

RESEARCH ARTICLE

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The Discourse of International Active Forms During the War on the Gaza Strip At the Algerian News Agency

Dr. Asma Bedalla

Prince Abdel Qader University for Islamic Sciences (Algeria),
Email: asmabedalla25@gmail.com . Orcid 0009-0001-0329-6738

Received: 23/04/2025 ; Accepted: 22/11/2025 ; Published: 22/01/2026

Abstract

This study constitutes one of the research works that adopt discourse analysis as a methodological approach, a direction increasingly embraced by contemporary academic and research studies when addressing current issues. This approach has proven effective in producing rigorous scientific outcomes in the analysis of social and political phenomena from a comprehensive academic perspective. Its significance lies in examining the interaction among different systems that generate cultural, political, and intellectual production, thereby contributing to the cohesion of heterogeneous social groups. This context has elevated discourse, as a systematic linguistic practice, into a flexible analytical tool capable of achieving interactivity and participation in the service of ideological objectives related to contemporary political and media issues, most notably the Palestinian cause and the war on the Gaza Strip. These issues have been widely

addressed and analyzed by various media outlets. Accordingly, the present study focuses on analyzing the discourse of international actors as reported by the Algerian News Agency during the war on the Gaza Strip, by examining the most prominent theses advanced by these actors and the linguistic strategies employed in their discourse.

Keywords: Discourse, Active Forces, Algerian News Agency, War, Gaza Strip

Introduction

This study is based on analyzing the discourse of active forces represented by international bodies, organizations, diplomats, politicians, and writers worldwide. It employs the thesis tool to identify the most prominent ideas articulated in their discourse regarding the situation in the Gaza Strip and the humanitarian conditions resulting from the war, as reflected in the coverage of the Algerian News Agency. The material

presented by the agency serves as raw data subjected to analysis and interpretation in accordance with the discourse analysis method. This method is adopted on the grounds that it specializes in interpreting societal phenomena across political, cultural, and intellectual dimensions within coherent, interactive, and interconnected systems of relations between individuals and institutions. The study relies on two analytical tools: the thesis tool and the active forces tool, within the aforementioned contexts, while also seeking to identify the most significant linguistic strategies employed. The analysis focuses on the coverage of the Algerian News Agency during the period of the war on the Gaza Strip, which erupted on October 7, 2023, and generated international reactions calling for a ceasefire to protect the residents of the Strip from the consequences of a war that has lasted for more than 600 days, making it the longest conflict in the history of the Palestinian struggle with the occupation since 1948.

Accordingly, the study seeks to answer the following questions:

1. What are the most prominent theses in the discourse of active forces during the war on the Gaza Strip as presented by the Algerian News Agency?
2. What linguistic strategies are employed by these active forces to influence the

recipient through the Algerian News Agency?

This study aims to analyze the discourse of international actors as reported by the Algerian News Agency during the war on the Gaza Strip and to reveal its nature in terms of the types of theses addressed and the linguistic strategies employed, as disseminated through the agency's official website.

The study adopts discourse analysis as its methodological framework, viewing it as an interpretive process concerned with explaining reality through language and its effects. This approach is based on a set of assumptions regarding the explanatory power of discourse and offers a perspective on the nature of language and its relationship to social sciences and social reality. It seeks to conduct an in-depth examination of the relationship between text, discourse, and context by employing various techniques of textual analysis in order to uncover the implicit meanings and indications embedded in discourse.

Methodological Framework of the Study

Importance of the Study

The importance of analyzing the discourse of international actors as presented by the Algerian News Agency during the war on the Gaza Strip arises from the significance of the study period, which followed the political

transformations witnessed in the Middle East after October 7, known as the “Al-Aqsa Flood” operation. This period was marked by widespread international calls to halt hostilities in the Strip and to protect its population from the threat of continuous collective genocide. These calls were accompanied by intense media coverage and discourse issued by international organizations with the aim of providing humanitarian relief to the Palestinian people. Such discourse was documented by various international and regional news agencies, including the Algerian News Agency, which devoted extensive coverage to developments on the ground and to the positions of active forces within international organizations concerned with conflict resolution and humanitarian relief.

