safety, law, freedom, human dignity, human rights, system, and welfare.” On the other hand, Iraq was often described using keywords such as “family, friends, food, and social life” (IOM, 2016b: 12).

Similarly, in another report written by IOM (2016b) entitled ‘Migration Flows from Iraq to Europe’, respondents expressed their leading intentions to migrate to Germany, Finland, Sweden, Austria, Belgium, and the Netherlands. Moreover, the respondents had certain expectations regarding the services and support they anticipated receiving in their chosen European destination countries. These expectations included issues such as free or discounted accommodation, refugee status, financial assistance, legal aid for asylum applications, assistance in finding employment, and access to free or discounted healthcare.

As this section focuses on migration from Iraq into Europe, a general overview of the top destination countries is provided by Eurostat’s (2023) statistics on asylum applications. First, according to data from Eurostat (2023), more Iraqi citizens applied for asylum in the EU in 2016 than in 2015 (121,600 first-time applications; Eurostat, 2016). In this sense, most Iraqi asylum seekers (73.7%) submitted applications in Germany. Then, Bulgaria, Greece, the UK, Hungary, and Austria were the other nations where most Iraqi asylum seekers submitted applications (Eurostat, 2023). Based on this, it could be concluded that many refugees left Iraq not due to war and violence but for the purpose of leading a better life in Europe.

2.4. Iraqi Migrants in Germany

Since the 1960s, Germany has been a popular destination for migrants from Iraq. Many Iraqis left their country for Germany during various periods of time beginning in 1968, when the Ba'ath party came to power, and ending with the arrival of what is now known as ISIS. Germany, along with Sweden and the UK, was one of the key nations targeted by Iraqi refugees in Western Europe. Many Iraqi refugees chose Germany by chance. Often, they knew people who had already moved to Germany or had heard that Germany was more lenient in granting asylum to Iraqi refugees than other European countries (Candan, 2017).

The last decade, Germany emerged as one of the key destinations for Iraqi migrants in the second part of the 20th century. The Iraqi diaspora is not a brand-new phenomenon; rather, it is the result of a trend that has been developing over the past 40 to 50 years. The Iraqi groups that emigrated to Germany during this time arrived in diverse patterns and as a result of several waves of emigration. The Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) in Germany provides statistics on the number of asylum requests made by Iraqi refugees between 1991 and 2016. According to this information, the approval rate for Iraqi asylum seekers in 2015 was over 80%, as demonstrated below.

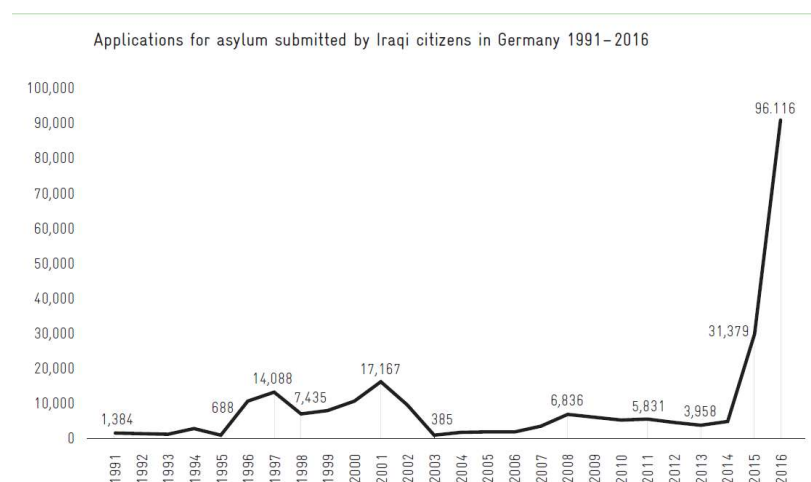


Figure 3. Source: BAMF 2016, cited in Mandan, 2017.

The number of people applying for refugee status on the European continent increased dramatically in 2015. At that time, the period was known as the European Migrant or Refugee Crisis, when many refugees rushed from the Middle East into Europe in 2015. Germany received the most applications for asylum in 2015. There were about 136,000 Iraqi citizens residing in Germany when 2015 came to an end. To this end, the graph below depicts the increase in Iraqi residents in Germany from 2008 to the end of 2015.



Figure 4. Source: BAMF 2016, cited in Mandan, 2017.

The Federal Statistical Office reported that around 31,000 Iraqis residing in Germany were granted German citizenship by the end of 2015. Among them, approximately 8,000 individuals held dual nationality as German citizens. The Iraqi community in Germany ranks as the 16th largest migrant community in the country. In terms of Iraqi citizens, it is the third-largest Iraqi community in Europe, following the United Kingdom with 400,000 Iraqi migrants and Sweden with 160,000 (Candan, 2017). Germany's open-door policy resulted in a crisis among the European countries. The European Union has experienced a lot of stress and conflict as a result of the migration crisis. As some member states started to receive noticeably more applications than others, they began to believe that the allocation of applications was unfair. High influxes of migrants have been reported in Hungary, Austria, Sweden, Italy, and France, with Germany receiving the greatest number of requests at 476,000. The German Chancellor, Angela Merkel, took a very courageous approach known as an Open-door Policy in response to the migrant crisis. In the summer of 2015, Merkel allowed more than 800,000 refugees to enter the country; by the end of the same year, she had allowed more than 1 million. However, this was an extremely divisive choice that brought criticism from all far-right members of the country and the European Union. Merkel's open-door policy was put into practice, but difficulties followed that caused the far-right Alternative for Germany Party (AfD) to grow (Ajluni, 2022).

It is within the framework of this perspective that I must place the analysis of *Deutsche Welle* as a German-based media outlet.. Among other issues, my analysis uncovered how *Deutsche Welle* uses different discourses that result in political decisions and the impression of Iraqi refugees among other refugees in Germany. Also, I will explore how *Deutsche Welle* uses its affordance to avoid being directly influenced by power and policymakers in Germany. In contrast, I will examine the sentiment regarding discourses in *The Guardian* among the British policymakers towards the Iraqi refugees, more

specifically, the Yazidis , who these groups, especially Yazidis feel suffer more than other Iraqi minorities.

2.5. Media Representation of Refugees and Asylum Seekers — A literature review

2.5.1. A Preface

Representing the ongoing refugee crisis has been of interest as the subject of research for many scholars. In this sense, many researchers focused on the representation of refugees in the international media, mostly dating back to the outbreak of the refugee crisis in 2014 and others dating back to the period before the current migration crisis in Europe. All in all, there is an extensive collection of books, papers, and specialized journals dedicated to the topic of refugees.

In November 2020, the Library of Congress cataloged over 5,000 books, while the Web of Science indexed more than 10,000 articles that included the word “Refugees” in their titles. Although more focused in terms of time and subject, Google Scholar identified over 20,000 articles related to the “Refugee Crisis” between 2015 and 2020, with over 16,000 articles specifically discussing Europe. Regarding the concept of “Refugees Welcome,” Google Scholar listed over 2,700 articles, of which around 1,200 mentioned the term “discourse,” and 200 focused on “discourse analysis.” The Web of Science had a smaller number of indexed articles, with more than 300 specifically addressing the "Refugee Crisis" in the past five years, of which only 60 were associated with “Discourse” (van Dijk, 2021: 5-6).

In this chapter, I will discuss the scientific theories and literature relevant to the study of refugees in media discourse. This is done with a focus on social theories, for example, CDA, MCDA, framing theory, and other social theories. The hot topic of immigration and asylum-seeking has contributed to the rise of nationalism in Europe. After the 2015 refugee crisis in Europe, it has become more crucial than ever. Migration triggers different emotions, phobias, and interests in people and actors. I will explore how refugees have been considered in the field of media discourse study and what conclusions I may reach to advance my research.

Additionally, this chapter will provide different papers/works dealing with the representation of refugees in the media. In addition, overall, papers/works have focused on the refugee crisis since this has become the most remarkable event worldwide. To this end, this section seeks to survey and assess a number of past studies in relation to the depiction of refugees in the media. In this sense, such a survey enables the researcher to find out how refugees are depicted in discourses and what positive and negative frames of these topics can be identified in discourses .

2.5.2. Constructing Refugees and Asylum Seekers through CDA and framing analysis

Numerous studies have examined the representation of refugees across different media platforms, including social media, television, and newspapers. However, this study aims to address a gap in the existing research. In this chapter, I will provide a general overview of past and recent studies conducted in media discourse regarding refugees. To this end, many studies have focused on social media, specifically exploring how refugees are portrayed on various social media platforms. The term ‘refugee’ has gained significant popularity due to the large influx of displaced individuals in recent years, primarily resulting from wars and political conflicts, particularly in the Middle Eastern countries of Syria and Iraq, where ISIS has established the so-called ‘Islamic state’.

As far as the depiction of refugees in the media is concerned, deconstructing refugees has become an interest topic for many scholars in the last decade. Therefore, the representation of refugees in media discourse has been a topic of interest for many researchers. For instance,

Khosravini’s paper (2009) analyzed the discourse media by employing Dijk’s (1991; 1995; 2000) socio-cognitive approach, Wodak’s (2001) discourse-historical approach, and van Leeuwen’s (1996) sociological categories of actor representation. The researcher analyzed the depiction of refugees, asylum seekers, immigrants, and migrants throughout the Balkan divergence (1999) and the British voting (2005) represented in British newspapers. The research paper demonstrates that refugees and immigrants are negatively represented by British journalists through a number of topics, such as numbers and threats (threats to community values and threats to cultural identity).

In addition, this depiction is obviously expressed through the use of a number of discursive strategies adopted by the researcher that the British media focused on those refugees. The first is Kosovo refugees, in which there was a number of supportive, as well as positive, representations of the affected people in selected newspapers, whereas the second, the ideologically positive and negative framing of the selected groups (refugees) had a vital impact on the ‘political rivalry discourse’ and this means that refugees represent a crucial core subject in British politics.

All in all, the results show that the discourse regarding entire groups of refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants coincides with a negative aspect; however, there have been differences between the way they are depicted in the British newspapers. For instance, although *The Times* and the *Daily Mail* tend to share a conservative political aspect in the framing, their orientations vary. The *Daily Mail* does not show aspects of argumentation, which is the core framing of *the Times*. The *Daily Mail* tends to frame the refugees by focusing on metaphor; it reveals the negative qualities of the out-group and the positive aspects of the in-group.

The most interesting variance between *The Observer* and *The Guardian* and other conservative papers is that the liberal newspapers tend to depict refugees in a more versatile way coinciding with different themes and topics of humanization and individualization, unlike the conservative papers, which aim to show the out-group in terms of the different topics of collectivization and aggregation.

Similarly, Khosravini (2010) conducted a study examining the discursive strategies of various British newspapers employed when discussing refugees, asylum seekers, and immigrants from 1996 to 2006. The author used Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) approaches, such as Wodak's Discourse-Historical and van Dijk's Socio-cognitive approach, to explore how these groups were ideologically represented in the British media. To this end, the study found that British newspapers exhibited divergent perspectives on asylum seekers and refugees. That is, liberal newspapers, like *The Guardian* and *The Observer*, tended to portray these groups in a more positive light. Conversely, the research revealed that a comparable, negative macro structure influenced the discourses surrounding these groups in general, indicating a common bias.

On the micro-structural level, two British newspapers, namely *The Times* and the *Daily Mail*, shared a similar stance towards these groups. However, they differed significantly in terms of their micro-linguistic strategies. This implies that while their overall approach may align, their specific language choices and tactics diverge. In a nutshell, Khosravini's work shed light on the varied representation of refugees, asylum seekers, and immigrants in the British media. It highlighted the presence of both positive and negative portrayals, with different newspapers presenting distinct perspectives and linguistic strategies when discussing these groups.

In 2015, some research entitled 'Press Coverage of the Refugee and Migrant Crisis in the EU: A Content Analysis of Five European Countries' was delivered to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) by the Cardiff School of Journalism, analyzing British newspapers such as *The Guardian*, *The Sun*, the *Daily Mail*, the *Daily Telegraph*, and the *Daily Mirror* and some newspapers selected from Spain, Sweden, and Germany. The research was ordered by the UNHCR in order to examine how refugees are framed differently in the European countries. The corpus of the study consisted of 300 news stories picked out from each country.

The data coincides with two samples: the first is a random sample of news taken from 2014 to 2015, whereas the second is a sample of news articles released during one week in 2015, after the boat crisis in the Mediterranean. A number of variables have been selected to analyze the data, such as items describing the refugees, themes, identity, remedies, and explanation of the crisis. When comparing the five countries, the results show that there are differences in the whole depiction and, overall, Sweden's newspapers tend to show a more positive attitude.

Unlike Swedish outlets, the British newspapers, *The Sun* and *Daily Mail*, showed the most hostility towards refugees. *The Telegraph* revealed negative framing but less than *The Sun* and *Daily Mail*. *The Guardian* and the *Daily Mirror* used a sympathetic discourse, making the whole outcome very different. Comparing the UK with other countries as an entity shows how the newspapers tend to diversify the

framing of the refugees according to the cultural, historical, and political context of each country. In addition, the study highlights that context must be taken into consideration when conducting media campaigns since a positive newspaper in one country can lead to the opposite result in another (UNHCR, 2015).

Lien's thesis (2016) examined how refugees were depicted in the comment sections of Norwegian online newspapers during the "European refugee crisis." The researcher analyzed the discourses of the online comments using critical discourse analysis as a research method to gain discursive elements in news. The researcher picked out 971 readers' comments published by the best-known online newspapers in Norway, *Verdens Gang* (VG), *Dagbladet*, and *Aftenposten*, in order to see how readers responded to these articles about the refugee crisis. The results indicate that the language used by the commenters tends to reveal refugees as a threat to Western society through the use of fearful words, such as "Islamaphobia" and words related to refugees, such as "other".

The study has also proven that the legitimized discourse related to refugees in the well-established Western language is the outcome of the Paris terrorist attack on 13 November. In other words, in this thesis, the study uncovered two crucial aspects: One coincides with xenophobia, which the refugees have revealed through comments in terms of negative framing, and this discourse came after the Paris attack. The second coincides with "our economy", which is why the refugees have also been depicted as a threat to the economy. Consequently, refugees are represented in the prevalent data as "other". In a nutshell, Lien's thesis argued that readers' comments, in relation to articles about the refugee crisis, revealed that refugees were associated with cultural and economic anxieties within Western discourse. Steimel's paper (2010) analyzed the refugees in the American human-interest stories. The researcher analyzed refugees by using discourse analysis and narrative analysis to explore how the US Newspapers depicted refugees in stories. However, certain frames have been selected to reveal the rhetorical constructions about refugees in US Newspapers. The researcher uses a database of Lexis Nexis's major US newspapers. However, items of variables have been selected to specify between refugee OR refugees, American OR United States, settle OR resettle. To this end, findings indicate that refugee stories have been generally depicted in the US outlets as follows: firstly, as victims of prior wars, and secondly, as struggling to achieve the American dream. In other words, the study shows that US Newspapers tend to reveal refugees in a positive aspect. Here.

This result shows that refugees, through human interest stories, are depicted as victims of war and violence who come to America in search of jobs promised by this fable. Thus, human interest stories have also depicted refugees as the victims of the American economic crisis, extremely frustrated by how helpless they are when trying to achieve the American dream. On the whole, these discourses show a narrative of hope, escape, and then harsh reality for refugees in America's economic climate.

Rybina's thesis (2014) analyzed the representation of immigrants in the Russian print media. However, the study examines Russian newspapers regarding their politics and ideology and how these newspapers represented refugees in news coverage during the ethnic conflict in Biryulyovo. Rybina used critical discourse analysis as a research method to construct the underlying ideologies behind framing. And, therefore, the researcher picked up a sample of 22 news articles published on October 13, 2013, from the Russian newspapers after the riot and the conflict in Biryulyovo in October 2013. The two daily Russian newspapers selected for the analysis, the *Novaya Gazeta* and the *Rossiyskaya Gazeta*, were chosen as they are considered topquality in Russia.

The researcher adopted the discourse historical approach-DHA as a core method in the analysis. There are two major levels analyzed in the study, Krzyżanowski's (2010) thematic and in-depth analysis focusing on the discourse topics coincides with the entry-level analysis, and the second, Reisigl and Wodak (2001) coincides with strategies of self- and other-presentation. The entry-level has been selected by the researcher to specify the content of the material topics and to include it within specific genres. The second, the in-depth analysis level, is also to allocate more in-depth discourse structures through the use of the discursive strategies of Reisigl and Wodak (2001).

The results indicate that both conservative and liberal newspapers follow the same coverage in reporting news issues, but they vary when depicting refugees. More specifically, the *Biryulyovo* newspaper tends to frame refugees in a negative aspect, focusing on migrants by using words such as threat and danger. Unlike the *Biryulyovo* newspaper, the liberal newspaper *Rossiyskaya Gazeta* shows refugees as victims. Generally speaking, the problem of separatism in Russia has been depicted by both newspapers as follows: firstly, local Russian inhabitants no longer consider refugees from the North Caucasus as fellow residents. Secondly, both newspapers tend to focus on nationalism as a political tool to gain more voters in their campaigns.

In Boeva's paper (2016), entitled 'Discursive Construction of Refugees, migrants, and Asylum Seekers in British and American News Sources.', the researcher analyzes how refugees and migrants are depicted in British and American outlets to trace the differences between American and British newspapers, focusing on the comparison between the conservative and liberal sources. The empirical material of the study consists of a selection from both liberal and conservative newspapers, such as *The Guardian*, the *Daily Mail*, *FOX News*, and *ABC News*.

The data news was picked up from the main sources of the aforementioned outlets using as search variables the words: refugee, migrant, asylum, and crisis. Although data news was obtained from all the sources in September 2015, the outcome of the corpus consisted of 39,941 words, arrived at by adopting Baker's model of analysis (2008), a combination of the corpus-based approach and also by using CDA as an analytical tool.

The results show no big differences in the depictions of the sources. However, conservative sources tend to show a slightly more negative aspect of refugees coming to Europe than liberal sources. On the other hand, refugees and migrants have been depicted in all of the sources as displaced people in need of help and support rather than an influx of invaders coming to Europe to take European jobs. All in all, the research's outcome shows that there are also quite a few differences between British and American sources regarding the coverage. A sympathetic aspect can be found in the American sources towards refugees regarding the analysis of the concordances of news items, producing more sympathy towards the readers than the British.

In Ibrahim's thesis (2017), entitled 'Ideological Articulations of Media Discourses on Migrants and Refugees in Europe: New Racism and Othering – A Critical Discourse Analysis', the researcher examines the ideological news items of the discourses depicted by the news sources to represent refugees and migrants in Europe. However, the study employed a multidisciplinary framework for the analysis of the empirical news.

The researcher used Hall's theory of speeches (1985) to connect discourse and ideology, a sociocultural approach to the study of ideologies and racism in the representation (Said, 1979; Mohanty, 1984), Van Dijk's *Elite racism* (1993) to examine the underlying structures and the reproduction of racism as an aspect showing the inequality and dominance present in the media, and Fairclough's critical discourse analysis (1995) of media discourses in depicting refugees and migrants in Europe. The corpus of news articles was picked up from the British newspapers, *The Guardian*, *The Daily Mail*, and *the Telegraph*, to see how the refugees were represented through the refugee crisis in 2015.

Employing CDA as discursive analytical research, the researcher's results show that the discourses used by the selected news sources depict refugees and migrants as perpetrators of terror attacks in Europe. These discourses have been highlighted in British newspapers through the sample of media texts concentrating on the use of concepts such as "others", and "refugee identity race" after the Cologne attacks in Germany. In addition, the discourses used by British newspapers targeted refugees by employing racial and discriminative acts toward refugees in Europe.

The results of this study show that media texts in British newspapers linked the Cologne attacks with the UK's initiative to leave the European Union. In other words, the articulated discourses towards refugees tend to reveal that British newspapers focus on the Cologne assaults as a pretext for their campaigns to "leave the European Union". In a nutshell, the ideological instances of the British media have had notions of othering and racism towards migrants and refugees.

In Fotopoulos and Kaimaklioti's article (2016), entitled 'Media discourse on the refugee crisis: on what have the Greek, German and British press focused?', the researchers analyze the discourse of the British, Greek, and German press during the European refugee crisis. The article employed the use of a research approach that ties corpus linguistics and discourse analysis together. That is, the study uses corpus linguistics and discourse analysis for two main purposes: Corpus linguistics has been used to investigate

the number of words occurring in the selected articles. Discourse analysis has, therefore, been adopted to analyze the underlying structure and the interpretation behind the texts.

As far as the empirical materials are concerned, news articles were collected from the Greek press (*To Vima, Kathimerini*), German press (*Süddeutsche Zeitung, Die Welt*), and British press (*The Telegraph, The Guardian*) by selecting 1340 articles published on May 31, 2016. As a result, the depiction of refugees in all of the presented articles tends to show the refugee crisis in Europe in numbers. That is, the discourse media of the former countries depicted the crisis by focusing on the first arrival of migrants into Europe. And, therefore, the findings also indicated that the refugees had been portrayed in the selected newspapers as victims of prior wars and violence during the civil war in Syria and as homeless people.

Broadly speaking, the Cooper et al (2016) article, entitled 'Media coverage of refugees and asylum seekers in regional Australia: a critical discourse analysis', depicted the refugee crisis in terms of how regional newspapers frame asylum seekers and refugees in Australia. However, the researchers selected the empirical materials from the major Australian and regional newspapers available at the following link <http://www.newspapers.com.au/> to analyze how these newspapers represented refugees during the period from 2014 to 2015. The researchers used quantitative content analysis and depended on CDA as an analytical method to understand how social issues were critically included and excluded in the selected texts. And henceforth, the general aim of this article is to specify what voices and social issues are included or excluded in the regional newspapers when dealing with refugees. In this sense, the results revealed that the local press tends to show solidarity and positive framing and portrayal when reporting on the refugee crisis of the residence seekers in Australia. It is, however, unlike national newspapers, in which refugees always have a dominantly negative framing in the discourse through the use of negative words, such as threat, danger, illegitimacy, and dehumanization, in their discourse. To this end, it can be suggested that the difference between the national and local press is that regional newspapers tend to show the challenges of the familiar boundaries of the refugees through local discourse, while the national papers tend to reflect the negative discourse on the broader, national issues. Elida's thesis (2017), entitled 'Sinking Strangers: Media representations of climate refugees on the BBC and Al Jazeera', analyzed the depiction of refugees in the two most prominent global outlets. Methodologically speaking, the author used framing theory and critical discourse analysis together to represent the climate refugees. Two main news sources were used in this study: *BBC News* and *Al Jazeera*. Altogether, the empirical materials included 29 news stories picked up from the official sources of the aforementioned outlets, of which 14 news stories were from the *BBC* and 15 from *Al Jazeera*. The articles selected by the researcher cover the theme of climate refugees in the two outlets. *BBC News* and *Al Jazeera* have been chosen as they show differences and similarities in what they publish regarding the topic under analysis. As for the data collection, articles were gathered from the official sources of the *BBC* and *Al Jazeera* and sorted out and analyzed by using a qualitative research approach.

Employing CDA and framing theory and selecting a purposive sampling in this study, the results indicate that the depiction of refugees in the two outlets have been framed in the following ways: victims, activists, abstractions, and security threats. And therefore, both outlets reveal that refugees are collectivized, aggregated, and made generic. That is, refugees and their situation in both outlets have been deagentialized in the discourses. Consequently, the results of this thesis also reveal that *Al Jazeera* uses more quotes to cover climate refugees, relying on empathizing discourse to help readers to understand the news coverage. Unlike *Al Jazeera*, the *BBC* reports about climate refugees rather than talking to them in discourse. In general, the two outlets depicted climate refugees as third-world others and as sinking strangers.

Lakić's article (2018) analyzed the representation of the refugees in the British print press in the NATO airstrikes on Yugoslavia. The researcher selected three daily British newspapers: *The Guardian*, *The Independent*, and *The Times* because of their high circulation in the UK. As for the corpus and the data, the study included reporting articles from the three aforementioned British dailies published between March 22 and June 10, 1999. Overall, 2689 articles were picked up and read, and then news topics and other aspects, such as the cover page and visuals, were prepared for the analysis. Although the researcher employed Van Dijk's CDA, Micro and Macro-structures have been used as tools for the analysis of the underlying structures of the texts.

All in all, the author used Van Dijk's approach in this article in order to examine the integration of textual analysis within linguistic analysis and, therefore, to show what political and dominant discourses have occurred in the selected newspapers. The aftermath of this article reveals that policymakers tend to use the media in periods of war as a technique to persuade the audience of the fairness of the war, making the readers of the newspapers approve of and accept that the news framed around these events is flawless and true. In short, Lakić confirmed that the three British newspapers represented refugees as passive victims of war, while the Serbian forces were active perpetrators of atrocities. Additionally, the article reveals that journalists are determined by the one-sided ideology in which he/she believes.

Relevant to my research topic, Matrood's paper (2022), entitled "Victims or Terrorists? A Critical Analysis of Western Media Discourse in the Depiction of Iraqi Refugees" scrutinized the representation of Iraqi refugees in media discourse by choosing reports and texts from *BBC News* online. In doing so, the author selected textual reports and focused on aspects of ideology, power, and meaning found in the BBC's online depiction of the Iraqi refugees. The author, thus, used an integration of Wodak's (2001) historical discourse approach and Leeuwen's (2008) approach to social actors as discursive tools and strategies in the analysis.

The author addresses the use of a discourse-historical approach, focusing on the macro-structures of the discourse in the media, and discusses the micro-structures of the social actors in the texts to account for the linguistic realization in the portrayal. Employing CDA as a method and using Wodak's discourse-historical approach and Van Leeuwen's sociological categories to achieve the aim of the study, the author concluded that Iraqi refugees were represented in the BBC online as victims prior to the war in

the Netherlands. In addition, the author concluded that the Iraqi refugees were also depicted as terrorists that threatened society in the United States. Despite the negative representations of the Iraqi refugees by the Dutch authorities and the US foreign policy, the BBC News coverage of the refugees was impartial in its portrayal. All in all, the findings of this paper revealed that the most relevant topics covered in the BBC texts are threats, terrorists, and victimization.

Furthermore, the study by Eberl et al. (2018) analyzed press coverage of the ongoing refugee crisis in Europe. However, in doing so, the authors concentrated on the framing aspects of dominance, power, and legitimization found in the press depictions of the refugee crisis and coverage in the international media. The authors explore the literature review on media discourse and its effects as a way of seeing how immigrants are depicted in media discourse during the outbreak of the refugee crisis, which took place in 2014 and 2015. In this study, the authors collected and analyzed countless articles and projects targeting the refugee crisis regarding immigration in Europe.

The authors conducted a systematic literature review of journal articles/paper publications, mostly written in the English language, during the period between January 2000 and June 2018, using the *EBSCOhost* database. The study has shown that, at different times, media reportage plays a pivotal role in the news in the forming of public opinion on refugees. As the framing of refugees in media discourse in recent years has increased, along with the use of different negative and positive coverage, migration is likely to remain a decision based on the socio-political and cultural aspects. Overall, the aftermath of the literature review revealed that most of the refugees are framed as delinquents in the media discourse.

O'Regan and Riordan's article (2018) examined and compared the Irish and UK media coverage of the ongoing refugees, asylum seekers, immigrants, and migrants during the refugee crisis, which took place in Europe in the summer and autumn of 2015. The author compared the British media, on the one hand, and the Irish media, on the other, to see how the refugees, asylum seekers, immigrants, and migrants (RASIM) are depicted in the news media discourse of the two countries. The news articles of this paper were collected from the Nexis database from September to November 2015, using the Baker et al. (2008) RASIM framework as a search technique for the number of refugees appearing in both newspapers. In other words, corpus linguistics, in this study, has been used to sort out data and describe the number of words occurring in the selected texts, while CDA has been used to interpret the underlying structures behind the texts. That is, CDA is used to show the macro-structure of power, dominance, and ideology.

The authors employed CDA as an analytical method to examine news articles in relation to three main dimensions: firstly, topics of discourse; secondly, discursive strategies, and thirdly, the linguistic aspects that articulate the strategies of topics. Although the article draws on the elements of the CDA, the authors use the discourse-historical approach, in particular, as a way of seeing the contents and the topics of the discourses.

To this end, the authors concluded that the depiction of RASIM in the Irish and UK media is based on negative representation. However, this representation comes after the more extensive coverage and reporting on the November 13th terrorist outbreaks in Paris, and due to the unconscious trend in public arguments to tie extremism with the RASIM through different collection topics. Despite the negative representation of the RASIM in Irish and UK Media, the results also revealed that the ‘they’ dichotomy is widely used in the UK media.

Ciler’s thesis (2018), entitled ‘Media Discourses on Syrian Refugees Analysing the Guardian’s Representations through Gender, religion, and Age’, examined the depiction in *The Guardian* of the Syrian refugees as a critical discourse analysis study during the refugee crisis and migration which took place in 2014. The author used *The Guardian*, in particular, as a case study in order to analyze the depiction of refugees in both written and visual texts. In this thesis, the materials were picked up from the official website of *The Guardian*, using the search words: *refugee men, refugee women, refugee children*, and then articles were gathered and analyzed in relation to the topics under analysis.

Methodologically, the author used tools of framing, focalization, and categorization as analytical methods to interpret the depiction of the refugees in the selected texts. Notions, such as age, religion, and gender, have been the subject of the matter regarding the focus and the aim of the study. As a result, Ciler’s thesis concluded that two negative aspects depict Syrian refugees: firstly, as invaders who come into Europe, and secondly, as homeless victims, and weak people as a result of war and violence. Moreover, the results have also shown that men are depicted in *The Guardian* by negative words, such as threat and invaders. This depiction comes after the Paris attack on November 13. The results also concluded that only children gain empathetic discourse in *The Guardian*.

Parker’s article (2018) entitled ‘It’s ok if it’s Hidden: The discursive construction of everyday racism for Refugees and asylum seekers in Wales’ analyzed the verbal talk on refugees in Wales regarding aspects of racism and discrimination. The author selected ‘Wales’ as a case study in the UK since it has a long history of migration and, thus, has been a super-varied nation for many refugees worldwide. The researcher selected a sample of 19 individuals and conducted interviews with asylum seekers and refugees who were living in Wales at the time of the interview.

The 19 participants were invited to the interview to explain their situations and experiences with reference to living and integration in Wales. All in all, gender distinction was used in the interview among the participants to select eleven males and eight females in the study with an average age from 19 to 58. Moreover, interviews were conducted in English, and the talk and interviews were transcribed and audio-recorded utilizing Jefferson’s version of the conventions (2004) as an outlined technique. Consequently, all the interviews were examined and coded using NVivo to specify segments of language in which racism and prejudice were raised by either the researcher or the participants.

To this end, the author employed the discursive psychological approach as an analytical method to interpret and analyze the interviews since the approach treats language as a form of social action. Therefore, Parker concluded that refugees experienced regular racism while living in Wales. In addition, the results have revealed that wherever events or incidents are framed or reported, refugees are frequently downgraded in terms of racism and identity in Wales.

Szylko-Kwas's article (2018), entitled 'Photographs of Refugees in Polish Daily Newspapers—Critical Discourse Analysis', analysed the depiction of the refugee crisis in the Polish daily Newspapers during the European migrants' crisis in 2014. However, in this article, the author has focused on the political situation in Poland of the anti-migrants and right-wing views regarding refugees. The author selected news articles from Polish daily newspapers, such as *Gazeta Wyborcza (GW)* and *Dziennik. Gazeta Prawna (DGP)*, and *Gazeta Polska Codziennie (GPC)*, since these outlets show different ideologies as regards the editorials and, thus, have considerable readerships in Poland. News articles were collected from the official sources of the newspapers, which were published from 2015 to 2017.

The author focused on these newspapers since the depiction of refugees in media discourse, more specifically in the Polish context, varied depending on the political sympathies concerning refugees. To this end, the author employed Critical Discourse Analysis as an analytical discourse method to analyze the refugee crisis in the Polish socio-political context using a discourse-historical approach and its strategies to portray refugees in media photography.

As a result, the author concluded that refugees in Polish newspapers are framed in photography as social catastrophes. However, this representation comes after many refugee pictures were used and reported in the press. The author has, thus, found that journalists in the Press used a strong emotional charge in the photography to encourage readers to accept the socially and politically imposed admission of the refugees or to discourage them from doing so. Moreover, the author has shown that the images of children are employed, especially by the supporters of refugees, for political issues. On the whole, the results indicated that news articles published in 2015 and 2017 about refugees presenting opposing political sympathies, but emotionally depicted refugees in photography.

Romano's (2019) article examined how the Spanish and British press framed the Syrian refugee crisis. The study aimed to analyze the linguistic and visual representation of the Syrian refugee crisis in the Spanish and British press, as well as to identify the different image schemas used to frame the crisis. The author first provided a theoretical framework on image schema and its relevance to discourse analysis. Then, Romano employed a qualitative approach to analyze a sample of news articles from six Spanish and British newspapers published between 2015 and 2016. The author analyzed both the linguistic and visual elements of the articles and identified five image schemas: the journey, the flood, the invasion, the burden, and the victim. The author collected the empirical materials from the official websites of these sources. The selection of *The Guardian* and *EL PAIS* was based on the following criteria: firstly, the two newspapers were chosen since they show different political orientations, and

secondly, both newspapers exhibit cultural differences regarding the publication. To this end, the author reached the following conclusions.

The results indicated that the Spanish and British press employed different image schemas to frame the Syrian refugee crisis. The Spanish press tended to use the journey and the victim schemas, portraying refugees as individuals seeking a better life. Meanwhile, the British press tended to use the flood and the invasion schemas, portraying refugees as a threat to the country's stability and security. Additionally, Romano's study highlighted how the use of image schemas could shape the way the public perceived the Syrian refugee crisis.

Similarly, Coppin's thesis (2020) examined the representations of refugees, asylum seekers, immigrants, and migrants (RASIM) as conveyed in online articles shared on Reddit during the two-month period from November 10, 2019, to January 10, 2020. The author aimed to outline the representations of RASIM in the media and how they were received by the audience, particularly on social media. The author focused on the significance of the media in shaping citizens' understanding of refugee arrivals. A corpus-driven approach combined with a discourse analysis framework was employed by the author to analyze the discursive strategies employed to depict RASIM on Reddit. The analysis framework used was KhosraviNik's (2010), which examined actors' descriptions, the attribution of actions, and arguments across three levels of analysis. Based on this approach, the author arrived at the following conclusion.

The findings revealed that RASIM were consistently portrayed as either victims or burdens in the articles and comments found on Reddit. They were predominantly depicted as passive recipients of actions and presented as a homogeneous group. Various metaphors, emphases, and mitigations were discovered, often accompanied by arguments related to their increasing numbers and the necessity of management. Additionally, the study found that articles focused on migration stimulated debates about migration rather than directly influencing the representations of RASIM in the comments. Surprisingly, no correlation was found between the contextual aspects of the article writing and the portrayals of RASIM.

In work conducted by the Centre of Discourse Studies in Barcelona, van Dijk (2021) focused on a different aspect of the Spanish discourse on refugees. The author analyzed the language used by politicians and the media to discuss refugees, focusing on issues such as the portrayal of refugees as "others" or as victims, the use of stereotypes and negative language to describe migrants, and the role of emotions in shaping public opinion on migration issues. To this end, van Dijk reached the following results. Firstly, the ideological polarization between the US (pro-refugee) and THEM (the EU and the State) was evident at all levels of discourse, including lexicon, metaphors, norms, values, and arguments. Secondly, the role of emotion-related norms of engagement, such as empathy and solidarity, was stressed as opposed to the rationality of "politics as usual."

Thirdly, various references to the past were made, either attributing them as characteristics of the refugee movement or as motivations for providing assistance. Fourthly, there was a significant emphasis on criticizing the perceived lack of generosity exhibited by the (Spanish) state and the EU, portraying Europe as a "Fortress" that resisted accepting refugees. Additionally, van Dijk concluded that the slow and deficient asylum procedure was subject to considerable criticism. Furthermore, there were instances of shameful comparisons with other countries that had received and accepted a larger number of refugees.

In a similar vein, Martínez-Lirola (2022b) conducted a comprehensive analysis of the main discourses present in the Spanish press regarding the rescue of the ship, *Aquarius*. The research encompassed an analysis of a sample of Spanish newspapers before and after the ship's arrival at port. The author employed critical discourse analysis to uncover the underlying ideologies and power dynamics conveyed through the language used in the press. News articles were gathered from notable Spanish sources, such as *ABC*, *El Mundo*, *El País*, and *La Vanguardia*. Consequently, the methodology used in this study primarily employed a qualitative-descriptive approach. Additionally, the author specifically chose critical discourse analysis (CDA) to investigate the primary linguistic characteristics shown within the collected news items and the topics addressed in the articles.

The author examined the discourses of solidarity and hostility towards immigrants in the Spanish press. The analysis provided insights into the discourses surrounding immigration in Spain and contributed to our understanding of the discourses surrounding immigration in the Spanish press. To this end, the author reached the following conclusion: The study found that the Spanish press used different discourses to describe the rescue of the ship, *Aquarius*. Some newspapers used a discourse of solidarity, emphasizing the need to help the immigrants, while others used a discourse of hostility, emphasizing the negative aspects of immigration.

The study also found that the language used in the press reflected the underlying power relations and ideologies. The study concluded that the discourses of the Spanish press on immigration were complex and reflected the diversity of opinions in Spanish society. Overall, the author provided a general understanding of the discourses surrounding immigration in the Spanish press. Also, the study contributed to our understanding of the underlying ideologies and power relations in the language used in the media and provided insights into the discourses of solidarity and hostility towards immigrants in the Spanish press.

Similarly, Martínez-Lirola (2022c) used CDA to depict immigrants as non-citizens in a selected sample from the Spanish press. By analyzing a range of newspaper articles published between 2018 and 2021, the author aimed to explore the language and discursive strategies used to construct the identity of immigrants as foreigners or non-citizens within Spanish society.

Employing a qualitative approach, the study drew upon the model of CDA proposed by van Leeuwen (2008) in order to explore how immigrants are represented as social actors in a sample of the Spanish press. However, this model provides distinct classifications for examining how individuals are

portrayed as social actors in media discourse, enabling a more comprehensive understanding of the features associated with the individuals being depicted. The sample comprised articles from two prominent Spanish newspapers known for their diverse readership and political orientations. News articles picked up from *ABC* and *El Pais*, specifically from 2015 to 2019.

The two newspapers were selected due to their different ideologies: generally, *ABC* is considered right-wing, whereas *El Pais* is left-wing. For this purpose, the researcher reached the following findings : the Spanish press often depicted immigrants as non-citizens, reinforcing a dichotomous discourse that emphasized their marginalized status within the country. The linguistic analysis uncovered a variety of discursive strategies employed to construct and reinforce this portrayal. Negative connotations, such as labeling immigrants as illegal aliens or foreign invaders, were prevalent throughout the analyzed texts. Furthermore, the study highlighted the role of social practices in perpetuating the marginalization of immigrants. Through the selection and prioritization of certain news stories, the Spanish press contributed to shaping public opinion by framing immigration issues within a restrictive citizenship framework. This reinforced the idea that immigrants were separate from and posed a threat to the Spanish national identity.

Additionally, the research findings revealed that the consistent use of specific terms to describe immigrants, the inclusion of imagery associated with invasion, and the portrayal of immigrants as passive individuals had a detrimental effect on their integration within Spanish society. Instead of promoting inclusion, these practices contributed to the exclusion of immigrants, ultimately reinforcing their non-citizen status.

2.5.3. Constructing Refugees and Asylum Seekers through MDA and MCDA

The representation of refugees in various media outlets, including news broadcasts, political speeches, and social media, has been examined using multimodal critical discourse analysis (MCDA). The framing of refugees as “Others” who pose a threat to the host society is one of the major themes that emerge from different works/articles. For example,

Martínez-Lirola (2006) conducted an extensive examination of the representation of immigrants across diverse multimodal texts, including advertisements, news articles, and political campaigns. The author specifically scrutinized the integration of both linguistic and visual elements within these texts to construct the overall portrayal of immigrants.

By employing a qualitative approach and critical discourse analysis based on the semiotic model of visual grammar proposed by Kress and van Leeuwen (2006) and on the use of the multimodal discourse analysis approach, the author used tools based on the visual grammar, including information value, framing, and salience. Hence, the three principles of compositional meanings were selected to analyze a range of multimodal texts from different contexts in order to identify patterns in the representation of immigrants.

The corpus of the multimodal texts was gathered from a freely distributed daily newspaper called "20 minutos," in Alicante. Five multimodal texts related to immigration were selected to represent the immigrants in Alicante society. From these texts, the author obtained the following results: the examined texts conveyed a hidden concept, suggesting the existence of a superior world (belonging to the majority) and an inferior world (occupied by immigrants), with the prevailing ideology of the superior world influencing the depiction of immigrants. As a result, through the analysis of various visual and verbal elements, readers tend to perceive a negative reading of immigrants.

Bianca-Florentina & ADI's article (2015), entitled 'The Visual Framing of Romanian Migrants in the national press', examined the visual framing and stereotyping of Romanian migrants in the Romanian national press. The authors analyzed the visual elements, such as photographs and graphics, used in news articles about Romanian migrants to identify the dominant representations and meanings of this group. The authors used a social semiotic approach to analyze the visual representations of Romanian migrants in the press. Employing a qualitative and social semiotic approach based on Kress and van Leeuwen's framework (1996/2006), the authors analyzed 101 press photographs and captions from the digital editions of three Romanian newspapers (Adevărul, Gândul, and Jurnalul Național) published between January 2013 and March 2014. The authors identified several visual frames used in the press to represent Romanian migrants, including the "threat frame," the "parasite frame," and the "othering frame." To this end, the authors reached the following conclusions:

Firstly, the authors argued that the visual representations of Romanian migrants in the press contributed to the construction of negative stereotypes and prejudices towards Romanian migrants. In addition, the authors argued that the press had a responsibility to represent Romanian migrants in a more balanced and accurate way and to avoid contributing to the construction of negative stereotypes and prejudices towards Romanian migrants.

Secondly, the authors also discussed the role of visual elements in shaping media representations. They noted that visual elements, such as photographs and graphics, could be particularly powerful in shaping the meaning and interpretation of news stories. The authors drew on the work of social semioticians, who argued that visual elements were not simply passive illustrations of news stories but were active contributors to the construction of meaning.

Thirdly, the results revealed that the Romanian media especially reinforced the categorization of the Roma people, leading to the emergence of three dominant visual frames: public security, economic concerns, and employment issues. Furthermore, the Romanian press displayed conflicting attitudes toward its own national representation, initially perpetuating stereotypes about migrants and subsequently adopting frames imported from the British press.

All in all, the authors provided a useful context for the study of media discourse and highlighted the importance of examining media representations of migrants, as well as the role of visual elements in shaping these representations.

Jovičić's article (2017), "A Visual Analysis of the 'Crises': Deconstructing the Visual Portrayal of Asylum Seekers and Refugees in German Newspapers", conducted a visual analysis to deconstruct the visual portrayal of asylum seekers and refugees in German newspapers. The study used an interdisciplinary approach between sociology, criminology, and visual studies to analyze the visual representations of asylum seekers and refugees in the German press. The aim of the research was to explore the depiction of refugees in the German media. Specifically, the study aimed to explore the practices of the criminalization and victimization of asylum seekers and refugees in the German press. The author examined photographs that were found on the front pages of three German daily newspapers situated at different points along the political spectrum: the left-leaning TAZ, the center-right FAZ, and the centrist Süddeutsche Zeitung. A total of 87 photographs were analyzed from the period between August and December 2015, during which Germany experienced a substantial influx of asylum seekers. Consequent to this examination, the author reached the following results:

Firstly, the author identified four dominant visual frames used in the press to represent asylum seekers and refugees, including the securitization frame, the "humanitarian frame," the "criminalization frame," and the "victimization frame." The author argued that these frames contributed to the construction of negative stereotypes and prejudices towards asylum seekers and refugees.

Secondly, the author argued that the press had a responsibility to represent asylum seekers and refugees in a more balanced and accurate way and, thus, to avoid contributing to the construction of negative stereotypes and prejudices.

On balance, the article provided a general analysis of the visual depictions of asylum seekers and refugees in the German press. Hence, the study contributed to our understanding of the role of the press in the construction of negative stereotypes and prejudices towards asylum seekers and refugees and provided visions into the ways in which the media could represent these groups in a more balanced and accurate way.

Similarly, Martínez Lirola's article (2017a), entitled 'Linguistic and visual strategies for portraying immigrants as people deprived of human rights', conducted a multimodal critical discourse analysis to depict the sub-Saharan immigrants attempting to enter Spain by leaping over the fence. The article aimed to offer a critical discourse analysis of the linguistic and visual strategies used in the Spanish press to portray immigrants as people deprived of human rights. The study used a critical discourse analysis approach to analyze the linguistic and visual representations of immigrants in the Spanish press. The author also aimed to explore the ways in which the Spanish press constructed negative stereotypes and prejudices toward immigrants.

Employing a qualitative approach and critical discourse analysis based on van Leeuwen's (2008) characterization of social actors, the author collected all the immigration-related news articles published in the online versions of the Spanish newspapers *ABC* and *El País*, specifically covering the years 2012 to 2015 (*ABC* 2012–2015; *El País* 2012–2015). With the aim of analyzing the linguistic and visual representations of immigrants in the Spanish press, the author identified several linguistic and visual

strategies used in the press to portray immigrants as people deprived of human rights, including the use of negative adjectives, the use of dehumanizing metaphors, and the use of images that reinforce negative stereotypes and prejudices towards immigrants. The author reached the following conclusions:

Firstly, the author concluded that the linguistic and visual representations of immigrants in the Spanish press contributed to the construction of negative stereotypes and prejudices towards immigrants. Secondly, the author also revealed that the immigrants who jumped the fence at Melilla were depicted as wild and dangerous, with no mention of their human rights. On the whole, the study aimed to provide a visual analysis of how the arrival of these immigrants was portrayed in two reputable newspapers. By doing so, the study sought to uncover the visual methods used to negatively represent immigrants as dangerous invaders.

Furthermore, Martinez Lirola and Zammit's paper (2017) analyzed the portrayal of immigrant women in the online press in Spain and Australia. The author aimed to explore how these women are portrayed in the media and how their representation impacts their empowerment and inspiration. By employing a qualitative approach and critical discourse analysis based on the semiotic model of visual grammar proposed by Kress and van Leeuwen (2006) and on the use of the multimodal discourse analysis approach, the author analyzed the linguistic, visual, and contextual elements of the news articles to identify patterns in the representation of immigrant women. In this sense, all news items related to immigrant women in the images of immigrant women from 1 March 2013 to 31 May 2014 were gathered from the online versions of the different newspapers selected.

The Spanish corpus included 31 news reports obtained from the three primary newspapers: *El País* (11 items), *El Mundo* (10 items), and *El ABC* (10 items). In contrast, in Australia, a corpus of 33 articles was collected from three newspapers: the national newspaper *The Australian* (7 items) and two Sydney-based papers, *The Sydney Morning Herald* (11 items) and *The Daily Telegraph* (15 items). The different newspapers were selected due to their political orientations and their readership in both countries.

The author reached the following conclusions. Firstly, the results indicated that both the Spanish and Australian media employed hegemonic discourses to depict female migrants upon their arrival, emphasizing notions of illegality, poor health, and the need for medical assistance. These representations served to perpetuate a dichotomy of "we-they" or "us-them," further reinforcing a sense of threat and danger. However, a divergence was observed in the portrayal of working female migrants. While the Spanish media depicted them in low-paying, stereotypical, and exploitative roles, the Australian media presented them as inspirational figures who achieved success.

Secondly, the author also identified several linguistic and visual strategies used by the media to represent immigrant women as passive victims, such as using dehumanizing language, emphasizing their vulnerability, and portraying them as dependent on others. Nevertheless, the study also found examples where immigrant women were depicted as strong and resilient. In addition, the researchers identified several linguistic and visual strategies used to represent these women as active agents, which reinforces their challenges.

Overall, the article suggests that the representation of immigrant women in the online press can have a significant impact on their empowerment and inspiration. Also, the author argues that the media should be more conscious of the language and images they use when representing immigrant women and strive to portray them in a more positive and empowering light.

Martínez-Lirola (2017b) explored the representation of Sub-Saharan immigrants who arrived in Spain on small boats in the news media. The author focused on the use of visual dysphemisms, or negative images, in news items to evoke emotions of pity, fear, and compassion among viewers. The researcher conducted a multimodal critical discourse analysis based on Kress and Van Leeuwen's (2006) of the three focal types of composition meanings: Information value, framing, and salience. In this sense, a multimodal analysis approach was employed to analyze news items from three Spanish newspapers: *El País*, *ABC*, and *La Razón*. The study analyzed both the linguistic and visual elements of the news items to identify the use of visual dysphemisms.

The author collected the news items from the online archives of the newspapers analyzed. That is, a total of 206 news reports were gathered for analysis: 55 from *El País* newspaper and 151 from *ABC*. The two newspapers were selected due to their different ideologies as regards the publication and their political orientations. That is, *ABC* is generally considered to be right-wing leaning, while *El País* is commonly regarded as a left-wing publication. After the analysis, the author obtained the following results:

Firstly, the author revealed that immigrants were represented dysphemistically, with an emphasis on highlighting the negative aspects related to them and their arrival. The results also indicated a common tendency in the newspapers to depict sub-Saharan immigrants as victims, creating a sense of distance between them and the readers. The results, on the other hand, however, depicted them as strangers or non-citizens and unlike the majority group. Furthermore, they were portrayed as vulnerable and dependent individuals, characterized by illness or need, essentially being viewed as a people problem. Secondly, the results revealed that the multimodal texts analyzed were used to evoke emotions of pity, fear, and compassion towards Sub-Saharan immigrants. On the whole, the author also found that the news items used positive and negative frames to represent the immigrants. Positive frames were used to portray the immigrants as victims of persecution, while negative frames were used to depict them as criminals and invaders. In a nutshell, the article highlights that the use of visual dysphemisms in news items can have a significant impact on the public's perception of immigrants.

In contrast, Silveira's article (2016) examined how migration is depicted in British newspapers. The author used multimodal critical discourse analysis (MCDA) to examine two news articles released in July/June 2015 by *The Guardian* and the *Daily Mail*. Hence, the author focused on the categorization of immigrants and the implicit assumption of their illegality, particularly in relation to those crossing the Mediterranean, and reached the following conclusions. The findings demonstrated that both news articles contributed to a similar discourse, wherein refugees were depicted as distant, and the UK was

portrayed as being threatened by an increasing number of male migrants. Through deconstructing these two news articles, this study uncovered the way in which they both contributed to a negative portrayal of refugees and immigrants arriving in Europe.

Stewart's thesis (2018) used a multimodal critical discourse analysis (MCDA) of television news discourse surrounding the 2013 Australian Federal Election, with a specific focus on how the coverage shaped discourses about asylum seekers. Drawing upon the theoretical framework of CDA and combining it with multimodal analysis, the research explored the interplay between linguistic and visual elements employed in television news broadcasts to construct and reinforce specific narratives about asylum seekers during the election campaign.

The study employed a qualitative approach, analyzing a comprehensive sample of television news broadcasts from prominent Australian networks during the election period. By integrating linguistic analysis, including lexical choices, metaphors, and rhetorical devices, with a visual analysis of accompanying imagery and framing techniques, the research sought to uncover the discursive strategies used by news media to shape public opinion and influence political discourse.

The findings revealed that television news discourse during the 2013 Australian Federal Election presented asylum seekers primarily through a lens of security and threat, portraying them as potential risks to national security and social cohesion. These narratives were reinforced through the use of fear-inducing language, negative framing, and visual depictions that highlighted their perceived otherness. Additionally, the study identified how political actors strategically employed discursive techniques to advance their agendas and gain electoral advantages.

The implications of this research extend to understanding the role of the media in shaping public perception of asylum seekers, influencing political agendas, and the potential consequences for policy-making. By highlighting the discursive strategies employed in television news discourse, this study contributes to the broader field of critical media studies, providing insights into the complex interplay between language, visuals, and power in constructing narratives about asylum seekers in the context of a significant political event.

The findings of this thesis identified a broadly uniform and dominant discourse regarding asylum seekers, characterized by themes of deviance, illegality, and otherness. It was evident that there was a presupposition that individuals who arrived in Australia by boat to seek asylum were perceived as a problem that required a military solution. As a result, the visual and verbal combinations and constructions used in television news discourses of the 2013 Australian Federal Election contributed to these findings, reinforcing the prevailing discourse surrounding asylum seekers.

Jari Martikainen & Inari Sakki (2021) examined how (otherness) was constructed visually in newspaper photographs of the refugee crisis. The authors used visual rhetorical analysis to explore the ways in which refugees were portrayed in the media, with a focus on how these images contributed to the dehumanization of refugees; the authors focused on the images depicting refugees and asylum seekers during the refugee crisis of 2015-2016. By employing a visual rhetorical analysis and social semiotic

approach based on tools such as (denotative and connotative meanings) (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2006), the authors aimed to frame the refugee crisis using these two aforementioned levels, and they reached the following conclusions: Firstly, the majority of the images in the authors' sample showed migrants and refugees negatively, highlighting their differences and depicting them as a threat. That is to say, the authors argue that by fostering a sense of separation and detachment between viewers and refugees, these images reinforce the processes of othering and dehumanization. Secondly, the study found six rhetorical strategies that were used for dehumanizing refugees: massified, separated, passivated, demonized, individualized, and recontextualized refugees contributed to the depiction of 'Otherness.' In addition, Bellander's (2022) article examined how the world's refugee situation is constructed discursively in photographs on the website of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) Sweden. The article aimed to reveal the semiotic choices being made and how the choices shape the way the actual events are represented to the viewer, for example, what kinds of ideas, values, and processes are being foregrounded or backgrounded.

Employing MCDA based on the social semiotic approach and other visual tools from Social Semiotics (Kress and van Leeuwen, 2020; Ledin and Machin, 2018), the author tried to systematically expose and explain diverse levels of meaning, including covert power dynamics between donors and recipients. In addition, the study was carried out to complement and question the often negatively constructed discourses of refugees in the media. The author came to the following conclusions: Firstly, the article argued that the refugee situation is portrayed in terms of actions such as waiting, where forcibly displaced people are depicted as if they are fleeing with their lives.

Secondly, the article identified three main discourses that are used to frame the world's refugee situation as being worthy of support: the discourse of vulnerability, the discourse of resilience, and the discourse of hope. Thirdly, the article concluded that the visual representations of the world's refugee situation on MSF Sweden's website invited viewers to become a part of and to engage with the refugees and their harsh situation. Overall, Bellander's article provided a valuable contribution to the field of refugee studies by presenting a visual analysis of how the world's refugee situation is constructed discursively in photographs on the website of MSF Sweden. The article's focus on the discourses used to frame the world's refugee situation as being worthy of support provided insights into how humanitarian aid communication.

Marmol's (2022) thesis employed a multimodal cognitive-linguistic approach to examine the portrayal of refugees in British and Spanish newspapers. The author examined the depiction of refugees and presented a comprehensive understanding of media representation, emphasizing the "refugee crisis" in Europe. Additionally, the author emphasized the significance of comprehending the use of language, visuals, and other multimodal elements in shaping representations of refugees in the media and the subsequent impact of these representations on broader societal attitudes towards refugees. The author used an integration of cognitive-linguistic approaches in analyzing media representations of refugees. These approaches highlighted the ways in which language was used to construct mental representations

of social phenomena, such as refugees, and how these representations were shaped by a range of cognitive and linguistic factors. The author reached the following results:

Firstly, the study found that the newspapers constructed refugees in different ways, with British newspapers focusing more on security and threat, while Spanish newspapers focused more on the humanitarian aspects of the crisis. Additionally, the study found that both British and Spanish newspapers used a range of linguistic and visual strategies to construct representations of refugees. Secondly, the thesis provided a valuable contribution to the field of multimodal critical discourse studies and cognitive linguistics on media representations of refugees, highlighting the importance of using multimodal cognitive-linguistic approaches to gain a clearer understanding of how representations of refugees were constructed and used in the media.

Piga (2022) analyzed the visual design of the Tigray refugee situation on the UN Refugee Agency UK website as an example of how humanitarian communication could be understood as performative. In this article, the author used multimodal CDA, as discussed by van Leeuwen (2005) and Kress and van Leeuwen (1999), alongside Bellander's (2010) semiotic approach to photograph codification. With the aim of analyzing a collection of images presented on the UNHRC UK website, the author employed tools derived from Social Semiotics, as outlined by Kress and van Leeuwen (2020) and Ledin and Machin (2018), to deconstruct visual depiction.

Methodologically, social semiotic tools were selected by the author to both explore and describe various levels of meaning concerning settings, represented participants, actions, angles, and proxemics. Both qualitative and quantitative analyses were selected to specify the refugees regarding the number of images, and the author obtained the following conclusion. On the UK website, readers are encouraged to feel personally involved in the lives of migrants and ethically engaged in the organization's work. Furthermore, refugees tend to invite readers/viewers to be involved in the imaginary actions of their situation. In a nutshell, the article shows a discourse of solidarity, morality, and even ethical equality, towards refugees.

Broadly speaking, when it comes to the discourse of refugees, especially in Media Photographs, scholars have studied the depiction of refugees and migration in the media across different countries and have shown that although they are differently depicted in terms of whether it is positive or negative, the representation is usually staged in a dehumanized way, leaning towards a negative discourse (Mustafa-Awad & Kirner-Ludwig, 2021). That is, too much work has been devoted to the depiction of migration or refugees in the media and its influence on the feelings towards them in host countries. Most research work on this issue has focused on the negative images of refugees, including their unlawful arrival or status (e.g., Parker, 2015; Chouliaraki & Stolic, 2017; Blinder & Allen, 2016; Wilmott, 2017; O'Regan & Riordan, 2018), their portrayal in connection with a negative image. For most of those scholars, the concept of otherness has been highlighted in different countries, and their research findings have shown that refugees pose a threat and represent an economic burden in host countries.

On the other hand, an avalanche of research has been devoted to the visual representations in which displaced people and refugees are depicted in the media. Prior studies on the visual depiction in the international media of the so-called refugee crisis and the despicable reporting on the forced displacement of people and migration dramatically published (Drüeke et al., 2021). Thousands of images have circulated in the media, presenting countless representations of refugees; for instance, of the suffering of children and women. Some of the images have gained considerable visibility due to their iconic status in international newspapers; for example, the image of a 3-year-old boy, Alan Kurdi, in 2015.

However, some photographs tend to enjoy less visibility, although one can assume that they also have a profound impact on the public. In general, the images of refugees provided by newspapers are very often considered the only communication platform through which individuals are able to interact with the audience (Průchová Hružová, 2021). In this specific case, it is often held that the visibility of images may show refugees as strangers to the public (e.g. Banks, 2012). Such images give nothing to the readers and exclude their visibility in the media (e.g. Van Leeuwen, 2008). Images of this type reinforce the dichotomy between 'us' as an elite of socio-economic power and the 'others' as refugees (e.g., Wilmott, 2017; Martínez Lirola, 2022a).

Such dichotomy of distorted depictions of refugees in the media may raise the argument of whether this is a common pictorial tendency or inherently culturally and institutionally bound. A considerable number of comparative studies have shown that in newspapers across different countries refugees are usually depicted and constructed negatively in political systems (Bleiker et al., 2013; Martínez Lirola, 2022a). Generally speaking, the use of snapshots in the media makes displaced people become threatening and even restless. Moreover, dehumanization in the media can be constructed through different means of visual expression. For instance, portraying refugees in huge numbers, hiding their prominent appearances, and even using very long-shots to strip their individuality in the media is, therefore, another form of dehumanization. On the other hand, media images tend to depict refugees in a shabby way, wearing dusty clothes. Other images in the media dehumanize refugees and depict them using high-angle shots, depriving them of their agency (Martikainen & Sakki, 2024).

While the concentration on visual depictions tends to be on their negative status, prior studies, in contrast, have shown that refugees are depicted in the media as being people suffering to the consequences of conflicts. That is, studies have also shown that refugees are visually constructed as people in need and depicted in humanization actions. For instance, Chouliaraki and Stolic (2017) show that there are two visual strategies regarding refugees and their victimhood. They observe two visual processes depicting refugees in the media: massification, i.e., the depiction of refugees in huge numbers and in terms of homogenous and indistinguishable individuals, and passivization, i.e., the depictions of refugees primarily as displaced people in need of help, shelter, food, and clothes. In cases of humanitarian actions, the visual depictions of refugees and displaced people have been an important field of research for different scholars (e.g. Chouliaraki, 2010; Dumitrescu & Bucy, 2021; Bellander,

2022; Dahin, 2023; Martikainen & Sakki, 2024). For example, Chouliaraki (2010) describes the visual constructions of the suffering of others and shows the relationship between the viewer and victims as being grounded in relation to aspects of emotions regarding empathy. It is worth asking what information images show to the audience and what impact they make on public discourses as well as on policy-making (Bleiker et al., 2013). In fact, there is an increasing study of literature, in particular into the photographic depictions of refugees (Johnson, 2011; Lenette, 2016; Binder & Jaworsky, 2018). Most prior studies have explored the distance between the refugees themselves and the viewers. However, the results always show the variation in long-distance or close-distance between the refugees and the viewer. Such a distance in the media may suggest an implication, especially when it comes to refugees.

Pictures also tend to provide vital means of communication in the context of the refugee crisis because they carry power over the readers by shaping our emotions, perceptions, actions, and attitudes regarding refugees. In fact, there is a considerable amount of research into visual and media portrayals of migration and refugees, constructing refugees in terms of humanization and dehumanization (Lenette, 2017; Hellmueller & Zhang, 2019; Maneri, 2021; Martikainen & Sakki, 2021; Azevedo et al., 2021; Martikainen & Sakki, 2024). In a departure from previous research, in Chapter Six of this thesis, I adopt a social semiotic and visual rhetorical approach to Iraqi refugees in order to explore how visual strategies of humanization and dehumanization used in news images construct forced displacement in Iraq.

For instance, in social psychology, there has been an increasing amount of research carried out into dehumanization, which is described as “the act of perceiving or treating people as if they are less than fully human” and holds “denials of humanness” to both groups and individuals (Haslam & Stratemeyer, 2016: 25). In this sense, Haslam (2006) argues that there are two types of dehumanization: animalistic dehumanization, which entails both denying the unique properties of a human, such as language, emotions, a lack of cognition to others, morality, and constructing people as if they are animal-like. While the second, mechanistic dehumanization shows others as passive objects denied agency, whose action is inactive rather than operationalized by individual will (Martikainen & Sakki, 2021). In this specific case, it is in this perspective that my interest intends to explore the depiction of refugees in the media.

More specifically, in Chapter Six, I attempt to explore the strategies of humanization and dehumanization, inclusion and exclusion in visual discourses and, in so doing, to state the knowledge of the forms of representation in the fields of ethnic studies and visual semiotic communication studies. Thus, I believe that the social semiotic approach allows us to unpack the subtle selections through which visual productions occur. The focus on visual images and their contents, forms, and functions may enable us to conduct a thorough analysis of how social semiotic analytical strategies are used in the visualizations of displaced people to elucidate aspects in which social interactions between the refugees

and viewers are rendered salient to construct, depict, uphold, or challenge the depictions of refugee and viewer relations.

2.5.4. Iraqi Refugees in the Media

As far as Iraqi refugees are concerned, literature on the depiction of Iraqis as refugees employing the study of multimodal discourse analysis is very scarce. When searching scientific journals, websites, Scopus, Google Semantic, Google Scholars, and even PoliPapers, I came across a very limited number of articles depicting the Iraqi refugee crisis in the media using both MCDA and CDA. For example, Ahmed Sultan Hussein & Sahar Abdul-Razzaq Fattah (2020) conducted a multimodal discourse analysis of visual images in UNCHR reports on displaced Iraqis as refugees. The authors aimed to examine how visual images in these reports constructed meanings and conveyed messages about the experiences of the displaced Iraqis. The authors used a range of visual tools based on Kress and van Leeuwen's (2006) three types of meanings, including representation, interaction, composition, and discourse analysis, to construct their work. By selecting a sample of seven images from the UNCHR reports, the authors focused on the use of semiotic resources such as color, size, position, and other visual elements as analytical tools to construct Iraqis in terms of their visual depiction in the UNCHR reports, and they reached the following conclusions. The visual images revealed that there were different relations between the audience and the refugees depicted through the employment of different modes. In addition, the findings highlighted the crucial role played by visual images in shaping public perceptions of displacement, stressing the necessity for additional research into this field.

Directly relevant to the topic of Iraqis in the media, Alsawad Nooruldeen and Fernas Jumaah (2019) wrote a master's thesis on Iraqi refugees. The authors aimed to examine how Iraqi refugees were visually depicted in the news coverage of *Deutsche Welle*, a German international broadcaster. The authors looked at how refugees were portrayed between 2014 and 2017, when many refugees left their homes in search of a safe place. Employing a social semiotic approach based on Kress and van Leeuwen's (2006) and van Leeuwen's (2008), the authors relied on numerous semiotic tools to convey pictures of refugees to viewers in the German *Deutsche Welle*. The researchers reached the following results.

The results of the study indicated that the images depicting Iraqi refugees between 2014 and 2017 represented them both as victims and criminals in various settings. The representation of refugees underwent slight changes over the period of these four years, reinforcing the political shifts taking place in Germany during that time. Also, the images published by *Deutsche Welle* depicted Iraqi refugees from different religious backgrounds, including Muslims, Christians, and Yazidis. The results also revealed that in 2014, the visual representation of Iraqi refugees primarily featured them in groups, with

a particular focus on women and children. In contrast, the depiction in 2017 predominantly portrayed Iraqi refugees, specifically adult refugees with individual characteristics.

2.6. Reflections and Concluding Remarks

In this chapter, I point out different patterns in the portrayal of refugees and asylum seekers in the media, which has been extensively studied by numerous researchers over the last two decades. Undoubtedly, the role of the media in depicting refugees has become a crucial subject for scholars and researchers interested in analyzing media discourses and their ideological orientations. In this reflection, I see different trends in the media depicting the framing of an in-group and out-group of refugees and migration using different frames.

Overall, in previously mentioned studies, three main and consistent trends emerge in how the media constructs the narrative of refugees as either belonging to an in-group or an out-group. Firstly, most media discourses have depicted refugees using negative framing, showing them as invaders, threats, dangers, risks to security, contributors to economic strain, and undesirables. Secondly, in some specific contexts, refugees are depicted as passive victims, drawing attention to the humanitarian aspect of their plight and in need of help. Thirdly, refugees are consistently portrayed as an out-group, employing the dichotomy between “we” and “them”. As a result, as a whole the studies also demonstrate that the media has the potential strategies to shape both public opinion, and the perceptions of refugee identities. For instance, Khosravini's paper (2009) investigates how refugees as groups are used in the British media, employing integrated approaches, such as Dijk's (1991; 1995; 2000) socio-cognitive approach, Wodak's (2001) discourse-historical approach, and van Leeuwen's (1996) sociological categories of actor representation. The findings of this research indicate that refugees are predominantly portrayed in a negative light, reflecting the influence of dominant ideologies on the editorial stance of journalists in these newspapers.

Additionally, in the previously mentioned research work, there is a lack of social theories that explain the three abovementioned patterns. This thesis will examine what methodological tools and theoretical concepts could be employed to make more applicable sense of the results of the research. Therefore, this thesis will make use of integrated theories. Previously mentioned studies, more specifically researchers, have adopted either CDA or MCDA to answer their questions. However, what makes this thesis unique is that, while concentrating on discourse too, this thesis will integrate framing analysis and critical and discourse analysis (CDA) to create a full understanding of the topic.

As framing analysis shares some building blocks with CDA (Hope, 2010), the thesis will analyze how news frames work together within the critical approach in discourse and practice. That is, the thesis will advance the claim that the methodological and theoretical configuration of CDA and framing is multidisciplinary. I take Hart's argument (2023: 249) as a point of departure on which to base my understanding: ‘framing is one of the dimension construal within cognitive CDA, because framing and

structural configuration in cognitive CDA rely on frames and event-frames respectively. They equally contribute different levels of meaning for shaping the overall impression of events that reader is likely to form in response to texts.'

On the other hand, what makes this thesis prominent is that while focusing on the visual images, the thesis will also examine the linguistic and visual modes used in the articles. More specifically, the study of these two modes will also contribute to aspects of material resources in social semiotics. While exploring this field, I have observed that the use of the comparative research design has not been put into practice as much by previous researchers. Regarding the integration of texts and images in the media, I have never found any research project looking at Iraqi refugees through this lens. Since written language rarely occurs from other modes of discourse, it is vital to examine how the textual language interacts with other semiotic modes, such as images and other semiotic resources, to generate meaning in the social context.

For instance, the master's thesis written by Alsawad Nooruldeen and Fernas Jumaah (2019) depicted Iraqi refugees through the lens of visual images without paying attention to the other modes, such as headings, captions, and so on. In addition, the thesis only relied on *Deutsche Welle* to construct Iraqi refugees. In contrast, I use two different sources and analyze various articles about the depiction of Iraqis as refugees. As a result, this will broaden the socio-political context of the topic.

Furthermore, in the previously mentioned studies, the depiction of Iraqi refugees in media discourse has never contributed to the construction of displaced Iraqis on a large scale, yet there is no engagement in discussing these studies in connection to the greater socio-political context. That is, there is a lack of approaches that explain the framing of Iraqis in the media. More specifically, I will analyze the framing of the Iraqi refugees to determine the root causes and compelling factors that drive their displacement and the social actors responsible for their forced migration. Also, I use comparative analysis to conduct my research. What is more, I have only encountered three studies dealing with the depiction of Iraqi refugees in the media, and there are no larger projects that have dealt with the visual framing of Iraqis as refugees even with the multimodal and critical analysis. In a nutshell, as far as my thesis is concerned, there is extensive literature on asylum seekers and refugees in general, and many articles (but so far few projects and articles) on the so-called "Iraqi Refugee Crisis" in the media discourse. here

Additionally, I argue that researchers studying media discourse should consider the advantages of using CDA, Multimodal critical discourse analysis (MCDA), and framing theory as integrated methodological techniques when examining the portrayal of refugees in media discourse since this integration will answer and help us to understand the complexity of discourse structures in the media.

