

# **Deconstructing Iraqi Refugees in Macro-Semantic Headlines**

## **A Critical Discourse and Framing Analysis**

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# Deconstructing Iraqi Refugees in Macro-Semantic Headlines

## A Critical Discourse and Framing Analysis

Ahmed Najm Abed & Lorena Bort-Mir

The use of headlines in digital media may have a strong effect on readers' socio-political cognition (Abdel-Raheem & Alkhamash, 2022). That is, departing from Van Dijk's claim (1988), constructing headlines in media is not always viewed as a syntax issue but rather a knowledge problem. To this end, a purposive sampling of news headlines was then applied to construct the macro portrayal of Iraqis in *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle*, followed by a critical discourse and framing analysis using Van Dijk's (2008, 2009) socio-cognitive approach and Entman's (1991, 1993) framing theory. The study arrives at the following results: Firstly, the news headlines are viewed as performing a political and empathic discourse function in *The Guardian*. Secondly, the results reveal that the contrastive portrayal of discourse in *Deutsche Welle* is the effect of the political events in Germany. The most remarkable finding to emerge from this paper 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. Besides, *The Guardian* and *Deutsche Welle* reinforce the idea that Iraqi refugees have experienced forced displacement, brutal attack, exodus, and demographic relocation in Iraq, where ISIS is the main factor behind the crisis.

*Keywords:* Iraqi refugees, headlines, Macro-semantic structure, The Guardian, Deutsche Welle, Framing analysis, CDA

### 1. Introduction

Discourse and refugees have been the subject of a focus and varied inquiry over the last decades in social sciences, particularly, in Critical Discourse Studies (CDS). However, media discourse is the dominant discourse in society since it influences the reader's mental models by the depiction of social reality it provides (Bernard & Caple, 2017). For instance, 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, with 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 due to 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 hot crisis in Iraq (Soave, 2015). Increasing violence and worsening living conditions in Iraq, coupled with deterioration of security in the Middle East pushed more Iraqis to see Europe as a good destination 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 highest three between 2014 and 2017 (Fusco, 2023).

Topics encircling refugees have been at the leading forefront of the social, cultural, and political arguments globally in the last decades, steering up the media, which plays a crucial role in side-tracking public opinion on refugees. In 2015, the media paid an extensive focus on 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 the collective knowledge about social movements, events, and identities. The way people can perceive knowledge from the 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 it (Van Dijk, 2006).

Speaking about the particular features of the media and sub-genre of discourse practice, former research works proved that news headlines can even have an influential effect on people's attitudes to these items of news (Tymbay, 2022). By constructing informative assumptions, headlines typically tend to create an interactive structure with the reader, and most headlines, especially those of normative nature, can thus be perceived as communicative acts, and not just only a summary of the text (Van Dijk, 1988). Headlines have specific cognitive processes since they tend to frame the news issues at one hand and select some aspect of perceived reality at the other hand, 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 an effective thanks to the growing tendency to get more information from the media by only previewing the headlines. The fact is that news headlines always reflect an increasingly structural role in today's fast-paced and stimulating readers, especially in online environment. Generally, in classic and online news, headlines are formed as the hook for the audience (Molek-Kozakowska, 2013).

Arguably, headlines create the first topic of the text; the audience first scans the short sentences before moving on to the main text (Dor, 2003). For this reason, the media tend to publish prominent frames at the sentence level that catch the audience's attention. As Van Dijk (1988) sees headlines always tend to have a crucial role in providing the information readers perceive first and show 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 reflect the first indicator of the content and style of the newspaper's value.

According to Bednared and Caple (2012), in news, headlines are formulated by specific language style and some

linguistic features to be treated in a different way from the other rest 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 news tend to be more and more creative than reproductive. Based on the communication perspective, frames are exposed to be crucial devices instrumental in framing the article's content and ultimately 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 ways of manipulations. Indeed, headlines as well as title in news article are like the tip of huge iceberg, usually including knowledge, references, and underlying meanings about specific events, for instance refugees and their situation (Van Dijk, 2024). In news, the effect of headlines on the readers is likely to be the more stronger, since specific linguistic features of the titles tend to make headlines specially more effective and memorable. Broadly speaking, headlines have rich source of information, especially when it comes to the field of cultural references. This is true since the headlines stand-alone without explanation; they left on the readers using their cultural references to understand the content (Develotte & Rechniewski, 2001).

