

أخبار سياسية مضللة: تحقيق تحليلي

أ.م.د هاني كامل العبادي

قسم اللغة الإنكليزية، كلية التربية للعلوم الإنسانية، جامعة ذي قار، ذي قار، العراق،

dr.hani.kamil.alebadi@utq.edu.iq

حسين كريم حسن

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0009-0009-9531-9068>

hussain.kareem.hasan@utq.edu.iq

الملخص

تبحث هذه الدراسة في التضليل الإعلامي في التغطية الإخبارية السياسية من خلال تحليل استخدام الاستراتيجيات البراجماتية والمغالطات المنطقية لتضليل الجماهير. تحلل هذه الدراسة المقالات الإخبارية من فوكس نيوز وسي إن إن والجزيرة الإنكليزية الإخبارية خلال أحداث "طوفان الأقصى" (7 أكتوبر/تشرين الأول 2023 - 19 يناير/كانون الثاني 2025)، تعتمد الدراسة إطاراً انتقائياً يدمج تصنيف التضليل الإعلامي، ومبادئ غرايس، وتحليل المغالطات. تشير النتائج البحثية إلى أن "التضليل الإعلامي بأنصاف الحقائق" هو النوع الأكثر شيوعاً، بنسبة 80%، مدعوماً غالباً بانتهاكات لمبادئ الحوار المتعلقة بالكم والأهمية والكيفية، بالإضافة إلى مغالطات تشمل الاحتكام غير ذي الصلة والتسويق في الموضوع. تُسهم هذه التقنيات في توليد معتقدات خاطئة، وتضليل الجماهير، وإخفاء معلومات جوهرية. يُسلط البحث الضوء على الاستغلال الخطابي في وسائل الإعلام التقليدية، ويُسلط الضوء على ضرورة محو الأمية الإعلامية النقدية لمعالجة التضليل السياسي والحفاظ على الخطاب الديمقراطي.

الكلمات المفتاحية : التضليل، الأخبار السياسية، البراجماتية، انتهاكات المبادئ الحوارية، المغالطات،

Political News Disinformation: An Analytical Investigation

Asst. Prof. Dr. Hani Kamil Al-Ebadi

Dept. of English Language, College of Education for Humanities, University of Thi-Qar, Iraq,

dr.hani.kamil.alebadi@utq.edu.iq

Hussein Kareem Hasan

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0009-0009-9531-9068>

hussein.kareem.hasan@utq.edu.iq

Abstract

This study investigates disinformation in political news coverage by analysing the utilisation of pragmatic strategies and logical fallacies to mislead audiences. The present study analyses news articles from Fox News, CNN, and Al Jazeera English during the "Al-Aqsa Flood" conflict (October 7, 2023–January 19, 2025), utilising an eclectic framework that integrates disinformation taxonomy, Gricean maxims, and fallacy analysis. Research indicates that "half-truths disinformation" is the most frequent type, accounting for 80%, frequently supported by violations of the conversational maxims of quantity, relevance, and manner, as well as fallacies including irrelevant appeals and begging the issue. These techniques serve to generate erroneous beliefs, misinform audiences, and conceal essential information. The investigation emphasises the rhetorical exploitation in typical media outlets and highlights the necessity for critical media literacy to tackle political disinformation and preserve democratic discourse.

Keywords: *Disinformation, Political News, Pragmatics, Violations of the Conversational Maxims, Fallacies,*

1. Introduction

Recent mass media technology advancements pose global challenges, especially in disinformation and fraudulent activities (Vysotska et al., 2024). The digital revolution poses new threats to community security, particularly in information dissemination. Although internet services improve communication and information retrieval, the age of fake news, disinformation, and information chaos is causing significant problems (Załoga, 2022). People have always been curious about the latest developments and news, with the modern concept of “the news” shaped by non-partisan newspapers and journalism schools. Today, news is accessible through various channels, but the problem arises when information sources provide misleading information, leading to deception (Fallis & Mathiesen, 2019). Disinformation can cause severe emotional, financial, and physical harm to individuals when they are misled about important topics like investment opportunities, medical treatments, or political candidates (Fallis, 2014a). Media outlets employ pragmatic techniques, including misleading, falsifying, and deceiving, to generate disinformation in political news to support specific agendas and fulfill public objectives and interests. These linguistic strategies are crucial in media operations.

This study seeks to examine the subsequent questions:

1. Which types of disinformation can be found in the chosen political news sources of information?
2. In the political news that has been chosen, what are the pragmatic strategies that are utilised to spread disinformation?
3. What are the most commonly employed pragmatic disinformation tactics, and types of disinformation in the chosen political news?

This study aims to develop a framework for a comprehensive investigation of disinformation in the context of political news, to investigate and categorise different types of disinformation in selected political news, to investigate pragmatic strategies for disinformation construction and dissemination, and analyse the most prevalent pragmatic disinformation strategies, and the types of disinformation used in the selected political news.

This study examines the political news coverage of the “Al-Aqsa Flood” war from October 7, 2023, to the ceasefire on January 19, 2025, using data from Fox News, CNN and Al Jazeera English News. The research focuses on pragmatic strategies used by these outlets, including the violation of the principles of conversational implicature, and fallacies, to disseminate disinformation. The study’s limitations include its limited scope.

The significance of this study lies in its understanding of the role of language in shaping ideological narratives, reinforcing biases, and influencing public opinion, which can potentially lead to political and social problems. Understanding the dissemination and impact of disinformation is crucial for preserving a healthy democratic society and limiting the transmission of inaccurate information, which is the significance of this study.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Disinformation

The term “disinformation” originated in the 1950s. The initial documented usage of the term appears in a 1955 article in the London Times (OED, 2023). The term “disinformation” has unclear origins, possibly originating from the English language or the Russian word “dezinformaciya.” Scholars define it as intentionally misleading information (Fallis, 2014b). Disinformation, often linked to government or military activities, is the deliberate dissemination of false or misleading information. It is widely disseminated by various institutions, including political campaigns, advertisers, and individuals (Fallis, 2016). Furthermore, disinformation refers to deliberately false information that is intended to deceive, whether on a personal, social, or political level (Al-Ebadi, 2024). Political campaigns frequently utilise disinformation, deceptive amplification, and the distorting of political language to weaken opponents, expand their audience, and accomplish their objectives throughout election campaigns (Arnaudo et al., 2021).