Chapter 3: Theoretical Perspective

3.1. Critical Discourse Analysis: Historical Developments and Roots

In general, when discussing critical discourse analysis (CDA), it is essential to delve into its historical background and influences. Historically, CDA's ancestors can be traced back to various linguistic disciplines, including Text linguistics, Rhetorical linguistics, Sociolinguistics, Applied linguistics, and Pragmatics (Weiss & Wodak, 2003). Additionally, CDA's doctrines can be linked with two schools of thought: the Jürgen Habermas School and the Frankfurt School of critical theory before the Second World War (Van Dijk, 1993). Also, the neo-Marxist and post-modernist ideas of social theorists like Foucault (1972) and social linguists like Pecheux (1975), who tried to comprehend the connection between ideology and discourse, had an impact on CDA's growth. That is, they understood discourse as the main means through which ideology is reproduced, enacted, and transmitted. For instance, Foucault concentrated on how knowledge is represented and how the surrounding circumstances affect its structure, significance, and practical application. Social theorists, such as Foucault 1972; Bourdieu, 1974; and linguists, such as Saussure, 1959; Schiffrin et al. 2001, introduced essential discourse notions that eventually became important in CDA research. As a result, these ideas, such as “discursive formations,” “discursive practices,” and “discursive regularities,” were applied to explore the ways in which power, knowledge, and ideology are manifested in both institutions and society (Chavalin Svetanant, 2009, cited in Elsharkawy, 2016 : 4).

As discussed earlier, the Frankfurt School of Social Research, which created a critical social theory in the 1920s and 1930s, is where the roots of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) may be found (Fairclough, 1995a). The aim of the school was to understand the underlying power structures that supported oppression and inequality in the social, political, and economic contexts. However, it argued that culture, including language, was an important setting for the maintenance and challenge of power structures. CDA also refers to the work of other critical theorists, like Michel Foucault, who highlighted the ways in which discourse and knowledge were used to wield power. The work of Antonio Gramsci, who created the concept of hegemony to explain how dominant ideologies are upheld, and Pierre Bourdieu, who created the concept of cultural capital to explain how cultural practices and knowledge are used to uphold social hierarchies, are two other significant influences on CDA (Elsharkawy, 2016).

As regards Critical Linguistics (CL), which originated primarily in the UK and Australia at the end of the 1970s, this served as the origin for CDA's current focus on language and discourse (Fowler et al., 1979). Even though CDA is based on CL (Rogers, 2004), it treaded CL in a such a way that CL stepped Chomskyian formal grammar, which Halliday (1978) presented two objects to formal grammar: patterns of ideologies and patterns of experience. In this sense, Fowler et al. (1979: 185) state that CL claims “that there are strong and pervasive connections between linguistic structure and social

structure.’’ CL, therefore, made a crucial move by interpreting grammatical categories as possible indicators of ideological deception, leading to the establishment of a lineage from which Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) emerged (van Leeuwen, 2009).

In contrast, Van Leeuwen (2006, cited in Elsharkawy, 2016) noted that Fairclough's publications from 1989 to 1995 were when the word ‘CDA’ first appeared. In addition to critical discourse analysis, he also used the words critical language awareness (CLA) and critical language studies (CLS) interchangeably, and in his works he employed critical discourse analysis (CDA) without specifically abbreviating it as ‘CDA’ and used critical language awareness (CLA). He positioned critical discourse analysis as a type of CLS in this piece. When Fairclough published his book *Critical Discourse Analysis* (Fairclough, 1995a), a significant terminological shift was made in his work. Similarly, Van Dijk (1993: 131) proves in a related vein that CDA and CL “are at most a shared perspective on doing linguistic, semiotic, or discourse analysis.’’

Within the field of critical linguistics, there is undeniably a major continuity in critical discourse analysis. In the 1970s and 1980s, this field of study began to emerge, especially at the University of East Anglia, where eminent scholars like Tony Trew, Gunther Kress, and Roger Fowler made significant contributions. Fowler emphasized their work on advancing critical linguistics and strongly asserted that language discourses are inherently ideological, thus refuting the concept of sign arbitrariness (Wodak & Meyer, 2001).

On the other hand, when discussing the historical emergence of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) and Critical Linguistics (CL), it is essential to explore their origins. Specifically, during the 1970s, there was a notable emergence of text analysis and discourse formation, which shed light on the role of language in shaping power relations within global societies. This period witnessed a major focus on studying the formal aspects of language, emphasizing the linguistic competence of speakers while neglecting its practical applications. Although the relationship between language and context was acknowledged, as evidenced by Levinson's pragmatics in 1983, the primary emphasis remained on the speaker's pragmatic and sociolinguistic competence as fundamental units of analysis. Accordingly, research, particularly in sociolinguistics, mainly focused on language change, language variation, and the structures of communicative interfaces, with limited attention given to the development of power dynamics and social representation in the language. As a result, this focus has led some scholars to examine the study of language and discourse in relation to power and society, adopting a new direction in the field of linguistics known as CDA (Wodak & Meyer, 2001).

Additionally, the focus on textual analysis has gained significant attention, as it involves the construction, interpretation, and relation to societal issues and structures. Remarkably, scholars such as Kriss and Hodge (1979), Fowler et al. (1979), Van Dijk (1985), Fairclough (1989), and Wodak (1989) have played crucial roles in explaining the fundamental and potential methodologies and ideologies of

critical linguistics. For instance, Kress (1990) provides a theoretical account of the foundations and sources of Critical Linguistics (CL). He emphasizes that CL was deliberately adapted from its social-philosophical counterpart, which was developed by scholars at the University of East Anglia in the 1970s. As a result, in the 1990s, Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) emerged as a distinct theory of language with a radically different approach to linguistics. According to scholars like Kress, CDA represents a discrete theory of language that deviates significantly from conventional linguistic theories (Wodak & Meyer, 2001).

Norman Fairclough, Ruth Wodak, and Teun A. van Dijk began to create CDA as a unique method for analyzing language and discourse in the 1980s and 1990s. Also, they were the most influential figures in developing CDA. Therefore, they aimed to identify the ways that language is employed to create and maintain power structures, including social, political, and economic hierarchies. Also, they focused on how discourse is employed to uphold and refute prevailing ideas and the function of language in the perpetuation and contestation of power structures (Wodak & Meyer, 2001).

In fact, CDA emerged as a social movement to discourse analysis in the middle of the 1980s thanks to the work of a group of linguists, including Fairclough, van Dijk, and Wodak. It was created in 1992 at a meeting in Amsterdam with involvement from the same group, with the goal of examining the relationship between discourse and society. The contributors were eventually published in a special issue of *Discourse and Society* in 1993. The group progressively grew and continued to meet annually starting in 1992. Since then, several significant articles have been published, and two new publications, *Critical Discourse Studies* and the *Journal of Language and Politics*, appeared (van Leeuwen, 2006, cited in Elsharkawy, 2016).

Within the social sciences, Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) has become well-known in the study of discourse. In this sense, prominent scholars, like Norman Fairclough, Ruth Wodak, Tuen Van Dijk, Van Leeuwen, and others, have added profound insights to the study of CDA and its methodological and theoretical framework. As a result of this development, Europe has seen a major increase in work in the field of CDA in recent years, making it a well-known school of thought and a social movement for understanding language in both cultures and societies. For this purpose, the development and application of oriented-discourse analysis, which focuses on analyzing language use within the context of social reality, is one of CDA's ground-breaking contributions (Blommaert, 2005). To this end, taking the previous views into account, I view CDA as a social movement and as a direction to follow in the study of discourses in the space of societies and the media. On the other hand, it is crucial to emphasize that CDA has never intended to be and has never claimed to be a single or specific theory or a single direction. However, it is derived from heterogeneous theoretical backgrounds and is based on large-scale methodologies and data.

3.1.1. Features of CDA

Having studied the roots, origins, and trends of CDA, I will now move on to the next phase of its focal features that differentiate it. Generally, discourse studies and critical discourse studies (CDS) differ significantly in that the former is descriptive in nature, while the latter is problem-oriented and uses an interdisciplinary approach. This issue is a matter of difference between the macrostructure and microstructure. That is, Bloor and Bloor (2013) state that the issues that Critical Discourse Analysts address can either be macro issues of significant global importance or micro concerns that are personal, small-scale issues. They, therefore, argue that these large- and small-scale problems are interconnected, and both are legitimate research topics. In other words, the macrostructure tends to encompass topics based on an analysis level in relation to the macroissues within the space of discourse and society. Unlike macrostructure, microstructure is a matter of an individual mechanism with respect to the focal structures of the given discourse.

According to Van Dijk (2001a: 354), the macro and micro levels merge to generate a single, cohesive whole in daily interaction and experience:

Language use, discourse, verbal interaction, and communication belong to the microlevel of the social order. Power, dominance, and inequality between social groups are typically terms that belong to a macro-level of analysis. This means that CDA must bridge the well-known “gap” between micro (agency, interactional) and macro (structural, institutional, organizational) approaches.

In addition, Wodak and Meyer (2016) also state that the goal of critical discourse studies- CDS- is not to study a single linguistic unit. Rather, its primary objective is to analyze, comprehend, and explain complex social processes; therefore, CDS should be a multidisciplinary and multi-methodological approach. This issue, thus, is in agreement with KhosraviNik’s (2015: 65) claim that “the object of study in CDA is a matter of social meaning, i.e., language in action or language in use” and that “CDA is theoretically established on the analysis of meanings as they are formed in society rather than as isolated linguistic structures”. Regarding the distinction between Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) and Discourse Analysis (DA), Rogers on the other hand (2004) argues that CDA sets itself apart from other discourse analysis approaches by including not only the description and interpretation of discourse within its context but also providing an explanation of the underlying mechanisms and dynamics that drive discourses and their functioning.

Van Dijk (1997, cited in Bloor & Bloor, 2013: 2) prefers the term Critical Discourse Studies (CDS) in this context and characterizes it as “A new cross-discipline that comprises the examination of text and discourse in almost all disciplines of the humanities and social sciences.” For Blommaert (2005), CDA has been the social movement at the intersection of social structures and language by its prominent practitioners, such as Fairclough, Van Dijk, Ruth Wodak, Van Leeuwen, KhosraviNik, and other scholars. To this end, according to Machin and Mayr (2012), Critical Discourse Studies (CDS) tend not only to focus on the linguistic features in the discourse but rather on how and why these features are

reproduced while also focusing on whether they serve any ideological purposes or not in discourse. Additionally, Bloor and Bloor (2013) indicate that critical discourse analysts are more interested in how language and discourse are used to achieve social objectives than in how language and discourse work.

Based on the above discussions, it is important to state that Critical Discourse Studies (CDS) tend not only to analyze the mechanism of the text in terms of grammatical features and for the sake of analysis; it encompasses large-scale issues for the text, such as cognitive context, societal and social processes, and textual analysis; consequently, such features enable us to explore the most salient structures in discourse. The following diagram illustrates the abovementioned process :

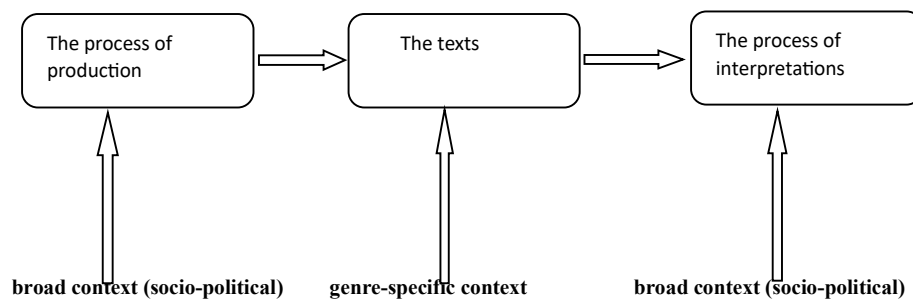


Figure 5: Processes and development of texts (source: KhosraviNik 2010).

Therefore, by placing the discourse in its social and cultural context, a combination of these factors in an analysis enables a deeper understanding of the discourse and further reveals the indirect ideologies that are hidden in and between the lines. As a result, studying discourse also involves studying the society it emerges from. Furthermore, according to CDA, there is a dialogic interplay between discourse (as tangible language expressions) and the abstract sense-making system (ideology). Ideology and discourse both (partially) constitute each other (KhosraviNik, 2010).

Furthermore, social organizations and social structures are of interest to CDS. It includes a variety of research methodologies to address social challenges, like unequal power relations and prejudice against minorities and outgroups. According to Wodak and Meyer (2016: 12), CDS is:

... fundamentally interested in analyzing hidden, opaque, and visible structures of dominance, discrimination, power, and control as manifested in language. In other words, CDS aim to investigate critically social inequality as it is expressed, constituted, legitimized, and so on, by language use (or in discourse).

Since discourses serve to structure and organize social life, CDS approaches view them as comparatively stable uses of the language of the social processes. Thus, CDS seeks to create and produce critical information that enables people to release themselves from oppression through introspection or self-reflection. In this context, although CDS researchers consider themselves to be well-founded in theory, it is important to stress that neither do they offer a single theory nor do they have a particular methodological approach (Wodak & Meyer, 2016).

As a result, the different works in CDS are varied and based on heterogeneous and theoretical backgrounds grounded in different multi-disciplines. As indicated previously, CDA developed and emerged as a social movement grounded in social and linguistic theories for the study of discourse. In this sense, it's also important to keep in mind that a CDA study naturally takes a "holistic" approach to the topic under study, with analysts trying to explain how ideologies are woven into discourse and how discourse relates to society. Therefore, it will be essential for the research to navigate between different levels of linguistic and contextual analyses. This will enable us to demonstrate, for instance, how specific linguistic manipulations at the text analytical level can activate particular discourses that are embedded in the socio-political collective memory of the intended audience (KhosraviNik, 2010).

3.1.2. Discourse, text, and context

The concept of discourse has been discussed by several scholars. Of these, Michal Foucault played a vital role in developing the oriented approach to the study of discourse. Later, Jurgen Link and his team developed this approach. According to Jurgen, discourse can be defined as the flow of knowledge. In other words, discourse is a matter of societal knowledge stored over time (Wodak and Meyer, 2001). In general, the notion of discourse is complex because it involves different forms of communication; therefore, it is now considered a central and critical notion in discourse studies and other semiotic studies (Bloor & Bloor, 2013).

On the one hand, Schiffrin (1994: 20) states that discourse involves two paradigms: structural and functional. The former can be described as a unit of language larger than the sentence or "above the sentence," while the latter is a matter of specific focus on "language use." Under this perspective, it has been argued that the differences in paradigms may be formulated by the definitions of discourse. A conventional description is based on the structural paradigm and defines discourse as "language above the sentence or above the clause" (Stubbs, 1983: 1). On the other hand, Schiffrin (1994: 40) defines discourse based on the functional paradigm as "language use." There is another functional definition supporting this interpretation that comes from Brown and Yule (1983: 1), "the analysis of discourse is, necessarily, the analysis of language in use. As such, it cannot be restricted to the description of linguistic forms independent of the purposes or functions, which these forms are designed to serve in human affairs".

Fairclough (2013) uses the term discourse to state that language use is said to be overlapped or imbricated within social processes and relations. Also, he argues that discourse is viewed in terms of three interrelated processes: social practice, discursive practice, and finally, the text; therefore, all these aspects tend to generate explicit and implicit discourse. Furthermore, Machin and Mayr (2012: 20) treat discourse as "language in real contexts of use." Consequently, they summarize the meaning of discourse by arguing that in CDA, the broader ideas conveyed through a text are typically known as discourses.

Discourse, according to Fairclough (2003: 92), refers to “written or spoken language use”; it also implies “semiotic practice in other semiotic modalities such as photography and nonverbal communication.” Additionally, on the one hand, discourse to Fairclough tends to incorporate more than just language use; it is a special type of social practice. This suggests that the definition of discourse as a social practice includes both social and semiotic means, and they constitute modes of social action and depiction and signify meaning as well. On the other hand, following Fairclough (1992), discourse is said to have a dialectical relationship with social relationships, social entities, beliefs, and systems of knowledge. Consequently, this suggests that discourse is socially constitutive and socially determined.

Regarding the text, following Fairclough’s (2013) view, the text is based on different forms, including speech, image, writing, or mixing of these three forms. The notion of discourse differs from the text as it includes some linguistic processes, such as interactions, speaking form, and so on. In this sense, text is seen as having a larger linguistic unit than words, phrases, and sentences. Halliday and Hasan (1985: 10) argue that the text is “[A] language that is functional. [...] Language that is doing some job in some context, as opposed to isolated words or sentences”. This suggests that a text is just the production of linguistic forms of written and spoken language, while discourse is fairly understood as the pragmatic processes of meaning and negotiation in language.

Also, following Widdowson (2008), a text is the production process of the pragmatic intent, and its analysis carries the implication of discourse in terms of the pragmatic process. Under this perspective, a text is not only perceived as having a syntactic theory. Rather, it should be analyzed in a broader sense and in terms of social and semiotic practices.

In opposition, Van Dijk (2008) views text, discourse, and context as forming a psychological point of interpretation. Broadly speaking, Van Dijk argues that context includes mental models of social situations and such context is generally interfaced between society and discourse. According to his perspective, context is said to be a concept in our long-term memory; it is a subjective mental model of the communicative situation. In other words, context is internalized in our human mind since it is the product of our mental models regarding social understanding. Additionally, Van Dijk argues that context models in the media are used to manage communicative events. That is, in the production, context models tend to help the editorials by employing effective information about an event concerning the process of selection in the news events, while in comprehension, context models serve as a tactical guide to the readers in specifying the most relevant information of the given text and driving them to be a part of their event model (Van Dijk, 1999).

To sum up, Van Dijk's (2008) interpretation of context differs from both the structural and functional views. For this reason, context, according to Van Dijk, is a matter of three interconnected aspects: cognition, culture, and society. All these aspects are based on the notion of context models. Hence, such contexts are the product of social perspective. When deconstructing social cognitions, including norms, values, ideologies, attitudes, and knowledge, these structures tend to have an intersubjective scope that permits social interaction as well as communication.

On the other hand, when comparing text and context, it is worth mentioning that context is a complex system and serves as having mental interpretation, and this context is no longer to be reduced to text. This means the contexts and their mental properties will remain presupposed and implicit in the discourse, and the way they influence text and talk is also indirect (Van Dijk, 2008).

3.2. Major Directions in CDA

3.2.1. Van Dijk's socio-cognitive approach

The socio-cognitive approach (SCA) (Hart, 2010) is an approach to discourse studies which integrates the cognitive, textual, and social structures as grounded in the description involved in producing a unified model of analysis. Primarily, SCA offers an inclusive understanding of the discursive construction of social inequality and discrimination using a model that connects society and text through cognition. Accordingly, such social cognition serves as the interface between social structure and textual structure (Hart, 2010). Also, such a cognitive-affective analysis, according to Van Dijk (2024:11), may include descriptions and explanations of discourse in terms of "underlying mental models of personal experience, including emotions and socially shared knowledge, norms, values, goals, and ideologies."

Based on Van Dijk (2024:12) in SCA, "discourse structure is related to social structure through a cognitive interface. Explicitly, discourse is a matter of social and internal action empirically realized as a part of society; however, its structures can not be related to those of society through the cognitive processes of human beings". Such a construction between discourse, cognition, and society is best examined by employing the Socio-Cognitive Approach (SCA) (Van Dijk, 2001b). Under this perspective, discourse is defined as a communicative event within the SCA paradigm, including verbal interaction, written text, gestures, typographic layouts, visuals, or other multimedia or semiotic resources (ibid.).

As Van Dijk (2014) states, although discourse is socially and cognitively governed by shared knowledge, the mental models both "control and define our everyday perception and interaction in general and the production and comprehension of discourse in particular" (Van Dijk, 2014:49). To this end, SCA's model tends to seek out knowledge, prejudices, attitudes, and beliefs that are explicitly and inexplicitly triggered by the speakers or writers when interpreting and producing discourse segments.

Additionally, SCA also explains how cognitive operationalize discourse structures and their meanings in a specific communicative situation and social cognition (Gyollai, 2022). Taking these claims into account, SCA would be interested in how editors of newspapers address their support of a particular topic or event, and how people perceive sense of such news discourse. SCA is usually used by critical discourse scholars thanks to its integrative perspective. Based on Van Dijk's (2014) argument, SCA is neither a single method nor a prescribed bit-by-bit process for discourse analysis. Rather, it can, therefore, operationalize on different concepts and methods from wide-cut varying disciplines, such as sociolinguistics, social psychology, anthropology, cognitive psychology, and sociology. That is to say, the former disciplines are manifested as instrumental in understanding the role of social knowledge in discourse comprehension and production as well as in society (Van Dijk, 2014).

More specifically, in SCA, the term cognition refers to any mental or memory structures, representations, or processes that are involved in discourse or interaction, including personal and social cognition, beliefs and goals, as well as judgments and emotions. In addition to more global, societal, and political structures that are variously defined in terms of groups, group relations (such as dominance and inequality), movements, institutions, organizations, social processes, political systems, and more abstract properties of societies and cultures, society is intended to include local and microstructures of situated face-to-face interactions (Van Dijk, 2001b).

Moreover, according to Van Dijk (2008), communicative context is interpreted as a subjective mental model. That is, context models serve as a mechanism for regulating the comprehension and production of both written text and spoken discourse. Based on this, individuals engaging in a particular language are actively involved in the communicative situation, contributing to the production of discourse. Although many psychological works have studied the concept of context, there has been a lack of significant investigation into the role of context concerning participants' representation of the social context. Van Dijk (2008: 57) argues that "psychological model theory is semantic, not pragmatic. It does not postulate an intermediary representation of the communicative situation in terms of mental models"

Additionally, according to Van Dijk (2008), context is stored in our long-term memory and creates a subjective mental image of the communication situation. Also, Van Dijk (2008) states that contexts might be viewed as a particular kind of mental model built from our daily experiences. Furthermore, Van Dijk (2008) asserts that communicative events and discursive constructs are both essential components of our everyday interactions. Besides, context models have a unique feature because they include verbal interaction and communication; they also have features that are similar to those of other models of everyday experiences. The following is a summary of these characteristics:

- Context models are internalized in episodic- memory.
- Context models are subjective, unique as well as personal.

- Context models are built on sociocultural knowledge.
- Context models characterize explicit communicative events.
- They are systematized by categories and schemas that illustrate different types of communicative events, such as genres.
- They can control the continuing verbal interactions and adjust them to their social situation (Ibid).

The mechanism of the socio-cognitive approach is the same as Fairclough's approach to CDA, where the socio-cognitive approach tends to integrate the micro-structure with the macrostructure of society. That is, the socio-cognitive approach relates the microlevel concepts, including text, along with macrolevel concepts, including social relations, into social cognition (Van Dijk, 2001b). Moreover, Van Dijk's CDA dimensions for the study of discourse consist of three focal kinds:

Firstly, Text and Talk: This dimension is related to the explicit and systematic description of conversation structures at three levels: semantic, syntactic, and pragmatic (Van Dijk, 2009a). In this context, the text itself is like an iceberg, representing the enormous amount of knowledge that is also internalized by the human mind. Secondly, in-depth analysis of cognitive and sociocultural structures: This component highlights the relationship between discourse and society, emphasizing the significance of analyzing the cognitive structures of language use (Van Dijk, 2008).

As a result, a thorough knowledge of discourse can be achieved by taking this interaction between cognition and society into account. As for social structure, its analysis is the main focus of this dimension, which aims to understand how discourse is shaped and influenced by social structures (Van Dijk, 2009a). To do this, one must investigate the larger social settings, power relationships, and ideologies that influence the production and interpretation of discourse (Van Dijk, 2001b).

In addition, Van Dijk (1991) employs a socio-cognitive approach to examine media texts, focusing on the significant role discourse plays in creating and reproducing inequality, particularly in relation to ethnicity and race. In his book *Racism and Press*, Van Dijk (1991) examines the portrayal of ethnic minorities and media discourse, emphasizing the media's influential role in producing unsatisfactory power relations and racism within society. Moreover, Van Dijk (1991) suggests that a comprehensive study of minority groups in discourse should be studied with the focus on a multidisciplinary approach. In his study, Van Dijk (1991) also discusses the representation of ethnic minorities through the following points:

- Analyzing the socio-political factors is essential to comprehend the media's role in producing racism.
- Examining news reports in media discourse requires drawing on recent research on the functional and structural aspects of news discourse.

- Cognitive psychological explanations are needed to understand how readers perceive, remember, and comprehend news events and discourses.
- Studying changes in ideologies, attitudes, and beliefs among ethnic groups in the context of communication and cognition is crucial.

Van Dijk (1991) further highlights that immigrants and minorities are often framed as threats and problems, associated with various negative representations, such as unacceptable cultural differences, crime, war, violence, and other forms of negativity.

Regarding ideologies, these are essentially also seen as a social aspect in the socio-cognitive approach. In other words, ideologies are not only represented by individuals but also by a group of individuals who learned them socially and collectively. Furthermore, ideologies also appear to have a shared representation in the minds of groups, and in some instances, they may even be in common. Van Dijk adds that social structures and their facets must be considered to comprehend how ideologies function in society. As a result, both the macro- and microlevels of society can define the social features of ideologies. Van Dijk (2000) presents a framework consisting of four principles to analyze the concept of ideology, which he refers to as the “ideological four-sided square.” These principles are as follows:

1. Highlight the positive things about US.
2. Emphasize the negative things about them.
3. De-emphasize positive things about US.
4. De-emphasize the negative things about them (van Dijk, 2000: 44).

Researchers now have a useful framework for analyzing discourses on various levels thanks to Van Dijk’s socio-cognitive approach, which functions as both a method and a theory. This theory tends to incorporate both micro- and macrolevels of analysis, enabling a thorough comprehension of textual, social, and cognitive structures. The socio-cognitive approach, which was first put forth by van Dijk as a research paradigm, emphasizes the integration of macro- and microlevel concepts—such as social interactions and text—through the lens of social cognition (Van Dijk, 1993b: 280, cited in Hart, 2010).

The macrolevel is concerned with the overall topic and organizational structure of the text, whereas the microlevel focuses on textual specifics. According to Van Dijk (1988), the notion of microlevel structures includes a number of linguistic features, such as syntax, semantics, lexical items, words, phrases, clauses, sentences, cohesiveness between sentences, and coherence between ideas. These linguistic components are extremely important in determining how news discourses are conveyed in the media (Van Dijk, 1988). In other words, the study of language use, discourse texts, verbal interactions, and communication is commonly known as the analysis of microstructure in the social order.

In contrast, the analysis of inequality, power relations, and dominance among social groups falls under the level of macrostructural analysis. In this sense, critical discourse analysis (CDA) serves as a bridge between these two levels, connecting the correlation between interactional aspects and agency on the one hand, and organizational, institutional, and structural elements on the other (Van Dijk, 2015).

We can understand the underlying structure of topics by analyzing the microstructure of discourses in the news media. That is, examining specific words, phrases, and sentences of the selected text, such as headlines and sub-headlines, helps us to understand how power is conveyed through the media. Also, in the media, editors tend to use microstructures, employing specific language to influence and shape the beliefs of readers and viewers according to their intentions and agenda. To investigate deeper into Van Dijk's method and its levels of analysis, the socio-cognitive approach operates on two focal levels.

Firstly, the microlevel of analysis: In microlevel analysis, the social aspect is examined through the study of language usage, discourse, and discourse communication (Van Dijk, 2007, 2009b). At the microstructural level, the focus is on grammatical structures (Van Dijk, 1987); therefore, this level gives considerable attention to grammatical components, such as words, phrases, sentences, and the connections between them in a discourse text (Van Dijk, 1980). The microstructural level is closely related to the 'local meaning of the discourse,' which refers to the formal expression of the microstructures in the given discourse. It involves analyzing each discourse individually, examining elements, like meaning, words, lexicon, and syntactic structures. Syntax, specifically, explores how words, phrases, and sentences are organized within the discourse. To this end, the microstructural level is important for understanding discourse, as it helps identify and examine markers like discourse markers, sentence connectors, and sentence operators. Generally speaking, in discourse, the microstructure can be realized through the use of grammatical components, such as words, phrases, sentences, headings, and propositions.

Secondly, the macrolevel of analysis: In order to comprehensively understand discourse text, more is needed to analyze the text at macrolevel. This suggests that there is an urgent need to grasp the broader meaning and significance of the text within the whole discourse. Although analyzing the microlevel elements of the text is crucial to understanding its components, it is insufficient for identifying the discourse topic and theme. Hence, macrosyntax plays a crucial role in specifying the overall arrangement and patterns in sentence structures, such as headlines and sub-headlines in media news discourses (Van Dijk, 1988).

The macrostructural level focuses on uncovering the so-called global meaning in the text. In other words, macrostructures are assigned to account for the “global meaning”; they are cognitively labelled in terms of the “theme” or “topic” in discourse and practice (Van Dijk, 1977: 1). This level is less likely to be evident in the surface structures of individual sentences within the text (Van Dijk, 1995b, 1980).

On the whole, macrostructure is used to analyze the underlying ideology through the use of discourse topics. In other words, it reveals the main idea, essence, and overall core of the discourses framed by various authors, writers, and news media editors. Analyzing the semantic structures of sentence arrangements does not require interpreting correlations between sentences, phrases, and words. Rather, the analysis aims to establish extensional and intentional units that connect these interpretive units at a broader text level (Van Dijk, 1980).

In discourse text, the integration of micro- and macrolevels is inherently interconnected, much like the relationship between action and meaning. As a result, the overall meaning of the entire text emerges from the local meaning of sentences and words. Additionally, macrolevel, macrosyntax, or semantic macropositions in the text all refer to ‘topics.’ Therefore, in the media, topics are used to convey information that the writers/speakers consider important or relevant (Van Dijk, 2004). To conclude the above claims, critical discourse analysis (CDA) serves as a bridge between these two levels, connecting micro and macro structures to a wide range of descriptions (Van Dijk, 2015).

3.2.2. Fairclough’s Approach to CDA

Fairclough’s (1995a) approach to Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) provides a general framework for studying language use in social contexts. According to Fairclough (1995a), language serves not only as a tool for communication but also as a social practice that both shapes and reflects social structures and power relations. Hence, based on Fairclough’s view, CDA tends to place emphasis on analyzing language use in relation to broader social, political, and cultural contexts. The three levels of analysis in Fairclough’s (1989) analytical framework are text (such as a news article), discourse practice (such as the production and consumption process), and sociocultural practice (such as the social and cultural processes that underlie communicative events).

In this sense, Fairclough (1989) tries to develop a methodical approach to examining the connection between text and its social context. Consequently, Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) directs its focus not only towards language and its application, but also towards the linguistic aspects in terms of social and cultural processes. Fairclough’s analytical approach assumes that language hopes to create change and change behavior, and it hopes to be a tool of power. Fairclough’s (1989) approach to critical discourse analysis is based on three-dimensional methods of discourse. The first dimension is text; a text can be spoken or written. Text is generally speech, image, writing, or a mixture of the three forms.

The second dimension is the discursive practice; this is a matter of the production of text, and it involves both text production and text interpretation. The third dimension is social practice; this is about the standards of society and organization. To this end, the following illustrates the three levels:

Firstly, the text: The concept of text serves as the first analytical dimension in Fairclough's model. According to Fairclough (1995a), a text refers to the linguistic analysis description. In this sense, Fairclough (1995a: 57) also states that "Linguistic analysis includes the analysis of the grammar, vocabulary, sound system, semantics, and cohesion organization above the sentence level." The linguistic analysis focuses on describing the formal properties of the text. That is, a text encompasses a collection of words, phrases, and characters and serves as the data for linguistic analysis; it is considered a product rather than a process (Fairclough, 1995b).

On the other hand, Fairclough (1995b) also uses the term discourse to describe the social communication process of which a text is a part. However, this process includes not only the text itself but also the processes of production and interpretation. Text analysis can be seen as a formal aspect of discourse analysis, which involves analyzing both the interpretive and productive processes. From a discourse analysis perspective, texts are generally seen as traces of the productive process and as cues of the interpretive process (Ibid). To this end, the essential elements of Fairclough's text analysis are vocabulary, grammar, coherence, and text structure; each of these elements takes into account the ideational, interpersonal, and textual meanings (Fairclough, 1995b).

Secondly, the discursive practice: Discursive practice is the act of producing text; it deals with both the production and consumption of texts. In other words, it includes analysis of the text-creation, text-interpretation, text-distribution, and text-consumption processes. It is the analysis of socio-cognitive aspects of text production and interpretation, and it is concerned with how people interpret and produce texts and their relationship to the discourse orders. According to Fairclough, "interpretation is concerned with the relationship between text and interaction with seeing the text as the product of a process of production, and as recourse in the process of interpretation" (Fairclough, 1989: 26). As shown in the figure below, discourse practice, according to Fairclough (1995b), cuts across the boundary between societal, cultural, discursive, linguistic, and textual.

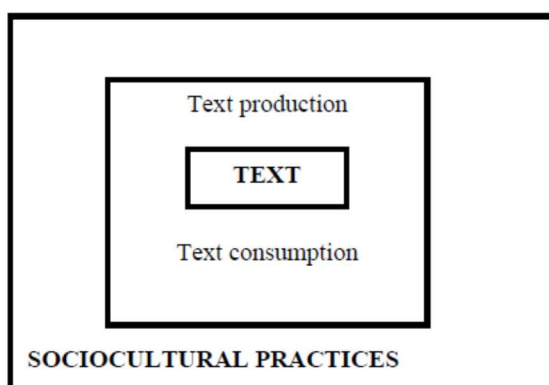


Figure 6. Source: Fairclough (1995b: 59).

Thirdly, social practice: Generally, critical discourse analysis views language as a form of social practice. Social practice, according to linguist Norman Fairclough, is the way people use language and other forms of communication, in particular social contexts, to achieve certain purposes. It involves the use of language to represent and reproduce social structures and relationships and is shaped by broader social, cultural, and historical variables (Fairclough, 1995a).

The three interconnected elements of discourse, text, and social context, according to Fairclough, are part of social practice. When we talk about discourse, we mean the ways that people use language to convey meaning and ideas. The term 'text' describes the precise words that were spoken in a given communication. The term 'social context' describes the most significant social, cultural, and historical elements that influence how language is used and understood (Fairclough, 2003).

Furthermore, the sort of social practice provides us the standard of society and organization. In social practice, language creates opinions (social relationships); it is also associated with social community and power (Fairclough, 1995a). In some special contexts, social practice can have a broader application to transnational institutions or companies; it requires a strong culture. In other words, social practice can be more broadly applied to international institutions and companies, and this requires a deep socio-cultural sense, for instance, MacDonaldis (Fairclough, 1995a). Hence, text is analyzed by Fairclough (1995a) as a social practice. This suggests that social practice may involve an investigation at several societal levels, from the most localized to institutional, or even more general, societal contexts.

3.2.3. Ruth Wodak – Discourse Historical Approach

The Discourse-Historical Approach (DHA) is an interdisciplinary approach to the study of discourse that integrates linguistic analysis with knowledge of the historical and social context in which language is used. The best-known approach to Ruth Wodak is the discourse-historical approach, which is the outcome of her studies into racism and anti-Semitism as well as her other diverse social studies (Reisigl & Wodak, 2001). In this sense, Wodak and Meyer claims that DHA focuses on "the analysis of language use as a social practice, shaped by and shaping social, cultural, and historical contexts" (Wodak & Meyer, 2009: 1). The term 'historical' in this context refers to a diachronic relationship between the text and all other information in the text's background. Such a process of reconstructing history and its existence in texts and narratives occurs throughout a wide range of genres (Heer et al., 2008).

In her discourse-historical approach, Wodak places discourse into a historical context (including society and politics) and develops CDA from a historical perspective. Wodak's work has had a significant impact in the topics and areas of the analysis of political discourse, the study of nationalism and identity, and the investigation of socioeconomic injustice and exclusion. In this context, Wodak's approach

emphasizes the significance of taking context into account when interpreting language and seeks to reveal the underlying power dynamics and ideologies hidden in discourse (Wodak, 1997).

The word 'historical' in DHA does not mean 'diachronic'; therefore, the discourse-historical approach need not examine texts over a long period of time; instead, it tends to analyze them in the specific historical moment in relation to their distribution and production . On the other hand, the notion of 'historical' holds a special place in the DHA since it indicates an effort on the part of this approach to "integrate systematically all available background information in the analysis and interpretation of the many layers of a written or spoken text" (Wodak, 1995:209). All in all, the unique characteristic of this theoretical and methodological approach lies in its systematic effort to incorporate all relevant contextual information when examining and understanding the various aspects of a text (Wodak and Reisigl, 1999). According to the *discourse-historical approach* (DHA), language both "manifests" and "constitutes" social interaction and processes (Wodak & Ludwig, 1999: 12).

According to Reisigl and Wodak (2001: 36), the notion of discourse is crucial in DHA. Accordingly, Reisigl and Wodak point out that discourse is "a complex bundle of simultaneous and sequential interrelated linguistic acts, which manifest themselves within and across the social fields of action as thematically interrelated semiotic, oral, or written tokens, very often as "texts," that belong to specific semiotic types, i.e., genres."

DHA has a particular notion about the context while interpreting discourse. It typically addresses the four levels of context that surround the discourse. Firstly, the immediate (intra-textual) linguistic context, or the co-text for a specific linguistic characteristic found within the text. Secondly, the connections between texts, genres, and discourses that are intertextual and interdiscursive (i.e., the texts and discourses that the text draws upon). Thirdly, the extralinguistic social context, which may have an impact on how texts are created, distributed, and received, and finally, the socio-political context, or the broader context of the discursive event, which includes the issue itself (Reisigl & Wodak, 2001). An examination of these four contextual levels can provide analysts with stronger ground for the interpretations they put forth.

Additionally, Reisigl and Wodak (2001) propose discursive strategies related to the DHA. These strategies can be described as follows:

1. Nomination and referential strategies: The objective of these strategies is to construct the in-group and out-group in discourses through referential and nomination techniques.
2. Prediction strategy: In this strategy, social actors aim to label their objectives as either positive or more/less negative.
3. Argumentative strategies: This strategy focuses on justifying positive or negative framing. It involves the use of different types of topoi to justify representations.

4. Perspectivation, framing, or discourse representation strategy: The objective of this strategy is to construct the speaker’s utterances through techniques, such as reporting, framing events, quotation, narration, and expressing views.

5. Additionally, there is a fifth strategy mentioned: Mitigation or intensification. This strategy is based on the epistemic position of a proposition. It helps modify the utterances of discourses by either intensifying or mitigating the illocutionary force of biased, racist, and nationalist utterances. As a result, Reisigl and Wodak (2001) argue that these discursive strategies will provide a theoretical framework for analyzing discourses and help to identify the discursive representation and constructions of ‘us’ and ‘them’ in media discourse. The figure below provides an illustration regarding the description of the discursive strategies.

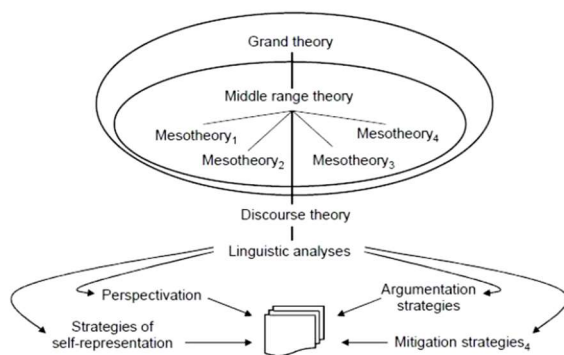


Figure 7. Level of context. Source: (Weiss & Wodak, 2007, p. 23).

3.2.4. Van Leeuwen’s socio-semantic (Social Actor) approach

Van Leeuwen’s (1996, 2008) framework is developed for analyzing social actors both visually and linguistically in the study of CDA. Van Leeuwen (1996: 32) points out that “socio-semantic inventory of the ways in which social actors can be represented in discourse” and then points to the claim of how they are identified linguistically. Overall, this framework has been introduced as a “pan-semiotic” system for conducting critical analysis concerning the study of visual-verbal media texts (Van Leeuwen, 1996: 34). Based on this framework, social actors include different semiotic resources. KhosraviNik (2009:483) states that van Leeuwen’s socio-semantic (Social Actor) approach is said to be “the starting point of discourse analysis and representations of different social actors are accounted for by linking these socio-semantic categories with their linguistic realizations”.

The socio-semantic (Social Actors) approach is now placed as a grounding approach to be an explanatory framework within critical discourse studies (CDS), since it provides “a comprehensive inventory for the ways in which people can be classified and the ideological effects that such classifications may have” (Machin & Mayr, 2012: 79). In depicting social actors, van Leeuwen (1996: 33) argues that the big problem with the classification of participants or social actors is based on the

notion of grammatical transitivity, stressing that “there is no well-arranged appropriate between sociological and linguistic categories.”

In this sense, the following example serves as an illustration of the previously discussed interpretation that the grammatical actor can be viewed as a participant who is socially positioned as a patient, e.g., people of Asian descent say they were suddenly given the cold shoulder by neighbors and co-workers. When analyzing this sentence, it is argued that, grammatically, “people of Asian descent” are actors; however, they are not actors sociologically (van Leeuwen, 1996: 33). Van Leeuwen (1996) also argues that the danger in CDA’s interpretation lies in the functional linguistic categories for interpreting such sociological meanings. That is, a social actor is interpreted in terms of sociological categories, regardless of providing a range of linguistic realizations for each case.

When it comes to the visual depiction of social actors, van Leeuwen (2008) uses a special framework for analyzing social actors within the field of visual discourse and how this framework is used to investigate the visual depiction of others. This framework is crucial since it shows the relationships between images and texts in discourse. Overtly, the display between image and text is crucial in today’s media products. Currently, the media tends to show a visual image, graphic, or video as an effective way to grasp the audience’s attention. Boundaries in the media tend to become increasingly unclear, especially integrating and intermixing cultures into the flow of information that mixes between text and image in communication. This is due to the relentless leap in technologies in which text and image come together, developing multimodal texts.

The interaction between modalities, for instance, text and image, is vital in media and discourse studies since postulating the superiority of written language over images may run some risks of twisting in the context of interpretation and even skewing research results. In this regard, van Leeuwen (2008) argues that the division between words and images is meaningful since words provide facts and explanations, something that needs to be said in words; in contrast, images provide interpretations, and they tend to do ideologically colored angles

On the other hand, there is a common understanding that the explicit relation between text and image is based on the abovementioned consideration that text is understood as written language, whereas an image is seen as visual communication. Besides, a good resemblance between visual and verbal does the same job in making –meaning, and therefore, their central claim is that images show raw materials while languages inform or tell information (Bateman et al., 2017). To this end, the combination of modes in media stresses the appearance of multimodality and the function of materiality other than the language itself, which leads to a crucial mapping in the discourse context. In addition, Kress indicates that communication is a semiotic process, and the concept of mode coincides with the social and cultural orientation in making-meaning processes (Kress, 2009).

3.3. Framing Analysis

3.3.1. Introduction

Framing and frames are two important concepts that have come to be commonly assigned in different approaches to social science, where they are used in discrete ways (Hart, 2023). Most particularly, the sociologist, Goffman (1974: 21) came to define frames as “schemata of interpretation” that allow readers to “identify, label, locate, and perceive” global events around them. Based on the mass media studies, frames are produced to be vital tactical tools in changing the content of the news article. Following the classic definition of framing, Entman (1993: 52) states that to frame is “to select some aspects of a perceived reality and make them more salient in a communicating text, in such a way as to promote a particular problem identifying, causal interpretation, moral evaluation, and or treatment recommendation for the item described.” The main argument of framing is provided by Entman (1993: 52), who argues that an event or issue can be perceived from different viewpoints and interpreted to have implications for a variety of values and factors (Chong & Druckman, 2007).

The concept of framing also includes a dominant meaning in the media; it thus implies some cognitive processes, especially when selecting some aspects of the news issues. All in all, framing is a journalistic technique in the media (Entman, 1993), where this technique includes two main procedures: “selection and salience” (1993: 2). This suggests that making the text more salient in the interactive text is the process of creating a segment of information to be more prominent, meaningful, as well as remarkable. However, such frames in the news are produced by using metaphors, concepts, keywords, or symbols, reinforcing the communicative text to be more noticeable (Entman, 1991).

In addition, framing plays a critical role in the practice of political authority. Arguably, in political news, framing is characteristic of power since it focuses on the social actor and its identity in the communicative text. Also, it highlights some aspects of reality, while at the same time ignoring other issues, which this process could lead to the readers/viewers having different reactions (Entman, 1993). Broadly speaking, framing in social movements has also been the topic of research in critical discourse analysis (CDA). That is to say, the investigation has not been performed with interrupting effects of collective action frames defined within the social movements, but rather how journalistic discourses frame social movements in relation to the socio-political perspective of the media discourses (Hart, 2023).

Van Dijk (2023) argues that frames are defined as an individual and subjective interpretation of a specific social situation; they are basically assigned as a mental situation model from the socio-cognitive perspective. On the other hand, van Dijk’s argument is that the discursive of cognitive frames still remain vague in social studies, especially in the studies of the social movements. This is due to the very clear vague in description identified in empirical studies regarding the theoretical and

methodological aspects of how frames and framing are expressed in discourse. Also, in framing and frames, what is more widely ignored is the important role of the “context” in events, since an experience is differently framed by differing social situations and also by the varied social actors (Van Dijk, 2023: 159).

In framing, communicative texts can be characterized as either persuasive or informative, including the extent to which they involve narrative structures in producing news topics. According to Tuchman (1978, cited in Ardèvol-Abreu, 2015), news can be perceived as a window through which our understanding of reality is shaped. This suggests that framing controls different realities, focusing on specific news instead of others. In framing analysis, the communicative text is only static. Rather, it is a dynamic process, including two crucial processes: frame-building, this suggests how frames emerge, and frame-setting, which involves the interaction between media frames and audience predispositions (De Vreese, 2005). In this sense, Entman (1993) reinforces the idea that frames in media texts have specific locations, including the text, communicator, culture as well as receiver. Hence, these characteristics are vital in the process of framing, as they involve stages relating to frame-building and frame-setting.

In a nutshell, framing is a concept in communication and social sciences that refers to how media-makers present prominent information to the audience, using rhetorical devices in order to convince people of the value of the given text. In other words, it includes analyzing the way that media-makers provide information, highlighting specific issues while ignoring others, to shape how readers or viewers understand and perceive an issue (Gamson & Modigliani, 1989). Furthermore, Scheufele (1999) asserts that the main argument in framing analysis is that the way the media shows information can affect how others perceive it. This suggests that different frames in the media discourse may be used to stress different aspects of an issue. Therefore, such framing issues may involve the practice in which people can create a specific conceptualization regarding the issue by redirecting their thinking about this issue (Chong & Druckman, 2007).

From a cognitive point of view, framing involves an interpretive schema that operates during the practice of cognitive structures in the writer’s thinking regarding news selection. So, these cognitive structures tend to play a crucial role in allocating the practices of representation and selection (Balaban, 2008). As a concept, framing is said to be interfaced with two meanings: the first one being a matter of rules and structures. In this sense, framing refers to how human messages regarding structures and rules can be adjusted to a particular social situation. The second meaning is the individual’s intention to influence others, using rhetorical and linguistic expressions or paralinguistic communications that show the intended situation (D’Angelo, 2019).

3.3.2. Entman's framing theory

In framing, Entman (1993: 2) argues that the process includes two procedures: “selection and salience”. Furthermore, Entman asserts that there are four major locations in the communication process. The first is the communicators (journalists) who “make conscious and unconscious framing judgments”; the text (news stories, events, and crises), which may include not include a certain frame; the receiver (the online and the offline audience) who reads reports, newspapers and whose inferences after accessing and reading newspapers to the stories, events, and crises may or may not reflect event frames. Finally, the fourth is culture. In culture, receivers, as well as communicators, have the possibility of living and exchanging meaning (Entman, 1993). Figure 9 supports the above processes.

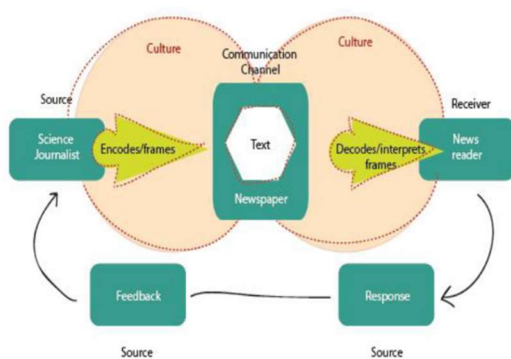


Figure 8. Source. Adopted from (Rodriguez, 2013: 25).

In addition, framing plays a critical role in the practice of political power. More specifically, in political news, framing is the hallmark of power since it registers the social actor and its identity in the communicative text. It also highlights some aspects of reality while ignoring other issues, which this process could lead to the readers/viewers having different reactions (Entman, 1993). Entman (1993) argues that there are four framing functions for the text to be analyzed. These functions can be described as follows:

1. Problem identifying– this is the way of identifying a specific agent's action to understand the problem as a frame and the benefits of it.
2. Causal interpretation– specifies the social actor forces causing the problem. This frame function tends to trace back the problem to specify the actor behind an event or crisis.
3. Moral judgments. In this function– judgments are based on an evaluation of the agents and their effects.
4. Treatment recommendation or suggestion remedies– suggests actions for the problems. This frame function suggests that events have to be comprehensively explained.

To sum up, Entman's (1993) framing analysis is important in the media because it can be used to identify the frame functions in the communicating text to promote problem-identifying, causal interpretation, moral evaluation, and treatment recommendation. In this sense, the Iraqi refugee crisis is an example where the crisis would lead to social problems in the media through different aspects, such as positive or negative evaluations of the crisis and lack of information. The use of framing analysis in this study is important for the analysis of how headlines provide salient production in discourse because it can produce a broad linguistic analysis. Additionally, the above information is vital to an understanding of the frame functions in linguistic data. To this end, the basic goal in this theoretical framework is to develop a critical perspective of how frames work together within the critical discourse approaches in the communicative text for the purposes of producing a salient meaning within a text.

3.4. Multimodal Analysis

The focus on dimensions of materiality i.e., text and image, has recently gained more attention. The multimodal analysis drawn from Halliday is on the one hand functional, since it describes meanings people make through active choices in social contexts. On the other hand, it is systemic and based on the idea that all semiotic resources could be labelled in the same way (Machin, 2016a). Multimodal analysis is a social affordance-based approach for meaning potentials. Such an approach is based on the former work of Halliday's semiotics (1978) in systemic functional linguistics (SFL), arguing it is not only the idea of a formal system trigger grammar when analysing text, but there is a system of semiotic choices to activate such an affordance-driven approach in language (Bezerra, 2020).

Multimodal analysis, more specifically, refers to multimodality, and is a growing interdisciplinary subject in semiotics and linguistics (O'Halloran et al.,2014). Since its emergence in the middle of the 1990s, multimodal analysis has been increasingly employed in place of social semiotic studies. Hence, multimodal analysis goes beyond traditional linguistics to confirm that language and image work together to generate meaning in texts (Ledin & Machin 2018). Multimodal analysis has been influenced by two crucial theories of language: the first one is social semiotics, and the second is systemic functional linguistics (Jewitt, 2009a). This influence suggests that there is evidence regarding the early work of Kress and van Leeuwen (1996/2006) as well as O'Toole (1994), which drew greatly on the two former linguistic theories and are now regarded as important works in the study of multimodal discourse analysis.

It is worth mentioning that the most crucial thing in multimodal discourse is to analyze "how the modes of image and writing appear together, how they are designed to appear together and how they are to be read together" (Kress, 2003:61). For this reason, it is important to understand how linguistic and visual modes work together in the genre of media and discourse. Systemic functional linguistic analysis as a linguistic theory comes to explain the importance of how text and image produce meaning. SFL focuses on the analysis of semiotic products and materials of the social interaction i.e., texts in relation to the

cultural and social context in which they occur. In particular, SFL analysis tends to classify text in terms of genre, form, and type (Martínez Lirola, 2006).

Baldry and Thibault's (2006: 3) texts are based on social contexts; they "help to constitute the contexts in which they function [and are] inseparable parts of meaning-making activities in which they take part." To this end, employing a multimodal discourse approach that focuses on the semiotic modes of communication, including language and image, is crucial for this thesis for understanding mapping of the context as well as interpreting language and image. The theoretical perspective of this part is based on Kress and van Leeuwen's (1996,2006) work and van Leeuwen's (2008, 2021)) work on visual grammar. Taking this perspective into account, I take both the linguistic and visual modes into consideration since such mapping contributes to the interpretation of how semiotic choices and language are selected in the media.

3.4.1. Essential Concepts in Multimodality

This section will discuss some basic concepts regarding multimodal analysis in this study. Therefore, it is important to define these notions and shed light on the basic core concepts of multimodality. The focal point in this part is multimodal analysis and its concepts, including semiotic resources, mode, and meta-functions. To begin with, following Kress's definition (2010: 79), the term mode is defined as follows: "Mode is a socially shaped and culturally given semiotic resource for making meaning." This suggests that language, images, music, and symbols are all instances of modes used in portrayal and interaction. In semiotic studies, a mode has been discussed among many scholars working in multimodal research. From a multimodality point of view, a mode is a concept that refers to the ways in which materials and semiotic resources can be used to create meaning-making. This suggests that mode plays a vital role in producing meanings in interaction processes and social settings. Therefore, the integration of images, language, and other forms of communication is the product of multimodality. The important question of how modes are semiotically organized remains a topic of debate despite the fact that many scholars have discussed what a mode is (Holsting et al., 2016). When modes go together to produce meaning, such as textual and visual elements in a news article, the resulting arrangement of this process is known as 'multimodal.' Online newspapers tend to use the arrangement of modes in news texts for two main purposes: firstly, to grab readers' attention, and secondly, to produce explicit news material for the readers. This also suggests that the contexts and visual components surrounding the linguistic texts should be taken into account to see how these elements relate to the experience of the reader (van Leeuwen, 2008).

In this sense, the emergence of multimodality stresses the function of the semiotic mode in producing meaning-making in interaction and its importance in the social context. For this reason, Kress points out that communication is a semiotic process because the semiotic mode includes social and cultural aspects for making meaning (Kress, 2009). When discussing mode, one should clearly distinguish

between visual and verbal modes. A good resemblance between visual and verbal is the same function in meaning-making. This means their central claim is based on the distinction that images show raw and semiotic materials while languages inform or give information (Bateman et al., 2017).

Furthermore, following Jewitt and Kress (2003: 1), a semiotic mode is perceived as a “regularized organized set of resources for meaning-making, including image, gaze, gesture, movement, music, speech and sound-effect”. Also, they point out that modes are described ‘to be the effect of the work of culture in shaping material into resources for representation’ (ibid.). Moreover, according to Jewitt and Kress (2003:2), these modes develop into something that is “more fully and finely articulated” the more they are used in a community’s social and cultural activities. Therefore, *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* analyzed in this study, and the images accompanying the news texts concerning Iraqi refugees, are viewed as multimodal texts, because they integrate linguistic and visual elements. To this end, readers or viewers need to understand both what texts mean and how different multimodal texts function together in the news genre.

Furthermore, a semiotic mode by Bateman et al. (2017) offers a different perspective on multimodal discourse, because the authors try to free multimodality from the constraints of paradigms and disciplinary boundaries. Consequently, the authors argue that disciplinary boundaries are ineffective regarding multimodal work and that good multimodal work requires investigating fields in connection with the analysis of a specific engagement of the texts, including film studies and photography (Lirola, 2022). Bateman et al. (2017) argue that a semiotic mode can be characterized as a matter of practice constellation among the user community, and its — practice in the community produces meanings in relation to three main semiotic echelons, such as materials, form, and discourse semantics. Also, Bateman et al. (2017) argue that there is a difference between mode and medium, where a mode is a semiotic form for expressing meanings, whereas medium, on the other hand, is a historically conditioned site for the mobilization of semiotic modes.

When it comes to the first level, material or deformable perceptible form, there are many sensory channels described as ‘canvas.’ In communicative situations, the role of canvas is crucial, because it acts as a conveyor of the meaningful regularities of the semiotic modes. Therefore, the canvas is the locus of semiotic activity in communicative situations. In this sense, the interface provided by the canvas within the medium is essential, because this interface may help interpreters potentially understand the semiotic messages that the medium carries in communicative situations. To Bateman et al. (2017), canvases may be seen in the medium and the communicative situations as having realization in terms of 2D and 3D dimensional perspectives. They state that...

“Canvases may vary in terms of their spatial dimensionality (2D, 3D) and whether they allow those communicating to be ‘in’ them, as embodied performers, or are distanced, as in playing a computer game. Or, performance is not supported, and asymmetric roles lead more to viewers and audience, as

in a play or a film. They may even be static (as in a painting) or unfolding in time'' (Bateman et al., 2017: 101).

The second level is form-related annotation schemes. In this sense, form refers to the classification of formal units and structures, which includes paradigmatic and syntagmatic relationships. Hence, this level serves as a definition of the material deformations of the semiotic modes; it creates the 'form' or the 'technical features.' It is this level of description that imposes classifications above the regularities of the materials that these material variations are crucial for the semiotic mode. Also, this level tends to encode materiality, especially the physical material of its movement and position in communicative situations, such as gestures, movements, shapes, and locations (Bateman, 2022).

The last is discourse semantics. Discourse semantics, therefore, plays a vital role in generating dynamic descriptions for various semiotic modes during the formulation process. This indicates that discourse semantics provides the abductive constructions of discourse structures, allowing them to be appropriately assigned within the context (Bateman et al., 2017). It is this space that makes an interpretable meaning in the space of contextualization. Discourse semantics is then responsible for interpreting communicative artefacts, because it effectively helps the first two levels to be well-formulated by contestable rules of interpretation. Regarding sign modalities and their allocation in communicative situations, it is the level of discourse semantics that plays a decisive role in many approaches to multimodality (Bateman, 2020). The figure below shows semiotic modes and their mechanism in context.

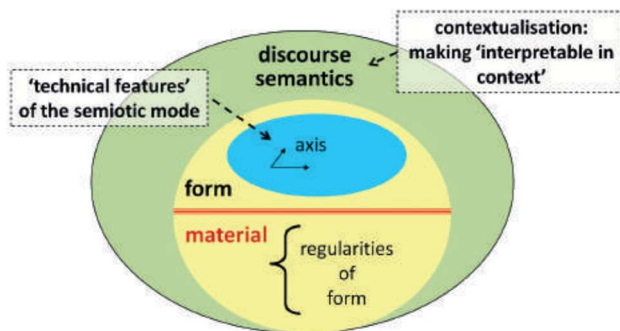


Figure 9. Source. Bateman et al., 2017.

Based on this model, the alignment of sign modalities is driven by two levels: the first refers to the description of the material, whereas the next level refers to the form in which sign modalities are also driven under the paradigmatic and syntagmatic axes. Therefore, the two former levels are encoded and followed by the stratum of discourse semantics. In this regard, the level of discourse semantics relates previous levels to the space of interpretation and context. It is through this level that Bateman asserts that it is possible to apply it to all sign modalities (Bateman, 2020).

Also, the role of the level of discourse semantics is crucial because it creates interpretable tools for semiotic modes. This suggests that this level is interfaced with the abovementioned levels for two main purposes: Firstly, it tends to connect the regularities of form in semiotic modes to their contextualized use. Secondly, it also defines the scope of interpretation of the aforementioned levels. In general, all semiotic modes should have a level of discourse semantics in order to be interpreted thoroughly. If not, there is no space to capture the uses of these semiotic modes in how they are interpreted in the social context (Bateman et al., 2017).

The next concept of multimodality, the semiotic resource, is the process that refers to the relationship between representational resources and what individuals do with them (Jewitt, 2009). Formerly, the notion of semiotic resources belongs to Halliday's former work on language. In this sense, Halliday argues that the grammar of a language is not a matter of a code, nor a set of rules for formulating well-formed sentences, but a semiotic code or "resource for making meanings" (1978: 192).

In this area, , the word 'resource' is, in fact, the source of a major argument between the Paris school structuralist semiotics and social semiotics, in which the former school refers to the word 'resource' as a 'code.' Therefore, it defines the semiotic system as a string of codes. This suggests that there is a group of rules for integrating both meanings and signs in the semiotic system. For example, when two or three people understand the same code, they will be able to connect the same meanings to the same graphic or explicit patterns and then be able to comprehend one another (van Leeuwen and Jewitt, 2002: 134). In light of this, semiotic resources, according to van Leeuwen (2005b: 3), are...

The actions and artefacts we use to communicate, whether they are produced physiologically – with our vocal apparatus; with the muscles we use to create facial expressions and gestures, etc. – or by mean of technologies – with pen, ink and paper; with computer hardware and software; with fabrics, scissors and swing machines, etc.

According to van Leeuwen (2005b), these materials/resources were previously referred to as 'signs,' which were considered to be essential concepts in semiotics. As a result, over time, the main emphasis on the social semiotic work transferred from signs to how people typically use semiotic resources to produce and interpret communicative artefacts. In this sense, according to Kress (2010), language is dynamic because the connection between the sign's physical form (the signifier) and its meaning (the signified) is driven by the sign-maker's interest rather than being random. In other words, according to Jewitt & Kress (2003: 10), individuals "use the resources that are available to them in the specific socio-cultural environments in which they act to create signs."

There is another crucial concept regarding the study of multimodal analysis: metafunctions. When considering multimodality, metafunctions are the most widely cited concept in social semiotic work to meaning-making. The meta-unction is a linguistic theory that views meaning as a choice and is firmly rooted in the functional and social perspectives of communication. It draws on decades of research on language, child development, and cognition. All in all, it means that whenever a choice is possible, we

are involved in a process of meaning-making as participants of a discourse, where the decision to exclude particular semiotic resources is viewed as an element of the overall meaning potential of the text (Laba, 2020). For this reason, according to Halliday (1973), language performs three important functions (known as metafunctions): (1) to express an idea about what something is — an Ideational metafunction; (2) to create interpersonal relationships — an Interpersonal metafunction; and (3) to arrange the text into a meaningful whole — a Textual metafunction. As a result, Halliday (1978) argues that the linguistic codes of writing and speech, as semiotic resources, are the product of the three social metafunctions.

Specifically, in visual images, the process of communication is analyzed through interconnected systems of social distance, involvement, power relation, and contact (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2006). Explicitly, understanding the production of social meanings in images uncovers how the relations between the represented participants and the audience are depicted. To this end, Kress and van Leeuwen (1996) have come to extend the concept of metafunction to images, as will be discussed in section 3.5.2.

3.4.2. Kress and Van Leeuwen’s Social Semiotic Approach- Based Multimodality

One of the main approaches in multimodality is the social semiotic approach. However, in social semiotic communication, multimodality widens the scope of the discourse analysis of language and its concepts by applying methods of visual and representational discourse in the process of communication, genre, and culture (van Leeuwen, 2005a; Kress, 2009). Broadly speaking, multimodality is a new offset in discourse studies; therefore, it uses notions as well as methods based on linguistic discourse analysis and other related disciplines, such as design theory and art (van Leeuwen, 2011). For this reason, the idea of multimodality is seen as a combination of different methods based on linguistics and semiotics. The fact is that multimodality has been studied with reference to Halliday’s (1994: 23) “ideational,” “interpersonal, and textual,” and the social semiotics of “meaning potential” (Halliday, 1978: 39).

In this sense, Halliday’s view of the metafunctions is that the functions of language, ideational, interpersonal, and textual, provide meaning to the language; in this context, multimodality added slight characteristics to this understanding in order to deepen the process of meaning-making. The fundamental notion of multimodality is the mode, and it can be defined with reference to certain aspects of the process of individual communities. Kress indicates that the mode obtains its sense from the given society, thus indicating that communication is a semiotic process and the mode of communication can be shaped culturally and socially so as to provide a semiotic resource for making meaning. In this aspect, whatever modes play an important role in making meaning, there are several semiotic characteristics that can be unearthed, depending on the social semiotic theory (Kress, 2009).

Multimodality coincides with two aspects: firstly, it is defined as a phenomenon instead of an intrinsic theory or a method. The basic idea of this phenomenon is that the multimodal aspect is virtually and always multimodal in a sense, and therefore, multimodal discourse studies refer to the fact that many semiotic modes, for example, language and image, are interrelated and combined in a particular discourse or a specific type of discourse. For instance, written discourse coincides with how language can be related to typographic expressions and increasingly with other factors. Secondly, multimodality is a field of study, and this view can, thus, be defined as an explicit theoretical frame in the social semiotic theory. Generally, when studying a social problem in a particular society, it is essential to point out that meaning-making in visual discourse is crucial and can be initiated with reference to both social interactions and the social environment. In this sense, social semiotic theory is interested in studying meaning-making in terms of modes and their form and also the ways semiotic resources are used to create meaning (Adami, 2016).

In semiotic studies, the object unit of semiotics is the study of signs. However, signs occur in all modes, which means that all modes have a crucial role in meaning-making processes. In this sense, signs are not the only materials used to produce semiotic resources; people, both socially and culturally, are agentive actors in the process of sign-making and visual communication processes (Kress, 2009). The social semiotic approach is the product of both Kress and van Leeuwen, and the aftermath of their work, *Reading Images and the Grammar of Visual Design* in 1996, was the most interesting trend in semiotic studies.

Both scholars analyzed countless modes, such as children's drawings, images, advertisements, and journalist photographs, and the result of their work creates a theoretical framework and model of analysis for the study of text and image, taking concepts from critical discourse analysis and systemic functional linguistics (Jewitt et al., 2016). Furthermore, in 'multimodal discourse' (2001), Kress and van Leeuwen developed the social semiotic approach further by studying several cases, such as music, voice, and multimedia. In this regard, Kress and van Leeuwen (2001: 2) stated the following: "we aim to explore the common principles behind multimodal communication. We move away from the idea that the different modes in multimodal texts have strictly bounded and framed specialist tasks Instead, we move towards a view of multimodality in which common semiotic principles operate in and across different modes"

Additionally, Kress and van Leeuwen (2001) developed the analytical study of social semiotics further, moving from the state of monomodality to the state of multimodality. They go further to see how modes are used as a vital process in the operationalization of meaning-making, especially in communication, and distinguish that modes are also important in the documents of institutions when these documents stress the importance of modes rather than text in the communication. In this regard, they defined modes

as follows: Modes are basically semiotic resources that permit the realization of forms and discourses of interaction to operate in the field of visual discourse.

Kress and van Leeuwen (2001: 1), offered a “common terminology for all semiotic modes”, but differently from their former work in 1996 when they had provided a general analysis to formulate a grammar for visual images on one kind of mode. Also, Kress and van Leeuwen (2001: 1) adopted a “common terminology for all semiotic modes” hence, all these semiotic modes function as a standard to a given social-cultural domain. In multimodal communication, these meanings are articulated with four crucial domains: discourse, production, design, and distribution, and all these strata are based on Halliday’s functional linguistics. In discourse, Kress and van Leeuwen (2001: 3) stated that it is a matter of “socially shaped knowledge of some aspects of reality”. That is, it is the alignment of the forms that result from the aftermath of the social context of communication.

In terms of design, this level has two functions: Firstly, how semiotic resources are used, i.e., different modes, to recognize discourses in the context of a given communication. Secondly, it produces socially constructed knowledge in the process of interaction. When it comes to production, it is the raw materials or what might be called the materialization procedure of the design. It provides the given modes and material forms; therefore, this material enhances the process of meaning in communication. As with distribution, this process expands the semiotic process to connect contents within communications to the audience (Kress & Van Leeuwen, 2001).

One of the key purposes of the study of semiotics is to formulate a methodological framework through which visual analysis can be conducted. According to Kress and van Leeuwen’s approach (1996), the visual design of modalities is the equivalence of Halliday’s term of the three metafunctions (ideational, interpersonal, and textual) of systemic functional grammar. In Kress and van Leeuwen’s visual grammar (1996: 42-43), the three metafunctions “representational, interactive, and compositional” produce a systemic analytical framework for analyzing different sign modalities.

In Kress’ (2010) social semiotics, a modality is illustrated as an abstract semiotic system for the purposes of making meaning. Thus, he points to metafunctionality as a standard for designating something as a modality, drawing on Halliday’s semiotic approach to the three metafunctions in language. Kress also confirms that any modality can be described as a criterion for making meaning systemized in three main correlated meanings: Firstly, a depiction of some type of human social experience, called ideational meaning. Secondly, a social interface between people is included in the interactive act, called interpersonal meaning. Thirdly, a flow of semiotic resources that unifies and shapes interpersonal relations and human social experience into the flow of text, called textual meaning. Consequently, the comprehensive and analytical framework, which formulates the three types of meanings, can be presented in the following figure drawing on Halliday’s SFL.

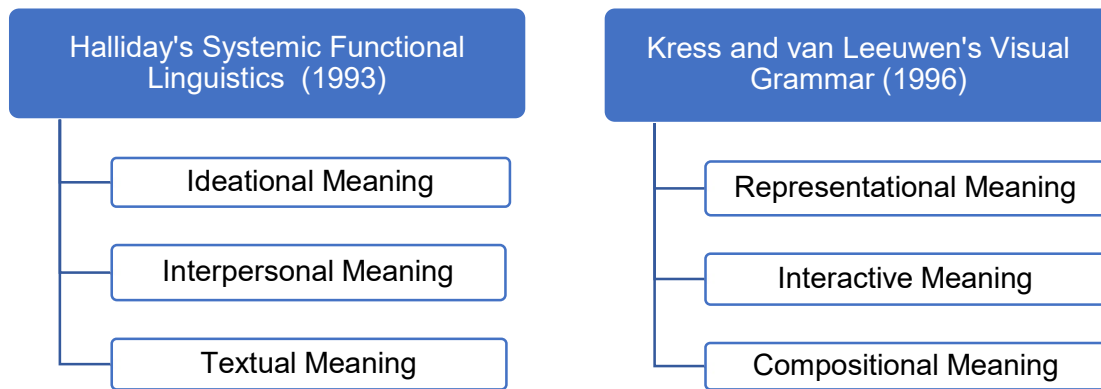


Figure.10. Based on Halliday's SFL (1993: 93) and Kress and van Leeuwen's Visual Grammar (1996: 42-43).

