



UNDERSTANDING PUBLIC SENTIMENT OF MALAYSIANS ON THE
2023 ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR: A CASE STUDY OF THE AL-AHLI ARAB HOSPITAL
EXPLOSION ON TWITTER

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APPROVAL SHEET

This research paper attached hereto, entitled “Understanding Public Sentiment of Malaysians on the 2023 Israel-Hamas War: A Case Study of the al-Ahli Arab Hospital Explosion on Twitter” prepared and submitted by “Arvind Matheven” in partial fulfilment of the requirement for the Bachelor of Communication (Hons) Broadcasting is hereby accepted.



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ABSTRACT

Recently, an international conflict has been reignited between two prominent political powers: Israel and Hamas. Public discourse about the 2023 Israel-Hamas war has been prevalent on social media platforms. The Malaysian government has showed support towards Palestine during this conflict, but the possibility of pro-Israel supporters may still exist among the Malaysian populace. The main research objectives of this paper are to distinguish Malaysian public sentiment towards the 2023 Israel-Hamas war, and to recognise the effects of narratives in news coverage regarding the 2023 Israel-Hamas war on the public sentiment of Malaysians. In this study, a quantitative research design is utilised while news framing theory operates as the backbone of this study. Data is collected from the social media platform named X, formerly known as Twitter. Specifically, responses on posts from verified local news sources will be targeted. According to the data collected, majority of Malaysians manifest a pro-Palestine sentiment, but it is proven that there are also more individuals who adopt a pro-Israel stance on the conflict compared to those who remain neutral towards the issue. Also, it was discovered that public sentiment is not influenced by narratives of media coverage based on patterns deciphered in the findings.

KEYWORDS

Israel-Hamas war, Public sentiment, Twitter, News framing theory, Sentiment analysis.

DECLARATION

I declare that the material contained in this paper is the end result of my own work and that due acknowledgement has been given in the bibliography and references to ALL sources be they printed, electronic or personal.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Research Background

In the latter half of the year 2023, Israel was taken by storm when Hamas residing within the Gaza strip retaliated against Israel by unleashing a surprise attack which comprised of a barrage of 5000 rockets raining onto Israeli cities along with other egregious forms of offense into Israel territory. Unsurprisingly, the world has anticipated for such a phenomenon to occur since hostility between Israel and Palestine had significantly escalated since the 1973 Yom Kippur War that took place between both parties. Unfortunately, the magnitude of this situation threatens the peace of neighbouring nations of the Middle East since this conflict is beyond a short-term burst of confrontation, it is a declaration of war. Hence, this event officially marks the beginning of the Israel-Hamas war of 2023. As Israel has been enduring the onslaught of attacks administered by Hamas, Israel has executed its own countermeasures against Hamas. Consequently, Israel has attained the upper hand in this war, but with substantial sacrifice in resources. Plus, Israel is being recognised as a warmonger for the brutal inflictions it is delivering to the Palestinian populace of the Gaza strip.

Looking at social media, news regarding the conflict between Israel and Palestine has been inundating each platform on a daily basis as news portals are continuously disseminating more information regarding the situation of both parties. In addition to that, as internet accessibility becomes more of a necessity to developing nations, more users from all around the world has acquired the ability to publish information and express opinions, meaning social media users can control the means of information and the distribution of views (Napoli & Obar, 2014). Not only that, as digital journalism has emerged into the scene, user-generated content is now recognised as commodities by journalists when reporting certain news (Wahl-Jorgensen,

2020). Anyways, regarding the Israel-Hamas war, some users worldwide are beginning to take sides, justifying the actions of their supporting parties while criticizing the actions of the opposing party. On the other hand, some users opt to remain neutral to the situation. Of course, there have been multiple instances where users were shown to take sides during conflicts. For example, there was research conducted in identifying the public opinion of social media users from Facebook, X, formerly known as Twitter, and Reddit during the Israeli-Palestinian conflict of 2021 (Imtiaz et al., 2022). Nevertheless, it demonstrates how social media has operated as an effective medium to attract traffic from users internationally and to influence them to participate in the conflict from the sidelines.

1.2 Problem Statement

Narrowing the scope, the Malaysian government has advocated the support for Palestine, expressing themselves to be valuable allies in the Islamic world while condemning Israel for the atrocities committed against the Palestinian populace and the Arabic people in general. However, not all citizens of Malaysia are vehement believers of the Islamic faith, so the possibility of sympathizers or supporters among the Malaysian populace towards Israel is not entirely impossible.

1.3 Significance of Study

By recognising the public sentiment of Malaysians regarding the recent conflicts between Israel and Palestine, it will help shed more light on how international hostility influences the responses and perceptions of Malaysians especially if the hostility involves a nation with good diplomatic relations with Malaysia. Besides that, investigating public sentiment in general can contribute to a better understanding in the role of media when

sculpting public opinion which can influence political and social dynamics. Apart from that, evaluating public sentiment among Malaysians can foster dialogue and understanding within the diverse communities found in Malaysia since it will help classify the similarities and differences shared between communities, allowing for a more informed and empathetic public discourse regarding this issue.

1.4 Scope of Study

In this research, we will examine the public sentiment of Malaysians on the 2023 Israel-Hamas war by analysing text-based comments posted by social media users on tweets published by official Malaysian news accounts on X. Specifically, our analysis will be concentrated on deducting the sentiments shared and emotions expressed by users. Social media was chosen as the medium of data collection because social media reaches more people and is more interactable by people compared to traditional media when relaying news on crises (Xu, 2020). Plus, people are more attracted to interactive information rather than static information during crises. Continuing, the reason X was the selected social media platform was because X is internationally identified as a platform which supports a conducive environment for users to get involved in political discourse and activities (Duncombe, 2019; Huszár et al., 2022; Kasmani et al., 2014; McGregor & Mourão, 2016; Webster & Albertson, 2022). Through the years, various studies have delved into understanding the public opinion of people on social media regarding war. However, participants for each study were limited to certain regions or on an international scope. Therefore, this study will contribute to the accessible documentation of social media literature by narrowing the analysis purely on the Malaysian populace. In regards to methodology, this research takes inspiration from the methodology employed in extracting public sentiment from different countries towards the Palestinian-Israeli conflict

occurring within 2016 (Al-Agha & Abu-Dahrooj, 2019). The only changes in methodology include the approach in collecting data where it will be limited to just gathering responses linked to particular posts of interest as well as views, likes and reposts. Also, since this research will not utilise any forms of algorithm when processing the data, it will employ a content analysis where the comments will be analysed and categorised manually.

1.5 Research Objectives

The research objective of this study is to identify the overall public sentiment of Malaysians on the 2023 Israel-Hamas war and to examine the impact of media framing on the public sentiment of Malaysians regarding the 2023 Israel-Hamas war, focusing on how news coverage influences public perception. Therefore, the following research questions will be answered.

1.6 Research Questions

Research Question 1: What are the public sentiments shared by Malaysians towards the 2023 Israel-Hamas war?

Research Question 2: Are public sentiments of Malaysians towards the 2023 Israel-Hamas war influenced by narratives in media coverage?