Disinformation spreads through writing, audio-visual content, and face-to-face interactions. Understanding factors like socio-cultural backgrounds, political affiliations, and personal experiences is crucial for preventing false information dissemination. Fact-checks can guide understanding, but eliminating misinformation requires considering social and performance attributes. (Wardle & Derakhshan, 2017). Silva and Vaz (2024) emphasise the importance of comprehending the sender, content, recipient, and environment as essential components of information analysis. Disinformation is a form of information manipulation that conceals or reveals false beliefs, often through tactics like lack of completeness, censorship, or lack of pluralism. This prevents individuals from acquiring true beliefs or correcting false ones, perpetuating ignorance and aligning beliefs with community values (Bell & Whaley, 2017, pp. 48-49; Carson, 2010, p. 56; Fallis, 2014b).

2.1.1 Taxonomy of Disinformation

This study explores the various types of disinformation, examining them through prominent philosophical viewpoints. It uses specific typologies of disinformation to develop a framework for analyzing disinformation in political news.

2.1.1.1 Malicious Lies

Philosophers have primarily focused on the concept of lying, which some associate with disinformation, rather than the general issue of disinformation. For instance, Fetzer (2004, p. 231) states that “disinformation should be viewed more or less on a par with acts of lying. Indeed, the parallel with lying appears to be fairly precise.” In other terms, Fetzer claims that disinformation is synonymous with lying, demonstrating a strong correlation between the two concepts. However, Fallis (2016) distinguishes between lies and disinformation, stating that not all lies are disinformation, as accidental truths, which are not technically lies, do not have the potential to mislead.

2.1.1.2 True Disinformation

Fallis (2014b, p. 138) claims that “lies are not the only type of disinformation.” Philosophers have emphasized that accurate information can be intentionally used to mislead others, despite not necessarily involving falsehoods. Vincent and Castelfranchi (1981) describe *indirect lying*, where someone tells the truth but intends the recipient to mistakenly believe something different, referred to as “false implicature” (Fallis, 2014b). While other scholars refer to it as “deceptive implicatures,” a subtle communicative device used to lead someone into a false belief (Wiegmann et al., 2022, p. 709). People often prefer untruthfully implicating falsehoods over explicit lying due to moral concerns, supported by behavioral economics, philosophical and religious traditions, as they often imply untrue things to avoid lying (Pepp, 2020).

2.1.1.3 Half-truths Disinformation

Half-truths are accurate statements that selectively highlight facts supporting a specific interpretation of an issue, neglecting or minimizing other important facts. They can be used by politicians to manipulate past events to support their programs, highlighting positive outcomes while neglecting negative consequences. This manipulation can distort reality and mislead the audience, as seen when politicians highlight the positive outcomes of their policies (Carson, 2010). *Spin* is the selective interpretation of events to support a particular perspective, leading to the creation of false implicatures and potentially misleading the audience. While most philosophers believe individuals are not lying in such cases, some consider false “half-truths” as lies (Fallis, 2009).

2.1.1.4 Adaptive Disinformation

The primary characteristic of disinformation is the source’s intention to mislead the recipient. Floridi (1996, p. 511) states that “... disinformation need not necessarily be intentional.” In other words, sometimes, information may be misleading even though it is inadvertently conveyed without the intention to mislead the recipient. “Online media and social networks allow for the rapid exchange of information, including disinformation, both on purpose and accidentally/chaotically” (Vysotska et al., 2024, p. 58). Fallis (2014a, 2015, 2016 in press) contends that even without conscious malicious intent to deceive or mislead the recipient, the spread of erroneous information can be reinforced when it is advantageous. Therefore, similar to prototypical instances of disinformation, the *adaptive disinformation* (henceforth AD) is not accidental.

Supporters of a party or candidate may spread inaccurate information for personal gain. Before the 2016 US elections, false election stories were published on social media and fantasy news sites. These stories, including “Pope Francis Shocks World, Endorses Donald Trump for President, Releases Statement,” received approximately 2.953 million interactions on Facebook in the three months prior to the election (Silverman, 2016; Wardle & Derakhshan, 2017, p. 23). This type of disinformation is known as *calumnious disinformation*. Individuals who engage in calumnious disinformation aim to diminish the likelihood of competitors winning the presidential election and strengthen the incumbent party. They disseminate false statements to harm or weaken a competing

party or nation, as seen in the Bush administration's lies about foreign policy matters (Mearsheimer, 2011, p. 16).

2.1.1.5 Altruistic Disinformation

Disinformation often harms the recipient, as seen in Aesop's Fables like "The Boy Who Cried Wolf." However, it can also be intentionally spread to benefit the recipient, such as offering false compliments to spare their feelings. For instance, a friend might be told they look great, even if it's not true, to spare their feelings.

2.1.1.6 Detrimental Disinformation

Fallis (2014a, 2015, 2016).claims that to avoid embarrassment, individuals intentionally mislead their doctors about their medical history or lifestyle. *Detrimental disinformation* (henceforth DE) does not systematically benefit the source. While the source of this DE (the patient) does not directly benefit, the misleading information can lead to incorrect medical advice and potentially harm the patient. DE is intentionally misleading. DE might not be as harmful to the recipient as other forms of disinformation.