Study Objectives

This study aims to analyze the discourse of international actors as reported by the Algerian News Agency during the war on the Gaza Strip and to reveal its characteristics in terms of the nature of the theses addressed and the linguistic strategies employed therein.

Study Concepts

Discourse

Although the term “discourse” has roots in the Arabic language, it remains relatively new in linguistic and intellectual studies. It was borrowed to correspond to the modern concept

of “discourse” and overlaps with several related terms such as speech, narration, thesis, article, sermon, lecture, address, and text. According to Abdul Hadi bin Dhafer Al-Shehri, discourse refers to any communicative act directed toward others with the aim of achieving understanding and fulfilling specific objectives.

In classical Western philosophy, the concept of discourse received significant attention, beginning with Plato’s early conceptualizations and later in Descartes’ *Discourse on Method*. Lalande defines discourse as “the expression and development of thought through successive words and interconnected propositions.” Benveniste, for his part, views discourse as the role assumed by the speaking subject in the communicative process, forming a formal system based on signs and unity in communication, which together constitute the system of meaning in language.

Algerian News Agency

The establishment of the Algerian News Agency dates back to the Soummam Conference in 1956, held on Tunisian territory at the headquarters of the Tunisian News Agency and managed by the provisional Algerian government. In 1961, the official launch of the Algerian News Agency was announced. Its headquarters were later relocated to central Algiers, and it gradually

incorporated modern technical means. From 1989 onward, the agency expanded its network of correspondents and journalists to ensure nationwide coverage. It also positioned itself alongside international news agencies by diversifying its content to include political, social, and cultural news at both the national and international levels.

Active Forces

Active forces in discourse refer to the elements that influence how the audience responds to discourse or how discourse shapes audience behavior. These forces may be internal, such as beliefs and ideas held by the audience, or external, such as the social and cultural context in which discourse is produced and disseminated.

Type of Study

This study falls within the category of analytical survey research, which focuses on examining phenomena related to the research subject in order to obtain sufficient information, extract results, and reach generalizations after interpreting the relationships among variables. This type of research is characterized by analysis, critique, and objective evaluation of data collected through survey studies.

Study Methodology

The study employs discourse analysis as its primary methodological approach, viewing it as an interpretive process that explains reality through language and its effects. This approach is grounded in assumptions about the explanatory power of discourse and seeks to explore the relationship between text, discourse, and context through various analytical techniques aimed at uncovering implicit meanings and indications embedded in discourse.

Study Population and Sample

It should be noted that discourse analysis does not place significant emphasis on sample size; rather, it focuses on how the selected sample expresses specific frameworks and meanings, regardless of the number of individuals involved. The study population consists of the discourse of international actors as reported by the Algerian News Agency during the war on the Gaza Strip between May 25 and May 31, 2025, a period marked by intensified coverage of international calls for a permanent ceasefire after more than 600 days of ongoing conflict.

Media Framing Theory as the Study Perspective

The study adopts media framing theory as one of the modern approaches in communication studies. This theory enables researchers to analyze the implicit content reflected in media coverage and provides a systematic

explanation of the media's role in shaping perceptions, knowledge, and emotional responses toward prominent issues.

Study Tools

To implement the discourse analysis approach, the study relies on two analytical tools: the thesis tool and the active forces tool.

Theses

A thesis in discourse refers to concise statements that summarize the main idea or position presented. It represents a recurring formulation that reflects the intellectual framework or perspective of the discourse and serves as a key entry point for understanding its meanings and effects.

The main theses identified include:

- The collapse of the health system and the severe humanitarian situation, necessitating the evacuation of the wounded for treatment.
- Famine as a component of aggression against Palestinians.
- The targeting of journalists as a systematic policy aimed at imposing a media blackout.
- The need for decisive action to end the historical injustice faced by the Palestinian people.

