

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Discourse in AI-Generated and Journalist-Produced News: A Comparative Analysis Based on the PKK's Symbolic Disarmament Ceremony

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Abstract

This study comparatively examines the discourse structures of news texts generated by artificial intelligence and those created by professional journalists in traditional media. As a case study, the symbolic disarmament ceremony of the terrorist organisation PKK in the Sulaymaniyah region of Iraq on 11 July 2025 was selected. The event was chosen because it generated widespread repercussions in the Turkish media and provoked various reactions among political actors. The study was conducted using the newspapers Hürriyet, Sözcü, and Yeni Şafak, representing different editorial policies in Turkey, along with the AI-based news platform Dipnot.tv. The analysis was structured around the themes of 'the presentation of terrorist actors in the media,' 'the official discourse of the state,' and 'opposition reactions,' based on van Dijk's Critical Discourse Analysis model. The findings show that events are not merely reported in either traditional or AI-based news, but framed through discursive preferences. While traditional media reflects discourse aligned with ideological orientations noted in the literature, AI news employs a more neutral style with short sentences, passive structures, and limited commentary. Content ranking and thematic emphasis also serve a guiding function in AI texts. Therefore, it is concluded that AI journalism, like traditional media, does not merely convey information but also functions as a mechanism that constructs discourse.

Keywords: Artificial intelligence journalism, traditional media, discourse analysis

Öz

Bu çalışmada, yapay zekâ tarafından üretilen haber metinleri ile geleneksel medyada profesyonel gazeteciler tarafından oluşturulmuş haber içeriklerinin söylem yapıları karşılaştırmalı olarak incelenmektedir. Örnek olay olarak, 11 Temmuz 2025'te Irak'ın Süleymaniye bölgesinde gerçekleşen terör örgütü PKK'nın sembolik silah bırakma töreni seçilmiştir. Bu olay, Türkiye medyasında geniş yankı uyandırması ve farklı siyasi aktörler arasında çeşitli tepkilere yol açması nedeniyle örneklem olarak tercih edilmiştir. İnceleme, Türkiye'de farklı yayın politikalarını temsil eden Hürriyet, Sözcü ve Yeni Şafak gazeteleri ile yapay zekâ tabanlı haber platformu Dipnot.tv üzerinden yürütülmüştür. Analiz, van Dijk'in Eleştirel Söylem Analizi modeli temelinde, "terörist aktörlerin medyada sunumu", "devletin resmî söylemi" ve "muhalefet tepkileri" temaları çerçevesinde yapılandırılmıştır. Bulgular, hem geleneksel hem de yapay zekâ temelli haber üretiminde olayların yalnızca aktarılmadığını, aynı zamanda söylemsel tercihlerle çerçevelendiğini göstermektedir. Geleneksel medya, söylemlerinde literatürde işaret edilen ideolojik yönelimlerle örtüşen tercihleri yansıtırken, yapay zekâ tarafından üretilen haberlerde kısa cümleler, edilgen yapılar ve sınırlı yorumlarla daha nötr bir üslup izlenimi ortaya çıkmaktadır. İçerik sıralaması ve tematik vurgular, yapay zekâ metinlerinde de yönlendirici işlev taşımaktadır. Dolayısıyla, yapay zekâ haberciliğinin de geleneksel medya gibi yalnızca bilgi aktarmakla kalmayıp söylemi inşa eden bir mekanizma olarak işlediği sonucuna varılmıştır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Yapay zeka haberciliği, geleneksel medya, söylem analizi

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Introduction

With the shift to digital technologies, news production processes have undergone radical transformation. Artificial intelligence (AI)-supported content tools now reshape how news is produced and presented, raising debates about journalism's core principles—objectivity, impartiality, and accuracy. In traditional journalism, discourse is shaped by editorial preferences, institutional policies, and socio-political contexts; in AI-supported journalism, it emerges from algorithmic and automated processes. Revealing these discursive differences is key to understanding how news discourse is being redefined. This study therefore compares the discourse structures of AI-generated and journalist-produced news texts.

Algorithmic editorial systems redesign both form and content. According to Diakopoulos (2019, p.1) notes, algorithms transform news production, distribution, and consumption, creating a paradigmatic shift in media. Their role makes it essential to examine what media texts convey and how, particularly whether they function as ideological constructs. AI systems that organize language production and reception increasingly attract attention for their sociocultural implications—especially regarding power, ideology, and inequality. Gillespie (2014) emphasizes that algorithms are deeply cultural rather than merely technical, carrying implicit ideological premises. Consequently, “objective” news texts are produced within value systems embedded in algorithms and their designers (Bucher, 2018, p.114). Thus, AI in journalism represents not only automation but also discursive and ideological reconstruction.

This study investigates the ideological patterns in AI-generated versus journalist-written news through comparative discourse analysis. As a case study, it examines the PKK terrorist organisation's symbolic disarmament ceremony held on 11 July 2025 in Sulaymaniyah, Iraq, following the announcement of the group's dissolution by Abdullah Öcalan, the leader of the terrorist organisation. The event drew extensive coverage from major Turkish media and AI-based platforms alike. Dipnot.tv - a leading AI-driven news outlet in Türkiye - published eight real-time reports on the disarmament.

The ceremony was framed differently across political actors, making ideological positions discursively visible in news coverage. Using purposive sampling, this research analyzes Dipnot.tv's reports alongside those of three national newspapers - *Hürriyet*, *Sözcü*, and *Yeni Şafak* - representing distinct ideological orientations (Sine Nazlı & Yılmaz, 2024) and among Türkiye's most circulated dailies (Boomsocial.com, 2025). The analysis employs Teun A. van Dijk's critical discourse approach to reveal how AI-based and traditional reporting frame, construct, and position the event ideologically, uncovering the underlying structures of meaning.

The Concept of Ideology and Its Relationship with Discourse

The concept of ideology emerged after the French Revolution to describe materialist ideals and was termed the “science of ideas” by Antoine Destutt de Tracy in 1796. Initially positive, it later acquired a pejorative meaning and, since Marx, has been linked to “false consciousness” (Çelik, 2005). From the 19th to mid-20th century, it referred to political “-isms” such as liberalism, socialism, and fascism, later gaining broader everyday usage (Verschuere, 2015).

In the Marxist view, ideology legitimizes ruling-class interests. Marx argued that the working class acts under the dominant ideology (Fiske, 2003). Eagleton (2015) defines ideology as the process shaping social life and legitimizing elite interests through distortion. Althusser (2001) sees it as a mechanism positioning individuals in the social order, reproduced through institutions like the family, religion, education, and media.

Ideology manifests through discourse (Üşür, 1997). Practices accepted as “natural” in daily life reflect ideological judgments that define what is embraced or rejected (Althusser, 2014). Eagleton (2015) considers discourse both a reflection and reproduction of ideology, while power operates through inclusion and exclusion within discourse (Beşe & Baykara, 2019).