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Social Media During Conflicts

In this information era, social media has influenced many elements encompassing the world regular people live in today. The coverage of conflicts worldwide is no exception. According to Zeitzoff (2017), social media has effectively been used by numerous authorities in the world not limited to terrorist groups like ISIS, governments, and political leaders. The advantages available in social media captivates these authorities to use it in furthering their own goals and agendas. Social media has been used to mobilise and recruit individuals who share similar views and sentiments towards a certain cause (Stewart & Schultze, 2019; Zeitzoff, 2017). This can lead to the rise of solidarity or even the radicalisation of affected communities. Moreover, in regards to communication, social media constructs a solution to this entry barrier, enabling high concentrations of individuals and groups to engage in public discourse. Not only that, the supply of social media platforms on the internet such as blogs, Facebook and Twitter provide alternative channels for communication. Alternative channels are more beneficial for unheard voices in autocratic regimes where mainstream media is possibly under the government's control. Any opposition is empowered by this advantage since it allows these communities especially minorities to have their voices heard, but it also creates potential for regimes to manipulate information which can deceive regular people into thinking they are being supported by the government. Notwithstanding that, it should be reminded that social media allows different voices to be heard which can provide insights into public sentiment and support for different causes. Despite so, this trains governments and other relevant groups to be more attentive to social media activity for signs of protest or radicalisation. Besides that, the speed and spread of how information travels on social media enables the rapid dissemination of

information worldwide. The phenomenon of content becoming viral is mainly possible due to this convenience. When content becomes viral, more people are informed regarding a particular situation (Al-Rawi, 2019). This can help shed light on events and atrocities which should garner more attention from people around the world. However, this poses a new challenge since false or misleading information is also more widespread. This leads to less scrutiny of facts before they are shared widely.

In relation to understanding public sentiment of Malaysians on the 2023 Israel-Hamas war, it demonstrates how social media could have played a crucial role in influencing the public sentiment of Malaysians towards this conflict. If the effects of social media have been instrumental in altering the perception of other geopolitical events, then this event should be no different. Notable effects include how social media can increase solidarity among communities since it can connect individuals who share similar views and sentiments towards a cause by mobilising and recruiting like-minded people. Besides that, the presence of multiple voices towards the same conflict is very likely in social media, but the government may employ censorship or manipulate social media to control narratives during conflicts. Regardless, the dynamics reflected in previous works may be identified when analysing how Malaysians engage with and perceive information related to the Israel-Hamas conflict.

2.2 Analysing Public Sentiment on Social Media

There is an adequate amount of research conducted on analysing public sentiment of users on social media during times of conflict, particularly the Russia-Ukraine War and the Israel-Palestine Conflict.

In regards to the Russia-Ukraine War, according to Shevchenko (2022), the study comprised of narrowing the scope on American political narratives on social media relating to the Russia-Ukraine war. Investigations were conducted on the kinds of semiotics resources used by Americans to illustrate the narrative of the war, and the formatting of high-traffic posts and the method of information distribution and framing of the Russia-Ukraine war according to Americans. The platform used to conduct this study was via The New York Times Telegram channel. The study's theoretical framework involved analysing discourse by understanding the cognitive processes when users were exposed to semiotic resources. Speaking of semiotic resources, the framework included a multimodal approach which analyses how discourse is performed across different semiotic modes including verbal, graphic, aural, and cinematographic media. At the same time, the framework expands by examining language use within the context of producing political narratives. Also, each post is also classified in this study to either be predominantly influenced by rational-thinking or emotional pursuit. In the findings of the study, it was shown that emojis and reactions were the main factors that construed the overall public sentiment of Americans towards the Russia-Ukraine war.

Numerous areas of this study have room for improvement. Firstly, the scope of analysis is too narrow. As this study primarily examines the New York Times (NYT) Telegram channel, findings of the study may be more susceptible to bias. Not only that, the findings of the study may not be generalisable to other channels or platforms. If the research included other social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and WhatsApp, then the findings of the study have a

lower chance of being influenced by bias while also being more generalisable. Secondly, as this research utilises a lot of multimodal narratives and emoji reactions, it is difficult to claim objectivity to the findings as these elements are very subjective and up to the interpretation of readers.

Within the same scope of the Russia-Ukraine War, according to Garcia & Cunanan-Yabut (2022), the study comprised of investigating the sentiments and emotions of the international community regarding the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The study's methodology involved finding Twitter posts with hashtags not biased against one country before collecting tweets and metadata connected to the post with the following hashtag. After that, the collected data is pre-processed before processing it via machine-learning where the data will be assigned the most suitable polarity. A total of 27,894 tweets from 22,286 users were selected for this research. In the findings of the study, fear, anger, and sadness were notable emotions identified from the comments published by users on Twitter towards the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Many parts of this study have been thoroughly covered. However, there is an improvement the study could implement. The methodology section of this study should be more transparent. The study has indeed mentioned replicating a methodology used in a previous study relating to COVID-19. However, it lacks detailed information on the specific data analysis procedures. The study could explain more about how the sentiment analysis algorithm determines the sentiment polarity as well as explain the approach in identifying the most salient emotion present in this study.

In regards to the Israel-Palestine Conflict, according to Al-Agha & Abu-Dahrooj (2019), the study comprised of measuring the political public opinion of Twitter users regarding the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. In regards to methodology, two levels of analysis were conducted in this study to differentiate the overall perception of Palestine in the middle of the conflict.

The two levels of analysis are country-level and individual-level analysis. For the country-level analysis, the main purpose was to examine the country's overall attitude towards Palestine. Starting off, the study required to identify the countries which generated the most topic-focused tweets. After that, the study measured the friendliness of each country towards Palestine. Moving forward, the study analysed the change of sentiment over the span of a year. For the individual-level analysis, the main goal was to examine the attitudes of specific types of individuals. The specific types of individuals which were selected to be identified were opinion leaders and individuals with certain ethnicities. The reasons only these two types of individuals were selected is because opinion leaders are claimed to represent a large sector of their respective community since opinion leaders are usually the individuals responsible in promoting behaviour change or individuals who are trained to engage actively in subjects which attract the most traffic from people. Meanwhile, individuals sharing a common ethnicity, race or religion are likely to show sympathy to each other during times of conflict or when issues are present. Therefore, this study prioritised certain ethnicities to better understand the intentions behind the public opinion gathered in the results. Sentiment analysis was used to determine the sentiment polarity towards Palestine's position in the conflict. The sentiment polarity was provided to tweets based on criteria which aligned with Palestinian perspective. Any tweets showing positive sentiment towards the Palestinians or negative sentiment towards Israelis were identified as positive in the polarity spectrum whereas tweets showing positive sentiment towards the Israelis were identified as negative in the polarity spectrum. Any tweets which did not fit the assigned criteria were identified as neutral. In other words, tweets were either positive, negative, or neutral in polarity. A total of 122,921 tweets were identified in the dataset. In the findings of the study, it was discovered that the relationship between the friendliness of opinion leaders with the number of tweets posted per country is negative, meaning that the less friendly opinion leaders are with Palestine, the greater number of tweets

were posted from the country where the opinion leaders reside. Besides that, the relationship between the friendliness of opinion leaders with the overall public opinion expressed by the related country is somewhat positive, meaning that the more friendly opinion leaders are with Palestine, the more supportive the country is towards Palestine. Regardless, there are results which contradict the relationship dynamic between opinion leaders and the attitude of the country. Other than that, ethnicities which had more in common with ethnicities found in Palestine showed higher frequencies of favourability towards Palestine.

Within the same scope of the Israel-Palestine Conflict, according to Imtiaz et al. (2022), the study comprised of empirical observation towards the public sentiment of English-speaking countries in relation to the Israel-Palestine conflict which occurred in 2021. The study's methodology involved gathering Twitter data between April and May with the assistance of hashtags which were widely used and related to the conflict being researched on. After that, polarities were evaluated in the Twitter data collected to see whether the tweets were aligned more with pro-Palestinian sentiment, pro-Israeli sentiment, or an overall neutral stance. A total of a hundred thousand plus tweets were evaluated in this research. In the findings of this study, top keywords were identified depending on the tweet alignment.