- The normalization of Morocco with the occupying entity as a disgrace imposed on the people.
- Calls by the Security Council for a ceasefire.
- The shooting of hungry civilians at aid distribution points and demands for UNRWA to open crossings.
- Condemnation of international complicity with Zionist escalation and calls to recognize the State of Palestine within the 1967 borders.

Active Forces

Active forces refer to the actors whose discourse influences audience responses, whether through internal factors such as beliefs or external factors such as socio-cultural contexts.

The main active forces identified include:

- UNICEF spokesperson Kazem Abu Khalaf.
- UNRWA spokesperson Juliette Touma.
- The Palestinian Journalists Syndicate.
- Algeria's permanent representative to the United Nations Security Council, Ammar Ben Jama.
- Moroccan writers and journalists.
- The United Kingdom's permanent representative to the United Nations, James Kariuki.

- Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Mustafa.

Analytical Study of the Discourse

Discourse on the Collapse of the Health System

The Algerian News Agency reported discourse addressing the collapse of the health system and the dire humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip, particularly through statements by UNICEF spokesperson Kazem Abu Khalaf. His discourse employed contemporary rhetorical language suitable for conveying events to a broad audience, using concise and flexible expressions. He cited statistics indicating that more than 50,000 Palestinian children had been killed or injured since October 2023 and that over 10,500 wounded individuals required urgent evacuation for treatment.

The use of numerical data served as a persuasive strategy, emphasizing the scale of human suffering. The spokesperson described the figures as “shocking,” highlighting the near-total collapse of the health system due to continuous bombardment and siege. He noted that only two patients were evacuated per day, a pace that would require more than 13 years to treat all the wounded, while only 18 hospitals remained partially operational at less than 50% capacity.

The discourse also emphasized the severe shortage of medicines, medical supplies, electricity, and fuel, underscoring the extreme pressure faced by medical staff. Through emotionally charged language and humanitarian framing, the discourse sought to raise public awareness and moral responsibility by presenting healthcare as a fundamental human right and calling for the immediate evacuation of the wounded to save their lives.

The Algerian News Agency conveys the discourse of the United Nations as an active international force through the expression “establishing a plan to overcome the crisis and permanently open the crossings,” where the textual indications emphasize the necessity of preventing any obstruction by the Israeli army to the crossings in order to facilitate the passage of wounded individuals, humanitarian aid, fuel supplies, and various medical and health equipment into the Gaza Strip.

The speech further stresses that “the United Nations is not calling for the impossible, but merely demands the implementation of international law, which guarantees civilians the rights to treatment, life, and freedom of movement.” Through this statement, the active force relies on rational and logical argumentative possibilities grounded in international legal frameworks, seeking to persuade audiences by appealing to legal reasoning and encouraging reflection on the proposed solutions advanced by the United

Nations. The discourse also highlights that “the United Nations is making extensive efforts to fulfill its role as a mediator in resolving disputes between the parties to the conflict.”

Within this framework, the active force attempts to ensure the application of international law and the protection of human rights in the Gaza Strip, including the right to life and the right to medical care, both of which are enshrined in Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which affirms these rights as inherent to all human beings without discrimination and applicable equally to everyone (www.un.org). In addition, Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights recognizes the right to life as an inherent right of every individual, protected by law, and stipulates that no one may be arbitrarily deprived of this right. This also extends to the right to movement through crossings once they are opened, particularly for the wounded seeking treatment. The continuation of conditions in Gaza without addressing these humanitarian necessities, the discourse warns, would result in the world facing a “humanitarian catastrophe.”

The speech employs the phrase “a humanitarian catastrophe whose effects will not be erased” to signify the depth of the humanitarian crisis resulting from ongoing military operations. This is clearly articulated in the statement: “If Gaza is left in this situation, we are facing a humanitarian catastrophe whose effects will not be erased.”