Foucault's discourse theory links ideology to power and knowledge, arguing that discourse constructs meaning and legitimizes power (Foucault,

1998). van Dijk (2006) argues that ideologies are primarily expressed through discourse, yet discourse analysis alone may not always uncover underlying ideological beliefs. Interpretation varies with tone, emphasis, and loudness; therefore, the ideology–discourse relationship must be examined empirically, theoretically, and contextually. Similarly, Verschueren, in *Discourse and Ideology*, conceptualizes ideology as multilayered—manifested not only in content but also in linguistic choices, syntactic constructions, emphasis, and contextual strategies. From this view, analyzing the linguistic mechanisms, social contexts of production, and the actors made visible or invisible enables a comprehensive understanding of how ideology operates within discourse.

News as Discourse and Ideological Construction in the Media

The media, a key channel of information, transforms events into discourses shaped by ideological judgments. Although news claims objectivity, it never fully reflects reality (Poyraz, 2002, p. 12). News discourse should thus be viewed not as mere transmission but as construction of social reality (Dursun, 2011). Media discourses serve as instruments through which dominant powers secure public consent. As Torfing (1999, p. 220) notes, dominant discourse establishes regimes of value defining right and wrong. Counter-discourses require political and economic power; marginalized voices remain underrepresented, and even oppositional outlets often reproduce dominant narratives (Kartal, 2022).

According to Erdoğan and Alemdar (2002, pp. 404–407), media’s ideological function evolves historically. Even in advanced democracies, where neutrality and professionalism are claimed, discourse reflects dominant ideology. Media not only reports facts but assigns meaning through symbolic codes. Events gain significance only within these ideological frameworks. Journalists rarely choose such codes consciously; they operate within interpretive conventions perceived as “natural.” Thus, the ideological role of media is concealed under narratives of neutrality while continually reproducing dominant meaning systems.

From political economy approach, media operates as an industrial structure that reproduces power through discourse. Golding and Murdock (1979, p. 15) argue that news functions as a capitalist commodity. Profit motives align editorial agendas with political interests, producing selective emphasis and omission (Devran, 2010, p. 120). Alternative perspectives appear only insofar as they can be neutralized by dominant frames. Consequently, the media reconstructs social reality (İnal, 1996, pp.100–115).

Stuart Hall (1980) encoding/decoding model illuminates the ideological nature of media texts. Content is ideologically encoded during production and decoded differently by audiences. Media is not a neutral conveyor but a discursive form embedded in power. “Raw” events are transformed into ideologically charged narratives that reinforce dominant meanings. Ideology operates not only through content but also via narrative form, lexical choice, and selective inclusion or exclusion of voices. Although audiences may accept, negotiate, or oppose these messages, all decoding reveals the ideological foundation of dominant discourse.

Teun A. van Dijk (1988a, pp.175–177) established a framework for analyzing news as discourse. He argues that news cannot be understood solely through institutional routines; it requires examining journalists’ cognitive structures shaping production. Ideological analysis thus involves both textual and cognitive dimensions. News texts exhibit distinctive grammatical, structural, and lexical features that position actors ideologically. Passive constructions, for example, obscure agency, while lexical choices frame responsibility. Yet textual analysis alone is insufficient—it must be linked to the social cognition of both producers and audiences to uncover the full ideological process.

Artificial Intelligence Journalism and Ideological Encoding

AI refers to computer systems capable of imitating human cognitive abilities such as learning, reasoning, and inference. Conceptualized by Alan Turing in the 1950s, AI advanced rapidly after the 1980s through algorithmic modeling of expert

knowledge First conceptualized by Alan Turing in the 1950s, AI gained momentum after the 1980s, leading to major theoretical and practical advances (McCorduck & Cfe, 2004, pp.280–281; Newquist, 1994, p. 271). Its efficiency has enabled widespread use across sectors such as healthcare, finance, logistics, and defense (Copeland, 2025; Maslej et al., 2024).

Journalism is among the key domains transformed by AI. Initially used for automated financial and sports reports in the early 2000s, AI has become integral to newsroom operations. With natural language generation (NLG) systems, algorithms analyze large datasets, detect patterns, and autonomously produce news through templates and predictive models (Diakopoulos, 2019). This automation, while improving speed and output, has raised concerns over transparency, bias, and accountability (Wang, 2021; Loconsole & Panarari, 2025). Accordingly, AI's role must be evaluated not only technologically but also regarding its impact on knowledge production, representation, and ideological encoding.

Central to these debates are questions of data ownership and value prioritization: Whose data underlie these outputs? Which interests are reinforced? De Ruvo (2025) warns that algorithms operated by major technology firms may privilege private or dominant interests while marginalizing alternative perspectives, necessitating critical scrutiny of embedded ideological agendas.

The datasets, linguistic patterns, and selection criteria driving AI systems make ideological encoding unavoidable, producing systemic epistemic bias. What AI-generated news highlights or omits reflects underlying ideological choices. As Foucault (1980) observed in his knowledge–power framework, knowledge production is inseparable from power and never politically neutral. AI, therefore, functions not merely as a processor but as an agent that defines what counts as knowledge, reshaping representation regimes and the social construction of meaning. Consequently, AI journalism must be viewed as a multidimensional phenomenon requiring ethical, political, and ideological analysis.

PKK's Disarmament Attempts and Peace Process Experiences

The Kurdish issue, rooted in the late Ottoman period, laid the foundation for armed organizations during the Republican era, particularly in the 1970s. Abdullah Öcalan and his associates initiated organizational activities in Ankara in 1974, and in 1978, Öcalan founded the terrorist organisation PKK. Seeking to separate Türkiye's eastern and southeastern regions to form an independent state spanning parts of Iran, Iraq, and Syria (Ceylan, 2012), the group began armed attacks in 1984, becoming one of Türkiye's most persistent security threats (Kuzu, 2009).

Türkiye pursued military methods for years and occasionally attempted political solutions. The first major initiative, led by President Turgut Özal, produced a PKK ceasefire on March 20, 1993 (Bırand & Yalçın, 2012), but it collapsed following Özal's death (Marcus, 2009). After Öcalan's capture in 1999, the PKK declared a “non-conflict” period that the media framed as a victory (Çandar, 2012). Subsequent debates on the Kurdish issue adopted a more reformist tone emphasizing citizens' rights.

During the AK Party era, EU accession efforts encouraged reform and revived hopes for peace. The Third Harmonization Package (August 3, 2002) legalized broadcasting and education in non-Turkish languages, including Kurdish, signaling Türkiye's first multicultural policy framework. Limited Kurdish broadcasts began in 2004, and TRT 6 (later TRT Kurdî) launched in 2009. The ensuing “Democratic Opening” and “Peace Process” expanded cultural rights—legal defense in one's mother tongue, Kurdish studies programs in universities, and the legalization of previously banned letters (w, q, x)—representing steps toward democratization (Çeliktürk, 2011; Oran, 2004; as cited in Ay, 2017, pp. 130-182). However, after the 2015 Ceylanpınar attack that killed two police officers, the process collapsed. Renewed urban clashes and military operations continued until 2024, confining the PKK largely to Iraq and Syria.

A new phase emerged in late 2024 when MHP leader Devlet Bahçeli declared that the terrorist organisation PKK had lost its capacity and function.