2.1.1.7 Visual Disinformation

Floridi (2011, p. 84) states that "semantic information is not necessarily linguistic. For example, in a map, the illustrations are such as to be visually meaningful to the reader". Fallis (2014a, 2014b, p. 138; 2016, p. 338) claims that "disinformation does not have to be a statement". Fake maps and doctored photographs are clearly examples of disinformation. This form of disinformation is called *visual disinformation* (henceforth VD).

2.2 Cooperative Principle

The cooperative principle abbreviated as (CP), developed by linguistic philosopher Paul Grice, emphasises the importance of cooperation in conversational exchanges. It suggests that participants should make their contribution as necessary, aligned with the accepted purpose or direction of the talk exchange. This principle is developed initially or constructed throughout the interaction and can be definite or indefinite. However, certain conversational moves are considered inappropriate at each stage. The principle ensures that participants contribute appropriately and effectively to the conversation, ensuring successful interaction (Grice, 1975, 1989).

Grice (1975, 1989) categorises specific maxims and submaxims into four categories, which generally correspond with CP, namely *Quantity*, *Quality*, *Relation*, and *Manner*. "Maxims" are distinguished from "rules" by their perception as universally applicable rather than limited to specific circumstances (Verschuere, 1999). Grice posits that speakers attempt to pay attention to specific standards in communication, while listeners utilise these standards to infer the speaker's intended message. Individuals must communicate sincerely, relevantly, and clearly, while offering adequate information (Levinson, 1983). However, Grice's maxims may not reflect all conversational assumptions, which may require additional principles like polite conduct, and may also suggest inferences beyond the literal meaning of the utterances (Li, 2016).

2.3 Conversational Implicature

Conversational implicatures are common discourse traits, involving collaborative efforts with shared purpose. Conversational exchanges lack rationality when disconnected feedback, responses, or comments are used, suggesting that each participant has an integrated goal or purpose (Grice, 1975, 1989). The term “conversational implicature” refers to the meaning that is communicated by speakers and is subsequently recovered or inferred by the audience members as a result of their internal inferences (Cutting, 2002).

2.3.1 The Conversational Maxims

Grice asserts that listeners presuppose speakers follow the cooperative principle and that familiarity with the four maxims enables listeners to infer the speakers’ intents and implied meanings (Cutting, 2002). The conversational maxims may be observed or breached and in either scenario, implicatures may emerge (Greenall, 2009).

2.3.1.1 Observing Conversational Maxims

Grice (1975,1989) points out that conversational maxims instruct interlocutors to make sure their statements are relevant, clear, informative, and truthful. Whenever the maxims are generally observed in the language events in which they emerged, they generate “standard” conversational implicatures (Verschuere, 1999). The CP encompasses four categories: Quantity, Quality, Relation, and Manner, which typically produce outcomes aligned with the principle, facilitating the identification of various maxims and submaxims within each category (Grice, 1975, 1989). Each maxim addresses one particular aspect of verbal interaction and delineates the expectations for a cooperative communicator for that maxim (Birner, 2013).

2.3.1.2 Non-observing Conversational Maxims

Grice (1975, 1989) argues that a conversational participant may fail to observe a maxim through various means, such as quietly violating it, opting out, blatantly failing to fulfill it, or overtly breaching it. This creates a conversational implicature, where the hearer may struggle to reconcile their statement with the assumption that they are observing the overall CP. Grice highlights the consequences of a participant’s failure to adhere to a maxim. An individual may fail to observe a maxim in five various manners (Thomas, 1995).

2.3.1.2.1 Flouting

Grice (1975, 1989) explains that a speaker can violate a maxim by explicitly neglecting to respect it, leading to difficulty connecting the statement with the presumption of compliance. This can result in a conversational implicature, considered manipulative when a maxim is abused. A flout is a speaker’s intentional failure to observe a maxim to infer an alternative or supplementary meaning, known as “conversational implicature”. The speaker’s purpose is not to lie or mislead, but to encourage an alternative perspective (Thomas, 1995, p. 65).

2.3.1.2.2 Violating

A speaker can intentionally and inconspicuously violate a maxim, which can lead to misleading others in certain cases (Grice, 1975, 1989). Violating a maxim denotes the speaker's intentional ignoring for the maxim(s) in a manner that is completely unnoticeable to other people under typical conditions (Culpeper & Haugh, 2014).

2.3.1.2.3 Infringing

An individual who unintentionally violates a maxim, without attaining the objective to cause confusion or disinformation, is considered to breach the maxim (Paltridge, 2012; Thomas, 1995).

2.3.1.2.4. Opting out

Grice (1975, 1989) illustrates that a speaker may opt out from the maxims and the Cooperative Principle, so expressing their unwillingness to comply with the maxim's expectations. The speaker might state, for instance, "*I cannot say more; my lips are sealed*" (Grice, 1975, p. 49, 1989, p. 30).

2.3.1.2.5 Suspending

When a Gricean maxim is suspended, it indicates a departure from the expected degree of collaboration in communication, either a deliberate disapproval for language considered culturally or situationally incorrect or a conscious withholding of the complete truth (Thomas, 1995).

2.4 Fallacies

The term "fallacy" originates from Latin and Old French, which means "to deceive" or "deceitful" (Damer, 2009). Weston (2009, p. 152) defines "fallacies are misleading types of arguments." Furthermore, Damer (2009, p. 51) defines fallacies as "a violation of one of the criteria of a good argument." Moreover, certain scholars consider fallacy as a type of argument, as illustrated by the subsequent definition, fallacy is "a type of argument that seems to be correct, but contains a mistake in reasoning" (Copi et al., 2014, p. 109).