On 30/05/2025, reports indicated that the humanitarian situation in the Strip continued to deteriorate rapidly, particularly following the comprehensive blockade imposed by the Zionist occupation on Gaza, which prevented the entry of humanitarian assistance and led to severe shortages of food, medicine, and fuel (28/05/2025). According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), since the beginning of 2024 only 14 percent of fuel supplies (diesel and gasoline) have been allowed to enter Gaza on a monthly basis compared to pre-October 2023 levels (www.un.org).

Accordingly, the Algerian News Agency worked to transmit the speeches of active forces in a concise communicative style aimed at delivering information clearly and efficiently, relying on precise expressions and well-structured sentences while avoiding unnecessary verbosity or excessive rhetorical embellishment.

The discourse of active forces on the thesis that famine constitutes part of the aggression against Palestinians

The Algerian News Agency published under the headline “Famine as Part of the Aggression Against the Palestinians” a discourse attributed to the spokesperson of UNRWA, Juliet Touma, the agency responsible for providing services to Palestinian refugees until a just and lasting solution is reached. The discourse affirms that the responsibility for contributing to such a solution lies with the international

community and emphasizes that the occupation must fully open the crossings to allow life-saving aid to enter the Gaza Strip.

Touma stated: “We have more than three thousand trucks, not only carrying food but also medicines, waiting to be allowed entry” (28/05/2025), adding that “these trucks are transporting medicines that are close to expiry.” The discourse relies heavily on logical argumentative strategies, presenting statistical evidence aimed at engaging the recipient’s rational faculties and providing concrete proof to refute misleading narratives. The statement “We have more than three thousand trucks waiting to enter” exemplifies this logical appeal.

The discourse further indicates that 58 civilians were martyred due to malnutrition and 242 others died as a result of food and medicine shortages, most of whom were children and elderly individuals, within an 80-day period of the Zionist siege on Gaza (28/05/2025). At the same time, the rhetorical text deliberately evokes fear and urgency by emphasizing that “these trucks carry medicines that are about to expire,” thereby pushing the audience to accept the conclusions and recommendations embedded in the discourse.

United Nations analyses reveal that more than 68 percent of families in the Gaza Strip suffer from varying degrees of food insecurity, with heavy reliance on humanitarian assistance. By the end of 2022, poverty rates reached approximately 61 percent, while

unemployment stood at 45 percent (08/05/2025). Gaza is currently experiencing one of the worst humanitarian crises in modern history, with hunger surpassing tolerable limits. While global hunger rates do not exceed 9.2 percent and remain below 14 percent in Arab countries, hunger levels in Gaza prior to the war were already among the highest worldwide due to the blockade imposed since 2007. This blockade restricted numerous items classified by the occupation as “dual-use,” including fertilizers, animal feed, and agricultural inputs.

UN and satellite reports indicate that since the outbreak of the war in October 2023, approximately 75 percent of agricultural lands—equivalent to 11,293 hectares out of 15,053—have been burned or destroyed, while livestock and poultry losses exceeded 96 percent (08/05/2025).

The discourse of the active force strongly employs emotional appeals, focusing on human suffering. Statements such as “the humanitarian situation in the Strip continues to deteriorate rapidly following the comprehensive blockade imposed by the Zionist occupation” (28/05/2025) are designed to provoke empathy and moral concern. Reports further document that Israeli military operations resulted in the closure of bakeries and warehouses by late March 2025. The World Food Programme announced that all supported bakeries had ceased operations due to shortages of gas and flour, with flour prices

rising between 500 and 700 percent compared to pre-war levels.

Discourse on the thesis that targeting journalists is a systematic policy to impose a media blackout

Under the headline “Targeting Journalists Is a Systematic Policy to Impose a Media Blackout,” the Algerian News Agency conveyed statements by the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate, which condemned the assassination of journalist Moataz Mohamed Ragab of Al-Quds Satellite Channel while he was carrying out professional coverage of ongoing Zionist crimes (29/05/2025). The Syndicate affirmed that the repeated “bloody” targeting of Palestinian journalists and media crews constitutes a deliberate policy aimed at silencing media coverage and preventing the Palestinian narrative from reaching the world. The rhetorical text presents ideas in a logical and sequential structure that enhances clarity, coherence, and effectiveness, facilitating audience engagement. The Syndicate further reported that the number of martyred journalists since the start of the Israeli aggression has risen to 221 journalists and media workers, in violation of all international laws and conventions guaranteeing journalist protection during conflicts (29/05/2025).