According to Kress and van Leeuwen (1996), a set of tools allowing the analysis of visual choices would be just as useful as the CDA tools for analyzing lexical and grammatical choices in language. They identified some linguistic concepts found in Halliday's SFL (1993) that could be used in the study of visual discourse. Therefore, they developed Halliday's theory of language functions to images and produced the concept of social semiotic multimodal analysis, which is concerned with analyzing how visual images, such as newspaper images, work to create meaning-making.

Broadly, multimodality has been used to study different discourses, including political discourses, to understand how ideology is realized by using different semiotic resources (Machin & van Leeuwen, 2016; Ledin & Machin, 2017; Breazu & Machin, 2018; Breazu, 2020). For example, Martinez Lirola (2017; 2022) uses a model for a multimodal perspective that takes into account the depiction of the visual and linguistic characteristics of the refugees in the Spanish media. On the other hand, Teo (2021) uses multimodal discourse by approaching ideological discourse through the application of teaching practices. That is, the author analyzes a number of considerable videos aimed at teacher staffing in Singapore and how those videos are used as an ideological method for persuasion in teaching. Moreover, Martinez Lirola (2016) takes multimodality as a methodological tool to analyze different political posters to explore those political candidates and how they are depicted in posters. Multimodality, according to Bateman et al. (2017), provides a different lens for the study of multimodal texts because the authors want to eliminate multimodality from the paradigm-based boundaries. That is, the authors argue that paradigm boundaries in multimodal work do not function well, and that good multimodal work requires investigating disciplines in connection to a specific type of text, such as film and imagery studies.

As far as refugees are concerned, different studies explore the way refugees are depicted in the media and how they construct and interact through different multimodal semiotic resources (Martinez Lirola & Zammit, 2017; Serafis et al., 2020; Mielczarek, 2020; Mustafa-Awad & Kirner-Ludwig, 2021; Catalani, 2021; Jhoti & Allen, 2024). All these studies reinforce the rhetorical power of images and their

meaning in shaping the reader's ideology while at the same time connecting refugees with different topics, such as conflict, economic burden, humanitarianism, victims, and risk.

3.4.3. Representational meaning

Representational meaning overtly refers to the portrayal of real-world objects and things, where these objects can be seen as semiotic elements. This meaning is communicated through the abstract and concrete participants represented in images (van Leeuwen & Jewitt, 2002). In other words, representational meaning relates to the connection between surrounding atmospheres and viewers in terms of rules called vectors (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2006). Kress and van Leeuwen (1996, 2006) suggest that there are two main kinds of visual syntactic patterns relating visual participants to each other: conceptual and narrative. Regarding narrative, it ties participants in terms of 'doing actions' in relation to processes and events of change. This suggests that images can be perceived as having the depiction of the world in terms of "Happening" or "Doing" (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2006: 59).

Furthermore, the main difference between narrative and conceptual images is based on the presence of the lines called 'vectors.' Following Kress and van Leeuwen's definition (2006: 82), they state that "Vectors are the marks of the narrative process." Especially in narrative images, vectors tend to have the same function in written language and are realized by words called 'action verbs.' Moreover, Machin (2016), in his book, *Introduction to Multimodal Analysis*, has come to argue that vectors regulate the behavioral forms in which images help viewers to have a look at or a general perception of the images. A vector is, therefore, a diagonal or line that often connects participants and shows a dynamic relation of "doing" or "happening" (van Leeuwen & Jewitt, 2002: 141). An instance of a vector is an arrow, showing both the directions and actions concerning the physical movements of a person in images.

Viewers may perceive that the participants are engaging with one another, because these vectors serve as directions and because participants are connected by these invisible lines. To sum up, in visual images, and according to Kress and van Leeuwen (2006: 46), vectors might be described as "visual verbs." Additionally, Kress and van Leeuwen (2006: 63) state that there are two different types of narrative processes regarding the involvement of participants: goals and actors. When it comes to actors, according to Kress and van Leeuwen (2006), the action process occurs when the actors actively participate in the image and are either the source of the vector or the vector itself. Goals, on the other hand, are the participants towards whom an action is carried out or directed (Kress & Van Leeuwen, 1996). In other words, goals refer to the participants "at whom the vector is directed" (van Leeuwen & Jewitt, 2002: 143). Furthermore, Kress and van Leeuwen (2006) argue that this action includes some further types.

1. In images, a non-transactional image is a structure that results when there is only one participant in the narrative process, which can be viewed as an actor. In this sense, there is no goal in the image, and the vector is not directed at anyone.

2. A narrative visual process is regarded as transactional if an actor and a goal are connected by a vector that stems from the actor, resulting in an action of two parties, i.e., a goal-related action by an actor. To this end, it is worth mentioning that these notions are essential in helping the researcher to analyze a visual text.

Moving now to the conceptual process, unlike the narrative process, there is no vector connecting conceptual visual images. Therefore, the components of the image do not interact with one another. Conceptual images analyze, define, and classify places, individuals, and things visually (van Leeuwen & Jewitt, 2002). Conceptual processes are classified into three main kinds: analytical process, symbolic process, and classificational process. To begin with, in the analytical process, participants are said to be connected to a part-to-whole relationship, where a “Carrier” (the entire thing) is connected to its ‘Possessive Attribute’ (the parts) (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2006: 89). A symbolic process is “what a participant is or means” (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2006: 105) whereas the classificational process connects participants in terms of a taxonomy “relation” or “kind” (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2006: 79).

3.4.4. Interactive Meaning

Interactive meaning is the meaning that refers to the relationship between represented participants (Actors) and the environment, i.e., the world inside the image (Kress & van Leeuwen, 1996). This meaning is a matter of multilateral process; it includes a triple-action relationship in the interactive image, such as the maker of the image, the participant in an image, and the viewer of the image. On the other hand, the interactive meaning contains two types of participants: the first, called represented participant (things, places, people, and so on depicted in the given image), and second, called interactive participant (the number of people who interact reciprocally through image, and the observer of images) (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2006).

Kress and van Leeuwen (2006) relate interactive meaning with three central aspects when examining how viewers interact with participants in visual images and how this affects how viewers understand the meanings of images, including distance, angle, and gaze. Distance is defined as (a) the social distance between the people depicted and the viewer, (b) angle: the social connection between the people being portrayed and the audience, and (c) gaze, the eye-contact between the depicted actors and viewers.

Concerning distance, all images can show people, things, and places in terms of how close or far from the viewer. Social distance expresses different meanings; for example, the size of an image. However, in images, social distance expresses interpersonal relations and reveals closeness, to the extent that viewers avoid interacting with strangers and keep close to the closest friends they know (van Leeuwen & Jewitt, 2002; van Leeuwen, 2008; Ledin & Machin, 2018). Also, images can show people, buildings, objects, and landscapes in different frames and sizes as well. All in all, social distance is based on two main participants in images: the represented participant and the viewer. Therefore, the three important types—Long shot, Personal shot, and Intimate—are created by the social structure of this connection. Moreover, van Leeuwen and Jewitt (2002: 146) state the different kinds of shots in the following table:

Frame size	Description	Social relations
Very close up	The appearance of less than the head and shoulder	Intimate
Close shot	Just head and shoulder of the subject	Personal or friendly
Medium-close	Cut off of subject approximately at waist	One of us or social
Medium shot	Cut off subject approximately at the knee	Familiar social
Medium-long	Reveals the entire figure	General social
Long shot	The human figure fills the half-image height	Public one
Very long shot	Anything that might be wider than half height	No social connection

Table.1 Social distance relations (Van Leeuwen & Jewitt 2002 p. 146).

To this end, as van Leeuwen (2008: 138) points out, in pictures, “people shown in close-up shots are shown as if they are ‘friends’ or ‘one of us’; while those depicted in ‘long shot’ are shown as if they are strangers. Therefore, such social distance becomes symbolic, because it suggests interpersonal relationships.

Turning now to social relations, Kress and van Leeuwen (2006) argue that the main focus in social relations is on the angles from which an individual is viewed. Also, in images, they refer to the point of view as the angle because it creates a relationship between the viewer and represented participants. This suggests that there are different angles when depicting people in terms of horizontal and vertical angles, depending on whether an individual is seen from the front, the side, or anywhere in between. In this sense, van Leeuwen (2008: 139) points out that these angles convey two main aspects of the social relations depicted between the audience and people in images: “involvement and power.”

Kress and van Leeuwen (2006) state the vertical angle shows power imbalances, while the horizontal angle reflects symbolic involvement or detachment. Moreover, van Leeuwen and Jewitt (2002) have come to highlight that a frontal angle increases viewer involvement with the depicted participants. In other words, frontal images invite the audience/ viewers to recognize the participants in the images. As for the oblique angles, there is a detachment; there is something that is not part of the audience's world. On the other hand, images that are at eye-level are considered to show the point of view of the level of sameness in which there is a resemblance in power between the participants (Kress and van Leeuwen, 1996,2006).

When it comes to social interactions, the focus, therefore, is on whether the participants portrayed are looking at the camera lens/viewer or not. As a result, such characteristics of the images affect audience engagement (Ledin and Machin, 2018). This also suggests that there are some engagements with the audience, whether they coincide with participants in terms of a direct look or not. Kress and van Leeuwen (2006) assert that images can either demand or offer; hence, they connote the same linguistic representations. In addition, van Leeuwen (2005) points out that images are realized by the system of gaze, such as offer and demand images. For example, if the participant represented is depicted and featured in a close shot, showing his facial expressions overtly, the image implies a very clear 'demand.' In other words, if the refugee/ person depicted in an image looks at the audience, the image connotes a "demand." In this regard, "the look demands something from the viewer" (Kress & van Leeuwen, 1996: 122).

In contrast, if there is no direct engagement between the audience and participants represented, then the image is an offer. Following van Leeuwen's strategies (2008: 141) for depicting people, such an image is classified under the strategy of objectification: "... the strategy of objectification, representing people as objects for our scrutiny, rather than as subjects addressing the viewer with their gaze and symbolically engaging with the viewer in this way". As a result, van Leeuwen (2008: 140–141) has come to argue that images of this type make us look at, for example, the refugee/person portrayed as "we would look at people who are not aware we are looking at them, as "voyeurs," rather than interactants."

3.4.5. Compositional Meaning

Following the definition of Kress and van Leeuwen (2006), compositional meaning refers to the composition of the meaning as a whole. That is, the way in which the representational and interactive components are made to relate each other, the way they are interconnected to each other as a whole (Kress and van Leeuwen, 2006). It is realized through three main echelons: information value, salience, and framing. Furthermore, *in reading images*, Kress and van Leeuwen (2006: 177) show that this type of meaning is the "integral meaning of the entire text." That is, compositional meaning relates to participants in terms of different aspects/elements in the image.

Turning now to the main types of this meaning. The first is information value, which has to specify the location of the things or elements, especially the participants, to the audience in the composition (Kress and van Leeuwen, 2006). This suggests that the main point is that the role of an element in an image depends on whether the placement of the thing is, top or bottom, in the center or the margin, or right or left, and so on. In this context, Kress and van Leeuwen (2006) argue that left-right location can be used to establish a given-new structure in an image. This means the word “given” refers to the depiction of something, as something the audience already knows, and they are familiar with. On the other hand, the term “new,” refers to something not yet recognized by the audience. Since this “new” is controversial and questionable, the audience must pay special attention to it. When it comes to the bottom and top, according to Kress and van Leeuwen (2006: 186), an element is located as “ideal” if it is at the top, while the bottom connotes “real” information to the viewers. The other components show the visual composition of an element in the middle, around the element, and so on.

Second, the salience; according to Kress and van Leeuwen (2006), this level shows the prominence of an element in an image in relation to others. This indicates that there are some aspects that are perceived by the audience more than others. Hence, in images, salience is realized through color, frame, size, perspective, and focus as well. Also, Machin (2016b) confirms that brilliant colors show more salience because of they are attractive and eye-catching in relation to others. Regarding framing, it is the third level of compositional meaning; it refers to the absence and presence of framing elements, such as separating lines and frame lines. In other words, in images, framing disconnects and connects since it shows whether each element is given a distinct identity, or whether they are depicted as belonging together (van Leeuwen & Jewitt, 2002).

To sum up, Kress and van Leeuwen’s social semiotic approach projects the three former meanings concurrently, forming three kinds of meanings or structures. Hence, each meaning can be realized by different choices, as illustrated below.

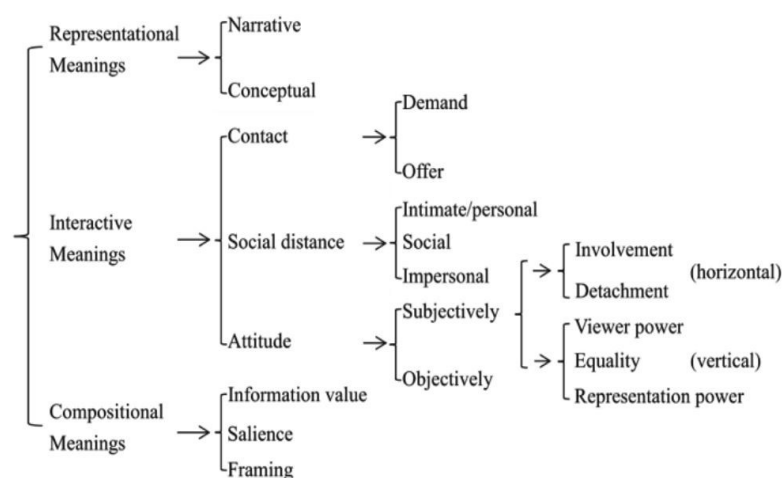


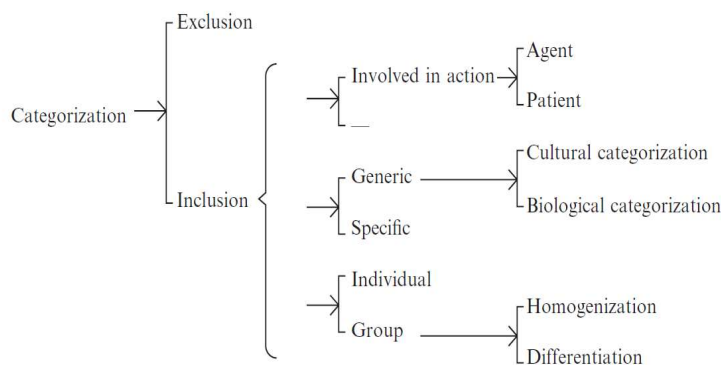
Figure 11. System of visual grammar. Source. (Kress and van Leeuwen, 2006: 59, 149, 210).

3.4.6. Van Leeuwen’s (2008) Visual Representation of Social Actors

Van Leeuwen’s concept (2008) of social practice has been further expanded to examine the visual portrayal of social actors. Visual Representation of Social Actors includes two main levels: —the image and the viewer and the depicted people (van Leeuwen, 2008). Image and viewer incorporate three main dimensions: social distance, social relation, and social interaction. In all these dimensions, the relationship between the depicted people and the viewer is, therefore, imaginary and symbolic. To this end, the audience tends to see the people depicted as if they are “friends,” “strangers,” or they are depicted “below us” or “above us,” as though they are in connection with us or not (Van Leeuwen, 2008:138).

Turning now to the depicted people, the depiction includes two main levels in this case: exclusion and inclusion. In analyzing how people are depicted, there are some basic classifications regarding this question. On balance, in the case of inclusion, this strategy occurs when specific people are neglected in an image while present. When referring to ‘roles’, if the depicted people participate in actions, then they are activated. If not, they are passivated. Furthermore, an individual may be depicted either ‘specifically’ or ‘generally,’ that is, as someone specific or as a member of a group; therefore, this strategy refers to the homogenization and differentiation of people. When it comes to the last strategy, there is a distinct visual classification, such as the biological and cultural depiction of people in images, including classifying items of dress or hairdo, hijab or scarves, and so on (van Leeuwen, 2008).

Below, Figure 12 fully illustrates the former categories. This visual social actor-network is taken from van Leeuwen’s (2008: 147) book *Discourse and Practice*.



To this end, I employed van Leeuwen’s strategies (2008) of depicting people in this thesis to portray them as social actors; therefore, I assume Iraqi refugees as social actors, performing particular actions represented in the visual images. Some of the actions represented are the categorization of cultural and biological characteristics, others are the homogenization and differentiation of people, and yet others are the inclusion and exclusion of people in images. Consequently, these features would depict people

both directly and indirectly. Additionally, I have provided an overview of multimodal social semiotics and multimodality. The use of social semiotics will help in understanding why and how different modes are interconnected in meaning-making processes concerning multimodal texts. The focus is, therefore, on the relationship between the viewer and the refugees depicted.

In addition, this thesis especially implements a social semiotic approach in a separate chapter to further explore how the integration of text and image relations are interlinked in discourse. Moreover, I consider employing a multimodal social semiotics approach is suitable for the specification of the modes, such as visual and linguistic or both. Hence, the different semiotic resources created by the integration of linguistic and visual modes (e.g., *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*) have been used in transferring cultural, social, and political messages to the public audience.

3.5. Newspapers as a genre

The genre of the media is crucial since the media plays an essential role in constructing the cumulative idea readers have about crises, events, and refugees. There has been a dramatic increase in the focus directed at the genre of news in social studies. This asserts that the main goal of newspapers is to attract the readers' attention to their news reports. Van Leeuwen (2005a: 123) points out that the genre of news coincides with "its function of providing information about recent events of public interest." For this reason, newspapers tend to publish bombastic issues in a style that catches the audience's attention. Van Dijk (1988) argues that newspapers ideologically and implicitly promote the dominant opinions and beliefs of the elite group in the space of the media and society.

It is claimed that the depiction in newspaper and media discourse is biased; rather, it is a structured and goal-oriented practice. Fowler (1991) asserts that ideas and events are not reported in a natural way, as might occur in the news, but go through a special medium that has ideological filters. Hence, all the news items and information reported by the newspapers must pass through a set of constructed filters before obtaining permission to be published worldwide. Additionally, Kress and Hodge (1979: 15) argue that in the media, "presenting anything in or through language involves selection." This suggests that reporters may witness an event and then select their own language to be framed in the news reports.

The genre of news can be defined as a form of discourse that is constructed by newspapers and follows a set of conventions that are noticeable by readers/viewers. These conventions may include the use of news texts, headlines, and sub-headlines in news discourse. Van Dijk (1988) argues that the news genre is not only shaped by the textual and linguistic features of the news but also by the cultural and social context. Van Dijk (1988) also discusses news as a genre, which is a conventional categorization of recognizable texts or discursive practices based on shared characteristics. For that reason, a news genre is a form of communicative event or text that shares certain properties and is distinguishable as a form of news discourse (van Leeuwen, 2008b).

All in all, when discussing the genre of news, the selection of information about an event is not neutral; rather, it involves a goal-oriented and structured practice by the elite group. That is, the method of news selection is performed through a filter established by the elite group before publishing it for the public. As far as the analysis of the news headings and multimodal texts in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* is concerned, it is important to see the news segment regarding the Iraqi refugee crisis. This is because it asserts the importance of questioning how Iraqi refugees are depicted in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*.

Furthermore, when newspapers belonging to two different political and ideological directions are compared in terms of their framing of the same news topic, the contrasts between their news reports may suggest “how newspapers with different audiences, identities, political commitments and hence editorial policies mediate the information they receive” (Richardson, 2017: 7-106). In this sense, a good point worth mentioning regarding the depiction of Iraqi refugees in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* is the fact that they cover the same topic. A final point worth discussing concerning the value-laden image in newspapers is the text-image relations.

Taking this issue into account, the study of visual discourse is important in nature since it places greater attention on the modes of communication which are not written texts, especially using visual images in today’s media to catch the audience’s attention. Since the images under analysis are modes of newspapers in publication, it is expected that these images not only connote visual and semiotic resources, but also manifest a sociocultural aspect in visual communication.

To sum up, this section is important for the purposes of understanding newspapers as a genre and verbal-visual relations in multimodal data. So, one of the main goals of this study is to develop a critical and multimodal understanding of how verbal and visual images function together in the genre of news, and how they create an impact for the sake of creating meaning within a text, especially in Chapter six.

3.5.1. The Discourse of Headlines

The construction of headlines in newspapers is the most powerful subgenre of news, as they include a unique type of text with different functions. Reah (1998: 4) defines an item of news as information about a “recent event,” whilst headlines are the first prominent indicator to see in producing an item of news. Dor (2003: 696) explains that headlines have textual and functional functions. They play the role of a “negotiator” between the story and its readers. Such a function in headlines is asserted by Dor (2003: 696), who defines the headlines as the items of news that mediate and sustain readers’ views of the text, and functionally show a relevance optimizer.

According to Dor (2003: 696), this function proposes that “they are designed to optimize the relevance of their stories for their readers.” The importance of headlines in newspapers must also be considered, as they tend to have the power to catch the reader’s attention while carrying information, thus impacting

the audience in a specific way. Gomis has come to assert that (1992: 59), “the objective of a headline is to spark interest, draw attention, make an impression, and make sure that the reader expresses and thinks their opinion.” For this reason, editors often tend to create good content in news headlines as a journalistic technique to appear more remarkable to the audience.

The information in the news headlines may strategically guide readers to think about the general meaning of an article, since the headlines appear as short structures or frames in a news story (Scott, 2023). Although the headline’s content may vary in its low news value, the newsworthiness of headlines usually contains more news value (Bednarek & Caple, 2012). Generally, the journalistic discourse of newspaper headlines has been extensively studied from different perspectives. Most famously, much research has studied their communicative function as well as their linguistic form (e.g., van Dijk, 1988; Bell, 1991; Dor, 2003).

In addition, there are many studies into their importance in journalistic discourse as a discourse strategy which have analyzed headlines as a sub-genre of news segments, including cultural and ideological implications (e.g., Shie, 2011; Molek-Kozakowska, 2013; Montgomery & Feng, 2016; Kharbach, 2020; Tymbay, 2022). Other studies analyze the news headlines in the media, suggesting that remarkable, creative, innovative, and novel headlines are essential for readers' engagement (Wu & Pan, 2022). Based on the abovementioned studies, attention has been placed on the importance of news headlines as prominent frames with which to catch the audience’s attention.

However, no attention at all, or very little, has been paid in the research literature to the editorial headlines in the media as macro frames that come first at the top of the news story. As their spatial in the digital design enables a degree of selectivity when choosing which news frames to read (Dor, 2003), their engagement with the readers may potentially carry different senses of the topics being covered. For this reason, the study aimed to unveil the macroresources used by the headline editors to effectively express, for instance, humanizing and dehumanizing bias actions towards the specific social actors they cover. Since this article takes SCA as a starting point and as one approach to CDA, the core function of a headline in SCA is to provide the macrolevel or the main “topic” in discourse (van Dijk, 1991: 50).

Furthermore, the information in the headlines helps readers to activate the “relevant knowledge” in the recipient’s memory to understand an event. This knowledge is what van Dijk (2014:5) refers to as “Common Ground”, i.e., the linguistic approach that examines the many ways of old and new knowledge. Overall, the information in the headlines may distort the way readers process an event. This, therefore, suggests that the way editors tend to filter or summarize the most essential event in headlines is based on an agenda-setting decision (van Dijk, 1991). As the socio-cognitive approach stresses the role of knowledge in the production of discourse, framing an event in the news headline, for instance,

may strongly influence readers on how the crisis is defined in terms of the macrostructures (Van Dijk, 2001).

Arguably, news headlines both generalize and summarize news implications as well as the overall meanings editors usually prefer to convey to the readers. This suggests that the discourse of headlines includes aspects of macrostructures, including socially shared knowledge, attitude, ideology, and value. These factors are crucial to consider when deconstructing headlines, using our mental models when reading a social event, for instance, the refugees and their coverage in news (van Dijk, 2009).

By means of conducting macrostructure analysis, it can be asserted that different language frames are a solid characteristic of news headlines. On the other hand, it is hard to expect complete objectivity in news framing. For this reason, news headlines in the media carry macro themes, and underlying meanings, knowledge, and references about events, such as refugees. Since CDA puts forward the idea that discourse is always a social practice, there is, as such, an interest in the examining of media genres, such as news headlines, as news items of discourse involving not only a microstructure but also a larger social macrolevel.

3.5. 2. The Discourse of Multimodal Texts

Traditionally speaking, the term text has been employed to refer to the state of mono-modal texts. This claim, therefore, suggests that linguistic texts have only been confined to the study of verbal text. However, linguists have argued that texts are not limited to studying one mode; all modes are textual. According to Fairclough, discourses are manifested in particular ways of using language and other symbolic forms, such as visual images, as a text in the analysis of specific discourses. Fairclough argues that the focus on the language and linguistic text is quite suitable for the purposes of magnifying the notion of discourse to cover non-linguistic forms, such as visual images (Fairclough, 1992).

Moreover, Kress and van Leeuwen (2001) argue that all texts are multimodal, and meaning-making always includes the integration and interaction of different semiotic modes. This suggests that texts in online newspapers, websites, and other symbolic forms are based on a variety of semiotic modes, including language, image, layout, color, and typography. Multimodal text is then a complex interplay of different modes. In this case, multimodal text can be defined as follows: “Multimodal texts integrate selections from different semiotic resources to their principles of organisation. (...) These resources are not simply juxtaposed as separate modes of meaning making but are combined and integrated to form a complex whole which cannot be reduced to, or explained in terms of the mere sum of its separate parts. (Baldry and Thibault 2006: 3, cited in Boeriis at el., 2015)”.

Since this topic considers text and image as multimodal text, according to Bateman et al. (2017), multimodal text is a way of characterizing different communicative situations, including the integration of different modes of communication to be effective, such as language, image, diagram, page combination, and so on. This also suggests that multimodal texts play a vital role in all communicative mediums, functioning as the core motivation for their display in the media and other communicative situations. To this end, multimodal texts in media genres, such as newspapers, are important since they all function as discourses when analyzing them in a particular situation.

3.6. Concluding remarks

This chapter has discussed and reviewed the main theoretical frameworks, focusing on CDA, MDA, and framing analysis, the most widely-recognized directions in analysing discourses in social science. It began by providing the theoretical foundation and roots of CDA and outlined the essential and major directions in CDA. It also provided some essential concepts in CDA. Additionally, the chapter gave an overview of the theoretical foundation of framing analysis, focusing on Entman's (1993) framing components that are relevant to the current study.

Furthermore, the chapter has reviewed the theoretical framework of the social semiotics approach, and the main part of the analysis will be based on the affordance of this approach. It began by defining as well as discussing multimodality and provided how different semiotic modes, such as linguistic and visual, could be integrated to produce a multimodal text in the news. Then, the discussion turned to an overview of some main concepts in multimodal discourse and multimodality.

Finally, I came across summarizing the adopted theoretical framework components into this work as follows: Firstly, employing Critical discourse analysis, Framing analysis, and Multimodal analysis allows for a multi-faceted approach to the study, incorporating both linguistic and semiotic elements and the role of framing in shaping the meaning in discourse. Secondly, the integrated components will provide a thorough analysis of the ways discourse functions within social contexts, revealing the complex interaction between power, language, semiotic resources, and framing. To this end, combining CDA, MDA, and framing analysis in this thesis offers a well-formulated approach and comprehensive understanding of the discourse surrounding Iraqi refugees in media. The next chapter will be about the methods and tools used in this thesis.

Chapter 4: Methodology

4.1. Introduction

This chapter presents the materials and methods of analysis for data collection; it includes the methods/tools and their application to empirical analysis. Firstly, the present chapter provides the research data and the procedure I follow to conduct this thesis. In this chapter, I discuss some fundamental issues relating to the materials I use, for example, *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*'s selection and the kind of audience they are targeting. Secondly, I discuss the ideological aspects of the two sources that are pertinent to the analysis and the subject matter: how *The Guardian* is different from *Deutsche Welle* in terms of history, circulation, publication, and approach.

4.2. Sources of the Empirical Materials

4.2.1. *Deutsche Welle*

Deutsche Welle was historically founded in 1953 as an international broadcast, established as “A radio service to inform audiences abroad about the new, post-Nazi Germany”, which at that time, German people at home were not included in the target global audience (Zöllner, 2006: 170). In July 1964, global journalists took part in the first training course for media professionals from developing countries. Since then, many journalists, and radio technician directors in the entire world have done countless training courses every year. In April 1992, *Deutsche Welle* launched a television station in English and German called *Deutsche Welle -TV*. Two years later, the channel began its official website, becoming the top channel in Germany for producing global online services (Tellmann, 2021).

The role of *Deutsche Welle* is shaped by the laws of Germany, under which *Deutsche Welle* is empowered to produce different programs that align with its mission. More specifically, in 2004, the German Bundestag enacted legislation labeling *Deutsche Welle* as ‘a non-profit, public broadcasting institution for foreign broadcasting’ as stated by *Deutsche Welle*. In addition, it has gained the “legal capacity and the right to be self-governing.” Therefore, contributors are “intended to convey the image of Germany as a cultural state in the European tradition and as a free and democratic constitutional state’ (*Deutsche Welle -Act*, 2004, pp. 7–8, Dörr, 2000, cited in Fiedler & Frère, 2016).

The content of the of the *Deutsche Welle* official website is flexible and free, because the “aim is to raise a peaceful, stable worldwide community” by concentrating on matters comprising ‘freedom and human rights, democracy and good governance, free trade and social justice, health education and environmental protection, technology and innovation.’ (*Deutsche Welle* profile, cited in Demjanski, 2020:15). The aim of the free content is the impartial global dissemination of both news and events; this prohibits the one-sided support of any political relations or any communities of interest over others (Drefs, 2021). As a result, its function is to promote impartial worldwide dialogue between cultures.

Additionally, in 2005, *Deutsche Welle* launched a mission by producing online website content in 30 languages and also 24-hour programs in English and German; it also improved its international offer by

programming broadcasts in Spanish and Arabic (Richter, 2008; Workneh, 2022). This marked the beginning of a substantial development in the *Deutsche Welle's* coverage and also emphasized the importance of intercultural communication, helping *Deutsche Welle* to reach both regional and global audiences.

More specifically, in the Middle East, *Deutsche Welle* increased its coverage and services more and more to shed light on the Arab community, especially on the September 11 events and the invasion of Iraq in 2003, and framed such events by reporting in Arabic. This came after many international channels, such as Radio Sawa and the American al-Hurra TV channels, launched their news in Arabic; British BBC and the Russian channel RT launched their news in Arabic too. Then in 2003, *Deutsche Welle* launched its version in the Arabic language covering in Arab society news events (Richter, 2008). The digital platforms, which offer services to more than 37 million weekly users, stand out as one of *Deutsche Welle's* fastest-growing media outlets, since more users access news content using mobile-based applications and social media (Workneh, 2022). Also, the digital platforms enable readers to access news events using multiple languages. The following figure offers the different languages readers can use to understand.

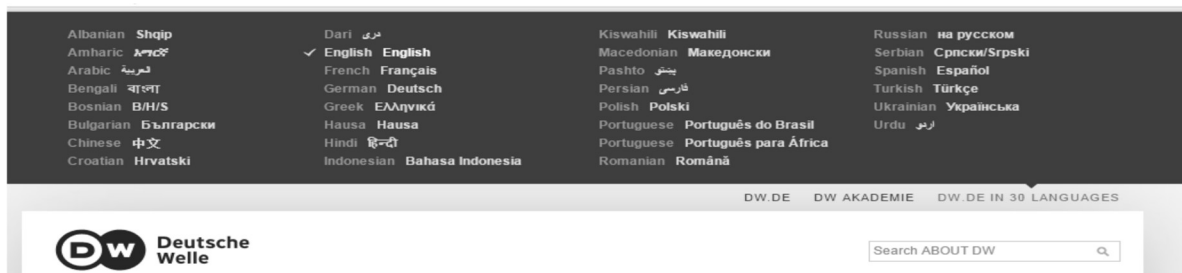


Figure 13. List of languages presented on the *Deutsche Welle* page.

In 2015, *Deutsche Welle* recorded a worldwide audience of 135 million. This increase users reach *Deutsche Welle* due to the worldwide coverage of its different programs and services. More than 135 million people access, watch, listen to and use the official online site once a week (Deutsche Welle, 2016). Also, *Deutsche Welle's* flagship English programs account for half of the broadcaster's worldwide audience. The publication of different programs in English have attracted millions of users to access the online digital content as of 2018, *Deutsche Welle's* global readers exceeded 197 million per week (Workneh, 2022). In response, *Deutsche Welle's* manager, Peter Limbourg, spoke of this achievement as follows:

"The positive development in the number of users of our media strengthens our conviction to focus on digital media and extensive news programming in English. The popularity of our formats, especially in the Middle East and Africa, is proof of DW's positive image. Thanks to our multi-language editorial teams, DW is a recognized and valued source of independent, reliable journalism." (*DW.de*) (Deutsche Welle, 2016).

In 2020, *Deutsche Welle*'s platforms recorded of 249 million users per week, the biggest proportion of which was thanks to the services and programs. The following figure indicates the percentage of readers who access *Deutsche Welle* (Drmic, 2021).



Figure 14. *DW* visitors are distributed by continent. Source (*DW.de*). (Drmic, 2021).

Moreover, the following figure provides *Deutsche Welle*'s weekly user contacts from 2017 to 2020.



Figure 15. *Deutsche Welle*'s user contacts per week. Source (*DW.de*).

In addition, online users/readers have grown significantly in the last few years, as shown in the figure below. English, German, and Spanish are amongst the most viewed and targeted languages on the official website of *Deutsche Welle*. The demand for *Deutsche Welle* news and content continues to be especially intense not only in Germany but in Europe and the Middle East. Hence, the use of different

Deutsche Welle services, including TV and online news platforms, increased significantly (Drmic, 2021).

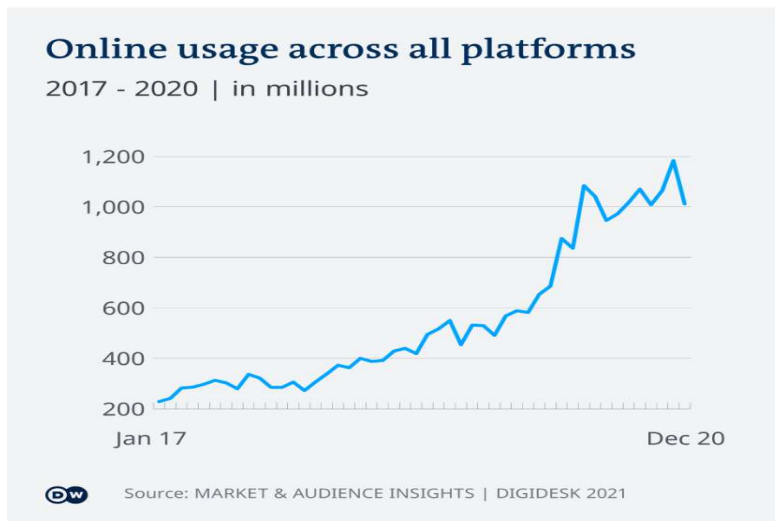


Figure 16. *Deutsche Welle*'s online usage. (Drmic, 2021).

Based on its motto, *Deutsche Welle* describes its strand of broadcasting as being devoted to freedom of expression, human rights, and democratic ideals (Workneh, 2022). Overall, *Deutsche Welle* is sponsored by the federal government in Germany, because it has been established to carry a master narrative for uniting European friendship (Robertson, 2010).

In this thesis and for this purpose, *Deutsche Welle* will be analyzed as an international media outlet targeting a mainly English audience. Nowadays, *Deutsche Welle* and its its online platforms have an important role in English publications, comparable to that of *The Guardian*, which proves that most of its narrative stories reach English-speaking audiences. Most of the edifices were evaluated later, especially when the general director, Limbourg, took over the media outlet in October 2013 and brought in some remarkable changes. As a result, Limbourg enhanced different news programming for English-speaking audiences (Fiedler and Frère, 2016).

4.2.2. *The Guardian*

The Guardian was initially established by John Edward Taylor in May 1821 and was called The Manchester Guardian. Its aim was to enhance the liberal interest, especially during the consequences of the Peterloo massacre, i.e., the bloody clash that changed Britain as a result of the Anti-Corn Law Campaign flourishing in Manchester. *The Guardian's* news was published weekly until 1836, but since then, it has been published daily. CP Scott held the office of editor for almost 57 years (1872-1929), during which time the newspaper reached a higher level. At that time, The Scott Trust quoted his famous words on the establishment of the newspaper.... "Comment is free, but facts are sacred... The voice of opponents no less than that of friends has a right to be heard." After Scott, the office was held by Scott's sons: John Russell Scott was the manager of the paper, and Edward Taylor Scott was the editor of the paper (Britannica, 2024).

The Guardian supported many political events and policies worldwide. For instance, during the American Civil War, the newspaper supported free trade in 1807 and strongly opposed against slavery. Then, it accepted and welcomed the act of the abolition of slavery in 1833 (The Guardian, 2012). During the Spanish Civil War, *The Guardian* played a crucial role in supporting the Republicans against Franco, and it gained a respected reputation among the left during the Civil War (Beevor, 2006). In the Middle East, especially during the Palestinian uprising in 1948, *The Guardian* strongly supported Zionist organizations and Israelis (ASEN, 2018).

When it comes to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, *The Guardian* has always been on the Israeli side and has been accused of being supported by the Israeli policy in the region, and biased against the Palestinian civilians. In other words, *The Guardian* supported Israel and showed a bias toward Palestinians (Sela, 2010). *The Guardian*, thus, strongly supported both the UK and the US during the Kosovo war in 1999 and supported the war entitled 'Bombs away,' but saving civilians (Kaldor, 1999). Moreover, during the Iraq war in 2003, the anti-war movement in the UK accused *The Guardian* of having a pro-war bias. Consequently, *The Guardian* was attacked by the anti-war leaders who stood against the US and UK military initiatives. In 2018, more specifically in the UK, *The Guardian* was accused of being racist in reporting news concerning women. This came after the newspaper released a cartoon picture portraying the British female politician, Priti Patel, Home Secretary of the UK (Canton, 2020).

The Guardian is a part of *The Guardian Media Group*, and it is considered politically left-wing (Brown and Mondon, 2021). The ethos of *The Guardian* is rooted in steering investigative journalism that provides a voice to the powerless and holds those in power to be accountable while maintaining itself free from political and commercial influences. In addition, *The Guardian* upholds its values by fearlessly and persistently covering news that reflects its core opinions.

Turning to *The Guardian's* mission, The Scott Trust, the owner, stated a very clear message as regards its purpose... "To secure the financial and editorial independence of *The Guardian* in perpetuity and to safeguard the journalistic freedom and liberal values of *The Guardian* free from commercial or political interference" (*Scott Trust, The Guardian, 1936, Viner, 2017*). CP Scott set out core values for *The Guardian*, and declared his famous phrase "comment is free, but facts are sacred," and decreed that "the voice of opponents no less than that of friends has a right to be heard." C P Scott, in addition, laid out a set of values for the newspaper; that there are such things the editorials believe in such as honesty, cleanness, courage, a sense of duty to the reader. In light of these values, Scott wrote that *The Guardian* "has a moral as well as a material existence." Therefore, all these values and ideas have always been at the heart of *The Guardian*. These values link *The Guardian* to a well-structured agenda to meet the moral urgency of the newspaper era (Viner, 2017).

Turning now to its standards, *The Guardian* has a higher standard in both writing and quality and a worldwide reputation as an international newspaper. In 2005, the estimated daily circulation of *The Guardian* was 378,618 and remarked an important national newspaper in the UK from 1999 to 2006. In addition, the newspaper is famous for its multicultural vision and literary and creative coverage. In 2004, the newspaper revealed its online version for the first time, and all the news was published digitally with free access to all of its news (Zaher, 2009).

Nowadays, 200 years since the newspaper was founded, *The Guardian* is the oldest newspaper in the British media. It is now considered one of the most influential newspapers in the UK, and among the British newspapers, *The Guardian* has always been the only one positioned to the left politically (The Guardian, 2017). In terms of readership, according to the latest statistical data recorded in the UK, the newspaper reached highest level of users in 2020. The figure below shows the monthly reach of the newspaper per demographic group in the UK (Watson, 2022).

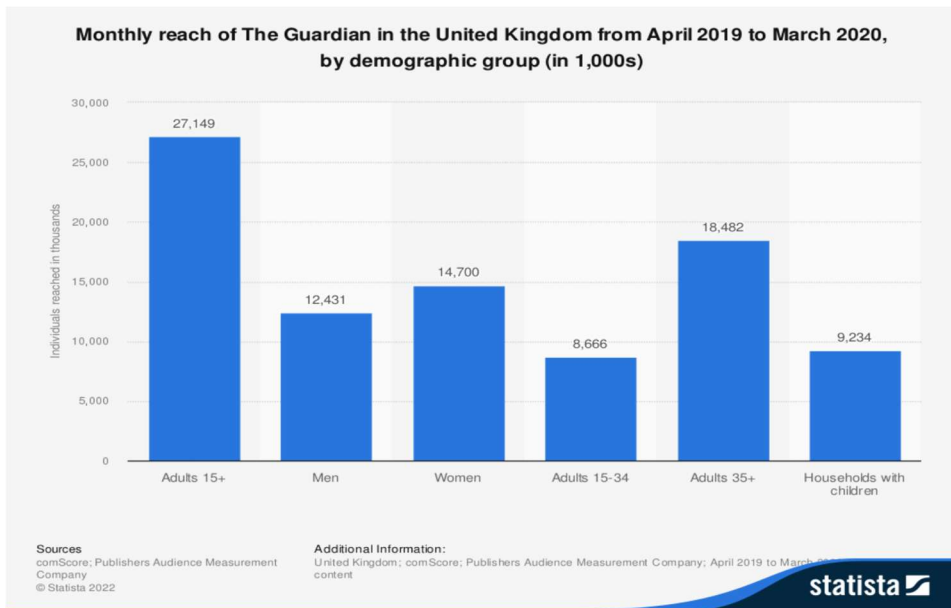


Figure 17. Reach of *The Guardian* in the United Kingdom 2019-2020 by demographic group. Source: (Watson, 2022).

The above figure indicates that the highest percentage of *The Guardian's* readers is made up of adults. In addition, the readership of *The Guardian* in the UK also proved to be more popular among older than younger adults. *The Guardian* has four main versions: the UK edition, the US edition, the Australian edition, and the international edition, as shown in the following figure:



Figure 18. *The Guardian's* global edition. Source. (*The Guardian's* official page).

Furthermore, the official website contains many programs. *The Guardian.com* website has an average of 7,964,892 daily visitors, most of whom are outside the UK (ABC, 2016).



Figure 19. *The Guardian's* online programs. Source. (*The Guardian's* official page).

In 2015, over 140 million unique users visited *The Guardian* each month, representing another record for its digital traffic. On September 28, *The Guardian* experienced its heaviest traffic ever, with over 11 million unique browsers/users. This marks *The Guardian* of huge, unique browsers, especially in the UK. Exceptional growth was seen worldwide, with a rise of +12% year-over-year in the UK and a 28% increase outside the UK. *Theguardian.com*, one of the biggest English-language quality newspaper websites worldwide, is published by *The Guardian News & Media* (GNM). Since releasing its Australian and US digital editions in 2011 and 2013, respectively, huge traffic from outside the UK now signifies over two-thirds of *The Guardian's* global digital audience (The Guardian, 2015).

In the UK, there is clear evidence that the number of readers has dramatically surged in recent years. According to the latest statistic, released by Eurostat, there has been a greater number of individuals reading or browsing online news in the UK in the last five years. This shows that the audience in the UK tends to depend on online newspapers as the main source for browsing world news. The figure below shows the individuals reading in the UK from 2007 to 2020.

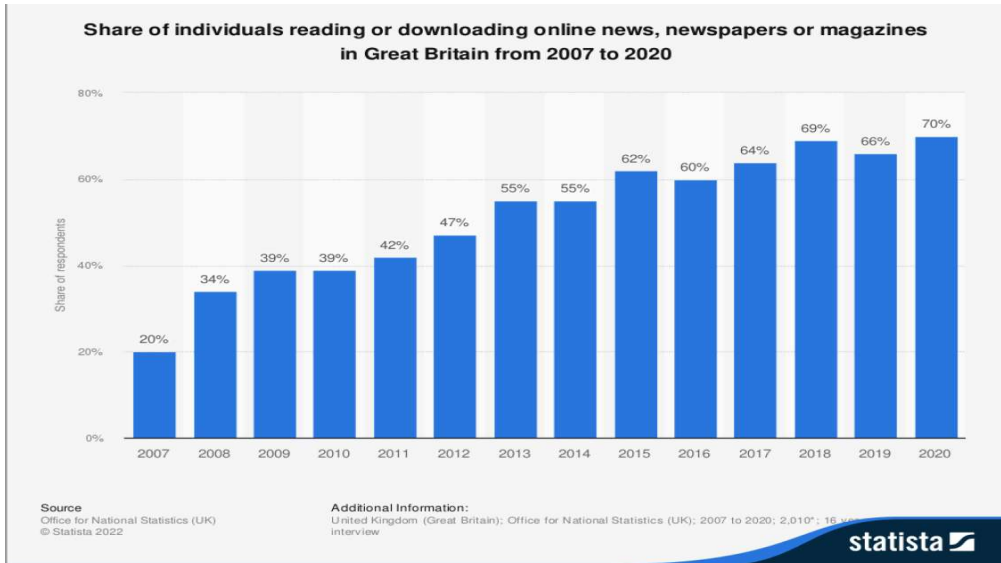


Figure 20. Downloading online news in the UK. Source: Statista, 2022. (Watson, 2022).

The above figure shows that from 2014 to 2020, the number of readers increased in the UK (Watson, 2022). This, therefore, shows that online news is targeting more and more readers. There is no doubt that smart technology plays a crucial role in making a newspaper's platform more flexible and easier for readers.

As regards *The Guardian's* readers, according to the Ipsos Iris metric for measuring online audiences, the newspaper recorded 305 million page views in July 2021. The number scored by *The Guardian* was 305M, which meant it was competing with other UK media outlets to come out on top in terms of the number of unique readers/visitors (Tobitt, 2021).

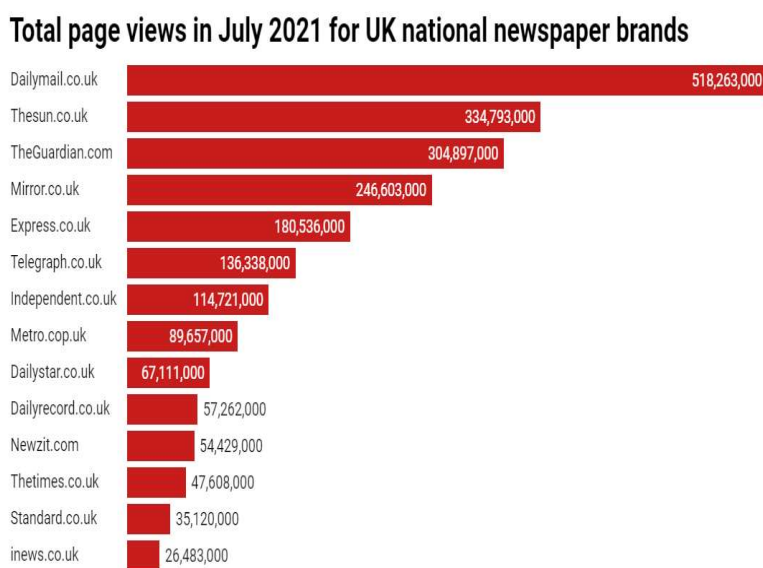


Figure. 21. Page views of UK newspapers. Source: Press Gazette, 2021. (Tobitt, 2021).

The above figure indicates that *The Guardian* is positioned as the third top newspaper below its two highest rivals, the *Daily Mail* and *the Sun*. The same data suggests that in the UK, users spent 909M minutes browsing *The Guardian* using different applications, including Apple News and all related brand domains. The following figure below shows how *The Guardian* is ranked as the second-top newspaper in the UK (Tobitt, 2021).

Total minutes spent with online UK national newspaper brands in July 2021

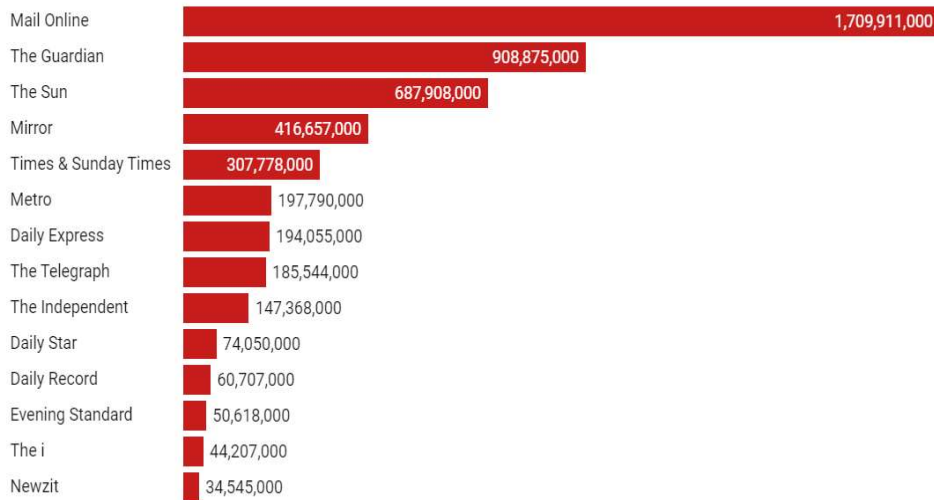


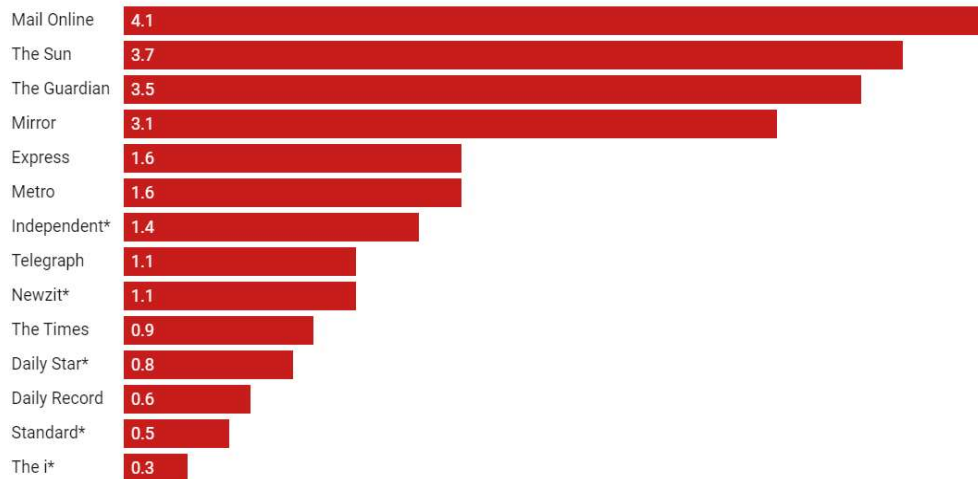
Chart: Press Gazette • Source: Ipsos Mori via Mail Online • [Get the data](#)

Figure. 22. The fastest-growing readers spent on newspaper websites in the UK. Source: (Tobitt, 2021).

Additionally, *The Guardian* was also the third top for average daily audiences/visitors in July 2021 in the UK, with 3.5M per day. The figure below suggests the average daily users in the UK (ibid).

Average daily audience of UK online newspaper brands in July 2021 (millions)

Websites and apps combined (where available)



*no app data available

Chart: Press Gazette • Source: Ipsos Mori via Mail Online • [Get the data](#)

Figure 23. An average daily audience of the UK online newspapers. Source: (Tobitt, 2021).

In September 2020, *The Guardian* newspaper and *The Telegraph* were the fastest-growing in terms of the number of users in the UK. There were 18.5 million access visitors to the *Telegraph* in September, when the percentage of its audience in the figure below was 13%. And, it was followed by *The Guardian* newspaper (23.5 million unique users at a percentage of 11% month-on-month) (Majid, 2022).

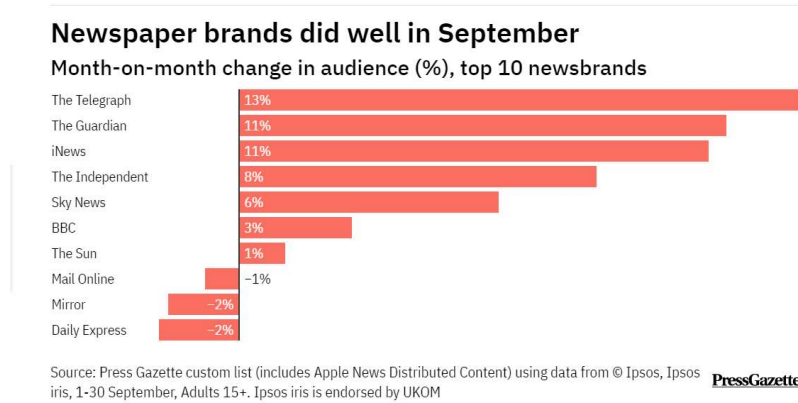


Figure. 24. The ten top newspaper brands in September 2020. Source: Press Gazette, (Majid, 2022).

To conclude, based on the news outlets mentioned above, the empirical material for this thesis is a sample of news articles taken from *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*. The two outlets selected for this thesis are the most important news media outlets in Europe (Cvetkovic & Pantic, 2018), and all their information platforms are freely available. Also, *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* have been selected since the two outlets have a high average of readers.

The Guardian is a high-quality newspaper in the UK and was selected on the basis of having high-traffic users in the world (The Guardian, 2015; Mohamed, 2023). *The Guardian* newspaper has reached an English-speaking audience worldwide with a high average of readers. Whereas *The Guardian* reaches mainly English-speaking readers, the international edition of *Deutsche Welle* reaches both English and German-speaking readers around the world. The two outlets have offered varied coverage of the Iraqi refugees and played a substantial role in covering the crisis differently, which took place in 2014.

In the analysis, both sources will be compared to show differences in relation to their coverage of the Iraqi refugee crisis. However, the comparison is not only based on their ideological directions, but can be used to provide an interesting perspective when comparing two different Western nations with different values and cultures. Such a comparison may help the researcher understand different perspectives. As for the rationale for selecting data from *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*, it is to answer the question: *how were Iraqis depicted in both sources?* To this end, it can be said that I relied on these two outlets on the basis of the high standard of readership and coverage,.

4.3. Qualitative Research Design

The analytical, interpretive, interdisciplinary, political, and ideological nature of this research thesis ties together features basically connected and attributed to qualitative research. Qualitative research, as appropriately shown by Berg and Lune (2012: 3), is associated with what might be called the qualities of things (situations, events, people), the *why* and *how* questions which are answered by providing and collecting data about “definitions, meanings, symbols, characteristics, concepts, descriptions of things, and metaphors.” In communication, language is fundamentally a system of symbols to create meaning. In discourses, texts, and news stories, words, phrases, groupings of specific words, images ... all patterns of language use (which convey cultural as well as national importance) need the scope of a qualitative approach to assign them functionally within their discursive contexts, and to show probable interpretations and meanings of such users.

Quantitative data analysis is no longer useful in terms of its effectiveness at reaching the aim of this thesis due to its focus on statistical and numerical data (Bryman, 2008). The data used in this thesis has been selected to analyze the framing and depiction in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*, and as such, made up of visual and textual features. In order to bring empirical and theoretical elements together for this thesis, I take an inductive approach. However, according to Bryman (2008), such a choice is mostly associated with a qualitative methodology. The crucial divergence between deductive and inductive reasoning is the arrangement in which data and theory are formulated. Inductive reasoning first views the data and then develops a set of theories from observations and findings (May, 2011). In contrast, in deductive reasoning, the researcher first formulates a theory and then develops a strategy in order to test the theory (Corbetta, 2003; Creswell, 2003). Such an approach can be used in studies of hard sciences (ibid).

Additionally, the deductive reasoning approach is widely used in positivist research and studies which regard that there is fair truth to be provided or proven (Berg & Lune, 2012; Bryman, 2016). Unlike deductive reasoning, inductive reasoning enables the investigation of meanings, symbols, and concepts appearing through processes of social interactions. For example, (political discourses and news stories,) help the researchers to obtain inferences as well as conclusions from the chosen data, hence increasing the probability of arriving at plausible conclusions. All in all, the use of inductive reasoning in this thesis allows the theoretical framework to be revealed through the description of data and analysis.

4.4. Generalizability

Generalizability of the aftermaths is the expectation of the scope of this research. However, the concept of generalizability can be clearly defined as “the degree to which the findings can be generalized from the study sample to the entire population” (Polit and Hungler, 1991, p. 645, cited in Myers, 2000). On the one hand, generalizability is a matter of how to obtain conclusions after the result of the study. Broadly speaking, and more specifically, in quantitative research, results can be reliable in relation to the representative sample of the participants that the scholars can use or apply to a broader population – which is, they are generalizable. Unlike quantitative, qualitative researchers tend to consider that quantitative researchers’ findings cannot be generalized by only conducting participants and concluding results; instead, the word generalizability should be examined in favor of a more detailed understanding of the topic being studied.

On the other hand, discourse analysts have been very critical of quantitative methods. That is, they have been claimed that findings in quantitative research tend to lack meaning, and their generalizability is no longer relevant, and then the results can be just produced rather than identified. In this topic, I am going to provide reliable views stating that discourse analytical findings and results can, to some extent, be generalized. To start with, it has been proposed that if language itself is examined as a system of discourse patterns, then this system can be viewed as generalizable (Taylor, 2001). Unlike this claim, Bryman states that in qualitative research, the study is often carried out on a specific topic or group, which makes it difficult to gain conclusions outside that specific group. In other words, generalizability is hard in qualitative research (Bryman, 2008).

In light of the above clarifications, Goodman (2008) views that in generalizability, it is needless to collect unmanageable data or to apply it to quantitative analysis to provide how discourse analytic results can be generalized. In this sense, Goodman (2008) pointed to the rhetorical device of the ‘Us and Them’ classification as a strategy in a number of contexts to measure the discursive representation of refugees and immigration. Thus, Goodman emphasized that the notions of ‘us and them’ as a strategy is reliably (generalized) used to specify these terms in the discursive findings. To this end, this strategy tells us that such findings are generalizable, and researchers should be specific as to what extent this is so.

Generalizability in qualitative research is a debatable topic over the generalizable findings in social sciences. Simply put, the process of generalizing includes forming broad and general texts from particular issues or cases (Schwandt, 2001, cited in Carminati, 2018), which means conclusions about what would not be empirically observed have relied on the basis of what can be possibly observed (Polit & Beck, 2010). In light of this, generalizability has neither a qualitative nor quantitative dimension; however, it has, instead, a neutral aspect or connotation. As a result, generalizability in qualitative research has been overlooked due to some reasons for giving an in-depth understanding of the particular subjects under analysis (Ayres et al., 2003, cited in Carminati, 2018).

In this thesis, the depiction of Iraqi refugees in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* in a particular period and in different social contexts would be illogical and it would be unreasonable to gain inferences from that. But there is a possible understanding based on what has been discussed earlier, indicating that the results can only be generalized and expected in this thesis if the researcher uses the rhetorical device of the ‘Us and Them’ dichotomy. In this regard, as this thesis analyzes the discourse framings of the Iraqi refugee crisis, both *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* would tend to show children and women in a sympathetic light, whereas men may be depicted as identified as ‘them or not part of us’ in the news coverage.

This thesis pays attention to the depiction and framing of Iraqi Refugees in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*. However, it also focuses on the news content regarding the text and image, i.e., how news writers highlight certain information in ways that affect audiences’ interpretation. In addition, the thesis explores how Iraqis, as displaced people, are constructed verbally and visually in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* in order to examine their depiction. To this end, I draw my hypothesis based on *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*’s approach to covering news events in terms of truthful and impartial actions. And hence, I expect that the results of the portrayal are the following: the coverage of neither *The Guardian* nor *Deutsche Welle* will be unbiased, especially when covering the voice of the ethnic identity.

4.5. Description of the empirical materials

4.5.1. Materials

All discourses are situated in context (Kress, 2010). The broader social context of this analysis is the depiction of the social crisis, the refugee crisis in the Middle East and policymaking in Europe. This study focused on two different media sources with varying ideological ownership, differing cultures and statuses and on the news headlines and images they used to cover these topics. As the purpose of this paper is to study the portrayal of Iraqi refugees in selected news headlines, *The Guardian*, and German conservative-run media outlet *Deutsche Welle*, have been selected. *Deutsche Welle* is a run-media source belonging to Germany, whereas *The Guardian* is a left-leaning wing belonging to the United Kingdom (Brown & Mondon, 2021).

In essence, Germany and the UK were focal states of Europe during the refugee crisis. In this sense, this thesis highlights some key points about the social relevance of the two differentsides selected: Firstly, the main justification of the news headlines and images selected was related to the global migration crisis in the Middle East and Europe. That is, the focal rationale behind the criteria was the comparatively of the refugees in the multimodal texts appearing in these two media outlets to better explore possible similarities and differences. More specifically, the analysis focused on the news

headlines and images published in a period of the refugee crisis in Europe that is more particularly relevant for the analysis of the news frames of Europeans and their decision-makers.

Acknowledging the importance of the news headlines as highly crucial framing devices (Pan & Kosicki, 1993), headlines in both sources were selected based on whether their frames included words in relation to the Iraqi refugee crisis or not. The purpose of the selection of different news media outlets is to know how different prestigious news media frames articulate the coverage of the relevant event, taking into account the variety of headline framing and contextualization of the discourse in relation to policies. Different studies into news headlines highlight the multifunctionality of headlines, with the primary aims specified as attracting, summarizing, and framing (Bell, 1991).

For this reason, this study considers such an arrangement by emphasizing the last function, namely framing headlines to foster prominent frames in a such a way as to catch the reader's attention. On the other hand, since multimodal text is important for conducting CDA, Machin and Mayr (2012: 6) state that "meaning is generally communicated not only through language but also through other semiotic modes". In this sense, the analysis of visual images in the headlines is important since visualization is used to support the truth-claims of the authors in the media (Jancsary et al., 2016). As a result, constructing headline and image in deconstructing refugees may help "to reconstruct the ways in which the combination of modes suggests specific versions of the social reality that are not neutral in relation to power; they serve some interests while marginalizing others" (Jancsary et al., 2016: 185).

Secondly, in this regard, two different media outlets with their different news modes were selected: *The Guardian*, the UK edition; and the international edition of *Deutsche Welle* in English. The sources selected for this study are the most important news media outlets in Europe (Cvetkovic & Pantic, 2018), and all their information platforms are freely available. For instance, *The Guardian* newspaper was selected because it is the most important and respected in the UK (Costa-Sánchez et al., 2020; Majid, 2022; Mohamed, 2023). The selected online platform of *Deutsche Welle* is widely consumed and deemed to be a creditable global news source (Fahim & Islam, 2024), and based on reliable statistics (Drmic, 2021), the media source with the highest global readership was chosen.

4.5.2. Data Collection and Procedure

The data was collected from the search engine Google News, since the URLs of *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* all used separate search resources that could control the search. I opted to use Google News because it has a web-based portal. Also, Google News is unique among news collectors in providing a fully automated sweep of global news, without human editorial controls (Weaver & Bimber, 2008). The webpage archive and its dataset can be explored in full-content mode, where the users are allowed to search for news archives using particular words and keyword query and date range as well. In addition, the web-based tool offers the possibility to sort the research outcome by date and relevance. The research tool in Google News can help users with a potential alternative to conventional and customary archive such as the LexisNexis resource, because news reports and studies that have used the application of this service have emphasized some limitations as regards traditional archives (Murata, 2007; Carlson, 2007; Weaver & Bimber, 2008).

Moreover, the Google News engine, according to Carlson (2007: 1014), offers “radically increasing news access to various viewpoints on any issue”. Also, results in Google News are unbiased since a computer program regulates the placement and selection of news stories on its archive automatically and without any human self-regulation or editorial judgment mediating. Therefore, it “celebrates the lack of humans intervening in its news selection process” (ibid: 1019). Due to the superiority of using Google News as a source for gathering news headings when working on this thesis, it seemed logical to use this search engine.

Another question that may arise is why Google News was selected over the service provided by LexisNexis. This raises a drawback that has been identified by Weaver and Bimber (2008) and Deacon (2007), who observe that the LexisNexis service offers text-only formats of the original news articles without providing image-mode formats. Since the use of multimodal texts such as visual images in this study is crucial, the Google News search engine was chosen instead of the LexisNexis service. Also, in this study, analyzing news articles is not only based on linguistic texts, such as headlines and sub-headlines, but also depends on using non-linguistic modes, such as visual images and non-headings, such as captions attached to news articles.

The search criteria were set to require that relevant news articles related to the Iraqi refugee crisis. The search words used to find news about Iraqi refugees were:

- Iraqi refugees
- refugees fleeing,
- displacement in Iraq
- Iraqi refugees facing severe conditions
- forced displacement in Iraq
- unprotected Iraqis
- Iraqis remain displaced

— Iraqi refugee crisis

— Iraqi refugees fleeing war due to ISIS/ Iraqis are fleeing violence

Then, I applied the words as search terms on the two websites from 11 June 2014 until 31 December 2019 in an effort to support the consistency of this paper by confirming that the returned news headlines were relevant to the Iraqi refugee crisis. The results generated 330 hits for *The Guardian* and 310 for *Deutsche Welle*. After a preliminary bottom-up of exploring 640 news articles, I opted to categorize the raw materials based on the recurrent linguistic and the main characteristics found in the corpus as the basis of classification, especially for the analysis in Chapter five of this thesis.

The number of news articles is quite large, and it is unreasonable to offer a thorough analysis of every single headline within the scope of this work (Martínez Lirola, 2017). Of these raw material findings, irrelevant results had to be manually sorted out (Schmolz, 2019), and a purposive sampling of 260 headlines and sub-headlines for both *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* were extracted for a thorough analysis (See Appendixes A and B). In essence, the headlines selected are illustrative of the aspects that are most prevalent in the headlines. Following the tradition of CDA, the approach is qualitative; it is a form of explanatory analysis in which the researchers interpret what they see and understand (Creswell, 2017). As mentioned earlier, news headlines were selected and analyzed based on which were the most common in the corpus. Then, a microanalysis procedure was performed to conduct macroanalysis and identify headlines selected topics. In essence, the analysis will tackle the headlines chosen from *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* based on the instances that reflect the meaning of the headlines.

On the other hand, of these raw material findings, the entire corpus was sorted out and classified into patterns and multimodal texts were extracted for the analysis (Bateman et al., 2017; McIntyre et al., 2023; Martikainen & Sakki, 2024). The selection of patterns is based on a scientific methodological issue where the concept of pattern can be sought and hypotheses verified not primarily against the overall data, but rather against the other levels of descriptions of data, for instance, the repetition of images. With a point of departure from Bateman et al (2017), a pattern represents selected samplings from the data in the methodological eclecticism. In this sense, methodological eclecticism can be illustrated as follows: “...For us methodological eclecticism involves selecting and then synergistically integrating the most appropriate techniques from a myriad of QUAL, QUAN, and mixed methods in order to more thoroughly investigate a phenomenon of interest” (Bateman et al., 2017: 141).

The corpus collected and designed for analysis consisted of two levels: The first level classified the corpus into patterns, and the second level involved analyzing the patterns qualitatively, so that it directly supported the purpose of the study. After examining and analyzing the entirety of the news corpus, I selected 14 multimodal texts for an in-depth analysis (see Appendix C) that show the focal, visual, and textual characteristics found in the data (Martínez Lirola, 2022a). I consider the number of images to

be enough for qualitative analysis, and it is impossible to offer a close analysis of all images within the scope of this thesis.

Additionally, I consider that the insertion of more images would have simply revealed a repetitive analysis of the interpretation of images and multimodal texts. Besides, the basic constraint of qualitative research methods, comprising MDA, is that the researcher's subjective clarification is included in the research conclusions and results. Accordingly, I suggested selecting patterns of images to minimize subjectivity. That is, the reduction of images is challenging, as the range of the potential meanings regarding different modes is complicated by the sort of relationships between language components that lead to visuals (Bateman, 2014; Hartley, 2013).

The 14 multimodal texts are representative of the three categories of Iraqi refugees within the data corpus, with selected patterns of each category included with a detailed analysis. The first category captures Iraqis as refugees in the refugee camp, while the second category depicts people in an influx wave, constructing them as having the same level of depiction. The last category depicts women and children, who were refugees fleeing war and violence, and the category demonstrates the hardship as if carrying a burden.

All in all, following the tradition of CDA, the approach is qualitative, where qualitative research is a form of explanatory analysis in which the researchers interpret what they see and understand (Creswell & Creswell, 2017). In light of the qualitative study I use, purposive samplings in qualitative research tend to be small in order to offer largely-textured information that is crucial to the mode of inquiry and relevant to the topic under analysis (Sandelowski, 1996; Vasileiou et al., 2018). Besides, purposive sampling can then be realized as a primary connection between our assumptions and the sort of data to be accumulated (Wong, 2015). Hence, using purposive sampling in this thesis is, all in all, quite reasonable to provide the depth of case-oriented analysis that is vital to the perspective of this study.

Generally speaking, sample sizes in CDA can differ greatly depending on its timeframe, the breadth of the research project, the size of the research team, and even the financial limits. Machin and Mayr (2012) argue that researchers usually select news texts according to the interest of the analyst, where perhaps they have observed ideology in operation (Sengul, 2019). In this sense, it can be argued that sampling procedures coincide with the principles of purposive sampling, which, according to Yin (2011: 88 cited in Sengul, 2019), define these samplings of data as “the most plentiful and relevant data, given your topic of study.” There is another practical issue regarding the use of purposive sampling as well as data size. Indeed, one of the strengths of qualitative research design is that it often allows for far greater flexibility than most quantitative research designs’ (Silverman, 2008: 309, cited in Wong, 2015: 122). To sum up, I use purposive sampling in this thesis to produce “depth rather than breadth” (Johnson & Waterfield, 2004: 124).