Damer (2009) defines a good argument as a statement that supports at least one other claim and provides a strong foundation for the conclusion. It has five criteria: a well-formed structure, relevance, acceptable, sufficient grounds for the conclusion, and an effective rebuttal to anticipated criticisms. *Structural* soundness is crucial, ensuring the argument operates efficiently and resembles a coherent one. *Relevance* is essential, as the acceptance of an irrelevant premise fails to confirm the conclusion. *Acceptability* is a crucial criterion, requiring the premises to be credible and trustworthy, and to be accepted by a mature, rational individual. The *Sufficiency* principle requires sufficient evidence to support a conclusion, but it can be challenging to enforce due to the absence of explicit rules and differing requirements. *The rebuttal principle* is a crucial aspect of argumentative tasks, requiring a good argument to effectively address and rebut criticisms against its position, rebutting opposing viewpoints or those supporting its position (Damer, 2009).

2.4.1 Types of the Fallacies

This study employs Damer's (2009) holistic taxonomy to identify fallacies that may violate five criteria for a sound argument. Fallacies are categorised into structural flaws, irrelevant premise, unacceptable premise, insufficient grounds, or failure to provide effective rebuttal to anticipated criticisms. Ad hominem fallacies are examples of fallacies that violate multiple criteria, such as avoiding addressing or rebutting criticisms (Damer, 2009).

2.4.1.1 The Structural Criterion-Violating Fallacies

Structural fallacies are errors that hinder the conclusion from following the premises, making them unsound. These fallacies can be grouped into four categories: begging-the-question fallacies, inconsistency fallacies, and deductive inference fallacies. Begging the question is a logical fallacy where the premise assumes the truth of its conclusion. It can be identified through arguing-in-a-circle fallacy, question-begging-language fallacy, complex-question fallacy, and question-begging definition fallacy (Damer, 2009).

Inconsistency fallacies are a serious fault that can undermine the accuracy of an argument. Incompatible premises and contradiction between premises and conclusion are two types of inconsistency fallacies. *Incompatible premises* are when an argument uses inconsistent or incompatible premises, leading to a structural flaw. This flaw can be demonstrated by examining the argument's form, which states that no acceptable conclusion can be drawn (Damer, 2009).

2.4.1.2 The Relevance Criterion-Violating Fallacies

Damer (2009) identifies two types of fallacies that violate the relevance criterion: fallacies of irrelevant premises and fallacies of irrelevant appeals. Relevant premises provide justifications for belief, support the conclusion, or influence its validity. Irrelevant premises, such as the genetic fallacy, are used without relevance or failing to support the conclusions. The validity of a premise may vary depending on the objective of identifying arguments that support or refute the conclusion (Damer, 2009).

Rationalisation is a fallacy where the premises of the argument are disconnected from the conclusion, leading to misleading thinking. It's characterized by "the echo chamber" where information sources reinforce preexisting opinions. *Irrelevant appeals*, such as pity or sympathy, are used to support conclusions but lack relevance. *The bandwagon fallacy* suggests an idea or action must be true because everyone accepts it. Emotional manipulation encourages blind acceptance of concepts based on emotion rather than evidence (Damer, 2009).

2.4.1.3 The Acceptability Criterion-Violating Fallacies

An argument must be reasonable and acceptable, and fallacies that violate these criteria include linguistic confusion and unwarranted assumption fallacies. These fallacies impact the truthfulness of conclusions (Baltzer-Jaray, 2019). Linguistic confusion arises from ambiguity in the meaning of a word or phrase, leading to incorrect reasoning (Copi et al., 2014). Unwarranted assumption fallacies involve claims or beliefs based on questionable assumptions, leading to misleading conclusions (Weston, 2009). Damer (2009) provides a further type of unwarranted assumption, namely "*false alternatives*", which refers to the disproportionate limitation of

provided solutions to a problem or case, claiming that only one of the suggested options must be the correct or valid one.

2.4.1.4 The Sufficiency Criterion-Violating Fallacies

The sufficiency of premises is crucial for providing valid reasons or comprehensive evidence for a conclusion. Arguments should provide relevant and acceptable reasons to justify their conclusions (Govier, 2010). Fallacies that breach this requirement include missing evidence and causal fallacies (Damer, 2009).

The fallacy of missing evidence, also known as the fallacy of inference from a name or description, is a common fallacy in arguments. It can be sub-typed into insufficient sample, unrepresentative data, arguing from ignorance, contrary-to-fact hypothesis, popular wisdom fallacy, special pleading, and omission of key evidence (Damer, 2009). Insufficient sample arguments draw conclusions from too small or unrepresentative data, while unrepresentative data refers to data not proportionately drawn from all relevant subclasses (McCraw, 2019).

Causal fallacies are errors in causal reasoning that require a thorough understanding of complex causal relationships (LaBossiere, 2023). They can lead to incorrect conclusions, such as the conclusion that a series of events will follow from a single event or that predictions about a chance event can be made based on past performance of similar chance events (Damer, 2009).

2.4.1.5 The Rebuttal Criterion-Violating Fallacies

Most arguments lack the rebuttal feature, which is crucial for a good argument to anticipate and address criticisms effectively. Fallacies that violate this criterion are those that fail to provide an effective rebuttal, and can be categorized into three types: counterevidence, ad hominem, and diversion (Damer, 2009).