The International Federation of Journalists, representing over 600,000 journalists across 150 countries, documented the killing of 138 journalists in 2023 alone, including 127 Palestinians, five Lebanese, four Israelis, and

one Syrian—the highest toll in the history of journalism.

The discourse employs expressive and suggestive language, particularly in phrases such as “bloody targeting,” to evoke strong emotional responses and reinforce the gravity of the violations, while also incorporating logical appeals to persuade audiences.

Discourse on the thesis of firmly moving to end the historical injustice inflicted on the Palestinian people

The Algerian News Agency quoted the speech of Algeria’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ammar Ben Jamaa, who called on the UN Security Council to act decisively to end the crimes committed by the Zionist entity against the Palestinian people in Gaza. Through this coverage, the agency highlights Algeria’s extensive diplomatic efforts in defense of the Palestinian cause during its tenure as a non-permanent member of the Security Council beginning in January 2024, in accordance with directives issued by President Abdelmadjid Tebboune prioritizing international peace, security, and liberation causes.

Ben Jamaa emphasized during a Security Council session that “Algeria bears its full responsibilities and is determined to push this Council to take action.” His discourse aims to mobilize collective sentiment and foster a shared moral identity, urging the international community to act immediately.

The Algerian News Agency conveyed his reliance on logical argumentation and emotional imagery, citing casualty figures exceeding 54,000 killed and 123,000 wounded since October 7, 2023, with over 3,900 killed and 11,000 injured since March 18 alone. Ben Jamaa underscored that these figures represent real lives, dreams, and human stories rather than abstract numbers.

His discourse integrates emotional narratives, rhetorical questions, historical references to the Oslo Accords, and legal arguments grounded in international law to highlight the gravity of the injustice endured by Palestinians. He concluded by reaffirming that Palestinians, like all people, are entitled to life, dignity, and homeland, calling for resolving the conflict at its roots in accordance with international human rights covenants.

The Algerian News Agency quoted the **UNRWA spokesperson, Juliet Touma**, in a post published on social media within the framework of the thesis under discussion. Touma stated that *“the occupation must fully open the crossings to allow the entry of life-saving aid into the Gaza Strip,”* stressing that the occupation pursues a **systematic policy aimed at destroying food sources**. She considered that Israel’s continued closure of the crossings and its prevention of humanitarian aid from entering Gaza constitute **a violation of international law** and represent **collective punishment** that directly threatens the lives of civilians.

She further emphasized that preventing the entry of food, medicine, fuel, and basic relief materials has led to a sharp rise in food prices and a severe shortage of medical supplies, thereby **exacerbating the humanitarian crisis** in the Gaza Strip.

The statement recalled that access to Gaza and the delivery of aid by land primarily occur through the **Rafah border crossing with Egypt**, which is described by the population as the *“artery of life.”* However, this crossing had been subjected to repeated closures even before the war, particularly after the occupation took control of the Palestinian side last year and suspended its operation. In addition, the **Karam Abu Salem (Kerem Shalom) crossing** on the border with Egypt and the **Sofa crossing** in the north—some of which had already been partially damaged before the war—were rendered ineffective.

The discourse of active forces on condemning Zionist escalation and the necessity of recognizing a Palestinian state on the 1967 borders

Through its website, the Algerian News Agency published a report entitled *“International Condemnation of the Zionist Escalation and the Need to Recognize a Palestinian State on the 1967 Borders,”* addressing the position of the active force **James Kariuki**, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the United Nations. The agency quoted him as saying: *“An immediate*

ceasefire, and an end to further bloodshed, is the only way to secure the release of hostages and break the endless cycle of violence,” noting that the level of human suffering in Gaza has become “*unbearable*,” as civilians face famine, homelessness, and psychological trauma.