4.6. Analytical tools

4.6.1. Introduction

A qualitative approach is used in this thesis to examine the portrayal and framing of the Iraqi refugee crisis in selected news headings and multimodal texts from *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*. To this end, the methodology used is mainly based on multimodal discourse and a critical analysis framework. Hence, headlines and visual images related to Iraqi refugees are used as discourse segments/modes for the analysis. As indicated earlier, the well-matched methodology for this thesis is identified as a qualitative abductive research study. A qualitative research approach has been chosen for the analysis, since qualitative research is a form of explanatory analysis where the researchers interpret what they see and understand (Creswell, 2017). Using abductive reasoning as an analytical approach, I examine the observed phenomena through a specific lens. The goal is to obtain thorough knowledge of the corpus under examination, as proposed by Bryman's perspective (2012, cited in Bach, 2019).

Overall, the present study is built on an analytical integration, using framing analysis (Entman, 1993), Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) (Van Dijk, 1988), and multimodal discourse analysis (MDA) (Kress and van Leeuwen, 1996, 2006, 2008) to develop a plausible understanding of the framing and portrayal of Iraqi Refugees in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*.

4.6.2. Linguistic analytical tools: Socio-cognitive analysis and Framing analysis

CDA is the explicit and systematic study of discursive texts to examine the strategies and structures, to explore the underlying implicit power structures and ideologies at play, and to provide a specific view of the topic under analysis (van Dijk, 1998). Based on the theoretical framework of the Socio-cognitive approach (SCA), the micro- and macrostructures of the news headlines are to be analyzed for the purposes of examining how news headlines on the online platforms of *Deutsche Welle* and *The Guardian* encourage readers' engagement by constructing the macrolevel with the use of linguistic structures.

As mentioned by van Dijk (2009b), who proposed the SCA to CDA, the socio-cognitive approach (SCA) provides a set of analytical levels that can be used to deconstruct social cognition i.e., the shared representation of knowledge, attitudes, ideologies, and values of a particular culture, society, or group. Therefore, the analytical level of socio-cognitive analysis can shed light on the role that micro and macroresources play in constructing linguistic structures and delve deeper into the representation of the topic under analysis. Furthermore, based on the analysis of news headlines, the SCA framework proved to be feasible for conducting the social analysis, cognitive analysis, and discourse analysis of the headlines selected. It is hoped that the study manifests the integration and the relationships between textual, social, and cognitive structures at a broader level of the selected headlines (van Dijk, 2015).

The open-ended levels of the SCA framework permit us to analyze the micro and macrostructures in news headlines to see what dimensions from the framework have been selected as the strategies for constructing news headlines in the media.

According to van Dijk (2024:11), SCA includes descriptions and explanations of discourse in terms of “underlying mental models of personal experience, including emotions and socially shared knowledge, norms values, goals, and ideologies.” The Socio-Cognitive Approach functions as both a theory and a method (van Dijk, 2009b). The method enables the researcher to examine the discourse at both the macro- and microlevels. The macrolevel examines the thematic structures of the texts, especially the macrosyntax, and semantics, while the microlevel deals with the textual components of the text. In this thesis, Chapter five especially analyzes both headlines and sub-headlines using micro- and macrostructures in order to categorize different types of structures based on studying news headings and discourses in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*.

To examine both the headlines and sub-headlines in Chapter five, Van Dijk’s CDA has been selected as a method labeled by van Dijk (1988) himself. He confirms that it is theoretically vital for microlevel concepts, such as text, and macrolevel concepts, such as social relations, to be interfaced with social cognition (van Dijk, 1993b: 280, cited in Hart, 2010). Taking this view as a starting point, Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) bridges the gap between the microstructure and macrostructure. That is, the gap should be bridged between interactional and agency on the one hand, and organizational, institutional, and structural on the other (van Dijk, 2015). Van Dijk (1988) also clarifies that headlines express a macroposition because headlines in newspapers give a brief outcome or summary of the news text.

Furthermore, van Dijk (1988:31) identifies semantic macrostructures in news headlines as “topics that belong to the global meaning of the discourse description”. Since Chapter five of this thesis deals with the analysis of Iraqi refugees in headlines, semantic macrostructures may be expressed in headlines as macropositions with an argument, for instance (*the refugee crisis*). As van Dijk sees headlines, they are like the tip of a huge iceberg, usually including knowledge, references, and underlying meanings about specific events, for instance refugees and their situation (van Dijk, 2024). Based on this, the micro- and macrostructures of the news headlines are to be analyzed for the purposes of examining how news headlines on the online platforms of *Deutsche Welle* and *The Guardian* encourage readers’ engagement by constructing the macrolevel with the use of linguistic structures.

Analytically, the socio-cognitive analysis is based on three levels: Firstly, social analysis; secondly, cognitive analysis; and thirdly, discourse analysis (Van Dijk, 2005). Taking the aforementioned levels into account, I use these concepts as analytical tools in analyzing the portrayal and framing of Iraqi refugees in a broad sense. Broadly speaking, social analysis deals with the analysis of the institutional structures as well as societal and even group relations, while cognitive analysis concentrates on sociocultural values, such as solidarity, equality, ideologies, and racism. Turning to discourse analysis, generally speaking, this level itself focuses on the basic text, including syntax, semantics, thematic structures, and topics. In this, we might see the underlying mapping regarding the abovementioned levels in the discourses of the headings.

On the other hand, Entman's (1993) framing analysis of microtextual analysis is also used throughout SCA to identify the frame functions in the communicating text of the headlines selected. Therefore, the use of framing analysis can shed light on the main role that frame functions play in the communicating text to promote "a problem identifying, causal interpretation, moral evaluation, and treatment recommendation" of the main factor behind the crisis (Entman, 1993: 52).

As a result, this framework also proved to be more applicable for identifying the causes of the Iraqi refugee crisis in headlines. The components of this framework allow us to evaluate the lexical-grammatical structures of the headlines in order to see what functions from this framework have been chosen as analytical components for identifying and evaluating the causes of the problem in news headlines. I selected framing analysis in Chapter five along these lines to formulate the analytical perspective that will help to know the Iraqi refugee crisis in a broad sense. To this end, it is crucial to use the socio-cognitive approach and framing theory in analyzing how headlines provide both salient production in discourse and a macroposition, as they interchangeably provide a broad linguistic analysis.

To Entman (1991), making the text more salient is the process of creating a segment of news to be more meaningful in production. In framing, the sort of communication is not static, but a relatively dynamic process that includes two crucial processes, frame-building, which means how frames emerge, and frame-setting, which involves the interaction between media frames and audience predispositions (De Vreese, 2005).

Entman (1993) explains four analytical framing methods. The frame functions can be described as follows:

1. Problem identification – this is the means of identifying a specific agent's action to understand the problem as a frame and its benefits .
2. Causal interpretation– this specifies the social actor forces causing the problem. This frame function tends to trace back the problem to specify the actor behind an event or crisis.

3. Moral judgments. In this function– judgments are based on an evaluation of the agents and their effects.

4. Treatment recommendation or suggestion remedies– this suggests actions for the problems. This frame function suggests that events have to be comprehensively explained. For this reason, Entman's (1993) framing analysis of microtextual analysis is also used to identify the frame functions in the communicating text of the headlines selected. Therefore, the use of framing analysis can shed light on the main role that frame functions play in the communicating text to promote “a problem identification, causal interpretation, moral evaluation, and treatment recommendation” of the main factor behind the crisis (Entman, 1993: 52). Hence, this analytical framework also proved to be more applicable for identifying the causes of the Iraqi refugee crisis in headlines. The components of this framework allow us to evaluate the lexical-grammatical structures of the headlines in order to see what functions from this framework have been chosen as analytical components for identifying and evaluating the causes of the problem, especially the Iraqi refugee crisis in news headlines.

4.6.3. Mutual analytical tools: Socio-cognitive analysis and framing analysis

CDA is a social movement in the study of discourses. For the CDA scholars, “discourse is socially constitutive as well as socially shaped” (Fairclough & Wodak 1997: 258, cited in Vikström, 2019). In this sense, framing analysis can also be perceived as an analytical discourse method; it involves the idea of how a segment of discourse is defined and problematized, and how it is framed and presented in the media (Entman, 1993). It can be said that socio-cognitive analysis and framing have the following shared ideas: Firstly, framing and frame effects that are both characteristic of cognitive CDA (Hart, 2023). That is, based on Hart's (2023:248) argument, “event-frames are shown to be important devices tools in texts in shaping the content of the news and ultimately public opinion on, for instance, policy matters.”

Secondly, as framing analysis shares many of the building blocks with CDA, it holds the idea that discourse may affect some actions beyond the text and coincide with the same principles regarding the construction of meaning in discourse and preserve its methodological roots in the in-depth linguistic study (Hope, 2010). Moreover, since the cognitive approach to CDA draws on some concepts from cognitive linguistics to explore the correlations between social action, language, and cognition in political contexts (Hart, 2014), both frames and framing have come to be vital in cognitive processes of meaning construction in discourse and its practice (Hart, 2023).

Furthermore, framing analysis enables researchers to have the tools to examine how the media plays a role in shaping the practices of social and political issues (Song, 2007). In other words, a CDA lens is best used to explore the connection between framing and sociopolitical power in the media. For example, CDA not only sheds light on the correlation between cognitive and social processes along with the communicative text, but it shows that the structure of discourse and its social functions are supposed to be “cognitively interpreted, planned, programmed, monitored and executed” (van Dijk, 1987:22). For this reason, arranging everyday reality is important, as Tuchman (1978) has pointed out that frames have an impact on these events.

Turning to the analytical level, framing is regarded as microanalytical, targeting the communicative text by answering ‘how’ as opposed to critical discourse analysis, which is based on a more macroanalytical level, ‘answering why.’ As a result, both these levels are vital in analyzing media discourse, since the analytical structures of both CDA and frame analysis show the effect of language in both media and publication. Also, both CDA and frame analysis tend to view discourse in terms of how it is framed and depicted (Bryman, 2012:33, cited in Bach, 2019).

Tuchman (1978) stressed that frames can have an effect on shaping events. Therefore, reality is made up of complex political, social, cultural, and economic settings that must be organized not just through frame analysis but also by taking into account the in-depth analysis provided by CDA. In essence, throughout Chapter five in particular, I employ Socio-Cognitive Analysis along with Framing Analysis with a focus on formulating the textual analytical perspective. For this reason, using the Socio-Cognitive Approach and Framing Theory is then crucial in analyzing how headlines provide both salient production in discourse and a macroposition, as they interchangeably provide a broad linguistic analysis.

To this end, the basic goal of these mutual tools is to develop a critical perspective on how frames work together within the critical approach in the communicative text for the sake of producing a salient meaning within a text. Using framing analysis throughout SCA is to understand the problems identifying the Iraqi refugee crisis, as well as the reasons why the refugees flee, in which case we need to know what makes Iraqi refugees flee their places, who causes this crisis, and why it is a crisis. This is one of the crucial questions that Entman highlights in framing analysis. In this regard, frames in discourse always seem to be a part of it, and it is vital for the understanding of perceived reality in the communicating text.

4.6.4. Multimodal Analytical Tools

In analyzing how visual images and textual language depict Iraqi refugees in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*, I used a multimodal analytical framework based on visual tools taken from Kress and van Leeuwen's visual grammar (1996, 2006) and van Leeuwen's (2008) visual depiction of social actors as visual analytical tools in Chapter Six. Chapter Six, in particular, analyzes the integration of modes, such as image and text, using multimodal discourse analysis. All in all, multimodal critical discourse analysis-MCDA is basically drawn from the concepts of Critical discourse analysis-CDA (Flowerdew and Richardson, 2018, cited in Serafis et al., 2020). Explicitly, Multimodal Critical Discourse Analysis analyzes how different combinations of modes of semiotic resources, for example, image and language, co-occur and co-construct, targeting contextualized discourses of media (Ledin & Machin, 2018).

As mentioned earlier, in analyzing how visual images and textual language depict Iraqi Refugees, Kress and van Leeuwen's multimodal meanings (1996/2006) are adopted as the main analytical tools in Chapter Six. The analysis, therefore, focuses on representational, interactive, and compositional meaning as analytical tools for reading and analyzing images. Departing from Kress and van Leeuwen's (1996, 2006) meanings, I therefore analyze the images of Iraqi refugees, using a multimodal discourse approach. The analysis of each multimodal text is divided into two main sections. The first section addresses the visual aspect of the multimodal content, while the second section focuses on the textual language i.e., headlines, sub-headlines, and captions found within the text (Martinez Lirola, 2017a, 2017b, 2022a, 2022b). The analysis examines how *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* depict Iraqi refugees, looking at how they are categorized and visually depicted. How are Iraqi refugees depicted in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*? And what social relations can be initiated between the represented participants and the audience?

Following the social semiotic analysis, which drew on the former principles of CDA, the analysis will be formerly qualitative. Since the texts under analysis are visual images, the model of visual grammar proposed by Kress and van Leeuwen (1996;2006;2021) was employed to examine the focal types of composition in the media images under analysis. I operationalized the social semiotic analysis using content, compositional, and socio-semiotic analyses (Martikainen & Sakki, 2024). In content analysis, specific attention was given to the objects, environments, and displaced people depicted in the images, whilst in compositional analysis, the focus was given to expressions, including, for instance, color, salience, and viewing angle in each image used in constructing these people, environments, and objects in connection to each other (Bell, 2012; Rose, 2016).

Socio-semiotic analysis advances the meanings constructed by the visual selections of the images (Kress & Van Leeuwen, 2006). These meanings relate to the former analytical processes of Halliday's (1978) systemic functional grammar. Also, the threelevel meanings focus on ideational meaning (meaning of the image, Royce, 2007), interpersonal meaning (communication with the viewers), and compositional meaning (composition of the image). I elaborate on all these meanings and how these levels can be analyzed using socio-semiotic analysis to deconstruct and delve deeper into the representation of refugees.

Furthermore, in Chapter Six, I employed van Leeuwen's strategies (2008) of depicting people to depict and analyze Iraqi refugees as social actors. Van Leeuwen's (2008) visual categorization of social actors was employed to deconstruct the way in which Iraqi refugees were depicted in every visual. Some of the actions represented are the categorization of cultural and biological characteristics, others are the homogenization and differentiation of people, and yet others are the inclusion and exclusion of people in images. Consequently, these features would depict people both directly and indirectly.

Each multimodal text was examined, taking account of some aspects, for example, social distance, to see if social actors are depicted close to the audience/ viewers or far away from them. The social relation was, thus, analyzed to examine whether social actors were included in the action or not. Social interaction was, thus, taken into account to see whether social actors directly address the viewers or do not look at them .

All in all, these tools can display a lens through which to analyze the images in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* and create links to the social representation of the social actors in visual images. To sum up, all these strategies contribute to the analysis of Iraqis to observe, for example, whether they are 'the others' or they are 'friends,' as their application in Chapter Six will show. On balance, these tools can display a lens through which to analyze the images and create links to the social representation of the identities in the media.

4.6.5. Usage in thesis

I will rely on framing theory to identify the frame functions in Chapter Five. Although I will be using the socio-cognitive approach to analyze the underlying news structures of the discourses behind framing, the researcher will be conducting the following analytical steps to generate the flow of analysis as follows: Firstly, I will take an in-depth look at how Iraqi refugees as social actors are depicted in the crisis, and at the media attention they receive in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*. The researcher will, thus, analyze how other actors are represented in the crisis, to achieve an in-depth understanding of the depiction of refugees. By exploring all the actors in the portrayal and who dominates the news headings, I deem it will generate the mapping of discourses/ ideologies in both *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*.

Then, to comprehensively understand what news frames are used in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* and which discourse and narrative topic is dominating, I will be exploring and identifying which frame *functions* are extensively used. Next, I will also take a look at the discourse of the headlines and sub-headlines to see what words, phrases, and expressions denote frames. To this end, this process will explore how both *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* select what topics and themes are the most important in the news. In other words, how *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* choose their frames.

Once I have pinpointed the frame functions, I will conduct a socio-cognitive analysis to examine what factors, such as societal and institutional structures, religion, refugee-related issues, and culture, matter in news reporting. In this sense, socio-cognitive discourse studies (SCDS) integrate the discourse structures onto social structures via a complex socio-cognitive interface system. Departing from van Dijk's SCA (2017), the correlation between the socio-cognitive and social structures is explained as follows:

Sociocognitive Discourse Studies (SCDS) more broadly relates discourse structures to social structures via a complex sociocognitive interface. As in Cognitive Linguistics, it critically describes the cognitive aspects of the use of some concepts or metaphors (e.g., as expressed in inflow of foreign nationals). But more broadly, SCDS deals with the ongoing communicative Common Ground and the shared social knowledge, as well as the attitudes and ideologies, of language users as current participants of the communicative situation and as members of social groups and communities (Dijk, 2017: 3).

All in all, the use of the Socio-Cognitive Analysis together with Framing Analysis in Chapter Five will illustrate why certain frames are used by both *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* regarding their diverse publication, discourse, and direction.

In Chapter Six, I will broaden the analysis by using multimodal discourse analysis to examine how *Iraqi refugees* are depicted in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*, following the model of visual grammar proposed by Kress and van Leeuwen (1996, 2006). The use of a multimodal discourse analysis in Chapter Six will sharpen the interpretation of visual images by deconstructing together the two modes, i.e., image and text relations used in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*. Broadly speaking, Multimodal Critical Discourse Analysis analyzes how a combination of semiotic modes, for example, image and language, rebuild contextualized discourses, sustaining the socio-political status (Ledin & Machin,

2018). Through this bifocal perspective, depicting refugees is visually constructed. Overall, the use of Entman's Framing Theory (1993), van Dijk's Socio-Cognitive Approach (2005; 2008; 2015), and Kress and van Leeuwen's Social Semiotic Approach (1996; 2006) will outline the analytical frameworks of the entire thesis. These theories have been selected on the basis of their importance, because they can produce a broad linguistic analysis and can, thus, operate together in a broad sense of interpretation.

4.7. Concluding Remarks

Chapter Four arrives at the following conclusions: Firstly, Chapter Four provides a detailed description of *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*, including issues, such as the circulation, history, ideology, culture, programs, and language. The chapter, therefore, attempted to offer a brief description of each topic that is relevant to both *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*. I also offered reliable statistical data about *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* in terms of the audiences they are targeting in the UK, Germany, and worldwide. The reason for showing this is to assert that both sources enjoy huge worldwide circulation. Secondly, I introduced the analytical methods used to examine the framing of Iraqi refugees in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*. I have reviewed the levels of analysis, including visual and textual, and how these two levels will be used to generate a comprehensive analysis of the entire thesis. I introduced framing theory as an analytical method, a well-established tradition under the discourse analysis approach, and I provided methodology, which can be reliably applied to *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*. Furthermore, I introduced socio-cognitive analysis, a well-formulated framework under CDA, to analyze the framing and the underlying structures of the former sources in a broad sense. The selected analytical tools of these two methods will allow me to formulate the analytical perspective of Chapter Five. In addition, these analytical methods have been selected to analyze the discourse structures and, thus, to see how refugees are depicted differently in the headlines and sub-headlines.

Furthermore, I introduced the social semiotic approach as an analytical method under the multimodal discourse analysis to analyze the multimodal visual images in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*. The visual analytical tools allow me to look beyond the descriptions of Iraqi refugees in the photographs and to show how these images coincide with the audience in terms of social relations. It is crucial to show, for example, the relationship between the depicted participant and the audience and how refugees are depicted in images. Thirdly, I outlined the chapter by providing a general description in terms of the qualitative approach and its relation to the subject matter.

Chapter 5: A Critical Discourse and Framing Analysis

5.1. Introduction

Chapter Five displays the research findings and analysis of the empirical materials, particularly the discourse of headlines. In this chapter, I use the framing theory to identify the frame functions. In addition, I use the socio-cognitive approach to specify the underlying structures regarding the discourses behind the framing. Then, to comprehend what news frames are used and what discourse headlines are the most dominant, I will also identify what frame functions in the news headlines are extensively used. This will be done by analyzing the words, phrases, and expressions in headlines and sub-headlines. In other words, this process leads the researcher to examine how *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* select what topics and themes are crucial in headings.

After that, I will use the socio-cognitive approach and examine, if applicable, for example, indicators regarding the depiction of the refugees in terms of number frames, institutional and societal structures, and religious and cultural matters in their portrayal. The socio-cognitive approach will illustrate why, for example, specific themes and topics are used by *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*. To this end, a macroanalysis was conducted by performing a microanalysis to identify topics and themes in news headlines. The results of this part are classified into topics and sub-topics. The first topic deals with the Iraqi refugees and their situation, whereas the second topic represents the other actors in framing.

Overall, headlines have a key cognitive function because they are the most frequently read first— That is, the function of the headline is to provide an aftermath and summary of the newspaper's theme, i.e., the essential 'topic.' Hence, the primary information in the news headlines is strategically used by the readers when tackling the information to understand the general meaning or the overall topic of the article (van Dijk, 1991:50). Also, the information provided in the headline is used to trigger "relevant knowledge" in the reader's memory, which is essential for comprehending the news of an article (van Dijk, 1991:51). Whenever the word *refugee* is used in the headings, the reader will trigger his/her relevant knowledge about the so-called "crisis script." As a result, the purpose of this script is to manage the understanding of the specific information presented in the rest of the text. Therefore, understanding the overall meaning of the topic is essential. Following van Dijk's (2000: 90) definition, topics are "defined as semantic macrostructures; they represent what speakers find most important, they regulate overall coherence of discourse, how discourse is planned and globally controlled and understood, and what is best remembered by the recipients."

In this chapter, I consider headlines and sub-headlines are the most essential information and the main topics that *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* use to report on the Iraqi refugee crisis. I will investigate whether both *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* share the same agenda about covering the crisis or whether they are non-identical towards specific themes. Therefore, this will help the researcher reveal the depiction of Iraqi refugees in the news headlines, constructing the crisis using a comparable or different approach. Furthermore, I detail the investigation of the findings regarding the Iraqi refugee crisis in the headlines and sub-headlines that show the most characteristic topics. Hence, the most commonly-shared headlines of the empirical materials from *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* are categorized into topics and sub-topics.

5.2. Research Findings

5.2.1. Headlines: Constructing the Iraqi Refugee Crisis and Displacement

The construction of headlines and sub-headlines dealing with displacement and harsh actions has been the dominant topic in the digital discourse of *The Guardian* as compared to *Deutsche Welle*. The focus of *The Guardian* differs from that of *Deutsche Welle* when it comes to reporting on the Iraqi refugee crisis. Although both news outlets focus on the Iraqi refugee crisis, there are more remarkable topicalization frames in *The Guardian*, particularly constructing Iraqi Yazidis and their religious identity as the most depressed minority group in the Iraqi refugee crisis. On the other hand, based on the selected headings i.e., headlines and sub-headlines, there is a considerable variation between *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* in terms of news coverage, such as the severe actions and situations faced by Iraqi refugees.

This divergence, therefore, means that the two sides have non-similar approaches to constructing news coverage of the challenges and exodus of Iraqi refugees. Generally speaking, the headings below tend to depict refugees and their survival. Such actions, including displacement and acts of survival in the migratory process, have been highlighted in different headlines, focusing on the actions of the refugees to flee and struggle to reach a safe place. Hence, these actions of violence, war, and refugees persecuted by ISIS generate a hotspot of displacement in Iraq. As for *The Guardian*, Iraqi refugees are topicalized in different ways. For instance, the headings below summarize topics and actions in terms of crisis, including conflict and persistence.

TG.UK.H4: *Thousands of Iraqi refugees 'still at risk' despite ending of Mount Sinjar siege/ Sub-H:* *Officials and aid workers in northern Iraq warn that at least 50,000 Yazidis are still trying to find shelter inside Kurdish areas*

TG.UK.H10: *Isis forces 1,500 Iraqi families to march to Mosul/ Sub-H:* *Civilians expected to be used as human shields by Islamic State as it loses control of village where mass grave found*

TG.UK.H26: *20,000 Iraqis besieged by Isis escape from mountain after US air strikes/ Sub-H:* *Yazidi minority surrounded by Islamist militants on Mount Sinjar escorted back to Iraqi Kurdistan after fleeing via Syria*

TG.UK.30: *Iraqi civilian death toll passes 5,500 in wake of Isis offensive / **Sub-H:** United Nations report says rate of civilian deaths over first six months of 2014 shows sharp increase over previous year*

TG.UK.H31: *Islamic State 'shooting civilians as they flee besieged Falluja' / **Sub-H:** Aid group says residents leaving the Iraqi city have been killed trying to cross the Euphrates river*

TG.UK.H29: *Iraqis are fleeing violence in Anbar at rate not seen since civil war, says UN / **Sub-H:** Refugee agency says more than 140,000 have fled clashes between security forces and anti-government fighters in a month*

TG.UK.H17: *Mosul civilians flee heavy fighting and Isis: 'They killed people in front of me' / **Sub-H:** Hundreds of exhausted and hungry families who have lived under Isis's rule seek safety as Iraq government troops enter in attempt to reclaim the city*

TG.UK.H19: *Mosul families trapped on the frontline of the war against Isis: 'What can we do?'*

TG.UK.H34: *40,000 Iraqis stranded on mountain as Isis jihadists threaten death / **Sub-H:** members of minority Yazidi sect face slaughter if they go down and dehydration if they stay, while 130,000 fled to Kurdish north*

TG.UK.H53: *Even after escaping Isis, the suffering of the Yazidis persists*

TG.UK.H96: *Fallujah siege: 'Families are surviving on dried dates and river water'*

TG.UK.H116: *Hundreds of people flee Iraq's Fallujah area*

TG.UK.H67: *Tens of thousands pour into Iraq's Kurdish north as US jets bomb Isis*

TG.UK.H47: *Thousands of Iraqi Christians flee from fighting between Isis and Kurdish forces - video / **Sub-H:** Iraqis from a predominantly-Christian town south of Mosul flee from fighting between Kurdish forces and Isis militants.*

TG.UK.H39: *Displaced Iraqis struggle in refugee camps as the military regains control of the Baiji refinery – video / **Sub-H:** Several thousand displaced Iraqis arrive at a refugee camp near Irbil on Thursday after fleeing Mosul, the second-largest city in Iraq which was taken by Isis militants last week. Isis have released footage apparently showing burning military vehicles after clashes in Mosul. The Iraqi government says it has retaken the Baiji oil refinery*

TG.UK.H28: *Thousands of Mosul civilians trapped in Isis territory as Iraqi forces close in*

Mostly, but not entirely, the headlines depicted in the British digital newspaper use a more general frame of *numbers* at the initial sentence level; the first topical frames of the headlines tend to summarize the general topics. This shows the headlines about refugees are full in terms of using frame functions, such as numbers and quantity, which perhaps tend to have a rhetorical aspect, when stressing the huge numbers of Iraqi refugees. Such a portrayal, in newspapers, and according to van Dijk (1991: 190), is called “Number Game.” Since macropropositions are no longer expressed in the news discourse, they are used to construct abstracts in the text and make precise information. These structures are, however, important in cognitive information, and allow the audience to remember, store, and mentally organize textual information (van Dijk, 1991).

We also observe that there are remarkable frames in the headlines and sub-headlines used to construct the Iraqis in relation to their ethnic identity, such as the Yazidis, highlighting their displacement in terms of a huge number of groups. Furthermore, the headlines above show us that refugees, especially Yazidis, have experienced different actions, such as persistence, brutality, and tough actions, in the migratory process and displacement in Iraq as a result of ISIS. Such headlines can be evaluated as prominent frames in headlines since they summarize the topics of the articles by constructing the Iraqi refugee crisis, using frames in the depiction, such as numbers, ethnic identity, and other frames showing the severe actions refugees come up against.

When taking an in-depth look at the headlines, for instance, the headline depicted (*TG.UK.H4*) not only highlights the hardship undergone by Iraqi refugees but also the uncertain conditions in which the refugees are stranded. Also, framing the phrase 'still at risk' at the microlevel makes the headline more noticeable to the audience in the communicative text (Entman, 1993), and, therefore, suggests that the authorities in Iraq have neglected them and that there is no concern for their lives.

On the other hand, the focus of the topic in the headline (*TG.UK.30*) is on the death toll since the overall topic shows that the civilian death toll rises in huge numbers and activates the reader's awareness of how dangerous ISIS is. The headline (*TG.UK.H31*) employs a sense of crime as the expression 'shooting civilians as they flee besieged Falluja' represents aggressive actions. This means that the phrase creates an explicit image of the refugees being left and shot in severe conditions; at the same time, it stresses the brutality of ISIS to the readers.

Explicitly, in news comprehension, the readers have first to use specific frames, which are not just chunks of knowledge but items of interpretation involving assignments of "inferences and global meaning" (van Dijk, 2013: 7), and according to which "expectations and interactions" are arranged (van Dijk, 1977, cited in Abdel-Raheem, 2023: 412-413). In this sense, the information at the top of the mental model helps readers interpret such actions by understanding the overall meaning. Consequently, what is depicted in the headline (*TG.UK.30*) not only shows the topic regarding the demise of civilians during the migratory process but also creates a sense of brutal actions or phobia in the readers.

Generally, when analyzing the global headlines selected in *The Guardian*, there is a typical tendency to construct migration and internal displacement in Iraq using top topics as semantic macrostructures, consisting of macrodiscourse segments that semantically control and subsume the lower-level meanings of the headlines of the discourse. Such topics can be clearly realized in the discourse of these headlines, with an emphasis on specific topics and frames – that highlight the social consequences of internal displacement, such as humanitarian crises, forced relocation, and trapped civilians. It is important that employing such top summaries in headlines, rather than the use of large text, are usually what is best recalled by readers: as we can see in the following headlines, such as

TG.UK.H10, TG.UK.H26, TG.UK.H29, TG.UK.H17, TG.UK.H19, TG.UK.H34, TG.UK.H4, TG.UK.H116, TG.UK.H67, and TG.UK.H47.

We additionally see that whereas the above headlines use the more general dynamic verbs, such as ‘flee, escape, march, and pour’, these verbs in the news reports specify the practice of fleeing in relation to the actions of displacement. Therefore, they may make their global meaning, i.e., topics in the news headlines, more salient to the readers. As we can see above, the meaning of ‘fleeing’ in the headlines may represent one of the main parts of both the macrostructure of an article and of a mental model of the texts, and therefore tends to be better recalled by the readers.

On the other hand, fleeing means running away from a place or danger and, hence, representing only one argument used in the headlines — including actions of forced displacement. More generally, because superstructures organize discourse segments, such macropropositions topics in the news headlines subsume the global meaning of such news items. We, thus, observe that Iraqi refugees in the digital discourse of *The Guardian* are not simply acknowledged in terms of their severe conditions, but rather the headlines tend to depict them as active actors due to the forced migratory processes in Iraq.

When taking another in-depth look at the headlines, for example, the headline (TG.UK.H96), we see that there is another factor regarding the Iraqi refugee crisis: more specifically, the lack of food and services. That is, the proposition ‘Families are surviving on dried dates and river water’ in the news headline makes the communicating text more noticeable to the audience, and hence, they may make their global meaning, i.e., topics in the news headlines more salient to the readers. In this sense, readers tend to use their common knowledge to clearly understand that civilians are facing a situation in which there is no available food, and no help to save them.

Such news segments in the journalistic discourse are used to catch readers’ attention and focus on such topics, especially when it comes to depressed refugees. Also, the headline gives a clear image of how Iraqi refugees are facing difficult conditions, since the use of words such as ‘dried dates and river water’ in the headline makes use of interpretation structures— including struggling for survival while facing obstruction to their flight. Thus, the meaning of this discourse segment represents the top of the macrostructure of a text and the mental model of the editors. Such topics may help to activate the readers’ awareness during the process of reading, and therefore, the writer tends to provide readers with sufficient knowledge to explicitly perceive that there are many families suffering from food shortage and hunger.

When constructing the Iraqi refugee crisis, we see, for instance, that the following headlines TG.UK.H39; TG.UK.H34; TG.UK.H19, TG.UK.H28, contain verbs such as ‘stranded, trapped, struggle’ when dealing with critical affairs and events. Such verbs represent meanings in the headlines of the discourse that refugees or civilians are in a very critical situation and unable to flee. Furthermore, using these verbs in the headlines may also carry the meaning that refugees are unwilling to flee from ISIS. Generally, newspapers tend to use specific frames and words in the news reports not just to catch

the readers' attention but also to convey an emotive image of depressed people by providing explicit topics to highlight the brutal actions of the doer i.e., ISIS.

On the other hand, using these verbs in the news headlines explicitly suggests that neither the authorities in Iraq nor humanitarian organizations can reach the - areas affected by the hotspots as a result of the conflict between the Iraqi army and ISIS. In this regard, such organization of the topics in the headlines may provide strategic hints about how the model of the audience should be organized. Thus, such verbs as frames suggest what is important or less important in a subjective model of this crisis. Because these headlines summarize the top topics of an event, they carry rich information about the refugees and their situation to the readers. That is, high-level topics in the news text may also become high-level information in the model (van Dijk, 1991). As a result, we may see these verbs in the headlines as distinguishable discourse segments that help readers make information from the newspaper.

The headlines (TG.UK.H39; TG.UK.H34; TG.UK.H19; TG.UK.H67, TG.UK.H28) provide a vivid image of the Iraqi refugee crisis and displacement since they include verbs that suggest meanings to the readers about precarious actions and difficult situations refugees come up against. For instance, the headline (TG.UK.H67) uses the verb 'pour' as a metaphorical function to express the massive displacement of civilians into Iraq's Kurdish region, and hence it explicitly suggests a sense of forced displacement to the readers. Also, the headline, for instance, TG.UK.H53: '*Even after escaping Isis, the suffering of the Yazidis persists*', suggests that refugees are still struggling with their situation while fleeing ISIS and war. However, it expresses that those Yazidis experienced harsh conditions and survived suffering and wars, and there was no concern for their lives.

When it comes to the German digital news source, the headlines selected tend to focus on the Iraqi refugee crisis, using different topics when constructing the overall meaning, including topics such as critical conditions, forced displacement, and other actions, constructing them as depressed refugees in the macrosemantic propositions.

DW.DE.H1: *Iraqi refugees find temporary haven in Erbil / Sub-H:* *Iraq's Kurdish capital has been flooded by Iraqis driven from their homes for fear of fighting between the Sunni militants of ISIS and the government. But being a refugee is difficult, so some are already heading back.*

DW.DE.H2: *Iraqi refugees face 'catastrophic' conditions / Sub-H:* *The situation is dire for the 200,000 Yazidis fleeing the violence of Islamic State fighters in northern Iraq. Members of the persecuted religious minority say they even feel abandoned by Kurdish peshmerga fighters.*

DW.DE.H3: *Fearing ISIS, Iraqi Christians flee/ Sub-H:* *Christians in Iraq urgently call for help as they are increasingly caught in the crossfire. Many have fled from the advancing Sunni insurgent group - and experts say change for the better is not in sight.*

DW.DE.H4: *Yazidis see fleeing Middle East as only option for survival / Sub-H:* *Stuck in refugee camps after fleeing IS, Yazidis have few options, especially since the Middle East's most vulnerable people have been excluded from international migration talks. Diego Cupolo reports from Sharya, Iraq.*

DW.DE.H5: *Fleeing residents of Mosul take refuge in Kurdistan/ Sub-H:* *Refugees are pouring into Iraq's Kurdistan region as thousands flee militant fighters of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS). They tell DW of the chaos sweeping northern Iraq.*

DW.DE.H11: *Refugees in Iraq caught between soldiers and jihadists / Sub-H:* *Iraqi fighting forces are preparing an attack on Mosul. Thousands of people have fled the city ahead of the expected battle, yet aid organizations expect even larger waves of refugees soon.*

DW.DE.H15: *Thousands flee Mosul in Iraq as ISIL takes control / Sub-H:* *Islamist fighters have overrun Iraq's second-most populous city, prompting the prime minister to request a state of emergency and appeal for volunteer fighters. The US and UN both voiced concern, as thousands fled Mosul.*

DW.DE.H13: *Thousands of people flee Mosul before Iraq anti-IS op / Sub-H:* *With Iraq's military preparing to attempt to retake the northern city of Mosul from the "Islamic State," new bloodshed is imminent. People who have fled give accounts of the situation in the largest city occupied by IS.*

DW.DE.H44: *Tens of thousands fleeing Mosul / Sub-H:* *Nearly 42,000 people have fled the Iraqi city after the military launched a crackdown to retake control from "Islamic State." The figures have been released by the International Organization for Migration (IOM).*

DW.DE.H53: *Hundreds of thousands flee Mosul / Sub-H:* *Many fear a humanitarian crisis following the onset of the Iraqi military offensive on Mosul. Aid organizations expect up to one million refugees.*

DW.DE.H95: *Children survive IS hungry and traumatized / Sub-H:* *Children have been among those worst hit by "Islamic State" occupation and the battle to liberate Mosul. They suffer malnutrition for lack of food, and toxic stress from the violence they witnessed, Judit Neurink reports*

DW.DE.H108: *Iraq civilian death toll 'staggering' / Sub-H:* *The UN has highlighted in a new report the high number of killed, wounded and displaced civilians in Iraq last year. The report puts special emphasis on atrocities committed by the "IS" terror group.*

DW.DE.H115: *Hundreds flee Mosul / Sub-H:* *Iraqi forces are creating safe passage routes for civilians trapped by IS by dividing the militant group's territory. Despite that effort, the UN said civilians under IS occupation face "almost unimaginable" danger.*

DW.DE.H113: *Mosul residents scuffle over scarce aid supplies / Sub-H:* *The Iraqi government is struggling to get aid supplies to civilians trapped near the front line in the city of Mosul. More than six weeks in, the battle to retake the city from rebel fighters is proceeding slowly.*

DW.DE.H117: *Thousands flee homes since Iraqi forces open Mosul offensive / Sub-H:* *More than 68,000 people have fled their homes since Iraqi forces launched an offensive against the "Islamic State" in Mosul in October, the UN says. The city had some 1 million residents before the operation started.*

DW.DE.H121: *UN: Thousands flee latest 'IS' advance/ Sub-H:* *A jihadist advance in Iraq's Anbar province has forced over 90,000 people to leave their homes, according to the United Nations. The "Islamic State" militants have been gaining ground in the area over the past week.*

Generally, we see the word *flee* in the headlines as the most salient frame in the news. In this sense, using the word *flee* as a discourse segment in the news headlines explicitly refers to actions of forced displacement in Iraq. For instance, when analyzing the headline (DW.DE.H4), the overall meaning of the topic shows the Yazidis as if they have been struggling to live in the Middle East, therefore, suggesting to readers that life for the Yazidis in the Middle East is no longer safe. In addition, the headline clearly highlights the plight of minorities as the most depressed and marginalized groups,

facing forced displacement in Iraq. By prominently depicting the word Yazidis when talking about the Middle East, the headline becomes more memorable and salient for the audience (Entman, 1993).

We also see headlines, including DW.DE.H4 and DW.DE.H3, tend to construct the Iraqi ethnic identity, especially the Yazidis and Christian minorities, as the top topics of the macropropositions that semantically control and subsume the lower-level meanings of the headlines of the discourse. It is important that such top topics, especially when it comes to minorities, generally catch the readers' attention to read an article. Also, when looking at the headlines DW.DE.H3 and DW.DE.H4, the focal topics are attached to the use of religious identity, especially the Yazidis and Christians, which are the groups that have been most provoked by ISIS in Iraq and have most suffered at their hands.

Based on these headlines, the word 'fleeing' is an action verb that is attributed to the groups of Christians and Yazidis. To this end, by depicting what the Christians and Yazidis flee from to survive, *Deutsche Welle* does not only acknowledge them as passive actors, but as being a depressed ethnic group in the discourse. Overall, the headlines selected convey an overall meaning to the audience; they presuppose information that helps readers activate their knowledge of the general meaning of the article. Broadly speaking, the macrosemantic of the headline (DW.DE.H4) presupposes the global meaning that the Yazidis no longer live in the Middle East, since readers explicitly infer information from the discourse segment 'survival' so as to easily perceive and acknowledge such a topic. And hence, readers tend to use their common knowledge to subsume that the Yazidis may experience forced displacement in the Middle East.

When taking a look at the headlines, for instance, DW.DE.H1 and DW.DE.H5, we may see that the Iraqi refugees are depicted in the macrosemantic propositions as if they have been struggling in the migratory process to find a safe place to live in. However, constructing the refugees in Iraq's Kurdish region as fleeing people makes the discourse segment more salient to the audience (Entman, 1993). Also, the headlines use the metaphorical verbs 'pouring and flooded' to describe quick and dynamic actions. Such verbs mean to flow quickly, which in this context implies fleeing quickly.

Furthermore, they are used to indicate the huge flow of refugees and give an image of their exodus, highlighting the scale of the displacement in Iraq. Such topics in the discourse of the headlines may help readers infer that the crisis of refugees in Iraq is irrepressible to control. Since topics are theoretically included as semantic macrostructures, the macropropositions of these headlines semantically subsume top knowledge to the readers that the entire region of Iraq's Kurdistan region is inundated by refugees. As a result, the common tendency is to depict the the situation of the Iraqi refugees in these headlines by using discourse topics in relation to actions of fleeing and relocation. Such headlines may help or reinforce the readers to use their common shared knowledge to perceive this information that Iraqi refugees are experiencing forced displacement and huge flow due to ISIS.

Moreover, we see that the macropropositions of these metaphorical verbs 'flooded and pouring' used in the news headlines may also build up a topic that the crisis is unmanageable due to the huge number

of refugees and lack of humanitarian aid. This is clearly observed in the sub-headlines, where we can see the discourse segments about this crisis explicitly constructed: DW.DE. Sub-H1: *But being a refugee is difficult, so some are already heading back*, DW.DE. Sub-H5: *They tell DW of the chaos sweeping northern Iraq*.

When it comes to the headline (DW.DE.H2), we see that the top topic of the overall meaning tends to construct a critical situation about the refugees. That is, we see that the adjective ‘catastrophic’ in the headline may be subjective; for example, as an editorial news selection— which explicitly highlights the social and critical consequences of the Iraqi refugee crisis. On the other hand, the adjective ‘catastrophic’ has been framed in the headline as a salient news segment (Entman, 1993), and hence, it is constructed as a macrodiscourse segment in this headline to activate the reader’s perception during the process of reading the news (van Dijk, 2018).

Additionally, the adjective may also presuppose meanings shared between the writer and the recipients. That is, constructing refugees, especially the Yazidis, and their severe situation in this headline reinforces relevant knowledge for the production and the interpretation of this discourse news. It is presupposed that there is a crisis in the Middle East, particularly in Iraq, and that there are ethnic minority groups that are likely persecuted and affected by ISIS (van Dijk, 2018). A noticeable adjective, such as ‘catastrophic’, in the news creates an overall meaning that refugees in Iraq are facing real threats and that there is a real threat for their lives in Iraq. In addition, the editorial then follows the news that the refugees in Iraq are neglected, and the authorities are not able to offer shelter and sufficient needs for the displaced Yazidis. As observed in sub-H1: *Members of the persecuted religious minority say they even feel abandoned by Kurdish peshmerga fighters*.

We thus observe that the Iraqi refugee crisis and displacement in the digital discourse of *Deutsche Welle* are likely at the same level as *The Guardian* when it comes to using the word *flee* as a prominent discourse news item in the macroproposition of the headlines. That is, the selected headlines, for instance, DW.DE.H15, DW.DE.H13, DW.DE.H53, and DW.DE.H44, explicitly tend to employ this frame function in the verb phrase as a vivid discourse segment to highlight the more catastrophic actions in relation to the forced displacement. Moreover, it is noticeably used in these macropropositions to show topics, including internal displacement and violence, and gives an explicit image to the readers to build up a script or schemas about crisis and displacement in Iraq. Furthermore, the verb *flee* in the headlines suggests that there are forced migratory actions since the verb itself signifies a dynamic sense, including actions of forced movement.

It is observe that the use of quantifiers, for example, *Hundreds of thousand*, *Tens of thousands*, and *thousands*, presuppose explicit relevant knowledge for the production and the interpretation of these frames to be true for the other discourse segments to be meaningful. Hence, such macrostructures help readers use their ‘‘common ground’’ when reading the news article (van Dijk, 2018: 240). More

generally, the overall meaning of these quantifiers may convey a sense of forced displacement in the reader's mind that the Iraqi refugees experienced forced actions to flee.

When looking at the headline DW.DE.H95, we see that there is another factor in relation to the Iraqi refugee crisis, including lack of food. That is, the semantic macroproposition subsumes that children and poverty are the top topics of the news headline of the discourse. In this sense, *Deutsche Welle* tends to depict children and poverty as one of the socio-economic factors in the Iraqi refugee crisis. Both the adjectives 'hungry and traumatized' in the headline indicate that the children are in a critical situation due to ISIS and the lack of food. Furthermore, following Entman's (1993) framing analysis, such frame functions in the media make the discourse more remarkable to the audience, since the alignment of these frames in the headline such as selection and salience are more meaningful in the communicating text. It can be said, to this end, that the overall meaning of the proposition may characterize a topic that there is another social and economic aspect regardless of ISIS in the Iraqi refugee crisis. Apart from the strong appraisal adjective, 'traumatized' presupposes that we can perceive that children have experienced many severe conditions while fleeing ISIS. Such discourse news items in the media are used strategically not just to catch readers' interest, but also to guide them to read an article. Yet, the word 'survive' may also suggest the meaning that children are living under resistance due to war and lack of food.

We see that the headlines DW.DE.H11 and DW.DE.H113 use the more general verbs, such as 'caught and scuffle,' as finite verbs, including a macrosemantic aspect that refugees are facing a critical situation. Therefore, using such verbs may suggest that the conclusion drawn from the headlines is that civilians are struggling in the Iraqi refugee crisis. It is presupposed that the sub-headline (DW.DE.H113), including a discourse structure, ended with news items about the lack of aid and trapped civilians. As evidenced in the following statement: *'Mosul residents scuffle over scarce aid supplies'*. In this sense, the writer built his argument on the lack of aid in those disputed areas, stating that there was limited humanitarian aid; consequently, civilians had fought a struggle for survival.

Apart from these news discourses, the headline, for instance, DW.DE.H108, uses the more general notion of the death toll, the first topical structure of the headline and the rest of the sub-headline information specify the more reliable source of the news report. That is, the headline tends to construct the topicalization of the UN as a frame function of the underlying proposition regarding the atrocities waged on the civilians, when referring to the Iraqi refugee crisis. The adjective 'staggering' explicitly subsumes horrible schemas in the reader's mind, using their common ground to understand such news production in the media.

In this sense, we see that the macrosemantic propositions of the headline contain relevant news production i.e., 'ISIS and the death toll' for the readers. Therefore, it is presupposed that there are victims and that there are murderers i.e., ISIS. Such relevance may subsume a meaning that the Iraqi

refugees are facing genocide. Furthermore, the adjective itself signifies salience in the communicating headline since its selection with the news items makes the text more meaningful to the audience.

5.2.2. Headlines: Constructing the challenges and difficulties the refugees face

The discourses reported in the headlines of this section are conveyed as sympathetic expressions that address the plight of the refugees in Iraq. Based on the headlines depicted, the topics of the semantic macrostructures of *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* tend to topicalize displaced people as having catastrophic situations, which informs the readers that refugees face real threats and oppression.

When looking at the headlines, for instance, the headline TG.UK.H3, we see that *The Guardian's* discourse explicitly shows the tough situation of the refugees and the supportive role of the UK. However, it implies some interesting interpretations since it might be interpreted as an article that seeks to bring the role of the UK in the crisis to the attention of the audience. Since *The Guardian* is a British-based newspaper, it might be presupposed that the newspaper tends to support such campaigns for a sociopolitical purpose, especially when it comes to minorities, or it might seek to position readers to know about this aid. Explicitly, the headline uses the phrase '*facing genocide*' as the top topic of the semantic macrostructure. Nevertheless, it summarizes the overall meaning of this discourse segment and provides a more general relevant notion of the UK's role to the readers. The prepositional phrase of the headline '*to receive UK airdrop of aid*' implies that the UK is acting as a social actor to save the ethnic minorities in Iraq, since the alignment of the discourse segments, like '*facing genocide and the UK aid*', makes the information in the communicating text more meaningful to the audience (Entman,1993). Below are the following headlines and sub-headlines:

TG.UK.H3: *Iraqi refugees 'facing genocide' to receive UK airdrop of aid / Sub-H: Philip Hammond follows US in sending relief for the 40,000 Yazidi Kurds surrounded by Islamists militants on Mount Sinjar*

TG.UK.H4: *Thousands of Iraqi refugees 'still at risk' despite ending of Mount Sinjar siege/ Sub-H: Officials and aid workers in northern Iraq warn that at least 50,000 Yazidis are still trying to find shelter inside Kurdish areas*

TG.UK.H5: *Hundreds at Iraq refugee camp ill from contaminated food / Sub-H: UN says police investigating after 800 who had fled Mosul fighting got food poisoning from meal supplied by UK charity*

TG.UK.H7: *Winter brings fresh threat to Iraq's refugees who fled the Isis advance / Sub-H: Two million Iraqis and Syrians displaced by Isis fighting face misery in teeming camps, as Kurds appeal for more help*

TG.UK.H12: *UN says civilians at extreme risk as west Mosul offensive begins*

TG.UK.H13: *Mosul's children were shouting beneath the rubble. Nobody came / Sub-H: Coalition bombs buried more than a hundred people in the ruins of three houses and raised fresh questions about US rules of engagement*

TG.UK.H16: *Yazidis yearn for their Sinjar home one year after Isis forced them to flee/ Sub-H: Amid diminishing funds and massive displacement, and with little sign of the international*

community heeding calls from exiled Yazidis to make their homeland secure, is Iraq becoming a forgotten humanitarian crisis?

TG.UK.H34: *40,000 Iraqis stranded on mountain as Isis jihadists threaten death / **Sub-H:** Members of minority Yazidi sect face slaughter if they go down and dehydration if they stay, while 130,000 fled to Kurdish north*

TG.UK.H35: *Thousands of children at risk in Falluja, says UN / **Sub-H:** Unicef urges warring forces in besieged Iraqi city to protect the children as battle to oust Isis continues*

TG.UK.H46: *Yazidis tormented by fears for women and girls kidnapped by Isis jihadists*

TG.UK.H50: *Iraq's largest Christian town abandoned as Isis advance continues*

TG.UK.H61: *Voices from Iraq: 'We have lived enough years of revenge and tyranny'*

TG.UK.H74: *Sinjar still gripped by fear a year after liberation from Isis*

TG.UK.H77: *Thousands have been abused by Isis and their mental health is shattered/ **Sub-H:** Yazidi survivors of rape, violence and forced exile are getting help for physical ailments, but there is a crying need for mental health care*

TG.UK.H89: *Families in critical situation in southern Iraq as winter bites / **Sub-H:** More than 3 million people are displaced from their homes in Iraq and the World Food Programme warns it will struggle to maintain levels of assistance*

TG.UK.H92: *Isis is escalating its violence against Iraqi civilians. Why doesn't the world care?*

TG.UK.H98: *'People are scared': deadly legacy of Isis continues to shape lives in Iraq*

TG.UK.H103: *For Iraq's Christians, a bittersweet first Christmas home after Isis takeover*

The overall themes that emerge from the headlines and sub-headlines above are words and frames, including genocide, critical situations, violence, abuse, stranded, shouting beneath the rubble, at extreme risk, threats, ill, contaminated food, tormented, yearn, fear, and scared. These thematic discourse segments indicate the focus and framing of *The Guardian's* coverage of the Iraqi refugees, especially the challenges and difficulties refugees face. Such ingress topics in the newspaper's coverage may help readers understand that civilians and displaced refugees are experiencing harsh conditions while besieged by ISIS. That is, the overall meaning of the semantic macropropositions of these headlines implies that the argument structures of these topics explicitly magnify the brutal actions of ISIS in relation to the plight of the Iraqi refugees and civilians. For instance, the headline (TG.UK.H98) shows that people in Iraq are at risk, whereas a quotation like 'People are scared' establishes an explicit presupposition that civilians need protection due to the harshness of ISIS. The top topic of this expression subsumes that the authors attempt to provide the impression that emotions, such as fear, scared, and violence, have been experienced by refugees in Iraq.

More importantly, responsibility for instances of criminal actions against refugees has been attributed to ISIS through the semantic brutal enforcement of the above headlines. On the other hand, in the headline TG.UK.H92, the writer ends his appraisal argument by indicating that the world must take a stand against ISIS in Iraq. As observed: *Why doesn't the world care?* Such appraisal, therefore, is subsumed that *The Guardian* explicitly places the readers in the position of solidarity.

In addition, we see the headlines, such as TG.UK.H4, TG.UK.H89, and TG.UK.H7, tend to use topics, including macropropositions that construct Iraqi refugees as unprotected people in Iraq. The writer takes an explicit stance to express concern about Iraqi refugees, using frames like hyperbolic, and segments of environment discourse. That is to say, on the one hand, the noun 'winter' in TG.UK.H7 and TG.UK.H89, alludes to the threats and risks the refugees face. On the other hand, in TG.UK.H4, the author uses a quantifier phrase, 'Thousands of Iraqi refugees,' to give us an explicit image of huge concern for refugees in Iraq. We can, thus, infer that the overall meaning concerning headlines, including TG.UK.H89 and TG.UK.H7, generally subsumes that the word winter is the top topic of these argument structures. Such notable frames function in the newspaper's coverage as a means of reinforcing the readers with the knowledge that there is no concern and shelter for the refugees in Iraq.

The portrayal in TG.UK.H3 and TG.UK.H4 of the horrible circumstances of the Iraqi refugees in these headlines helps to construct the information as non-resilient individuals who are faced with extreme and real risks. There is more tendency in the phrases 'still at risk' and 'facing genocide' to underscore the tough challenges of the refugee situation by constructing them as prosecuted individuals using frames that indicate an explicit top topic as macropropositions towards refugees. Such topics may be best remembered by recipients to understand the overall meaning of the articles (van Dijk, 2018). When it comes to this headline, TG.UK.H5, the author places an emphasis on the adjective phrase 'contaminated food' as the top topic of the semantic macrostructure of the news discourse. However, the use of this frame functions as a prominent discourse news item in the communicating text (Entman, 1993) since it suggests that the author attempts to provide another aspect of the challenges the refugees face up to in Iraq. The author, therefore, ended the argument-reported speech with a proposition phrase informed by the UN that the source of contaminated food had been supported by a UK charity. As observed in the sub-headline below: *Sub-H5: UN says police investigating after 800 who had fled Mosul fighting got food poisoning from meal supplied by UK charity.* To this end, it could be inferred that recipients may use such discourse argument to subsume that refugees experience different plights.

The top topics in TG.UK.H13 and TG.UK.H35 use discourse arguments that construct children as the most innocent and exposed group in these headlines. The authors take an explicit stance to convey more concern about refugees, especially children. Importantly, in the media, newspapers tend to construct children to magnify the reader's sympathy response to their plight. That is to say, the use of children in

these semantic appraisals can be seen as an indication to highlight the more objective language in relation to the challenges and difficult situations of the refugees. The authors, therefore, construct the word *children* in these headlines as the top topic since the information at the top of the mental model helps recipients interpret such events by using general knowledge (van Dijk & Kintsch, 1983, cited in van Dijk, 2018). Such explicit appraisal may help readers understand that the writer tends to provide this moral judgment, indicating that children in Iraq have experienced challenges and have been ignored, and nobody is concerned about them, as evidenced in the headline TG.UK.H13: *Mosul's children were shouting beneath the rubble. Nobody came*, and TG.UK.H35: *Thousands of children at risk in Falluja, says UN*.

We also notice that the topic of risks and challenges in *The Guardian* has been the dominating discourse segments in the headlines, such as in TG.UK.H61, TG.UK.H74, TG.UK.H77, TG.UK.H46, TG.UK.H50, TG.UK.H12, and TG.UK.H103. The use of the illocutionary act in all these argument structures produces macropropositions in relation to the Iraqi refugees and their severe plight. The use of selective language in the headlines TG.UK.H61: *Voices from Iraq: 'We have lived enough years of revenge and tyranny'*, TG.UK.H74, TG.UK.H12: *UN says civilians at extreme risk as west Mosul offensive begins*, and TG.UK.H103: *For Iraq's Christians, a bittersweet first Christmas home after Isis takeover*, have the illocutionary act, including either 'reporting' or 'framing' claims that there is a hard challenge for the Iraqi minorities, especially the Yazidis and Christians. However, these claims are reported, quoted, and depicted in *The Guardian's* coverage in terms of subjective and objective ways of selections.

We are dealing here with frame segments in which, for instance, the use of 'tormented' in TG.UK.H46, 'gripped' in TG.UK.H74, 'abused' in TG.UK.H77, and 'critical situations' in TG.UK.H61 when referring to the refugees reported in these headlines, or where the situation they are suffering from, are constructed in relation to parlous actions of the semantic macropropositions. However, all these news segments explicitly depicted in the headlines advocated some aspects related to the practice of challenge and fear the refugees experienced in Iraq??. To this end, it could be said that the use of ethnic identity in these structures by *The Guardian's* author tends to frame such referential voices in order to magnify and humanize these minorities, especially the Christians and Yazidis. Such selection may help recipients infer the purposive use of these voices in newspapers to legitimate them as the most targeted group in Iraq.

On the contrary, the headlines below from *Deutsche Welle's* coverage construct Iraqi refugees in terms of different actions regarding the construction of challenges and difficulties that refugees face. The following headlines and sub-headlines tend to construct the plight of refugees.

DW.DE.H2: *Iraqi refugees face 'catastrophic' conditions / Sub-H:* *The situation is dire for the 200,000 Yazidis fleeing the violence of Islamic State fighters in northern Iraq. Members of the persecuted religious minority say they even feel abandoned by Kurdish peshmerga fighters.*

DW.DE.H12: *Fleeing from 'IS,' Iraqis left in limbo / Sub-H:* *Iraqi families have come north to escape the "IS" advance, but as Sunni Arabs they are viewed with suspicion and must remain on the outskirts of Kurdish-controlled Kirkuk*

DW.DE.H8: *Iraq: Refugee drama on the Bzebiz Bridge / Sub-H:* *Fierce battles continue in Iraq's Anbar province. More people flock to the Bzebiz bridge over the Euphrates, fleeing IS. In the refugee camps, drinking water is dwindling.*

DW.DE.H62: *Iraq faces Fallujah humanitarian disaster / Sub-H:* *The government has declared victory in Fallujah, but the battle has left tens of thousands stranded in the summer heat in the desert. Aid workers have complained of inadequate resources to deal with the situation.*

DW.DE.H46: *'Humanitarian catastrophe' / Sub-H:* *"Islamic State" militants have seized the Iraqi city of Sinjar, one of the main settlements of the minority Yazidi community. Telim Tolan, chairman of the Central Council of Yazidis in Germany, has warned of genocide.*

DW.DE.H32: *Desperate times for Iraq's Yazidis*

DW.DE.H33: *'Iraqis need safe refuge' / Sub-H:* *Human rights activists have called for immediate help for the persecuted minorities in northern Iraq. For those who don't share the ideology of the "Islamic State" militants, the situation is desperate.*

DW.DE.H37: *'People are in dire straits' / Sub-H:* *The jihadists in Iraq show no sign of tiring. Christians in Mosul have almost all fled to Kurdish areas of Iraq that can hardly cope with the influx, Irbil mayor Nihad Qoja tells DW. Good expression*

DW.DE.H58: *The plight of the Yazidi minority in Iraq*

DW.DE.H60: *Civilians trapped by Fallujah assault / Sub-H:* *Iraq's top Shiite cleric has called for the protection of an estimated 50,000 civilians who are trapped by the military assault on Fallujah. IS extremists are preventing them from leaving, the UN says.*

DW.DE.H61: *Fallujah residents are 'human shields' / Sub-H:* *The United Nations refugee agency says IS has placed residents in harm's way to try to prevent attacks on their fighters. Some 3,700 people have fled the militant-controlled city since Iraq launched a bid to reclaim it*

DW.DE.H93: *Residents stick it out in Mosul / Sub-H:* *Caught up in the fierce fighting between the so-called "Islamic State" and Iraqi government troops, many Mosul residents have opted to stay in the city instead of leaving. The conditions are grim*

DW.DE.H95: *Children survive IS hungry and traumatized / Sub-H:* *Children have been among those worst hit by "Islamic State" occupation and the battle to liberate Mosul. They suffer malnutrition for lack of food, and toxic stress from the violence they witnessed, Judit Neurink reports*

DW.DE.H98: *Bloody year for Iraq / Sub-H:* *The year 2016 proved to be a violent one for Iraq. A nongovernmental organization reports that thousands of civilians were killed last year.*

DW.DE.H102: *Yazidi children of IS rape stuck in limbo/ Sub-H:* *Yazidi religious authorities have walked back on a decision suggesting that they would accept the children of women raped*

by Islamic State group captors. Though the children are innocent, to many they represent genocide.

DW.DE.H108: *Iraq civilian death toll 'staggering' / Sub-H:* The UN has highlighted in a new report the high number of killed, wounded and displaced civilians in Iraq last year. The report puts special emphasis on atrocities committed by the "IS" terror group.

DW.DE.H113: *Mosul residents scuffle over scarce aid supplies / Sub-H:* The Iraqi government is struggling to get aid supplies to civilians trapped near the front line in the city of Mosul. More than six weeks in, the battle to retake the city from rebel fighters is proceeding slowly.

DW.DE.H119: *Besieged Christians/ Sub-H:* Christians in the "Virgin Mary" refugee camp do not want to return to Qaraqosh. Even though the city has been liberated, it is devastated and mistrust of security forces is high. Birgit Svensson reports from Baghdad.

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When it comes to constructing the challenges or difficulties, the well-known topic that became a focus in *Deutsche Welle's* coverage of the Iraqi refugees was the construction of catastrophic actions. *Deutsche Welle's* topic suggested that the Iraqi refugees experienced difficult conditions, as the word 'catastrophic' in headline DW.DE.H2 connotes some evidence of tragic circumstances; therefore, it presupposes information that helps readers activate their knowledge in relation to the overall meaning of an article. Whereas the headlines are prominent textual categories of the news reports, we see headlines, such as DW.DE.H46, DW.DE.H2, and DW.DE.H62, in *Deutsche Welle's* coverage; the depiction of frames in these headings may be significant.

Therefore, the ingress of the news headlines consists of top topics expressing the structure of the underlying propositions about the catastrophic action refugees face in Iraq. Also, the use of the news items, such as 'catastrophic conditions,' 'humanitarian disaster,' and 'humanitarian catastrophe', subsumes that these prominent frames are subjectively expressed to the readers to help them to know more about the severe conditions of the Iraqi refugees.

Since both global and local meanings are represented as semantic macropropositions of the news discourse (van Dijk, 2018), the topics or arguments of former expressions explicitly include a semantic

panic and convey the prevalent definition of the critical situation of the refugees. Although the information about the Iraqi refugee crisis is in the back of the reader's mind, these headlines also give the reader explicit and ample knowledge to know that there are a lot of challenges that constitute another threat. Furthermore, the catastrophic words in the aforementioned headlines function as a prominent frame since the selection makes the communicating headlines more meaningful to the audience (Entman, 1993).

Moreover, the headlines DW.DE.H12, DW.DE.H93, DW.DE.H102, and DW.DE.H119 from the German side indicate that Iraqi refugees have been neglected for too long. Words such as 'limbo and stick out' suggest that the refugees have been left in an uncertain situation; they cannot do anything in those situations where there is no concern for their lives. The news segments in terms of disaster, limbo, and plights may constitute a general meaning for the recipients to understand the overall text of an article, and hence such a depiction presupposes that the situation of refugees in Iraq is out of control. To this end, these frames are used by the authors to build up the arguments that refugees face a severe challenge, where the lack of international aid magnifies their situation until it is hard to handle.

In the headline, DW.DE.H98, the author uses the adjective 'bloody' as the top topic of the semantic macroproposition to express the more extreme victims being killed in Iraq by ISIS. The headline explicitly implies that Iraq has experienced extreme violence as a result of ISIS. As can be seen, the argument action of the sub-headline includes specific information that helps to construct the situation based on the relevant proposition of the discourse production. The author, therefore, highlights the specific year as a prominent news frame to be a horrible one for Iraqis since many violent actions and innocent civilians were killed that year. As evidenced in this sub-headline: *The year 2016 proved to be a violent one for Iraq. A nongovernmental organization reports that thousands of civilians were killed last year.* The use of the speech reporting verb 'report' subsumes that the related reporting argument is neutral and objective. Such reporting verbs tend to provide no practice in making decision what the author shows toward what is being reported (Thompson, 1996).

On the other hand, in headline DW.DE.H108, the main topic of the proposition constructs civilians in terms of demises, with the use of the frame 'staggering' to express and magnify the shocking situation in Iraq. Readers may activate this word of knowledge, 'staggering', using their mental models to explicitly understand concrete events and the social representation of civilians in Iraq. The first part of the headline, especially the use of the noun phrase *Iraq civilian death toll*, presupposes that the readers know what Iraq is, and that there is only a crisis and ISIS in Iraq. That is, in order to know what relevant information the authors are referring to, recipients obviously tend to activate their socio-political knowledge about what ISIS is.

On the other hand, the headlines DW.DE.H95 and DW.DE.H102 address the recipients, using explicit words that overtly highlight the pathetic side of children, making them appear tragic and remarkable in the propositions. In the headline DW.DE.H102, the use of the phrase 'stuck in limbo' addresses and

activates the readers' area of knowledge, using their mental models to understand such event frames. The macroproposition of the headline constructs children as passive actors in Iraq. Such metaphorical use, for instance, 'stuck in limbo' also implies a kind of knowledge that there is a practice of critical situation and no concern towards children in Iraq.

When it comes to the headline DW.DE.H95, we see the main topic of the proposition is the focus on children and their difficult situation since the arrangement of the discourse news items *IS hungry and traumatized* makes the headline more meaningful in the communicating text. Therefore, the use of these two notable and explicit frame functions may help readers understand that children in Iraq face different challenges, including a lack of food and fear.

The way in which the news headlines are depicted in *Deutsche Welle's* coverage suggests that Iraqis, especially displaced people, face harsh and critical conditions in Mosul. More explicitly, in this section, the overall meaning of the headlines implies that Iraqis are at high risk, as seen in the use of the phrase 'stuck it out' in DW.DE.H93. Such a phrase explicitly conveys hard difficulties and critical situations for the readers. That is, the use of intensifier adjectives implies that the situation is hard to handle, as seen in this discourse fragment, *'The conditions are grim.'*

When it comes to this headline DW.DE.H37, the author uses the idiom 'in dire straits' to express and magnify the horrible situation of civilians in Iraq. The underlying meaning of this phrase summarizes the overall meaning of the semantic macroproposition of the new headline; it subsumes that civilians go through a very tough situation that is difficult to handle due to war and violence. Whenever idiomatic expressions about difficult situations are used in the headlines, recipients will use and activate their relevant knowledge about plights, that is, a so-called plight script. Such a script helps readers monitor the interpretation of the overall meaning of the rest of the text (van Dijk, 1991).

We also see that the headlines in the *Deutsche Welle's* digital coverage tend to construct the Iraqi refugees in terms of topics, referring to them as having desperate times. The headline DW.DE.H32 also uses an intensifier adjective to address readers about the tough situation of the Yazidis in Iraq. The adjective also implies implicit meaning that refugees, especially the Yazidis, have experienced other social practices, including no food, little water, and even no medical supplies. However, the use of *desperate times* as a news item may also suggest that minorities in Iraq are neglected and there is no concern for their lives.

On the other hand, the topic of the headline DW.DE.H33 constructs Iraqi refugees as seeking protection since 'safe refugee' implies that refugees are displaced individuals and unprotected. Moreover, the headline, for instance, DW.DE.H113, implies a main topic about refugees, including the lack of essential aid supplies. However, the use of the verb *scuffle* in this proposition presupposes those

civilians in Iraq, are experiencing a hard situation to live, as seen in the headline, *Mosul residents scuffle over scarce aid supplies*. The alignment of these prominent frames in this headline makes the communicating text more meaningful to the audience since the selection of the news fragments shows more salience (Entman, 1993).

We also observe in the sub-headline: *The Iraqi government is struggling to get aid supplies to civilians trapped near the front line in the city of Mosul. More than six weeks in, the battle to retake the city from rebel fighters is proceeding slowly*, that the author ends his appraisal that the situation is out of control since the Iraqi government itself faces many difficulties in handling the situation because of war. It can be said, to this end, such a depiction may help readers understand that refugees are victims of this crisis.

Finally, the headlines, such as DW.DE.H60, DW.DE.H8, and DW.DE.H119, are all about actions, including the use of words like trapped, drama, and besieged. The use of these words in the headlines may carry topics that refugees face severe plights. That is, the authors tend to use selective structures in these headlines, not just to summarize the best events, but rather to take into account what they think will be a “catchy” title for the readers (van Dijk, 1991: 51). Hence, the macropropositions of the headlines may also provide a discourse argument that refugees in Iraq suffer throughout their lives.

5.2.3. Headlines: Constructing news fragments in terms of ethnic minorities

Based on the headlines selected, the use of ethnic minorities in relation to the Iraqi refugee crisis has been the dominating topic in both *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Well's* coverage. That is, there is more focus on the practice of religious identity in the news headlines. So, we see that the specific headlines that include the portrayal of the Yazidis and Christians can satisfy readers' interest to know the information. When looking at the headlines, such as *TG.UK.H9*, *TG.UK.H73*, and *TG.UK.H43*, I found that there are explicit and referential religious identities in the news headlines. However, the Yazidis and Christians are acknowledged in the propositions as the most targeted groups in Iraq, primarily due to their status as religious and ethnic minorities. By constructing them with reference to the political calls of the UK, the alignment of the news segments of the headlines makes the discourse communicating text more meaningful to the audience (Entman, 1993).

