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The Construction of Reality: Bashar Al Assad's Resignation from the Presidency of Syria in Al Jazeera Arabic Media Discourse

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Abstract: This study uses Norman Fairclough's Critical Discourse Analysis approach to analyze how Al Jazeera Arabic media shapes the construction of reality regarding the fall of Bashar al-Assad from the Syrian presidency. This study uses two data types in different formats: online news articles and videos from Al Jazeera Arabic's YouTube channel. The use of these two media formats represents a novelty in discourse studies as it expands the scope of analysis to include variations in text form and medium. The research was conducted using a qualitative approach and Fairclough's three-dimensional discourse analysis technique, namely the dimensions of text, discourse practice, and social practice. The results of the analysis show that both data sets use ideological and symbolic language to frame the Bashar al-Assad regime as a repressive actor and the opposition group as a legitimate force of the people. In discourse practice, the media constructs narratives with production strategies involving symbolism, emotional narratives, and intertextual support. Socially, the discourse constructed reflects an alignment with the narrative of the people's revolution and rejects the legitimacy of authoritarian power. Thus, the media does not merely reflect reality but actively shapes it through its choice of narratives and discourse structures.

Keyword: Al Jazeera Arabic, Critical Discourse Analysis, Bashar al-Assad, Syrian Conflict.

INTRODUCTION

The news represents the world in the linguistic realm (Dimitruk, 2025). Since language is a semiotic code, it determines the image, social structure, and economy of what is represented (Sudibyo et al., 2001). Fowler argues that news is a practical discourse, a discourse that is far from a neutral reflection of social reality and empirical facts. Furthermore, he also states that selecting specific linguistic forms in a news text, such as word choice, phrases, sentences, and so on, naturally has its reasons (Santoso, 2006). The use of language is not a matter of chance. Various linguistic choices have specific perspectives, agendas, and ideologies (Jaenudin & Hamdani, 2024). Thus, news can intervene in the construction of social reality (Cenderamata & Darmayanti, 2019). The analysis of media texts in this study was conducted using a linguistic and social world perspective approach.

Furthermore, the construction of reality is better understood as an effort to systematically organize reality from one or several events that were initially fragmented (random) to form a meaningful story or discourse (Arifin, 2023). The choice of words and how a reality is presented also influences the form of reality construction and the meaning that emerges from it (Budiarsih & Asropah, 2024). The main task of the mass media, including online media, is to construct reality in news texts (Al Hindi & Altuwairesh, 2025). In the process of constructing reality, language becomes the main instrument (Hadiwijaya, 2023). After the dissemination process, there is a stage of reality construction where the public begins to accept and interpret all the information the mass media conveys (Suyani et al., 2019). This process involves perception, interpretation, and meaning by individuals who receive messages through the mass media (Li & Su, 2020). At this stage, the construction of reality is built and influenced by the messages conveyed through the mass media. The final stage is the verification stage, in which the mass media presents arguments and explanations regarding the reasons behind the social construction they convey (Saputra, 2019). All forms of reality construction can be proven by the vocabulary and grammar used by the online media (Hasanah & Mardikantoro, 2017).

Foucault defines discourse as the systematic formation of ideas, opinions, concepts, and worldviews in a context that influences how people think and act (Foucault, 2002, pp. 401–406). Discourse does not arise independently but is shaped by the social, cultural, and ideological constructs that play a role (Benjaminsen, 2021). The medium of discourse practice is language. As a medium of communication for exchanging messages, language plays an important role in forming discourse (Mailani et al., 2022). Ideology and language are the foundations of a text (Zainuddin, 2021). Language simultaneously forms social identity, social relations, and systems of knowledge and belief (Farhaeni & Martini, 2024). Fairclough states that discourse is the complexity of three elements: social practices, discourse practices related to the production, distribution, and consumption of texts, and the texts themselves (Gasa, 2019). Among these three elements, ideology is the one that influences how texts are produced and interpreted, as well as how they are conveyed within the discourse framework. Critical discourse analysis views language as an important factor, namely how language is used to identify societal power imbalances (Mudiawati et al., 2023).