This research paper explores the analysis of the news headlines in two leading western media, the left-leaning The Guardian, and the German conservative run-state media Deutsche Welle represented Iraq crisis and refugees and positioned their consumers and readers about global events, such as the refugee crisis in Middle East and Europe. We were especially interested in whether it would be possible to observe any changes in framing towards Iraqi refugees in these two sources might be coincided with the clear shift in media attitudes and governmental policies. That is, a shift from being clearly more sympathetic to the state to being less sympathetic. To this end, the purpose of this paper is to explore the formation of news headlines on refugees, especially Iraqi refugees in two western news media, The Guardian and Deutsche Welle during what came to be called the refugee crisis in Europe.

To achieve the aim of this study, the following objectives are set: (a) to examine the depiction of the news headlines formation in media on the basis of communication and discourse concepts; (b) to formulate a methodological perspective to study the formation of Iraqi refugees in news headlines on the basis of analysed discourse theories; (c) to demonstrate on the basis of the theoretical models as well as formulated methodology the prominent frames of the headline that help readers infer global meaning while consuming news events. In this sense, we focus on headlines, since they summarize global meaning and semantic macrostructures that trigger our emotional resources, and thus frame our reading of the covered events (Van Dijk, 2000). We also go on to explore how headlines portrayal

are 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). In this paper, therefore, we propose the questions: How Iraqi refugees are depicted in Deutsche Welle and The Guardian as a way of deconstructing how they are constructed in macro frames? We also intend to see if there are differences concerning ideologies, discourses, frames, and how they are represented in the two media outlets.

## 2. Theoretical perspective

### 2.1. The 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.' Overall, 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.

It also explains how cognitive operationalize discourse structures and their meanings in a specific communication 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 prescribe 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 an instrumental in understanding the role of social knowledge in discourse comprehension and production as well in the society (Van Dijk, 2014).

Additionally, Van Dijk (2001) emphasizes that a theory of discourse must include a cognitive aspect that takes into consideration the complexity of the connections between

discourse and society as well as the cognitive processes involved in the production and understanding of news texts. As a result, such a construction between discourse, cognition, and society is best examined by employing the Socio-Cognitive Approach (SCA). As Van Dijk states, although discourse is socially and cognitively governed by shared knowledge, the mental model both 'control and define our everyday perception and interaction in general and the production and comprehension of discourse in particular' (Van Dijk, 2014: 49).

Analytically, the SCA tends to integrate the description of micro and macro levels — such as social interactions and text — through the lens of social cognition (Van Dijk, 1993b: 280, cited in Hart, 2010). The macro-level relates discourse structures in relation to the global meaning and organizational structure of the text, whereas micro-level relates discourse structures in relation to the linguistic components of the text (Van Dijk, 1988). Besides, 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). In this sense, Critical discourse analysis (CDA) serves as a bridge between these two levels, connecting them into a wide range of description (Van Dijk, 2015).

### 2.2. Framing Theory

Framing and frames are two important concepts have come to assign commonly 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 tactics 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 views 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 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 media to be shown as a dominant meaning in the communicative text (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 different reactions among the readers/viewers (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 done with interrupting effects of collective action frames defined within the social movements, but 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 are still remained vague in social studies, especially in studies of the social movements. This is due to the very clear vague 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 ignored is the important role of the 'context' in events, since an experience is differently framed by different social situations and also by different social actors (Van Dijk, 2023: 159).

To this end, the basic goal in this theoretical framework 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 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).

### 2.3. 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 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, 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 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). Also, there are many studies of their importance in journalistic discourse as a discourse strategy and have analysed 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 media, suggesting that remarkable, creative, innovative, and novel headlines are essential for readers' engagement (Wu & Pan, 2022). Based on the former works, the focus has been greatly on the importance of news headlines as prominent frames to catch the audience's attention.