Moreover, we see that these headlines report on ethnic affairs and summarize the political arguments that authors find the most relevant for the recipients. So, the top topics of these propositions imply that the overall meaning of these headlines focuses on the social consequences of those depressed minorities and the possible actions of the UK's calls to save them from ISIS. More importantly, we thus see that *The Guardian's* coverage in such headlines tends to construct the Iraqi ethnic minority in relation to the socio-political aspect. That is, the use of the Yazidis and Christians in the newspaper is likely to be presupposed in a political way. This is clearly observed in the news headlines where the propositions

include political arguments and actions towards refugees in Iraq. Also, we see that religious identities, especially minorities, have been used to depict victims of ISIS since the construction of news items in the headlines, including words such as persecution, suffered rape, torture, no peace, and sexual slavery, all referring to the practice of victimization. Overall, the main topics in favor of the discourse arguments of the Yazidis and Christians indicate that the microstructures, including religious status, may be portrayed in relation to the preceding headlines as a part of the newspaper's coverage to seek support.

We also observe that *The Guardian's* coverage tends to construct Iraqi refugees, especially the Yazidis, in favor of the news discourses depicting them as victims of ISIS, including discourse topics such as mass graves, genocide, and kidnapping, as seen in the headlines TG.UK.H120, TG.UK.H76, and TG.UK.H46. Such news fragments generally show that the Yazidi minority has been subjected to the biggest genocide in decades in Iraq. However, the Yazidis in these propositions are either depicted as victims of genocide or survivors due to ISIS. Such topics in the news headlines may help readers infer that the Iraqi identity, especially the ethnic minority, faces ethnic purification. In this sense, the use of news items, such as mass graves and genocide, at the microstructural level, gives the recipients relevant and ample knowledge to express and presuppose the information at all levels. That is, readers may depend on specific knowledge conveyed by previous discourses on the same topic related to the Yazidis in related communicative situations (van Dijk, 2014).

In headlines, such as TG.UK.H34 and TG.UK.H26, we see that whereas the headlines depict refugees using figures as frames, the main headlines magnify the huge number of refugees, and the rest of the sub-headlines of the news reports explicitly specify the detailed information regarding the ethnic identity, especially that of the Yazidis in Iraq. On the other hand, the top topics of these propositions tend to show the Yazidis as displaced and trapped individuals, and even passive actors in the migratory process as a consequence of ISIS and violence. Such topics may suggest that those Yazidis are neglected and there is no concern for their lives. Besides, such explicit news structures may also suggest that the authors want to place readers in a position of solidarity towards those refugees to seek sympathy. This is clearly observed in the headlines; for instance, TG.UK.H76, where the author uses his appraisal argument in the proposition, as seen in *We must seek justice for the Yazidi people*. This indicates that the writer tends to use a subjective attitude towards the Yazidis in Iraq since the illocutionary act 'we must seek' overtly expresses forced action or utterance of the speaker.

Furthermore, the headlines below include many propositions, constructing the Iraqi ethnic identity, more especially that of the Yazidis, in different actions. However, we see the headlines present them as groups and gain more focus from the international community. The topicalization of social actors, including the UK and the US, in relation to the refugees and their situation may suggest that both the UK and the US formally acknowledge the atrocities committed against this identity as an international crime. That is, the use of the UK and the US in the headlines provides the readers with explicit

information that there is more concern toward the Yazidis in the argument structures of the news reports. For instance, in headlines, such as TG.UK.H32, TG.UK.H44, TG.UK.H45, TG.UKH.80, TG.UK.H58, TG.UK.H65, TG.UK.H41, TG.UK.H43, and TG.UK.H106, the use of military actions, on the one hand, suggests a supportive practice attributed to the ethnic groups, while on the other hand, it provides readers with the information about the critical situation of the Iraqi ethnic identity. That is, the construction of words and frames, including the prepositional phrases in the semantic headlines, such as *for besieged Yazidi refugees, for Yazidis trapped by Islamic State on Mount Sinjar, to Yazidi refugees in Iraq, to plan for Yazidi evacuation, for Yazidis trapped on Sinjar, to aid Kurds and Yazidis against Isis, to assist in Sinjar aid drops, to evacuate Yazidi refugees*, conveys important contexts to the readers regarding the difficult conditions of the Yazidi people in Iraq. That is to say, the use of words in the news headlines, such as *besieged* and *trapped*, described the condition of the Yazidi refugees, indicating that they are surrounded by war and violence caused by ISIS.

Since propositions are assumed to be true in order for another proposition to be more meaningful, it is presupposed that there are agents, such as the US and the UK, and that there are beneficiaries i.e., the entities, more specifically refugees, for whom the actions are being performed. Such propositions may be marked in the news headlines by relevant structures, where the use of nouns such as the UK and the US may express clear information the readers will understand the role of the US and the UK mission or intention towards the Yazidi refugees. Also, when analyzing structures, including noun phrases, such as *the suffering of the Yazidis persists, Yazidis yearn for their Sinjar home, Yazidi survivors of ISIS*, the use of these structures subsumes that the propositions of these structures effectively convey the deep suffering and concern of the Yazidis due to the brutal actions by so-called ISIS. That is, words such as *yearn* and *tormented*, as seen in headlines, for instance, TG.UK.H16 and TG.UK.H46, may effectively provide a context for the tough conditions of the Yazidi minority in Iraq. As evidenced in the news headlines below:

TG.UK.H4: *Thousands of Iraqi refugees 'still at risk' despite ending of Mount Sinjar siege*
/Sub-H: *Officials and aid workers in northern Iraq warn that at least 50,000 Yazidis are still trying to find shelter inside Kurdish areas*

TG.UK.H8: *'In Iraq, there is no peace for Yazidis'*

TG.UK.H9: *UK government faces calls to shelter Yazidi refugees persecuted by Isis* / **Sub-H:** *MPs urge home secretary to extend resettlement scheme to members of Iraq's Yazidi community, many of whom have suffered rape, torture and sexual slavery*

TG.UK.H16: *Yazidis yearn for their Sinjar home one year after Isis forced them to flee*

TG.UK.H32: *Iraq: US plans rescue mission for besieged Yazidi refugees*

TG.UK.H40: *International help for Yazidis trapped by Islamic State on Mount Sinjar* / **Sub-H:** *The US, UK and other states have pledged aid and humanitarian assistance to help rescue refugees fleeing Isis in northern Iraq*

TG.UK.H68: Rescue mission unlikely after US says Isis siege of stranded Yazidis over /**Sub-H:** Obama administration and military back away from talk of rescue mission after receiving reports from Mount Sinjar

TG.UK.H44: UK steps up role in Iraq with move to aid Kurds and Yazidis against Isis

TG.UK.H45: British forces drop humanitarian supplies to Yazidi refugees in Iraq / **Sub-H:** RAF has brought 'essential supplies' of water and solar lanterns, says international development secretary

TG.UK.H73: MPs unanimously declare Yazidis and Christians victims of Isis genocide /**Sub-H:** British parliament defies government to condemn barbarity of Islamic State in Syria and Iraq

TG.UK.H76: It was genocide with a template. We must seek justice for the Yazidi people /**Sub-H:** Two years ago Isis captured 7,000 Yazidi women and children and killed 5,000 men. These mass murderers need to be tracked down and tried

TG.UK.H120: Iraq: Yazidi mass grave discovered in Sinjar /**Sub-H:** Mayor and Yazidis say they saw body parts of older women from village of Kocho whom Isis separated from younger women

TG.UK.H46: Yazidis tormented by fears for women and girls kidnapped by Isis jihadis / **Sub-H:** Despair for one Yazidi father as he is told that his daughter will be sold as a slave by Islamists who rampaged through Sinjar

TG.UK.H79: Yazidi refugees return to Sinjar in Iraq – a photo essay/**Sub-H:** Yazidis fled Sinjar in northern Iraq when Islamic State attempted to wipe them out in August 2014. Now they are leaving refugee camps and going back to rebuild their lives in the city, which has been recaptured by Kurdish forces. Photographer Gus Palmer follows families as they readjust to life in Sinjar

TG.UKH.80: US troops land on Iraq's Mt Sinjar to plan for Yazidi evacuation

TG.UK.H97: Charity helping Yazidi survivors of Isis sexual slavery shut down

G.UK.H53: Even after escaping Isis, the suffering of the Yazidis persists

TG.UK.H56: Yazidi survivors of Isis torture and rape need the support the UK promised

TG.UK.H58: UK deploys Tornado jets in Iraq to assist in Sinjar aid drops

TG.UK.H65: Iraq crisis: US and Britain call off rescue of Yazidis on Mount Sinjar

TG.UK.H66: Who are the Yazidis and why is Isis hunting them? **Sub-H:** The Iraqi ethnic and religious minority descends from some of the region's most ancient roots and face executions for a reputation as 'devil worshippers'

TG.UK.H41: US air strikes hit Isis again as efforts intensify to evacuate Yazidi refugees

TG.UK.H43: British SAS sent to Iraq on 'intelligence' mission before airlift of Yazidi refugees

TG.UK.H26: *20,000 Iraqis besieged by Isis escape from mountain after US air strikes/ **Sub-H:** Yazidi minority surrounded by Islamist militants on Mount Sinjar escorted back to Iraqi Kurdistan after fleeing via Syria*

TG.UK.H34: *40,000 Iraqis stranded on mountain as Isis jihadists threaten death/ **Sub-H:** Members of minority Yazidi sect face slaughter if they go down and dehydration if they stay, while 130,000 fled to Kurdish north*

TG.UK.H106: *US troops land on Iraq's Mt Sinjar to plan for Yazidi evacuation*

TG.UK.H107: *Kurdish peshmerga forces prepare escape route for Yazidis trapped on Sinjar /**Sub-H:** Thousands of people who fled after Isis attacks will be led out of mountains after pathway is secured*

TG.UK.H109: *Travel ban shuts out Yazidis despite their suffering at the hands of Isis /**Sub-H:** Religious minority were subjected to what the United Nations classified as genocide when Isis militants overran their homes in northern Iraq in 2014*

We also see that there is another focus on the use of ethnic minorities in the semantic headlines, especially the construction of Christians in *The Guardian's* coverage. Importantly, the way the newspaper tends to depict the Christians in the news headlines indicates that those refugees are formally acknowledged, using powerful voices, including political, social, and religious practices, as evidenced in headlines, such as TG.UK.H87, TG.UK.H48, TG.UK.H49, TG.UK.H51, and TG.UK.H113. From a social perspective, the headlines explicitly include actions of intergroup stance, where the construction of the Vatican as a religious and political identity is making a public call to another religious group, especially Muslim leaders, to take a special stance regarding the persecution of the Christians in Iraq.

Generally, the semantic macropropositions regarding the headlines include a top topic, indicating that the Christians in Iraq practise ethnic purification, including genocide, forced displacement, and persecution. Here the initial noun phrases, such as bishops and the Vatican, have local topic function in the news headlines regardless of their first position in the sentences, because these nouns are generally known to the readers, and are the main actors in the news headlines. To this end, such a news discourse may help readers use common knowledge to understand the production of the text using intertextual information (van Dijk, 2014). On the other hand, the arrangement of the news items in the headlines makes the information more meaningful for the audience in communicating text, since the selection regarding the prominent nouns is more recognizable in the news reports (Entman, 1993).

The underlying structures of the news headlines, all in all, provide information to the readers about the situation of the Christians in Iraq. That is, the tendency in the newspaper's coverage implies that the Christians have experienced difficult actions in the Middle East. This is clearly observed in the headlines, where we can see that the authors tend to construct refugees in the semantic discourse in terms of specific reference, especially the Christians, instead of referring to Iraqi refugees, as is evidenced below:

TG.UK.H24: *'They are savages,' say Christians forced to flee Mosul by Isis*

TG.UK.H113: *Calls grow to label attacks on Middle East Christians as genocide*

TG.UK.H87: *Vatican calls on Muslim leaders to condemn Christian persecution in Iraq*

TG.UK.H103: *For Iraq's Christians, a bittersweet first Christmas home after Isis takeover*

TG.UK.H47: *Thousands of Iraqi Christians flee from fighting between Isis and Kurdish forces - video / **Sub-H:** Iraqis from a predominantly-Christian town south of Mosul flee from fighting between Kurdish forces and Isis militants. The UN's refugee agency says as many as 10,000 people have fled the Christian communities of Qaraqosh since violence broke out. Isis captured Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city, in a sweep of northern Iraq in early June*

TG.UK.H48: *Religious leaders say Isis persecution of Iraqi Christians has become genocide*

TG.UK.H49: *Threat to Christians in Middle East a tragedy, says Charles*

TG.UK.H50: *Iraq's largest Christian town abandoned as Isis advance continues*

TG.UK.H51: *Bishops urge David Cameron to grant asylum to Iraqi Christians*

When it comes to the Muslim religious identity, especially the Sunni, the use of semantic headlines is not explicitly constructed and is even limited. That is, Muslim identity is reported in news headlines in relation to indirect references, including all the Iraqi civilians and displaced people, as is observed in the headlines below:

TG.UK.H94: *Iraqi Sunnis forced to abandon homes and identity in battle for survival*

TG.UK.H69: *Citizens of Mosul endure economic collapse and repression under Isis rule / **Sub-H:** Many Sunnis were glad to see the Iraqi army go when Islamic State took over – but for many the situation is now far worse*

TG.UK.H2: *Thousands of Mosul civilians trapped in Isis territory as Iraqi forces close in/ **Sub-H:** For civilians held as human shields by the extremists, supplies have run low and drinking water is scarce*

TG.UK.H27: *Thousands of civilians trapped between Iraqi army and Isis forces / **Sub-H:** As US airstrikes back Iraqi troops' advance on Hit, 85 miles from Baghdad, plans are made to evacuate thousands of families*

TG.UK.H90: *Hundreds of displaced Iraqis transferred from camp*

Unlike *The Guardian's* coverage, *Deutsche Welle's* approach does not involve any depiction, practice or topicalization of the political and social stance towards ethnic and religious identity in Iraq. So, the news headlines generally tend to highlight the Iraqi refugees, especially the Yazidis and Christians, as ethnic groups, facing difficult plights while fleeing ISIS. In this sense, there is a general tendency in *Deutsche Welle's* coverage regarding the way the ethnic minority is being constructed in the macrosemantic propositions of the news headlines. For instance, in headlines, such as DW.DE.H4 and DW.DE.H52, we see that the news items, such as 'Yazidis see fleeing Middle East' and 'only option for survival' suggest that the situation is dire and extreme, leaving the Yazidis with no choice but to leave

not only their home but even the Middle East to survive. This also suggests that the Yazidi identity has experienced forced and brutal practices in Iraq. Importantly, the top topic of the headline and sub-headline explicitly serve to draw attention to the plight of the Yazidis and the challenges they face in the Middle East. As seen in the headlines below:

DW.DE.H21: *Yazidis fear 'IS' radicals in Greek refugee camp*/**Sub-H:** *Having fled the murderous threat of the "Islamic State" (IS) group, Yazidi families from Iraq now live in fear in refugee camps in Greece. Judit Neurink reports from Malakasa.*

DW.DE.H22: *Yazidis still displaced in their own country*/**Sub-H:** *Years after the Yazidi massacre by the "Islamic State," tens of thousands of survivors still aren't able to return home. In Iraqi Kurdistan, a German aid worker is trying to help these refugees.*

DW.DE.H23: *Iraq's Yazidis mourn the loss of their homeland*/**Sub-H:** *Where can Iraq's Yazidis live in the future? Their home, Sinjar, has been liberated, but the "Islamic State" genocide that began on August 3, 2014, has left an indelible mark on their city.*

DW.DE.H32: *Desperate times for Iraq's Yazidis*

DW.DE.H41: *Desperate escape*/**Sub-H:** *Christians in Iraq urgently call for help as they are increasingly caught in the crossfire. Many have fled from the advancing Sunni insurgent group - and experts say change for the better is not in sight.*

DW.DE.H45: *Iraq's Yazidis 4 years after the genocide*/**Sub-H:** *"Without the children, I would have killed myself." Kocher, a Yazidi mother from Iraq, survived two years in IS captivity. The atrocities she suffered left her full of rage. Three of her children are still missing.*

DW.DE.H52: *Little hope for Yazidis in Middle East*

DW.DE.H58: *The plight of the Yazidi minority in Iraq*

DW.DE.H69: *ISIS Terror: The Fate of Yazidis in Iraq*/**Sub-H:** *Since August the Sinjar Mountains have been the last resort of Yazidis fleeing the murderous forces of Islamic State*

DW.DE.H90: *Sinjar's devastated Yazidi get no help with reconstruction*/**Sub-H:** *Nearly three years after the northern Iraqi town of Sinjar, also known as Shingal, was liberated from the "Islamic State," few of those who had escaped the atrocities committed by the militants against Yazidis have returned. Those who have, feel abandoned.*

DW.DE.H91: *No end to 'Islamic State' murders of Yazidis*/**Sub-H:** *"Islamic State" has been enslaving and murdering Yazidis in Iraq for two years. Advocates of the religious and ethnic minority say there's still no end in sight.*

DW.DE.H92: *Yazidi refugees in Turkey*/**Sub-H:** *Tens of thousands of Yazidis are fleeing Iraq due to attacks by 'Islamic State' militants. Many are heading for Turkey, to return to villages their ethno-religious community was once forced to leave and which, until recently, lay abandoned.*

DW.DE.H96: *Iraq's Sunni refugees*/**Sub-H:** *While Europe struggles to find solutions for the refugee crisis, many countries have to cope with large numbers of internally displaced*

persons. DW reports from a refugee camp in Iraq where thousands of families are forced to live in poverty.

DW.DE.H97: Yazidis rally against 'IS' /**Sub-H:** Thousands of people from Germany's Yazidi Iraqi population have taken part in a protest against the rampage of the "Islamic State" terror group in northern Iraq. Many of their compatriots have been forced to flee.

DW.DE.H102: Yazidi children of IS rape stuck in limbo/**Sub-H:** Yazidi religious authorities have walked back on a decision suggesting that they would accept the children of women raped by Islamic State group captors. Though the children are innocent, to many they represent genocide.

DW.DE.H104: Mass Yazidi grave found in Iraq /**Sub-H:** Iraqi Kurdish forces have discovered a mass grave containing the bodies of women who were executed by the 'Islamic State' (IS). The UN has described the brutal campaign against the Yazidi minority as a possible genocide.

DW.DE.H105: Iraqi Christians take up arms/**Sub-H:** Alongside Kurds and Shiites, Christian units are now also fighting against IS in Iraq. But Christians are forced to coordinate their efforts with the Kurds and the Iraqi government, both of which pursue their own goals.

DW.DE.H106: Who are the Yazidis?

DW.DE.H107: Yazidi grave unearthed in northern Iraq/**Sub-H:** Officials in Iraq's north say they've found a mass grave containing the remains of over 100 people killed by "Islamic State." It's said to be the sixth such find near Sinjar since the town was retaken from the group.

DW.DE.H109: Two Yazidi mass graves found in Iraq /**Sub-H:** Two mass graves containing the bodies of Iraqi Yazidis have been discovered near Sinjar in northern Iraq. Almost 30 such graves have been uncovered since anti-"Islamic State" forces retook Sinjar last year.

DW.DE.H119: Besieged Christians/ **Sub-H:** Christians in the "Virgin Mary" refugee camp do not want to return to Qaraqosh. Even though the city has been liberated, it is devastated and mistrust of security forces is high. Birgit Svensson reports from Baghdad.

When it comes to the above headlines, we see their semantic discourse, such as in DW.DE.H21, DW.DE.H22, DW.DE.H23, DW.DE.H32, DW.DE.H58, DW.DE.H69 DW.DE.H91, DW.DE.H90, DW.DE.H92, is all about the severe plight of the ethnic Yazidi minority, including actions and frames in relation to fear, displaced, mourning, harsh times, dilemma, fate, ISIS terror, atrocities, no help, no end in sight regarding enslaving Yazidis, and stuck in limbo. In this sense, we see all of the aforementioned headlines of news reports dealing with ethnic affairs and their situation in Iraq. That is, the headlines of news reports on the ethnic minorities, especially the Yazidis, summarize events that the authors find most prominent for the readers to draw attention to the plight of the Yazidis. In other words, these headlines, at the same time, define, provide, and evaluate the Iraqi ethnic situation. We also see that the macropropositions are subjective in the sense that authors may express or reveal aspects of the news reports they find more empathetic or interesting for the recipients (van Dijk, 2014).

In other headlines, terms such as ‘Mass Yazidi grave’ and ‘Yazidi grave’ are used to describe the victimization of the ethnic and religious minority in Iraq. In particular, authors tend to use these words in the news headlines to construct ISIS as being criminal and against religious identity. Such selective frames are considered prominent frame functions in the communicating text since the selection of these words makes the discourse more meaningful for the audience. However, news headlines, such as DW.DE.H107, DW.DE.H104, and DW.DE.H109, perform two main functions. Firstly, it is argued that the status of the ethnic identity in Iraq is in a dire situation. Secondly, it is argued that ISIS perpetuates crime as a genocidal practice against the Iraqi minority.

When it comes to other minorities, the Christians, for instance, we see that *Deutsche Welle’s* approach is to cover them in the sameway as with the Yazidis. That is, the Christians in the news headlines are explicitly constructed as ethnic and religious identities in the macropropositions. The news headlines construct the Christian refugees in Iraq as withstanding harsh and brutal situations, including terms and frames, such as ‘facing extinction,’ ‘discrimination,’ ‘fighting for existence,’ ‘besieged people’ ‘desperate escape’ ‘persecution, and depression.’

As clearly evidenced in the following headlines, DW.DE.H119, DW.DE.H105, DW.DE.H41, DW.DE.H122, DW.DE.H123, DW.DE.H124, DW.DE.H125, DW.DE.H126, and DW.DE.H127, the authors tend to depict the word ‘Christians’ as the top topic of the main headlines. That is, topics are important because they subsume the local meanings of news discourse and, thus, because they are the information that is usually best recalled by the readers. In this sense, the headlines of the news reports on religious identity, especially the Christians, summarize all the events that the writers find most relevant to the situation. Since the news items construct only the headlines with no details of the news reports, readers may use the information at the top of the mental model to understand the events by interpreting the news articles (van Dijk & Kintsch, 1983, cited in van Dijk, 2018).

Additionally, when looking at headlines, for instance, DW.DE.H123, we see the author tends to depict the Christians as facing ethnic purification in Iraq, since the phrase ‘The last Christians’ makes the discourse more meaningful to the audience. In the headline DW.DE.H124, the writer uses the word ‘persecution’ to express the difficult actions that they have experienced in Iraq. That is, the discourse segment itself implies that the Christians face ethno-nationalization in Iraq. By constructing the words ‘Christians and persecution’ in the news headline, the author, therefore, wants to provide a sense of empathy for the ethnic identity to draw the attention of the readers.

In addition, the Iraqi Christians, as reported in headline DW.DE.H125, are facing a different plight or situation. This suggests that the idiomatic expression ‘pick up the pieces’ presupposes the need to rebuild their social status after being forced to flee from ISIS’s oppression. In headline DW.DE.H105, the author, on the other hand, tries to inform readers that the Christians in Iraq are fighting for their survival, as the phrasal verb ‘take up arms’ depicts them in relation to being active actors instead of being inferiors. We thus see the author tends to depict the nouns ISIS and Christians as the top topic in headline DW.DE.H122. However, the use of these two frames may function as an ideological distinction since the two entities may broadly trigger the mental model of the recipients of what is a so-called counter-ideology. In this sense, the readers may subsume the overall meaning of the headline that Christians are under persecution due to Jihadists in Iraq. In other headlines, such as DW.DE.H126 and DW.DE.H127, propositions such as ‘Jihadists seize Iraq monastery’ and ‘ISIS orders against Christians’ are used to describe the practice of victimization or persecution. The use of illocutionary verbs ‘order or force’ emphasizes the more directive action and the forced utterance against Christians since the attitude of the agents shows more aggressive action. As evidenced in the headlines below:

DW.DE.H105: *Iraqi Christians take up arms/***Sub-H:** *Alongside Kurds and Shiites, Christian units are now also fighting against IS in Iraq. But Christians are forced to coordinate their efforts with the Kurds and the Iraqi government, both of which pursue their own goals.*

DW.DE.H119: *Besieged Christians/***Sub-H:** *Christians in the "Virgin Mary" refugee camp do not want to return to Qaraqosh. Even though the city has been liberated, it is devastated and mistrust of security forces is high. Birgit Svensson reports from Baghdad.*

DW.DE.H41: *Desperate escape /***Sub-H:** *Christians in Iraq urgently call for help as they are increasingly caught in the crossfire. Many have fled from the advancing Sunni insurgent group - and experts say change for the better is not in sight.*

DW.DE.H122: *Iraqi Christians and IS /***Sub-H:** *For over two years, the Iraqi Christian town of Qaraqosh was the favorite abode for many leaders of the "Islamic State" (IS) group. Judit Neurink reports from Irbil.*

DW.DE.H123: *The last Christians /***Sub-H:** *St Matthew’s monastery, or Dair Mar Matti, is the oldest monastery in Iraq. Perched at the top of a mountain some 35 kilometers north of Mosul, it was founded in the year 363 by Christians fleeing persecution. Now, more than 16-hundred years later, the 'Islamic State' militants’ recent assault on the Nineveh plain means that this small community is once again under threat.*

DW.DE.H124: *Persecution /***Sub-H:** *As Iraq risks becoming a failed state, the toll is also making itself felt in the persecution of minority groups, most notably Iraq's Christians, thousands of whom have been forced to flee the fighting.*

DW.DE.H125: *Iraqi Christians pick up the pieces /***Sub-H:** *Many Iraqi Christian refugees who fled "Islamic State" ended up in neighboring Jordan. Despite some support from charities and local church groups, they face a massive struggle to rebuild their lives.*

DW.DE.H126: *ISIS orders against Christians /Sub-H:* Muslim militants in the northern Iraq city of Mosul have given Christians an ultimatum if they wish to live under the new Islamic State. Thousands have already fled.

DW.DE.H127: *Jihadists seize Iraq monastery /Sub-H:* ISIS fighters have occupied a monastery near northern Iraq's predominantly Christian town, Qaraqosh. The Sunni militants have increasingly targeted Iraq's Christian minority, forcing many to flee Mosul over the weekend.

5.2.4. Headlines: Constructing news segments in relation to sociopolitical discourses

When it comes to *The Guardian's* coverage regarding sociopolitical discourse, the word 'UK' is described in the headlines as if the country is putting a great deal of effort into tackling the Iraqi refugee crisis, especially the Yazidis in Iraq. The headline, TG.UK.H44: *UK steps up role in Iraq with move to aid Kurds and Yazidis against Isis*, highlights the role of the UK as an active actor in the crisis, using its resources and power to provide aid for the Yazidis and Kurds against ISIS. It also focuses on the UK as the main topic of the proposition since the phrasal verb 'steps up' presupposes that the UK has taken action towards the Iraqi refugee crisis. Another action linked to Iraqi refugees, especially the Yazidis in the UK coverage, is the political calls to protect them, as evidenced in headline TG.UK.H9 below:

TG.UK.H44: *UK steps up role in Iraq with move to aid Kurds and Yazidis against Isis /Sub-H:* Crisis meeting agrees to fly Jordanian military trucks to Kurdish forces and send helicopters to airlift besieged refugees

TG.UK.H9: *UK government faces calls to shelter Yazidi refugees persecuted by Isis: /Sub-H:* MPs urge home secretary to extend resettlement scheme to members of Iraq's Yazidi community, many of whom have suffered rape, torture and sexual slavery.

Implicitly, this kind of coverage highlights the political actions while at the same time creating the presupposition that the UK government is having to make decisions for the purposes of protecting the Yazidis. In addition to the political calls expressed in the headline, there is a focus on the religious identity, especially that of the Yazidis. This suggests that *The Guardian* is likely to behave politically about the political efforts of the UK government is acting towards refugees in Iraq. On the other hand, there is a relevant discourse and semantic structure, such as 'MPs urge home secretary to extend resettlement scheme to members of Iraq's Yazidi community' to the headline, a described speech in which the members of parliament of the United Kingdom are urging the British home secretary to act for the Yazidis in Iraq. Such a call is crucial since the home secretary is in charge of the home office, and, thus, has access to decisions.

Moreover, when analyzing the headlines depicted in *The Guardian*, there is an intensive focus on minorities regarding the Iraqi refugee crisis in the British sociopolitical discourse in headlines, such as TG.UK.H73: *MPs unanimously declare Yazidis and Christians victims of Isis genocide*. This discourse

comes after the political calls of MPs, urging the UK government to act against Isis genocide of Yazidis and Christians in Iraq, as seen in the headline below:

TG.UK.H73: *MPs unanimously declare Yazidis and Christians victims of Isis genocide /Sub-H: British parliament defies government to condemn barbarity of Islamic State in Syria and Iraq*

By topicalizing the British MPs, those who have reacted to the criminal actions against the Yazidis and Christians, such headlines explicitly seek to position readers to act about these actions. In this sense, the macrostructure of the headlines reveals that the discourse of *The Guardian* tends to be more explicit in showing the UK's role in solidarity toward Yazidis trapped in the mountains and displaced Christians. Furthermore, selecting such frames in headlines may show that there is a kind of support by highlighting the actual actions of the British politicians in managing the Iraqi refugee crisis, which has been topicalized as a political stance. It can additionally be a social and political perspective for gaining attitude and political goals. For instance, as evidenced in the headline below:

TG.UK.84: *David Cameron cuts holiday short by a day over Iraq crisis. Sub-H: Prime minister will chair emergency Cobra meeting after leaving Portugal a day earlier than expected*

More explicitly, in the following headline, *TG.UK.H59: Iraq: Britain will 'play role' in arms transport, says David Cameron: - video/Sub-H: David Cameron says Britain will help to transport ammunition and arms to Kurdish forces on the ground in Iraq, but will not supply weapons directly. The prime minister says British forces will also be involved in a plan to rescue thousands of Yazidis trapped on the mountainside in Sinjar, but would not be drawn on the specific role.*

The general meaning of the proposition shows the word 'Britain' as the main topic of the discourse segment since topics may consist of semantic macrostructures that semantically include and control the microstructural meanings of the sentences of the discourse (van Dijk, 1980). Such a proposition, hence, implies meaning since the headline about Iraq may be expressed in terms of dynamic modality because the modal auxiliary 'will' expresses ability or willingness (Palmer, 2001).

In this sense, both the noun *Britain* and the modal auxiliary *will* express the fact that the headline comes from the British Prime Minister, David Cameron, and is based on the notion of certain commitment. This shows that *The Guardian* tends to frame the UK's role in Iraq, using information readers may believe about these events or actions, highlighting relevant aspects in which the newspaper features such modalities in discourse. Once again, the semantic macrostructure in headline TG.UK.H59, suggests that *The Guardian* uses the word 'UK' as a frame function regarding the intervention in Iraq through a long-term weapons strategy to supply military equipment to the Iraqi Kurdish forces. It also means that the headline signifies that Britain is already energetic in the transferral of arms against ISIS; therefore, the country is using its military resources to save the displaced people, especially the Yazidis in northern Iraq. In addition to the arms transfer policy, the idiomatic expression 'play role' is used figuratively to indicate the explicit act of involvement regarding the Iraqi refugee crisis.

Additionally, when it comes to headline, *TG.UK.H43*: it is worth observing that the headline uses military action as the theme of the proposition. Explicitly, the overall meaning of this proposition clearly shows two dominant topics in this headline: (1) The Yazidis are depicted as a minority non-Muslim group facing up to a harsh situation, and (2) Special Air Service (SAS), a special forces unit of the British army, takes action towards Yazidi refugees. Besides, these two frames, *The Guardian*, a British-based newspaper, uses its own country as a prominent social actor in relation to the Iraqi refugee crisis. Since the word *Britain* has been depicted as a frame function, it makes the discourse segment more noticeable to the readers (Entman,1993). Hence, the word ‘intelligence’ is highlighted in the microstructure as a frame segment; therefore, the word itself represents the UK’s mission and its role in obtaining information or judgments about the Yazidi refugees and their situation. As evidenced in the propositions below:

TG.UK.H43: *British SAS sent to Iraq on 'intelligence' mission before airlift of Yazidi refugees /Sub-H:* *Deployment to Mt Sinjar ahead of US-led rescue of civilians follows plan for RAF to deliver arms to Kurds fighting jihadists*

TG.UK.H123: *UK prepares to supply arms directly to Kurdish forces fighting Isis /Sub-H:* *Kurds welcome move by Britain to significantly intensify its involvement in the current Iraq crisis*

TG.UK.H58: *UK deploys Tornado jets in Iraq to assist in Sinjar aid drops/Sub-H:* *Warplanes carry out surveillance after RAF Hercules crews encounter difficulties safely delivering supplies to refugees*

On the whole, the word *Britain* is used at the sentence level in *The Guardian* to build up the UK’s image in the reader’s mind that *Britain* has been doing anything to fight ISIS, supplying arms and showing solidarity with the ethnic minorities in Iraq. This is clear since *The Guardian* makes the selection of the news segment more salient in the communicative headline. Since news frames are structured by selecting, for example, metaphors, keywords, or words that are highlighted in discourse (Entman, 1991), such headlines explicitly make the UK’s role more notable and salient for the audience. Following Entman’s framing analysis, such framing in political news discourse is an imprint of power (Entman,1993).

As a result, this suggests that *The Guardian* tends to identify the UK’s role as a crucial actor to dominate the text. Although headlines have crucial cognitive functions, such frames in discourse structure are strategically used by the readers when processing information to construct the overall meaning or the topic of the article employing their “relevant knowledge” (van Dijk, 1991:51).

Let us look at another headline, *TG.UK.H60*; the semantic headline includes local and global meanings as the proposition, consisting of a number of arguments referring to people or things, and a prepositional phrase referring to action, place, and prosperity as in the headline, where ‘Prime minister David Cameron’ and ‘ISIS’ are the arguments, and ‘planning’ is the predicate, and the prepositional phrase ‘to

attack the UK' is the theme or target, indicating the action being performed by the agent 'ISIS' of the underlying meaning of the proposition. Such meanings are also seen as complex "conceptual schemas" in the media (van Dijk, 2018: 237). That is, the underlying mental models that construct the meaning of the headline as a discourse news segment may be arranged in terms of such schema. In this sense, recipients may use schemas to represent individual word meanings or concepts. For instance, the concept of 'David Cameron' is a complex schema consisting of different senses defining politician, prime minister, head of state, and so on. On the other hand, ISIS also consists of various categories, such as terrorists, Islamist fighters, and jihadists. To this end, such concepts in the news headline may help readers use schemas to understand the local and global meanings of these concepts in the proposition.

Moreover, the author depicts the phrase 'hit us at home' as a prominent frame function and also as the main argument of the UK prime minister David Cameron. However, the phrase explicitly implies that there is a real threat in Iraq, and we must fight ISIS before they hit us. Such appraisal may help readers understand that the speaker tends to look to gain approval to send forces to Iraq. As evidenced in the headline below:

TG.UK.H60: David Cameron: Isis is planning to attack UK /Sub-H: Prime minister says Islamist fighters in Iraq will 'hit us at home' if Britain does not help stabilise regime

When looking at the headlines, we see that *The Guardian's* coverage regarding the construction of the political stance towards the Iraqi refugee crisis has been reported on in relation to notable discourse practices, including humanitarian, political, and military frames. For instance, in headlines, such as TG.UK.H32, TG.UK.H41, TG.UK.H45, TG.UK.H65, TG.UK.H54, TG.UK.H56, TG.UK.H67, TG.UK.H124, TG.UK.H125, TG.UK.H80, TG.UK.H83, TG.UK.H105, and TG.UK.H112. The macropropositions of the headlines below all construct Iraqi refugees, especially the Yazidis, and their difficult situation in relation to the political and social aspects. That is, the top topics of the news reports tend to highlight the political solidarity toward the Yazidis in Iraq.

Based on the selected topics, the headlines of the news reports on the situation of the Yazidis in Iraq summarize all the political, military, and humanitarian actions or events that the authors find most important for the readers. Additionally, the headlines simultaneously provide aspects of support for the refugees trapped in Iraq. The use of prominent nouns, such as the UK, and the US, as frame functions in the semantic headlines makes the discourse of these headlines more remarkable for the recipients, as the authors tend to construct the main agents in relation to the acts, including *drop humanitarian supplies, call off rescue of Yazidis on Mount Sinjar, makes second/third aid drop to Mount Sinjar, land on Iraq's Mt Sinjar to plan for Yazidi evacuation, plans rescue mission for besieged Yazidi, and promises Iraqi prime minister more humanitarian aid for refugees*. All of these news fragments show the more intensive actions of the UK and the US regarding the Yazidi refugee crisis in Iraq. Such headlines may

consist of cognitive functions since the authors may ‘upgrade’ a less important topic by expressing it in the headline, thereby ‘downgrading’ the importance of the main topic.

Since headlines are usually used strategically by the recipients to understand the overall meaning, readers may also activate the relevant general knowledge about the crisis, using a so-called “model of the situation” or “script”. It can be said that the readers will understand such a depiction as political support in *The Guardian’s* coverage (van Dijk, 1991: 51). As evidenced in the headlines below:

TG.UK.H45: *British forces drop humanitarian supplies to Yazidi refugees in Iraq /Sub-H: RAF has brought 'essential supplies' of water and solar lanterns, says international development secretary*

TG.UK.H54: *UK urged to give asylum to 100 women who fled Isis captivity in Iraq/Sub-H: Campaigners call on British government to offer psychological support to those who escaped after being kidnapped by militants*

TG.UK.H65: *Iraq crisis: US and Britain call off rescue of Yazidis on Mount Sinjar /Sub-H: Military mission ruled out for now as special forces find condition of thousands of stranded Iraqis is better than expected*

TG.UK.H56: *Yazidi survivors of Isis torture and rape need the support the UK promised /Sub-H: The UK government must prioritise help for survivors of Isis attacks in northern Iraq and Syria, who are in dire need of specialist health and counselling*

TG.UK.H124: *Britain's RAF makes second aid drop to Mount Sinjar Iraqis trapped by Isis – video /Sub-H: Britain makes second aid drop to thousands trapped on a mountain in northern Iraq as they flee advancing Isis militants. RAF group captain Simon Edwards describes the drop of 15,900 litres of clean water and 816 solar lamps over Mount Sinjar last night: 'There's no better people at dropping aid in conditions like this than the Royal Air Force'*

TG.UK.H125: *Iraq: UK makes third humanitarian airdrop for stranded Yazidis - video /Sub-H: The UK makes its third round of emergency airdrops from the skies above northern Iraq on Wednesday morning, to assist the thousands driven from their homes to Mount Sinjar by the advance of Isis insurgents. Consignments were dropped from two Royal Air Force C130 Hercules cargo planes, containing clean water, purification kits and shelters. The UN estimates around 20,000 to 30,000 Yazidis may still be sheltering on the arid mountaintop*

TG.UK.H80: *US troops land on Iraq's Mt Sinjar to plan for Yazidi evacuation /Sub-H: US marines and special forces to assess options for rescue of refugees stranded on mountain by militant group Isis*

TG.UK.H83: *With liberation of Mosul from Isis in sight, US envoy urges plan for refugees/Sub-H: At an international meeting to discuss the recapture of the Isis stronghold, Brett McGurk says stabilisation plans must keep pace with military campaign*

TG.UK.H67: *Tens of thousands pour into Iraq's Kurdish north as US jets bomb Isis /Sub-H: Air strikes stop Islamic State militants on outskirts of Irbil, but elsewhere the jihadist group remains ascendant*

TG.UK.H41: *US air strikes hit Isis again as efforts intensify to evacuate Yazidi refugees/Sub-H: Five more air raids in Iraq destroy vehicles and artillery-US moves diplomatic staff from Irbil and Baghdad.*

TG.UK.H32: *Iraq: US plans rescue mission for besieged Yazidi refugees /Sub-H: More than 20,000 of the 40,000 trapped by jihadists on a mountaintop have escaped but US considering full-scale rescue*

TG.UK.H105: *Obama promises Iraqi prime minister more humanitarian aid for refugees/Sub-H:* *Haider al-Abadi requests more weapons and air strikes against Isis or he will look to Iran, as Obama pledges \$200m more in funding for refugees displaced by Isis*

TG.UK.H112: *John Kerry: Isis is committing genocide in Syria and Iraq/Sub-H:* *The US secretary of state said extremist group is responsible for acts of genocide against Christians, Yazidis and Shia Muslims amid mounting global pressure*

If we now turn to *Deutsche Welle*'s coverage, taking van Leeuwen's (2008) discourse as social practice, we can observe that Journalistic practice in *Deutsche Welle*'s coverage of the Iraqi refugees engages with the sociopolitical power structure, reflecting different actions toward the Iraqi refugees in Germany. That is, based on the headlines selected, we see that the Iraqi refugees are constructed in the news headlines by using two approaches: positive and negative discourse. When looking at the headlines below, for instance,

DW.DE.H76: *German police seek Iraqi suspect in murder case /Sub-H:* *An Iraqi refugee suspected of involvement in the killing of a 14-year-old girl has fled Germany, police said. A 35-year-old Turkish suspect had been arrested but was later released.*

DW.DE.H75: *Germany: Three Iraqis arrested for planning terror attack/Sub-H:* *Two of the three suspects reportedly tried to build a homemade bomb and considered carrying out an armed or vehicle attack. Prosecutors accused the suspects of planning an "Islamist motivated attack."*

DW.DE.H70: *Iraqi migrant detained on suspected rape charges in Bochum/Sub-H:* *A 31-year-old Iraqi migrant has been detained in north west Germany on suspicion of carrying out two sexual attacks in Bochum. He was arrested at a refugee hostel.*

DW.DE.H77: *Iraqi refugee Ali B. jailed for life over murder /Sub-H:* *A German court sentenced 22-year-old Iraqi national Ali B. to life in prison for raping and killing a 14-year-old girl in Mainz. The man had admitted to murder but insisted that he and the girl had consensual sex*

DW.DE.H71: *Suspect in death of German teen 'confesses to murder' /Sub-H:* *A man wanted over the murder of a 14-year-old German girl has been extradited to Germany from Iraq. The case has led to an outpouring of grief and anger in Germany.*

DW.DE.H72: *Answers sought after teen murder suspect's flight /Sub-H:* *German politicians have called for explanations as to how an Iraqi man suspected of a girl's murder could leave the country unhindered. Many asked in particular how he managed to depart under a false name.*

We can observe that they consist of comparable topics expressing a related meaning of underlying propositions about the negative discourse of Iraqi refugees in Germany, highlighting the illegal actions of those refugees. However, the adjective 'suspected' suggests that the inference drawn from the German authority is uncertain since the adjective connotes meanings that refugees may have committed a crime or illegal action. In this sense, such framing might include negative actions of the main dominant group (Van Dijk, 2018), for example, in headlines, such as DW.DE.H71, DW.DE.H71, DW.DE.H75, DW.DE.H70, DW.DE.H76, and DW.DE.H77.

Furthermore, selecting frames such as ‘*planning a terror attack,*’ ‘*murder,*’ or ‘*suspected rape charges,*’ ‘*seek Iraqi suspect in murder case,*’ ‘*jailed for life over murder,*’ and ‘*detained on suspected rape charges in Bochum*’ at the microstructural level make the discourse more prominent to the readers (Entman, 1993). Such arrangements in headlines involved negative judgments of the Iraqi refugees in Germany; for instance, they associated them with criminality, indicating that they posed threats to Germany’s security; for instance, the phrase ‘*planning terror attack*’ explicitly has the potential to position readers to know more about the refugees and their terror.

Such expressions provide the readers with a clue through which these frames will be linked by means of a reference to the global meaning so that the reader will understand the entire content of an article. Using these words as frames at the sentence-structure level presupposes information that helps the audience activate their general knowledge in connection to the context of the news articles about the dilemma of migration in Germany, as it is a crucial part of the readers’ cultural and social knowledge. Since propositions tend to be explicitly or implicitly conveyed in news discourse, such topics can be understood by the readers/recipients by using their “shared knowledge of the world” (van Dijk, 2018: 239). In this sense, the recipients assume assumptions or expectations of information that may be accurate or inaccurate, but in general, they apply to the situation in Germany. Consequently, the mental representations of readers, including semantic aspects such as entailments, references, and lexical items, help readers understand and draw inferences about the situation in Germany.

Furthermore, the inclusion of the coverage of the Iraqi refugees from *Deutsche Welle*, a German-based media outlet, proven to be relatively antipathetic to Iraqi refugees in Germany, created a negative discourse in the reader’s mind. That is, another reasonably straightforward, unwelcoming attitudinal alignment is the one that includes a negative assessment of the unexpected arrival, especially that of the Iraqis in Germany. In this sense, the word ‘Germany’ has been constructed as the main topic in headlines in relation to unwelcome and unexpected number of Iraqi refugees in Germany, as evidenced in the headlines below:

DW.DE.H27: *Germany wants to facilitate repatriation of thousands of Iraqis/Sub-H:* *The German development minister, Gerd Müller, says Germany and Iraq will step up cooperation on the reintegration of Iraqi refugees. He said up to 10,000 Iraqis would be helped to return home.*

DW.DE.H29: *Germany turning away more Yazidi refugees/Sub-H:* *Germany is taking in fewer and fewer Yazidi refugees, according to a German newspaper report. The religious minority was terrorized by the "Islamic State" during the militant group's campaign in Iraq and Syria.*

DW.DE.H84: *Germany wants asylum seekers to choose to leave/Sub-H:* *A program to pay asylum applicants in Germany to return to their home countries, often before a decision is made on their status, has begun. The government wants to increase the number of people who choose to leave.*

DW.DE.H87: *German minister in Iraq to promote repatriation/Sub-H:* *Germany is hoping more Iraqi refugees will return home with the assistance of a massive aid package. But a senior minister has traveled to Iraq to ask for something in return.*

The overall meaning of the above headlines tends to construct the dilemma of migration in Germany around the arrival of illegal Iraqis. Hence, *Deutsche Welle* tends to frame the word ‘Germany’, as facing a political dilemma — and the country finds itself in the worst situation as *Deutsche Welle* frames Iraqi refugees using specific charges, like violent actions, terror actions, and rape actions, as evidenced in the previously analyzed headlines. However, the meaning in headlines, such as DW.DE.H27, DW.DE.H29, DW.DE.H87, and DW.DE.H84, involves a linguistic presupposition since the microstructure of the headlines is triggered by factive verbs using specific discourse structures, such as *to facilitate*, *to choose to leave*, *to promote*. Such presuppositions in newspapers may be used to control the process of interpretations i.e., mental models of the recipients, especially in political and media discourse, which, perhaps in connection with “the criminality of migrants” presupposes that Iraqi refugees in the headlines depicted are responsible for criminal actions in Germany (Van Dijk, 2018:16). Since presuppositions, all in all, represent the knowledge shared between the recipients and speaker in terms of “common ground,” such relevant knowledge may be perceived both in the interpretation and production of a segment of discourse (van Dijk, 2018:16).

On the whole, the macropropositions of the headlines depicted in *Deutsche Welle* are somehow used to manipulate knowledge as well as the interpretation of the recipients. In this sense, the headlines somehow show the readers an explicit clue through which these headlines will be linked with a reference the readers will eventually discover such topics. To this end, such appraisals clearly have the potential to position readers to assume the effect of the more socio-political settlement policies in Germany. Therefore, such clues in headlines may presuppose information that helps readers activate their common knowledge based on the overall meaning of the article.

We, thus, see that the unexpected arrivals in Germany, especially those of the Iraqis, have resulted in many critical social consequences. For instance, in the following headlines: ,

DW.DE.H74: *Germany: Far-right murder suspect linked to stabbing Iraqi /Sub-H: Authorities said the main suspect in the murder of Walter Lübcke had likely stabbed an Iraqi refugee two years prior. Prosecutors said the far-right militant had tried to kill the refugee in a "sneak attack."*

DW.DE.H78: *Attacks on refugees in Germany down by a third /Sub-H: Refugees and refugee homes are still attacked nearly every day in Germany — but the figures dropped significantly last year. Left-wing politicians blame both the AfD and Angela Merkel's party for stirring up hatred.*

DW.DE.H85: *Germany charges man with genocide over Yazidi killing/Sub-H: An Iraqi man faces a charge of genocide in Germany, accused of chaining up a Yazidi girl and letting the 5-year-old die of thirst. He and his wife, a German national, are believed to be part of the "Islamic State" group.*

DW.DE.H86: *German police halt a truck, find 51 migrants*/**Sub-H:** *A Turkish truck driver has been detained in Germany after police found 51 refugees inside the vehicle, including 17 children. The migrants were hungry and some of them showed signs of dehydration, police said.*

The unwelcoming movement involves the negative assessments by people such as the far-right party of the open-door policies and of those who advocate these policies.. By constructing or depicting such policies of action, the authors conveyed their attitudes towards refugees. Such political and social consequences are said to have led to actions related to the crackdown on refugees and the effects of the the open-door policies. Hence, many Iraqi refugees decided to leave Germany, as seen in the headline, DW.DE.H81:

DW.DE.H81: *Iraqi Refugees want to return home*/**Sub-H:** *Since October the Iraqi embassy in Berlin issued nearly 1,500 travel permits for the return of their citizens. Every week a plane leaves from Berlin's Tegel airport to Iraq. DW's Charlotte Potts reports from the departure gate.*

In contrast, refugees are depicted using positive discourse, as evidenced in the headlines below:

DW.DE.H19: *Iraqi refugee shares his success story as an entrepreneur in Germany* /**Sub-H:** *Entering the job market in Germany can be difficult for a refugee and often requires special educational qualifications. Could self-employment be the solution?*

DW.DE.H20: *Iraqi refugees seek family reunion in Germany*/**Sub-H:** *The German consulate in Irbil is helping Iraqi refugees overcome bureaucratic obstacles on their way to rejoining family members in Germany. Judit Neurink reports from Irbil.*

DW.DE.H24: *From the Sinjar mountains to Germany's Rhineland: a Yazidi refugee's story* /**Sub-H:** *The Yazidis are a religious minority in northern Iraq whose people have been persecuted by the "Islamic State." One Yazidi who fled Iraq and sought refuge in Germany shared his story with InfoMigrants*

Headlines, such as DW.DE.H19, DW.DE.H20, and DW.DE.H24, then construct the word ‘Germany’ as the main topic of the underlying propositions about the actions of the Iraqi refugees in Germany. In this sense, the word ‘Germany’ is depicted in headlines as a lenient country for granting asylum since the discourse structure, for instance, ‘*seek family reunion*’, presupposes meanings that are assumed to be true or false in order for another discourse structure to be meaningful. Moreover, the headline, *DW.DE.H19: Iraqi refugee shares his success story as an entrepreneur in Germany*, presupposes that there is a good chance for Iraqi refugees to find work in Germany – and such assumptions may be demonstrated in the headline by the specific discourse structure, such as *an entrepreneur in Germany*. By supporting such topics, the authors conveyed their welcoming attitudes towards Iraqi refugees and their situation in Germany. As a result, the overall meaning of the headline presupposes that Iraqi refugees are depicted as active actors in doing business in Germany.

On the other hand, a related arrangement involves what may be a so-called ‘responsibility shift’, essentially a positive assessment of the German authorities for helping refugees in Iraq. Based on the above headlines, the authors tend to construct the discourse of the Federal German Republic and its authorities as a positive attitude for promoting and strengthening the Iraq crisis; for instance, in headlines, such as DW.DE.H110, DW.DE.H89, and DW.DE.H83. Also, we see that *Deutsche Welle*

tends to construct its own country as a prominent social actor for helping Iraq, taking some engagements or actions, including helping or supporting and rebuilding the basic infrastructure in Iraq. For instance, the headlines below show the positive responsibility towards refugees and their situation in Iraq:

DW.DE.H28: *Rights groups call on Germany to help Iraqi refugees /Sub-H:* *Human rights activists have called for immediate help for the persecuted minorities in northern Iraq. For those who don't share the ideology of the "Islamic State" militants, the situation is desperate.*

DW.DE.H47: *Özdemir: 'Germany must do more for Iraq' /Sub-H:* *A million people have fled Islamic State militants and found refuge in Iraqi Kurdistan. But the conditions they live in are in dire need of improvement, German Greens politician Cem Özdemir tells DW from northern Iraq*

DW.DE.H83: *Germany envisions new Bundeswehr role in Iraq/Sub-H:* *The German military's role must meet "the needs of Iraq," Ursula von der Leyen said after meeting with the Iraqi prime minister. As the fight against "Islamic State" winds down, Baghdad is searching for help rebuilding.*

DW.DE.H89: *German defense minister meets IS victims in Iraq /Sub-H:* *Germany's defense minister has met with female victims from the Yazidi minority group in northern Iraq. It is the German minister's third and final day of her inaugural tour of the Middle East.*

DW.DE.H110: *Germany ready to 'help Iraq back on its feet' /Sub-H:* *German Defense Minister von der Leyen has met with Iraqi officials to determine how to continue to assist authorities in the country. But a debate about the Bundeswehr's role in the region could soften its commitment.*

DW.DE.H68: *Germany massively raises Mosul aid/Sub-H:* *Germany has announced an additional 100 million euros in aid to help rebuild the Iraqi city of Mosul after it was recaptured from extremists. Much of the city is in ruins after months of fighting.*

5.2.5. Headlines: Topicalization of the United Nations in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*

Another well-known topic that became a crucial focus for *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* was the framing of the UN in the news headlines. Based on the selected headlines, there is a tendency to address the UN as a reliable source when emphasizing the difficulties refugees face. In this sense, based on the British and German-based media sources, the speech reporting of the verbs, *says*, and *warns* are directly referring to the speakers of the UN. This suggests that the use of these verbs in headlines is timely and objectively reported to the audience, which enables readers to know more about the topic, highlights the importance of these reports, and creates trust in the headlines depicted.

The use of the UN as a frame function in headlines is reported in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* to evaluate the Iraqi refugee crisis, and to show the tough challenges caused by war and violence (Entman, 1993). Also, the subjective discourse suggests that the editors of *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* tend to provide a natural judgment of reported information about refugees and, thus, that reported headlines are not controlled by the media-based agenda and are depicted to the audience objectively (Yamashita, 1998).

Explicitly, *The Guardian's* coverage of the news headlines shows more styles of reporting verbs with which to frame the refugees via a natural approach, which might indicate the way the newspaper attempts to influence readers. *The Guardian's* reporting on the UN Speech Act tends to focus on such actions using the UN's calls as solidarity discourse in response to the severe situation faced by the Iraqis, especially minorities. In addition, the UN is depicted in a set of news headlines in relation to discourses as informative topics. This suggests that *The Guardian* uses informative frames to raise awareness of the UN's role in the Iraqi refugee crisis through various actions, statements, and warnings, as evidenced in the headlines below:

TG.UK.H1: *Millions of Iraqi children repeatedly and relentlessly targeted, says UN/Sub-H: Unicef report says 3.6 million children face risks including death or sexual violence, and 4.7 million need humanitarian aid as a result of the conflict*

TG.UK.H12: *UN says civilians at extreme risk as west Mosul offensive begins/Sub-H: Early advances by Iraqi forces meet limited resistance but Isis thought to have prepared ambush points in urban centre*

TG.UK.H18: *Fight against Isis in Iraq could displace millions more people, UN says/Sub-H: Aid organisations call for help in assisting those fleeing combat zones, as slow progress in retaking Falluja underlines difficulty in defeating the militants*

TG.UK.H21: *Iraq humanitarian crisis has reached highest level, UN aid officials warn/Sub-H: Sheer number of displaced people has created dangerous and complex situation, despite lifting of Isis siege on Mount Sinjar*

TG.UK.H23: *Islamic State using hostages as human shields in Mosul - UN/Sub-H: Militant group taking thousands hostage and carrying out mass executions as Kurdish and Iraqi forces close in on the city*

TG.UK.H29: *Iraqis are fleeing violence in Anbar at rate not seen since civil war, says UN/Sub-H: Refugee agency says more than 140,000 have fled clashes between security forces and anti-government fighters in a month*

TG.UK.H35: *Thousands of children at risk in Falluja, says UN/Sub-H: Unicef urges warring forces in besieged Iraqi city to protect the children as battle to oust Isis continues*

TG.UK.H36: *Up to 90,000 civilians trapped inside Falluja, UN official says/Sub-H: UN humanitarian coordinator warns of harrowing situation for civilians trapped in besieged Islamic State stronghold*

TG.UK.H93: *Fight against Isis in Iraq could displace millions more people, UN says/Sub-H: Aid organisations call for help in assisting those fleeing combat zones, as slow progress in retaking Falluja underlines difficulty in defeating the militants*

TG.UK.H108: *UN condemns Isis genocide against Yazidis in Iraq and Syria/Sub-H: Report based on interviews with survivors says group seeks to destroy Yazidis through murder, sexual slavery, rape and torture*

TG.UK.H114: *UN pleads for \$497m aid to prevent catastrophe for millions of Iraqis*/**Sub-H:** *War between Isis and government forces threatens to leave millions without food, water or shelter amid rampant violence and rights abuses*

TG.UK.H117: *UN human rights chief flags up claims of abuse of those fleeing Falluja*/**Sub-H:** *HCHR says there are credible reports of violence against civilians by militias helping effort to retake Iraqi city from Isis*

TG.UK.H118: *Islamic State holding estimated 3,500 slaves in Iraq, says UN*/**Sub-H:** *Report says group committing abuses that may amount to war crimes, crimes against humanity and possibly genocide*

TG.UK.H11: *Mosul attack could leave thousands of children homeless, says Unicef* /**Sub-H:** *An attempt to recapture Iraqi city from Islamic State risks creating a humanitarian crisis, says UN children's agency*

TG.UK.H5: *Hundreds at Iraq refugee camp ill from contaminated food*/**Sub-H:** *UN says police investigating after 800 who had fled Mosul fighting got food poisoning from meal supplied by UK charity*

TG.UK.H50: *Iraq's largest Christian town abandoned as Isis advance continues* /**Sub-H:** *UN officials say an estimated 200,000 new refugees are seeking sanctuary in the Kurdish north from Islamic extremists*

TG.UK.H126: *Iraq cities exodus to increase by tens of thousands, say officials* /**Sub-H:** *UN high commission for refugees says 65,000 left Falluja and Ramadi in the past week as militant standoff in Anbar continues*

TG.UK.H127: *Islamic State holding estimated 3,500 slaves in Iraq, says UN* /**Sub-H:** *Report says group committing abuses that may amount to war crimes, crimes against humanity and possibly genocide*

The above headlines of the news reports repeatedly use this type of reporting verbs to depict the event of Iraqi refugees in an objective and neutral manner, which indicates the feature of the news genre in *The Guardian's* coverage. However, speech act verbs, *call*, *say*, *plead*, *urge*, and *confirm*, can not only perform the function of reporting others' discourse but can also suggest that the authors think that the information is reported because of their reliable source.

In contrast, when going through the headlines in *Deutsche Welle*, there is a general tendency to depict the UN in news discourse in plain statements — that is to say, *Deutsche Welle's* reporting on the UN frequently omits attribution verbs, such as 'says,' 'warns,' 'urges,' and 'demands.' Unlike *The Guardian's* style, there are many direct statements regarding the UN's role in news discourse. In addition, *Deutsche Welle* has a slightly different perspective regarding the UN actor at the sentence-level topic — that is to say, headlines can generally be divided into two parts, based on their structure. The first is the topicalization of the UN, done to draw the reader's awareness to the topic. The second is the discursive part of the depicted theme. This part provides a vivid image of the tough situation the refugees face. As evidenced in the following headline, where we can see the UN is topicalized separately from the microstructural level. As evidenced in the headlines below:

DW.DE.H9: UN: Not enough money for refugees in Iraq /**Sub-H:** More than three million Iraqis are on the run in their own country. The United Nations are sounding the alarm bells. The refugee situation is getting increasingly desperate due to a shortage of funding.

DW.DE.H25: Mosul offensive to displace a million people, UNHCR warns /**Sub-H:** UNHCR's Iraq chief has warned 'one of the largest manmade disasters' in modern history would follow the military campaign later this year. Some 60,000 people have already fled the city since Iraq announced its plans.

DW.DE.H56: UN appeals for \$861 million to help Iraq /**Sub-H:** The United Nations has launched an appeal for \$861 million in international humanitarian aid for Iraq. The country is struggling to cover humanitarian costs amid falling oil prices and the fight against "Islamic State."

DW.DE.H59: UN: Civilians 'trapped' inside Iraq's Fallujah /**Sub-H:** Only 800 people have been able to escape Fallujah since the start of an Iraqi army offensive against IS. The tens of thousands who are stuck in the city face "dire conditions," according to the UN.

DW.DE.H116: UN: Nearly half a million Iraqis flee Mosul fighting /**Sub-H:** A new UN report has revealed the humanitarian catastrophe caused by fighting against the so-called "Islamic State" (IS). One UN official called the number of displaced civilians "staggering."

DW.DE.H121: UN: Thousands flee latest 'IS' advance /**Sub-H:** A jihadist advance in Iraq's Anbar province has forced over 90,000 people to leave their homes, according to the United Nations. The "Islamic State" militants have been gaining ground in the area over the past week.

DW.DE.H128: UN: 140,00 Iraqis fled violence /**Sub-H:** Fighting in Iraq's Anbar province has caused the "largest" displacement of people within the country since clashes in 2006-2008. Over 140,000 people have fled the region as a result, according to a new UN report.

DW.DE.H118: IS captures 3000 Iraqis fleeing /**Sub-H:** villages "Islamic State" militants are said to be using the captives as human shields against US-backed military strikes. Meanwhile, a UNHCR request for financial support has been largely ignored by the international community.

Overall, *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* follow the same approach when depicting the UN in news headlines but show a little divergence in terms of the way the editors use this frame to depict the hardship of the refugees. Moreover, using the UN as a frame function in the two different sides highlights the role of this actor and reveals the hardship refugees face in Iraq.

5.3. Framing Analysis

When using Entman's (1993) framing analysis to study the news headlines and sub-headlines more precisely, the news discourses selected can be used to : Firstly, define the lyproblems; second, diagnose the causes of the problem; thirdly, make moral judgments, and fourthly, provide or suggest remedies.

When it comes to the first two components of framing analysis, identifying a problem, and diagnosing its causes, it has been observed that the use of prominent words and frames at the headline and sub-headline level is more clearly constructed in the semantic discourses of the propositions. That is, the Iraqi refugee crisis has been depicted in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* in a way that catches the media's interest and attention since the crisis has been described as the biggest to have occurred in the Middle East, where more than 3 million people have been obliged to flee from ISIS.

Based on the headlines selected, the selective language of the journalistic discourse in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* is emotionally based. That is, the use of notable words or frames in the news reports, such as the term ISIS in macropropositions, explicitly has the potential assessment to position readers in favor of more horrible connotations. In *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*, the authors clearly tend to construct emotive and horrible words about Iraqi refugees and their situation to the readers, using words such as *targeting, kill, attack, force, destroy, abused, shattered, seize and kill, shooting, against, executed, capture, terror, fearing, and threatening.*

Such news items can make the readers feel emotionally connected to the events and refugees depicted in headlines, provoke their anticipation, guide them to relevant points in the news, and pose them to use their shared knowledge when directing them to use or act in a way determined by the editors of *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*. Moreover, such a depiction can help increase reader engagement as the depicted headlines are shown to be more "salient in the communicative text" (Entman, 1993: 52).

Most, but not the entirety, of the news headlines and sub-headlines in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* indicate that ISIS itself is a problem and the main actor that causes the problems in Iraq. This is observed in the news headlines, where both *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* tend to show ISIS is against refugees and responsible for the practice of forced displacement. The majority of the news headlines consist of the first two frame functions , as evidenced in the headlines below:

TG.UK.H31: *Islamic State 'shooting civilians as they flee besieged Falluja'* /**Sub-H:** *Aid group says residents leaving the Iraqi city have been killed trying to cross the Euphrates river*

TG.UK.H10: *Isis forces 1,500 Iraqi families to march to Mosul* /**Sub-H:** *Civilians expected to be used as human shields by Islamic State as it loses control of village where mass grave found*

TG.UK.H64: *'Isis has shattered the ancient ties that bound Iraq's minorities'* /**Sub-H:** *The jihadists' advance through north-west Iraq has put to the sword an understanding between communities that had survived for generations*

TG.UK.H71: *Isis seize and kill dozens in strongholds around Mosul to quell uprising /Sub-H:* Islamic State targets former members of security forces, suspected resistance fighters and civilians, numerous sources report

TG.UK.H77: *Thousands have been abused by Isis and their mental health is shattered /Sub-H:* Yazidi survivors of rape, violence and forced exile are getting help for physical ailments, but there is a crying need for mental health care

TG.UK.H92: *Isis is escalating its violence against Iraqi civilians. Why doesn't the world care?*

TG.UK.H115: *Isis kills hundreds of Iraqi Sunnis from Albu Nimr tribe in Anbar province*

TG.UK.H121: *Isis attacks Kirkuk as concerns mount over fate of civilians in Mosul /Sub-H:* Witnesses report multiple explosions and fighting in Iraqi city as major offensive continues around Mosul

TG.UK.H15: *Isis fighters destroy ancient artefacts at Mosul museum /Sub-H:* Footage shows Islamic State militants in Iraq smashing statues with sledgehammers in bid to crush what they call non-Islamic ideas

DW.DE.H3: *Fearing ISIS, Iraqi Christians flee /Sub-H:* Christians in Iraq urgently call for help as they are increasingly caught in the crossfire. Many have fled from the advancing Sunni insurgent group - and experts say change for the better is not in sight.

DW.DE.H6: *ISIS threatening to redraw Mideast borders /Sub-H:* ISIS now controls wide swaths of Iraq and Syria. Its leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, seems out to establish an Islamic empire. Are the borders in the Middle East about to be redrawn?

DW.DE.H69: *ISIS Terror: The Fate of Yazidis in Iraq /Sub-H:* Since August the Sinjar Mountains have been the last resort of Yazidis fleeing the murderous forces of Islamic State.

DW.DE.H94: *Documenting IS atrocities in Mosul*

DW.DE.H99: *IS targeting Mosul civilians, report finds /Sub-H:* Civilians have been caught in the crossfire as Iraqi and coalition forces try to recapture Mosul from IS, according to Human Rights Watch. Residents reportedly fear being used as "human shields" by the jihadi group.

DW.DE.H101: *'IS' executed thousands since Mosul takeover /Sub-H:* "Islamic State" militants have executed over 2,000 people in Iraq's northern province of Nineveh, officials say. IS has reportedly circulated a list of the victims' names.

DW.DE.H114: *IS 'kills hundreds of civilians' in Mosul /Sub-H:* The UN says it has credible reports that "Islamic State" (IS) has killed more than 231 civilians in the Iraqi city of Mosul city since May 26. The UN body is also investigating civilian deaths in anti-IS airstrikes.

DW.DE.H118: *IS captures 3000 Iraqis fleeing villages /Sub-H:* "Islamic State" militants are said to be using the captives as human shields against US-backed military strikes. Meanwhile, a UNHCR request for financial support has been largely ignored by the international community.

The above headlines all suggest that the word ISIS in the news reports includes different functions, as a solo sentence in the media can perform many functions, and hence, the first two functions are generally used for one single headline in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* (Entman,1991,1993). Also, it observed that words such as *violence, kill, attack, force, capture, destroy, seize, and exude*, are all used in the news headlines and sub-headlines in relation to the Iraqi refugee crisis to frame ISIS as an actor

that causes internal displacement in Iraq. In this sense, using these news items with reference to ISIS in news discourses makes the texts more memorable and prominent to the readers since readers may perceive ISIS as an aggressive and violent group.

Since the text of the headlines includes frames, which are manifested and reinforced by specific remarkable keywords and phrases that provide clear or explicit clusters of judgments and facts about the Iraqi refugee crisis, such frames in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle's* coverage may trigger the receiver's thinking of the frames in the texts and the framing intention of the communicator (Entman, 1993: 52). Moreover, the construction of violence in relation to the frame selected may then help readers perceive the information, process and discern meaning, and then store it in their memory. From a framing perspective, the dominant frame function i.e., ISIS in the news headlines of *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*, is the most noticeable one constructed in the news reports. That is, based on the headlines, this dominant frame function shows that both sides, *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*, most heavily support it in the texts with the most common audience schemas.

Additionally, based on the findings of the headlines, it could be inferred that both *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* have used special and prominent technical devices when depicting the Iraqi refugee crisis. That is, the journalistic discourse of the news headlines indicates the way the authors tend to frame refugees is more meaningful in the communicating texts. In this sense, Reese et al (2001) state that news headlines are the most technical devices for framing analysis. Such a depiction shows that the news headlines have a potential indicator that helps and catches readers' interest in the news in the media. Also, Entman (1993) states that selecting a prominent element in headlines makes the speech segment more salient to the audience.

Likewise, Pan and Kosicki (1993:59) explain the importance of headlines as a frame function in the news story, "A headline is the most salient cue to activate certain semantically related concepts in readers' minds: it is thus the most powerful framing device of syntactical structure." To this end, it was observed that the word 'ISIS' in relation to the Iraqi refugees was given more importance and focus on *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* as a journalistic technique selection in headlines and sub-headlines to catch the reader's attention. Broadly speaking, especially in the media, journalists are considered "sense makers"; however, it is essential to acknowledge that they can present the news in such a way that it distorts as much as it tries to make sense of our world (Reese, 2001: 10, cited in Linstrom & Marais, 2012: 33).