In early 2025, the terrorist organisation leader Öcalan issued a directive supporting disbandment and the end of armed struggle. Reactions varied: nationalist circles and families of martyrs remained cautious, while pro-peace NGOs and parts of the Kurdish electorate viewed the move positively (Boynukara et al., 2025). Nonetheless, doubts persisted regarding internal divisions and possible manipulation of the process. On July 12, 2025, PKK members symbolically burned their weapons in Iraq's Sulaymaniyah region, an event widely reported as part of the group's disarmament.

Method

This study aims to reveal the discursive structures of AI-generated news texts and those produced by professional journalists through a comparative analysis.

In this study, the symbolic disarmament ceremony carried out by the PKK terrorist organization in Iraq's Sulaimaniyah region on July 11, 2025, is examined as a case study. This ceremony took place following the dissolution announcement made by the organization's founder, Abdullah Öcalan. Öcalan's statement was framed within the 'Terror-Free Türkiye' process, described by President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, and traced back to the call issued by Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) leader Devlet Bahçeli during his parliamentary group address on October 22, 2024. In that speech, Bahçeli declared that Türkiye had entered a new phase in its more than forty-year struggle against terrorism (Duman, 2025). Accordingly, the symbolic disarmament ceremony held on July 11, 2025, approximately nine months after Bahçeli's call, represented a concrete step that materialized this process within a sequential context. The chosen topic carries both political and symbolic significance. The act of burning weapons received considerable attention in both traditional media and digital news platforms. Indeed, the AI-supported news platform Dipnot.tv, which constitutes the focus of this study, published eight news articles concerning the terrorist organization PKK's weapon-burning act. These news reports not only conveyed information regarding the symbolic dis-

armament but also produced discursive frameworks around political positions, public reactions, and debates on democracy.

In this study, the data consist of the front-page news reports of newspapers with different ideological orientations, dated July 12, 2025. In line with Van Dijk's critical discourse analysis approach, texts were selected that allow for the comparison of how a specific event was reported, and the analysis was conducted on these news items. Accordingly, the aim was not to achieve representativeness but to carry out a detailed examination of news texts in order to reveal discursive strategies. Within this framework, the sample consisted of Dipnot.tv, one of the first Turkey-based news platforms to experiment with AI-generated journalism through the 'News Curator' application developed by Matnon, as well as three national newspapers (Hürriyet, Sözcü, and Yeni Şafak) reporting on the same event. The masthead of the next-generation news platform Dipnot.tv indicates that its news content is produced via the AI-supported 'News Curator' application, which provides a comprehensive database by scanning various sources, including RSS feeds, news platforms, APIs, and scraping methods. Accordingly, the content published on Dipnot.tv serves as an analytical basis for comparing the discursive structure of news produced by professional journalists in traditional media. Hürriyet was selected as a representative of mainstream journalism, while Sözcü was included as a newspaper with an opposition stance, and Yeni Şafak as one with a pro-government editorial policy, according to classifications frequently employed in the literature (Newman et al., 2022; Özdemir, 2020; Tok, 2025). The comparison focuses on how these outlets represented and framed the same event, analyzed within the framework of Teun A. van Dijk's Critical Discourse Analysis. In line with Van Dijk's model, the study examines discursive structures such as thematic organization, schematic features, lexical choices, and rhetorical devices.

The data were manually collected from newspaper archives and the Dipnot.tv website. The news articles examined were limited to those published on July 12, 2025 — one day after the case event — since newspapers typically publish their

initial coverage the following day. Furthermore, only front-page news stories were analyzed, as front pages represent areas of highest editorial priority and public visibility. In each newspaper, all front-page content that directly or indirectly referred to the disarmament ceremony of the PKK terrorist organization was included in the analysis. For Dipnot.tv, all articles related to the same event were examined. In this way, the study sought to reveal how the event was represented and discursively framed in the earliest stage of reporting. As emphasized in the literature, news articles published immediately after an event are considered critical for discourse analysis, since they reflect the initial framings that shape public understanding (van Dijk, 1988b).

In the research, critical discourse analysis method was used. Specifically, the critical discourse analysis model developed by Teun A. van Dijk was preferred, as it enables the analysis of the ideology-language relationship on both micro and macro levels. This model analyzes media discourse as a tool that reproduces power relations. According to (van Dijk, 1988a), news texts should be evaluated as multi-layered structures. During the analysis process, the texts are examined on both macro and micro structural levels. Macro structures include the thematic content of the news, encompassing sections such as headlines, subheadings, leads, and introductions. This level of analysis aims to identify which themes are emphasized, how the narrative is constructed, and through what schemas the themes are conveyed. The schematic structure under the macro level is generally examined under two subcategories: "situation" and "comment." The "situation" section covers the central event in the news, its consequences, and the contextual elements that form its background. The "comment" section includes statements from news sources and assessments by the actors involved in the event (van Dijk, 1988b, pp. 53–54).

Van Dijk's micro-structural analysis involves the examination of linguistic elements. In addition, the rhetorical structure of the news is analyzed, with particular attention to the expressions selected to reinforce or legitimize meaning within the text. At this level, the study evaluates how the same event is narrated differently, the variations in

discourse forms, and the ideological orientations and meanings conveyed through those variations (Devran, 2010; Şeker, 2014).

The starting point of the analysis in this study was to identify the general themes of the news articles about the PKK's disarmament ceremony published on the front pages of the newspapers included in the sample and on the AI-based news platform Dipnot.tv. Three main themes were determined: "the presentation of terrorist actors," "the official discourse of the state," and "reactions from the opposition." Within the framework of these themes, the discursive structures of the news reports were analyzed comparatively. In this context, a total of 11 news reports published under the mentioned categories by the selected media outlets were examined.

Findings

The Representation of Terrorist Actors

This section analyzes news coverage of the "symbolic disarmament ceremony" organized by the terrorist organisation PKK on July 11, 2025, in Iraq's Sulaymaniyah region. The event appeared as the lead story and was visually emphasized in all three newspapers—Hürriyet, Sözcü, and Yeni Şafak. The AI-based platform Dipnot.tv also reported on the same event. These reports were examined using Teun A. van Dijk's Critical Discourse Analysis framework to assess how terrorist actors were represented, how the ceremony's rituals were framed, and how ideological orientations and visual elements shaped journalistic discourse. The headlines and lead statements of the analyzed reports are summarized in Table 1.

In the July 12, 2025 issue of Hürriyet, the PKK terrorist organisation's disarmament ceremony was framed through the metaphor of "the last fire." The report centred on the hope for an end to armed conflict, articulated in the subheading: "Now the only wish of 85 million is for the bloody weapons to fall silent forever." The PKK is depicted as the actor performing the weapon-burning ritual, while the event is framed as a symbolic performance. Subheadings such as "15 Women, 15 Men" and "I Was the Closest to the Fire" stress

both the group's gender composition and the journalist's eyewitness authority. Detailed temporal and spatial references underline the gravity of the occasion. Comments like "Everyone who participated was positively affected. Faces were smiling." convey emotional resonance and frame the act as a gesture of collective hope.

At the micro-structural level, the report identifies the PKK terrorist organisation group as the explicit subject, described by gender, age, and status. Lexical choices—"bloody weapons," "to fall silent forever," "order and harmony," "positive effect," and "faces were smiling"—enhance expressiveness and historicize the event.