There are areas in this study where improvement can be implemented to improve the overall quality of the study. Firstly, the research objectives written in the publication lack clarity. There are indeed research objectives stated in the research paper; however, a thorough elaboration would magnify the direction pursued in this research. Also, an explanation on how this research could contribute to the existing knowledge pertaining to understanding public sentiment in a conflict, so it credits the research for being worthwhile. Secondly, the study's methodology would benefit from more detailed descriptions, especially in the data collection process. A data acquisition process has been explained, sharing the number of tweets collected and what hashtags were prompted to collect the data. However, this section of the methodology is most

vulnerable to sampling bias, so the study would benefit more if it elaborated further on the reasons of the selected data acquisition process. Thirdly, the limitations section of this publication could improve by explaining how the limitations present in the research can negatively impact the validity and reliability of the findings.

In relation to understanding public sentiment of Malaysians on the 2023 Israel-Hamas war, all of the following studies referred to social media when sourcing data with the majority of studies referring to Twitter to collect tweets which were valued as data. Therefore, using social media is proven to be a reliable method in acquiring data for this study since other related studies repeated the same methodology when accumulating data. Besides that, most of the following studies analysed the sentiment polarity in the comments and reactions by applying the sentiment analysis algorithms which are categorised under the machine learning approach. These algorithms operate by gathering opinions which are relevant with the issue being discussed in the study before identifying whether the presence of sentiment in the comment itself is available or not. After ascertaining the availability of sentiment in the comments to be true, the algorithm will detect a common pattern between all the pre-processed data before finally assigning a sentiment polarity based on the trained data integrated into the algorithm (Medhat et al., 2014). For this study, using sentiment analysis to determine the public sentiment of Malaysians towards the 2023 Israel-Hamas war will be effective because it is capable of assigning a polarity in the data analysis process of the study which will eventually classify the comments to either be aligned towards pro-Palestinian or anti-Palestinian views. In relation to the limitations encountered by previous studies conducted, being knowledgeable about these obstacles which hindered the validity and reliability of the research topic will improve how this study will be navigated while avoiding elements which may negatively affect the outcome of the study. The general problems faced by the previous studies include sampling bias, generalisability of the results, and the transparency and clarity on the importance of the research

and methodology. As none of the previous research has focused on demographics within the Malaysian community, this study will help cover the Malaysian demographic to better understand how generalisable the results of previous related studies are with the results presented by Malaysian news consumers.

2.3 News Framing Theory and Public Sentiment

According to Tewksbury & Scheufele (2019), news framing theory is a theoretical foundation with high levels of complexity in the functionality it contributes to answering the many phenomena revolving around the influence of media towards public opinion. Beginning with the roots of framing theory, the flexibility of framing theory in its application on numerous disciplines of studies is commendable. Historically speaking, framing theory has been utilised by many scholars to delve into different levels of analysis relating to their studies. As a brief description, framing theory explains that perceptions covered by news stories can influence how news consumers visualise an issue or incident. This will also influence the beliefs, attitudes and behaviours of news consumers regarding a particular issue. Framing theory shares a relationship with other existing processes related to news consumption and comprehension: information, persuasion, and agenda setting. By understanding the processes involved in news consumption, a clearer understanding on framing theory will be established. By proposing the framing theory, it complements the notion that news stories not only contain information, but also include a frame. This frame is constructed based on the information provided in the news story. This information is presented based on arguments, symbols, metaphors and images. In a sense, a frame functions as the foundation to a news story which tackles a common issue. After that, framing theory explains that the persuasive factor ingrained in a news story lies in how the news story is presented towards the audience. However, the framing theory does not adopt

the assumption where the audience is conscious that the news story is deliberately attempting to sway their beliefs and attitudes. Instead, the audience lacks awareness that the frames incorporated into the news story contain the ability to influence public perception towards the issue reported in the news story. After that, agenda setting describes that repetitive exposure of a news story covering a common issue is what causes audiences to perceive the issue to be important. Framing theory adds more depth into the public perception towards a particular issue. In other words, a news story may not just be perceptually important, it may also be supported by a focused narrative which influences the audience to look at the issue based on the provided narrative. All in all, framing theory justifies that news stories contain elements which shape the narrative around the reported issue. This narrative is used to subtly influence public perception since the narrative only focuses on a single perspective which drives news consumers to construct the interpretation of the issue based on what is broadcasted.

As explained in the definition of framing theory, this indicates that news stories discussing on conflicts and violence are able to characterise any belligerents involved positively or negatively. After all, news stories are published with a narrative, so the news story may include an alignment which may favour one party over the other. This instance has been observed over previous studies conducted researching this specific topic. There was a study conducted which revolved around the Ukraine conflict between 2014 and 2015. According to Ojala et al. (2017), one of the objectives in this study was to pinpoint the most prominent parties reported in news coverage encompassing the Ukraine conflict and to determine the sentiment expressed by the news reporters when discussing the involved parties based on narratives illustrated in the news stories. Based on the study's findings, both Ukrainian and non-Ukrainian civilians were framed positively when representations of them were constructed in the news stories. Most of the time, civilians involved in the conflict were portrayed as victims. This perspective is supported by instances where the party is shown evacuating from their homes, witnessing the destruction of

their personal property, or grieving over human casualties. This positive sentiment is also shared towards Maidan activists and opposition leaders who opposed the incumbent government during the time of conflict. On the contrary, parties who supported the government were framed negatively. Besides that, political leader Vladimir Putin was also illustrated in a negative sentiment. Criticisms about his leadership and his responsibilities in aggravating the conflict based on how prevalent violence and human distress was in Ukraine remain as the catalyst which influences news reporters to illustrate Vladimir Putin in an unfavourable frame. Another study which observed the same instance of positive versus negative narratives includes a study which revolved around the Israeli Minister of Foreign Affairs (MFA) using Twitter to disseminate news relating to the 2014 Gaza War. According to Manor & Crilley (2018), it was observed that the MFA used social media to frame themselves positively in the violence unleashed between Israel and Hamas. The positive attributions which were emphasised by MFA to create a positive impression of themselves in the context of the war included their resolve to maintain their reputation as the only democratic nation within the Middle East, their noble priorities of safeguarding innocent civilians from both parties in this conflict rather than accomplishing military objectives, and their respectable stance regarding the possession of military equipment as instruments of peace rather than weapons of war. Also, it was mentioned that Israel engages in humanitarian initiatives, enabling humanitarian aid to be distributed in areas inflicted by the war and constructing facilities that would offer medical support. However, Israel still falls victim to negative press coverage within the context of the war, especially when unaffiliated parties discuss the distribution of power between Israel and the neighbouring Islamic states. Israel is undoubtedly a high-tech military superpower, being able to compete against other equally competent nations in terms of military prowess (Katz & Bohbot, 2017). Therefore, the invasion of Israel into Gaza may be construed as a display of strength and oppression rather than the action to purge terrorism in the vicinity. Regardless, the MFA

responds to negativity imposed onto them by framing Hamas negatively. In an effort to counter the claim that Israel is abusing their power to disrupt peace in the Middle East, the MFA frames Hamas as the equivalent to ISIS by identifying similar policies in both regimes. Besides that, the MFA displays Hamas as a threat against the livelihood of citizens residing within the borders of Israel by revealing the potential annihilation Hamas is able to inflict towards Israel with their supply of rockets along with the range capabilities of Hamas rockets. Other than that, the MFA classifies Hamas as a military force rather than a terrorist organisation by revealing the military infrastructure Hamas possesses, particular the underground tunnels. Aside from attempting to vindicate Israel's actions against Hamas of invading into Gaza by antagonising Hamas in this conflict, the MFA frames Hamas negatively in the scope that Hamas is a universal threat against democracy. This is achieved by illustrating strategies conducted by Hamas which involves using civilians as human shields. The MFA continues to justify that Hamas practices a belief which celebrates death, meaning that the sacrificing of life is necessary for the betterment of the nation. All in all, the MFA takes advantage of frames when reporting on social media to construct a narrative where Israel is positively characterised whereas Hamas is negatively characterised. Another study which observed the same instance of positive versus negative narratives includes a study which investigates the differences between Indian media narratives and western media narratives regarding the Russia-Ukraine war occurring in 2022. According to Arulchelvan (2022), the findings of the study implied that Indian newspapers framed the narratives of the news stories reporting the Russia-Ukraine war with a negative view on Russia which was contradicting the views shared by the ruling government of the nation since Russia and India are allies. This pattern was synonymous with foreign wire stories reporting on the same issue. Although, it was clarified that some Indian media houses refer to western news agencies for news stories, so the narratives expressed in local newspapers may have been influenced by western bias. In any case, it was observed that foreign wire stories