The Middle East has been a complex battleground for decades, with the region experiencing political, economic, and ethnic conflicts (Fakih et al., 2025). Since the mid-20th century, this region has been an arena of conflict that has caused instability in various countries (Cipta & Darmawan, 2025). Some conflicts stem from internal issues, while others arise from regional rivalries that impact major nations worldwide. One such conflict is the civil war in Syria, which began in 2011 (Yakubovich, 2025). This war was a result of the Arab Spring movement. On 12 October 2024, a news article from Al Jazeera reported that President Bashar al-Assad had been removed from his position as president of Syria (Al Jazeera, 2024a). This event was part of the ongoing conflict that began with the Arab Spring movement in Syria in 2011 (Katz, 2025).

The collapse of Bashar al-Assad's government in Syria was the result of a complex set of interrelated factors, both internal and external. Beginning with peaceful demonstrations in 2011 against the regime of Bashar al-Assad, the situation in Syria evolved into an armed conflict between government forces and opposition groups (Yuliansyah et al., 2023). The prolonged escalation of the civil war has further weakened Bashar al-Assad's position as leader. One important factor is the intervention of foreign countries with political and strategic interests in Syria. The involvement of Russia, Iran, the United States, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and others, with conflicting goals and alliances, has strengthened the dynamics of the conflict in Syria and increased pressure on the regime of Bashar al-Assad (Viorentika, 2022). The severe economic and humanitarian crisis caused by the war was also a significant factor (Salsabila & Aswar, 2023). Syria's infrastructure and economy were destroyed, fuelling a refugee crisis and massive civilian casualties (Rimapradesi & Srifauzi, 2025). This further

weakens the government's ability to control the situation and provide basic services to the people (Sari, 2021). The government of Bashar al-Assad has also lost legitimacy in the eyes of most Syrians due to its repressive measures against protesters and its failure to address the prolonged crisis.

This loss of internal support further weakens the regime's position. Diplomatic factors, international sanctions, and regional dynamics also weakened Bashar al-Assad's position. The combination of these elements eventually led to the collapse of Bashar al-Assad's rule in Syria (Mustofa, 2021). The complexity of the situation in Syria suggests that no single factor can comprehensively explain the fall of the regime. Various factors are interrelated and interact to influence the political, economic, and social dynamics that led to the downfall of Bashar al-Assad's government. The conflict in Syria related to the collapse of Bashar al-Assad's government is a very complex and interesting case to be studied from various perspectives. Geopolitically, the involvement of various foreign actors with conflicting interests and alliances has made this conflict an arena for power competition in the Middle East region (Riezky et al., 2023). Countries such as Russia, Iran, the United States, Turkey, and Arab countries are involved with their own goals and strategies, adding to the complexity of the conflict in Syria. The humanitarian impact of the prolonged war in Syria has also become a global concern (Cheung et al., 2020). Millions of civilians have been killed, injured, and displaced, creating a catastrophic humanitarian crisis (Disaster Philanthropy, 2025).

The human rights violations were also an important issue in this conflict (Lubis et al., 2023). Interestingly, the use of information technology and social media by the various parties involved, whether for propaganda, mobilization, or documentation purposes, has significantly affected conflict dynamics and information dissemination. This demonstrates the role of technology in modern conflicts. The collapse of Bashar al-Assad's regime also has far-reaching implications for Syria and stability and security in the Middle East region (Phoenna et al., 2023). This presents complex geopolitical challenges for regional and global actors. The involvement of non-state groups, such as militias, armed opposition groups, and terrorist organizations, is also an interesting aspect of the Syrian conflict. Their role in influencing the dynamics of the conflict is important to understand. After the fall of the Bashar al-Assad regime, the political transition process and reconstruction efforts in Syria have also become complex and unresolved challenges to date. This dynamic is interesting to observe in the context of peacebuilding.