Table 1. News Headlines Related to the Disarmament Ceremony

News Headline	Spot
Hürriyet Bu Son Ateş Olsun (Let This Be the Last Fire)	PKK'lı bir grup Süleymaniye kırsalında Jasana Mağarası'nın bulunduğu bölgede silah bıraktı. Silahlar özel kazanda yakıldı. Şimdi 85 milyonun tek temennisi, kanlı silahların ebediyen susması (A group of PKK members laid down their arms in the rural area of Sulaymaniyah, where the Jasana Cave is located. The weapons were burned in a special cauldron. Now, the sole wish of 85 million people is that the bloody weapons remain silent forever)
Sözcü 47 Yıllık İhanete Yarım Saatlik Şov (47 Years of Betrayal, Half-Hour Show)	Bahçeli'nin çağrısıyla başlayan yeni açılım sürecinde PKK, dün Kuzey Irak'taki Canna Dağı'nda sembolik bir törenle silah bıraktı. (In the new opening process initiated by Bahçeli's call, the PKK laid down its arms yesterday in a symbolic ceremony on Mount Canna in Northern Iraq)
Yeni Şafak 47 Yıllık Terörün Bitmesi İçin İlk Adım PKK Silah Bırakmaya Başladı (The First Step for Ending 47 Years of Terror)	Terörsüz Türkiye sürecinde kritik eşik aşıldı. Güvenlik güçlerinin Irak'taki operasyonları ile hareket edemez hale gelen terör örgütü PKK, Öcalan'ın çağrısı ve bölgesel dengelerin değişmesiyle fesih kararı almıştı. Dün Süleymaniye'de 30 kişilik PKK'lı grup, silahlarını kazana atıp yakarak silah bırakma sürecini başlattı. (PKK Started to Lay Down Arms. A critical threshold was crossed in the Terror-Free Türkiye process. The PKK terrorist organization, which became unable to act due to the operations of the security forces in Iraq, had decided to dissolve with Öcalan's call and the change of regional balances. Yesterday in Sulaymaniyah, a group of 30 PKK members started the disarmament process by throwing their weapons into a cauldron and burning them.)
dip-not.tv PKK Savaşçıları Silahsızlanma Sürecini Başlattı (PKK Fighters Started the Disarmament Process)	Kuzey Irak'ta toplanan PKK savaşçıları, silahlarını ateşe atarak sembolik bir silahsızlanma eylemi gerçekleştirdi. (PKK fighters gathered in Northern Iraq carried out a symbolic disarmament act by throwing their weapons into the fire)



Figure 1: Hürriyet Newspaper, July 12, 2025

The figure codenamed Bese Hozat is portrayed as the leader, signalling the organisation's hierarchy and symbolic order. Rhetorically, the large-font headline "Let This Be the Last Fire" marks the ceremony as a moment of symbolic closure.

Visually, the first photograph beside the headline captures the weapon-burning moment with the caption "Bloody Weapons Were Burned Like This," directly invoking the organisation's violent legacy. The second image, central to the layout, shows members throwing weapons into a cauldron, serving as the visual focal point. A third wide-angle shot depicts the group's arrival, while the final image foregrounds the Hürriyet journalist as on-site observer, visually reinforcing the narrative of witnessing.



Figure 2. Sözcü Newspaper, July 12, 2025

In the July 12, 2025 issue of Sözcü, the lead story titled “A Half-Hour Show for a 47-Year Betrayal” framed the PKK terrorist organisation’s disarmament ceremony through an overtly negative and accusatory lens. Using terms such as “betrayal,” “show,” and “theater,” the article dismissed claims of a peace-oriented gesture and instead constructed a narrative of deception. The expression “a half-hour show” foregrounded the assumption of pure performance, situating the coverage within an explicitly oppositional stance.

At the schematic level, the situation section presented basic details—location, participants, and sequence—through cues that evoke distrust. The comment section relied less on direct actor quotations, reflecting instead the newspaper’s evaluative framing. Phrases like “victory manifesto,” “giant Apo poster,” and “a storm of ululations and applause” rhetorically exaggerated the ceremony’s spectacle, assigning grandeur to underscore insincerity. The secondary headline, “The Villainy Behind the Curtain of the Theater,” linked the event to an image of a fallen soldier, amplifying outrage through emotional framing.

Linguistically, the report employed short, often passive sentences - “The victory manifesto was read,” “Rifles were thrown into the cauldron”—backgrounding agency and emphasizing ritual.

The active line “They returned to the cave as they came” attached a spatially negative metaphor to the group. Lexical items like “show,” “theater,” and “betrayal” conveyed moral judgment, while “giant Apo poster” and “high-ranking terrorist” questioned legitimacy and reinforced criminal identity. The headline term “betrayal” combined with martyr imagery produced emotional intensity. Visually, a large image of participants contrasted with smaller photos of rifles being discarded—captioned “new and unused weapons” and “no ballistic examination was conducted”—heightening the perception of staging and falsity.



Figure 3. Yeni Şafak Newspaper, July 12, 2025

In the July 12, 2025 issue of Yeni Şafak, the disarmament ceremony was framed as a major national development. The headline “The First Step to Ending 47 Years of Terror: The PKK Begins to Disarm” appeared in large font, emphasizing the event’s historical weight. Thematically, the report framed the PKK’s act as the beginning of its dissolution and a hopeful step toward “a future free of terrorism.” At the schematic level, detailed information on the location, process, and actors was provided, contextualized by references to Öcalan’s call and shifting regional dynamics. The lead phrase “a critical threshold has been crossed” po-

sitioned the event as a political milestone. Additionally, the phrase “the terrorist organization PKK, which has become unable to act,” includes an overt evaluative commentary. It creates the impression that the organization did not make a voluntary decision, but was compelled to act due to the operational pressure of the security forces. This representation emphasizes the state and its coercive power as the active subject, portraying the PKK as a passive and helpless actor.

Stylistically, the report used short, verb-driven sentences such as “PKK started to lay down arms” and “They threw the weapons into the cauldron and set them on fire,” foregrounding action and agency. In contrast, “A document containing the serial numbers of the weapons was delivered to the delegation” employed the passive voice to highlight institutional oversight. This variation underscored both the ritual and the state’s supervisory authority. Lexical choices like “47 years of terror” linked the organization’s history to violence, while “a Turkey without terror” reinforced state-centered security discourse. The repeated term “the terrorist organization PKK” delegitimized the group, and the subheading “They threw them into the cauldron” accentuated ritual symbolism. References to political figures and “the weapons list was delivered to MIT” highlighted institutional control.