used more emotionally powered words and terms to describe the events which occurred during the conflict whereas locally produced stories refrained from using emotionally powered words when reporting similar news stories. Interestingly, it was claimed from the study that western media had successfully influenced Indian media in supporting Ukraine while manifesting anti-Russia views. With the narratives of the conflict behaving more favourable towards one party over the other, the study states that these pro-Ukrainian narratives will influence Indian public sentiment to the point it will pressurise the government to support Ukraine. All in all, this study reflects the phenomenon of how framing can characterise any belligerents involved positively or negatively, and that this practice can influence public sentiment.

In relation to understanding public sentiment of Malaysians on the 2023 Israel-Hamas war, framing theory serves as an effective theoretical framework for discussing the contents produced in this study. This is because framing theory focuses on the notion that narratives present in a news story is the stimulus which influences public sentiment on a particular issue. This notion has been corroborated by previous studies which utilised framing theory to justify the results of the study. Therefore, when approaching this study during data analysis, the narrative of the news story is a noteworthy element worth considering since these narratives may affect the results of the study especially if the narrative of the news story contains an alignment more favourable to one party.

CHAPTER 3

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

The methodology of this study is presented in this chapter. The beginning of this chapter starts by introducing the types of research designs and the selected research design for this research. After that, this chapter continues by establishing a theoretical framework which will support the findings discovered at the end of the study. Furthermore, this section proceeds to elaborate the data acquisition, data pre-processing, and data processing stages of this research process.

3.2 Research Design

According to Asenahabi (2019), research designs represent the first step in creating a systematic approach to perform data analysis on collected resources. Planning a research design mindfully is suggested because it will help streamline the process of gathering sufficient amounts of findings as well as navigate researchers to an indisputable conclusion at the end of the study. After a conclusion has been drawn, the researchers can proceed with proposing future recommendations or implications based on the study. Generally speaking, there are three groups in which research designs are categorised into: quantitative, qualitative, and mixed method research. On one hand, if a researcher is conducting research where the chosen research questions are best answered with quantifications or data analysis, a quantitative research design is more appropriate to be conducted. Examples of quantitative research designs include survey research, causal-comparative research, and correlational research. On the other hand, if a researcher is conducting research where the selected research questions are best answered with subjective answers or the topic tackles the exploration and comprehension of subjective experiences and perspectives relating to social or human problems, a qualitative research

design is more relevant. Examples of qualitative research designs include interviews, observations, and ethnography. As self-explained in the term “mixed method research”, this research design is best suited for research that delves into the middle between both quantitative and qualitative research. This is most applicable in studies where multiple research questions are best answered with both quantitative and qualitative answers respectively.

In relation to this study, a quantitative research design is best suited to answer the research questions devised for this study. This is because the research will involve systematically categorising and quantifying the sentiment polarity between parties involved in the Israel-Hamas war. Therefore, most of the data collected will be based on frequency. Meanwhile, a qualitative research approach may not be the most appropriate for this study because the questions provided for this study are best answered with numerical values instead of subjective reasoning.

3.3 Theoretical Framework

According to Kivunja (2018), a theoretical framework behaves as a foundation which incorporates theories and concepts already present within the research area relevant to the investigation. In essence, the theoretical framework synthesizes previously tested and published knowledge to establish a theoretical background or basis for understanding the research data. Prominent figures recognised in the research area express perspectives and insights which can be sourced within the theoretical framework of a particular study. These insights and perspectives offer a specialised lens where data analysis, interpretation of findings, and discussion can be conducted. By implementing a theoretical framework into a study, researchers can conduct analysis and interpretation with utmost academic rigor and skilfulness,

establishing a concrete foundation for the initial steps of a research and contributing to the scholarly discourse within the field.

In relation to this study, news framing theory will be employed when interpreting the findings from the data analysed before discussing the results. Framing theory would be considered the most relevant theory when applying it to this study since the research questions prepared for this study tackle issues relating to narratives observed in media coverage. Also, this study aims to understand whether narratives incorporated into news stories can influence public sentiment. Framing theory thoroughly discusses the potential frames possessed in altering public perception towards a particular issue. Therefore, framing theory may be able to answer any of the patterns observed in this study.

3.4 Data Acquisition

Data will be collected from comments and responses found on social media posts located on X. More specifically, the social media posts will be discussing the common topic revolving around the al-Ahli Arab Hospital explosion which happened on the 17th of October 2023 during the early stages of the 2023 Israel-Hamas war. This is because the cause of the explosion is still under heavy debate. According to pro-Palestinian views, they blame Israeli airstrikes for being the direct cause of the explosion. According to pro-Israeli views, they reject the claims provided by the opposition, clarifying that it was due to Hamas negligence in handling the barrage of rockets fired from Gaza, resulting in a rocket to misfire into the hospital perimeter. Therefore, observing the responses of Malaysian news consumers when exposed to news stories illustrated in both narratives might display results with higher validity. Speaking of both narratives, the selected social media posts for this study are published by Malaysian news sources: Malaysia Gazette, New Strait Times, and MalaysiaKini. As this study focuses

on understanding Malaysian public sentiment, it is more appropriate to collect data from Malaysian news sources since the majority of Malaysians consume news from local news sources. Also, it reduces the possibility of mixing in international opinions. These three specific news sources were selected because each account framed a different narrative when reporting this news story. Each narrative will be discussed in the following figures:



Figure 3.1 Malaysia Gazette social media post

Based on Figure 1, the contents of the post are written in the Malay language. After translating the captions to the English language, it roughly translates to, “Al-Ahli Al-Arabi Hospital grounds after the Zionist army attack that claimed nearly 1,000 lives.” Following the captions, a 35-second-long video is also shared. The video is an audiovisual experience displaying a crowd of civilians situated in a parking lot full of dilapidated automobiles along with damaged tile roofs in the vicinity. The video was captured during the daytime. In the video, additional captions are superimposed. Translating it to the English language, it roughly reads, “World: Conditions after bombed within Al-Ahli Al-Arabi Hospital grounds.” At the same time, a sombre melody is edited into the audial experience of the video while a male voice speaking in the Arabic language can be heard in the video. The origin of the voice may most likely come from the camera wielder or it was dubbed into the video. In regards to the narrative framed when publishing this social media post, the perspective is shifted to be more favourable with pro-Palestinian views. Referring back to the captions, the Israeli party is referred to as Zionists which is often considered a derogatory term used by Malaysians to describe an Israeli individual which means that the post expresses anti-Israel views. Besides that, the post implies that the cause of destruction originates from the aggression inflicted by Israel forces, antagonising Israel for their display of violence against Palestinian infrastructure.