In this sense, however, no focus has been given or little attention in the research literature 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 enabling a degree of selectivity in their option of news frames to read (Dor, 2003), their engagement with the readers may potentially carry different senses of the topics are being covered. For this reason, the study aimed to unveil the macro resources used by the headline editors to effectively express, for instance, humanizing and dehumanizing bias actions toward specific social actors they cover. Since this article takes SCA as a starting point and as one approach to CDA, in SCA, the core function of a headline is to provide the macro-level or the main 'topic' in discourse (Van Dijk, 1991: 50).

Also, 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: 51). As the socio-cognitive approach stresses the role of knowledge in the production of discourse, for instance, framing an event in news headline 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 overall meanings editors usually prefer to convey to the readers. This suggests that the discourse of headlines include aspects of macrostructures, including socially shared knowledge, attitude, ideology, and value. These factors are crucial to consider when deconstructing headlines, using our mental models with the ways the policies and their reproduction toward social event, for instance, refugees (Van Dijk, 2009). To this end, the main objective of this paper, therefore, is to examine by means of a thorough analysis of the macrostructures of the news headlines, as well as their consistent discourse practices. By means of conducting the macrostructures forms of language it can be asserted that different language frames are 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 media carry macro themes, and underlying meanings, knowledge, and references about events, such as refugees.

### 3. Method

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 macro structures of the news headlines are to be analysed for examining how news headlines on the online platforms of Deutsche Welle and The Guardian encourage readers' engagement by constructing the macro-level with the use of linguistic structures. As mentioned by Van Dijk (2009), 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 macro-resources play in constructing linguistic structures and delve deeper into the representation

of the topic under analysis. Further, 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. The study is hoped to manifest 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 macro structures in news headlines to see what dimensions from the framework have been selected as the strategies for constructing new headlines in media. In addition, Entman's (1993) framing analysis of micro-textual 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 identifying, causal interpretation, moral evaluation, and treatment recommendation' of the main factor behind the crisis (Entman, 1993: 52). Hence, 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. To this end, using the socio-cognitive approach and framing theory is then crucial in analysing how headlines provide salient production in discourse and a macro-position, as they interchangeably provide a broad linguistic analysis.

### 3.1 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 news headlines coverage of these topics in two different media sources with different ideological ownership, cultural, and statuses. As the purpose of this paper is to study the portrayal of Iraqi refugees in selected news headlines, British left-leaning newspaper The Guardian, and German conservative run-media Deutsche Welle, have been opted. 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 study highlights some key points about the social relevance of the two different-sided selected: First, the main justification of the news headlines 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 news headlines appearing in these two media outlets to better explore possible similarities and differences. More specifically, the analysis focused on the news headlines 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 very 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 different news media outlets selection is to know how different prestigious news media frames articulate the coverage of the relevant event, taking into account the variety of headlines framing and contextualization of the discourse in relation to policies. Different studies on 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 arrangement by emphasizing on the last function, namely framing headlines to foster prominent frames in a such a way to catch reader's attention.

Second, in this regard, two different media outlets with their news headlines 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 freely available. For instance, The Guardian newspaper was selected because it is the most important and respective in the UK (Costa-Sánchez et al., 2020; Majid, 2022). On the other hand, the selected online platform of Deutsche Welle is broadly consumed and even deemed creditable news source globally (Fahim & Islam, 2024), since the media source with the highest global readership was chosen, based on reliable statistics (Drmic, 2021).

### 3.2 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. We opted to utilize Google News because it has web-based portal. Also, Google News is unique among news collectors in providing fully automated sweep of global news and even without human editorial controls (Weaver & Bimber, 2008). The search words used to find news headlines were 'Iraq crisis', 'Iraqi refugees', 'displacement in Iraq', 'unprotected Iraqis.' Then, we applied the words as search terms on the two websites from 11 June 2014 until 31 December 2017 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 headlines, we opted to categorize the raw materials based on the recurrent linguistic and the main characteristics found in the corpus as the basis of classification.

The number of headlines is quite large, and it is unreasonable to offer a deep analysis of every single headline within the scope of one paper (Martínez Lirola, 2017). Of these

raw material findings, irrelevant results had to be manually sorted out (Schmolz, 2019), and a purposive sampling of 42 headlines was extracted for the analysis. 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 analysed based on 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.