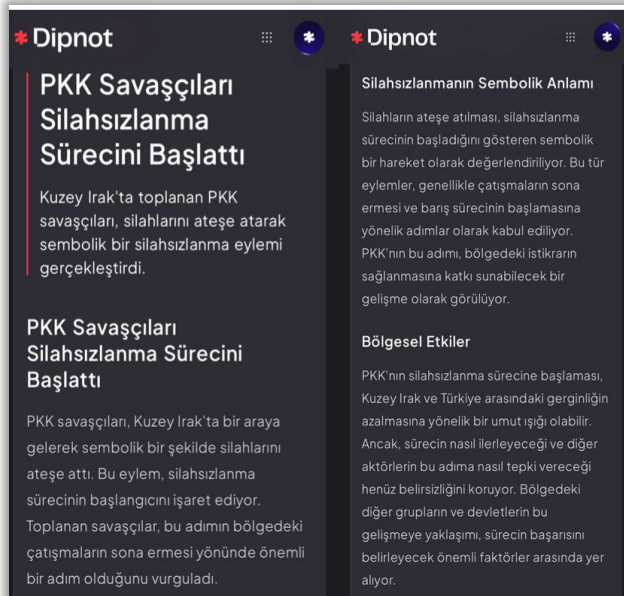


Figure 4. dipnot.tv, July 12, 2025

Rhetorically, the headline’s historical framing constructed the event as a turning point. Subheadings organized the narrative around key scenes, chronology, and institutional action, while photographs depicting PKK members’ arrival and weapon burning visually reinforced the report’s ritualized and state-centered framing.

On the AI-supported digital news platform Dipnot.tv, the news article titled “PKK Fighters Begin the Disarmament Process,” published on July 12, 2025, constructs its thematic structure around the disarmament act. In the article, the ceremony is presented as a sign of the peace process, and the event is emphasized as an important step toward ending the conflict and establishing regional stability. The frame of the theme conveys an optimistic approach toward peace. On the schematic level, the “situation” section summarizes how the disarmament act physically unfolded, stating that fighters of the terrorist organization PKK came together and symbolically threw their weapons into the fire. The “comment” section follows the subheadings “The Symbolic Meaning of Disarmament” and “Regional Impacts.” These parts evaluate the ceremony’s contribution to the peace process, its potential for stability, and the possible reactions of other actors. The sentences are short, clear, and simple. Complex or multi-layered structures are avoided, and both active and passive forms appear. Phrases such as “a sign of the peace process,” “an important step,” and “regional stability” show how the article linguistically frames the event in positive terms aligned with peace-oriented discourse.

According to the lexical-level analysis, one of the most striking points is the consistent avoidance of adjectives such as “terrorist,” and the repeated use of the term “PKK fighters” throughout the text. As van Dijk emphasizes, such lexical choices may reflect the ideological position of the system that produces the news. Since Dipnot.tv is a platform where content is generated entirely by artificial intelligence without human intervention, the choice of the word “fighter” should be understood as an outcome of automated language generation. This suggests that the system may rely on English-based datasets where the word “fighter” often carries connotations of heroism or resistance, creating

a framing different from the “terrorist” label typically used in national newspapers. In addition, positive connotation phrases such as “a symbolic act of disarmament,” “peace process,” “ending the conflict,” and “ensuring stability” contribute to the impression that the news is positioned in favor of peace and resolution. Rhetorically, the news story is notably weak and plainly written. It lacks linguistic devices that could create strong emotional impact or enhance persuasiveness, such as parallelism, metaphor, or analogy. The sentences are short and neutral, minimizing dramatic effect.

any news articles in this category. In the analyzed news articles, how the official position of the state is represented, through which linguistic strategies the framework of legitimacy is constructed, and how the event is framed through discourse structures have been analyzed.

When reviewing the *Hürriyet* front page of July 12, 2025, two reports reflecting official state discourse were identified. The first, “May This Significant Step Be Auspicious,” features President Erdoğan’s statement on the PKK terrorist organization’s disarmament.

Table 2. News Headlines Related to the Official Discourse of the State

	News Headline	Spot
Hürriyet	Bu Önemli Adım Hayırlı Olsun (This Important Step Shall Be Auspicious)	Cumhurbaşkanı Erdoğan, PKK’lı bir grubun silah bırakmasına ilişkin sosyal medya hesabından açıklama yaptı. (President Erdoğan issued a statement on his social media account regarding the disarmament of a group of members of the terrorist organization PKK)
	Gelişmeler Bir Milattir (The Developments Constitute a Milestone)	MHP Lideri Bahçeli, kara bir dönemin kapanması hususunda tarihi nitelikli gelişmeler yaşanmaya başladığını vurgulayarak, “Pozitif ve yüreklerle su serpen gelişmeler bir milattır ve bu kapsamda mahşeri vicdan memnuniyet duymaktadır” dedi. (MHP Leader Bahçeli emphasized that historically significant developments have begun to unfold concerning the closure of a dark era, stating, “The positive and heartening developments are a milestone, and in this respect, the collective conscience is content.”)
Sözcü	-	-
Yeni Şafak	Bugün atılan adım hayırlara vesile olsun (May Today’s Step Be Auspicious)	PKK’lı ilk grubun silah bırakmasından sonra MHP Lideri Bahçeli, Cumhurbaşkanı Tayyip Erdoğan’ı arayarak memnuniyetini dile getirdi. DEM Parti’li Pervin Buldan da Erdoğan ve Bahçeli’yi arayarak teşekkür etti. (Following the disarmament of the first group of members of the terrorist organization PKK, MHP Leader Bahçeli called President Tayyip Erdoğan to express his satisfaction. Pervin Buldan of the DEM Party also contacted both Erdoğan and Bahçeli to convey her gratitude.)
	Kara bir dönem kapanıyor (The Closing of a Dark Era)	MHP Lideri Devlet Bahçeli, yaptığı yazılı açıklamada, terörsüz Türkiye hedefinin sağlam ve sağlıklı hamlelerle mesafe aldığını ifade etti. (In a written statement, MHP Leader Devlet Bahçeli noted that the goal of a Turkey free from terrorism has made progress through firm and sound measures.)
dipnot.tv	Cumhurbaşkanı Erdoğan: Terörsüz Türkiye Hedefine Adım (President Erdoğan: A Step Toward a Terror-Free Turkey)	PKK’lı 30 kişinin silah bırakması sonrası Cumhurbaşkanı Erdoğan, terörsüz bir gelecek için dualarını paylaştı. (Following the disarmament of 30 members of the terrorist organization PKK, President Erdoğan shared his prayers for a future without terrorism.)

The Official State Discourse

In this category, news articles concerning the statements made by senior state officials, government representatives, and the leaders of parties within the People’s Alliance regarding the PKK’s act of burning weapons have been examined. While two news articles were published in *Hürriyet* and *Yeni Şafak*, and one in *Dipnot.tv*, *Sözcü* did not feature

The headline’s prayer-like tone conveys affirmation, while the lead -“President Erdoğan made a statement on his social media account regarding the disarmament of PKK”- sets an objective frame. Nearly all of Erdoğan’s words are quoted directly, maintaining thematic unity between headline and opening. The article foregrounds concepts of peace, unity, and prayer, presenting the state as the

actor managing the process. Structurally, the “situation” section consists of official statements with no journalistic commentary. The note that Erdoğan phoned MHP leader Devlet Bahçeli signals political coordination and strengthens contextual depth.