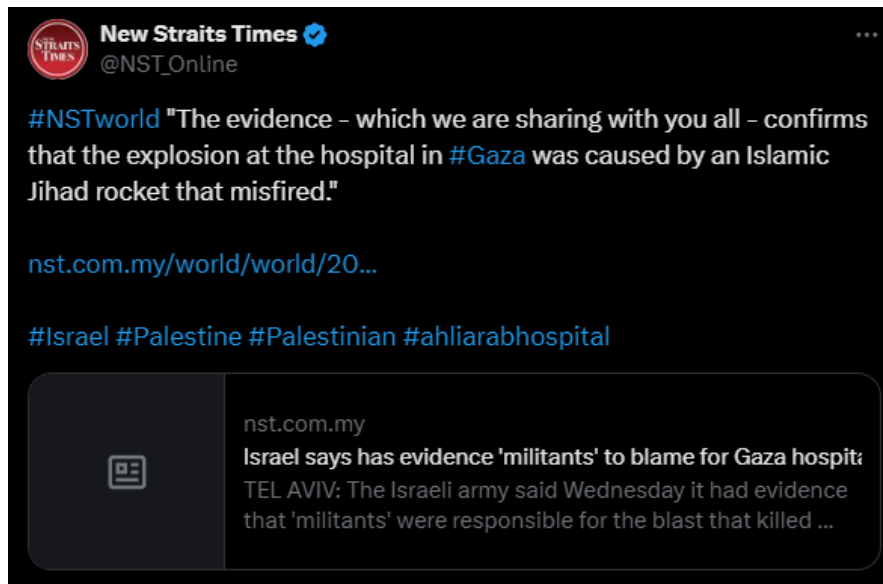


Figure 3.2 New Straits Times social media post

Based on Figure 2, the main captions read, “The evidence – which we are sharing with you all – confirms that the explosion at the hospital in Gaza was caused by an Islamic Jihad rocket that misfired.” Below the captions is a hyperlink which redirects social media users to a news article published by New Straits Times explaining the al-Ahli Arab Hospital explosion. As a summary, the news article reads that the explosion which occurred within hospital grounds was the result of an “Islamic Jihad” rocket misfiring, quoted from an Israeli military spokesperson. Their source of confirmation was by referring to Israel radar system which tracked missiles fired by terrorists in Gaza. Apparently, the Israel radar system detected rockets fired in close proximity to the hospital by analysing the trajectory travelled by the rockets. It should be worth noting that this news article was sourced by AFP, a foreign news agency. This means that this article is not an original publication produced directly from New Straits Times. In regards to the narrative framed when publishing this social media post, the perspective is shifted to be more favourable with pro-Israeli views. Referring to the captions and the contents of the referenced news article, the post implies that the explosion happened due to a misfired rocket not under Israel possession, blaming Hamas negligence for the damages inflicted onto

Palestinian property. Besides that, the article linked in the social media post identifies Hamas as a Palestinian terrorist militant group, framing Hamas as disruptors of peace.

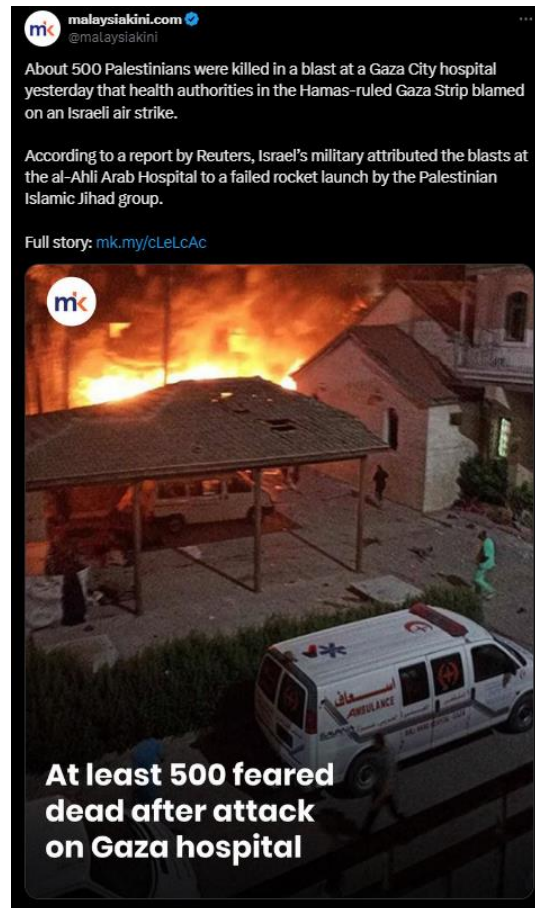


Figure 3.3 MalaysiaKini social media post

Based on Figure 3, the main captions read, “About 500 Palestinians were killed in a blast at a Gaza City hospital yesterday that health authorities in the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip blamed on an Israeli air strike. According to a report by Reuters, Israel’s military attributed the blasts at the al-Ahli Arab Hospital to a failed rocket launch by the Palestinian Islamic Jihad group.” After the main captions, a hyperlink is added which redirects social media users to a news article published by MalaysiaKini explaining the al-Ahli Arab Hospital explosion. Attempting to summarise the contents of the news article, it discusses the approximate death count of the incident. It continues by sharing views expressed by both parties in relation to the

hospital explosion. In addition to that, it continues to highlight views from third parties who condemned the attack against the hospital. The article proceeded to inform readers that the United Nations Security Council will hold an emergency meeting on the same day the article was published to discuss the attack which took place. Returning back to the social media post, an image is also shared. In the image, the text “At least 500 feared dead after attack on Gaza hospital” is superimposed. Besides that, an inferno is captured in the background of the image as a handful of people are seen in the picture. The picture was taken at night. In regards to the narrative framed when publishing this social media post, the account decided to take a neutral stance. This neutral stance is indicated by the captions of the social media post. The captions explain two different narratives, one blaming Israeli air strike for the explosion on the hospital whereas the other blaming the Palestinian Islamic Jihad group for their failed rocket launch. In other words, the news source does not objectify the cause of the explosion. Instead, the news source reasons with multiple possibilities which could have caused the explosion. This is further evident with the approach MalaysiaKini took in creating the captions superimposed into the image shared in the social media posts. It mentioned an attack occurred on the Gaza hospital, but it never linked it to a direct source. Besides that, neutral words were used to describe the belligerents involved in the conflict.

As of 3rd May 2023, a total of 44 responses were observed from 42 X users across the three social media posts. Out of the 44 responses, only 6 responses did not contain any comments. Instead, it linked another post published by another X user, also known as a retweet, or the response was sent in an image format. As for the remaining 38 responses, only 7 responses contained both a comment and an image/retweet. The remaining 31 responses are pure comments. Also, while some responses may be pure English or pure Malay, some responses are a combination of both Malay and English lexicon. Therefore, this study will

employ the rule where a response must be made of at least 50% English lexicon in order to be classified as an English response. After applying the rule, 77.27% of the collected responses were in English. Below is a table showing the statistics of the collected responses.

Table 3.1

Descriptive statistics of collected responses

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------|
| Total Number of Responses | 44 |
| Number of Users | 42 |
| English Responses | 77.27% |
| Average Number of Words Per Response | 11.52 |
| Minimum Number of Words | 0 |
| Maximum Number of Words | 41 |

Besides responses, the social media post basic analytics will also be documented. By analysing the analytics calculated from each social media post, it will provide a better understanding in which narratives are more widely accepted among Malaysians.

3.5 Data Pre-Processing

Before processing the collected data, a filtering process will be conducted to remove any irrelevant responses which do not discuss the issues handled in the news stories or contain unknown resources. Besides that, the filtering process will also detect social media accounts who have created more than one response in any of the three social media posts. The filtering process will combine the respective user's response into one collective response.

3.6 Data Processing

Content analysis will be conducted to obtain the results of this study. Specifically, the text mining technique will be employed to process the data collected. Text mining refers to the process where text messages are interpreted before assigning a meaning and categorising them into a predefined group. Text mining can be used to detect patterns and salient keywords in discussion as well as recognise information which is repeated excessively across messages. (Kaushik & Naithani, 2016; Reuter et al., 2020). Commonly, text mining is conducted by machine learning techniques and algorithms. However, for this study, text mining will be conducted manually since there is only a small volume of text data required to be processed. In this case, text mining will help define the emotions conveyed by the responses expressed by each social media post.