## 4. Data Analysis

Topicalization of news actions in relation to displacement and harsh actions have been the dominating topics in the digital discourse of The Guardian as compared to Deutsche Welle. To this end, Iraqi refugees are topicalized in different ways. For instance, the headlines below summarize topics referred to actions in terms of violence, war, and persistence.

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 portrayal, in newspapers, and according to Van Dijk (1991: 190), is called 'Number Game.' Since macro-propositions are no longer expressed in the news

Table 1: Constructing the Iraqi Refugee Crisis and Displacement

<i>Headlines</i>	
TG. H1:	Thousands of Iraqi refugees 'still at risk' despite ending of Mount Sinjar siege.
TG. H2:	ISIS forces 1,500 Iraqi families to march to Mosul.
TG. H3:	20,000 Iraqis besieged by ISIS escape from mountain after US air strikes.
TG. H4:	Iraqi civilian death toll passes 5,500 in wake of Isis offensive.
TG. H5:	40,000 Iraqis stranded on mountain as Isis jihadists threaten death
TG. H6:	Hundreds of people flee Iraq's Fallujah area
TG. H7:	Tens of thousands pour into Iraq's Kurdish north as US jets bomb Isis
DW. H1:	Iraqi refugees find temporary haven in Erbil.
DW. H2:	Fearing ISIS, Iraqi Christians flee.
DW. H3:	Yazidis see fleeing Middle East as only option for survival.
DW. H4:	Fleeing residents of Mosul take refuge in Kurdistan.
DW. H5:	Refugees in Iraq caught between soldiers and jihadists.
DW. H6:	Refugees are pouring into Iraq's Kurdistan region as thousands flee militant fighters of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS).



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 organize textual information in mind (Van Dijk, 1991).

When taking a deep look at the headlines, for instance, the headline depicted (TG. H1) 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 micro-level 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, however, the focus of the topic in the headline (TG. H4) is on the death toll, since the overall topic shows civilian death toll rises in huge numbers and activates the reader's awareness of their understanding of how dangerous ISIS is.

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. H4) 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. All in all, when analyzing the overall headlines selected in The Guardian, there is a general tendency to depict Iraqi refugees using topics about numbers at the micro-discourse level, such as in headlines TG. H2, TG. H3, TG.H5, and thus, with the focus on large non-specific numbers, such as TG.H6, and TG.H7.

When it comes to the German digital news source the headlines selected tend to focus on Iraqi refugees using different topics when constructing the overall meaning. For instance, the headline (DW. H3) highlights the plight of minorities in Iraq, especially Yazidis, and their voices. Furthermore, Yazidis are topicalized as the main topic by exposing their voice as the most depressed group in Iraq. Since topics are theoretically labelled as a semantic macrostructure, they formulate the macro-proposition of the headline that semantically control the lower level of the headline. Such topic is usually expressed in the headline of a news report (Van Dijk, 2018). By notably highlighting the 'Yazidis' and their critical conditions in the Middle East, especially in the headline (DW. H3), the 'communicators' make conscious framing judgement in deciding of the news item, guided by frames often called schemata that organize their beliefs systems (Entman, 1993:52). Such frames in the text are manifested by the presence of prominent key-words that these words or frames guide the 'receiver' thinking about the intention of the communicators (Entman, 1993:52).

Such frames are systematically selected in the headlines, which, in Entman's view, make the segment of the discourse more noticeable. Since readers tend to first read news headlines, these headlines are used to activate the 'relevant knowledge' in the audience's mind to understand such news reports (Van Dijk,1991:51). Such topics in the news reports are typically highlighted in the headline, and constructed as semantic macrostructures, consisting of macro-propositions that semantically include and control the lower level of the micro-structure in the sentence (Van Dijk, 1980; 2017). Once again, when analysing the headline (DW. H3), the overall meaning of the topic shows Yazidis as if they have been struggling to live in the Middle East. Consequently, it helps readers suggest that Yazidis in the Middle East are no longer safe for their lives. Also, when looking at the headlines (DW. H3) and (DW. H2), the focal topics are attached to the use of religious identity, especially the Yazidis and Christians, whom the most groups provoked and suffered by ISIS in Iraq.