At the micro level, the report uses short, active sentences emphasizing state agency. Lexical items such as “A Terror-Free Türkiye,” “lasting peace,” and “May Allah grant us success” blend national and religious motifs, enhancing emotional appeal and legitimacy. Religious expressions reinforce the ideological dimension of Erdoğan’s discourse. The language is persuasive and legitimizing, forming a strong rhetorical state narrative. A chest-level portrait of Erdoğan visually underscores authority, formality, and determination.

Another Hürriyet article under the “official state discourse” category, titled “These Developments Mark a Turning Point,” features MHP leader Bahçeli’s statements in the right-hand column. The headline directly summarizes Bahçeli’s words; “turning point” signals a historically significant milestone and implies a positive, future-oriented value judgment. Although there is no news spot, the opening sentence serves as the main contextual element. Bahçeli’s statement is presented directly, framing the event dramatically through phrases such as “closure of a dark period,” “developments of historical nature,” and “positive and heartening developments.” The thematic structure combines positivity, historical importance, and societal tranquility in line with the official state discourse, constructing a narrative that affirms the developments politically and socially. The event is portrayed as hope against past darkness, a historical rupture, and a symbol of social peace. Though concise, the article uses strong discursive concepts to convey the theme intensely.

According to the schematic structure analysis, the “situation” section consists entirely of the primary definer’s words, and no journalist commentary appears. The micro-structural analysis shows complex and rhetorically ornate constructions. The sentence “the social conscience feels satisfaction” employs a collective agent, associated with an abstract rather than passive actor. Lexical items - “turning point,” “dark period,” “developments of historical nature,” “positive,” “heartening,” and

“collective conscience” - function as evaluative terms highlighting the event’s significance and reinforcing the speaker’s viewpoint. These choices heighten emotional impact and persuasive force. The accompanying shoulder-level portrait of Bahçeli, facing the camera directly, constructs a rhetoric of authority and sincerity, fostering trust in the leader.

Yeni Şafak allocated space on its front page for two news articles reflecting the official state discourse. One, includes President Erdoğan’s statements and is titled “May Today’s Step Be Auspicious.” The headline, news spot, and introduction display a strong thematic hierarchy. The headline, a direct quotation from Erdoğan’s social media post, constitutes the main theme, emphasizing that the government embraces the ceremony of the terrorist organization PKK within the “a Terror-Free Türkiye” process. The spot notes that MHP leader Bahçeli and DEM Party MP Pervin Buldan also called Erdoğan to express satisfaction, thereby expanding the theme of shared approval and discursive harmony. Concepts such as “a Terror-Free Türkiye,” “peace,” “lasting stability,” and “regional security” form a semantic chain from general to specific. Schematically, the article summarizes Erdoğan’s social media message, with the narrative built on his initial reaction to the terrorist organization PKK’s disarmament and subsequent discussions with Bahçeli and Buldan. The “evaluation” section is limited, mostly direct quotations, positioning the article as informative rather than interpretive. At the micro level, the sentences are long but clear; Erdoğan’s statements, quoted directly, reflect the natural patterns of political discourse. Active subjects and verbs are attributed directly to Erdoğan. Lexical choices such as “a Terror-Free Türkiye,” “peace,” “stability,” and “the security of our nation” convey positive state goals, while religious phrases like “Allah Almighty” and “may [He] grant” resonate with conservative readership. Rhetorical elements emerge through Erdoğan’s quotations; the supplicatory phrase at the end expands the text into a religious-rhetorical sphere. The accompanying photo shows Erdoğan in a shoulder-level portrait, a classic statesman representation, where the lack of a clear expression

emphasizes symbolic presence rather than personal emotion.

The second article, titled “A Dark Era is Coming to an End,” features Bahçeli’s statements. The headline conveys the perception that a long-standing threat to Türkiye is ending; it is short, striking, and dramatic. The spot reflects MHP’s support for the process. In the introduction, Bahçeli’s remarks are presented. The phrase “as of today, the separatist terrorist organization has begun surrendering its weapons in groups” highlights the concreteness of the “a Terror-Free Türkiye” process, while “developments of historical nature are taking place regarding the end of a dark era” frames the developments positively in line with state policy. Thus, the event is presented as a historical turning point. In the schematic structure, factual elements form the “situation” section, while Bahçeli’s interpretive remarks construct the “evaluation” section. At the micro level, the introduction employs active constructions. Lexically, expressions such as “dark era,” “developments of historical nature,” “goal of a Terror-Free Türkiye,” and “firm and sound steps” affirm state actions, frame the process as a success, and generate positive connotations. Rhetorically, dramatic expressions enhance discursive impact; terms like “developments of historical nature” and “collective conscience” increase credibility and emotional appeal. Drawn from Bahçeli’s words, these expressions show the article not only informs but also seeks to build consent for the state’s stance. The accompanying photo portrays Bahçeli at shoulder level, emphasizing decisiveness, seriousness, and trustworthiness.

Sözcü newspaper, on the other hand, did not include any news articles falling under the category of “official state discourse” on its front page. Instead, the coverage focused only on the act of burning weapons carried out by the terrorist organization PKK, presenting it as a symbolic performance. This orientation does not indicate engagement with the legitimizing framework of the state discourse but remains limited to reporting and framing the symbolic dimension of the act itself.

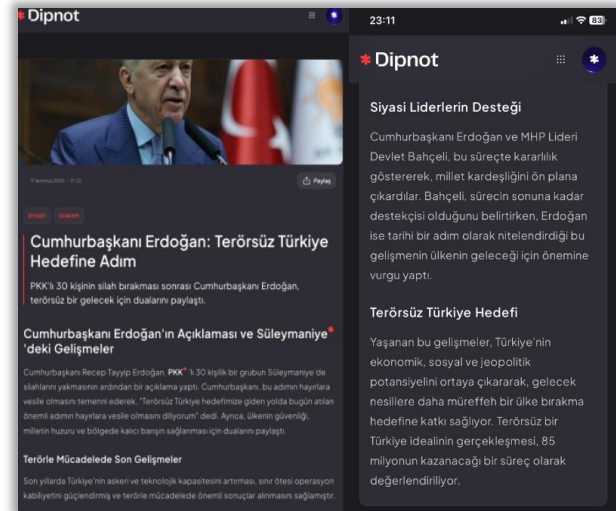


Figure 5. dipnot.tv, July 12, 2025

On the AI-supported news platform dipnot.tv, a news article was published under the category of official state discourse, featuring the statements of President Erdoğan and Bahçeli, a partner of the People’s Alliance. The article, published under the headline “President Erdoğan: A Step Toward the Goal of a Terror-Free Türkiye,” emphasizes in its macrostructure, thematically, the notion of a step taken toward the ideal of a Terror-Free Türkiye. In the article presented with the news spot “Following the disarmament of 30 PKK members, President Erdoğan shared his prayers for a future without terrorism,” attention is drawn to a tone of affirmation based on religious and moral references such as peace, tranquility, and prayer. It is observed that similar expressions are repeated in the opening sentence of the article. At the schematic level, in the “situation” section of the article, the headline, spot, and lead summarize Erdoğan’s statements, while the main text consists of information concerning the main event and its background. However, it has been noted that Erdoğan’s statement, “May Allah Almighty grant us success in achieving our goals on this path we walk for our country’s security, our nation’s peace, and the establishment of lasting peace in our region,” was not included. The “situation” section reports Erdoğan’s phone call with Bahçeli and Bahçeli’s expression of support for the process. The “evaluation” section, however, reflects features of automated text generation. Considering that Dipnot.tv’s content is produced entirely by artificial