In terms of comparison regarding the word selection, *Deutsche Welle* uses salient words and phrases in the coverage, such as *limbo*, *catastrophic conditions*, *nightmare*, *in dire straits*, *desperate escape*, *humanitarian catastrophe*, *humanitarian disaster*, *human shields*, *staggering*, *refugee drama*, *left in limbo*, *exhausted and dehydrated*, *poverty and lack of services*, *Mosul exodus*, *trapped*, *ISIS Terror*, *stick it out in*, *stuck in limbo*, and *mass graves*; these frames reinforce actions of forced displacement and

challenges in relation to the Iraqi refugees and their severe situation in the discourse of the headlines. In contrast, in *The Guardian*, there have been expressions and words, such as *still at risk, facing genocide, shouting beneath the rubble, In Iraq, there is no peace for Yazidis, People are scared, 'Crazy numbers', 'hell', 'shooting civilians as they flee besieged Falluja', 'We have lived enough years of revenge and tyranny', 'The cities are falling into their hands', stranded Yazidis, Little respite for Iraqis displaced, 'We have no home to go back to', 'This is going to take a long time – Isis won't give up', 'Families are surviving on dried dates and river water', 'They are savages', 'struggle, trapped, and genocide*. It can be argued that both *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* report these words and expressions in the news headlines more emotionally and emphatically to the readers. However, selectively using these frames in the news discourse makes the headline more noticeable to the audience because the readers then perceive the Iraqi refugees as victims of violence. Such frames occur in the news media to help audiences trigger their existing schemas about the refugees and their situation in Iraq. That is, schemas may help readers to more effectively understand such selections and they cue readers to pick out topics that will alter their lives. To make news headlines applicable to readers in Western society, authors tend to highlight refugees indirectly and directly as “others” and primarily use special frames and newsworthy techniques of crisis, displacement, refugees, and novelty at the headline level (Niedermeyer, 2019: 42).

Furthermore, *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* use the status of religious identity as the most noticeable frame in the news headlines, but the British newspaper has constructed Iraqi refugees, especially the Yazidis, with more focus on their situation than *Deutsche Welle's* coverage. The news headlines and sub-headlines in both *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* predominantly report that ISIS is problematic and has negative consequences, it can be argued that *The Guardian* mainly reports in a specific way that aims to trigger political and emotional reactions in the readers. However, in spite of the fact that *Deutsche Welle's* coverage regarding the Yazidis also uses this frame, it does not do so to the same extent as *The Guardian*. On the other hand, both *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* consistently use the word ‘flee’ in relation to ISIS to magnify the violent actions in the news headlines. This suggests that the authors want to make the crisis relevant to audiences using a common frame and making an event relate back to the action of the forced displacement of the Iraqi refugees. This suggests that the construction of new topics may be presented through focus on a specific frame (Tamburaka, 2012, cited in Anggraeni, 2018).

The authors thus use journalistic news frame conventions when constructing the news headlines. The depiction in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle's* coverage as an internal factor may, therefore, enhance the process of frame-building; hence, it may lead to real journalistic news frames of the news items. Following Brüggemann's definition (2014: 63) of the news frames, they can be defined as “cognitive patterns of individual journalists,”. Such news frames may also be realized by using patterns, like words

and expressions, in news discourse, which according to Entman (1993), would make the speech segment more salient to the readers.

In *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*, the construction of headlines in favor of diagnosing the causes of the problem as a frame function is non-identical, but they depict ISIS as the most common cause in the Iraqi refugee crisis. That is, both sides reinforce the idea that refugees have been obliged to flee as the result of various factors. Both sides highlight a lack of services, food, shelter, health, water, and non-food items in the news headlines as sub-factors of the internal displacement in Iraq. When it comes to *The Guardian*, the use of keywords at the headline level, such as ‘winter’, in relation to the challenges refugees face has been one of the main causes of the crisis. However, the word has been explicitly defined as a leading cause in the news discourse. As observed in headlines, for instance, *TG.UK.H7: Winter brings fresh threat to Iraq’s refugees who fled the Isis advance*, *TG.UK.96: Fallujah siege: ‘Families are surviving on dried dates and river water’*, and *TG.UK.H89: Families in critical situation in southern Iraq as winter bites*. With such words in the news in relation to refugees and their harsh situation, the authors may tend to target audiences using empathetic and emotive news items. This depiction may acknowledge refugees as active actors in the migratory process since they take action to survive and save their lives. That is, the use of winter alongside the lack of food may trigger an emotional reaction in readers’ minds. This reaction regarding word selection may also help readers understand the crisis using “relevant knowledge” since the depiction facilitates the understanding of the situation that Iraqi refugees are facing hard challenges (van Dijk,1991:51).

Likewise, *Deutsche Welle* also uses words, such as poverty and limited aid at the headline level to magnify the critical situation of the Iraqi refugees. Headlines, such as *DW.DE.H33*, *DW.DE.H17*, and *DW.DE.H113*, have been included in other diagnoses to be causal driving factors for many refugees. As evidenced below:

DW.DE.H17: Poverty and lack of services in Iraq force refugees back to the camps /Sub-H: Poverty and a lack of services are preventing rebuilding in Mosul, forcing thousands to choose the lesser of two evils and return to the camps. Over 2 million have yet to go back home.

DW.DE.H33: ‘Iraqis need safe refuge’

DW.DE.H113: Mosul residents scuffle over scarce aid supplies /Sub-H: The Iraqi government is struggling to get aid supplies to civilians trapped near the front line in the city of Mosul. More than six weeks in, the battle to retake the city from rebel fighters is proceeding slowly.

Such frames in headlines may cause emotional reactions in the reader’s mind. To this end, it is the choice of words and their collective combination in news discourse that produces an emotive news framing. Hence, this frame selection in headlines makes the news segments more noticeable to audiences (Entman,1993).

To conclude, from the findings, the first two functions according to Entman's *framing theory* (1993), *define a problem* and *diagnose causes*, have been used as frame-function in the headlines in both *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*. This portrayal, according to Entman (1993), shows that an individual sentence itself may achieve different functions. In addition, based on what is selected in the headlines and sub-headlines, Iraqis are depicted in terms of feeble and needy people, which makes them appear homeless and in need of protection. Also, when going through the headlines, *The Guardian*, especially, adopts a more emotional approach regarding the depiction, using frames in relation to children and women: for instance, *TG.UK.H13: Mosul's children were shouting beneath the rubble. Nobody came*, *TG.UK.H1: Millions of Iraqi children repeatedly and relentlessly targeted, says UN*. Such a depiction in relation to the children and their situation may aim to activate a sense of compassion among readers who are parents (Fairclough, 1997).

Moral judgment is another component of the framing function. Generally speaking, notwithstanding the headlines' increasing concern for the misery felt by trapped Iraqis (Abed & Mas Castells, 2023), it has been observed that this function is rarely used in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*. That is, moral judgment is indirectly used in the headlines to evaluate the agents and their effects in the news. This means that *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* use headlines addressing topics by focusing on the moral concern of another actor, for instance, the UN. Hence, this proximity means that the two sources convey this frame function by just topicalizing the UN discourses, since judgments can only be made through reliable and moral actions determined by the voice of *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*.

Furthermore, the analysis shows that what is topicalized in headlines is that the writers and editors do nothing by showing concern about refugees when constructing the Iraqi refugee crisis. This makes *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* expose other actors' suggestions, such as the framing of the UN, the UK, and DE officials, and when these actors propose remedies, they can either be selected, quoted, or acted on. In light of this, *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* have used the UN as a reliable source in their coverage, as it is generally perceived as a trustworthy and verified source of information by readers. Also, using reports verbs in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*'s coverage indicates that the authors give a neutral assessment of the reported information and that the reported information about Iraqi refugees is not controlled by the editors and is depicted to the readers objectively (Yamashita, 1998).

When it comes to *The Guardian*, the authors and journalists express some concerns emotionally. For instance, the headlines, *TG.UK.H4: Thousands of Iraqi refugees 'still at risk' despite ending of Mount Sinjar siege*, *TG.UK.H13: Mosul's children were shouting beneath the rubble. Nobody came*, *TG.UK.H92: Isis is escalating its violence against Iraqi civilians. Why doesn't the world care?* *TG.UK.H110: Who will condemn the sexual enslavement of Iraq's minority women?* *TG.UK.H53: Even after escaping Isis, the suffering of the Yazidis persists*. The above propositions indicate that the authors tend to depict Iraqi refugees in these news headlines, using moral and appraisal language and conveying

some concerns in relation to the refugees and their situation in Iraq. *The Guardian's* digital discourse regarding these headlines does raise concerns about refugees and their hard lives, thus lending at least some potential support to those refugees who struggle due to war and violence.

Such headlines are somehow supportive and emotive since moral action assumes judgment in terms of social responsibility or acting morally. This is clearly observed in the headlines, where we can see the expressions denote to what extent there are some concerns. For instance, the construction of children, ethnic minorities, the sexual enslavement of Iraq's female minority, and other words in the headline's style indicate the authors are taking a social stand and expressing moral concern about those innocent refugees. To this end, this depiction may position readers to take action and build up their solidarity towards those refugees depicted in the news. This portrayal, therefore, might raise some interesting claims as it could be argued that an article seeks to encourage readers to take responsibility and act. For instance, in the headline, *TG.UK.H92*, such moral judgment is consistently acceptable and thereby supportive of the judgments as the headline increases readers' sympathy.

Likewise, there are also some concerns about Iraqi refugees in *Deutsche Welle's* style regarding the way authors tend to express moral judgment in the news headlines. That is, *Deutsche Welle* uses salient words and phrases in the coverage, such as *limbo*, *catastrophic conditions*, *nightmare*, *in dire straits*, *desperate escape*, *humanitarian catastrophe*, *humanitarian disaster*, and *human shields* at the headline level. Those words with this frame function may express any perspective in relation to the Iraqi refugees and their situation and show social responsibility. However, this type of depiction, all in all, is somehow considerable when it comes to moral judgments as it shows the authors are taking a social stand about what could possibly happen to Iraqis.

Overall, not all the news headlines in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* use words and expressions regarding moral concerns. However, moral judgment in the journalistic discourse must include language that is subjective and includes more appraisal. That is, in the media, authors and journalists must use their own voices or position readers as they express their concern toward refugees. Apart from this appraisal, "communicators" make conscious and unconscious framing judgments in deciding what to say, guided by frames often called "schema" that organize their belief systems (Entman, 1993: 52). On the one hand, the headlines from *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* do not explicitly include more manifest keywords, expressions, and sentences that provide linguistically strengthening clusters of facts and judgments. Since media makers tend to use cognitive practices regarding news frames, 'framing tends to incorporate a wider range of factors than priming and agenda setting', and that framing is more likely to include "a larger of cognitive processes —such as problem definitions, causal interpretations, moral judgments, and treatment recommendations" (Weaver, 2007:143). Based on this appraisal, it could be argued that both sides, *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* tend to include no more concerns about the way authors express or take a stand towards refugees in Iraq.

To conclude, the frame that constructed the Iraqi refugee crisis in terms of critical situations in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* is one of a humanitarian nature, as it is supported by the emotive language used to denote the refugees and the living conditions in which they have to live, survive, or flee. Such a frame is used to evoke the empathy of the mass audience, whilst at the same time providing the moral judgments of the authors (Kirwan, 2015). Moreover, the humanitarian frame in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* is explicitly echoed through the words and expressions of the Iraqi refugees since their context reinforces or reaffirms the sympathy that is invoked in the readers' minds. For instance, the descriptive discourse in *The Guardian* produces a strong mental image for the readers of the tough conditions that refugees, especially children, and women, are forced to live in, whilst the use of ethnic identity, particularly that of the Yazidis, in the headlines invokes an air of sympathy in the mass audience. Likewise, the use of 'catastrophic' and 'critical conditions' in relation to Iraqi refugees in *Deutsche Welle* reinforces media framing through the choice of 'graphic and adjective' (Entman, 1991).

The fourth frame function of Entman's (1993) framing analysis is used in *The Guardian* regarding the Iraqi refugee crisis in terms of explicit and implicit topics. That is, it could be argued that *The Guardian* has used this frame function in the news headlines in relation to the political calls of the UK government towards refugees in Iraq, especially the ethnic minorities, such as the Yazidis and Christians (Abed & Mas Castells, 2023). Once again, when the British newspaper suggested remedies, the macroproposition of the news headlines was somehow political and included political considerations. To this end, *The Guardian's* coverage tends to highlight some actions of the UK government, parliament, and politicians at the headline level to help or solve the crisis. For instance, the headlines below show the role of the UK in doing something:

TG.UK.H54: *UK urged to give asylum to 100 women who fled Isis captivity in Iraq /Sub-H: Campaigners call on British government to offer psychological support to those who escaped after being kidnapped by militants.*

TG.UK.H51: *Bishops urge David Cameron to grant asylum to Iraqi Christians /Sub-H: UK has 'moral and historical obligation' to offer sanctuary to refugees driven from Mosul by Isis militants.*

TG.UK.H3: *Iraqi refugees 'facing genocide' to receive UK airdrop of aid /Sub-H: Philip Hammond follows US in sending relief for the 40,000 Yazidi Kurds surrounded by Islamists militants on Mount Sinjar.*

TG.UK.H59: *Iraq: Britain will 'play role' in arms transport, says David Cameron – video,*

TG.UK.H57: *Iraq crisis: David Cameron under pressure to recall parliament /Sub-H: Tory and Labour politicians urge prime minister to call debate on military action amid more reports of Isis slaughtering minorities.*

The above headlines include explicit and implicit considerations since the newspaper constructs the UK as a political and social actor, making a great effort to take action towards the refugees in Iraq. For instance, in the headline TG.UK.H57, using lexical choices, such as 'under pressure' and 'urge', shows and highlights the extra effort and weight of the action. Furthermore, there is a general tendency in *The*

Guardian's coverage to use this frame function in relation to the UK as a social actor in providing humanitarian aid for trapped refugees in Iraq, too. That is, the headlines show the UK is acting towards the refugees in Iraq, especially the Yazidis. Using explicit discourse segments at the headline level, such as *makes third humanitarian airdrop, makes second aid drop to Mount Sinjar, drop humanitarian supplies to Yazidi refugees in Iraq, prepares to supply arms directly to Kurdish forces fighting Isis, and deploys Tornado jets in Iraq to assist in Sinjar aid drops* not only highlights the UK role but gives additional weight to the actions, including military, political, and social efforts to help the refugees in Iraq. As evidenced in the headlines below:

TG.UK.H125: *Iraq: UK makes third humanitarian airdrop for stranded Yazidis*

TG.UK.H124: *Britain's RAF makes second aid drop to Mount Sinjar Iraqis trapped by Isis*

TG.UK.H45: *British forces drop humanitarian supplies to Yazidi refugees in Iraq*

TG.UK.H123: *UK prepares to supply arms directly to Kurdish forces fighting Isis /Sub-H: Kurds welcome move by Britain to significantly intensify its involvement in the current Iraq crisis*

TG.UK.H58: *UK deploys Tornado jets in Iraq to assist in Sinjar aid drops*

In contrast, *Deutsche Welle* uses this frame function in relation to diplomatic issues, calls, and actions. Whenever the headlines report on Germany's promises and undertakings, they highlight the country's efforts to help Iraq with a long-term strategy that involves stabilizing the government, reducing displacement cases, and rebuilding the infrastructure. For instance, headlines, such as DW.DE.H110 and DW.DE.H68, explicitly focus on Germany's role as a social actor in providing support and assistance to Iraq during the crisis. *Deutsche Welle* covers various topics that demonstrate Germany's contributions, including funding support and cooperation with Iraqi authorities. As evidenced below:

DW.DE.H110: *Germany ready to 'help Iraq back on its feet' /Sub-H: German Defense Minister von der Leyen has met with Iraqi officials to determine how to continue to assist authorities in the country. But a debate about the Bundeswehr's role in the region could soften its commitment.*

DW.DE.H68: *Germany massively raises Mosul aid /Sub-H: Germany has announced an additional 100 million euros in aid to help rebuild the Iraqi city of Mosul after it was recaptured from extremists. Much of the city is in ruins after months of fighting.*

The news headlines with codes DW.DE.H47 and DW.DE.H28 expose Germany as an inactive social actor, but they highlight that other social actors are pressuring Germany to take action. That is, words such as 'call' and 'must do' suggest that these actors are making suggestions to prompt action. This is evident from the propositions depicted below:

DW.DE.H28: *Rights groups call on Germany to help Iraqi refugees /Sub-H: Human rights activists have called for immediate help for the persecuted minorities in northern Iraq. For those who don't share the ideology of the "Islamic State" militants, the situation is desperate.*

DW.DE.H47: *Özdemir: 'Germany must do more for Iraq' /Sub-H: A million people have fled Islamic State militants and found refuge in Iraqi Kurdistan. But the conditions they live in are in dire need of improvement, German Greens politician Cem Özdemir tells DW from northern Iraq.*

Overall, the use of remedies as a framing function in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* news headlines is inconsistent due to their political differences.

5.4. Socio-cognitive Analysis

The macroanalysis addresses *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* in terms of sociocultural differences and ideologies and can be crucial for making comparisons between different powers. In this context, the dominating narrative discourse in *The Guardian* extensively supports the topic of the Iraqi refugees in headlines by framing them more than once as active actors. This highlights their topicalized depiction in headlines regarding numbers, as in the headlines, *TG.UK.H10: 'Isis forces 1,500 Iraqi families to march to Mosul'*, *TG.UK.H26: '20,000 Iraqis besieged by Isis escape from mountain after US air strikes'*, and *TG.UK.H34: '40,000 Iraqis stranded on mountain as Isis jihadists threaten death'* Such a portrayal, in newspapers, and according to van Dijk (1991: 190), is called 'Number Game.'

Since macropropositions are no longer expressed in the news discourse, they are used to construct abstracts in the text and make precise information. These structures are, however, important in cognitive information, and allow the audience to remember, store, and mentally organize textual information (van Dijk, 1991). News headlines normally support the dominant discourse that produces empathetic responses, highlighting the fact that the Iraqi refugees, whose situation is a problem for the international community, need help. In this sense, the headlines analyzed can be considered instances of sympathy discourse in *The Guardian*; for example, *TG.UK.H4: Thousands of Iraqi refugees 'still at risk' despite ending of Mount Sinjar siege. TG.UK.H13: Mosul's children were shouting beneath the rubble. Nobody came.* This suggests that the news headlines in the digital discourse of *The Guardian* are emotionally framed and constructed to evoke some emotional reactions from the readers. Such news headlines in *The Guardian's* digital discourse suggest that the authors tend to build and show solidarity through different macropropositions using personal and subjective knowledge.

To this end, the micro- and macroheadlines construct the discourse control of *The Guardian* affected by personal and social cognition towards the Iraqi refugees, especially the Yazidis, children, and women. Subsequently, based on the socio-cognitive perspective, it is figured out that the use of headlines in *The Guardian* may tend to express a positive attitude when constructing the voices of children and women. In this sense, van Dijk (2014b: 388) highlights that "language user and discourse always presuppose intervening mental and context models, goals and general social representations (knowledge, attitudes, ideologies, norms, values) of language users" and that "cognitive models mediate between social structure and group as well as individual knowledge, perceptions, attitudes and activities."

On the other hand, the depiction of the Iraqi refugees in the news headlines as people who require help or service may be considered beneficial for the Iraqis, but it strips refugees of their agency and depicts them as being powerless and does not lead to a very empowering construction of the Iraqi refugees.

Instead, *The Guardian* depicts them as individuals who are incapable and weak in Iraq (salahshour, 2017).

Furthermore, the analysis showed that the empathetic discourse in *The Guardian* towards the Iraqi refugees, especially the Yazidis, and other minorities, explicitly and implicitly connected with the socio-political discourse of the policymakers in the UK. That is, there is a general tendency to construct the Yazidis in semantic macrostructures as the main dominating topics in relation to the British socio-political discourses (Abed & Mas Castells, 2023). That is to say, the analysis revealed a number of discourse practices and identified some macrostructures that the policymakers used to build and show solidarity with the Yazidi refugees, i.e., British MPs and the UK government. In this sense, the political discourses depicted in connection to the Yazidis tend to create empathetic responses, highlighting the fact that the Yazidi refugees, whose situation is a problem for the international community, need help. Such a depiction in *The Guardian* is used to control, transfer, and manage knowledge to reshape opinions, ideologies, and beliefs (Smith, 2019).

Politically and strictly speaking, in 2014, the UK government declared actions to counter ISIS and tackled a counter-terrorism strategy to help the ethnic minorities in Iraq. Since then, UK Prime Minister David Cameron has spoken in parliament on the UK's role in tackling ISIS in Iraq. After many political calls from the Iraqi government asking for help and support from the UK, the House of Commons then recognized the clear threats ISIS posed to a wider international community. At that time, actions, including working with the Iraqi government, military support, and humanitarian aid, were taken into account by the UK government towards refugees, especially minorities in Iraq (UK Prime Minister's Office, 2014). While *The Guardian* tends to depict the Iraqi refugee crisis in its news reports, it, therefore, highlights its political concerns by focusing on the minority, such as the Yazidis, at the headline level. However, this portrayal comes after the UK government announced that many crimes have been committed against ethnic identities, including the Yazidis and Christians. For instance, in 2016, the House of Commons confirmed that ISIS committed genocide in the Sinjar Mountains (Loft & Walker, 2022).

All in all, constructing the political calls in headlines contributes to solidarity by building a reality that *The Guardian* wants the readers to form, establishing support and agreement (Alharbi & Rucker, 2023). In 2014, the UK government declared that £59 million in humanitarian aid was sent to Iraq. Since then, the Conservative Government in Britain admitted that the situation in Iraq requires the UK 'to take more concerted action' (Mills, 2014:1). It can be said, to this end, the political calls depicted in *The Guardian* came after the House of Commons and Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond declared that Britain would provide military support and humanitarian aid to the Iraqi refugees, especially those of ethnic identity.

In general terms, the Iraqi ethnic identity is given a strong voice in *The Guardian's* coverage. This, therefore, reflects the findings of the headlines, which point to the political calls of the macrosemantic discourse of the news reports. Such findings lead us once again to support van Dijk's (1998: 184-5)

argument that news media will usually tend to highlight “facts” that are reliable in relation to the elite political interests, thereby influencing the knowledge and representations of their readers and finally being a key instrument of ideological power. In this specific case, it could be argued that *The Guardian*, on the one hand, is concerned with a positive representation of the UK as a supportive country and society ready to help and engage in actions of support and solidarity with those less fortunate than ‘us’, and on the other hand, as an important player in a wide in-group i.e., as an influential western country with a powerful and socio-economic role to play in upholding the status of minorities and power relations of the social and political world (Torkington & Ribeiro, 2019).

Based on the findings, there is an explicit construction of the religious status at the headline level in *The Guardian*’s position of welcome and solidarity as regards political and religious aspects. That is, identifying such topics in semantic headlines may provide implicit and explicit clues about the ideological position of the newspaper. For instance, **TG.UK.H48**:*Religious leaders say Isis persecution of Iraqi Christians has become genocide*, **TG.UK.H49**:*Threat to Christians in Middle East a tragedy, says Charles* /**Sub-H**: *Prince of Wales says faith leaders have a responsibility to ensure people within their own tradition respect people of other faiths*, **TG.UK.H51**:*Bishops urge David Cameron to grant asylum to Iraqi Christians* /**Sub-H**: *UK has 'moral and historical obligation' to offer sanctuary to refugees driven from Mosul by Isis militants*, **TG.UK.H73**: *MPs unanimously declare Yazidis and Christians victims of Isis genocide* /**Sub-H**: *British parliament defies government to condemn barbarity of Islamic State in Syria and Iraq*, **TG.UK.H87**: *Vatican calls on Muslim leaders to condemn Christian persecution in Iraq* /**Sub-H**: *Statement suggests dialogue with Islamic representatives may be cut if leaders fail to denounce crimes in name of religion*, and **TG.UK.H113**: *Calls grow to label attacks on Middle East Christians as genocide* /**Sub-H**: *Hillary Clinton, European parliament and UK MPs are among those who have used term while condemning attacks*. As van Dijk (1995a: 262) argued, ‘since topics express what is found to be the most important information of a discourse, this makes the assignment of topics by speakers liable to ideological control’. In this case, it could be argued that such a depiction is undeniable because *The Guardian*’s discourse is influential in shaping the production of shared ideologies in the public at large who consume the media in Western society (van Dijk, 1998).

As a result, this framing could involve reflections of *The Guardian* being politically affected by those powerful calls. That is, based on the headlines analyzed, it is observed that *The Guardian* has provided actions of sympathy for Christians in the headlines, as indicated previousl. As this portrayal includes explicit topicalization of the religious identity present in the news headlines, including the word Christians within the political and religious calls, it may create public awareness in Western society towards those Christian refugees (Abed & Mas Castells, 2023). Broadly speaking, such headlines once again lead to support for van Dijk’s (1991: 51) claim that “Headlines often have ideological implications. Since they express the most important information about a news event, they may bias the understanding process: they summarize what, according to the journalist, is the most important aspect,

and such a summary necessarily implies an opinion or a specific perspective on the events.’’ Furthermore, since this analysis is based on van Dijk’s (2008) socio-cognitive perspective, it could be argued that such headlines may reinforce the fact that ‘discourse is not only based on the analysis of an autonomous verbal and written object, yet it is based on a situated interaction, as a social practice, or as a form of communication tends to incorporate cultural, social, historical, and political situation’.

In contrast, *Deutsche Welle's* coverage uses different portrayals of the Iraqi refugee crisis, constructing two discourse practices: positive and negative discourses. The most noticeable leading frame action associated with Iraqi refugees in *Deutsche Welle's* news headlines is concerned with discourses, addressing victimization actions in Iraq: experiencing harsh circumstances and catastrophic conditions and fleeing from war and violence inside Iraq. The analysis also indicates that the topic construction of refugees as victims can be explicitly identified in the discourse practices of *Deutsche Welle*. This depiction argues that there are several frames, indicating that the Iraqi refugees, especially the Yazidis and Christians, are perceived as victims, experiencing forced displacement, genocide, and demographic relocation in Iraq.

Also, based on the findings, there have been different frame functions in *Deutsche Welle's* coverage, and the most common frame is the topicalization of Iraqis as displaced people in need of help. This fact highlights that the dominating narrative in the news headlines is that some actors could play a role in responding to the crisis, as in headlines, **DW.DE.H25: Mosul offensive to displace a million people, UNHCR warns, DW.DE.H116: UN: Nearly half a million Iraqis flee Mosul fighting, and DW.DE.H9: UN: Not enough money for refugees in Iraq.** The fact is that there are news headlines in *Deutsche Welle's* coverage on how important it is that the UN’s actors reinforce their actions to demand that the international community stands together in the face of this crisis. Therefore, this proves that the UN has been framed in the headlines as one of the most powerful organizations. In this specific case, the use of discourse reporting verbs regarding the UN indicates that *Deutsche Welle* provides a natural appraisal of reported information about the crisis and that the reported information is not triggered by the authors and is depicted to the readers objectively (Yamashita, 1998).

In other words, this representation may suggest that *Deutsche Welle* tends to construct the aspect of Iraqi refugee solidarity indirectly, using other voices when constructing the suffering of refugees through the semantic headlines. This non-directive framing may also suggest that *Deutsche Welle* has reported on the crisis as a journalistic technique to promote other actors’ actions and opinions regarding the crisis. Topicalization is an essential technique in news headlines. That is, using quotations or speeches from other sources can reinforce Huckin’s (1997) argument that topicalization in news media is a type of sentence-level foregrounding, where specific segments of information are reported as the main focus of the news headlines.

On the other hand, by using other actors' actions, attitudes, and opinions in *Deutsche Welle* emotionally, the authors may place readers in a position to promote actions of solidarity towards refugees. In this specific case, recipients or readers may not instinctively accept such journalistic techniques. That is, some recipients may reject such opinions, ideologies, and attitudes and hence, such messages seem unpersuasive in the media (van Dijk, 2017).

The analysis thus reveals that the construction of solidarity towards Iraqi refugees in Germany can be explicitly identified in *Deutsche Welle*'s coverage. That is, there is an explicit reference in news headlines, indicating that many Iraqi refugees seek a family reunion and ask for asylum in Germany. For instance, **DW.DE.H20: Iraqi refugees seek family reunion in Germany**, **DW.DE.H19: Iraqi refugee shares his success story as an entrepreneur in Germany**, and **DW.DE.H24: from the Sinjar mountains to Germany's Rhineland**. This depiction reveals that the authors show a positive attitude towards refugees who arrive in Germany.

Strictly speaking, Iraqi refugees have selected Germany as their destination for some specific reasons. The first is the German asylum system. As Germany adheres to the 1951 refugee convention and laws, the Asylum Act and Residence laws are among the most essential rules in the Federal Republic of Germany. Since the European refugee crisis, the federal office for displaced people and refugees in Germany has tackled all refugee cases. In 2015, Germany accelerated several asylum cases, and the act of granting asylum entered into force in response to the open-door policy. The second is Germany's flexible system. That is, countless refugees entering the Federal Republic of Germany are digitalized at the nearest stations into this system, which helps and records arrivals who aim to apply for asylum. At that time, huge numbers of refugees were recorded through the IDA, or the so-called German easy system (McMichael, 2017).

The third is Merkel's decision to adopt the open-door policy. Former chancellor Angela Merkel reacted by opening the German borders to all refugees and taking in the refugees stuck in camps; therefore, the flow of refugees seeking to re-join families in Germany grew in response to the Chancellor's initiative regarding the welcoming of refugees (Dockery, 2017). Based on social theory, discourses, are the portrayals of how things are or could be in the world (Fairclough, 2001). Based on the above claims, such a specific attitude in *Deutsche Welle*'s coverage is somehow a positive framing since the editors' choices regarding the news headlines demonstrate a stance of solidarity towards Iraqi refugees in Germany.

As far as Iraqi refugees are concerned, the fact is that there are many Iraqis who have submitted their documentation to the German authorities to ask for asylum. Also, the Iraqi ambassador, Hussain M. F. Alkhateeb, announced that the number of refugees seeking asylum in Germany in 2015 was estimated at 122,000 (Ai, 2020). At that time, the open-door policy was one of the German policies that reflected the initiative of Angela Merkel's beliefs and decisions in policy making. According to van Dijk, "such 'collective' empathy may very well be related to knowledge and evaluative beliefs that can be socially

shared, precisely about the situation of refugees. Thus, embodied empathy and related emotions, such as compassion or pity, may be part of the personal mental models that define plans for future or ongoing actions of solidarity” (van Dijk, 2021: 17).

Additionally, based on the research findings, there is an explicit tendency to construct the Iraqi refugees in *Deutsche Welle's* digital discourse as unwanted criminals responsible for terrorist attacks in Germany. The fact that they are depicted at the semantic headline level as carrying out terror attacks constructs the notion of illegality and the dilemma of coming to Germany in huge numbers that would make the country face many social problems (Abed & Mas Castells, 2023). For instance, **DW.DE.H75: Germany: Three Iraqis arrested for planning terror attack**, **DW.DE.H77: Iraqi refugee Ali B. jailed for life over murder**, and **DW.DE.H76: German police seek Iraqi suspect in murder case**.

Although using different explicit depictions of the Iraqi refugees, *Deutsche Welle's* coverage, in this case, was able to create a dichotomy between ‘us’ — the people of the host country as an authority — and ‘them’, the Iraqis as refugees. In this specific case, there is journalistic practices to exhibit refugees as criminals, explicitly and primarily depicted as a threat to German society. Such criminal actions sparked the fury of the right-wing general party of the anti-refugee movement following an increase in killings and terror attacks committed by ‘Alternative for Germany’ followers on refugees in Germany, as evidenced in these headlines: **DW.DE.H74: Germany: Far-right murder suspect linked to stabbing Iraqi** and **DW.DE.H78: Attacks on refugees in Germany down by a third**. Hence, Merkel’s policy has been more frequently and widely criticized following terror attacks and murders that have been perpetrated by refugees in Germany (Troianovski, 2016).

The anti-refugee stance that was more noticeable during different political events, such as the public elections in the German government, seems explicitly connected to the concept of national sovereignty and the social movement of the far-right (Dostal, 2017). In fact, the open-door policy has led to serious consequences for the German government. Consequently, Germany’s former chancellor Angela Merkel failed to make decisions regarding the refugees who want to live in Germany; when the right-wing general party, the “Alternative for Germany,” tightened this policy, Merkel also agreed to tighten border controls as an initiative of compromise (Sola, 2018: 2).

In this context, the migration process made native Germans, especially those supporting the right-wing party, feel anxious about their identity in the nation. Consequently, such insecurity and anxiety led to many crimes being committed by far-right militants in Germany (Kirschbaum & Shalal, 2016). As a result of the increase in killings and terror attacks committed by Iraqi refugees as well as the far-right party of the anti-migration movement, German policymakers reevaluated some laws, and the Federal Republic of Germany has begun to open a window of negotiations with the Iraqi government over the repatriation of many illegal refugees to their country of origin. As evidenced in the headlines:

DW.DE.H79: *Germany to facilitate Iraqi repatriation /Sub-H:* The German development minister, Gerd Müller, says Germany and Iraq will step up cooperation on the reintegration of Iraqi refugees. He said up to 10,000 Iraqis would be helped to return home.

DW.DE.H87: *German minister in Iraq to promote repatriation /Sub-H:* Germany is hoping more Iraqi refugees will return home with the assistance of a massive aid package. But a senior minister has traveled to Iraq to ask for something in return.

DW.DE.84: *Germany wants asylum seekers to choose to leave /Sub-H:* A program to pay asylum applicants in Germany to return to their home countries, often before a decision is made on their status, has begun. The government wants to increase the number of people who choose to leave.

In 2018, German Minister Gerd Müller traveled to Iraq in a diplomatic mission as part of a push to encourage Iraqi refugees to return home from Germany. These diplomatic cooperations included promoting repatriation and encouraging economic cooperation between the Iraqi government and Germany. Moreover, the Federal Government proposed a plan and program by providing Iraq with financial aid as an initiative to increase the number of returned migrants (Deutsche Welle, 2018).

Germany's interest regarding this initiative is based on two perspectives: firstly, the Federal Republic of Germany would no longer endure the refugee crisis in Europe due to the unprecedented influx of refugees into the country, and the government itself also wanted to address the so-called political challenges of the existing refugees in Germany. As Germany is currently home to the third-largest refugee population in the world, up to 240,000 according to the German authorities, Germany's interest in the repatriation policy is to curb and prevent illegal migration into Germany (Al-Mawlawi, 2018).

Secondly, Germany's open-door policy has created serious tension between Merkel's policy and the right-wing party; far-right supporters have committed crimes on refugees in Germany, including the Iraqi refugees. In addition to these actions, the construction of criminal actions and the repatriation of thousands of Iraqis in *Deutsche Welle* may explicitly involve a political decision. Such discourse topics typically engage ideologies organized by the notion of the polarization between "good" and "bad" (van Dijk, 2018:19);— the act of repatriation may show implicit and political actions that illegal Iraqis do not contribute to German society. Such a depiction can then clearly help recipients infer that refugees must leave Germany. In a nutshell, the changes in the news headlines and sub-headlines show that the publication regarding the Iraqi refugees in *Deutsche Welle's* coverage is due to social and political events, including the migration crisis and the political legitimacy in Germany. To this end, it could be argued that the publication in *Deutsche Welle* stems from political events and policymakers.

5.5. Concluding Remarks

In this chapter, I have provided an in-depth analysis of the news headlines and sub-headlines that can be used to deconstruct and reinforce the framing of Iraqi refugees in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*. The chapter focused mainly on the most eye-catching topic that is read first by readers: news headings, which are the subject of the analysis of this chapter. As a reminder, I employed Entman's framing analysis and van Dijk's socio-cognitive analysis to construct the Iraqi refugee crisis in news discourse. I examined a purposive sampling of headings selected from *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*. As a result, I argue that an in-depth look needs to be taken at the meaning potential of the macrosemantics of the headlines and sub-headlines as used in news articles.

The most remarkable finding to emerge from Chapter Five is that the Iraqi refugee crisis is defined as a social problem in the Middle East where the main focus is on ethnic-religious minorities, such as the Yazidis and Christians, in news reports. All in all, both *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* reinforce the idea that the Iraqi refugees have experienced forced displacement, brutal attacks, exodus, and demographic relocation in Iraq.

Chapter Five analyzed the discourse headlines in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*. To this end, the models of socio-cognitive analysis and framing analysis are used to deconstruct the linguistic portrayal of Iraqis. Consequently, the study arrives at the following conclusions: Firstly, news headlines are viewed as performing political and empathetic discourse functions in *The Guardian*; and secondly, the results reveal that the portrayal of discourse in *Deutsche Welle* is the effect of the political events in Germany.

Chapter 6: A Multimodal Analysis of the Linguistic and Visual Modes, i.e., images and texts

6.1. Introduction

This chapter analyzes the features of multimodal texts referring to Iraqi refugees in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*. Just as spoken and written language, images in media discourse are also structured to make meanings. Kress (2010) confirms that any modality can be described as a criterion for making meaning systemized in three primary correlated meanings: Firstly, a depiction of some type of human social experience, called ideational meaning. Secondly, interpersonal meaning includes a social interface between people in the interactive act, and thirdly, a flow of semiotic resources that unifies and shapes interpersonal relations and human social experience into the flow of text, called textual meaning.

As previously stated, with a specific emphasis on the theoretical and methodological perspectives, this chapter delves into a multi-semiotic analysis of linguistic and visual texts. Following Gunther Kress and Theo van Leeuwen's (1996/2006) 'grammar' of visual design, the aim is to examine how the visual depiction and construction of Iraqi refugees take place. By employing this approach, I can gain valuable insights into how Iraqi refugees are visually represented and perceived. Concepts used for the analysis and coding of visual images are drawn on the social semiotic approach (Kress & van Leeuwen, 1996, 2006; van Leeuwen, 2008; van Leeuwen, 2021), which focuses on the visual representation of people as semiotic resources.

To this end, the three focal types of meanings, representational, interactive, and compositional, proposed to be taken into account when exploring images will be used in the analysis. These meanings were used to analyze images and to deconstruct and delve deeper into the representation of refugees. Van Leeuwen's (2008) characterization of social actors, categorizing the depiction of people as social actors in discourse, thus proved vital and useful to deconstruct how refugees are portrayed. That is, I employ van Leeuwen's strategies (2008) of depicting people in this chapter to construct different actions: Some of the actions represented are the categorization of cultural and biological characteristics, others are the homogenization and differentiation of people, and yet others are the inclusion and exclusion of people in images. To this end, these features would depict people both directly and indirectly.

All in all, these tools can display a lens through which to analyze the images in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* and create links to the social representation of the identities in the media. Hence, the use of photographs in the media is important, since they act as visual materials for persuading readers or viewers to interact with the visual text. To this end, the aim of this section is to contribute to the visual depiction of Iraqis as refugees in the media as a way of seeing how refugees are depicted socially and culturally in a sample of multimodal texts from *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*.

In this sense, an additional aim is to see what social relations are suggested between the audience and the participants represented in the images. Most of the images dealing with Iraqis focus on their first fleeing and displacement in Iraq; for this reason, I have picked up visual images that inform the viewers about this crisis. The study of refugees, specifically, their images, is crucial since they display realistic settings and visual information about displaced people or refugees.

Following the new book by van Leeuwen (2021) *Multimodality and Identity*, multimodal studies tend to strengthen our perception regarding the role of semiosis in the space of societies (p. 51) '[. . .], social semiotic interpretation needs to build on three kinds of knowledge: a knowledge of language and other semiotic modes; a knowledge of cultural history, and a knowledge of sociological and philosophical theories that can help us understand the role of semiosis in social life'. In the context of CDA, discourse is a matter of social practice, and it can be constructed based on the flow of the social situation and its production. Its eclectic and interdisciplinary nature allows for greater depth on social issues, such as immigration (Wodak & Meyer, 2009). In the media, understanding the legitimation and manipulation of social groups can only be done through the lens of CDA. Furthermore, the perspective of CDA helps to understand how social groups are excluded and included in the space of society while depicting refugees in the visual images (van Dijk, 2009; Wodak & Meyer, 2009, cited in Martínez Lirola, 2022a).

In this chapter, I have a particular interest in examining how news articles depict the Iraqi refugees as victims, as evidenced by a selected sample from *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*. While my focus lies primarily on the accompanying news photographs, it is important to note that these visual elements are integrated within the news articles as multimodal texts, where written language plays a crucial role in conveying meaning. Hence, the following subsection aims to delve into the key features of the written representation of immigrants, drawing upon the headings and sub-headings present in the analyzed corpus.

The general perspective of social semiotic approaches to multimodality involves expanding the social understanding of language and its significance to encompass all forms of representation and communication used within a particular culture (Kress, 2009; van Leeuwen, 2005a). The following analysis deals with the depiction of how visual images of the Iraqi refugees and textual aspects can be performed in discourse by using headings to engage the viewer and reader. Besides, it sheds light on how *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle's* depiction hold a significant influence on shaping our perceptions of the displaced Iraqis.

Following a multimodal discourse analysis, which drew on a social semiotic approach and thus on the former principles of CDA and SFL, the analysis will be formally qualitative. Accordingly, I examine in detail thirteen visual images as a way of seeing the focal ways in which the Iraqi refugees are visually and linguistically depicted in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*. The analysis will focus largely on visual images since they are the elements that reflect real scenes in the media and, more fully, catch the

audience's attention. However, it examines the way visual images and verbal texts combine within multimodal discourse to show societal realities and cultural aspects.

In the media, online newspapers tend to dominate how we see refugees. That is, visual images often tend to exclude other social actors, disregarding their historical, cultural, religious, and political contexts. Based on this perspective, there has been intense focus on the Iraqi refugee crisis in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*. The visual images of the displaced Iraqis in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* have played a crucial role in transmitting visual information to the audience. To this end, this thesis argues that visual images play a role in collaboratively constructing prevailing discourses surrounding the displaced Iraqis.

As the discourse of the media is multimodal, it is not surprising that most of the news items analyzed have a visual illustrating the written text (Martínez Lirola, 2022a). Although all the texts collected were analyzed, it is not possible to offer a qualitative analysis of the entire corpus in one thesis. On this basis, the corpus was collected and classified into patterns or categories for the analysis based on an analytical research method provided by Bateman et al. (2017).

Consequently, the 14 multimodal news texts selected for detailed analysis are justified because they illustrate the main visual methods used by *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* to depict the Iraqi refugees in the refugee camps. The heading, sub-heading, and visual are offered in each case. The selected multimodal texts are representative of the three patterns of Iraqi refugees within the data corpus, with a selected figure of each pattern included with a detailed analysis. The first category captures the Iraqis as refugees in the refugee camp, whilst the second category of displaced Iraqis, who were in an influx of people, proves the depictions of Iraqis in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* are the same. The last category of refugee women and children, who were fleeing war and violence, demonstrates the hardship as if it were a burden carried by each individual .

6.2. Approaching the general analysis of the linguistic texts used to depict the Iraqi refugees as victims in need of protection.

The selection of lexis, such as words and phrases, and expressions in headlines and sub-headlines, is vital as it can either humanize or dehumanize individuals or social actors in the media (Nelson & Davis-Wiley, 2018). In discourse, refugees or immigrants are often depicted as cohesive groups of individuals who have assimilated into society (van Leuween, 2008). In this sense, the portrayal of the Iraqi refugees as collective groups and individuals in the news images and the use of collective references to them in the headlines and sub-headlines emphasize the concept of victimization and the perceived need to protect them from war and violence.

Based on the corpus from *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*, the idiomatic expressions and references to the Iraqi refugees are both generic and specific, highlighting the fact that these refugees are enduring a humanitarian crisis. There are expressions and words in the headlines and sub-headlines to depict the terrible situation in which they find themselves: 'facing genocide' (*The Guardian*, 9 August 2014), 'still at risk' (*The Guardian*, 14 August 2014), 'critical situation' (*The Guardian*, 28 Jan 2015), 'hell' (*The Guardian*, 22 Jan 2015) and 'catastrophic conditions' (*Deutsche Welle*, 10.08.2014), 'left in limbo' (*Deutsche Welle*, 03.02.2015), 'Desperate times' (*Deutsche Welle*, 26.11.2014), 'People are in dire straits' (*Deutsche Welle*, 07.23.2014), 'Desperate escape' (*Deutsche Welle*, 06.23.2014), 'Humanitarian catastrophe' (*Deutsche Welle*, 08.08.2014), 'humanitarian disaster' (*Deutsche Welle*, 06.19.2016), 'human shields' (*Deutsche Welle*, 05.31.2016), which show that they are in need of protection and help.

On the other hand, there are some words that show the critical situation of the Iraqi refugees in the headings because they coincide with the status of being unwilling to move or flee. For example, the word 'trapped' has been depicted in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* to reinforce the idea of the tough circumstances they are in: 'trapped' (*The Guardian*, 1 July 2017, 1 April 2016, 13 March 2017, 8 Jun 2016, 13 August 2014) 'trapped' (*Deutsche Welle*, 05.26.2016, 05.28.2016), 'stuck' (*Deutsche Welle*, 04.30.2019), 'scuffle' (*Deutsche Welle*, 12.05.2016). In this sense, the Iraqi refugees are depicted as victims of war and violence. Showing them as people who are trapped in the Isis territory suggests that they are inactive agents, since they can not do anything. They are also depicted in the headings as inactive social actors: they are the targets of the crisis, which implies that they face difficult challenges to find a safe place. In addition, they are also depicted as passive, in that they are stuck in limbo; in the whole, the Iraqis are depicted as such when they are not successful in the migratory process.

Additionally, using the lack of services and food reinforces the idea of victimization, making it obvious that there are countless Iraqi refugees scuffling over the scarce supplies of services, food, and water. For example, the following phrases demonstrate the idea of victimization: 'exhausted and dehydrated' (*Deutsche Welle*, 28.02.2017), 'Poverty and lack of services' (*Deutsche Welle*, 29.04.2018), 'hungry and traumatized' (*Deutsche Welle*, 07.25.2017), 'scarce aid supplies' (*Deutsche Welle*, 12.05.2016),

‘contaminated food’ (*The Guardian*, 13 June 2017), ‘Little respite’ (*The Guardian*, 3 Aug 2016). All in all, the refugees are depicted in headings in connection to poverty and a shortage of food and services since they are trapped and stopped from fleeing from ISIS or because nobody can reach them due to the war and violence. Hence, using the voice of poverty and the lack of services and food is an explicit message used by *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* to show the number of Iraqi refugees who suffer in Iraq. To this end, the various instances of language employed in the headings to describe Iraqi refugees, as discussed earlier, serve as illustrations of *appraisal*. As van Leeuwen (2008) puts it, “Social actors are appraised when they are described using terms that assess them as positive or negative, loved or hated, admired or pitied” (p. 45). Based on the headings, *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* tend to show refugees in terms of sympathized language when it comes to the idea of victimization. However, they tend to construct them in relation to the processes of dehumanization both visually and verbally.

6.3. Deconstructing the multimodal texts

After a preliminary bottom-up reading of 640 news articles (see Chapter 4, the methodology), I observed the recurrence of certain subject matters (Martikainen & Sakki, 2021). That is, the multimodal texts are entirely classified and selected according to the subject matter, i.e., patterns, and as the basis for the classification. I ended up with three main thematic patterns: Refugees in camps, i.e., the act of protection; refugees in transit, i.e., exodus displacement; individual refugees and families, i.e., agonizing refugees. However, the texts selected in this chapter are characteristic of the multimodal texts included in the thematic patterns (Serafis et al., 2020).

The multimodal texts analyzed in this chapter are based on general characteristics. That is, multimodal patterns have been selected for the analysis since present societies are multimodal (e.g., O’Halloran, 2009; Kress, 2010; O’Halloran, 2011a; O’Halloran & Smith, 2011; Machin, 2014; Martínez Lirola, 2016, 2017a, 2017b, 2022a, 2022b; Serafis et al., 2020). To this end, all multimodal modes tend to convey meanings in the selected texts. Machin (2013) argues that the naturalization of multi-semiotics occurs through different modes of communication in discourses. Since potential meanings of language are, of course, an important component in CDS and MCDS, Machin (2013: 348) argues that it is important “to understand the way different semiotic resources are employed to communicate values, ideas, and identities and how they enable and constrain different kinds of interactions”. This chapter will focus on offering the general focal characteristics of the image, headings, and sub-headings as multimodal texts. The following table simply defines each pattern within the provided multimodal texts :

Table 2. Multimodal patterns of the rhetorical and semiotic discourses.

Patterns: TG and DW	Number of multimodal texts	Semiotic and Rhetorical Strategy	Discourse Rhetorical function
Refugees in camps	89	Individualizing	Distant refugee (<i>Humanizing</i>)
refugees in transit	314	Separating, massifying	Othering, threat (<i>Dehumanizing</i>)
Individual refugees and families	237	Individualizing	Personhood and distant (<i>Humanizing and Dehumanizing</i>)

6.3.1. Constructing the depiction of displaced Iraqis in the refugee camps

Pattern one tends to deconstruct the depiction of displaced Iraqis in the refugee camps; it incorporates four figures depicting Iraqis who inhabit the refugee camps. However, pattern one is characteristic of the Iraqi refugees rescued by the United Nations high commissioners for refugees. To this end, Figure 1 depicts refugees trapped with their families in the refugee camps; the three children are the most salient figures in the visual. Figure 2 shows one individual refugee in a frontal and close shot; therefore, the UNHCR tents appear in the background. Figure 3 portrays Iraqi refugees as having temporary shelter and receiving international aid; therefore, the logo of the UNHCR appears clearly in the background, and the two refugees appear in the foreground. Figure 4 also depicts refugees who inhabit the refugee camp. The EU delegation, shown in Figure 4, serves as the actor, while the older woman, referred to as a refugee, represents the recipient or target.

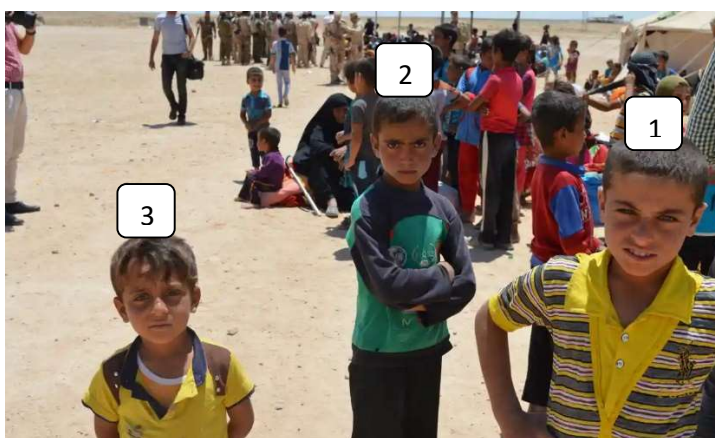


Figure 1. Text from *The Guardian*, 1 June 2016.

Link: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jun/01/falluja-iraq-children-risk-un-united-nations>

Heading. *Headline: Thousands of children at risk in Falluja, says UN*

Sub-heading. *Unicef urges warring forces in besieged Iraqi city to protect the children as battle to oust Isis continues*

Caption. *Displaced children from Falluja. The UN has warned of a humanitarian crisis in the besieged Iraqi city.*

Figure 1 depicts a group of displaced refugees with a focus on children in the visual. The image reflects the Iraqi refugee crisis, especially the internally displaced people, in which we can see displaced children and their families that are trapped in this place. The image implies a more semantic load of refugees in the background, which indicates that there are more refugees, but the lack of context makes viewers unable to pick out the other refugees (Breazu & Machin, 2018). Much focus is placed on the individualization of the three children depicted in the visual (van Leeuwen, 2008, 2021). The three children are depicted in a medium shot from a slightly high angle (Kress & van Leeuwen, 1996).

This shot shows interaction between represented participants and viewers and conveys a sense of physical space (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2006). The frontal angle situates the readers in the place of the children, establishing an intimate connection between the depicted children and the viewers (Kress & van Leeuwen, 1996). In this context, the three children who look directly at the viewer (classified as demand), establish an imaginary liaison (McIntyre et al., 2023). Such a direct look, therefore, invites the viewers to become involved in an imaginary relationship with them (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2006: 116-118).

Vectors show us that the refugees' behavior (1, 2, and 3) involves different physical hand movements while standing up and looking directly at the audience. Such a shot holds a "demand" action because the represented participants are looking at the camera lens, which enables viewers to get close to the depicted refugees (van Leeuwen, 2008: 141). With regard to salience, the three children themselves stand out as the most prominent figures in the image, capturing the viewer's attention since the emphasis is placed on those three children (Kress & van Leeuwen, 1996).

As such, with a direct gaze at the viewer, the inclusion of children as representatives of humanitarian intervention and concern is likely to remain prominent in media images using visuals, especially the way children are depicted, and particularly among Western audiences (Lenette, 2017). The selection of this shot tends to construct an impression for the audience of knowing the represented participants well (Bellander, 2022). Accordingly, a medium shot is likely to request viewers' emotional reactions (Zhang & Hellmueller, 2017). On the other hand, the children depicted in this image are portrayed as a relatively homogeneous group (van Leeuwen, 2008). Although men and women are present in reality, they are excluded from being part of the group depicted in this image (van Leeuwen, 2008).

In contrast, Figure 1 implies another aspect of meaning in the visual. For instance, the other refugees in the background are depicted as distancing the audience, making viewers see the depicted refugees as 'others' (Ledin & Machin, 2018). The long shot employed in this visual sets the other refugees in the

background, while the oblique angle adds to the sense of distance between the audience and their reality, emphasizing the clear contrast between the two. Instead, the long shots in this image serve to provide the audience with comprehensive perspectives of the geographic landscapes and the tents, showing a broader understanding of the surroundings.

Regarding the multimodal text, the headline and sub-headlines are presented as being sourced from *The Guardian*. The linguistic heading and visual image show the same information about the children who have been obliged to flee the war in Iraq (Martínez Lirola, 2022a). However, the heading refers to the risks as regards the children and their situation, whereas the sub-headline reinforces the idea of risk by topicalizing the UN as an important social actor in taking action regarding the concerns of the refugees. Also, the caption informs us that there is a humanitarian crisis as regards the displaced children in Fallujah. All in all, the linguistic texts, including the headings and sub-headings, signify that those children are facing harsh circumstances while trapped with their families inside Falluja. In this sense, the choices of lexical words in the headline, sub-heading, caption, and image create a discourse of unprotected children as victims of war. To this end, the construction of children in the multimodal text places emphasis on *The Guardian's* coverage, since the communication modes are entirely devoted to children's tragic situations (Saric, 2019).



Figure 2. Text from the *Deutsche Welle*, February 3, 2015.

Link: <https://www.dw.com/en/fleeing-from-is-iraqis-left-in-limbo/a-18229972>

Heading: *Fleeing from 'IS,' Iraqis left in limbo*

Sub-heading: *Iraqi families have come north to escape the "IS" advance, but as Sunni Arabs they are viewed with suspicion and must remain on the outskirts of Kurdish-controlled Kirkuk.*

In Figure 2, a little girl is standing in the foreground, and her traits are identifiable. In other words, the image captures a close-up shot of a young girl, noticeably highlighting her facial expressions, and the fact that she is the only refugee in the image communicates loneliness, persistence, and vulnerability. Figure 2 employs a close-up shot, which depicts the refugee as an intimate friend (Martikainen & Sakki, 2023). Such framing in terms of proximity makes her appear as both vulnerable and approachable (Kress & Van Leeuwen, 2006). When it comes to humanitarian communication, the image of this child symbolizes a remarkably vulnerable subject (Jhoti & Allen, 2024) since it shows innocence and purity

and attracts significant attention from viewers. As a result, it effectively conveys a demand message, as stated by Kress and van Leeuwen (1996).

Furthermore, the image engages the viewers by presenting a frontal angle shot, which effectively involves them in the depicted scene. The angle creates a sense of concern among the viewers and forces them to take action in response (Kress & van Leeuwen, 1996). The shot is a noticeable example of a “demand” image (van Leeuwen, 2008: 141) because the girl is directly looking at the lens, creating an intimate connection between the depicted refugee and the audience. When paying attention to the social interaction, the image allows the viewers to feel personally engaged because the refugee is the focus of the image. However, she is the most salient component of the image due to her size; her placement in the middle of the image focuses the viewers’ attention on her. The little girl addresses the viewer with her sharp look and reduces the distance from the audience, whose direct gaze clearly provides personalization to the image (Lenette, 2017).

Based on Kress and van Leeuwen’s (2006) book ‘*Reading Images*’, Figure 2 is an attributive symbolic process– we can only interpret the pose of the little girl as an identity image because of the salience of the surrounding tents in the background. That is, the image is conventionally associated with the symbolic value of the environment. Also, the little girl is depicted in the camps, where we can see the refugee is alone, and aspects of fatherhood and motherhood are missing. All in all, the image offers an explicit sense of the Iraqi children and the critical situation they suffer (Martikainen & Sakki, 2021; Lenette, 2017).

Generally speaking, images of children in the media as representations of humanity as a whole have been extensively used to raise compassion among viewers, and to shape the conceptualization of refugees in public discourse. Considering this, according to Malkki (2015: 79), “the child is often made to appear as the exemplary human and as politically neutral.” On the other hand, the image connotes some meanings. Figure 2, according to van Leeuwen (2008), is individualized and avoids any collectivization or assimilation, and therefore, the refugee identity as an individual is clearly recognized. In this sense, we see the refugee is standing in front of the refugee camps and behind her the many tents of the UNHCR, who is treated as a sole figure in the visual. As a result, the image highlights the young girl as the most salient figure to be emphasized. Although the image shows the refugee in the refugee camps, it makes the little girl appear oppressed and a victim of conflict and circumstances (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2006), creating feelings of empathy.

In this multimodal text, the segments of the news items are presented as being sourced from *Deutsche Welle*. The written text, specifically the main heading, specifies that the Iraqi refugees have been left in limbo, and no one cares about them; that is, they are victims, which explicitly strengthens the meaning of the sub-heading about refugees who are waiting on the outskirts to enter the Kurdistan region of Iraq. Much focus is placed on the collectivization of Iraqis in the linguistic texts (van Leeuwen, 2008). In

this sense, the collectivization of the unidentifiable number of Iraqis *Fleeing from 'IS,' Iraqis left in limbo*, also helps to provide a sense that there is a huge number of displaced refugees (Breazu & Machin, 2018). However, the visual image and the written language serve different purposes and convey distinct messages. While the headings depict the Iraqi refugees in a generic and homogenized way, the visual image specifies only one individual refugee. However, we cannot distinguish the idea of refugees and the way they are being left in limbo in the visual. In this sense, the individual refugee in this visual is used by the editors to somehow create an alignment in the news items, and such a kind of multimodal is an instance of that (Martínez Lirola, 2022a).



Figure 3. Text from *The Guardian*, 6 December 2014.

Link: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/dec/06/winter-threat-iraq-refugees-kurdish-region-camps-isis>

Heading. *Winter brings fresh threat to Iraq’s refugees who fled the Isis advance*

Sub-heading. *Two million Iraqis and Syrians displaced by Isis fighting face misery in teeming camps, as Kurds appeal for more help*

Caption. *A Yazidi girl holds her little brother at Khanke camp in Duhok, Iraqi Kurdistan.*

In Figure 3, the depicted refugees are individualized, and the medium shot strengthens the perception of its social distance to the audience (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2006). The whole image is structured around the two refugees represented in the foreground. On the one hand, the image shows a little girl holding a child whose role is that of being the actor in this photo. Representational meaning can be attributive, as can narrative. Narrative processes are tied by vectors showing actors doing something in photographs. In this regard, Figure 3 is an attributive symbolic process because of the salient tent (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2006). Following Kress and van Leeuwen (2006:105), “Represented participants in symbolic attributive processes usually pose for the audience, rather than being shown as involved in some action.” Accordingly, Figure 3 is an identity image, not an action image including an action or vectors. That is, the image is conventionally associated with symbolic value, especially the prominence of the tent.

On the other hand, based on advocacy communication work, such an image aims to raise engagement with the audience since the depicted refugees represent a sole icon, non-parents, or the lack of presence of fatherhood and motherhood (Bozdag & Smets, 2017). Therefore, with a look of defeat as well as hopelessness, the image is evoking the misery and instability of the Iraqi children and their need for protection. And the figure itself connotes purity and innocence to appeal to the very heart of the public (Malkki, 1996). On the other hand, in Figure 3, there are elements that establish our perception: lack of surrounding context, lack of fatherhood and motherhood, and the position of the cameraman who sets the audience apart from the environment as an observer (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2006).

Such an image shows how media choices offer specific visual content and maintain the logic of specific children as refugees suffering and deserving to stand with them (Jhoti & Allen, 2024). When taking a look at the background, the prominence of the logo of the UNHCR is clear, and the two refugees appear in the foreground. That is, the image shows two refugees outdoors, and behind them, there is a tent showing the UNHCR's name. In this sense, the prominence of the logo carries meaning to the audience; it conveys the organization's rescue, or more especially, its mission to save children by providing them with shelter while they flee the violence. The construction of the image enables the UNHCR's mission and role in the camps to be acknowledged, as Western viewers can observe the intervention of their homelands in helping Iraqi refugees (Lenette, 2017).

The interactional meta-function shows the relationship between the image maker and the viewer. We looked at the focal element of this function. Figure 3 deals with the direct look of the refugees at the camera (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2006). The participants' look in this image seems to be meaningful as if looking for help, since there is eye contact between the participants and the viewers. In this context, participants who look directly at the viewer (classified as demand), establish an imaginary liaison (McIntyre et al., 2023). Such a direct look, therefore, invites the viewers to become involved in an imaginary relationship with them (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2006). Overtly, the participants revealed a remarkable mark of contact with the viewer and the producer by looking directly at the camera (Bellander, 2022). As such, with a direct gaze at the viewer, the inclusion of children as representatives of humanitarian intervention and concern is likely to remain prominent in media images using emotional visuals and particularly among Western audiences (Lenette, 2017).

Concerning the compositional level, the image corroborates the highlighting of the participants because the salience relates to the two refugees that draw the viewer's attention (e.g., sister-boy relationship) by means of different bright colours in the image. In addition, a little girl holding a child while dressed in black in the image communicates innocence and sadness (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2002), which coincides with gloominess and scenes of suffering. According to Kress & van Leeuwen (2002), in most parts of Europe the colour black is for mourning. Hence, the image of the little girl with her distressed face suggests the uncertainty of and fear for the future (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2002; Martikainen &

Sakki, 2023). Overall, the children depicted in Figure 3 demonstrate a specific visual function, symbolizing individual categorizations.

Following van Leeuwen's strategies (2008: 136) for depicting people, "individual categorization" is prominent in Figure 3 and has the effect of focusing on individual identity. Figure 3 shows children in an individualized way, and it is often suggested that the clear identification of one refugee or two depicted in visual images may foster compassion in viewers (Dahin, 2023). The analysis of the interface between the linguistic and visual modes in Figure 3 allows us to explore the constructed meaning and identify its potential discursively. When it comes to the multimodal alignment i.e., headline and image in figure 3, it is observed as follows: Firstly, let us look at the headline '*Winter brings fresh threat to Iraq's refugees who fled the Isis advance,*' and sub-headline '*Two million Iraqis and Syrians displaced by Isis fighting face misery in teeming camps, as Kurds appeal for more help.*' The linguistic text of the headings is presented as being sourced from *The Guardian*. In this sense, much emphasis is placed on the "aggregation" of the refugees through naming and assimilation, treating them as quantifiers of collectivized groups of participants (van Leeuwen, 2008: 37). In this sense, the headline explicitly focuses on the Iraqi refugees and their critical situation in Winter. However, the sub-headline refers to two million Iraqis and Syrians who face critical misery in the teeming camps. In this context, the sub-headline does not employ a piece of specific information about refugees in Iraq. Instead, it refers to both Iraqis and Syrians in general. Secondly, the multimodal text uses both image and written language for distinct purposes. Thirdly, the refugees in Figure 3 are depicted in terms of individually distinguishable aspects. However, there is no indication of millions of refugees in the visual image. In this context, readers can only discern the visual information through the image's caption, which portrays only two children (Martínez Lirola, 2022a).



Figure 4. Text from the *Deutsche Welle*, August 3, 2016

Link: <https://www.dw.com/en/refugee-camp-in-northern-iraq-bursting-at-the-seams/a-19447396>

Heading: *Iraqi refugee camp bursting at the seams*

Sub-heading: *The Kurds are fighting "Islamic State" but they also must care for refugees. Now they are running out of money. Can the EU commissioner for humanitarian crisis management help? Georg Matthes accompanied him to Erbil.*

Figure 4 depicts the EU delegation and an elderly Iraqi woman. When it comes to vectors, it may be observed that there is a unidirectional transactional action of the social actors (Figure 1 and Refugee 2) (Kress & van Leeuwen, 1996). In this sense, Figure 4 represents the EU delegation and acts as the role of the actor, while an elderly woman (refugee 2) serves as the goal. Notably, the uniform worn in Figure 4 actor 1 shows the European Union logo, symbolizing the individual as a representation of the collective whole, with the logo being a constituent part (Kress & van Leeuwen, 1996).

Figure 4 conveys the sense that the European Union is actively engaged with refugees, which communicates a kind of support and care regarding displaced people in Iraq. Figure 4 shows some vectors of the social actors in the visual. That is, the face-palm of the woman's gesture communicates sadness and crying and the difficulty she suffers, whilst the man's arm on the refugee's shoulder communicates affection and creates the sense that the man is trying to calm her down (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2006). Nevertheless, the image is captured in a medium shot. However, there is no social interaction between the social actors and the viewers (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2006). Hence, the image creates a sense of exclusion since the viewer is being quietly excluded from the depicted action (Kress & van Leeuwen, 1996).

The image is considered an offer image since there is no direct look between the represented participants and the audience (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2006). In other words, the depicted image serves as a prominent instance of an offer image (van Leeuwen, 2008) since none of the social actors within the image direct their gaze towards the audience. This suggests that the depicted image just focuses on the EU commissioner and his role in Iraq.

In Figure 4, the participants from EU society are identified by their uniform and prominent EU logo, which suggests their role and gives them status through visual emphasis. In addition, in Figure 4, EU members are prominent in the shot, which communicates a sense of protection to the audience. That is, the deep navy blue of the man's uniform also communicates a sense of security (Morton, 1997: 27). Such semiotic resources may play a significant role in conveying meaning to the audience. To this end, all of the above contributes to making the image salient, but also highlights the we-they dichotomy (refugees and non-refugees) (Martínez Lirola, 2022a).

In Figure 4, the elderly woman is individualized since she is the one refugee who is being taken care of. That is, the refugee is depicted in terms of individual character, highlighting her unique identity (van Leeuwen, 2008). Although news images of refugees in the European refugee crisis were usually taken from a very high viewing angle at the level of textual metafunction, which denied the refugees and their agencies and positioned the audience as superior (Martikainen & Sakki, 2021), the image of this elderly Iraqi woman in Figure 4 occupies both the eye-level angle as well as the focus of EU members. Hence, this type of shot makes the woman and the EU members equal with the audience (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2006) and, thus, can be recognized as a humanizing visual strategy.

Moreover, following van Leeuwen's strategies (2008) for depicting people, the refugee is identified by some cultural classifications, such as a scarf and long clothing. Hence, all these semiotic resources convey a sense and construct a Middle Eastern cultural classification. In contrast, the man is seen wearing a distinct jacket featuring the emblem of the European Union. In this sense, the image enables the EU members to be acknowledged, as Western viewers can observe the intervention of their homelands in helping Iraqi refugees (Lenette, 2017).

Regarding multimodality, there is a general tendency to observe that the headline, sub-headline, and visual image have a mutual sense. This is an example where the headings and the image suggest the same message. More explicitly, as the sub-heading questions whether the EU commissioner can manage this crisis, the image shows the EU commissioner being active since he is caring for the displaced Iraqis. In this sense, viewers can distinguish what has been presented in the multimodal text to infer the information clearly.

6.3.2. Constructing multimodal texts in relation to exodus and forced displacement

Pattern 2 is characteristic of the very first migration in Iraq because you can see that the refugees are fleeing en masse. All the images evoke this mass departure; people who flee ISIS and need to be helped. Moreover, Pattern 2 is characteristic of the other images in the corpus and portrays a significant internal influx of displaced refugees in Iraq. The texts analyzed mostly depict Iraqi refugees as a large unified group, reflecting a pattern of collective representation.

In this sense, following van Leeuwen's concepts (2008, 38), the texts analyzed are "assimilated" and "collectively/collective"; therefore, there are no indications of portraying individual characteristics related to the idea of forced displacement or exodus. Individual representation is consistently absent in the photographs analyzed. Pattern 2 encompasses 4 multimodal texts. However, all refugees are depicted in terms of an influx wave and in high shots, where all refugees are engaged from a long-distance perspective and share the same characteristics in the visual.



Figure 5. Text from *The Guardian*, 8 November 2016.

Link: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/nov/08/isis-forces-1500-iraqi-families-to-march-to-mosul>

Heading: *Isis forces 1,500 Iraqi families to march to Mosul*

Sub-heading: *Civilians expected to be used as human shields by Islamic State as it loses control of village where mass grave found*

Caption: *People leave Hammam al-Alil, south of Mosul.*

Figure 5 reflects the very clear impression of the forced displacement in Iraq. The image shows a huge influx of refugees in a long queue, which suggests that many Iraqis have been obliged to flee their homes as a result of ISIS. The action in Figure 5 is formed by the vector, the line that ties all refugees in a massive group of people. Refugees are moving in masse, as if being overflowing. In this sense, all the actors in Figure 5 are those from which vector produces actions in terms of a huge fleeing (Massari, 2021).

Furthermore, they are foregrounded because the shot is captured from a high position, and the parts of their bodies do not contribute to highlighting any of the refugees depicted. In addition, the image evokes countless refugees because there are many people in the background with a long-ended visual. That is, there is a greater semantic load and influx in the background where the large number of moving refugees remains obscured (Martínez Lirola, 2022). Moreover, the image illustrates the refugees' situation: they face challenging conditions, carrying their essential belongings while fleeing conflict. In Figure 5, the influx of refugees is vast, and the long-shot strengthens our observation of its scale, highlighting the huge number of people fleeing. Hence, such an image reinforces the strong impression of forced displacement (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2006).