Based on these headlines, the word 'fleeing' is an action verb that is attributed to the group of Christians and Yazidis. By depicting what the Christians and Yazidis flee to survive, Deutsche Welle does not only acknowledge them as passive actors, but it does acknowledge them about being a depressed ethnic group in the discourse. All in all, the headlines selected convey an overall meaning to the audience; they presuppose information that helps readers activate their knowledge about the general meaning of the article. The headline (DW.H6) uses the metaphorical verb 'pouring' to describe quick and dynamic actions. The verb means to flow quickly, which in this context implies fleeing quickly. Also, it is used to indicate the huge flow of refugees and gives an image of their exodus, highlighting the scale of the displacement in Iraq. As indicated in this headline: DW.H6: Refugees are pouring into Iraq's Kurdistan region as thousands flee militant fighters of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS).

In general, there is a common tendency to depict Iraqi refugees regarding their situation in Deutsche Welle using discourse topics in relation to actions of fleeing and relocation, as evidenced in these headlines DW. H6, DW. H1, and DW. H4. Such headlines help or reinforce the readers to use their common shared knowledge to perceive this information that Iraqi refugees are experiencing forced displacement due to ISIS.

The discourses reported in the headlines above are conveyed as sympathetic expressions that address the plight of the refugees in Iraq. Based on the headlines depicted, the discourse of The Guardian and Deutsche Welle tend to topicalize displaced people as having catastrophic situations, which informs the readers that refugees face real threats, depression, and oppression, as evidenced in headline TG. H2. Iraqi refugees 'facing genocide' to receive UK airdrop of aid. DW. H1: Iraqi refugees face 'catastrophic' conditions.

Table 2: Constructing Challenging and Difficulties Refugees Face

Headlines	
TG. H1:	Winter brings fresh threat to Iraq's refugees who fled the ISIS advance.
TG. H2:	Iraqi refugees 'facing genocide' to receive UK airdrop of aid.
TG. H3:	Mosul's children were shouting beneath the rubble. Nobody came.
TG. H5:	Hundreds at Iraq refugee camp ill from contaminated food.
DW. H1:	Iraqi refugees face 'catastrophic' conditions.
DW. H2:	Fleeing from 'IS', Iraqis left in limbo.
TG. H1:	Millions of Iraqi children repeatedly and relentlessly targeted, says UN.
TG. H2:	UN says civilians at extreme risk as west Mosul offensive begins.
TG. H3:	Fight against Isis in Iraq could displace millions more people, UN says.
TG. H4:	Iraq humanitarian crisis has reached highest level, UN aid officials warn.
TG. H5:	Iraqis are fleeing violence in Anbar at rate not seen since civil war, says UN.
DW. H1:	UN: Not enough money for refugees in Iraq.
DW. H2:	Mosul offensive to displace a million people, UNHCR warns.
DW. H1:	UN: Not enough money for refugees in Iraq.
DW. H3:	UN: Civilians 'trapped' inside Iraq's Fallujah
DW. H4:	UN: Nearly half a million Iraqis flee Mosul fighting

The Guardian's discourse is explicitly showing the situation of the refugees and the role of the UK as a supportive. In this sense, Headline TG. H2 implies some interesting interpretations since it might be interpreted that an article which seeks to catch the audience to know the role of the UK in the crisis. Since The Guardian is a British-based newspaper, it might be assumed 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. With respect to the German side, for instance, headline DW. H1: Iraqi refugees face 'catastrophic' conditions.

Deutsche Welle's topic suggested that Iraqi refugees experienced difficult conditions, as the word 'catastrophic' 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. Furthermore, the headline (TG. H1) uses the word 'winter' as the main topic in relation to the critical situation of refugees. Although the information about the Iraqi refugee crisis is in the back of the reader's mind, the headline also gives the reader explicit and ample knowledge to know that there are a lot of factors that constitute another threat. In contrast, the headline (DW.H2) from the German side indicates that Iraqi refugees have been neglected for too long. The word 'limbo' suggests 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.