This research uses critical discourse analysis as the analytical knife, a methodology in critical thinking, and recognizes that the media is not a free and neutral channel (Ngatma'in et al., 2024). Conversely, the media is owned by certain groups and used to dominate less dominant groups (Eriyanto, 2001, p. 48). The author uses Norman Fairclough's critical discourse analysis theory to examine the Construction of Syrian Conflict Reality in Al Jazeera Arabic Media News Discourse in this research. Fairclough's theory has a discourse concept combining several elements: linguistics, interpretive tradition, and sociology (Handayani et al., 2022). Then Fairclough also has a discourse model that includes three dimensions of discourse analysis: the text dimension, discourse practices, and socio-cultural practices. (a) The text dimension (*microstructural*) is analyzed linguistically by looking at vocabulary, semantics, and syntax. (b) Discourse practices (*mesostructural*) is a dimension that deals with text production and consumption. (c) Socio-cultural practices (*macrostructural*) are the dimension that relates to the context outside the text (Mulyana, 2002, p. 288). Then, the three dimensions will be analyzed using three different levels of analysis. (1) Description is used to analyze the text, including cohesion and coherence, grammar, and diction. (2) Interpretation, which is used to analyze the interpretation of the text, including the production, dissemination, and consumption. (3) Explanation analyzes the socio-cultural context, including situational, institutional, and social levels (Fairclough, 1995, p. 4). From Norman Fairclough's perspective, discourse is a social practice set in various texts (Fairclough, 1993, p. 134).

Of course, this study has similarities and differences from previous studies. The similarities lie in the object of study, namely the dimensions of critical discourse analysis models. This study's novelty lies in using two different object formats, namely news articles, and videos, which are rarely found in critical discourse analysis studies, especially with Norman Fairclough's approach. Previous studies relevant to critical discourse analysis have employed various approaches and objects to uncover practices of power representation, ideology, and social dynamics within texts. The study by Isnaeni et al., (2025) analyzed Dedi Mulyadi's angry statements on the online media platform Tirto.id using Norman Fairclough's critical discourse analysis model and found that the discourse structure used reflected social power and resistance to injustice. Then, research on intertextual patterns Messaoudene (2025), although not directly using AWK, examined educational administrative procedures in Palestine in contemporary supervision, showing how the language of educational policy can influence power practices and leadership roles.

Research Sarwat et al., (2024) on Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's speech at the UN General Assembly using the AWK approach found that Erdogan's choice of language reflected Turkey's ideological position on global issues and its discourse strategy in building its diplomatic image. Another study by Andy Setyawan and Iin Soraya examined Ridwan Kamil's Instagram content in response to public complaints about illegal fees in public schools, showing that public figures' digital communication can be a space for the reproduction and resistance of discourse on power Setyawan & Soraya (2020). Finally, research Luke et al. (2021) analyzed Fadli Zon's statements through lexical and socio-cultural interpretation within the AWK framework. It concluded that language practices on social media have strong ideological content and tend to shape public opinion through specific diction and cultural contexts.

METHOD

This research examines news coverage of the fall of Bashar al-Assad from the presidency of Syria, which was reported on YouTube and the Al Jazeera Arabic website. The choice of two different media formats allows the author to analyze how the construction of reality can be influenced by the characteristics of the news media (Hamad, 2004, pp. 1–4). To ensure equivalence and relevance in this study, the authors will set criteria for selecting YouTube videos and website articles to be used as data for analysis. These criteria will ensure that the two media formats are comparable and relevant. These criteria include the similarity in reporting on the fall of Bashar al-Assad, the relatively close period between publications and the same news source, Al Jazeera Arabic, and the similarity in reporting style and perspective/framing when presenting the issue. By setting appropriate data selection criteria, the author hopes to compare the construction of reality in the two media formats relatively and relevantly.