The image evokes Iraqis as victims because they are depicted without anything or with no help to offer in the migratory process; the portrayed refugees appear as masses or volumes of dehumanized groups (Massari, 2021; Martínez Lirola, 2022). The high angle of the image implies that the readers have power over the depicted Iraqis since they are seen from above (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2006). On the other hand, all refugees are depicted at the same level and in huge groups. In this sense, following van Leeuwen's strategies (2008, 38) for depicting people, the refugees in Figure 5 are "assimilated and collectivized" because their individual identities are absent. That is, there is no indication of having any individual characteristics in the visual (Martínez Lirola, 2022a).

The image is taken from a high, long shot since the refugees are not clearly distinguishable. Following the social semiotic work, long visual shots are interpreted as distancing the audience from the depicted scene and making the viewers observe the refugees depicted as others (Ledin and Machin, 2018). According to prior research, such a magnitude of refugees has always been constructed in the media as 'wave' and 'flood' (Martikainen & Sakki, 2021). The refugees in Figure 5 are depicted lower, which makes the Iraqis in this shot appear as inferiors (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2006).

Generally, van Leeuwen's (2008) visual depiction of the social actor helps us to see the focal strategies of the type of social interaction and distancing constructed in Figure 5. Firstly, the image analyzed in Figure 5 shows a distance between the refugees depicted and the audience. That is, the image is shot from a distance, which is impersonal since the refugees appear from a long, high angle. In this sense, according to van Leeuwen (2008: 138), "in pictures as in reality, distance tends to communicate interpersonal relationships." When considering this, distance is figurative and symbolic in Figure 5 since it suggests that refugees are depicted as strangers. Secondly, when considering social interaction, it may be observed that the refugees do not look directly at the audience; hence, there is no demand. In this context, the Iraqi refugees are depicted as "objects."

Following Van Leeuwen's strategies (2008: 141) for depicting people. Figure 5 is classified under the strategy of objectification: "the strategy of objectification, representing people as objects for our scrutiny, rather than as subjects addressing the viewer with their gaze and symbolically engaging with the viewer in this way." Such a depiction may show and reinforce the dichotomy between 'us' and 'them' in media photographs. On the other hand, the depicted participants are portrayed as a homogeneous group since they are shown with an equal emphasis on their shared characteristics. Furthermore, they are distant from the viewer and culturally classified by their clothing, such as the men's attire and the women's hijabs, which represents cultural classification related to the Middle East and Islamic culture (Van Leeuwen, 2008).

When it comes to multimodality, the headline informs us that ISIS forces 1,500 Iraqi families to march to Mosul. Moreover, the sub-heading indicates that displaced people and civilians are facing challenges as a result of ISIS, and it suggests that Iraqi refugees expect to be used as human shields. In addition, the image shows us a huge influx of refugees. In this regard, the multimodal text conveys a consistent message and reinforces the idea of a huge displacement to the readers.



Figure 6. Text from the *Deutsche Welle*, August 10, 2014

Link: <https://www.dw.com/en/iraqi-refugees-face-catastrophic-conditions/a-17843817>

Heading: *Iraqi refugees face 'catastrophic' conditions*

Sub-heading: *The situation is dire for the 200,000 Yazidis fleeing the violence of Islamic State fighters in northern Iraq. Members of the persecuted religious minority say they even feel abandoned by Kurdish peshmerga fighters.*

The construction of Iraqis as refugees in relation to a forced displacement is very clear in this visual image, since they appear as active participants in the process of escaping, which is an indication of a huge displacement. The image depicts a large group of refugees in Iraq, showing a massive flood of people as they flee, carrying valuable belongings. However, the image reflects a long line of refugees with backpacks, all moving in the same direction. In Figure 6, the refugees are not identifiable, and the large group of Iraqis is depicted with their backs towards the audience; their faces are not seen; therefore, no social interaction with the viewer is constructed (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2006). Due to the long shot, detached, and from a high angle, the refugees are distanced from the audience. Such a

positioning angle effectively disconnects the viewers from the refugees (Kress & van Leeuwen, 1996). In this sense, the very lack of eye contact with the depicted refugees makes Figure 6 an offer image (Massari, 2021). In Figure 6, the line of fleeing refugees is vast and long, and reinforces our perception of its scale (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2006). When it comes to the narrative structure of this image, it may be observed that the action of this image is formed by the prominent vector, the line that ties all refugees together in one movement. That is, the refugees are escaping en masse with a long, strong directionality (Massari, 2021).

Most explicitly, the social actors in Figure 6 are those from which the vector generates. Since the shot is taken from the back, constructing their movement collectively evokes an evident sense of forced fleeing in the viewers. In previous research, such a shot of refugees has been referred to as 'flood' and 'wave' (Martikainen & Sakki, 2021). The refugees are portrayed with their backs towards the audience; they are faceless, and no contact with the viewers is constructed (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2006), which reinforces the dichotomy between us and them in discourse. In this context, all refugees are depicted as anonymous and faceless herds. Such a depiction in media images tends to dehumanize refugees, depicting them as others. Also, the viewing angle of the image positions the readers above the depicted refugees. As indicated by Kress and van Leeuwen (1996), the power relation between refugees and viewers is characterized by an unequal relationship. The Iraqi refugees are depicted as distant, without a direct eye-level link with the viewers; Furthermore, the high shot signifies that viewers have power over the depicted Iraqis since they are seen from above, demonstrating that the reality of refugees is different from that of the viewers and have depicted as as strangers (van Leeuwen, 2008).

One of the focal characteristics of Figure 6 is that refugees are depicted as a large group. Following van Leeuwen's terms (2008), in Figure 6, individual identities are avoided since they are assimilated and collectivized, and never represented separately. In this sense, all refugees are depicted at the same level. The idea of homogenization is explicit as they are depicted as an unspecified large group of people (Martínez Lirola, 2017a, 2017b, 2022a). In this sense, the refugees in Figure 6 appear as just objects to be perceived by the viewers. This visual therefore reinforces what van Leeuwen indicates when he refers to "the strategy of objectivation, depicting people as objects for our scrutiny, rather than subjects addressing the viewer with their gaze and symbolically engaging with the viewer in this way" (van Leeuwen, 2008: 141). When it comes to social distance, all the refugees in Figure 6 appear in a long line, and as such, they are depicted as socially "below us" and as low in power compared to the audience (van Leeuwen, 2008). Therefore, all these features form, and stand out as, the most prominent element within the image.

In terms of multimodal text, the written text and visual image share a consistent message, since the main heading suggests that Iraqi refugees are facing severe conditions; that is, they are victims of forced displacement. Furthermore, the given texts are a combination of image and written language, each serving the same purposes. While the image is a homogenous depiction of Iraqis in the midst of a huge migratory process, the sub-heading signifies that the situation is dire for the 200,000 Yazidis fleeing the violence of Islamic State fighters in northern Iraq. In this context, both text and image guide the audience to perceive the information using different modes.



Figure 7. Text from the *Deutsche Welle*, June 17, 2016

Link: <https://www.dw.com/en/no-end-to-islamic-state-murders-of-yazidis/a-19338410>

Heading: *No end to 'Islamic State' murders of Yazidis*

Sub-heading: *"Islamic State" has been enslaving and murdering Yazidis in Iraq for two years. Advocates of the religious and ethnic minority say there's still no end in sight.*



Figure 8. Text from *The Guardian*, 11 Aug 2014

Link: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/aug/10/kurdish-rebels-yazidi-iraq-isis>

Heading: *Iraq: US plans rescue mission for besieged Yazidi refugees*

Sub-heading: *More than 20,000 of the 40,000 trapped by jihadists on a mountaintop have escaped but US considering full-scale rescue.*

Caption: *Thousands of Yazidis trapped in the Sinjar mountains as they tried to escape from Islamic State forces, are rescued by Kurdish peshmerga forces.*

The multimodal texts in Figures 7 and 8 from *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* share the same visual material but frame the news items differently. We now look at the headline published by *The Guardian* on 11 Aug 2014 with a news report ‘*US plans rescue mission for besieged Yazidi refugees.*’ The headline is presented from the British newspaper, which reported on the Yazidi refugees and their critical situation in Iraq. However, the headline itself is attention-stressing and conveys a sense of help, since the adjective ‘besieged’ suggests that the Yazidis are surrounded by ISIS. When it comes to the sub-headline, the Yazidis are impersonalized and depicted as statistics ‘*More than 20,000 of the 40,000 trapped by jihadists on a mountaintop have escaped but US considering full-scale rescue*’. In this sense, such aggregation may tend to collectivize the Yazidis as a large homogenous group (Breazu, 2020).

Also, this aggregation coincides with what is depicted in the visual, since there is a greater semantic load of the refugees in the background. On the other hand, the news items about refugees are full in terms of the use of frame functions, such as numbers and quantity, which perhaps tend to have a rhetorical aspect, when stressing the huge numbers of Yazidis. Such a portrayal, in newspapers, and according to van Dijk (1991: 190), is called “Number Game.” The same material was reported by *Deutsche Welle* on June 17, 2016, to warn about the criminal actions of ISIS towards the ethnic minority, especially the Yazidis, and their severe situation in Iraq. In this sense, the article published by *Deutsche Welle* is an identical coverage of the report article published by *The Guardian*, but slightly different in terms of the lexical choices of the heading.

In terms of the visual images, what I find most interesting in Figures 7 and 8 is their identical shot. Figures 7 and 8 depict displaced Iraqis in an influx wave, in a longshot, and detached. Refugees are all depicted in the same way. In Figures 7 and 8, the panoramic shot of a large number of displaced people firmly homogenized into long-distance conveys a sense of endlessness (Lenette, 2017). In other words, vectors joining refugees’ bodies and lining them up into massive groups make it clear that the shot depicts them in a large group, or “massification”, to stress the magnitude of the displacement (Lenette, 2017:7), but it also takes readers to the end of the visual where the number of refugees fleeing cannot be seen (Martínez-Lirola, 2022a); this is because the images provide no clues to the viewers due to the high shot, the stretches of the long, detached hills, and the lack of context. So, Figures 7 and 8 reflect the notion of the huge numbers of people fleeing in Iraq. Such an image in the media is depersonalizing and dehumanizing, since the depicted refugees are not clearly recognized by the audience, and the effect is rather massified (Lenette, 2017).

When taking a thorough look at both visuals, we see the desert deserves some interpretation. In this sense, one of the most widely used images in Arabia is that of the desert. However, different studies show that the desert implies some ideological and political agendas. The desert is a classic comparison between civilisation and wilderness. It sometimes includes a condition or sense of fear. That is, fear is transferred to the people who inhabit the desert. Broadly speaking, the desert in Figures 7 and 8 is used as a signpost or icon that is both fear-inducing and dehumanizing, since the refugees are depicted to an audience who are familiar with wilderness. It also transfers a sense of fear because it depicts refugees as a wave of invaders. As a result, such shots in the desert can coincide with a non-human figure and can be used to dehumanize people who are outside the social order (Khatib, 2004).

Although Figures 7 and 8 show a massive group of refugees fleeing, they do not provide any actors; a massive group of people acts as vectors of the picture. The vectors in Figures 7 and 8 show us the behavioural process of the refugees, fleeing a severe situation: a problematic circumstance, outdoors, the refugees depicted in the foreground in constant movement. However, such compositional factors create a meaning of escape. To this end, the long-shot strengthens the perception of its scale (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2006).

In Figures 7 and 8, the majority of refugees are depicted in large numbers fleeing with no engagement with the audience at all (Martikainen & Sakki, 2021). Both figures show displaced people forced to flee their homes, and the entire vertical image line creates the impression of a forced movement. In former research work, such images of refugees in the media have been referred to as a 'wave,' 'flood,' and 'refugee crisis' (Amores et al., 2019; Martikainen & Sakki, 2021; Drüeke et al., 2021). The refugees are depicted in these images in a long-distance shot with unclear visibility towards the viewer; their faces are not clearly observed, and no direct eye contact with the audience is constructed (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2006), which reinforces the dichotomy between 'us' as viewers and 'them' as refugees. This is thanks to the distance and the long shot; the viewer does not seem to have a possible connection with those depicted (van Leeuwen, 2021).

Alternatively, in media images in which refugees are foregrounded, depicted in a large group, from long distance, with their faces blurred and not explicitly visible all of these features have shown refugees as others and not like us (Saric, 2019). Photographs such as Figures 7 and 8 greatly strengthen the lack of interaction (van Leeuwen, 2008; Kress & van Leeuwen, 2006). To adjust the refugees fleeing, the image maker uses a very long shot. Eye interaction is vital for identifying social relationships, but Figures 7 and 8 lack this social aspect through which may be built a connection of proximity (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2006). However, the figure manages to show the level of displacement using shots in high and long line of refugees in the background. The exodus-themed picture conveys clues of the so-called trope of massification (Irom et al., 2023). Given that none of the depicted refugees make eye contact with the audience, Figures 7 and 8 offer pictures, since none of the refugees is rendered overtly salient. Hence, these frontal, long-distance shots suggest that there is no relationship between the

viewers and participants, and all refugees symbolize the visual rhetorical strategy that characterizes them in terms of distancing (van Leeuwen, 2008), and as large masses of anonymous refugees (Martikainen & Sakki, 2021).

Generally, in Figures 7 and 8 the assimilated displaced people are depicted as collective. That is, both images show people as a mass of refugees, not really individually identifiable, most of whom are depicted from a high angle and foregrounded. In this sense, by depicting the refugees as being 'below us' due to the frame choice of the camera and shot, it appears that *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* disempower Iraqis, thus depicting them as inferior (Serafis et al., 2020). They are portrayed as objects. Following van Leeuwen's strategies (2008: 141) for depicting people, Figures 7 and 8 visually meet the strategy of objectification: "representing people as objects for our scrutiny, rather than as subjects addressing the viewer with their gaze and symbolically engaging with the viewer in this way". Hence, they are depicted at the same level and are equal in terms of the degree of categorization. On the other hand, Figures 7 and 8 clearly reinforce the victimhood of the refugees being forced to leave their homes (Chouliaraki & Stolic, 2017). Hence, such visuals evoke an exodus of people who flee conflicts and need help.



Figure 9. Text from *The Guardian*, 14 Aug 2014

Link: <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2014/aug/14/iraq-humanitarian-crisis-highest-level-un-aid>

Heading: *Iraq humanitarian crisis has reached highest level, UN aid officials warn*

Sub-heading: *Sheer number of displaced people has created dangerous and complex situation, despite lifting of Isis siege on Mount Sinjar*

Caption: *Displaced Iraqis from the Yazidi community cross the Syrian-Iraqi border along the Fishkhabur bridge over the Tigris River*

Figure 9 is another clear example of forced displacement in Iraq. In this sense, the text dimension and its relation to the image are of course crucial to understanding the entire message of the discourse. However, based on the above headline and sub-headline, there is an example of an intensifier with strong adjectives made by the headline editor to make it more emphatic and striking for the readers. Such a lexical choice in the media refers to the way editors represent something or someone. The headline and sub-headline are achieved by using words such as 'Sheer number, highest level, dangerous

and complex' that indicate and convey strong discourse connotations. Such connotations tend to refer to the additional meanings ascribed to words and images beyond their simple meaning (van Dijk, 2006). However, in Figure 9, the image of large refugees without any focus on individual features clearly conveyed the idea of assimilation expressed through verbal means (Saric, 2019). This is an example of when multimodal text, especially image and text, conveys the same information to the readers (Martínez-Lirola, 2022a).

Most of the refugees depicted in Figure 9 are in transit (Martikainen & Sakki, 2021). That is, Figure 9 shows Iraqi refugees fleeing in huge numbers and crossing over the river. In this sense, the construction of refugees in relation to forced displacement is highly discernible in the Figure 9 visual since they appear as active in the process of escaping, which is an indication of huge displacement. Following the UNHCR's definition (2015: 2), forced displacement can be illustrated as "as a result of persecution, conflict, generalized violence or human rights violations." The image shows refugees in a long, vertical line, and the entire picture frame creates the impression of a massive flood of displaced people fleeing their homes. In Figure 9, the movement of refugees is vast, and the long shot reinforces our perception of its size (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2006).

The shot of a huge number of refugees in Figure 9 lined up vertically and disappearing into the distance conveys a perception of endlessness to the issue of displaced refugees. Such an image contributes to the notion that this is a huge, forced displacement, since the image reinforces the connotations of the exodus narrative (Irom et al., 2023).

The vectors join refugees' bodies together in the foreground, midground, and background, and take viewers to the end of the visual, where the number of Iraqi refugees crossing the river cannot be seen (Martínez-Lirola, 2022a). In other words, there is a far greater semantic load in the background. The viewing angle of the image positions the viewer above the huge number of refugees and depicts them lower down, which makes the Iraqi refugees appear inferior (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2006). Moreover, the depiction of the refugees as a multitude and mass of displaced people in Figure 9 dehumanizes them because the context regarding the depicted environment show no more cues and such distance in shot may be unknown to Western viewers to perceive (Lenette, 2017).

What is most interesting in this image is its narrative structure; that is, the shot of the image, the long line that connects all refugees in one vertical vector. We see refugees crossing and moving as a huge mass with a strong focus on their directionality. In this regard, the actors of the picture are those from which the line generates (Massari, 2021). In such images as this shot, the refugees are usually the actors of the action as well as the action at the same time. Most notably, Figure 9 has no goal for the action as the lack of direct eye contact with the depicted refugees makes Figure 9 an offer image. It just offers refugees in terms of "masses" or "volumes" with a "weight" and "gravitational pull" (Andersson, 2012: 9).

Such a long-shot depiction, however, mostly tends to show a large group of refugees in media contexts. Accordingly, these long shots are, therefore, less likely to request viewers' emotional reactions than medium or close-up shots (Zhang & Hellmueller, 2017).

On the other hand, Figure 9 implies more than one perspective or polysemic. The type of shot brings the crossing crowd of refugees towards the audience, which somehow creates a feeling of threat (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2006), as the divide between 'us' as viewers and 'them' as displaced people is prominent. Prior studies conducted during the European refugee crisis have identified such images as Figure 9 in the media as a threat, representing the crowd of refugees crossing borders (Martikainen & Sakki, 2021).

Another semiotic element of this image is provided by its interactive meaning. The high angle positions the audience in an imagined position of power (Kress & van Leeuwen, 1996). The high angle shows that readers have power over the depicted refugees since they are identified from above, symbolizing that the reality of those refugees is different from that of the spectator (Martínez-Lirola, 2022a). Viewers are positioned as if they are "confronting" them and "occupying" their side-line position but "ignoring each other" since none of the depicted refugees look at the audience (van Leeuwen, 2008: 139). As a result, they are all depicted as "objects for our scrutiny" (van Leeuwen, 2008:141), which also strengthens the we-they separation. To this end, Figure 9 does not entirely and clearly show refugees' recognizable facial expressions. Consequently, such a shot, usually in the media images, dehumanizes refugees by showing them in a mass group, via ,along,high shot (Zhang & Hellmueller, 2017).

6.3.3. Constructing multimodal texts about women and children

Pattern three of this section includes 5 multimodal texts, which are characteristic of the other multimodal texts in the corpus. These multimodal texts depict the hardship and suffering in which refugees, especially women and children, are depicted while fleeing as if carrying a burden. In other words, pattern 3 tends to encounter obstacles by constructing refugees in terms of different settings. Furthermore, all multimodal texts under analysis have been selected since they have some common characteristics that contribute to depicting refugees in an agonizing way, supported by the written language used in the headlines and sub-headlines (Martínez Lirola, 2016, 2017a, 2017b).

Taking an overall look, in Figure 10, women and children are depicted as active actors in the migratory movement. The picture reveals how the action of escaping is depicted. The figure suggests that they are gazing downwards, likely due to tiredness and physical frailty. In Figure 11, an Iraqi mother is depicted in an indoor space, cradling her little son and sitting near her daughter. The mother is preoccupied but appears meticulously to the left i.e., the flashback of her situation, which communicates sorrow what happened to her life . Figure 12 reveals a close-up shot of a little girl, which communicates vulnerability and innocence together (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2006). Figure 13 shows women as if they are scuffling over the scarcity and lack of food in the refugee camps. Figure 14 depicts children and women in the

foreground, with Iraqi soldiers appearing in groups behind them in the background, a highly contextualized setting. In Figure 14, escaping is depicted as waiting still rather than tangibly moving forwards (Bellander, 2022).



Figure 10. Text from the *Deutsche Welle*, June 20, 2017.

Link: <https://www.dw.com/en/from-the-sinjar-mountains-to-germanys-rhineland-a-yazidi-refugees-story/a-39313096>

Heading: *A Yazidi refugee shares his story with InfoMigrants*

Sub-heading: *The Yazidis are a religious minority in northern Iraq whose people have been persecuted by the "Islamic State." One Yazidi who fled Iraq and sought refuge in Germany shared his story with InfoMigrants.*

By primarily analyzing Figure 10, the refugees and actions in this image can be identified as follows: Firstly, the image depicts a group of refugees fleeing due to forced displacement. Secondly, the image portrays a highly contextualized setting. Thirdly, flight is depicted in this image as physically moving forwards to flee for their lives. Overall, the notion of agonizing is clearly depicted in this image since the verbal language provides information supported by the visual. In this sense, the vectors in the image indicate that the two represented participants (refugee 1 and refugee 2) are engaged in a non-transactional action (Kress & van Leeuwen, 1996). This suggests that these participants are acting as actors (Kress & van Leeuwen, 1996), and their downward gaze suggests tiredness and weakness. In addition, the vectors convey the refugees' forward movements, proving their dynamic regarding the action of escaping.

Based on the headline and sub-headline, Figure 10 depicts refugees from the Yazidi minority sect living in Sindjar, a town in Mosul, Iraq. Hence, they are fleeing the conflict with ISIS. Additionally, based on the narrative structure shown in Figure 10, refugee 1 conveys a considerable vector and communicates meaning. For instance, her downward gaze while carrying a child on her back symbolizes the burden and sense of responsibility. That is, the mother is depicted facing challenges while carrying one child, looking directly at the camera. In terms of the textual metafunction, the mother is at the front of the image and at eye level, which holds her child in medium shot, and portrays her as equal with the viewers, allowing their emotional engagement with the mother (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2006).

Figure 10 depicts an outdoor setting where a landscape is visible to the viewers; for instance, refugees are in the presence of mountains and trees. By being explicitly depicted in a context that includes a visible setting, the refugees are shown as realistic and engaged in actions. Hence, they are depicted as facing both challenges and the environment on their flight to flee conflict (Bellander, 2022). In general, Figure 10 depicts the hardships encountered by refugees presenting women carrying their children while fleeing conflict. All in all, the refugees associated with downward-looking vectors in Figure 10 can be identified with sadness. That is, looking down suggests that agony and sadness are the prevailing emotions. In this sense, the humanizing visual discourse, especially that of the mother with her child, is fostered through the close viewing shot, which communicates agency (Kress and van Leeuwen, 2006).

The construction of social distance, social relation, and social interaction help us to deconstruct how interpersonal relations with viewers are engaged (van Leeuwen, 2008). In this sense, the medium shot used in Figure 10 creates a sense of distance between the viewers and the refugees involved (Kress & van Leeuwen, 1996). This type of shot creates an impersonal and imaginary relationship between the depicted participants and the audience. Consequently, there is no direct engagement or interaction between the refugees and readers. Except for the young child (refugee 4), who directly engages the viewer through a direct gaze at the recipient (Kress & van Leeuwen, 1996).

Moreover, the other refugees in the background are excluded from their roles and depicted as objects. As a result, viewers are invited to see the action in Figure 10 without communicating with it since the refugees depicted are not in a close-up shot. They are depicted in a medium close-up shot. Following van Leeuwen (2008 :138), “in pictures as in real life, distance communicates interpersonal relationships.” To this end, distance is symbolic in Figure 10 since it implies that the refugees depicted are somehow strangers and have nothing to do with the audience. As observed, when neither the social actors nor viewers share social interaction due to the distance, shot, or lack of contact, they are portrayed as “objects,” following van Leeuwen’s strategies (2008: 141) for depicting people. Figure 10, the refugees in the background meet the strategy of objectification: “the strategy of objectification, representing people as objects for our scrutiny, rather than as subjects addressing the viewer with their gaze and symbolically engaging with the viewer in this way.”

On the other hand, the refugees in Figure 10 are assimilated and collectivized. There are other semiotic strategies to observe in Figure 10. For instance, all refugees represent the Islamic culture and the Middle East since the social actors are biologically depicted due to the colour of their hair and traditional clothes. All this contributes to making them salient and highlights the generic categorization (van Leeuwen, 2008). Refugees are depicted as a homogenous group, indicating that they have the same features. On the other hand, however, men have no role in the context since they are excluded from being a part of this group identity. Regarding multimodality, the linguistic text and visual image express different senses: the headline and sub-headline report on one Yazidi refugee, whereas the image depicts

a group of refugees. In this sense, the construction of the one refugee in the written language is used to foster alignment in the multimodal text (Martínez Lirola, 2022a).



Figure 11. Text from *The Guardian*, 3 August 2015.

Link: <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2015/aug/03/yazidis-sinjar-iraq-one-year-anniversary-isis>

Heading: *Yazidis yearn for their Sinjar home one year after Isis forced them to flee*

Sub-heading: *Amid diminishing funds and massive displacement, and with little sign of the international community heeding calls from exiled Yazidis to make their homeland secure, is Iraq becoming a forgotten humanitarian crisis?*

Caption: *Khatwn Mirza, with her son and one of her daughters, in Sulaymaniyah. Her husband was killed when he went to find water after the family had fled to Mount Sinjar.*

Pictures of mothers with children always have similarities with former media imagery of conflict and war, constructing mothers with children (Chetty, 2004; Keith & Schwalbe, 2010; Irom et al., 2023; Martikainen & Sakki, 2024) and the summer of migration or the European refugee crisis of 2015 (Kędra & Sommier, 2018; Saric, 2019; Lenette, 2017; Martikainen & Sakki, 2021; Šarić, 2022; Amores & Arcila, 2019) communicating the vulnerability of women and their children. The appearing rhetorical visual and semiotic strategy coincides with the entire humanizing discourse of refugees in the media by shedding light on the close relationship between the mothers and their children, as depicted in Figure 11. Strictly speaking, portrayals of a solitary mother with her children are usual in media photographs of refugees (Johnson, 2011; Ryan & Tonkiss, 2023; Martikainen & Sakki, 2024), since they tend to foster aspects of vulnerability by showing the mother as being detached from the social systems (Chouliaraki & Stolic, 2017; Martikainen & Sakki, 2024).

Figure 11 depicts three refugees sitting down indoors. In this visual, an Iraqi mother is depicted in an empty place, cradling her little son, and sitting near her daughter. However, the mother is not focused on the son but looks worriedly to the left, i.e., the depressed path of the flashback, which also implies sadness about her situation (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2006). This look, therefore, creates an impression that despite the physical position, the mother is not emotionally focused on her little son or her daughter. The enclosed space surrounds the children, with the mother's eyes appearing to be looking at nothing,

visualizing the anxiety of the Iraqi mother and the depression experienced by the conflict (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2006).

In Figure 11, we, thus, interpret the mother as the most noticeable actor due to some semiotic elements, including the colour and salient (Kress & van Leeuwen, 1996). The Iraqi mother, with her children together with the black garment, communicates sadness and vulnerability (Kress & Van Leeuwen, 2002), which culturally corresponds with mourning and distress since the mother's facial expression appears gloomy. As regards the latter, the mother's dress is black, which also symbolises sadness and depression (Morton, 1997); therefore, the mother addresses the viewers with a sad expression on her face.

Moreover, in Figure 11, the mother is depicted as looking away from the viewers, and it can be manifested as an offer look (Kress & van Leeuwen, 1996: 116-120). In addition, the position of the semiotic elements in Figure 11 includes some senses. That is, when looking at the image, we see the positioning of the actors (mother + baby) in Figure 11 pays special attention to the viewers. In this figure, we see the mother placed on the left is presented as 'Given', the baby placed on the right as 'New'. Based on the *Reading images*, for something to be Given means that it is depicted as something the viewer already knows. However, for something to be New means that it is depicted as something which is not yet known, or not yet agreed upon by the viewer, hence, the meaning of the New is "the information at issue" (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2006:181). As a result, in Figure 11, the baby placed on the right as Given both with her look at the viewer and the bright light blue colour of her dress communicates value so the reader pays more attention: the small girl on the right-hand side is depicted at eye-contact level; she looks directly at the viewers, and therefore, her gaze communicates meaning; she is making a demand of the audience.

Since the social distance of this image maintains the mother and her children in a medium close-up shot with the audience (Kress & van Leeuwen, 1996), Figure 11 shows a clear vividness of the refugees depicted. In this sense, Jnni and Loewenstein (1997) argued that the proximity of depicted subjects enhanced by the close-up shot results in audiences' perceived closeness with subjects, and such familiarity creates a potential empathic response from the spectator. As Bleiker et al. (2014: 194) show, the superiority of visuals of distressed refugee women with their children in media images "has effects well beyond the empirical reality that many refugees are children and women." Taking this claim into account, the mother and her children in this visual are depicted as "emotionally helpless, needy, fragile, powerless, and passive social actors" (Bleiker et al., 2014: 194). Given what has been said, Figure 11, with a close-up portrayal of the mother with her children, formed an identifiable effect of victims that can encourage readers to think emotionally about those displaced families (Zhang & Hellmueller, 2017). In addition to the mother and her children in Figure 11, the notion of motherhood is highlighted in the image compositionality at the level of textual metafunction. That is, the position of the mother near her children emphasises her major role in the image (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2006). Regarding the ideational

metafunction, the picture powerfully communicates motherhood as a weak situation, positioning them as vulnerable victims of war. While the mother's face does not directly connect with the viewer, the emotional appeal conveyed by the image operates through the interpersonal metafunction (Royce, 2007; Martikainen & Sakki, 2024), whereby the little girl on the right-hand side directly addresses the spectator, the image might associate the mother's face together with her children with a tone of distress and sadness according to the visual grammar, since the facial expressions of the refugees communicating emotions to the viewers with no happy appearance (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2002).

As the image shows the cultural classification of the mother's dress, especially the scarf, it also communicates the significance of the colour black in Middle Eastern and Islamic cultures (Van Leeuwen, 2008:148). In Figure 11, the close-up picture of the mother and her children in this dwelling place is symbolized in terms of "personification" (Lenette, 2017: 9), where we can also see there is no adult figure in the image, which suggests that the mother is caring for her children alone. That is, according to van Leeuwen's strategies (2008) for depicting people, Figure 11 is classified according to the degree of individual categorization. Hence, the framing of the image suggests her salient vulnerability as a sole carer of two children (Lenette, 2017). Additionally, in Figure 11, the viewing angle makes the mother with her children look equal to the viewers (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2006) and can be perceived as a humanizing visual strategy, which may take viewers themselves to express reaction and show feelings towards the mother and her children (Lenette, 2017; Martikainen & Sakki, 2021; Martikainen & Sakki, 2024). Such visual rhetoric and semiotic strategy, especially in Figure 11, tend to provide clear and remarkable insight into humanizing refugees in visual discourse.

Regarding the multimodality, the linguistic text and visual image express the same senses about the Yazidi refugees who have been obliged to flee their homes. However, the main heading reports on the Yazidis as displaced people and their situation, whereas the sub-heading raises the question of whether the international community can help the Yazidis or not. On the other hand, the caption informs us of the name of the mother, reporting on her sad story while sitting down with her children in the room. The image clearly depicts what the caption informs us. In this sense, the multimodal text creates an explicit discourse to the audience. All these alignments in the discourse make the readers distinguish the information through the affordances of different modes. Hence, this suggests that different arrangements within the discourse enable readers to differentiate and perceive information using different modes.



Figure 12. Text from the *Deutsche Welle*, September 21, 2015.

Link: <https://www.dw.com/en/un-not-enough-money-for-refugees-in-iraq/a-18728323>

Heading: *UN: Not enough money for Refugees in Iraq*

Sub-heading: *More than three million Iraqis are on the run in their own country. The United Nations are sounding the alarm bells. The refugee situation is getting increasingly desperate due to a shortage of funding.*

Caption: *A displaced Iraqi, who was forced to flee her home because of 'Islamic State'*

In Figure 12, the Iraqi refugee woman represents a specifically vulnerable subject; the image implies a type of purity. The focus in Figure 11 is on an elderly woman; that is, the refugee woman is identifiable, and the effect is rather personalizing. The refugee is depicted sitting on the ground in a place personifying the waste with the appearance of the UNHCR's logo and tent in the background. Based on the narrative structure, the refugee's arms are vectors that catch the viewer's attention in the act of collecting food from the ground, with a real sense of what she is doing (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2006).

Moreover, the refugee is placed in a chaotic setting, looking for food on the ground since the presence of the piece of bread clearly placed on her left-hand side. The shot suggests a real scene about the refugees in Iraq regarding lack of food. Hence, the shot effectively conveys the sense of difficult challenges to the audience. In addition, the refugee's gaze and the expression on her face seeks to create a sad, weak social relationship between her and the viewers (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2006).

Although constructing images is always partly subjective, social semiotic and visual rhetorical analysis helps researchers to deconstruct culturally chosen readings of pictures and understand how the objects in the image, especially (content analysis) and the semiotic resources of visual expression, especially (compositional analysis) construct senses (Martikainen & Sakki, 2024). For example, in different cultures, the colour black has culturally shared meanings. E.g. in Middle Eastern and Western cultures, black tends to express sadness and gloom (Kress & Van Leeuwen, 2002). In this sense, the refugee woman, together with the black garment, communicates sadness and vulnerability (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2002), which culturally corresponds with distress. Also, black signifies an act of depression or sadness based on psychological symbolism (Morton, 1997). In general, colours tend to show affordances to the viewers. This suggests that the concept of colour affordance lies in using colour

within a specific context to stimulate human behaviour directly or indirectly (Sung-euk, 2012). All these semiotic resources have a considerable sense and affordances when analysing colors as semiotic resources in images. All in all, the content of the image as well as the refugee depicted in Figure 12 carry a sense of weakness and vulnerability to the readers.

When it comes to social relation, this is an example of a demand image where the refugee and the viewers are directly engaged at eye contact level (Kress & van Leeuwen, 1996). The relation between the depicted refugee and the viewer is detached rather than close. This suggests that the image is taken from a distance (Kress & van Leeuwen, 1996). However, the image suggests that the elderly woman is the most salient figure since the shot signifies a demand, and she is the only refugee in the visual. Furthermore, the direct gaze suggests that the refugee seeks to provoke a reaction from the audience (Kress & van Leeuwen, 1996).

Additionally, although there is a distance between the refugee and the viewers, she is communicating socially with the viewers since she is inviting readers to react; this would create an instance of demand (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2006). The fact that she looks directly at the viewers suggests that she wants an answer, inviting them to express sympathy with her critical and social situation. All in all, the refugee woman is individualized in Figure 12. Following van Leeuwen's (2008) strategies for representing people, the image depicts a sole refugee woman with a clear focus on her individual traits. Also, the refugee also carries cultural connotations, as evidenced by her traditional attire and hijab, which broadly represent Middle Eastern culture and Islam (van Leeuwen, 2008). Overall, the impression of the image is that it is quite miserable (Lenette, 2017). Therefore, this proves how visual choices in media photographs maintain the logic of specific refugees as victims and they deserve to look at them (Jhoti & Allen, 2024).

Regarding the multimodal text, the written texts and visual image express the same information. The heading sheds light on the dire circumstances of financial deprivation faced by the refugees in Iraq, whereas the sub-heading reinforces the information by topicalizing the UN, urging the international community due to a shortage of funding. In this case, the alignment of information in both visual and context creates a discourse of poverty and warning. All these arrangements in the discourse make the audience clearly distinguish the information through the affordances of different modes.



Figure 13. Text from *The Guardian*, 27 Jun 2015.

Link:<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/gallery/2015/jun/27/no-work-no-education-iraqis-persecution-isis-forced-flee-in-pictures>

Heading: *No work, no education and little food: the Iraqis forced to flee Isis – in pictures*

Sub-heading: *More than 3.5 million people in Iraq are homeless after escaping Islamic state's campaign of persecution. Many are crowded into informal camps and unfinished buildings across the north of the country, where life in temporary shelter is hard and conditions bleak, particularly for the young and the elderly. Tearfund is launching an emergency appeal to help these desperate families.*

Caption: *Narin*, a young Yazidi girl, stands outside the tent where her family lives, on a patch of farmland in northern Iraq. 'When we came here we had no fuel, blankets, tents, or food,' says Keyna*, Narin's mother. 'We are hungry sometimes, and can't give milk to the children. We had a good life before. Our husbands were farming ... The children were in school before but there is no school now. We are stuck here with five children [aged between two and 10], and no one to help [us]' * names changed to protect identity.*

Unlike the abovementioned figures of the selected patterns, Figure 13 is a close-up, quite intimate depiction of a sole small refugee child. The refugee is portrayed and featured in a close-up shot, showing the facial expressions of this child overtly (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2006). The shot is decontextualized since the surrounding context is out of focus (Breazu & Machin, 2018), which is an indication that this specific shot is being used to signify ideas or values (Machin & Mayr, 2023). The viewing angle emphasizes the size of the refugee, and the cropping of the picture focuses exclusively on her face, excluding more information about the surrounding setting (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2006).

The shot focuses on the little girl who is acting as a single actor and communicates purity (Hansen et al., 2021); constructing images of children as portrayals of humanity to raise compassion and concern (Lenette, 2017). In this sense, the image of the child symbolizes a particularly vulnerable subject and can be somehow perceived as an iconographic figure denoting innocence (Jhoti & Allen, 2024). The interaction with the cameraman extends to the interface with the audience, driving the viewer to encounter the refugee in Figure 13 as an individual figure rather than maintaining social distance as an observer. So, the image of the child interacts with the viewer insofar as it is both close-up and taken at eye level (Greenwood & Thomson, 2020). Alternatively, Figure 13 implies a very clear demand of the

viewers as the shot is taken at eye level, with the actor gazing directly at the viewers (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2006).

According to Kress and van Leeuwen (2006: 115-143), the viewer positioning in Figure 13 suggests three dimensions between the refugee depicted in the image and the viewer. Firstly, the “contact” addresses the viewer directly and makes the viewer seem friendly to the child. Secondly, the “proximity” means the child’s face is shown in a close-up shot. Thirdly, regarding the “attitude,” the image is taken at a slightly high frontal angle so that the power relation between the viewers and the actor is not equal since the angle suggests the power relations of the child depicted as if “looking up at” the viewer (van Leeuwen & Zonjic, 2023: 437). Additionally, close-up shots usually bring emotions to readers, especially when the focus is on children (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2006).

As the shot suggests an intimate relationship with the viewer, close-ups in media images of refugee children are commonly used to show their suffering and to provoke viewer empathy (Johnson, 2011; Lenette & Miskovic, 2018; Irom et al., 2023; Martikainen & Sakki, 2024). In this sense, such visuals, according to Kędra and Sommier (2018: 38), “Photographs of suffering children are a strong visual rhetoric that refers to the archetype of an innocent child requiring constant protection and calls for immediate response.” Therefore, in Figure 13, the direct gaze addresses the viewers and fosters a meaningful empathy towards the little girl at the interpersonal meta-functional level, since the close-up shot enables the viewer to come close to the refugee, and that makes the refugee situation appear real to the audience (Bellander, 2022).

Once again, the image of the child seems to address the viewers with a visual you, inviting them to create an imaginary relationship, and the frown of distress on the girl’s face invites the viewers to enter into a personal relationship with her, one of social empathy (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2006). Regarding the compositional aspect, the salient figure is the girl’s face, which creates a sense of focus since the shot only highlights a single figure, drawing the viewers’ attention in terms of specific individual features (van Leeuwen, 2008). In other words, the girl portrayed in this image is a salience because of the size and the fact that it is in clear focus; hence, it is a “salient” figure, according to Kress and van Leeuwen (2006: 201-203).

In Figure 13, the child’s face is depicted as “one of us” (van Leeuwen, 2008: 138) or “people like us” (van Leeuwen & Zonjic, 2023: 438), but the representation also conveys the impression that her face is clearly identifiable and acknowledgeable. Because the shot does not employ a very high viewing angle, the child’s image suggests a sense of a visual rhetorical strategy and provides a novel perspective into the humanizing visual discourse of the Iraqi children (Martikainen & Sakki, 2024), which also points to the agency (Lenette, 2017). Therefore, such a shot in media imagery may tend to construct an understanding of children’s weaknesses eye to eye regarding the difficult situation over which they have

no power, which reinforces the feelings of compassion among Western audiences (Martikainen & Sakki, 2024).

When it comes to multimodality, this is another text where the written language, especially the heading and image are making different inferences. While the image depicts the refugee in a specific individualized way (van Leeuwen, 2008), the headline and sub-headline specify that there is a focus on generic refugees; for instance, the word choices, such as ‘Iraqis’ and ‘More than 3.5 million people’. Also, the caption informs us that there are five children are stuck in the place where we cannot distinguish any of them in the visual except the girl’s face. In this sense, the image of a refugee is used to create an arrangement in the texts and in news items, and this multimodal text is an instance of that (Martínez Lirola, 2022a).



Figure 14. Text from *The Guardian*, 9 Oct 2016.

Link: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/oct/19/mosul-thousands-flee-syrian-refugee-camps-iraqi-forces-close-city>

Heading: *Islamic State leaders are fleeing Mosul, says US general*

Sub-heading: *Militant group’s chiefs have left foreign fighters behind to face Iraqi and Kurdish forces, according to Maj Gen Gary Volesky*

Caption: *Civilians arrive at Qayyarah, which is controlled by Iraqi forces, after fleeing Mosul.*

Figure 14 depicts displaced refugees as a cohort in an outdoor environment. However, the image shows a war scene, where the unique setting of their fleeing and suffering is clearly visible to the viewer (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2006). The image is illustrative of the agonized fleeing families, where we can see the soldiers manifesting the act of protection to the families in which the soldiers are shown as if they are guarding families in the background (Irom et al., 2023). The smoke in the background, images of the refugees’ heads, and a possible battle site all provide compelling imagery, with Iraqi soldiers shown standing among the refugees, presenting in a way similar to participants at atrocity sites (Parry, 2011). Accordingly, Figure 14 sheds light on the participants represented, making the context more generic than others and depicting them in the foreground. Figure 14 reflects a rescued family in Iraq. Armed vehicles and soldiers are seen in the background, which implies that the refugees have fled the conflict.

The refugees are foregrounded even though some of them are faceless, while at the same time, their faces do not contribute to highlighting any of the social actors depicted (Martínez-Lirola, 2022a). However, the other refugees, especially children, look directly at the audience. The image, therefore, evokes the delicacy of refugees and their need for protection. Although the refugees appear depicted as a group in this figure, different vectors link them by their heads, arms, shoulders, and hands.

Furthermore, the image includes another prominent vector. This vector is formed by the heavy clouds of smoke joining the ground to sky. The vertical lines of smoke in the background suggest destruction and violence; they also communicate fighting scenery (Irom et al., 2023). The cloud of smoke in the background is also “a symbolic process embedded within the action process” of the Iraqi refugees fleeing conflict (Harrison, 2003:52).

This depiction is different in that it represents the explicit depictions of children and women as part of the family because two women are sheltering and hiding their children in the foreground. Therefore, these groups appear to be integral members of society (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2006). The picture is taken at eye-level, making the audience a part of the spectacle, looking at what is taking place in a natural way. To accommodate the group of refugees in Figure 14, the picture uses a close-up shot. The very nature of the group portrayal makes it possible to recognize them as a cohort family (Irom et al., 2023).

Eye contact between the spectator and the depicted refugees is crucial for the purposes of establishing a relationship of proximity (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2006). The shot manages to communicate closeness. As the image taken is a close-up shot, we see the children at the center of the image establish a sharp gaze and invite a response from the viewers looking at them, since they manage a significant degree of contact with the viewers by gazing directly at the camera (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2006).

The other social actors, meanwhile, including the two women wearing hijabs, are faceless and looking at nothing; they have no interaction with the viewers because of their different vectors. Given that none of the women in Figure 14 make eye contact with the audience, their visibility is, therefore, an offer in the image (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2006). Even though the pose of the women does not show or communicate with the viewer, the interpersonal metafunction operationalizes at the level of the emotional appeal communicated by the image’s scene (Royce, 2007; Martikainen & Sakki, 2024), whereby the viewers might invite themselves to perceive the distressing and the critical scene of the image.

On the other hand, viewers can identify the facial expressions of the refugees, especially those of the children in the image; their faces show grimaces suggesting pain or struggle while fleeing war. The angle of the shot places the children at eye-level contact which somehow provides a humanizing gaze (Irom et al., 2023). However, in Figure 14, the most salient figures are the children and women depicted

at the front of the group. Furthermore, the women are seen in the forefront acting as if hiding the children, which reinforces the women's role regarding materiality (Irom et al., 2023).

The image also includes a subordinate embedded process of help, communicated, or symbolized by the presence of the soldiers in the background. Hence, the framing of the image reinforces the fact that there is a constant reminder of the soldiers' role in protecting the refugees in the scene (Lenette, 2017). Moreover, in visuals, actions and behaviors can be read through so-called indexical signs. That is, indexes are things that associate with or conclude other things (Bellander, 2022). In Figure 14, we see the pose, as well as the expression of the refugees, can index how the refugees are challenged the hard situations. Such reading of physical actions in images is about understanding the image as showing something that unfolds over time (Machin & Ledin, 2018; Bellander, 2022).

We see the depicted woman with the pink scarf looking down, acting as if she is crying, which may suggest introspective thoughts. The other woman with the white scarf is depicted from behind the refugee's head, which gives the impression that the spectator is close by, waiting in the queue. Additionally, as the angle is taken at eye level and hence equals to readers, such viewer positioning may tend to create a sense of rapport between the depicted refugees and the observers, making the viewers perceive "these are people like me" (van Leeuwen & Zonjic, 2023: 437). All in all, such a semiotic and rhetorical visual strategy in images, including the proximity of the close-ups, direct gaze, or any emotion communicated by the image through the tone, enables the viewer to have more intimacy with the refugees depicted (Bellander, 2022; Martikainen & Sakki, 2024).

Figure 14 classifies refugees in terms of group categorization according to van Leeuwen's strategies (2008) for depicting people. All in all, in images showing groups, either a large number of refugees were exposed to the viewer's gaze, or, if the number of depicted participants was in medium-sized groups, spectators could hardly recognize them as individuals due to the type of shot. Such a depiction tends to reduce the possibility of the onlooker's involvement with the people depicted; it, therefore, depersonalizes these people and operationalizes them into objects of mass (Saric, 2019).

The written text and image offer the same information about the refugees who have arrived at Qayyarah City, Iraq, which is controlled by the Iraqi army. In this sense, readers can distinguish members of the Iraqi army in the background, and the alignments of the multimodal text enable readers to perceive the same information by using different modes.

6.4. Discussion

Critical discourse analysis plays an important role when it comes to human interaction, since it tends to create an understanding about social actors' interests and needs (Wodak, 2022). However, the representation of refugees in the media is often 'multimodal' discourse, integrating, for instance, text and image together, and other forms of semiotic resources for making meaning (van Dijk, 2024). To this end, what emerges from this chapter is that Iraqi refugees tend to be depicted in two main aspects in the multimodal texts examined: firstly, victims and vulnerable. Secondly, others and objects.

Regarding the first aspect, Iraqi refugees, especially children and women, are depicted as victims and vulnerable due to conflict, and the fact that they are living in traumatic conditions, in which the viewers show compassion toward them. In this sense, the multimodal texts point out that children and women are portrayed as powerless victims with a focus on ethnic minorities, such as the Yazidis and Christians. More explicitly, based on this perspective, the alignments of visual and linguistic texts in the news heading and sub-heading tend to show the Yazidis as the most targeted group over the other minorities in Iraq. These forms of depiction are constructed through the focal features of the news images analyzed and the linguistic choices used in the headings, sub-headings, and captions. The social semiotic approach (e.g., Kress & van Leeuwen, 1996, 2006; van Leeuwen, 2008; van Leeuwen, 2021) used in the deconstruction provides information on how depicted refugees, actions, settings, and other semiotic choices of proximity and angles might catch the viewers' emotions and how they perceive discourses drawing on different affordances and ideas. Furthermore, the shots observed in the visuals also contribute to providing social distance to readers, depicting children and women as socially situated as "one of us" (van Leeuwen, 2008: 138). For instance, Figures 2 and 13 are shown as if they might be friends to readers. Also, regarding social interactions, the general tendency is that refugees, especially the children and women depicted, do look at the viewers, and therefore, a direct interaction is engaged and established (see Figures 1, 2, 3, 11, 12,13).

Additionally, based on the analysis, Iraqi refugees, especially children and women, are often portrayed individually or in small groups and from front, medium, and close-up angles. This depiction reinforces our understanding of the refugees to acknowledge them as individual humans with the same mental needs as other human beings (Bellander, 2022). It, therefore, awakens the perception of shared sympathies and interests and applies to the aspect of discourses of solidarity. Since the social actors invite the viewers to look at them, such social interaction reinforces the notion that they are directly appealing to us through their gaze, forming a visual communication demand— which according to van Leeuwen (2008: 141), can articulate a type of visual "You," and in need of help. Based on the visual texts, such a depiction draws compassion from the audience.

As mentioned earlier, depicting individual refugees in terms of close-ups tends to humanize refugees and give them an agency. Such proximity and selection make refugees appear approachable and, therefore, empower the audience to feel involved and valued onlookers: for instance, Figures 2, 3, 4, 11, and 13. In media imagery, this visual depiction supports previous research findings (Hellmueller & Zhang, 2019; Martikainen & Sakki, 2024) and also aligns with Darling's (2021: 60) writing for the humanization of refugees "to focus on human experience as fragmentary, incoherent, and resistant to clear categorization." As well, such visual discourse tends to construct the images of children and women as victims of conflict. That is to say, images have shown refugees in terms of personhood about the lives and experiences of their situation, communicating a discourse of humanity with individual features. For this reason, this discourse of personhood is constructed by depicting a sole refugee or a few refugees who make a social interaction with the audience that presents the viewer and refugees as equals. Such a depiction aligns with Martikainen & Sakki's (2021: 260) call for the personhood of refugees in their partial findings: "the discourse of personhood is humanized refugees constructing them as people having different identities as friends and family members".

When it comes to the second aspect, there is a tendency identified in the multimodal texts to represent Iraqi refugees as objects, others, and detached. Firstly, the analysis shows that the common tendency is to depict Iraqi refugees in the corpus and multimodal texts as assimilated and collectivized visually and linguistically (Van Leeuwen, 2008). In this sense, linguistically, they are depicted in the news headlines by using nouns denoting a group of people with a clear focus on their ethnic identity (*Yazidis, displaced Iraqis, Civilians, etc...*) or in statistical and quantitative terms: for instance, *the 200,000 Yazidis fleeing the violence, Isis forces 1,500 Iraqi families to march to Mosul, More than 20,000 of the 40,000 trapped by jihadists on a mountaintop, Thousands of Yazidis trapped in the Sinjar mountains*, while visually, they are depicted as a large group of unidentified people, mass, anonymous, and thus, unspecified individuals (Van Leeuwen, 2008). For example, the multimodal texts (see Figures, 8, 7, 5, 6, and 9).

Secondly, the multimodal texts analyzed, especially the visual texts, are instances of offer images in which refugees are depicted to be observed as just objects. This helps to depict them as detached from the audience. In this sense, following van Leeuwen's strategies (2008: 141) for depicting people, objectivization is clearly fostered, "... the strategy of objectification, representing people as objects for our scrutiny, rather than as subjects addressing the viewer with their gaze and symbolically engaging with the viewer in this way". As observed, when neither the social actors nor viewers share social interaction due to long shots, high angles, and a lack of contact, they are portrayed as objects and people as others. In addition, this depiction highlights the idea of being "below us" or having little power compared to us (van Leeuwen, 2008: 139). In this regard, van Leeuwen (2008: 28) refers to this action, "Representations exclude or include social actors to suit their interests and purposes in relation to the readers for whom they are intended". Based on this, following van Leeuwen's strategy of

disempowerment, the Iraqi refugees in the texts (see Figures, 8, 7, 5, 6, and 9) are depicted in a negative manner and as inferior, low-paid, and with no power.

Based on van Leeuwen's strategies (2008), the Iraqi refugees in the aforementioned texts are excluded in the following ways: firstly, they are depicted as objects when it comes to the strategy of objectification, because the refugees do not engage with the audience. Secondly, according to the strategy of distanciation, they are depicted as strangers since they are socially detached or isolated from the viewers. Thirdly, regarding the strategy of disempowerment, they are depicted as inferior because they have no power. Furthermore, the angles depicted in the visual texts also play a role in empowering readers, who belong to the majority group, by socially positioning the Iraqi refugees as being below us. For instance, the texts (see Figures, 8, 7, 5, 6, and 9) are explicitly taken from a high angle. Hence, this suggests that the high angles give the audience power over the depicted refugees, which dehumanizes them and splits them from the viewers. Such a depiction in the news photographs and in the abovementioned research work may strengthen the idea of the socio-political phenomenon (we-they or them-us) dichotomy (Richardson and Wodak, 2013; van Dijk, 2017), where 'they' can refer to refugees as victims, depending on the situation from which they are obliged to flee.

Additionally, the interaction between the audience and the refugees depicted relies on some aspects. That is, this relationship further suggests that there are some factors, including the cameraman's closeness (proxemics), the gazes and looks of the social actors (demanding and offering images), and the way angles are being selected in taking images (Hodge and Kress, 1988; Kress and van Leeuwen, 2017). According to Kress and van Leeuwen (1999), proxemics is the selection of distance made by the photographer when capturing a particular shot. In this sense, based on the works of Kress and van Leeuwen (1999, 2017), Hodge and Kress (1988), and Kress (2010), this selection can indicate various forms of relationships between the portrayed individuals (refugees) and the engaged participants (audience). For instance, as observed in Figures 2 and 13, a close-up shot conveys a feeling of closeness and intimacy between the portrayed refugee and the observer.

On the other hand, long shots are often perceived as creating a sense of detachment between the audience and the portrayed participants, resulting in a perception of the depicted individuals as distant foreigners or "others" in an impersonal manner, as observed in the multimodal texts (see Figures 8, 7, 5, 6, and 9) (Chouliaraki and Zaborowski, 2017: 9). For this reason, visual grammar, and van Leeuwen's (2008) model of social actors have helped the deconstruction of the depiction of the Iraqi refugees in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* as displaced people by studying how the focal visual strategies in the texts excluded, included, foregrounded, backgrounded, distanced, and approached certain facts in the news images that strengthen refugees' depiction when it comes to humanization and dehumanization basing on the selection of proxemics of the news photographs.

Broadly speaking, the linguistic choices and visual images are produced by editors who are members of the majority group. These editors are the main part of the media elite, holding positions of power that allow them to shape, include, exclude, and disseminate ideologies (van Dijk, 2009c). In this sense, the multimodal texts, including the language choices of headings, sub-headings, and visual images, show that what is highlighted is the fact that the Yazidis are represented as the most important ethnic group to emphasize in the Iraqi refugee crisis. On the other hand, the various linguistic and visual selections observed in the analyzed news items imply the viewpoint that Iraqi refugees are portrayed as being displaced and depressed people. The fact that most of the linguistic choices in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* focus on topics related to the harsh situation of refugees, including depicting words and phrases in both the heading and sub-heading, coincide with the humanitarian crisis, critical situations, trapped and stuck refugees, poverty, scarce services, and forced displacement. Hence, all these frames reinforce the idea of victimization in multimodal texts.

6.5. Concluding Remarks

Chapter Six has offered a multimodal discourse and critical perspective of the construction of the Iraqi refugees in both *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*. All in all, the multimodal texts analyzed show that the press, in general, and *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*, in particular, follow the same line as regards their depiction, and both have the power to approach close-ups images and long and high images of Iraqis as refugees and displaced people, which have a different effect on the audience's perception and their reaction for the refugees depicted. In this sense, depicting Iraqis close to the audience reinforces the inclusion of refugees as being part of us or friends, and hence tends to give them agency, which theoretically and potentially has humanizing effects.

On the other hand, depicting Iraqi refugees in the visual texts in terms of long shots, high angles, and as other people reinforces the portrayal of them as strangers to the audience and, thus, promotes the image of huge numbers of forcibly displaced refugees in terms of declining people qualities of their humanness and depicted them as masses. As indicated in the analysis, this visual dehumanization is constructed in different aspects: the visual symbols of objects, for instance, Iraqi refugees are depicted as huge mass objects for our scrutiny, and nothing is said about their identity; instead, they are all described as "the same level and objects" (van Leeuwen, 2008: 39), rather than subjects getting close to the audience with their direct look and communicating with the viewer. Hence, long shots, high angles, and detachments. All these mediated images of the shots construct symbolic boundaries separating the Iraqi refugees as huge groups from the audience, positioning them in a place of otherness and distancing and symbolizing them as objects (Martínez-Lirola, 2022a).

Kress and van Leeuwen's (1996, 2006) visual grammar and van Leeuwen's (2008) approach to depicting people have been employed in Chapter Six to deconstruct the multimodal discourse and the visual depiction of the Iraqi refugees in a sample from *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*. In this sense,

one of the main features of the multimodal texts analyzed is that the Iraqi refugees are depicted as a huge group. Following van Leeuwen's terms (2008), refugees are assimilated and collectivized, and hence their identity as individuals is reduced. The different choices are identified in the multimodal texts, such as the images and linguistic selections in which these assimilation and collectivization are visually and linguistically placed in the multimodal texts.

On the contrary, Iraqi refugees, especially children and women, are depicted individually. Although there is a general tendency in the linguistic texts to homogenize, the refugees, children and women are never collectivized visually, and their individualization suggests that their depictions as individuals are important and prominent in news photographs. Their images evoke viewers' schemas. For instance, in the case of vulnerable refugees, especially women and children, their focus on suffering and pain. All these images go directly into the long-term memory of the audience, and hence they may affect the readers emotionally.

In Chapter Six, the analysis involves multimodal texts, including headlines, sub-headlines, captions, and visual images, pointing out that the multimodal texts examined in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* do not always reinforce the news discourse at the same level. But, in some specific cases, multimodal texts share the information. Hence, employing multimodality in the analysis reinforces the tools through which refugees as displaced people can perceive, read, and see their situation, using different affordances and modes. In summary, images and headlines are vital genres in the news; they work together to attract attention and to enhance the overall effectiveness of the news content.

Chapter 7: General Conclusion

7.1. Introduction

This thesis has attempted to give a general analysis of the framing of Iraqis as refugees and displaced people in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*. Its main purpose was to explore and show the discursive representation in the headlines, sub-headlines, and visual images of the Iraqi refugees through a multimodal critical discourse and framing analysis. Generally, this thesis undertakes both a critical framing analysis and a multimodal analysis to develop a plausible understanding of how the Iraqi refugee crisis is depicted in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*. It employs critical discourse analysis and multimodal discourse analysis. The thesis draws insights from sociologists, such as Robert Entman (1991,1992, 1993), on the scattered conceptualization of framing, and also from linguists, such as van Dijk (1988, 1991, 2008), on the study of the macrostructure and the socio-cognitive dimensions in news headlines and sub-headlines, and Kress and van Leeuwen (1996,2006) (Van Leeuwen, 2008,2021) on the visual depiction of people, the reading of multimodal texts, refugee and identity.

Additionally, this thesis demonstrates some remarkable strengths. For example, it offers a comprehensive analysis of both the microstructures and macrostructures involved in the discursive representation of Iraqi refugees in two prominent media outlets: *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*. By delving deeply into these aspects, the thesis provides an insightful analysis that deepens our understanding of how refugees are portrayed. Moreover, the thesis effectively highlights the contrasting depictions of the Iraqi refugees between *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*. By emphasizing these divergences, the thesis sheds light on the headlines and sub-headlines depicted in the news. This comparative approach adds a valuable dimension to the research, enhancing the overall significance of the findings.

Moreover, the visual images of the Iraqi refugees portrayed in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* have a profound influence on the audience, in contrast to written texts. That is, based on their symbolic power; images tend to carry visual and meaningful frames more effectively than texts, which suggests that the visual portrayal of females and children, for example, in the media, has a profound effect on viewers' perceptions and attitudes, and more effectively on national policies (Amores et al., 2020). These images vividly depict the challenging and dire circumstances faced by displaced Iraqis, revealing crucial aspects that may not be readily discernible from the textual content alone. Therefore, this thesis provides a multimodal analysis that considers both the linguistic and visual elements of media texts. It emphasizes the significance of scholarly investigations that avoid drawing premature conclusions only

based on verbal and linguistic characteristics. To this end, this, in turn, highlights the importance of multimodal analysis when studying topics such as migration, refugees, and other interesting subjects.

The thesis also shows another important aspect when analyzing multimodal texts and the way they co-occur in online news. The conclusive findings in Chapter Six reveal that, in certain news genres, the linguistic texts and visual images from *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* do not consistently convey the same information within the multimodal texts. However, there are instances where the text and image align in their message. Thus, the use of multimodality provides valuable tools that allow readers to perceive and interpret these texts in distinct ways. In other words, this means the use of multimodality serves as a means to provide tools for different readers to perceive and interpret these texts differently.

Furthermore, there is a general tendency to depict the Iraqi refugees in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* as victims of war and violence in Iraq. The fact is that the multimodal visual images have shown some circumstances, such as harsh conditions, forced displacement, poverty, a lack of food, and scarcity of essential services. The findings in Chapter Six indicate that the images of refugees carry additional information that extends beyond what is conveyed in the linguistic texts. In addition, the findings sum up that these images have the facility to evoke powerful emotional responses and profoundly impact the mental and emotional state of the reader/audience.

7.2. Research Conclusions

7.2.1. Conclusion of findings of Research Question 1

In response to the first question: How the Iraqi refugees are depicted in *Deutsche Welle* and *The Guardian* as a way of seeing how they are portrayed in the macro-semantic headlines and sub-headlines?

First and foremost, the analysis showed that the empathetic discourse in *The Guardian* towards the Iraqi refugees, especially the Yazidis, and other minorities, explicitly and implicitly connected with the socio-political discourse of the policymakers in the UK. That is, there is a general tendency to construct the Yazidis in semantic macrostructures as the main dominating topics in relation to the British socio-political discourses. That is to say, the analysis revealed a number of discourse practices and identified some macrostructures that the policymakers used to build and show solidarity with the Yazidi refugees, i.e., British MPs and the UK government. In this sense, the political discourses depicted in connection to the Yazidis tend to create empathetic responses, highlighting the fact that the Yazidi refugees, whose situation is a problem for the international community, need help. Such a depiction in *The Guardian* is used to control, transfer, and manage knowledge in order to reshape opinions, ideologies, and beliefs (Smith, 2019).

On the whole, constructing the political calls in headlines contributes to solidarity by building a reality that *The Guardian* wants the readers to form, establishing support and agreement (Alharbi & Rucker,

2023). To this end, it can be said that the political calls depicted in *The Guardian* came after the House of Commons, and Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond, declared that Britain would provide humanitarian aid to the Yazidi refugees. In this sense, the general tendency of *The Guardian* is to represent Iraqis ethnically and religiously. In other words, the discourse offered is to highlight refugees, especially the Yazidis, using political concern and moral support.

In contrast, *Deutsche Welle's* coverage uses different portrayals regarding the Iraqi refugee crisis, constructing two discourse practices: positive and negative discourses. The most noticeable leading frame action associated with the Iraqi refugees in the German news headlines is concerned with discourses, addressing victimization actions in Iraq: experiencing harsh circumstances and catastrophic conditions and fleeing from war and violence inside Iraq. The analysis also indicates that the topic construction of refugees as victims can be explicitly identified in the discourse practices of *Deutsche Welle*.

This depiction argues that there are several frames, indicating that Iraqi refugees, especially the Yazidis and Christians, are perceived as victims experiencing forced displacement, genocide, and demographic relocation in Iraq. The analysis thus reveals that the construction of solidarity towards the Iraqi refugees in Germany can be identified in *Deutsche Welle*. That is, there is an explicit reference in news headlines, indicating that many Iraqi refugees seek a family reunion and ask for asylum in Germany. The fact is that there are many Iraqis who have submitted their documentation to the German authorities to ask for asylum. Also, the Iraqi ambassador, Hussain M. F. Alkhateeb, announced that the number of refugees seeking asylum in Germany in 2015 was estimated at 122,000 (Ai, 2020). At that time, the open-door policy was one of the German policies that reflected the initiative of Angela Merkel's beliefs and decisions in policy making. According to van Dijk, "Such 'collective' empathy may very well be related to knowledge and evaluative beliefs that can be socially shared, precisely about the situation of refugees. Thus, embodied empathy and related emotions, such as compassion or pity, may be part of the personal mental models that define plans for future or ongoing actions of solidarity" (van Dijk, 2021: 17).

Also, there is an explicit tendency to depict the Iraqi refugees in the German discourse as unwanted criminals responsible for terrorist attacks in Germany. The fact that they are depicted in *Deutsche Welle* as carrying out terror attacks constructs the notion of illegality and the dilemma of coming to Germany. The anti-refugee stance that was more remarkable during different political events, such as the public elections in the German government, seems explicitly connected to the concept of national sovereignty and the social movement of the far-right (Dostal, 2017). In fact, the open-door policy has created serious consequences for the German government. Consequently, Germany's former chancellor Angela Merkel failed to make decisions regarding refugees who want to live in Germany; while the right-wing general party, the "Alternative for Germany," tightened this policy, Merkel also agreed to tighten border controls as an initiative of compromise (Sola, 2018: 2). And yet, besides these actions, constructing

criminal actions and the repatriation of thousands of Iraqis in *Deutsche Welle* can explicitly show a political discourse. Such discourse topics typically engage ideologies organized by the notion of the polarization between “good” and “bad” (van Dijk, 2018:19) and that the action of repatriation politically and explicitly implies that illegal Iraqis do not contribute to German society. Such a depiction can then clearly help recipients infer that refugees must leave Germany.

As the Iraqi refugee crisis in the headlines is analyzed by constructing Entman’s framing analysis and van Dijk’s socio-cognitive analysis, the findings of the news headlines indicate that *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* convey the idea that the exodus of Iraqis is a social problem. Additionally, the analysis presented in Chapter Five points out that *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* framed the problem and diagnosed its main cause with a prominent focus on ISIS at the microstructural level. And yet, besides these two frames, both *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* explicitly used headlines addressing ‘forced displacement discourses’ to construct Iraqi refugees as the topics of the semantic macrostructures. Such discourse practices can make the readers feel emotionally connected to the events and refugees depicted in headlines, provoke their anticipation, guide them to relevant points in the news, and position them to use their shared knowledge or act in a way determined by the editors of *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*. Moreover, such a depiction can, thus, help increase reader engagement as the depicted headlines show more “salient in the communicative text” (Entman, 1993: 52).

Moral judgment is another component of the framing function. Generally speaking, notwithstanding the headlines’ increasing concern for the misery felt by trapped Iraqis, it has been observed that this function is rarely used in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* (Abed & Mas, 2023). That is, moral judgment is indirectly used in the headlines to evaluate the agents and their effects in the news. This means that *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* use headlines addressing topics by focusing on the moral concern of another actor, such as the UN. Hence, this proximity means that the two sources convey this frame function just by topicalizing the UN discourses since judgments can only be made through reliable and moral actions determined by the voice of *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*. Furthermore, the analysis shows that what is topicalized in headlines is that the writers and editors do nothing by showing concern about refugees when constructing the Iraqi refugee crisis. This makes *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* expose other actors’ suggestions, such as the framing of the UN, the UK, and DE officials, and when these actors propose remedies, they can either be selected, quoted, or acted on.

Overall, the headlines and sub-headlines analyzed show that both *Deutsche Welle* and *The Guardian* depict Iraqi refugees differently. When it comes to the latter, the general tendency of *The Guardian* is to represent Iraqis ethnically and religiously. In other words, the discourse offered is to highlight refugees, especially the Yazidis, using political concern and moral support.

On the contrary, the discourse topic presented by *Deutsche Welle* is contrastive and has two different aspects of framing: one coincides with Iraqis and depicts them as victims of war and violence, and another represents them as criminals responsible for terror crimes in Germany. But in general, both

Deutsche Welle and *The Guardian* do acknowledge the Iraqi identity as an ethnic group in the news discourses. Moreover, the news headlines analyzed in *The Guardian* can be considered examples of hyperbolic discourse in news articles, mentioning hundreds, thousands, and millions of refugees, whereas, in the case of *Deutsche Welle*, the discourse topic follows the same frame, but not the same as *The Guardian* does. Broadly speaking, the general tendency in both *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* is to depict ISIS as barbarians, framing them as responsible for the demographic change in Iraq. This change appeared after ISIS came to power due to the displacement, genocide, and forced relocation that had targeted the Yazidis and Christians in Mosul. Finally, in both *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*, the crisis is depicted as a social problem with unsolved decisions; therefore, it has been reported in the headlines concerning other actors' actions, including demands, warnings, and limited aid.

Additionally, in Chapter Five, following Entman's *framing theory* (1993: 52), the suggestion of remedies is to "provide and justify treatments for the problems and their likely effects." Based on the selective sample, the actions suggested by *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* are limited and have targeted only Yazidis and Christians trapped in northern Iraq. The British newspaper *The Guardian* steers towards political actions and humanitarian aid as being the solution for the Iraqi refugee crisis. In other words, *The Guardian* employed the voice of the UK parliament as a political-interest frame to support refugees, especially the Yazidis. On the other hand, the German *Deutsche Welle* relied on diplomatic actions, including offering funds and stabilizing the authority in Iraq, as solutions to the problem. The aftermath of frame analysis shows that the entire set of headlines and sub-headlines regarding both sources can be identified as performing two frame functions. Although problems have been identified by *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*, the factors behind the fall of Mosul to ISIS are not defined comprehensively, nor are there any effective suggestions for solving the deeply flawed political system in Iraq.