All in all, both The Guardian and Deutsche Welle tend to use different frame discourses, addressing the plight of the Iraqi refugee crisis, but they follow the same approach concerning the plight topics at the macro-discourse practices. The Guardian, on the other hand, tends to trigger

readers emotionally by framing children in the news headlines. For instance, the headline: TG. H3 Mosul's children were shouting beneath the rubble. Nobody came. Such framing in news headlines might trigger an emotional reaction in readers since the selection of these words makes the information more meaningful and salient for the audience (Entman,1993).

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 referred 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 hard challenges caused by war and violence. 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 news headlines show more styles of reporting verbs to frame the refugees in 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 Iraqis, especially minorities. Besides, 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 about the UN's role in the Iraqi refugee crisis through various actions, statements, and warnings.

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. Besides, Deutsche Welle has a slightly different perspective regarding the UN actor at the sentence-level topic — that is to say, based on overall headlines, headlines can generally be divided into two parts, based on their structure. The first one is the topicalization of the UN, which is topicalized to draw the reader's awareness to the topic. The second one is the discursive part of the depicted theme. This part provides a vivid image of the hard situation the refugees face. As evidenced in the following headline, where we can see the UN

is topicalized separately from the micro-structure level. For example, DW. H1: UN: Not enough money for refugees in Iraq.

Overall, The Guardian and Deutsche Welle follow the same approach when depicting the UN in news headlines but show 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.

The headlines below tend to frame Iraqi refugees in relation to the socio-political discourses.

Based on the headlines selected, Deutsche Welle depicts Iraqi refugees by using two approaches: positive and negative discourse.

Table 3: Constructing headlines in relation to the Sociopolitical Discourses

Headlines	
DW. H1:	Trial of Iraqi suspect in murder of German teen gets underway:
DW. H2:	German police arrest 3 Iraqi refugees suspected of planning terror attack:
DW. H3:	Iraqi migrant detained on suspected rape charges in Bochum
DW. H4:	Iraqi refugees seek family reunion in Germany:
DW. H5:	Iraqi refugee shares his success story as an entrepreneur in Germany.
DW. H6:	Germany turning away more Yazidi refugees.
DW. H7:	Germany wants to facilitate repatriation of thousands of Iraqis.
DW. H8:	German minister in Iraq to promote repatriation
TG. H1:	UK government faces calls to shelter Yazidi refugees persecuted by Isis. 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. H2:	MPs unanimously declare Yazidis and Christians victims of Isis genocide
TG. H3:	David Cameron cuts holiday short by a day over Iraq crisis
TG. H4:	UK steps up role in Iraq with move to aid Kurds and Yazidis against Isis
TG. H5:	British forces drop humanitarian supplies to Yazidi refugees in Iraq
TG. H6:	Iraq: Britain will 'play role' in arms transport, says David Cameron: 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
TG. H7:	British SAS sent to Iraq on 'intelligence' mission before airlift of Yazidi refugees

When looking at the headlines below, for instance,

DW.H1: Trial of Iraqi suspect in murder of German teen gets underway:

DW.H2: German police arrest 3 Iraqi refugees suspected of planning terror attack:

DW.H3: Iraqi migrant detained on suspected rape charges in Bochum

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. On the

other hand, however, the adjective 'suspected' suggests that the inference drawn from the German authority is uncertain since the adjective connotes meanings that refugees believe may 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 the headline such as DW.H2: German police arrest 3 Iraqi refugees suspected of planning terror attack. Besides, selecting frames such as 'planning a terror attack,' 'murder,' or 'suspected rape charges' at the micro-structure level make the discourse more prominent to the readers.

Such expressions provide the readers a clue through which these frames will be linked with 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, though, 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. In other words, the inclusion of the coverage of the Iraqi refugees from Deutsche Welle, a German-based media, proven to be relatively antipathetic to Iraqi refugees in Germany, created a negative discourse in the reader's mind. On the other hand, the word 'Germany' has been constructed as the main topic in headlines, such as

DW.H6: Germany turning away more Yazidi refugees.

DW.H7: Germany wants to facilitate repatriation of thousands of Iraqis.