In this paper, the author uses two approaches: a theoretical approach and a methodological one. The theoretical approach is critical discourse analysis, while the methodological approach is critical qualitative analysis. This research uses critical discourse analysis, referring to Fairclough's theory, which divides discourse analysis into three categories: text analysis, discourse practice analysis, and social practice analysis (Fairclough, 2001, pp. 24–26). Furthermore, Fairclough also suggests three steps in text analysis: description, interpretation, and explanation (Fairclough, 2013, p. 133). This text analysis framework is used to analyze news texts about Bashar al-Assad's resignation from the post of president of Syria, sourced from Al Jazeera Arabic media. This research also uses a multimodal analysis approach to overcome the limitation of directly comparing YouTube videos and website articles. This approach allows researchers to analyze how text, visuals, and audio are used and combined in each medium to construct reality.

Data collection was carried out using the listening method. The techniques used were free listening and note-taking. In addition, the literature study method was also used in this research. Data analysis techniques were conducted based on Fairclough's discourse analysis framework, which consists of three analysis approaches: description, interpretation, and explanation. The descriptive approach framework analyses formal linguistic features such as vocabulary and grammar, the interpretive approach framework analyses the situational factors underlying the creation of the text, and the explanatory approach framework analyses the relationship between the text and the socio-cultural context (Sutikno et al., 2025).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The fall of Bashar al-Assad from the position of President of Syria in December 2024 is interesting to discuss and study further. This is because the event is one of the important turning points in Syria's political history, which provides valuable lessons related to the dynamics of leadership transition and the democratization process in the Middle East (Yıldırım & Ercan, 2025). The fall of Bashar al-Assad from power in December 2024 became a milestone that influenced the direction of Syrian politics, policies, and international relations in the following years, so the discussion of the Syrian conflict remains relevant today (Gowayed et al., 2024).

President Bashar al-Assad's government in Syria fell in record time. Beginning on November 26, 2024, Bashar al-Assad's regime forces launched an attack on Ariha, a town on the outskirts of Aleppo that was under opposition control. The attack killed and injured at least 16 people and triggered an escalation of direct fighting between opposition groups and the government regime. The next day, on November 27, armed opposition groups launched a military operation against Syrian government forces and their allies in northwestern Syria (Al Jazeera, 2024). In this surprise attack, the opposition took control of 20 villages and towns in the Aleppo and Idlib regions, as well as the 46th Military Base, which strategically provides access to Aleppo.

On December 1, 2024, the opposition group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) completely captured Aleppo. Despite Russian President Vladimir Putin's pledge of support for the government of Bashar al-Assad on December 2, it was ineffective in halting the opposition's uprising. On December 5, opposition groups captured the city of Hama after heavy fighting with regime forces. The next day, December 6, HTS began to approach the city of Homs, the main headquarters of the government regime. Then, on December 7, the opposition group took over the city of Revolution in Homs. After this event, on December 8, 2024, opposition groups finally announced the end of President Bashar al-Assad's rule in Syria after controlling the capital, Damascus, within 12 days.

The author makes two news headlines as objects, namely the news article format and the video format on Al Jazeera Arabic media that reports the discourse on the fall of Bashar al-Assad from the position of president of Syria