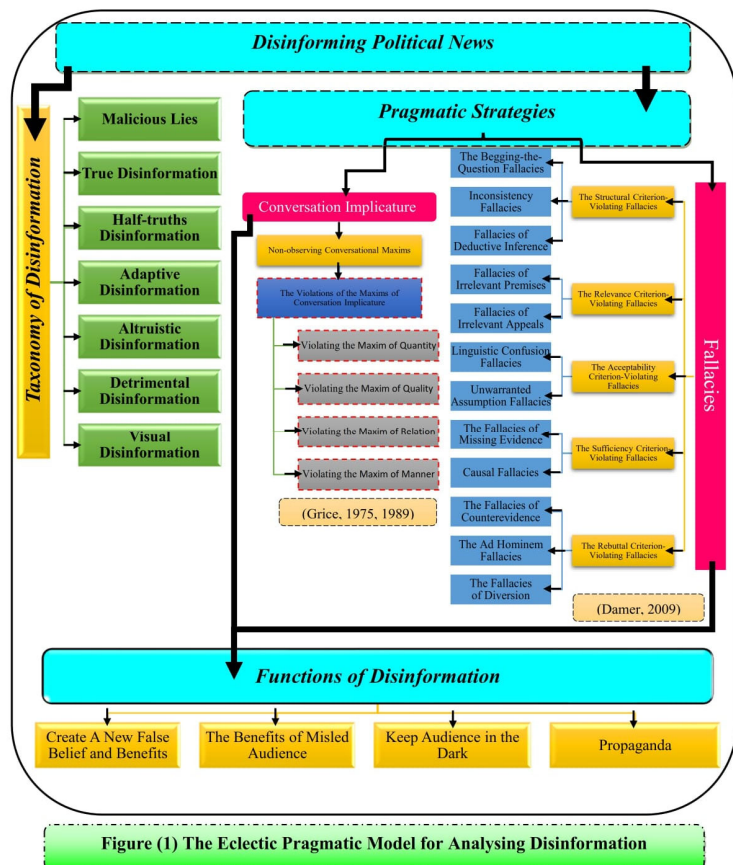
Counterevidence fallacies involve individuals avoiding appropriate responses or effective rebuttals by denying, minimizing, ignoring, or omitting acknowledgement of criticisms or counterarguments (Damer, 2009). Denying counterevidence is a common technique used by conspiracy theorists to support their theories. Another technique is “ignoring the counterevidence” (Johnson, 2019), also known as confirmation bias, where the opponent dismisses or neglects important evidence that opposes their point of view. This can lead to a misleading perception of an absence of serious evidence to the opposite direction. People often watch media outlets such as Fox News and MSNBC that support their preferred worldview, increasing confirmation bias (Johnson, 2019).

Ad hominem is a fallacy where an individual attacks their opponent rather than the argument, focusing on their character rather than their qualifications, accuracy, or truth (Weston, 2009). Ad hominem can be performed through abusive ad hominem, where an individual attacks their opponent personally to discredit or reject their point of view (Smith, 2022). Poisoning the well, where an individual unfairly attacks or spreads unfavorable information about an opponent before they express their own, is another fallacy that weakens the trustworthiness of the source of an argument or perspective (Ruiz, 2019).

Diversion fallacies are arguments that divert focus from the main point, aiming to divert attention from the main point (Smith, 2022). They are used to avoid direct engagement with criticism or argument, often using persuasive tactics like twisting or misleading criticism, attacking irrelevant topics, or mocking the critic (Damer, 2009). *The straw man fallacy* is a rhetorical device used to manipulate the other party's authority to make an attack easier (Weston, 2009). It does not necessarily rebut the original criticism or argument. A strong argument must counter the most powerful version of an objection or opposing argument. *A red herring* is another fallacy that deflects attention away from the main issue, concealing the weaknesses of the original argument (Copi et al., 2014, p. 115). It is often used to evade confronting the primary issue or critique, causing agitation and restlessness in the audience (Damer, 2009).

3. Methodology

This section provides a comprehensive explanation of the research methodology, data collection procedures, and criteria for data selection. The data used for the investigation is derived from various English-language political news channels, including Fox News, CNN, and Al Jazeera English News. The study systematically explores the temporal bounds of political news coverage relevant to the "Al-Aqsa Flood" war from October 7, 2023, to January 19, 2025, with the implementation of a cease-fire. This predetermined time frame allows for a focused and methodical investigation of the development of political narratives, policy shifts, diplomatic engagements, and the impact on public opinion during this significant period of the war. It also provides a detailed explanation of the constituent elements of the eclectic model. This study focuses on determining sample size in qualitative research, focusing on saturation and information power. It aims to meet the criteria of informational power, using English-language channels influencing public opinion and a selected technique for disinformation analysis.



The current investigation uses an eclectic data analysis model to classify various types of disinformation and delineate pragmatic strategies used by sources. The model consists of three levels: Taxonomy of Disinformation, Pragmatic Strategies, and Functions of Disinformation. The Taxonomy of Disinformation addresses various types of disinformation, including political aspects, and only includes political news written material. Pragmatic Strategies includes conversational implicature, violating, and

fallacies, which are five sub-levels of fallacies. The third level focuses on the functions of disinformation propagation, which vary based on information dissemination channels, ideological affiliations, and anticipated benefits. The model is based on the analysis of disinformation data from various media outlets.

3.1 The Qualitative Analysis

This investigation analyzes three excerpts from Fox News, CNN, and Al Jazeera English News using the eclectic pragmatic model (see Figure 1) to reveal the existence of disinformation.

Excerpt (1): 1- Taxonomy of Disinformation: The Fox News article, “‘Squad’ Democrat calls for end of Israel’s ‘Gaza blockade’ as he condemns Hamas terror attacks,” accurately reports that Bowman condemns Hamas’s attacks on Israel and calls for an end to the blockade. However, the article’s selective emphasis and contextual omissions may lead to a misleading understanding of the situation, as it fails to provide context on the humanitarian impact of the blockade. This political news article is classified as *half-truths disinformation* according to the taxonomy of disinformation (see Section 2.1.2), due to its selective emphasis and contextual omissions. The article misidentifies Bowman as a member of the “Squad,” a term often used negatively in political contexts. The “Squad” is a group of young progressive BIPOC women who have transformed the U.S political landscape, known for their digital practices and opposition to the Washington establishment (Orbe & Orbe, 2022).



-2Pragmatic Strategies: A-Conversation Implicature: Firstly, *the Violation of the Maxim of Quantity*: This article fails to provide sufficient information on the humanitarian situation in Gaza and the rationale behind politicians’ calls to terminate the blockade. It lacks background knowledge, particularly international perspectives, leading to potential bias or superficial interpretation of Bowman’s statements.