As this study seeks to explore the public sentiments shared by Malaysians towards the 2023 Israel-Hamas war, sentiment analysis will be conducted during the text mining process. According to Al-Agha & Abu-Dahrooj (2019), the sentiment analysis employed in their work is used to identify the political stance expressed by each tweet instead of detecting the user's feelings when composing the tweet. As inherent feelings may help identify the sentiment polarity of the tweet, it is more necessary to understand the context of the tweet. Therefore, labelling the sentiment polarity on tweets must be supported by the perspective being discussed by the tweet plus the feeling expressed by the tweet. For this study, it will refer to the same determinants demonstrated by the study conducted by Al-Agha & Abu-Dahrooj where sentiment polarity is labelled from the perspective which supported Palestine. In other words, responses favouring Palestine will be labelled positive in the sentiment polarity whereas

responses favouring Israel will be labelled negative in the sentiment polarity. Below are criteria which determine whether the sentiment polarity is positive or not:

- Responses which display evidence that Israel is the aggressor in the incident will be labelled positive.
- Responses which contain terms and emotive language denoting negative attitude towards “Israel” will be labelled positive.
- Responses which negatively criticise news sources with a pro-Israel narrative reported on the news story will be labelled positive.
- Responses which display solidarity and sympathy with Palestine or Palestinians will be labelled as positive.
- Responses which display evidence that Hamas is the aggressor in the incident will be labelled negative.
- Responses which negatively criticise news sources with a pro-Palestinian narrative reported on the news story will be labelled negative.
- Responses which negatively criticise news sources with a neutral stance reported on their news story will be labelled depending on the context of the response; if the criticism focuses more on errors when discussing Palestinian’s perspective, the news story will be labelled negative. Otherwise, it will be labelled positive.

If the responses do not meet any of the specified criteria, it will be labelled neutral instead. After the responses are labelled with a sentiment polarity, the results will be documented into SPSS for further analysis.

CHAPTER 4

FINDINGS & ANALYSIS

4.1 Introduction

In total, 39 responses from 39 users across the three social media posts were successfully filtered into the data analysis section of this study.

4.2 Sentiment Polarity Saliency

Table 4.1

Frequency of responses based on sentiment polarity

| | | Sentiment Polarity | |
|-------|----------|--------------------|---------|
| | | Frequency | Percent |
| Valid | Negative | 6 | 15.4 |
| | Neutral | 1 | 2.6 |
| | Positive | 32 | 82.1 |
| | Total | 39 | 100.0 |

Based on Table 2, the most salient sentiment polarity analysed across the three social media posts is the positive sentiment polarity which has a frequency of 32 responses which represents 82.1% of the total responses obtained and processed. Descending the sentiment polarity saliency ranking, the sentiment polarity ranked below is the negative sentiment polarity which has a frequency of 6 responses which represents 15.4% of the total responses obtained and processed. Lastly, the least salient sentiment polarity analysed is the neutral sentiment polarity which has a frequency of only 1 response which represents 2.6% of the total responses obtained and processed.

4.3 Sentiment Polarity relative to Narratives in Media Coverage

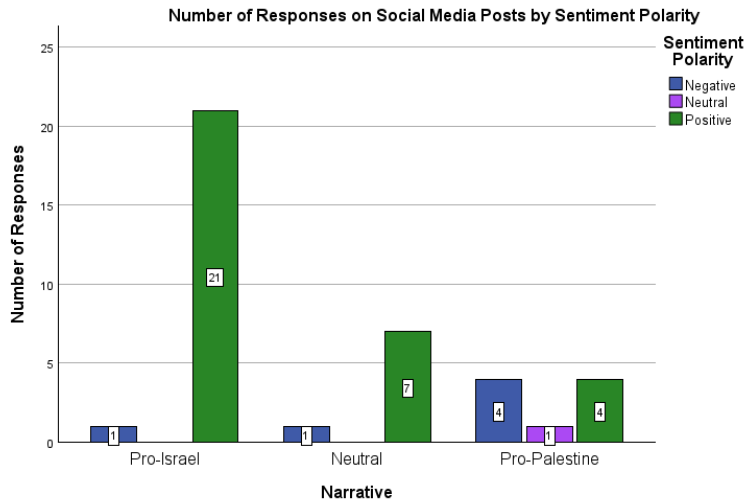


Figure 4.1 Number of Responses on Social Media Posts by Sentiment Polarity

Based on Figure 4, the total number of responses obtained from the social media post which contained a pro-Israel narrative summed up to 22, making it the most commented social media post compared to other social media posts with a different narrative chosen for this study. Out of the 22 responses, only 1 response is labelled with a negative sentiment polarity. The remaining 21 responses are labelled with a positive sentiment polarity. Proceeding, the following social media post according to ranking based on number of responses is the social media post which contained a pro-Palestine narrative. The social media post has accumulated 9 responses. Out of the 9 responses, 4 responses are labelled with a negative sentiment polarity whereas another 4 responses are labelled with a positive sentiment polarity. The remaining 1 response is labelled with a neutral sentiment polarity. Lastly, the least commented social media post is the social media post which contained a neutral narrative. The social media post has gathered 8 responses. Out of the 8 responses, only 1 response is labelled with a negative sentiment polarity. The remaining 7 responses are labelled with a positive sentiment polarity. On one hand, the social media post which carries the most positive aligned sentiment in responses is the social media post with a pro-Israel narrative, following with the neutral

narrative, and ending with the pro-Palestine narrative. On the other hand, the social media post which carries the most negative aligned sentiment in responses is the social media post with a pro-Palestine narrative. Both neutral narrative and pro-Israel narrative social media posts share the same number of negative aligned sentiment in responses. Meanwhile, the social media post with a pro-Palestine narrative remains the only social media post which contains a response labelled with a neutral alignment.

4.4 Social Media Post Analytics

Table 4.2

Social media post views, likes, reposts, and comments

| Narrative | Views | Likes | Reposts | Comments |
|---------------|--------|-------|---------|----------|
| Pro-Israel | 10800+ | 6 | 5 | 25 |
| Neutral | 9900+ | 13 | 18 | 10 |
| Pro-Palestine | 18200+ | 221 | 283 | 12 |
| Total | 38900+ | 240 | 306 | 47 |

Based on Table 3, an approximate total of 38900 views have been accumulated across the three social media posts along with 240 likes and 306 reposts. Also, 47 unfiltered comments have been identified across the three social media posts. The social media post with the highest number of views is the social media post which contained a pro-Palestine narrative, following the social media post with a pro-Israel narrative, and ending with the social media post with a neutral narrative. The social media post with the most likes and reposts is the social media post which contained a pro-Palestine narrative, following the social media post with a neutral narrative, and ending with the social media post with a pro-Israel narrative.