DATA 1



Source: www.aljazeera.net/politics/2024/12/8/يومًا-12-في-السقوط-نظام-بشار-الأسد

Text Analysis

The news article "القصة الكاملة لسقوط نظام الأسد في 12 يوما" represents the downfall of the Bashar al-Assad regime using emotional and ideological rhetoric. Diction choices such as "المسلخ البشري" and "اغتصب السياسة" demonstrate the use of extreme metaphors that reinforce the repressive image of the regime thus framing the opposition as a legitimate, legal and heroic entity. The narrative is constructed chronologically, from the symbolic action in Daraa to the capture of Damascus, emphasizing that the fall of Bashar al-Assad was not merely a military outcome but the result of historical popular resistance. Characters are portrayed dichotomously: Bashar al-Assad is portrayed as the perpetrator of violence and corruption, while the opposition appears as the moral agent and liberator. Textual modalities such as "تمكنت قوات المعارضة المسلحة" "من إسقاط نظام بشار الأسد" emphasise the author's ideological position and close the space for ambiguity. Overall, the textual dimension of the article shows strong favoritism towards the opposition and reinforces the narrative of the regime's fall as a historical inevitability (Al Jazeera, 2024a).

Discourse Practice

Al Jazeera Arabic news articles build structured and ideological discourse practices through production, distribution and consumption strategies. In the aspect of text production, these news articles combine dramatic narratives, field data, and authoritative quotes to form a legitimising narrative. Inclusion of expert opinion such as Jérôme Drevon of the Crisis Group (أكد جيروم دريفون، المحلل...) serves to strengthen the position of the discourse by referring to external authorities. This indirectly creates a sense of objectivity, although ideologically, it still favors the opposition. The intertextuality aspect can be seen from the references used, which are by experts across conflict areas, such as Charles Lister (كما كتب تشارلز ليستر الباحث في الشأن السوري), which not only adds depth to the analysis but also connects local narratives with international frameworks.

This broadens the dimensions of the discourse and emphasises that the Syrian conflict has global resonance, not merely a domestic issue. The distribution of discourse was done through Al Jazeera media, which has a history of siding with popular movements since the Arab Spring, thus strengthening the narrative's position before regional audiences. Consumption was directed at audiences emotionally involved in the Syrian crisis, creating articulations that reinforced solidarity and moral support for the opposition. Statements such as "النصر الذي تحقق هو نصر لكل السوريين" represent efforts to build ideological consensus and reinforce symbolic articulations of justice and popular victory. This discourse practice connects linguistic production to broader social and political dynamics (van Hulst et al., 2025).

Social Practice

The news article reflects the context of prolonged conflict and discourse on regime change that has been entrenched for more than a decade in Syria. Discursively, this news article not only reflects socio-political realities but also functions as an ideological intervention to shape perceptions of the legitimacy of power. The discourse constructed rejects the official narrative of Bashar al-Assad's regime and consistently positions the opposition as the legitimate representation of the people. Statements such as "الرئيس المخلوع بشار الأسد تشر الطائفية واليوم بلدنا لنا جميعا" reinforce the ideological position of the media in support of cross-sectarian unity. The quote "سقوطه السريع مفاجأة لم يتوقعها أكبر الحالمين" reflects the socio-psychological shock caused by the rapid change of power, and shows that the regime shift is perceived as a transformative and emotional moment in the collective life of the Syrian people. This underscores that the narrative of Bashar al-Assad's downfall is not merely seen as a political event but also as a symbol of the collapse of authoritarian dominance.

Regarding power relations, news articles position the media as active agents in ideological contestation rather than merely neutral reporters. Symbolic legitimacy is given to

the opposition through reconciliation and territorial control narratives, including peace agreements with communities such as the Ismailis. This reflects a shift in power from centralized elites to local actors. Narratives such as "أدرك الشعب السوري أن ثورته قد نجحت" strengthen the moral construction of the people's revolution and emphasize that change is understood as the result of a long struggle, not merely a military victory. Thus, this article becomes a tool for producing discourse that encourages the formation of a new consensus based on justice, inclusiveness, and people's participation.