Secondly, the article *violates the maxim of relevance* by highlighting events not directly related to Bowman’s perspective on Gaza or Hamas, such as pulling a fire alarm in Congress. This breach provides distracting or biased evidence, potentially distorting readers and making Bowman’s viewpoints less credible.

Thirdly, this article *violates the maxim of manner* by using loaded terminology, labeling Bowman as a “Squad Democrat,” and ambiguous humanitarian concerns, potentially concealing the justification for the policy position, potentially leading readers to incorrectly interpret or reject the viewpoint, despite its support by credible human rights organizations.

B- Fallacies: The article published by Fox News violates *the standard of relevance* by presenting a premise that is not relevant to the topic. The article presents an amalgamation of events, considered a judgement of individuals based on past occurrences “Bowman, who made headlines recently after he pulled a fire alarm in Congress amid a vote to keep government open,” as a fallacy of *irrelevant premises* or genetic fallacy. This unrelated information is used to weaken Bowman’s political opinion and diminish his credibility, which is not logically connected to his opinion on Gaza or Hamas.

Another relevance criterion-violating fallacy in the article is the *fallacy of irrelevant appeals*, by highlighting Bowman's association with "the Squad," which may cause political bias or unfavorable preconceptions, rather than addressing his main point of view.

The article violates the acceptability principle by assuming that asking for an end to the Gaza blockade entails support for Hamas or enmity against Israel. This is a "*false dilemma fallacy*" or "*false alternatives*," which is a subtype of the unwarranted assumption fallacies. It assumes a binary perspective, where criticizing the blockade is synonymous with supporting terrorists, ignoring additional viewpoints and limiting the number of possible solutions.

The article also violates the sufficiency principle by neglecting to provide sufficient information for various points of view supporting the representative's assertion. This is represented by the insufficient sample fallacy, a subclass of the fallacies of missing evidence. This hasty generalization occurs when an individual makes a judgment based on insufficient evidence, often based on a single piece of data or personal narrative. The article does not include opinions from international human rights organizations or political figures, making it difficult for readers to assess Bowman's claim.

Finally, the article uses *ad hominem* fallacy to refute the representative's assertion, highlighting Bowman's fire alarm incident. This technique diminishes the representative's credibility by focusing on irrelevant past behavior rather than addressing the argument itself, violating the rebuttal principle.

3- The Functions of Disinformation: The Fox News article about US Representative Jamaal Bowman's stance on the Gaza blockade uses disinformation to create false beliefs and benefits. The article mentions Bowman's call to end the blockade without providing context, leading readers to believe his stance is extremist or unjustified. This erroneous belief undermines humanitarian discourse and serves the interests of politicians or entities who refuse to break the blockade or maintain a binary narrative. This framing corresponds with a broader media environment that excludes disagreement with pro-Israel beliefs, leading to misleading inferences and false beliefs.

The article's second function is the benefits from a misled audience by reinforcing polarized political identities. Focusing on Bowman's affiliation with "the Squad" and unrelated incidents, it predisposes the audience to perceive his actions negatively. This reinforces political loyalty among conservative readers by implicitly ignoring opposing viewpoints on U.S. foreign policy, particularly those supporting Palestinian rights.

The third function of the article is keeping the audience in the dark. The article serves a disinformation purpose by neglecting crucial information about the humanitarian situation in Gaza, including the economic and health impacts of the Israeli blockade, civilian casualty statistics, and the viewpoints of international human rights organizations. This concealment hinders the audience's ability to evaluate the truthfulness of Bowman's viewpoint, leading to a simplified worldview.

Excerpt (2): CNN reports that “Israeli forces surround northern Gaza hospital and order evacuation, says director”. The article highlights the need for a balanced perspective, incorporating statements from both Israeli and Palestinian sources. However, it also exposes elements of disinformation, such as unsubstantiated claims, conflicting narratives, and potentially misleading visuals, emphasizing the need for critical evaluation of all sources.



1- Taxonomy of Disinformation: This CNN article addresses *adaptive disinformation*, which involves changing narratives due to different reports of casualties and ongoing back-and-forth between parties. The article mentions Israel's claim that Hamas operates inside and underneath hospitals for military operations, including command centers, weapons stores, and hiding hostages. However, the article lacks sufficient evidence to disprove this claim, only mentioning Hamas' denies the allegations. The lack of comprehensive detail may make the evidence unconvincing.

The CNN article on the Israeli military's daily attacks on Kamal Adwan Hospital in Gaza has been criticized for its lack of legal and humanitarian implications. The article mentions the daily firings and raids, but fails to discuss the legal justification for such operations. The article also fails to address the wider humanitarian implications of these actions, focusing only on the World Health Organization's concern about the hospital's evacuation. The article's biases may lead to a biased representation of events in Gaza, as it disseminates *half-truths disinformation* by blindly reflecting official narratives, neglecting crucial legal and humanitarian situations, and lacking independent verification.

-2Pragmatic Strategies: A-Conversation Implicature: The CNN article on the Israeli military's use of hospitals by the Hamas in northern Gaza has been criticized for violating Grice's conversational maxims. The initial significant violation relates to *the maxim of quantity*. The article presents allegations without supporting evidence and neglects opinions from independent international entities, which biases the representation and limits accurate understanding of the situation. This lack of information and biases has significant implications for readers' understanding of wartime media coverage. The article also *violates the maxim of quality*, which requires accurate and substantiated contributions, by presenting problematic assertions without categorizing them as allegations or providing corroborative evidence. Furthermore, the article violates *the maxim of relation*. The article fails to connect the evacuation of hospitals to international humanitarian law, as hospitals have legal protection under the Geneva Conventions. This exclusion of this legal framework deprives the audience of a crucial perspective for evaluating the legitimacy of the conduct depicted, reducing the complexity of the issue and reinforcing a limited understanding that predominantly corresponds with military perspectives. The article's language and presentation of military allegations also breaches *the maxim of manner*, which requires clarity in communication and avoidance of obscurity or ambiguity.