intelligence without human intervention, and consistent with findings in the literature (Carlson, 2015), the recurrence of superficiality, lack of context, monotonous language, and source-free evaluative statements suggests that these passages are typical outputs of algorithmic language generation. For example, “These recent developments reveal Türkiye’s economic, social, and geopolitical potential...” and “The realization of the ideal of a Terror-Free Türkiye is considered a process from which all 85 million citizens will benefit” appear as commentary without attribution. Syntactically, official statements are conveyed in the active voice, while evaluative parts employ passives such as “is considered,” which conceal the agent and present inference as objectivity. Rhetorically, credibility is established through quotations early in the text, whereas the evaluative section seeks to persuade by articulating idealized goals, as in “leaving a more prosperous country to future generations.” The accompanying photo of Erdoğan, serious-faced with the Turkish flag, reinforces state legitimacy and ideological unity by merging leader and national symbol in a single frame.

Opposition Reactions

In this category, news articles concerning the reactions of opposition parties to the PKK’s act of burning weapons have been analyzed. While Hürriyet and dipnot.tv each included one news article within this category, it has been determined that no such articles were published on the front pages of Yeni Şafak and Sözcü newspapers.

In Hürriyet’s July 12, 2025 front page, a news article titled “Ending Terrorism is Our Common Will,” based on CHP leader Özgür Özel’s social media post, appears under “opposition reactions.” Positioned in a single column at the bottom right, it highlights Özel’s positive stance toward the peace process. The headline emphasizes societal consensus, reflecting the opposition’s attempt to claim ownership of the process and contribute to legitimacy.

Schematically, the article consists only of Özel’s statements in quotation marks, directly responding to the disarmament of the terrorist organization PKK. With no commentary, it functions as an informative piece. Microstructurally, active subject-verb constructions dominate, with Özel as the agent. Simple syntax ensures clarity. Lexically, “peace,” “common will,” and “heavy price” stress unity and shared responsibility, while the metaphor “complete silence of weapons” signals a transition from violence to peace. Rhetorically, the headline’s emphasis on “our common will” broadens the call from CHP to society at large.

Yeni Şafak and Sözcü newspapers, on the other hand, did not include any news articles under the category of “opposition reactions” on their front pages. In its coverage of the terrorist organization PKK’s disarmament, Yeni Şafak focused on statements by state actors such as President Erdoğan and MHP leader Bahçeli, as well as on the weapon-burning ceremony. No statements from opposition figures were included in this coverage. In the case of Sözcü, opposition reactions were likewise absent from the front page, and the newspaper did

Table 3. Headlines of News on the Opposition’s Reactions to the Terrorist Organization PKK’s Weapon-Burning Act

	News Headline	Spot
Hürriyet	Terörün Bitmesi Ortak İrademizdir (The End of Terrorism Is Our Common Will)	“Partimiz barışın yanındadır” diyen CHP Genel Başkanı Özel, “Ülkemize çok ağır bedeller ödeten terörün ilelebet son bulması ortak irademizdir. Bu adımın artık silahların tamamen susacağı bir dönemin başlangıcı olmasını diliyoruz” dedi. (“CHP Chairman Özel, who said “Our party stands by peace,” stated: “It is our common will that terrorism, which has inflicted very heavy costs on our country, comes to an end forever. We hope this step will mark the beginning of a period in which weapons will fall completely silent.”)
Sözcü	-	-
Yeni Şafak	-	-
Dipnot.tv	CHP ve DEVA Partisi PKK’nın Silah Yakma Törenini Destekledi (CHP and DEVA Party Supported PKK’s Weapon-Burning Ceremony)	CHP ve DEVA Partisi, PKK’nın silah yakma törenini desteklerken, İYİ Parti ve Demokrat Parti’den tepkiler geldi. (While CHP and DEVA Party supported PKK’s weapon-burning ceremony, reactions came from İYİ Party and Democrat Party.)

not feature content related to this dimension of the event.

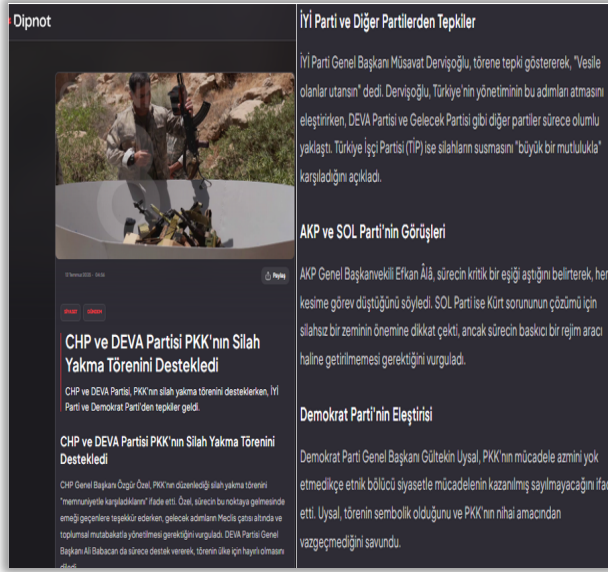


Figure 6. dipnot.tv, July 12, 2025

On the AI-supported news platform Dipnot.tv, a news article published under the category of “opposition reactions” and titled “CHP and DEVA Party Supported the PKK's Weapon-Burning Ceremony” thematically aims to present the positions of opposition actors regarding the terrorist organization PKK's act of disarmament. The headline emphasizes the actors who endorsed the process. In the subsequent article text, the reactions of the parties are conveyed in sequence through very brief quotations. However, this brevity results in superficial representations. For example, CHP leader Özel's statement that they “welcomed it with satisfaction” and his emphasis on “social consensus” are addressed in only two sentences. Similarly, DEVA leader Babacan's statement is reduced solely to a message of goodwill: “may it be auspicious.” The reaction of the İYİ Party is conveyed through the short expression, “Shame on those responsible.” The statement of the Left Party (SOL Parti), which supported the terrorist organization PKK's act of disarmament but also warned that the process should not be turned into a tool of an oppressive regime, is also summarized. The criticisms of the Democrat Party, which took a stance against the process, are mentioned in a single sentence.

In the thematic structure of the article, positive reactions are presented first and in slightly greater

detail, while critical reactions are summarized more briefly toward the end. Although the article does not include evaluative commentary and gives the impression of objectivity by presenting political leaders' statements through direct quotations, this order of presentation constructs a framework that highlights supportive voices more prominently.