DATA 2



Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vy6fISxG7K8&t=186s>

Text Analysis

This video constructs the reality of Bashar al-Assad's downfall through poetic, symbolic, and emotional narratives. The language is highly metaphorical and reflective, reinforcing the impression that revolution is an inevitable historical force. Sentences such as "ساحة الأمويين، هنا كتاب التاريخ المفتوح" (The Umayyad Square, here is the open book of history...) make public spaces a symbol of living history and a center of popular resistance. One important excerpt, "لكن الثورة، كالبراكين، صامتة لا تموت. كالعواصف، تولد في أجواء هادئة" (the revolution, like a volcano, is silent but does not die; like a storm, it is born in calm surroundings), emphasizes that social change is not visible but can occur when the time is right. The narrative in this video is also substantial and definitive. Verbs like "انتهى" (has ended) and "انتصرت" (has triumphed) are used declaratively to assert that the Assad family's power has truly collapsed and the Syrian revolution has achieved its historic goal. There is no room for ambiguity; the narrative is shaped to reinforce the narrator's ideological stance.

The labeling of actors in the discourse is also dichotomous. Bashar al-Assad is portrayed as a cowardly dictator who fled from his responsibilities, as in the quote "هرب بشار" ("Bashar fled"), while the opposition is positioned as a moral and heroic force. Overall, the textual dimension of this video reinforces the fall of the Assad regime as a monumental event that is not only political but also symbolic of the people's victory over oppression (Al Jazeera, 2024b).

Discourse Practice

The news video was produced by Al Jazeera Arabic, a media outlet that ideologically supports pro-democracy discourse and opposes authoritarian regimes, including Bashar al-Assad's government. This political stance is reflected in the video's narrative, which depicts Assad's downfall as a moral victory for the people. The video uses a reflective narrative documentary approach, combining historical elements, cultural symbolism, and collective struggle to create a single emotional and persuasive narrative. The narrative is constructed in a symbolic and historical style. There is a sentence fragment, "ثورة أموية صفحة جديدة في تاريخ أقدم" (The Umayyad Revolution is a new chapter in the history of the oldest city in the world) "مدينة في العالم" (The Umayyad Revolution is a new chapter in the history of the oldest city in the world).

world), which combines the mythological and historical dimensions of Damascus to strengthen the legitimacy of the current struggle.

Placing the revolution within the framework of classical Islamic history expands the meaning of local politics to become part of the continuity of civilization and resistance. Regarding discourse production, the video is designed to evoke the audience's emotions and shape ideological awareness (Rahma et al., 2025). The delivery is carried out by a narrator with emotional intonation, accompanied by poetic and symbolic diction. This narrative shows that the video conveys information and functions as a tool for mobilization and strengthening collective identity. Intertextually, the narrative merges with other major discourses, such as sectarian conflict, the involvement of regional powers (Iran, Russia, Turkey), and the history of classical Islamic power, making the video a complex and structured product of discourse.

This emphasizes that the fall of Bashar al-Assad is not merely a political event but also part of a historical transformation. By distributing the video through Al Jazeera's YouTube channel, it can reach a broader Arab audience, including the Syrian diaspora and the international community supporting the revolution. The primary target audience for this video appears to be the Arab public, who have already sympathized with or aligned themselves with the revolutionary movement, making discourse consumption selective yet effective in shaping ideological support. Thus, the discourse practices in this video demonstrate targeted production, strategic distribution, and emotional consumption. This reinforces the idea that the revolution is a people's project while delegitimizing Bashar al-Assad's authority within a broader symbolic and geopolitical framework.

Social Practice

The video entitled "حكم عائلة الأسد انتهى وانتصرت الثورة السورية" was produced in a socio-political context marked by collective trauma and the Syrian people's long resistance to Bashar al-Assad's authoritarian regime. The constructed narrative raises the issue of the regime's fall not merely as a political event but as a moral victory for the people. This is emphasized through quotes such as "بناء وطن جديد لجميع السوريين" (Building a new homeland for all Syrians), which shows that the goal of the revolution is not only to overthrow the regime but also to reshape social structures and national values. Ideologically, the video promotes anti-authoritarian and pro-unity discourse, rejecting the dominance of one group over the state and placing the people as the rightful owners of Syria's future. The power relations are reversed, with the people depicted as the leading historical actors, while Bashar al-Assad merely symbolizes outdated power that has lost its legitimacy.