B- Fallacies: This analysis reveals how journalism can influence public perception and policy narratives through inaccurate or inadequate reasoning, with several fallacies, particularly those that violate the structural principle and relevance, according to Damer's (2009) classification.

The CNN article violates structure principles by containing the begging-the-question fallacy and arguing-in-a-circle fallacy. It assumes the Israeli military's claims are true without independent

justification, such as presenting hospital evacuations due to Hamas activity without proving the connection, implying military necessity.

Another one of the structural criterion-violating fallacies, known as the inconsistency fallacy that can undermine an argument's accuracy. This fallacy occurs when a communicator expresses statements contradicting each other without acknowledging or resolving the contradiction. It is often implicit and difficult to identify, but can be a serious issue in media discourse where incompatible premises or values are presented as coherent.

The CNN article violates the relevance principle. Relevance-based fallacies, *the fallacy of irrelevant premises* occur when arguments diverge from the standard, often replacing direct evidence or legal reasoning. The article addresses the justification for military operations in Gaza, referencing previous conflicts and the existence of Hamas. However, the information provided does not directly support the directive for hospital evacuations in December 2024. This fallacy can distract from issues of legitimacy and proportionality within international humanitarian law. The article also contains another violation of the principles of relevance, which are fallacies of *irrelevant appeals*. Irrelevant appeals rely on emotional, authoritative, or public sentiment rather than logical evidence. This fallacy can lead readers to accept controversial actions based on emotional weight rather than objective evidence. The article's failure to differentiate between background narrative and immediate justification threatens to weaken the argumentative structure and inadequate support for the conclusion that evacuation is necessary.

3- The Functions of Disinformation: The CNN article on hospital evacuations in Gaza reveals multiple functions of disinformation. It reinforces misleading perspectives, protects authority from scrutiny, omits essential context, and states governmental and military narratives. The first function of disinformation is the *generation of false or misleading beliefs* in the audience. The article unquestioningly reiterates Israeli military claims, including the allegation that hospitals are used for militant operations, encouraging the perception that medical facilities have lost their protected status under international humanitarian law. This false belief benefits the Israeli military, as its operations are presented as security-oriented rather than potential violations of international law. The second function of disinformation is *the misled audience*, neutralizing civilian suffering by omitting comprehensive descriptions of hospital evacuations, disruptions in medical care, and breaches of the Geneva Convention.

Excerpt (3): 1- Taxonomy of Disinformation: The article "Israel retaliation kills 230 Palestinians after Hamas operation" by Al Jazeera English News on October 7, 2023, exposes half-truths disinformation based on the taxonomy of disinformation. The article highlights the seriousness and consequences of Israel's military reaction, including Palestinian casualties and devastation in Gaza. However, the absence of detailed information about the initial Hamas operation creates a narrative gap, leading to a lopsided framing of the situation. The half-truths disinformation is revealed, based on the taxonomy of disinformation. Incomplete information can affect global perceptions and contribute to polarization by reinforcing pre-existing narratives without presenting the actual context of events. The article references statistics regarding the number of victims and fatalities on both sides of the conflict, but does not provide any information regarding the source of these statistics.



-2Pragmatic Strategies: A-Conversation Implicature: The article "Israel retaliation kills 230 Palestinians after Hamas operation" by Al Jazeera English news violates Grice's conversational maxims. Firstly, *the maxim of quantity*, which states to be as informative as necessary, is violated by this article. The article provides limited information about the specifics of the Hamas attacks, which may lead to insufficient comprehension and difficulty in verifying the truthfulness of the information. Secondly, the article also violates *the maxim of relation*, as it discusses the Hamas-directed attack on Israeli territory and the subsequent Israeli military retaliation. The article includes historical information, such as Lebanon's Hezbollah movement, and political statements from various figures and organizations, which do not directly elucidate the details of the attack or the immediate retaliations. Thirdly, the article additionally *violates the maxim of manner*, as it presents a disordered narrative structure, focusing on the Hamas attacks and the Israeli military retaliation without observing a chronological order. This inverted sequence can perplex or confuse readers unfamiliar with the broader conflict.

B- Fallacies: Firstly, this article addresses the Begging-the-Question Fallacy, a breach of structural norms where a conclusion of an argument is assumed without independent evidence, resulting in circular reasoning. Damer (2009) defines this as the deliberate act of reiterating the argument's premise without validation from outside sources. The article presents assertions by Hamas leaders that frame their attack on Israel as a legitimate, defensive reaction to Israel's long-standing occupation and Israeli "crimes." However, the article lacks independent evidence for specific crimes or discussion of international legal standards regulating armed conflict or proportionate response. The relevance criterion requires that the premises in an argument must be directly related to the conclusion they are intended to demonstrate. *Irrelevant appeals fallacies* are included in the article, which involve the activation of emotion, appeal, popularity, or ideals instead of rationality. Identifying these misconceptions is essential for critical analysis and cultivating a more sophisticated understanding of complex geopolitical events.

3- *The Functions of Disinformation*: The Al Jazeera English news article uses various disinformation strategies to shape public perception of the Hamas operation and Israel's retaliation. It highlights how media narratives can be manipulated to achieve strategic goals by generating new beliefs. The main function of the article is to create new beliefs and benefits, often misleadingly presented, which alter public perception, shift public sentiment, or rationalize contentious behaviors. Hamas officials describe the operation as a defensive response to Israeli crimes and occupation, presenting it as necessary and integral to a broader moral or religious conflict.

4. Result Discussion

The study implemented the eclectic model to investigate disinformation in media outlets and the pragmatic strategies utilised for various purposes, including the creation of new beliefs or the influence of misled audiences. The results are analysed with SPSS, generating frequencies and percentages from the information being analysed.