CHAPTER 5

DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

5.1 Discussion

This study has demonstrated that the majority of Malaysians adopt a pro-Palestine sentiment towards the 2023 Israel-Hamas war. Despite the negative relations exhibited between the Malaysian government and the Israeli administration, the presence of Malaysians who share a pro-Israel sentiment towards the conflict is not absent. This indicates the presence of dissonance between the political stance the government endorses and the sentiment expressed by the minority populace who adopts a pro-Israel stance. Interestingly, there is very little initiative for Malaysians to approach this international ordeal with impartiality as there is only one social media user who delivered a neutral-oriented response on one of the three social media posts selected for this study. The paraphrased version of the response generally impugns the evidence presented by the social media post, highlighting the fact that the video recorded footage of a parking lot. After that, the response-maker acknowledged the death toll caused from the explosion, but doubted the specific death toll because the missile plunged into a parking lot situated nearby the hospital, meaning the death toll would not have been too grievous since only a small number of civilians will be situated at a parking lot. Reinforcing the argument, the buildings in close proximity of the affected parking lot are still upright and intact according to the video shared. Regardless, the social media user expresses her blessings that this conflict will end in peace quickly. For clarity, despite the criticisms presented by the social media user onto the social media post, the response is classified with a neutral sentiment because the response prioritises the efforts for peace between both parties. Anyways, one of the possible reasons Malaysian news consumers are less inclined in approaching an issue with impartiality is because of deepening political and ideological polarity. According to Ojala

(2021), Western societies have exemplified many instances where political and ideological polarity in journalism has caused perceptions of journalistic bias and distrust of the media to emerge. Therefore, individuals within Western societies are more likely to search for news sources which align with their own sentiment rather than expecting impartiality. Referring to news framing theory, this would mean that news consumers will progressively influence their perception towards a particular issue by exposing themselves to a narrative which confirms their strongest belief. For this study, the only evidence that may suggest this pattern is by referring to the social media post analytics collected. As the majority of Malaysians express a pro-Palestine sentiment towards the 2023 Israel-Hamas war, it is not surprising to see that the most viewed social media post among the three selected social media posts for this study is the post supported by a pro-Palestine narrative. Although, this observation can be refuted because the social media post has shared an audiovisual experience, something more eye-catching compared to the other two social media posts. Also, the least viewed social media post is the post written with a neutral narrative, implying that Malaysian news consumers are not interested in immersing themselves in news stories that remained impartial to the issue. Subsequently, this can impact Malaysian news consumers to avoid interpreting the issue in a neutral narrative as they will always be exposed to news stories with a strong alignment in narrative. All in all, the public sentiment of Malaysians towards the 2023 Israel-Hamas war is mostly pro-Palestine. Even so, there are Malaysians who adopt pro-Israel views as well in the war.

In regards to the influence of public sentiment based on narratives of media coverage; patterns observed in the results of this study suggest that public sentiment is not influenced by narratives of media coverage. This inference is apparent when distinguishing the relationship between the news narrative of a social media post and the cumulative responses per social media post based on sentiment polarity. If framing theory is applied, the news narrative of a

social media post and the cumulative responses per social media post based on sentiment polarity should share a positive relationship. In other words, a news story with a pro-Palestine narrative should generate more responses with pro-Palestine sentiment. However, the findings of this study express a negative relationship instead. On one hand, for the news story published with a pro-Palestine narrative, a higher number of responses with pro-Israel sentiment is detected compared to other social media posts. On the other hand, for the news story published with a pro-Israel narrative, a higher number of responses with pro-Palestine sentiment is detected compared to other social media posts. As for the news story constructed with a neutral narrative, there is an absence of responses denoting a neutral sentiment. Despite the results presented, framing theory still remains as a reliable theoretical framework for this study. However, there may be a more suitable theory to justify the relationship between the news narrative of a social media post and the cumulative responses per social media post based on sentiment polarity. According to Harmon-Jones & Milis (2019), cognitive dissonance is the psychological phenomenon where discomfort is experienced by individuals when exposed to conflicting beliefs, attitudes, or values. This discomfort motivates individuals to reduce the dissonance by altering their beliefs, attitudes or behaviours to be more harmonious with one another. In this study, cognitive dissonance is observed among most social media users who have responded to the social media posts selected. After all, most responses shared by these users express a defensive stance, attempting to strengthen their own beliefs by invalidating beliefs that contradict their own. For example, in the social media post which contained a pro-Israel narrative, some responses within the post which expressed a pro-Palestine sentiment criticised New Straits Times (NST), the publisher of the social media post for the lack of evidence supporting their news story. Some responses also present evidence which debunks the news story presented by NST. Some responses may even insult NST for being sympathetic towards Israel. Some responses even expose NST for propagating Jewish and Zionist

propaganda. As for the social media post containing a pro-Palestine narrative, all responses within the post either displays evidence which challenges the information presented in the social media post or the response expresses scepticism and disbelief due to the discrepancies noticeable in the news story. Between the social media posts which contain a pro-Palestine and pro-Israel narrative respectively, the social media post which approached the conflict with a pro-Israel narrative accumulated more responses which were dissonant to the narrative portrayed in the social media post compared to the social media post which contained a pro-Palestine narrative. This further corroborates the notion that majority of Malaysians manifest a pro-Palestine sentiment towards the 2023 Israel-Hamas war. In addition to that, the amount of likes and reposts identified in the social media post which contains a pro-Palestine narrative exemplifies the initiative for Palestine sympathisers to spread this narrative to others in order to reinforce their own beliefs. Meanwhile, the social media post which contains a pro-Israel narrative is ignored more frequently in order to bring more attention to other narratives which support beliefs adopted by Palestine sympathisers. All in all, Malaysians show little to no signs of influence towards public sentiment when exposed to specific narratives in media coverage. Even though framing theory is most suitable in answering phenomena related to the relationship between narratives and public sentiment, cognitive dissonance may possess the potential to negate the influences of narratives in media coverage towards public sentiment, altering the context to the extent that framing theory becomes less applicable in this part of discussion.

5.2 Conclusion

In conclusion, this study has provided insights into the public sentiment of Malaysians regarding the 2023 Israel-Hamas war and examined the impact of media framing on this sentiment. The majority of Malaysians express a pro-Palestine sentiment, although there are also voices supporting Israel. Interestingly, there is a notable absence of neutrality among Malaysian news consumers, potentially influenced by deepening political and ideological polarity. Despite the influence of media narratives on public sentiment being commonly assumed, our findings suggest a more complex picture. While framing theory is typically employed to explain the relationship between media narratives and public opinion, our study suggests that cognitive dissonance may play a significant role. Social media users demonstrated cognitive dissonance by expressing defensive stances and attempting to strengthen their own beliefs while invalidating conflicting ones. This suggests that Malaysians show little susceptibility to influence from specific media narratives, challenging conventional assumptions about media effects.

Overall, this study contributes to our understanding of how media framing and cognitive processes shape public sentiment during international conflicts. By shedding light on the dynamics of public opinion formation in Malaysia, this research can inform policymakers, media practitioners, and the public about the complexities of navigating information and perceptions in a digital age. Ultimately, fostering informed and empathetic dialogue among diverse communities is essential for promoting peace and understanding in the face of global conflicts.

5.3 Limitations and Future Research

This study is not without its limitations which has considerably affected the validity and reliability of findings. Firstly, the sample size of responses collected is too small. The small sample size allocated for this study may negatively affect the generalisability of the results produced in this study across other relevant research topics. Secondly, speaking of generalisability, as this study focuses on content available only on one social media platform and three news accounts, different platforms and news sources may produce different results. Thirdly, as this research navigates around identifying sentiment polarity based on language usage and context focus, it is difficult to claim objectivity to the findings as these elements are very subjective and up to the interpretation of readers. For example, when social media users criticise news sources, they may do it with neutrality in mind, meaning some pro-Palestine or pro-Israel sentiments may actually be neutral.

In regards to future research, a similar study could be conducted where the sample size of responses collected is larger. Instead of just relying on responses of social media users on news sources, research could also take advantage of hashtags which are relevant with the issue being discussed. Also, a mixed mode data collection method should be employed when conducting research on this topic. A close-ended questionnaire along with content analysis would help collect a larger volume of data which can improve the generalisability of results produced from the study. Besides that, researchers could conduct the content analysis across multiple social media platforms and news accounts to reduce the sampling bias present in the study. Other than that, instead of employing a manually-driven text mining and sentiment analysis data processing method, researchers should source algorithms and natural language processors to automate the data processing section of the study. In relation to research topics, conducting a study which tackles how different demographics may be more sympathetic or apathetic towards a certain public sentiment would greatly benefit researchers when navigating how narratives in

media coverage may influence public sentiment. Besides that, conducting a study which investigates the active readership of local news sources around Malaysia can help researchers identify external influences which may affect the results of future studies if data were collected from those sources. Not only that, investigating the political stance adopted by local news sources around Malaysia would help equally. Other than that, conducting a study which explores the mechanisms which cognitive dissonance in the context of media consumption and its implications for public discourse and decision-making can bring awareness on the phenomenon of polarisation and the formation of echo chambers in online communities.