This is reinforced by the final expression, such as "إنها النهاية التي لا تقهرها أرواح ولا دماء" (This is the end that cannot be defeated by spirits or blood), framing the regime's demise as historical inevitability and justice. The video also implicitly criticizes foreign support for Bashar al-Assad, positioning the Syrian conflict within the framework of a struggle between the people and an external power alliance. Thus, this narrative is local and global, intervening in the geopolitical discourse involving Iran, Russia, and other foreign powers.

Furthermore, this video reflects how the media has become an actor in the battle for meaning and power. As a producer of narratives, Al Jazeera is not neutral; it shapes an ideological construct that sides with the people and changes. The social practices in this video are part of a strategy to articulate a new identity, namely Syria, as a nation reconstructed through struggle, sacrifice, and hope for justice and reconciliation.

Tabel 1. Results of Data Analysis 1 and 2

Aspect	Data 1. News Articles	Data 2. YouTube video
Title	القصة الكاملة لسقوط نظام الأسد في 12 يوما	حكم عائلة الأسد انتهى وانتصرت الثورة السورية
Text Analysis	Using emotional and ideological rhetoric; extreme metaphors, such as “المسلخ البشري”, “اغتصب السياسة” chronological narrative structure; sharp labelling between the regime and the opposition; decisive modality. “تمكنت قوات المعارضة المسلحة من إسقاط نظام بشار الأسد.”	Poetic and symbolic narrative; use of metaphors, such as “الثورة”, “كالبراكين, صامتة لا تموت” (The revolution, like volcanoes, is silent but never dies); ideological and unambiguous narrative; sharp labelling of Bashar as a coward and the opposition as moral heroes.
Discourse Practice	The production of the text involves dramatic narration and expert opinion (Drevon, Lister), high intertextuality, distribution by Al Jazeera as a pro-revolutionary media outlet, and consumption aimed at building solidarity and legitimacy for the opposition.	Reflective and emotional production; blending classical and contemporary history (“ثورة أموية”); intertextual with Islamic history and regional conflicts; strategic distribution via YouTube; consumption aimed at shaping ideological awareness and collective emotions.
Social Practice	Discourse functions as an ideological intervention against the regime's narrative; symbolic legitimacy is given to the opposition, emphasizing the narrative of the people as legitimate agents of change. “الرئيس المخلوع بشار الأسد نشر الطائفية...” Strengthening anti-sectarian and pro-reconciliation positions.	Elevating the revolution as a moral victory, reversing power relations: the people as owners of the future, symbolizing the end of the regime through the phrase “إنها النهاية التي لا تقهرها أرواح ولا دماء” pro-justice, anti-authoritarian, and oriented towards national reconstruction.

CONCLUSION

This study analyzed how Al Jazeera Arabic constructs the reality of Bashar al-Assad's fall through an online news article and a YouTube news video using Fairclough's Critical Discourse Analysis framework. The findings show that both media formats consistently employ linguistic and narrative strategies that frame the Assad regime as illegitimate and the opposition as the rightful political actor. This directly answers the research question regarding Al Jazeera's framing approach, demonstrating that the textual, discourse practice, and social practice dimensions work cohesively to reinforce a pro-opposition narrative.

The results indicate that Al Jazeera uses similar ideological patterns despite differences in media modality, suggesting a deliberate and uniform editorial stance. The study also highlights how multimodal discourse contributes to shaping public understanding of political change in Syria.

Nevertheless, the analysis is limited by the small number of data sources and the focus on a single media outlet. Future research could broaden the dataset, compare discourses across different Arab or international media, and incorporate additional analytical tools to provide a more comprehensive understanding of how the Syrian conflict is framed.

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