4.1 Taxonomy of Disinformation

Taxonomy of Disinformation		Frequency	Percentages
Valid	Adaptive Disinformation	1	20%
	Half-truths Disinformation	4	80%
	Total	5	100%

Table 1: Frequencies and Percentages of Taxonomy of Disinformation

Three articles have been selected at random from three English-language political news outlets: Fox News, CNN, and Al Jazeera English. Among the various categories of disinformation, the data presented in the table above (Table 4.4) indicates that *half-truths disinformation* is the most frequently utilised and transmitted through news media, representing 80%, while, *Adaptive disinformation*, on the other hand, makes up 20% of the total. Half-truths are employed by media outlets in order to provide news that is in line with their agendas. They select the parts of the news that support their interests and leave out the portions that give the reader another picture of what they want to achieve.

4.2 Pragmatics Strategies

This study adopts two pragmatic strategies to analyse the news articles, which are: conversational implicature, particularly violations of the conversational Maxims by Grice (1975,1989) and fallacies by Damer (2009).

4.2.1 Violations of Conversational Maxims

Violations of Conversational Maxims		Frequency	Percentages
Valid	Violating Maxim of Quantity	3	30%
	Violating Maxim of Quality	1	10%
	Violating Maxim of Relation	3	30%
	Violating Maxim of Manner	3	30%
	Total	10	100%

Table 2: Frequencies and Percentages of the Violations of Conversational Maxims

The results indicate that violations of Quantity, Relation, and Manner are the most frequently occurring (see Table 2), with each contributing thirty percent. This suggests that there is a persistent pattern of communicative breakdown, not solely due to factual inaccuracies, but rather due to the manner in which the information is provided and constructed. The Maxim of Quality is violated the least frequently, with only ten percent of the time being violated, which suggests that the three articles rely more on truths that are either partial or deliberately phrased than they do on pure fabrications.

4.2.2 Fallacies

Fallacies		Frequency	Percent
Valid	The Begging-the-Question Fallacies	2	16.7%
	Inconsistency Fallacies	2	16.7%
	Fallacies of Irrelevant Premises	2	16.7%
	Fallacies of Irrelevant Appeals	3	25.0%
	Unwarranted Assumption Fallacies	1	8.3%
	The Fallacies of Missing Evidence	1	8.3%
	The Ad Hominem Fallacies	1	8.3%
Total		12	100%

Table 3: Frequencies and Percentages of the Fallacies

This investigation of three English-language news articles discovered 12 logical fallacies, with the most frequent being the Fallacy of Irrelevant Appeals (25.0%) (see Table 3). This indicates an obvious preference to employ emotional, ideological, or identity-driven appeals rather than logical reasoning. Three types of fallacies have been observed twice (16.7%): the Begging-the-Question Fallacy, indicating circular reasoning; Inconsistency Fallacies, reflecting internal contradictions or conflicting claims within the same article; and Fallacies of Irrelevant Premises, where supporting information is unnecessary or unrelated to the argument's conclusion. Other fallacies occurred with less frequency, including Unwarranted Assumption Fallacies, Fallacies of Missing Evidence, and Ad Hominem Fallacies, which focused on attacking individuals rather than addressing their arguments. The frequent appearance of fallacies emphasises the necessity for critical understanding in news consumption and supports the idea that rationality in journalistic discourse can frequently be compromised by rhetorical persuasion.

4.3 Functions of Disinformation

Functions of Disinformation		Frequency	Percentages
Valid	Create A New False Belief and Benefits	3	50%
	The Benefits of Misled Audience	2	33.3%
	Keep Audience in the Dark	1	16.7%
Missing	Propaganda	0	0%
Total		6	100%

Table 4: Frequencies and Percentages of the Functions of Disinformation

Table (4) presents the functions of disinformation identified across news content, based on the analytical framework used in this study. Six instances of disinformation are recorded and classified into functional categories. The most frequently observed function is "Create a New False Belief and Benefits," accounting for 3 instances (50.0%). This indicates that the primary use of disinformation in the analyzed material is to construct or reinforce misleading narratives that serve a strategic purpose, often by presenting unverified claims or ideologically framed statements that

appear factual. The second most common function is "The Benefits of a Misled Audience," with 2 instances (33.3%). This suggests the deliberate use of misleading or incomplete information to guide the audience toward conclusions that may not align with objective facts but benefit the source politically, ideologically, or strategically. The function "Keep the Audience in the Dark" is identified once (16.7%), reflecting efforts to obscure critical facts or withhold important context. The category "Propaganda" is marked as missing (0 occurrences, 0%), indicating that disinformation is more likely to function through subtle distortion than overt persuasive messaging.

5. Conclusions

This study reveals that English-language news outlets frequently employ disinformation strategies, pragmatic violations, and logical fallacies that compromise the integrity of journalistic communication. The research uses an eclectic analytical model and SPSS frequency analysis to identify recurring patterns across three news articles from Fox News, CNN, and Al Jazeera English. The taxonomy of disinformation shows that half-truths disinformation dominates (80%), while adaptive disinformation appears less frequently (20%). This suggests that news media often rely on selective presentation of facts to subtly influence audience perception in ways that align with their editorial stance or ideological leanings.

The analysis of violations of conversational maxims indicates that the Maxims of Quantity, Relation, and Manner are violated 30% of the time, indicating a consistent pragmatic imbalance. The Maxim of Quality is violated least frequently (10%), suggesting a preference for distorted truths over outright fabrications.

The fallacy analysis highlights the Fallacy of Irrelevant Appeals as the most common (25%), illustrating a reliance on emotional or ideological persuasion rather than rational argument. Other fallacies, such as Begging the Question, Inconsistency, and Irrelevant Premises, point to weak internal reasoning and a lack of logical coherence in news argumentation.

The study identifies the key functions of disinformation, such as creating a new false belief and benefits (50%), the Benefits of a Misled Audience (33.3%), and keeping the audience in the dark (16.7%). This underscores the need for greater media literacy, critical reading skills, and a reevaluation of information structure and delivery in contemporary political journalism.

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