The discourse employed a strong rhetorical style characterized by a **logical sequencing of ideas**, facilitating comprehension by the recipient. It relied on vocabulary expressing insistence on implementing the draft UN Security Council resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire, as reflected in expressions such as “*immediate ceasefire*” and “*ending the endless cycle of violence*,” which present a realistic reading of developments on the battlefield.

The text further added that “*while European politicians seek to unify their previously divided positions since the outbreak of the Israeli war in order to pressure for its termination, shifts in European public opinion continue steadily toward greater rejection of occupation policies.*” These policies, the text notes, no longer appeal to large segments of European societies, as support for Israel has declined to unprecedented levels nearly twenty months after the start of the war on Gaza.

According to an opinion poll conducted by the British **YouGov** foundation, only about a quarter of respondents in France, Germany, and Denmark still expressed support for Israel, while the percentage did not exceed 18% in

Britain and declined to just 9% in Italy. The study relied on comparisons with earlier opinion polls, which showed significantly higher levels of support for Israel than those recorded in the current survey. The research included public opinion in Britain, France, Spain, Germany, Italy, and Denmark.

The Algerian News Agency presented the discourse of the active force in a **narrative argumentative style**, aiming to persuade the audience through logical reasoning and convincing evidence. It employed linguistic connectors and conceptual linking devices to establish coherence between ideas, sentences, and phrases, rendering the discourse smoother, clearer, and more influential, and enabling it to convey its message effectively.

The agency also reported elements of the discourse that relied on **warning and fear-arousing strategies**, such as the statement that “*the United Nations has warned of the dangers of the Zionist plan for delivering aid.*” These connotations sought to highlight undesirable consequences, using a structured progression of ideas that facilitated comprehension and allowed the audience to follow the argument with ease. This, in turn, increased audience engagement, particularly in the statement: “*In contrast, the United Nations has a clear plan to deliver aid on a large scale, including strict measures to prevent diversion, while humanitarian workers remain on alert, with more than 9,000 aid trucks waiting at the border.*”

Conclusion

The resonance of international actors' discourse expanded across various media platforms in parallel with the ongoing war in the Gaza Strip, reaching audiences worldwide. This discourse was closely followed and conveyed by the Algerian News Agency, which played an active role in transmitting developments in the Palestinian territories. At this stage, the speeches of the active forces were marked by a unified demand to halt the war launched by the occupation army against the Strip for nearly two years, making it the longest war in the history of the Palestinian conflict.

These international actors described the situation as a **war of mass extermination**, seeking to save whatever lives could still be saved. Their discourse highlighted the multiplicity of methods of death inflicted upon Gaza's residents, using diverse linguistic strategies grounded in logical reasoning, statistical evidence, and continuous figures of martyrs of all ages, men and women alike. On this basis, the study reached the following conclusions:

- The emergence of content and suggestive meanings within general theses in the discourse of active forces, as revealed through textual contexts and structures.
- The contribution of diverse textual structures in directing the reader's

attention and clarifying the objectives of the discourse.

- The speeches are characterized by richness of content and depth of meaning, enhancing understanding of textual structures and connotations.
- The presentation style of the texts effectively mobilizes multiple theses using accessible language, clear meanings, and simple structures that facilitate comprehension.
- The deliberate selection of rich linguistic vocabulary capable of conveying suggestive meanings through contextual use.
- The influence of meanings on shaping linguistic structures and the use of emphatic linguistic devices to attract the reader's attention.
- A focus on structural organization and sequencing of ideas to strengthen rhetorical content and persuasive strategies aimed at guiding the reader.
- The mobilization of expressive textual structures to motivate recipients through sequential news narration.
- The use of linguistic vocabulary that condenses ideas and brings imagery closer to the recipient.

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