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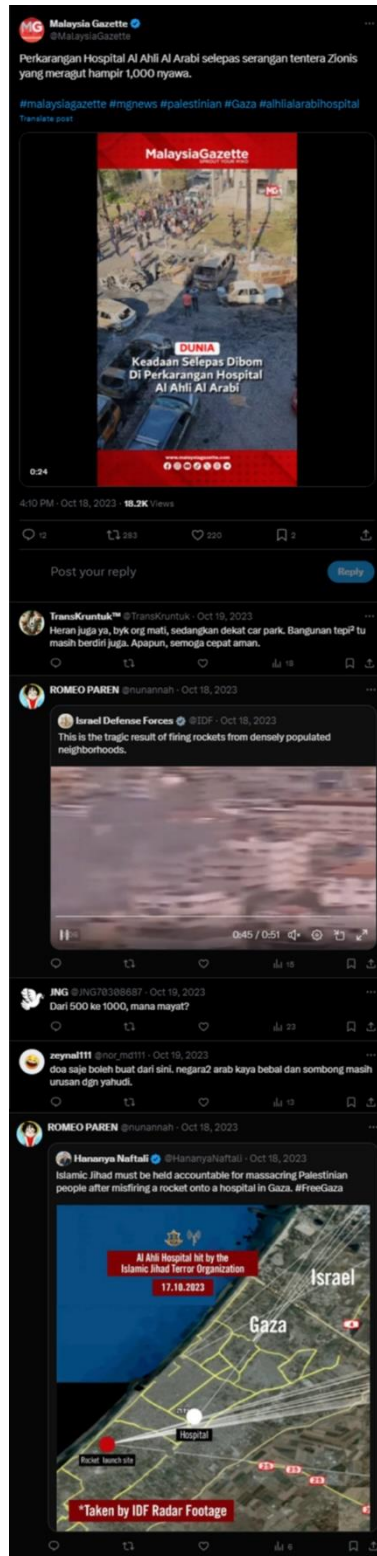
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APPENDIX A

Social Media Posts



Malaysia Gazette Social Media Post (Pro-Palestine) – Part 1



Malaysia Gazette Social Media Post (Pro-Palestine) – Part 2

New Straits Times @NST_Online

#NSTWorld "The evidence - which we are sharing with you all - confirms that the explosion at the hospital in #Gaza was caused by an Islamic Jihad rocket that misfired."

nst.com.my/world/world/20...

#Israel #Palestine #Palestinian #ahlarahospital



Israel says has evidence 'militants' to blame for Gaza hospital blast | New Straits Times

from nst.com.my

6:40 PM · Oct 18, 2023 · 10.8K Views

25 8 4

Post your reply

Pok loh @Abdulrahimun2 · Oct 19, 2023
what the evidences? AI edited evidences? or evidences from IDF? shame on you

Pok loh @Abdulrahimun2 · Oct 19, 2023
Shame on you... Please provide the evidence and the source of evidence you get? don't be IDF propaganda channel.



Beqi @jacquelineTeo · Oct 18, 2023
Wah nst, no filtering kat? Just publish without putting any disclaimers or information on alternate theories and more importantly real evidence which shows otherwise. Cut and paste saja. What the heck man?

Faker93 @Faker931 · Oct 18, 2023
Nst pegi mampus. Ko Belajar journalism untuk menipu ke.

Certified Translator @ReramaGlasswing · Oct 18, 2023
Nattali Israel spoke person already confirm they bombed the hospital.

BREAKING: Israeli Air Force struck a Hamas terrorist base inside a hospital in Gaza.

A multiple number of terrorists are dead.

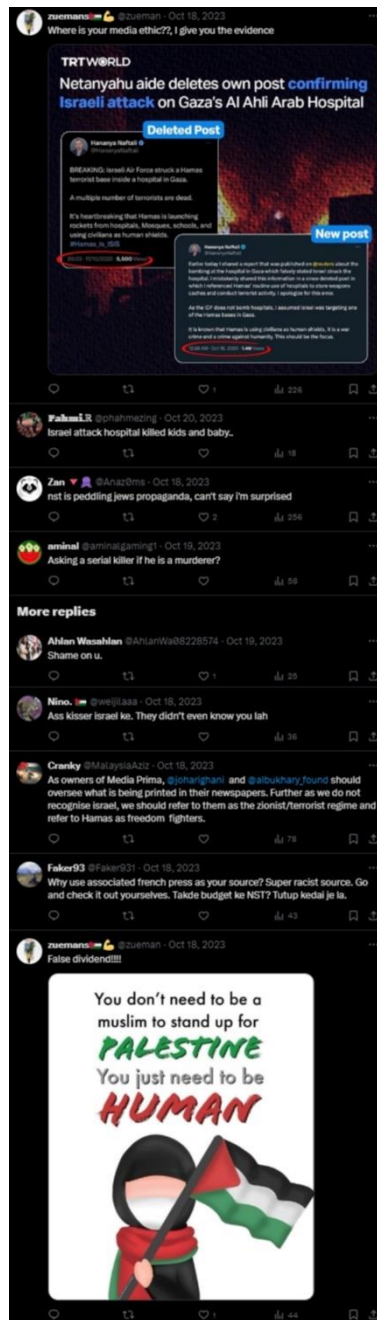
It's heartbreaking that Hamas is launching rockets from hospitals, Mosques, schools, and using civilians as human shields. #Hamas_Is_ISIS



New Straits Times Social Media Post (Pro-Israel) – Part 1



New Straits Times Social Media Post (Pro-Israel) – Part 2




New Straits Times Social Media Post (Pro-Israel) – Part 3

malaysiakini.com
@malaysiakini

About 500 Palestinians were killed in a blast at a Gaza City hospital yesterday that health authorities in the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip blamed on an Israeli air strike.

According to a report by Reuters, Israel's military attributed the blasts at the al-Ahli Arab Hospital to a failed rocket launch by the Palestinian Islamic Jihad group.

Full story: mkm.my/cLELcAc



At least 500 feared dead after attack on Gaza hospital

10:54 AM · Oct 18, 2023 · 9,949 Views

Post your reply

Add your name @AmasArie · Oct 18, 2023
Jgn main patik ja slasat btu2. Ni isu sensitif tolong la jaga etika 🙏

Faris @amayarhaki · Oct 18, 2023
@Ahmed Faris @MCMC_RASMI macam mana pihak media ni boleh dapat authority untuk sebar berita palsu sesuka hati?

flintflant @flintflant · Oct 18, 2023
Tone deaf and pulbible reporting trying to maintain impartiality reporting a war situation of interest to the Malaysian public that Mkini seemingly has no grounding on.

Katokhaje @Kaj@happygalz · Oct 18, 2023
Islamic jihad what?? They are freedom fighter la gila. Ko kan kalau gaduh orang kat Malaysia ni between muslim n non muslim YOU HAVE PART in IT!! Ingat tu tone deaf news site.

The Punisher @EternatDeeds · Oct 18, 2023
Bloody IDF. Kau tembak lepas tu salahkan Hamas.

Interior Place 🇲🇾 @InteriorPlaceX · Oct 18, 2023
Korang nak delete slapa?

Interior Place 🇲🇾 @InteriorPlaceX · Oct 18, 2023
One THING

MalaysiaKini Social Media Post (Neutral) – Part 1



MalaysiaKini Social Media Post (Neutral) – Part 2