Furthermore, Entman's framing theory (1993) in this study sought to examine the use of the framing of the Iraqi refugee crisis in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* by performing a purposive analysis of the two most crucial news sources: the two countries of Germany and the United Kingdom, both European yet culturally and politically different. The results, however, did not point to any important differences when it comes to defining the problems and their causes. That is to say — the two sides confirmed that ISIS is the main cause behind the huge displacement in Iraq. This means both sources did not show any substantial differences regarding the generic frame in the headlines and sub-headlines. There is, however, a slight difference as regards the topicalization of the crisis. That is, *The Guardian* tended to shed light on the political, military, and humanitarian frame actions to express the necessity of handling a solution to the crisis.

The expressed actions are identified by the newspaper as political actors and have been framed as doing something. In addition, *The Guardian* used a more socio-political approach as regards the concern for the Yazidis in news discourse as compared to *Deutsche Welle*, which often showed little concern. The

qualitative analysis showed a political will in *The Guardian* when it came to the Iraqi refugee crisis, especially the displaced Yazidis. In contrast, the German *Deutsche Welle* reported some possible options for the crisis, including strengthening the authority system in Iraq, rebuilding, and tackling cases of displacement. In fact, there is a joint ministerial evaluation between Iraq and Germany about the economic cooperation and recommendations concerning the crisis and funding (Gregor et al., 2022).

Furthermore, there are a number of conclusions in relation to the use of Entman's framing analysis and van Dijk's socio-cognitive analysis as methods in Chapter Five. Firstly, in terms of framing analysis, the topicalization of ISIS in both the headlines and sub-headlines as a frame function was realized to be dominant in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* in the news coverage, especially the 'threat frame'. Other frames are shown in headlines and sub-headlines, such as aggressive, brutal, and anti-humanistic frames, deserve focus due to their appearance in the news discourse in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*.

Secondly, the emotive use in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* concerning their news discourse was followed by targeting the sympathy of the readers. Headlines and sub-headlines were used in framing to show the emotive discourse of the selected topics in relation to displaced children and women. Therefore, the editors used emotive discourse by topicalizing other actors. They were used to define the news issues and reinforce the discourses of the sentence-level topic with statements, including actions such as warnings about the crisis in Iraq.

Thirdly, prominent topics/frames get topicalized in both *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*: the first one is the Iraqi refugee crisis. In this sense, what makes it into a crisis is that the common frame that defined the Iraqi refugee crisis was the brutal attack of ISIS, which obliged millions of displaced Iraqis to flee their homes. Other frames appeared in the headlines and sub-headlines related to several causes behind the fleeing of the Iraqis, including the lack of humanitarian aid and the lack of resources available in Iraq's plan to rescue displaced and trapped refugees. Therefore, based on the work offered regarding the discussions and analysis of Chapter Five, it is clear to conclude that the main factor that defines the Iraqi refugee crisis relates to the war and conflict in Iraq.

Fourthly, when it comes to the socio-cognitive analysis, the discursive structures of the headlines and sub-headlines in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* are controlled by the underlying models, knowledge, ideologies, and attitudes. This is because critical discourse studies, all in all, connect discourse structure to both political and social structures. Hence, it is through a sociocognitive approach that we can perceive the political and social structures mediated by the sort of sociocognitive analysis. In the case of *The Guardian*, for example, David Cameron's talk regarding the Iraqi Yazidi minority, to which the editorial refers to policymakers may suggest a kind of support to these actions. Therefore, the role of the editorials in formulating news topics and as a public discourse may tend to manifest a

socio-political relation between, for example, the government and the newspaper itself, as clearly represented in the context model of writing editorials (van Dijk, 2017).

Broadly speaking, in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*, the use of macropropositions in news articles is controlled by the mental models of the editors. Additionally, the actions and opinions depicted in news articles of the discursive structures are controlled by attitudes, ideologies, knowledge as well as underlying models. The macropropositions of the selected headlines refer to the overall message or meaning that is conveyed through the text. This may include the central ideas or actions presented, as well as the underlying attitudes and values that shape the news headlines. For example, in terms of contrast, the editors of *Deutsche Welle* not only formulate the social actors' opinions about the Iraqi refugee crisis, but also manipulate its readers in the formation of the criminal actions the Iraqis have committed when arriving in Germany. Whereas in *The Guardian*, the focus is on the socio-political aspect of the Iraqi refugee crisis, where we can see both moral and political concerns in the macrostructural discourse. That is, the ideological aspect of *The Guardian* is to show empathy and concern for the Yazidi refugees and their situation in Iraq.

On the other hand, *The Guardian* tends to portray the UK in the news as if the country wanted to solve the crisis, using its humanitarian, moral, political, and military as a way to solve the Iraqi refugee crisis. To summarize, drawing on the Socio-Cognitive Approach, macrostructures in the headlines, are, all in all, abstract, and cannot be realized explicitly, but some drawing rules are needed to understand the interconnection between the semantic macrostructure from the microstructural level of the text (van Dijk, 1995b). Such mapping may tend to generate complex functions and produce general meaning in discourse (van Dijk, 2013). It is explicit that the readers depend entirely on their general knowledge, using the global meaning to get a good interpretation of the news articles they read. Overall, both *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* emphasize and acknowledge the Iraqi refugee crisis as a social problem in the Middle East.

7.2.2. Conclusion of findings of Research Question 2

In response to the second question: What social relations are suggested between the audience and the participants represented in relation to the visual images? And how can we specify the news images that depict Iraqi refugees as displaced people in the visual texts analyzed?

Employing the social semiotic approach in Chapter Six with the focus on visual grammar (e.g., Kress and van Leeuwen, 1996, 2001, 2002, 2006; van Leeuwen 2021; van Leeuwen, 2008) has contributed to the analysis and deconstruction of how Iraqi refugees are visually represented in a selection of samples from *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* multimodal texts. To this end, the media coverage, overall, and the newspapers under analysis, specifically, always tend to have the power in society. This is obviously observed in newspapers' visuals as they include or exclude social actors, not acknowledging their role in the representations of societies and groups (van Leeuwen, 2008).

Chapter Six, more specifically, reaches the following conclusions: Firstly, the images under analysis show that social actors i.e., Iraqi refugees, are depicted in different social interactions with the audience, as observed in Figures 2 and 13, in which social actors are depicted as if they are "One of Us" (van Leeuwen, 2008: 138). In this sense, the images show that individual actors, specifically, children, are depicted in close-up, personal shots even though they have a direct engagement with the viewers and camera. Such cases as these reveal that the refugees addressing the viewers directly is a visual message whose meaning articulates a symbolic demand from the audience. And therefore, this depiction might earn a feeling of sympathy for them, especially when the emphasis is on children and women.

On the other hand, the depiction suggests that the images of Iraqi refugees convey additional information beyond what the content of the texts carries or communicates in terms of meanings. That is, this humanizing discourse reinforces a positive group agency possible by narrowing the social distance. In other words, the visual discourse of humanization in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* enables a positive individual group, such as children and women's identity, in terms of empathy by maintaining eye-level contact between the viewers and the refugees depicted. That is, the visual humanizing discourse of personhood makes Iraqi children's and women's identities possible and visible by narrowing the social distance between the viewer and the refugees (Martikainen & Sakki, 2021).

Additionally, Chapter Six concludes that Iraqi refugees, especially the children and women, are often portrayed individually or in small groups and from front, medium, and close-up angles. This depiction reinforces our understanding of the refugees to acknowledge them as individual humans with the same mental and physical needs as other human beings (Bellander, 2022). It, therefore, awakens the

perception of shared sympathies and interests and applies the aspect of discourses of solidarity. By promoting individual refugees, *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle's* imagery gives the represented participants a chance, especially children and women, to communicate with the audience by means of which the observers feel engaged in the depicted images and show solidarity; the audience is asked to meet the refugee's needs.

Such proximity in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* makes refugees appear approachable and, therefore, empowers the audience to feel involved and valued onlookers. In the context of forced displacement, the visual trope of innocent and vulnerable refugees, basically children and women, is widely evoked in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle's* coverage of the Iraqi refugee crisis. This suggests that the prototype of children and women as innocent victims tends to be a powerful visual strategy to foster feelings of compassion and pity in readers.

Additionally, the use of a visual oxymoron promoted the divergence between innocent children and women, and the harsh situation they are experiencing. In this context, images indicated that presenting children as displaced individuals can humanize the situation and, therefore, strengthen the proximity of social distance between refugees and viewers thanks to the use of the visual oxymoron as well as the dispositions of these images as vulnerable and innocent victims. Consequently, such close-up shots convey a feeling of closeness and intimacy between the portrayed refugee and the audience. Based on this, newspapers also have the power to show the events that refugees experience and to appeal for refugees' rights to be respected and their social status renewed.

On the other hand, *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* follow the same line when depicting images of a huge mass of Iraqi refugees. Chapter Six also concludes that the images of huge numbers of refugees convey a negative depiction. In this sense, images of enormous masses of refugees are depicted from a distant point so that spectators are entirely detached from them, without even any eye-contact, as observed in Figures (8, 7, 5, 6, and 9), in which the Iraqi refugees are depicted as objects. In this regard, the depicted refugees are shown as if they are manifesting the categorizations of mass groups. Consequently, the parameter of these images reinforces the negative representation of refugees; keeping them at a distance from the viewers is a kind of dichotomy of depicting refugees as 'others.' In this sense, the refugees are depicted in long and high shots, in which they seem to be entirely visually distanced from the viewers; therefore, depicting refugees in this situation reinforces the act of being "strangers" or "not of us" (van Leeuwen, 2008: 138).

In addition, Chapter Six concludes that the discourse of constructing refugees as 'others' strengthens a negative group identity and, hence, dehumanizes refugees, positioning them as other people, and depriving them of agency and voice (Martikainen & Sakki, 2021). In this regard, the visual dehumanization is constructed in different aspects: visual images of objects, for instance, Iraqi refugees are depicted as a huge mass of objects for our scrutiny, and nothing is said about their identity; instead,

they are all described as “the same level and objects” (van Leeuwen, 2008: 39), rather than subjects approaching the audience with their direct look and communicating with the viewer. Hence, long shots, high angles, and detachments. All these mediated images of the shots construct symbolic boundaries separating Iraqi refugees as huge groups from the audience, positioning them in a place of otherness and distancing and symbolizing them as objects (Martínez-Lirola, 2022a).

On the other hand, the portrayal of huge masses dehumanizes refugees, presenting them likewise as masses of immigrants and as a huge wave, as is common in prior research work on media images (Serafis et al., 2020; Massari, 2021; Martínez-Lirola, 2022a). In this regard, both *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* promote the image of the huge forcible displacement of refugees as being ‘otherness’ and in terms of declining people's qualities of their humanness and treated them as just masses of objects. In other words, they are depicted as a homogenized group: all the depicted refugees have the same level regarding the shots. This visual discourse, therefore, enables a negative group identity in terms of a lack of empathy, and the depriving of their agency and voice. Such a depiction in media imagery narrows refugees’ status and depicts them in a detached way, which is unlikely to communicate anything with the audience (Průchová, 2021).

Moreover, this depiction contributes to the present news coverage of the refugee situation, where the lack of portrayals of individuals suggests the dehumanization of refugees (Chouliaraki & Stolic, 2017; Martikainen & Sakki, 2021). As a result, detached shots, oblique angles, no direct relationship, and high horizontal angles that create no engagement between the audience and the represented participants are common features in the visual texts, depicted to show the reality of refugees as different and unlike that of the other Iraqi refugees and even detached from the readers. Accordingly, these features clearly reinforce the disempowerment of refugees from being a part of the social status.

Additionally, Chapter Six also pays attention to the cultural meanings of the images, and it has been noticed that these images are used to reveal society, culture, semiotic resources, and displaced people. In this sense, following van Leeuwen’s strategy of “cultural connotations” (2008:144), all images under analysis reveal that the figures depicted refer to Middle Eastern and Islamic cultures. The evidence is that social actors coincide with cultural elements, such as traditional clothes and Hijabs; therefore, these cultural classifications may transmit meanings to the audience to simply connote the traditional clothes of other people based on the visual context.

7.2.3. Conclusion of findings of Research Question 3

The additional objective of this thesis was to achieve an analysis of the images in the multimodal texts and to examine the affordances of the interaction between the language and refugee images. To this end, we come to the last question: How does multimodality become manifest in multimodal texts? In response, multimodality, all in all, has a well-established tradition in media discourse. For instance, visual elements are largely applied to capture focus, reinforce news context, and frame and counter the linguistic text in favor of the categorization of multimodal structures. Hence, the press, in general, and online newspapers, in particular, often use multimodality in news reports and discourses to empty visual components to capture the audience's attention (Höllner et al., 2014).

Chapter Six concludes that multimodal texts, including the visual and linguistic parts, conjointly strengthen and reinforce each other noticeably and distinctly. For instance, the linguistic mode in both *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* is used to report and inform on the Iraqi refugee crisis. That is, it shows more contextualized information regarding the Iraqi refugees and their displacement. On the other hand the use of a visual mode i.e., image, is clearly stylized.

The linguistic mode, on the other hand, is supposed to report and provide discursive news and structures i.e., headlines, sub-headlines, and captions. The visual mode, in contrast, individualizes the forms of the linguistic mode through the representation of the social actors by employing visual images and showing physical settings. All in all, it provides information that the linguistic mode no longer effortlessly shows more context regarding the topic. In other words, the visual mode provides dynamic scenes. For instance, it could be a visual image with two dimensions or an audio-visual. Overall, it makes the news content more tangible to the audience.

Additionally, the depiction of Iraqi refugees in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* shows that multimodal texts do not always reinforce news reports. In some special cases, multimodal texts are running concurrently, showing the two modes, i.e., text and image, follow the same line in terms of the depiction. In certain texts, there is no mutual resemblance between the information exhibited in the text and the content depicted in the visual.

Regarding the comparative analysis of the multimodal texts, the main difference found between *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* regarding the depiction of the Iraqi refugees was the variance between the linguistic mode and visual mode. For instance, the use of linguistic mode in *The Guardian* is used to provide more sympathetic discourse towards the Iraqi refugees, especially the Yazidis, and their

social situation in Iraq. For example, words and phrases such as ‘facing genocide’ (The Guardian, 9 August 2014), ‘still at risk’ (The Guardian, 14 August 2014), and ‘critical situation’ (The Guardian, 28 Jan 2015) are only used to denote the Yazidis and their situation. While *Deutsche Welle*, the focus was on expressions and words, such as ‘catastrophic conditions’ (Deutsche Welle, 10.08.2014), ‘left in limbo’ (Deutsche Welle, 03.02.2015), ‘Desperate times’ (Deutsche Welle, 26.11.2014), ‘People are in dire straits’ (Deutsche Welle, 07.23.2014), and ‘Desperate escape’ (Deutsche Welle, 06.23.2014) are used to depict the Iraqi refugees in general. Overall, the use of victimization in both *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* was the most prominent theme in the linguistic mode as regards the Iraqi refugee crisis.

A second main difference between *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* regarding the linguistic mode was the depiction of the critical situation Iraqis had experienced in the migratory process. For instance, there was a difference when describing the severe situations the Iraqis experienced. On the one hand, the use of critical situations in *The Guardian*’s headings is largely used to focus on verbs denoting the severe situation; for instance, the verb ‘trapped’ (The Guardian, 1 July 2017, 1 April 2016, 13 March 2017, 8 Jun 2016, 13 August 2014). Whereas in the case of *Deutsche Welle*, the use of critical situations concerning the Iraqi refugee crisis is commonly used to report on verbs, such as ‘stuck’ (Deutsche Welle, 04.30.2019) and ‘scuffle’ (Deutsche Welle, 12.05.2016).

To sum up, the linguistic mode or vocabulary of the headlines and sub-headlines is characterized by a mutual focus on humanitarian technical language. Words and phrases, such as ‘facing genocide’, ‘still at risk’, ‘left in limbo’, and ‘desperate times’ reinforce the kind of severe circumstances the Iraqis face.

There is also another main difference between *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* in terms of the use of captions within the visual images. The findings show that *Deutsche Welle* uses limited captions attached to the visual images. On the whole, an analysis of *Deutsche Welle* shows that it tends to use images without captions that define and specify the images depicted.

A good resemblance between *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* can be observed in the similar ways that both sources tend to show children and women as victims, maintaining eye contact with the readers, and as friends; they are depicted in the form of individual categorizations and in need of protection. Furthermore, both *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* show the Iraqi refugees as homogenous groups; they are depicted in a long shot, distanced from the audience and as strangers, unlike the other social actors in the visual images.

Chapter Six also concludes that the multimodal texts, especially the visual images, provide extra information beyond what the linguistic texts convey. That is, the study shows that visual images can rapidly evoke emotional reactions and impact the audience both emotionally and mentally. Chapter Six also reaches the following conclusion: The study shows that visual images offer a new perspective to the thesis results. Without exploring the visual images, the textual analysis tends to carry fewer tangible things, with some instances showing sympathy for the Iraqi refugees.

7.3. Contribution

It is worth mentioning that this thesis provides a pioneering perspective on multimodal discourse and critical framing analysis of the Iraqi refugees in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*. It examines the meanings of the textual discourse in the headlines and sub-headlines, as well as the multimodal texts. Consequently, this thesis opens a new window for exploring the Iraqi refugee crisis in Western media through the lens of *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*. The thesis, all in all, builds upon previous studies employing critical discourse analysis, framing analysis, and multimodal discourse analysis as foundational frameworks. As a result, to provide an in-depth analysis and obtain a full understanding of the Iraqi refugee crisis, I take a thorough look at previous studies and use them as a starting point by employing a novel perspective as analytical methods, thereby providing a more comprehensive understanding of the Iraqi refugee crisis. It can be said, to this end, there are some considerable findings when analysing the previous studies in Chapter Two with the potential findings of this thesis.

Firstly, when it comes to past studies regarding refugees, the rigorous use of critical discourse tools and notions of the interpretation of verbal and visual texts yielded highly remarkable information in terms of understanding how news articles and ideological threats lump together to communicate dominant refugees' discourses. This is what has been observed in the aforementioned patterns, especially, in the previously indicated studies in Chapter Two. Moreover, the findings of the abovementioned scholars revealed that repetitive macronarratives of humanization and illegality contribute to the global news media construction of refugees as inherently unexpected and threatening to their society. These findings proved explicit and implicit claims that were remarkably consistent about the threatening and illegitimate disposition of refugees and were based on the assumption that refugees create a social problem movement to be dealt with by the Western governments.

Overall, this negative social movement toward refugees and asylum-seekers has been exposed by many scholars and researchers in their studies; for instance (Khosravinik, 2009, 2010; Lien, 2016; O'Regan and Riordan's article; 2018; Parker's article, 2018; van Dijk, 2021; Matrood, 2022; Martínez-Lirola, 2022a) who all argue that illegal refugees were constructed in media discourse as an unprecedented crisis in Europe. To this end, this kind of problematization confirms the findings of Alsawad Nooruldeen and Fernas Jumaah (2019) concerning a turn towards constructing the Iraqi refugees in Germany. This negative discourse also confirms the findings of my thesis. That is, based on what is demonstrated in the findings, especially in Chapter Five, the results also proved that the Iraqi refugees as asylum seekers in Germany are defined in some news contexts of the digital platform discourse of *Deutsche Welle* as security risks, and responsible for criminal and illegal actions in Germany.

As a result, I infer that my thesis' findings on the Iraqi refugees as asylum seekers in Germany and on the digital platform discourse of *Deutsche Welle* support previous research suggesting that refugees, all in all, pose a security risk. On the other hand, based on what is concluded in the findings of this thesis, the Iraqi refugees are reported in the digital news headings of *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* as depressed and unprotected people in need of help. Therefore, this confirms the one-sided positive findings in favor of previous studies, as refugees and asylum-seekers are depicted as victims of violence and war (Abed & Mas, 2023). Additionally, the findings of this thesis expose the UN's response to the Iraqi refugee crisis by urging additional actions. However, as in Ahmed Sultan Hussein & Sahar Abdul-Razzaq Fattah's (2020) research, the UN is depicted as a savior of their critical situation, taking action and urging the international society to provide help.

Secondly, this thesis has shown a number of linguistic and visual strategies employed by *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* in the digital representation of the Iraqi refugees. Following Kress and van Leeuwen's analytical tools, these categories were classified into two kinds based on the themes of victimization and criminalization. It can be said, to this end, constructing the Iraqi refugees as passive victims and displaced individuals in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* contributes to the polarization of the victimization where the Iraqis are depicted as inferiors and victims of violence in Iraq, especially the ethnic minorities. Therefore, such a classification confirms the findings of Bellander's research (2022) regarding a shift towards constructing refugees as forcibly displaced people, seeking shelter to live in.

Also, representing the Iraqi refugees in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* as object agents or objectification contributes to representing people as objects for our scrutiny, rather than as subjects addressing the viewer with their gaze and symbolically engaging with the viewer in this way. This type of objectification, therefore, strongly confirms the findings of Martínez-Lirola's work (2006, 2017a, 2017b, 2017c, 2022a, 2022b) regarding a shift towards refugees with no direct involvement with the audience. On the other hand, the Iraqi refugees, especially, the children and women, are constructed in multimodal texts as victims of war and violence, and they are depicted in close-up shots. This type of proxemics, however, contradicts the previous work of Martínez-Lirola regarding a tendency towards more implicit power dominated by the global interests of the Western Media.

Additionally, there is a general dichotomy in the findings of this thesis to construct the Iraqi refugees in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* as "below us" or as "one of us" in the visuals. This type of depiction, therefore, reinforces the notions of van Leeuwen (2008: 138-139), suggesting that cameramen have power over the depicted refugees as they can include or exclude social actors for specific purposes. The findings of this thesis also confirm the claims of Martínez-Lirola regarding her research projects (2017a, 2017b, 2017c) of the socio-economic power (we-they or them-us) in the space of societies, where 'they'

are passive social actors or recipients of our demands and resources, and ‘we’ contributes to an elite of dominant power.

While exploring previous research works in Chapter Two, I observed that the use of integrated research design has not been put into practice as much. That is, a comparative research design, such as Critical discourse analysis (CDA), Multimodal Critical discourse analysis (MCDA), and Media framing analysis (MFA), has not been put into use by researchers either. However, some research studies have only used CDA and MCDA methodologies to answer their questions and extract conclusions from such methodological tools. The focal contribution of this study is that this is the only thesis that has integrated framing theory, socio-cognitive approach, and social semiotic approach to explore media genres and to describe the depiction of Iraqi refugees in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*.

Regarding the topic or the examined case study of the Iraqi refugee crisis, it is worth mentioning that no work has analyzed this topic as this thesis has. That is, this is the first thesis to examine the depiction of Iraqi refugees in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* on both linguistic and visual levels.

Additionally, this thesis contributes to the combination of modes in the media and stresses the appearance of multimodality, as well as the function of multimodal texts, such as image and text, which leads to a crucial mapping in the discourse context. To this end, this thesis argues that postulating the superiority of written language over images may run some risks of twisting in the context of interpretation and even skewing research results. For this reason, Bateman (2020) argues that both text and image contribute to shaping the meaning of context, in which semiotic modes are mapped under two perspectives: Firstly, the visual material dimension is inseparable from the human sensory, and secondly, semiotic modes are indispensable for having a semiotic dimension.

Moreover, this thesis contributes to the discipline of CDA-oriented multimodal research since it raises awareness of the value and benefits of incorporating CDA MDA as well as the potential for adopting a multidisciplinary approach. This is proved by the fact that, despite Machin and Mayr (2012) having used ‘*How to Do a Critical Discourse Analysis: A multimodal Introduction*’ that combined CDA with multimodal analysis, CDA approaches, broadly speaking, are limited to the analysis of verbal resources. Referring to this issue, Bateman (2014: 48) has come to confirm that multimodality as a new research discipline has expanded increasingly and noticeably, and according to him... “the prevalence of artefacts that include both pictures and texts ... has prompted renewed scientific discussion and consideration of the relationship between visually and verbally presented information within many, quite diverse disciplines”.

Chapter Six of this thesis has examined how multimodal texts are used in particular cultural and editorial contexts, and therefore it contributes to the importance of using texts and images in online newspapers as material resources. Hence, Chapter Six analyses both text-image relations in online newspapers and multimodal news texts and contributes to this thesis by providing a more systematic combination of text

and image relations, which helps to illustrate how the audience perceives the different types of modes and the materials that are co-occurring .

The findings in Chapter Five are also relevant to the contribution of this thesis regarding CDA and framing theory. For instance, merging CDA and framing analysis within the context of the analytical framework contributes to some great results since frame analysis shares many of the building blocks of CDA.

Firstly, let us consider how frames work together within the critical approach in discourse and practice. This thesis advances the claim that the methodological and theoretical configuration of CDA and framing is multidisciplinary. Since framing implies cognitive processes, especially in the communicative text (Entman, 1993), the social cognitive approach (SCA) to CDA is more relevant for the integral review of framing research, since it precisely focuses on the two focal concepts used in framing research paradigm: discourse and cognition (van Dijk, 2008; van Dijk, 2023). On the other hand, as one approach to cognitive CDA, and based on Hart's argument (2023: 249), "framing is one of the dimension construal within cognitive CDA, because framing and structural configuration in cognitive CDA rely on frames and event-frames respectively. They equally contribute different levels of meaning for shaping the overall impression of events that reader is likely to form in response to texts."

Secondly, the basic contribution of this thesis is to develop a critical perspective of how frames work together within the critical approach in the communicative text for the sake of producing a salient meaning within a text. As framing analysis shares many of the building blocks with CDA, it contains the idea that discourse may carry some actions beyond the text and coincide with the same principles regarding the construction of meaning in discourse and preserve its methodological roots in the in-depth linguistic study (Hope, 2010). Moreover, since the cognitive approach to CDA draws on some concepts from cognitive linguistics to explore the correlations between social action, language, and cognition in political contexts (Hart, 2014), both frames and framing have come to be vital in cognitive processes of meaning construction in discourse and its practice (Hart, 2023).

Moreover, as discussed in Chapter 3, the study also contributes to reinforcing an understanding of how the application of systematized critical social studies analytical methods/tools can empower the linguistic theory in this topic of study, which is considered eclecticism. Overall, this thesis argues that the use of multidisciplinary methodology for CDA is the more applicable way to understand any social problem in the field of social science, since van Dijk (2009b) and Ruth Wodak and Meyer (2009) reinforce the idea that CDA is problem-oriented rather than focusing on a theory or a particular discipline as its implications are explicitly presented in layman's terms to society.

7.4. Limitations and Future Research

There are specific limits in this thesis that I came across. The first limitation of this study was that, owing to space restraints, I focused exclusively on media genres, especially online newspapers, to examine the framing and depiction of the Iraqi refugee crisis that took place in June 2014. Also, with a limited focus on the sample size of newspapers, caution must be taken into account; the results of the media analysis might not be proof of Western culture as a whole. As a result, this thesis only focuses on *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* as two cases to investigate the portrayal of Iraqi refugees as social groups and displaced people. To this end, considerable caution should be taken, as *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* might not be transferable to all of the ideologies and directions of their countries of origin: there might be some other newspapers that have different political and ideological views.

Secondly, regarding language limitation, the analysis is only restricted to news articles published in English in both *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*. Hence, this excludes other potential editorials that might be shown in news articles published in other languages or by other international media outlets, as it is through language that we can understand/perceive culture. Thirdly, when it comes to timeframe, it is worth mentioning that the study was conducted within a specific timeframe. That is, media discourse, in general, can evolve over time. Therefore, the results might not prove changes in how the Iraqi refugee crisis was represented after the selected time frame. Fourthly, the use of limited methodologies; although this thesis considered the ways in which the Iraqi refugees are depicted in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*, it would be valuable to widen this topic, using methodologies such as quantitative or qualitative interviews or even audience perception studies to produce a more contextualized and comprehensive understanding.

Another fruitful perspective of analysis could be conducted by focusing on different newspapers – by using, for example, a sample from the Middle Eastern culture, such as Al Iraqiya Media Network and Al Jazeera Media Network, and another sample from the British, Spanish, and German newspapers. This line of research would enable the mapping out of the main difference between Western and Eastern discourses in the media. Furthermore, analyzing news headlines and sub-headlines through the lens of the genre theory is important for researchers because it provides a comprehensive understanding of how headlines function within the broader context of communication genres. Despite these restrictions, it can be said that the findings of this thesis were well-grounded, the results accurate and the conclusions precise.

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Appendices

Appendix A

Lists to Coded initial headlines. *The Guardian*

Code	Journalist	Topic/ title	Source	Date
TG.UK.H1	Clár Ní Chonghaile	Millions of Iraqi children repeatedly and relentlessly targeted, says UN	<i>The Guardian</i>	30 June. 2016
TG.UK.H2	Associated press	Thousands of Mosul civilians trapped in Isis territory as Iraqi forces close in	<i>The Guardian</i>	1 July. 2017.
TG.UK.H3	Chris Johnston	Iraqi refugees 'facing genocide' to receive UK airdrop of aid	<i>The Guardian</i>	9 August, 2014.
TG.UK.H4	Martin Chulov and Julian Borger	Thousands of Iraqi refugees 'still at risk' despite ending of Mount Sinjar siege	<i>The Guardian</i>	14 August, 2014
TG.UK.H5	Emma Graham-Harrison	Hundreds at Iraq refugee camp ill from contaminated food	<i>The Guardian</i>	13 June, 2017

Code	Journalist	Topic / title	Source	Date
TG.UK.H6	Orlando Crowcroft	Iraqi Kurdistan inundated as refugees flee fighting in Anbar province	<i>The Guardian</i>	12 March, 2014.
TG.UK.H7	Fazel Hawramy	Winter brings fresh threat to Iraq's refugees who fled the Isis advance	<i>The Guardian</i>	6 December, 2014.
TG.UK.H8	Nicky Woolf	'In Iraq, there is no peace for Yazidis'	<i>The Guardian</i>	9 August, 2014.
TG.UK.H9	Karen McVeigh	UK government faces calls to shelter Yazidi refugees persecuted by Isis	<i>The Guardian</i>	26 November, 2016.
TG.UK.H10	Emma Graham-Harrison and Fazel Hawramy	Isis forces 1,500 Iraqi families to march to Mosul	<i>The Guardian</i>	8 November, 2016.

Code	Journalist	Topic/title	Source	Date
TG.UK.H11	Patrick Wintour	Mosul attack could leave thousands of children homeless, says Unicef	<i>The Guardian</i>	10 July, 2016.
TG.UK.H12	Martin Chulov	UN says civilians at extreme risk as west Mosul offensive begins	<i>The Guardian</i>	19 February, 2017.
TG.UK.H13	Martin Chulov	Mosul's children were shouting beneath the rubble. Nobody came	<i>The Guardian</i>	25 march, 2017.
TG.UK.H14	Mona Mahmood	Life in Mosul one year on: 'Isis with all its brutality is more honest than the Shia government'	<i>The Guardian</i>	10 June, 2015.
TG.UK.H15	Kareem Shaheen	Isis fighters destroy ancient artefacts at Mosul museum	<i>The Guardian</i>	26 February, 2015.

Code	Journalist	Topic / title	Source	Date
TG.UK.H16	Liz Ford	Yazidis yearn for their Sinjar home one year after Isis forced them to flee	<i>The Guardian</i>	3 August, 2015.
TG.UK.H17	Fazel Hawramy	Mosul civilians flee heavy fighting and Isis: 'They killed people in front of me'	<i>The Guardian</i>	2 November, 2016.
TG.UK.H18	Emma Graham-Harrison	Fight against Isis in Iraq could displace millions more people, UN says	<i>The Guardian</i>	23 June, 2016.
TG.UK.H19	Martin Chulov	Mosul families trapped on the frontline of the war against Isis: 'What can we do?'	<i>The Guardian</i>	13 march, 2017.
TG.UK.H20	Fazel Hawramy and Kareem Shaheen	'We lost our houses, our cars, our men': call to protect Mosul civilians	<i>The Guardian</i>	11 July, 2017.

Code	Journalist	Topic / title	Source	Date
TG.UK.H21	Julian Borger	Iraq humanitarian crisis has reached highest level, UN aid officials warn	<i>The Guardian</i>	14 August, 2014.
TG.UK.H22	Kareem Shaheen	Isis attacks Kirkuk as concerns mount over fate of civilians in Mosul	<i>The Guardian</i>	21 October, 2014.
TG.UK.H23	Fazel Hawramy and Emma Graham-Harrison	Islamic State using hostages as human shields in Mosul - UN	<i>The Guardian</i>	28 October, 2016.
TG.UK.H24		'They are savages,' say Christians forced to flee Mosul by Isis	<i>The Guardian</i>	24 July, 2014.
TG.UK.H25	Associated Press in Baghdad	Isis militants blow up Jonah's tomb	<i>The Guardian</i>	24 July, 2014.

Code	Journalist	Topic /title	Source	Date
TG.UK.H26	Haroon Siddique	20,000 Iraqis besieged by Isis escape from mountain after US air strikes	<i>The Guardian</i>	10 August, 2014.
TG.UK.H27	Mona Mahmood and Emma Graham-Harrison	Mosul civilians brace for assault as Iraq forces bid to retake Isis stronghold	<i>The Guardian</i>	15 Oct 2016
TG.UK.H28	Associated Press	Thousands of Mosul civilians trapped in Isis territory as Iraqi forces close in	<i>The Guardian</i>	1 July, 2017
TG.UK.H29	Agencies in Geneva	Iraqis are fleeing violence in Anbar at rate not seen since civil war, says UN	<i>The Guardian</i>	24 January, 2014.
TG.UK.H30	Associated Press in Baghdad	Iraqi civilian death toll passes 5,500 in wake of Isis offensive	<i>The Guardian</i>	18 July, 2014.
TG.UK.H31	Reuters	Displaced Yazidis continue to arrive in Kurdistan seeking safety and shelter Thousands of Yazidis continue to arrive in Dohuk, northern Iraq where the UN has rushed emergency supplies. The UN set up tents and distribute food to an estimated 400,000 people. Families speak of their difficult journeys to the camp and their fear that they will be unable to return to their homes	<i>The Guardian</i>	15 Aug 2014

Code	Journalist	Topic/ title	Source	Date
TG.UK.H32	Martin Chulov	Iraq: US plans rescue mission for besieged Yazidi refugees	<i>The Guardian</i>	11 August 2014
TG.UK.H33	Martin Chulov	Iraq cities exodus to increase by tens of thousands, say officials	<i>The Guardian</i>	24 January 2014
TG.UK.H34	Martin Chulov	40,000 Iraqis stranded on mountain as Isis jihadists threaten death	<i>The Guardian</i>	7 August 2014
TG.UK.H35	Associated Press in Baghdad	Thousands of children at risk in Falluja, says UN	<i>The Guardian</i>	1 Jun 2016
TG.UK.H36	Reuters in Baghdad	Up to 90,000 civilians trapped inside Falluja, UN official says	<i>The Guardian</i>	8 Jun 2016

Code	Journalist	Topic/ title	Source	Date
TG.UK.H37	Agence France-Presse	Islamic State 'shooting civilians as they flee besieged Falluja'	<i>The Guardian</i>	6 June 2016
TG.UKH.38	Andrew Brown	Use abandoned British army equipment to save Iraqi refugees, say campaigners	<i>The Guardian</i>	16 October 2014
TG.UK.H39	Reuters	Displaced Iraqis struggle in refugee camps as the military regains control of the Baiji refinery - video	<i>The Guardian</i>	26 Jun 2014
TG.UK.H40	Jade Azim and agencies	International help for Yazidis trapped by Islamic State on Mount Sinjar	<i>The Guardian</i>	13 August 2014
TG.UK.H41	Spencer Ackerman in New York, Kim Willsher in Paris and Haroon Siddique in London	US air strikes hit Isis again as efforts intensify to evacuate Yazidi refugees	<i>The Guardian</i>	11 August 2014

Code	Journalist	Topic/ title	Source	Date
TG.UK.H42	Kareem Shaheen and agencies	Iraqi troops advance into Falluja to face refugee crisis	<i>The Guardian</i>	21 June 2016
TG.UK.H43	Richard Norton-Taylor, Nicholas Watt and Julian Borger	British SAS sent to Iraq on 'intelligence' mission before airlift of Yazidi refugees	<i>The Guardian</i>	14 August 201
TG.UK.44	Nicholas Watt and Martin Chulov	UK steps up role in Iraq with move to aid Kurds and Yazidis against Isis	<i>The Guardian</i>	12 August 2014
TG.UK.H45	Nicholas Watt, chief political correspondent	British forces drop humanitarian supplies to Yazidi refugees in Iraq	<i>The Guardian</i>	12 August 2014
TG.UK.H46	Martin Chulov	Yazidis tormented by fears for women and girls kidnapped by Isis jihadis	<i>The Guardian</i>	11 August 2014

Code	Journalist	Topic/ title	Source	Date
TG.UK.H47	ITN Productions	Thousands of Iraqi Christians flee from fighting between Isis and Kurdish forces - video	<i>The Guardian</i>	28 June 2014
TG.UK.H48	Sam Jones and Owen Bowcott	Religious leaders say Isis persecution of Iraqi Christians has become genocide	<i>The Guardian</i>	9 Aug 2014
TG.UK.H49	Caroline Davies	Threat to Christians in Middle East a tragedy, says Charles	<i>The Guardian</i>	4 November 2014
TG.UK.H50	Martin Chulov	Iraq's largest Christian town abandoned as Isis advance continues	<i>The Guardian</i>	7 Aug 2014
TG.UK.H51	Mark Townsend	Bishops urge David Cameron to grant asylum to Iraqi Christians	<i>The Guardian</i>	2 Aug 2014

Code	Journalist	Topic/ title	Source	Date
TG.UK.H52	Andrew Brown	Use abandoned British army equipment to save Iraqi refugees, say campaigners	<i>The Guardian</i>	16 October, 2014.
TG.UK.H53	Giles Fraser	Even after escaping Isis, the suffering of the Yazidis persists..	<i>The Guardian</i>	17 Mar 2016
TG.UK.H54	Esther Addley	UK urged to give asylum to 100 women who fled Isis captivity in Iraq	<i>The Guardian</i>	1 Apr 2016
TG.UK.H55	Lara Whyte	Germany opens its doors to Yazidi women and children enslaved by Isis	<i>The Guardian</i>	2 Mar 2016
TG.UK.H56	Lara Whyte	Yazidi survivors of Isis torture and rape need the support the UK promised	<i>The Guardian</i>	19 Oct 2015

Code	Journalist	Topic/ title	Source	Date
TG.UK.H57	Rajeev Syal	Iraq crisis: David Cameron under pressure to recall parliament	<i>The Guardian</i>	11 Aug 2014
TG.UK.H58	Nicholas Watt, chief political correspondent	UK deploys Tornado jets in Iraq to assist in Sinjar aid drops	<i>The Guardian</i>	12 Aug 2014
TG.UK.H59	ITN	Iraq: Britain will 'play role' in arms transport, says David Cameron - video	<i>The Guardian</i>	13 Aug 2014
TG.UK.H60	Rowena Mason, political correspondent	David Cameron: Isis is planning to attack UK	<i>The Guardian</i>	18 Jun 2014
TG.UK.H61	Mona Mahmood	Voices from Iraq: 'We have lived enough years of revenge and tyranny'	<i>The Guardian</i>	13 Jun 2014

Code	Journalist	Topic/ title	Source	Date
TG.UK.H62	Mona Mahmood	Voices from Mosul: 'The cities are falling into their hands'	<i>The Guardian</i>	11 Jun 2014
TG.UK.H63	Source: Reuters	Isis releases more than 200 captive Yazidis in Iraq – video	<i>The Guardian</i>	9 Apr 2015
TG.UK.H64	Martin Chulov and Fazel Hawramy	'Isis has shattered the ancient ties that bound Iraq's minorities'	<i>The Guardian</i>	9 Aug 2014
TG.UK.H65	Spencer Ackerman in New York and Nicholas Watt	Iraq crisis: US and Britain call off rescue of Yazidis on Mount Sinjar	<i>The Guardian</i>	14 Aug 2014
TG.UK.H66	Raya Jalabi	Who are the Yazidis and why is Isis hunting them?	<i>The Guardian</i>	11 Aug 2014

Code	Journalist	Topic/ title	Source	Date
TG.UK.H67	Martin Chulov in Irbil, Owen Bowcott and Sam Jones	Tens of thousands pour into Iraq's Kurdish north as US jets bomb Isis	<i>The Guardian</i>	8 Aug 2014
TG.UK.H68	Spencer Ackerman in New York	Rescue mission unlikely after US says Isis siege of stranded Yazidis over	<i>The Guardian</i>	14 Aug 2014
TG.UK.H69	Mohammad Moslawi in Mosul, Fazel Hawramy in Irbil and Luke Harding	Citizens of Mosul endure economic collapse and repression under Isis rule	<i>The Guardian</i>	27 Oct 2014
TG.UK.H70	Mark Anderson and Achilleas Galatsidas	Number of internally displaced people highest 'in a generation'	<i>The Guardian</i>	6 May 2015
TG.UK.H71	Fazel Hawramy in Qayyarah, Emma Graham-Harrison and Kareem Shaheen	Isis seize and kill dozens in strongholds around Mosul to quell uprising	<i>The Guardian</i>	25 Oct 2016

Code	Journalist	Topic/ title	Source	Date
TG.UK.H72	Associated Press	Civilians flee the offensive on Falluja – in pictures	<i>The Guardian</i>	27 May 2016
TG.UK.H73	Patrick Wintour Diplomatic editor	MPs unanimously declare Yazidis and Christians victims of Isis genocide	<i>The Guardian</i>	20 Apr 2016
TG.UK.H74	Emma Graham-Harrison in Sinjar	Sinjar still gripped by fear a year after liberation from Isis	<i>The Guardian</i>	31 Oct 2016
TG.UK.H75	Liz Ford	Nadia Murad says UK could save lives of Yazidi women by admitting refugees	<i>The Guardian</i>	9 Dec 2016
TG.UK.H76	Pari Ibrahim and Laurie Adams	It was genocide with a template. We must seek justice for the Yazidi people	<i>The Guardian</i>	4 Aug 2016

Code	Journalist	Topic/ title	Source	Date
TG.UK.H77	Dr Ali Muthanna	Thousands have been abused by Isis and their mental health is shattered	<i>The Guardian</i>	27 Jan 2016
TG.UK.H78	Grace Rahman	Little respite for Iraqis displaced by Mosul fighting	<i>The Guardian</i>	3 Aug 2016
TG.UK.H79	Gus Palmer and Matt Fidler	Yazidi refugees return to Sinjar in Iraq – a photo essay	<i>The Guardian</i>	3 Mar 2016
TG.UK.H80	Martin Chulov in Irbil, Julian Borger and Richard Norton-Taylor in London and Dan Roberts in Washington	US troops land on Iraq's Mt Sinjar to plan for Yazidi evacuation	<i>The Guardian</i>	13 Aug 2014
TG.UK.H81	Saeed Kamali Dehghan and Emma Graham-Harrison in Sinja	Yazidi women who escaped from Isis win EU human rights prize	<i>The Guardian</i>	27 Oct 2016

Code	Journalist	Topic/ title	Source	Date
TG.UK.H82	Fazel Hawramy in Sulaymaniyah and Kareem Shaheen in Istanbul	'We lost our houses, our cars, our men': call to protect Mosul civilians	<i>The Guardian</i>	11 July 2017
TG.UK.H83	Patrick Wintour Diplomatic editor	With liberation of Mosul from Isis in sight, US envoy urges plan for refugees	<i>The Guardian</i>	21 Jul 2016
TG.UK.H84	Nicholas Watt and Rajeev Syal	David Cameron cuts holiday short by a day over Iraq crisis	<i>The Guardian</i>	13 Aug 2014
TG.UK.H85	Chris Huhne	David Cameron must get over his Syria humiliation and act on Iraq	<i>The Guardian</i>	17 Aug 2014
TG.UK.H86	Patrick Wintour, political editor	Isis will be squeezed out of existence, says David Cameron	<i>The Guardian</i>	3 Sep 2014

Code	Journalist	Topic/ title	Source	Date
TG.UK.H87	John Hooper in Rome	Vatican calls on Muslim leaders to condemn Christian persecution in Iraq	<i>The Guardian</i>	12 Aug 2014
TG.UK.H88	Liz Ford	Nadia Murad says UK could save lives of Yazidi women by admitting refugees	<i>The Guardian</i>	9 Dec 2016
TG.UK.H89	Clár Ní Chonghaile	Families in critical situation in southern Iraq as winter bites	<i>The Guardian</i>	28 Jan 2015
TG.UK.H90	AFP	Hundreds of displaced Iraqis transferred from camp	<i>The Guardian</i>	28 August 2019
TG.UK.H91	Kate Holt	'We have no home to go back to': citizens of Mosul return to ruin – in pictures	<i>The Guardian</i>	9 Oct 2017

Code	Journalist	Topic/ title	Source	Date
TG.UK.H92	Haider Newmani	Isis is escalating its violence against Iraqi civilians. Why doesn't the world care?	<i>The Guardian</i>	29 Jul 2016
TG.UK.H93	Emma Graham-Harrison	Fight against Isis in Iraq could displace millions more people, UN says	<i>The Guardian</i>	23 Jun 2016
TG.UK.H94	Martin Chulov in Baghdad	Iraqi Sunnis forced to abandon homes and identity in battle for survival	<i>The Guardian</i>	5 Apr 2015
TG.UK.H95	Martin Chulov near Mosul	Battle for Mosul: 'This is going to take a long time – Isis won't give up'	<i>The Guardian</i>	18 Oct 2016
TG.UK.H96	Holly Young	Fallujah siege: 'Families are surviving on dried dates and river water'	<i>The Guardian</i>	26 May 2016

Code	Journalist	Topic/ title	Source	Date
TG.UK.H97	Emma Graham-Harrison	Charity helping Yazidi survivors of Isis sexual slavery shut down	<i>The Guardian</i>	12 Jan 2017
TG.UK.H98	Peter Beaumont in Fallujah	'People are scared': deadly legacy of Isis continues to shape lives in Iraq	<i>The Guardian</i>	15 Nov 2018
TG.UK.H99	Mark Anderson	Minority and indigenous communities turned off own land in growing numbers	<i>The Guardian</i>	2 Jul 2015
TG.UK.H100	Martin Chulov	Isis deploys child suicide bombers as Iraqi army advances	<i>The Guardian</i>	11 Nov 2016
TG.UK.H101	Martin Chulov in Beirut	Iraqi forces push into deadliest areas of Mosul as civilian exodus accelerates	<i>The Guardian</i>	6 Mar 2017

Code	Journalist	Topic/ title	Source	Date
TG.UK.H102	Karen McVeigh	'Crazy numbers': civilian deaths from airstrikes almost double in a year	<i>The Guardian</i>	8 Jan 2018
TG.UK.H103	Reuters	For Iraq's Christians, a bittersweet first Christmas home after Isis takeover	<i>The Guardian</i>	25 Dec 2017
TG.UK.H104	Emma Graham-Harrison	Fighting around Mosul leaves majority in Isis-held city without water	<i>The Guardian</i>	29 Nov 2016
TG.UK.H105	Dan Roberts in Washington and Spencer Ackerman in New York	Obama promises Iraqi prime minister more humanitarian aid for refugees	<i>The Guardian</i>	14 Apr 2015
TG.UK.H106	Martin Chulov in Irbil, Julian Borger and Richard Norton-Taylor in London and Dan Roberts in Washington	US troops land on Iraq's Mt Sinjar to plan for Yazidi evacuation	<i>The Guardian</i>	13 Aug 2014

Code	Journalist	Topic/ title	Source	Date
TG.UK.H107	Fazel Hawramy in Zumar	Kurdish peshmerga forces prepare escape route for Yazidis trapped on Sinjar	<i>The Guardian</i>	19 Dec 2014
TG.UK.H108	Patrick Wintour Diplomatic editor	UN condemns Isis genocide against Yazidis in Iraq and Syria	<i>The Guardian</i>	16 Jun 2016
TG.UK.H109	Fazel Hawramy in Erbil Julian Borger in Washington	Travel ban shuts out Yazidis despite their suffering at the hands of Isis	<i>The Guardian</i>	9 Feb 2017
TG.UK.H110	Mariz Tadros	Who will condemn the sexual enslavement of Iraq's minority women?	<i>The Guardian</i>	15 Aug 2014

TG.UK.H112	Amanda Holpuch in New York, Harriet Sherwood in Jerusalem and Owen Bowcott Legal affairs correspondent	John Kerry: Isis is committing genocide in Syria and Iraq	<i>The Guardian</i>	17 Mar 2016
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Code	Journalist	Topic/ title	Source	Date
TG.UK.H113	Harriet Sherwood	Calls grow to label attacks on Middle East Christians as genocide	<i>The Guardian</i>	10 Mar 2016
TG.UK.H114	Sam Jones	UN pleads for \$497m aid to prevent catastrophe for millions of Iraqis	<i>The Guardian</i>	4 Jun 2015
TG.UK.H115	Martin Chulov in Baghdad	Isis kills hundreds of Iraqi Sunnis from Albu Nimr tribe in Anbar province	<i>The Guardian</i>	30 Oct 2014
TG.UK.H116	AFP	Hundreds of people flee Iraq's Fallujah area	<i>The Guardian</i>	27 May 2016
TG.UK.H117	Associated Press in Geneva	UN human rights chief flags up claims of abuse of those fleeing Falluja	<i>The Guardian</i>	7 Jun 2016

Code	Journalist	Topic/ title	Source	Date
TG.UK.H118	Kareem Shaheen in Beirut	Islamic State holding estimated 3,500 slaves in Iraq, says UN	<i>The Guardian</i>	19 Jan 2016
TG.UK.H119	Emma Graham-Harrison	Could the liberation of Mosul lead to a million fleeing to Iraqi Kurdistan?	<i>The Guardian</i>	27 Aug 2016
TG.UK.H120	Reuters	Iraq: Yazidi mass grave discovered in Sinjar	<i>The Guardian</i>	15 Nov 2015
TG.UK.H121	Kareem Shaheen in Beirut	Isis attacks Kirkuk as concerns mount over fate of civilians in Mosul	<i>The Guardian</i>	21 Oct 2016
TG.UK.H122	Fazel Hawramy in Irbil	Mosul residents describe 'hell' of Isis occupation as Kurdish fighters close in	<i>The Guardian</i>	22 Jan 2015

Code	Journalist	Topic/ title	Source	Date
TG.UK.H123	Nicholas Watt, Martin Chulov and Julian Borger	UK prepares to supply arms directly to Kurdish forces fighting Isis	<i>The Guardian</i>	14 Aug 2014
TG.UK.H124	ITN	Britain's RAF makes second aid drop to Mount Sinjar Iraqis trapped by Isis – video	<i>The Guardian</i>	12 Aug 2014
TG.UK.H125	Reuters	Iraq: UK makes third humanitarian airdrop for stranded Yazidis - video	<i>The Guardian</i>	13 Aug 2014
TG.UK.H126	Martin Chulov	Iraq cities exodus to increase by tens of thousands, say officials	<i>The Guardian</i>	24 Jan 2014
TG.UK.H127	Kareem Shaheen	Islamic State holding estimated 3,500 slaves in Iraq, says UN	<i>The Guardian</i>	19 Jan 2016

Appendix B

Lists to Coded initial headlines. *Deutsche Welle*

Code	Journalist	Topic/ title	Source	Date
DW.DE.H1	Hermione Gee	Iraqi refugees find temporary haven in Erbil	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	17.06.2014
DW.DE.H2	Nalan Sipar	Iraqi refugees face 'catastrophic' conditions	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	10.08.2014
DW.DE.H3	Stefan Dege	Fearing ISIS, Iraqi Christians flee	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	23.06.2014
DW.DE.H4	Diego Cupolo, Sharya.	Yazidis see fleeing Middle East as only option for survival	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	02.05.2016
DW.DE.H5	Hermione Gee	Fleeing residents of Mosul take refuge in Kurdistan	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	12.06.2014

Code	Journalist	Topic/ title	Source	Date
DW.DE.H6	Anne Allmeling	ISIS threatening to redraw Mideast borders	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	28.07.2014
DW.DE.H7	Georg Matthes	Refugee camp in northern Iraq bursting at the seams	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	03.08.2016
DW.DE.H8	Birgit Svensson	Iraq: Refugee drama on the Bzebiz Bridge	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	26.04.2016
DW.DE.H9	Nina Werkhäuser	UN: Not enough money for refugees in Iraq	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	21.09.2015
DW.DE.H10	Ariana Dongus and Christina zur Nedden	Refugees in Iraq prepare for digital future	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	16.05.2017

Code	Journalist	Topic/ title	Source	Date
DW.DE.H11	Kersten Knipp	Refugees in Iraq caught between soldiers and jihadists	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	28.06.2016
DW.DE.H12	Cathy Otten	Fleeing from 'IS,' Iraqis left in limbo	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	03.02.2015
DW.DE.H13	Birgit Svensson	Thousands of people flee Mosul before Iraq anti-IS op	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	16.10.2016
DW.DE.H14	Judit Neurink	Iraqi refugees seek family reunion in Germany	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	19.07.2017
DW.DE.H15	UN	Thousands flee Mosul in Iraq as ISIL takes control	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	11.06.2014

Code	Journalist/ Author	Topic/ title	Source	Date
DW.DE.H16	DW Source	Thousands of 'exhausted and dehydrated' people flee Iraqi city of Mosul	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	28.02.2017
DW.DE.H17	Judit Neurink	Poverty and lack of services in Iraq force refugees back to the camps	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	29.04.2018
DW.DE.H18	Matthias von Hein	Relief organizations prepare for Mosul refugees	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	22.10.2016
DW.DE.H19	Nora Nassif	Iraqi refugee shares his success story as an entrepreneur in Germany	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	05.05.2017
DW.DE.H20	Judit Neurink	Iraqi refugees seek family reunion in Germany	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	19.07.2017

Code	Journalist/ Author	Topic/ title	Source	Date
DW.DE.H21	Judit Neurink (Malakasa, Greece)	Yazidis fear 'IS' radicals in Greek refugee camp	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	03.11.2018
DW.DE.H22	Kristina Schlick	Yazidis still displaced in their own country	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	06.11.2021
DW.DE.H23	Sandra Petersmann (Sinjar)	Iraq's Yazidis mourn the loss of their homeland	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	03.08.2018
DW.DE.H24	Wesley Dockery	From the Sinjar mountains to Germany's Rhineland: a Yazidi refugee's story	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	20.06.2017
DW.DE.H25	DW Source	Mosul offensive to displace a million people, UNHCR warns	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	29.09.2016
DW.DE.H26	DW Source	Iraq tables vote on prime minister as refugees flee IS	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	05.08.2014

Code	Journalist/ Author	Topic/ title	Source	Date
DW.DE.H27	DW Source	Germany wants to facilitate repatriation of thousands of Iraqis	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	22.04.2018
DW.DE.H28	Stephanie Höppner	Rights groups call on Germany to help Iraqi refugees	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	09.08.2014
DW.DE.H29	DW Source	Germany turning away more Yazidi refugees	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	09.02.2019
DW.DE.H30	DW Source	Alarm mounts over refugee 'nightmare' in north-western Iraq	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	10.08.2014
DW.DE.H31	DW Source	US planes drop food, water for refugees stranded in Iraq	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	09.08.2014
DW.DE.H32	Andreas Stahl	Desperate times for Iraq's Yazidis	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	26.11.2014

Code	Journalist/ Author	Topic/ title	Source	Date
DW.DE.H33	Stephanie Höppner	'Iraqis need safe refuge'	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	08/09/2014
DW.DE.H34	Hermione Gee, Erbil, Iraq	Refugees in Erbil	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	06/17/2014
DW.DE.H35	Hermione Gee	Mosul exodus	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	06/12/2014
DW.DE.H36	Andreas Stahl	Desperate times for Iraq's Yazidis	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	11/26/2014
DW.DE.H37	Jeanette Seiffert	'People are in dire straits'	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	07/23/2014

Code	Journalist/ Author	Topic/ title	Source	Date
DW.DE.H38	AFP, DPA, Reuters, AP	US again strikes IS jihadists	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	08/10/2014
DW.DE.H39	Wesley Dockery	A Yazidi refugee shares his story with InfoMigrants	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	06/20/2017
DW.DE.H40	John Milford	Refugees flee Fallujah	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	01/08/2014
DW.DE.H41	Stefan Dege	Desperate escape	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	06/23/2014
DW.DE.H42	(AP, AFP, dpa, Reuters)	Thousands of civilians flee western Mosul	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	02/28/2017

Code	Journalist/ Author	Topic/ title	Source	Date
DW.DE.H43	Birgit Svensson	Thousands flee Mosul before Iraq's anti-IS op	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	10/16/2016
DW.DE.H44	(AFP, Reuters)	Tens of thousands fleeing Mosul	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	11/09/2016
DW.DE.H45	Sandra Petersmann	Iraq's Yazidis 4 years after the genocide	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	06/22/2018
DW.DE.H46	Klaus Krämer	'Humanitarian catastrophe'	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	08/08/2014
DW.DE.H47	Sabine Faber	Özdemir: 'Germany must do more for Iraq'	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	11/15/2014

Code	Journalist/ Author	Topic/ title	Source	Date
DW.DE.H48	Charlotte Potts	Iraqi refugees line up to return home	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	01/22/2016
DW.DE.H49	Nina Werkhäuser	UN Refugees Iraq	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	09/21/2015
DW.DE.H50	(AP, AFP)	Iraq faces Fallujah humanitarian disaster	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	06/19/2016
DW.DE.H51	Birgit Svensson	Refugee drama on the Bzebiz Bridge	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	04/26/2016
DW.DE.H52	Diego Cupolo	Little hope for Yazidis in Middle East	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	05/02/2016

Code	Journalist/ Author	Topic/ title	Source	Date
DW.DE.H53	DW.COM 2016	Hundreds of thousands flee Mosul	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	10/18/2016
DW.DE.H54	Georg Matthes	Iraqi refugee camp bursting at the seams	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	08/03/2016
DW.DE.H55	Carla Bleiker	German vigilantes tie Iraqi refugee to a tree	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	06/02/2016
DW.DE.H56	(Reuters, AFP)	UN appeals for \$861 million to help Iraq	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	01/31/2016
DW.DE.H57	Peter Dahl	Arabs shame Gulf States over refugee crisis	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	09/02/2015

Code	Journalist/ Author	Topic/ title	Source	Date
DW.DE.H58	Lewis Sanders IV	The plight of the Yazidi minority in Iraq	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	08/17/2018
DW.DE.H59	(AP, AFP)	UN: Civilians 'trapped' inside Iraq's Fallujah	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	05/26/2016
DW.DE.H60	(AFP, AP, dpa, Reuters)	Civilians trapped by Fallujah assault	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	05/28/2016
DW.DE.H61	(AP, AFP, Reuters)	Fallujah residents are 'human shields'	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	05/31/2016
DW.DE.H62	John Milford	Refugees flee Fallujah Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki called on militants in Anbar province to surrender as he vowed to regain control of the cities of Fallujah and Ramadi. Thousands of civilians have fled the fighting.	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	01/08/2014

Code	Journalist/ Author	Topic/ title	Source	Date
DW.DE.H63	(Reuters, AFP)	Mosul offensive may displace a million people	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	09/30/2016
DW.DE.H64	Matthias von Hein	Relief organizations prepare for Mosul refugees	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	10/22/2016
DW.DE.H65	Friedel Taube	"Refugees are returning to Ramadi out of desperation"	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	03/29/2016
DW.DE.H66	Anwar Ashraf	Tears and joy as Mosul families reunited	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	11/04/2016
DW.DE.H67	Anna Lekas Miller Chamakor IDP Camp	Mosul's refugees safe from 'Islamic State' but homeless	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	03/22/2017

Code	Journalist/ Author	Topic/ title	Source	Date
DW.DE.H68	(EPD, KNA, Reuters)	Germany massively raises Mosul aid	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	07/25/2017
DW.DE.H69	Thomas Aders	ISIS Terror: The Fate of Yazidis in Iraq	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	01/24/2015
DW.DE.H70	(Reuters, dpa)	Iraqi migrant detained on suspected rape charges in Bochum	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	12/07/2016
DW.DE.H71	Jefferson Chase (Berlin)	Suspect in death of German teen 'confesses to murder'	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	06/09/2018
DW.DE.H72	(dpa, AFP)	Answers sought after teen murder suspect's flight	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	06/08/2018

Code	Journalist/ Author	Topic/ title	Source	Date
DW.DE.H73	(Reuters, AP, dpa)	Iraqis charged over alleged Vienna rape	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	08/16/2016
DW.DE.H74	(AP, AFP)	Germany: Far-right murder suspect linked to stabbing Iraqi	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	09/19/2019
DW.DE.H75	Chase Winter	Germany: Three Iraqis arrested for planning terror attack	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	01/30/2019
DW.DE.H76	(dpa, AP)	German police seek Iraqi suspect in murder case	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	06/07/2018
DW.DE.H77	(AFP, dpa)	Iraqi refugee Ali B. jailed for life over murder	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	07/10/2019

Code	Journalist/ Author	Topic/ title	Source	Date
DW.DE.H78	Ben Knight	Attacks on refugees in Germany down by a third	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	02/28/2018
DW.DE.H79	(dpa, epd)	Germany to facilitate Iraqi repatriation.	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	04/22/2018
DW.DE.H80	(epd, KNA, AFP)	Germany rejects more Yazidi refugees	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	02/09/2019
DW.DE.H81	Charlotte Potts and Samih Amri	Iraqi Refugees want to return home	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	22/2/2016
DW.DE.H82	Jodi Hilton	A prosecuted minority finds refugee in the shadow of Mt. Olympus Yazidis who fled from Islamic state in Iraq have found shelter in petra, a new camp established in rearly April for refugees belonging to the Kurdish religious community.	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	04/19/2016

Code	Journalist/ Author	Topic/ title	Source	Date
DW.DE.H83	(dpa, Reuters, AFP)	Germany envisions new Bundeswehr role in Iraq	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	02/10/2018
DW.DE.H84	(dpa, AFP, epd)	Germany wants asylum seekers to choose to leave	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	02/01/2017
DW.DE.H85	(dpa, AP, AFP)	Germany charges man with genocide over Yazidi killing	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	10/11/2019
DW.DE.H86	(AP, AFP, dpa)	German police halt a truck, find 51 migrants	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	09/16/2017
DW.DE.H87	(dpa, AFP, epd, KNA)	German minister in Iraq to promote repatriation	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	04/21/2018

Code	Journalist/ Author	Topic/ title	Source	Date
DW.DE.H88	Merga Yonas Bula	Germany looks to reintegrate criminal migrants. The number of migrants in German prisons has steadily risen since 2015, according to data obtained by DW from five state justice ministries. German states are putting more resources into reintegrating them into society	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	04/18/2018
DW.DE.H89	(dpa, AFP, Reuters)	German defense minister meets IS victims in Iraq	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	08/21/2019
DW.DE.H90	Birgitta Schulke	Sinjar's devastated Yazidi get no help with reconstruction	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	31/7/2018
DW.DE.H91	Andreas Gorzewski	No end to 'Islamic State' murders of Yazidis	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	06/17/2016
DW.DE.H92	Gunnar Kohne	Yazidi refugees in Turkey	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	09/17/2014

Code	Journalist/ Author	Topic/ title	Source	Date
DW.DE.H93	Florian Neuhof	Residents stick it out in Mosul	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	11/25/2016
DW.DE.H94	Angela Boskovitch	Documenting IS atrocities in Mosul	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	06/11/2018
DW.DE.H95	Judit Neurink	Children survive IS hungry and traumatized	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	07/25/2017
DW.DE.H96	DW News	Iraq's Sunni refugees	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	21/12/ 2015
DW.DE.H97	(AFP, dpa, epd)	Yazidis rally against 'IS'	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	08/09/2014

Code	Journalist/ Author	Topic/ title	Source	Date
DW.DE.H98	Christoph Ricking	Bloody year for Iraq	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	01/12/2017
DW.DE.H99	(AP, HRW)	IS targeting Mosul civilians, report finds	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	12/21/2016
DW.DE.H100	Judit Neurink Irbil	Yazidis demand Iraq search for missing	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	03/06/2019
DW.DE.H101	(Reuters, AFP)	'IS' executed thousands since Mosul takeover	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	08/08/2015
DW.DE.H102	Tom Allinson	Yazidi children of IS rape stuck in limbo	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	04/30/2019

Code	Journalist/ Author	Topic/ title	Source	Date
DW.DE.H103	Birgit Svensson	Sinjar in ruins	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	11/26/2015
DW.DE.H104	(AFP, Reuters)	Mass Yazidi grave found in Iraq	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	11/14/2015
DW.DE.H105	Andreas Gorzewsk	Iraqi Christians take up arms	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	08/23/2015
DW.DE.H106	Stefan Dege	Who are the Yazidis?	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	04/10/2018
DW.DE.H107	(AFP, dpa)	Yazidi grave unearthed in northern Iraq	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	11/28/2015

Code	Journalist/ Author	Topic/ title	Source	Date
DW.DE.H108	Brandon Conradis	Iraq civilian death toll 'staggering'	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	01/19/2016
DW.DE.H109	(AFP, Reuters)	Two Yazidi mass graves found in Iraq	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	11/28/2016
DW.DE.H110	(AP, Reuters, dpa)	Germany ready to 'help Iraq back on its feet'	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	09/16/2018
DW.DE.H111	Judit Neurink	Peshmerga helping refugees	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	07/30/2016
DW.DE.H112	(dpa, Reuters, AP)	Hawija civilians killed fleeing Mosul battle	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	11/05/2016

Code	Journalist/ Author	Topic/ title	Source	Date
DW.DE.H113	(Reuters, AP)	Mosul residents scuffle over scarce aid supplies	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	12/05/2016
DW.DE.H114	(Reuters, AFP)	IS 'kills hundreds of civilians' in Mosul	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	06/08/2017
DW.DE.H115	(Reuters, dpa, AFP, AP)	Hundreds flee Mosul	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	06/24/2017
DW.DE.H116	Brandon Conradis with AFP, AP, dpa	UN: Nearly half a million Iraqis flee Mosul fighting	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	04/17/2017
DW.DE.H117	(AFP, AP)	Thousands flee homes since Iraqi forces open Mosul offensive	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	11/22/2016

Code	Journalist/ Author	Topic/ title	Source	Date
DW.DE.H118	(Reuters, AP)	IS captures 3000 Iraqis fleeing villages	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	08/05/2016
DW.DE.H119	Birgit Svensson	Besieged Christians	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	12/07/2016
DW.DE.H120	(AFP, AP, Reuters)	Mosul falls, citizens flee	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	06/11/2014
DW.DE.H121	(AP, Reuters)	UN: Thousands flee latest 'IS' advance	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	04/19/2015
DW.DE.H122	Judit Neurink Irbil	Iraqi Christians and IS	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	11/23/2016
DW.DE.H123	Hermione Gee	The last Christians	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	10/31/2014

Code	Journalist/ Author	Topic/ title	Source	Date
DW.DE.H124	Judit Neurink	Iraqi Christians and IS For over two years, the Iraqi Christian town of Qaraqosh was the favorite abode for many leaders of the "Islamic State" (IS) group.	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	11/23/2016
DW.DE.H125	Hermione Gee	The last Christians	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	10/31/2014
DW.DE.H126	Sophie Cousins	Persecution As Iraq risks becoming a failed state, the toll is also making itself felt in the persecution of minority groups, most notably Iraq's Christians, thousands of whom have been forced to flee the fighting.	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	08/01/2014
DW.DE.H127	Dale Gavlak	Iraqi Christians pick up the pieces Many Iraqi Christian refugees who fled "Islamic State" ended up in neighboring Jordan. Despite some support from charities and local church groups, they face a massive struggle to rebuild their lives.	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	03/31/2017
DW.DE.H128	(AFP, Reuters)	Jihadists seize Iraq monastery ISIS fighters have occupied a monastery near northern Iraq's predominantly Christian town, Qaraqosh. The Sunni militants have increasingly targeted Iraq's Christian minority, forcing many to flee Mosul over the weekend.	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	07/21/2014
DW.DE.H129	(Reuters, AFP)	ISIS orders against Christians	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>	07/19/2014

Appendix C. *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*

Multimodal Text 1. *The Guardian*. Link:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jun/01/falluja-iraq-children-risk-un-united-nations>

Multimodal Text 2. *Deutsche Welle*. Link: <https://www.dw.com/en/fleeing-from-is-iraqis-left-in-limbo/a-18229972>

Multimodal Text 3. *The Guardian*. Link:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/dec/06/winter-threat-iraq-refugees-kurdish-region-camps-isis>

Multimodal Text 4. *Deutsche Welle*. Link:

<https://www.dw.com/en/refugee-camp-in-northern-iraq-bursting-at-the-seams/a-19447396>

Multimodal Text 5. *The Guardian*. Link:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/nov/08/isis-forces-1500-iraqi-families-to-march-to-mosul>

Multimodal Text 6. *Deutsche Welle*. Link: <https://www.dw.com/en/iraqi-refugees-face-catastrophic-conditions/a-17843817>

Multimodal Text 7. *Deutsche Welle*. Link: <https://www.dw.com/en/no-end-to-islamic-state-murders-of-yazidis/a-19338410>

Multimodal Text 8. *The Guardian*. Link:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/aug/10/kurdish-rebels-yazidi-iraq-isis>

Multimodal Text 9. *The Guardian*. Link:

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2014/aug/14/iraq-humanitarian-crisis-highest-level-un-aid>

Multimodal Text 10. *Deutsche Welle*. Link: <https://www.dw.com/en/from-the-sinjar-mountains-to-germanys-rhineland-a-yazidi-refugees-story/a-39313096>

Multimodal Text 11. *The Guardian*. Link:

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2015/aug/03/yazidis-sinjar-iraq-one-year-anniversary-isis>

Multimodal Text 12. *Deutsche Welle*. Link: <https://www.dw.com/en/un-not-enough-money-for-refugees-in-iraq/a-18728323>

Multimodal Text 13. *The Guardian*. Link :<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/gallery/2015/jun/27/no-work-no-education-iraqis-persecution-isis-forced-flee-in-pictures>

Multimodal Text 14. *The Guardian*. Link:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/oct/19/mosul-thousands-flee-syrian-refugee-camps-iraqi-forces-close-city>