DW.H8: German minister in Iraq to promote repatriation

The overall meaning of the above headlines tends to construct the dilemma of migration in Germany because of 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 about specific charges like violent actions, terror actions, and rape actions, as evidenced in the formerly headlines analyzed. On the other hand, however, the meaning in headlines, such as DW.H6, DW.H7, and DW.H8, involves a linguistic presupposition since the micro-structure of the headlines is triggered by factive verbs using specific discourse structures, such as to facilitate, 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', therefore, presupposing 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, hence, may be perceived both in the interpretation and production of a segment of discourse (Van Dijk, 2018:16).

All in all, the macro-propositions of the headlines depicted in Deutsche Welle somehow be used to manipulate knowledge as well as the interpretation of the recipients. In this sense, the headlines show the readers somehow an explicit clue through which these headlines will be linked with a reference to the sight that the readers will eventually discover such topics. Consequently, such clues in headlines may presuppose information that helps readers activate their common knowledge based on the overall meaning of the article. In contrast, refugees are depicted about positive discourse, such as DW.H4: Iraqi refugees seek family reunion in Germany: DW.H5: Iraqi refugee shares his success story as an entrepreneur in Germany.

The headline then constructs 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 it is a lenient country for granting asylum since the discourse structure 'seek family reunion' presupposes meanings that are assumed to be true or false for another discourse structure to be meaningful. Moreover, the headline, DW.H5: Iraqi refugee shares his success story as an entrepreneur in Germany, presupposes that there is a good chance for Iraqi refugees to work in Germany – and such assumptions may be demonstrated in the headline by the specific discourse structure, such as an entrepreneur in Germany. As a result, the overall meaning of the headline, therefore, presupposes that Iraqi refugees are depicted as active actors in doing business in Germany.

When it comes to The Guardian's sociopolitical discourse, the word 'UK' is described in the headlines as the country is putting great efforts into tackling the Iraqi refugee crisis, especially the Yazidis in Iraq. The headline, TG.H4: 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 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 Yazidis in the UK coverage, is the political calls to protect them in the headline, such as TG.H1: UK government faces calls to shelter Yazidi refugees persecuted by Isis: 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 facing making decisions for protecting Yazidis. And yet, besides the political calls expressed in the headline, there is a focus on the religious identity, especially Yazidis. This suggests that The Guardian is likely to behave in a political way and about the political efforts of the UK government. On the other hand, there is a relevant discourse and semantic structure, such as TG.H1: 'MPs urge home secretary to extend resettlement scheme to members of Iraq's Yazidi community' of the headline, a described speech of which the member of parliament of the United Kingdom is urging the British home secretary to act an action regarding the Yazidis in Iraq. Such a call is crucial since the home secretary is the head and senior of the home office, and, thus, has access to decisions. Moreover, when analysing 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.H2: MPs unanimously declare Yazidis and Christians victims of Isis genocide. This discourse comes after the demanding of the political calls of MPs, urging the UK government to act against Isis genocide of Yazidis and Christians in Iraq.

By topicalizing the British MPs, those who have reacted to the criminal actions against Yazidis and Christians, such headlines explicitly seek to position readers to gain a view of such policies. In this sense, the macro-structure of the headlines reveals that the discourse of The Guardian tends to be more explicit in showing the UK's role in solidarity toward trapped Yazidis in the mountains and displaced Christians. Besides, such selecting 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 this role has been topicalized as a political stance. It can additionally be a social and political perspective for gaining attitude and political goals. For instance, TG.H3: David Cameron cuts holiday short by a day over Iraq crisis.

More explicitly, in the following headline, TG.H6: Iraq: Britain will 'play role' in arms transport, says David Cameron: 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 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 micro-structure 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 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 infor-

mation 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.H6, suggests that The Guardian uses the word 'UK' as a frame function regarding the intervention in Iraq through a long-term strategy of weapons to provide military equipment to the Iraqi Kurds forces. It also means that the headline signifies that Britain is already energetic in transferring arms against ISIS, therefore, the country will be progressing using its military resources to save the displaced people, especially Yazidis in northern Iraq. And yet, besides 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 the headline, TG.H7: British SAS sent to Iraq on 'intelligence' mission before airlift of Yazidi refugees, 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) Yazidis are depicted as a minority non-Muslim group facing a harsh situation, and (2) Special Air Service (SAS), a special force unit of the British army, takes action towards Yazidi refugees. And yet, 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 micro-structure as a frame segment, therefore, the word itself signifies the UK's mission and its role in getting information or judgments about the Yazidi refugees and their situation.