At the syntactic level, the news sentences are constructed in the active voice, and no passive constructions are observed. At the lexical level, terms such as “supported,” “welcomed with satisfaction,” “shame on those responsible,” “may it be auspicious,” “ultimate goal,” and “ethnic separatist politics” clearly categorize the political positions of the actors. In addition, more inclusive expressions such as “with great joy” and “every segment has a role to play” are also present, indicating both polarizing and unifying elements. At the rhetorical level, the headline and the structure of the first paragraph emphasize the support expressed by CHP and the DEVA Party, thereby legitimizing the process. In the visual analysis, the only image shows a member of the terrorist organization PKK throwing a weapon into a large cauldron. The individual's face is not visible, only the shoulder and waist areas are shown, which anonymizes the act and underscores its symbolic nature.

Discussion and Conclusion

In this study, the discursive structures of news texts produced by artificial intelligence and by professional journalists were comparatively analyzed. As a case study, the news items on Dipnot.tv, one of the Türkiye-based AI-supported news sites, and on Hürriyet, Sözcü, and Yeni Şafak, which have different editorial policies, concerning the symbolic disarmament ceremony of the terrorist organization PKK held on 11 July 2025 in the rural area of Sulaymaniyah, Iraq, were examined under the themes of “Official State Discourse,” “Opposition Reactions,” and “Representation of Terrorist Actors,” by applying van Dijk's Critical Discourse Analysis method.

In the context of “Official State Discourse,” Hürriyet and Yeni Şafak presented the disarmament ceremony as a development aligned with the

goals of the state and included the statements of state actors. By contrast, on the examined front page of *Sözcü*, content directly reflecting the state discourse was not included, and the statements of state actors were not reported. *Dipnot.tv*, on the other hand, presented the official discourse in a descriptive style with a neutral tone through short quotations and predominantly passive structures. The placement of official actors as “primary definers” in the headline/lead in journalistic texts shows consistency with Bennett’s indexing approach; *Sözcü*’s failure to include official statements is interpreted as a deliberate deviation from the indexing range (Bennett, 1990). It is observed that the report on *Dipnot.tv* is also aligned with the indexing approach in a similar manner to the reports in *Hürriyet* and *Yeni Şafak*, but that this alignment is established not through rhetoric but through textual organization. This situation overlaps with the observations that automated journalism relies on “rigid templates/formal conformity” and produces “human-like but generalized” narratives (Carlson, 2015).

Differences were also observed in the theme of “Opposition Reactions.” While *Yeni Şafak* and *Sözcü* did not include the statements of opposition actors on their front pages, *Hürriyet* published a short statement by Özgür Özel, the leader of the main opposition party. *Dipnot.tv* included the views of more than one opposition party, but presented these views quite briefly. Supportive statements (CHP, DEVA) were given in detail in the headline and standfirst; critical statements (İYİ Party, Democrat Party) were shortened and placed at the end of the text. This sequencing created differences in visibility. In the journalist-written text (*Hürriyet*), the opposition voice is present but short and in a lower position; in the AI text (*Dipnot.tv*), more than one opposition voice is present, but support comes first, while criticism appears last. In the AI-written report, pushing the reactions of opposition parties into the background -through shortening and positioning, as in reports written by human journalists- is associated with the framework that the selection of data, template design, and threshold/sequencing rules determine the presentation at the interface and thus normatively

shape the frame. Therefore, the layout and shortening preferences in the *Dipnot.tv* report can be interpreted as the result of design-governance decisions rather than a technical necessity. Therefore, the algorithms that determine the frame of the report published on *Dipnot.tv* render visible one dimension of the issue of neutrality, which is among the most debated topics regarding AI news. Indeed, Diakopoulos (2019, p. 19) states that algorithms are not neutral and objective, and that they consistently apply the values of developers and institutions through encoded rules.

In the theme of “Representation of Terrorist Actors,” lexical contrasts became more pronounced. *Sözcü* described the PKK’s weapon-burning ceremony with strong terms such as “betrayal,” “show,” and “theater.” By contrast, *Hürriyet* and *Yeni Şafak* presented the same act as a positive development within the “Terror-Free Türkiye” process. *Yeni Şafak* used the expression “terrorist organization” once in reference to the PKK; *Hürriyet* completely avoided this terminology. *Dipnot.tv*, on the other hand, preferred the expression “PKK fighters” and did not use the labels “organization/terrorist.” This terminological choice distinguished *Dipnot.tv* from *Sözcü* and *Yeni Şafak*, which explicitly labeled PKK members as “terrorists.” Human-written texts produce value connotations through lexis, whereas AI texts produce label substitution. Therefore, the label choice observed in the *Dipnot.tv* example should be read as the result of design and governance decisions rather than a technical necessity.

In light of the general findings, it is understood that traditional journalism exhibits more visible and explicit ideological stances; whereas news produced by AI stands out with brevity, neutralized syntax, and limited commentary. At the same time, content sequencing and lexical choices in AI news also construct meaning; it is observed that algorithmic production is not entirely independent of discursive frameworks. While professional journalism often displays a tendency to polarize events along state-centered or opposition-centered axes, AI news presents the event in a more technical and low-conflict manner. These findings show that elements such as event representation, word choice,

narrative sequencing, and visual preferences contribute to meaning construction in both human journalism and AI production.

These findings open the way not only to discussions concerning the discursive features of the analyzed news texts but also to broader debates in the context of media studies, journalistic ethics, and democratic theory. Notwithstanding Habermas's (1989) conceptualization of the media as a public sphere in which different perspectives are made visible and citizens can produce collective understanding through rational deliberation, when Slevin's (2000, p. 76) observation that, due to commercialization and state interventions, this remains a "fantasy" in practice is taken into account, it is understood that—as in traditional media journalism—the public sphere function in artificial intelligence journalism can likewise be weakened by algorithmic and institutional choices through "artificial neutrality," data/template selection, and sequencing-threshold decisions. In the Dipnot.tv case, where content is produced without human intervention, this "artificial neutrality" carries the risk of weakening the media's democratic-deliberative capacity. Superficial, decontextualized, and agent-effacing narratives narrow access to critical information and constrain democratic decision-making processes. Moreover, the algorithmic structure is not independent of cultural and political contexts; it can reproduce the social values and power relations in which it is coded (Gillespie, 2014; Bucher, 2018). Therefore, the role of AI journalism should be evaluated not only by criteria of technical efficiency and speed, but also in terms of the quality of public discourse, journalistic ethics, and the sustainability of democratic deliberation.

This study was conducted through Dipnot.tv, a pioneering platform for AI journalism in Türkiye. However, the fact that only a single AI-based platform and a single event were examined limits the direct generalization of the findings to the entirety of "AI journalism." Different algorithms, training datasets, and editorial policies may produce different outputs. Therefore, the results primarily carry validity within the context of this platform and event; for broader generalizations, future comparative studies across various AI-based news production examples are needed.

Declarations

Funding: No funding was received for conducting this study.

Conflicts of Interest: The author declares no conflict of interest.

Ethical Approval: This article does not involve any studies with human participants or animals performed by the author; therefore, ethical approval was not required.

Informed Consent: Not applicable.

Data Availability: The analysis draws on publicly available news texts and images (national newspapers and Dipnot.tv). The de-identified coding sheets and derived analysis outputs generated during the study are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

AI Disclosure: No artificial intelligence-based tools or applications were used in the conception, analysis, writing, or figure preparation of this study. All content was produced by the author in accordance with scientific research methods and academic ethical principles.

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