All in all, using the word Britain at the sentence level in The Guardian is to build up the UK's image in the reader's mind that Britain has been doing anything to fight against ISIS, providing arms and showing solidarity with 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).

## 5. Discussion

The above analysis of the news headlines indicates that The Guardian and Deutsche Welle convey the idea that the exodus of Iraqis is a social problem. To this end, the Iraqi refugee crisis in the headlines is analyzed by constructing Entman's framing analysis and Van Dijk's Socio-cognitive analysis. The analysis presented in the previous section points out that The Guardian and Deutsche Welle framed the problem and diagnosed its main cause with a prominent focus on ISIS at the micro-structure 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 in relation 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 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 both frame 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 by just topicalizing the UN discourses since making judgments can only be done 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 be either selected, quoted, or acted on.

The analysis showed that the empathetic discourse in The Guardian towards Iraqi refugees, especially 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 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 Yazidi refugees, i.e.,

British MPs and the UK government. In this sense, the political discourses depicted in connection to Yazidis tend to create empathetic responses, highlighting the fact that 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). All in all, constructing the political calls in headlines contributes to solidarity by building a reality *The Guardian* wants the readers to form, establishing support and agreement (Alharbi & Rucker, 2023). It can be said, to this end, the political calls depicted in *The Guardian* come after the House of Commons, and Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond declared that Britain would provide humanitarian aid to Yazidi refugees.

In contrast, *Deutsche Welle's* coverage uses different portrayals regarding the Iraqi refugee crisis, constructing two discourse practices: positive and negative discourses. By far, the noticeable leading frame action associated with 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 Yazidis and Christians perceived as victims, experiencing forced displacement, genocide, and demographic relocation in Iraq. The analysis thus reveals that the construction of solidarity towards 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 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: 290–295). 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. Such actions, 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 Iraqi refugees in the German run-media discourse as unwanted criminals responsible for terrorist attacks in Germany (Abed & Mas, 2023). 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 creates serious consequences for the German government. Consequently, Germany's former chancellor Angela Merkel has 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 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 involves that illegal Iraqis do not contribute to German society. Such depiction can then clearly help recipients infer such frames that refugees must leave Germany.

## 6. Conclusion

The research paper reaches the following conclusions: First, conventionally, news headlines tend to achieve a double objective: sum up what comes next and draw attention. However, in fact, journalistic frames on global and social events lead to shaping the overall impression of the eye-catching incentive of a headline. As a result, it is still uncommon that a headline contains different levels of dimensions, including the macro frames than the actual main text it leads. Taking this claim into account, and drawing on the socio-cognitive approach, macro-structures in news headlines, are, abstract, and cannot be realized explicitly, but some drawing rules with a deep focus on the mapping between macrostructure and microstructure levels should be considered while reading and deconstructing news headlines (Van Dijk, 1995). Such mapping may tend to generate complex functions and produce general meaning in discourse (Van Dijk, 1977). It is explicit that the readers depend entirely on their general knowledge, using the global meaning to gain a good interpretation of the news articles they read.

Second, considering how frames work together within the critical approach in discourse and practice. This paper 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.'

Third, the comparative results reach the following inferences: first, the changes in Deutsche Welle's news headlines show that the publication is the result of political events as well as the actions of the policymakers in Germany. Second, the use of empathetic discourse towards the Iraqi minorities in the British digital newspaper involves reflections on The Guardian being politically affected by those powerful calls. Third, both The Guardian and Deutsche Welle use the same approach in the headlines, namely by referring to ISIS as an actor that causes the problems. As Entman (1993) states, a single sentence can even carry several functions. For The Guardian and Deutsche Welle, the two first functions problem-identifying and causal interpretation, are frequently used for the one single headline. That is, in some cases, a single headline may carry more than one of these four frame functions, although many headlines in a communicative text may perform none of them. And a frame in any specific text may also not essentially incorporate all four functions.

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