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Unveiling Ideological Discourses: Analyzing Media Headlines in the Palestine-Israel Conflict

İdeolojik Söylemlerin Ortaya Çıkarılması: Filistin-İsrail Çatışmasında Medya Manşetlerinin Analizi

Türk İslam KURT¹

Özet

Bu araştırma, Filistin-İsrail çatışmasıyla ilgili çeşitli gazetelerden elde edilen haber başlıklarını Eleştirel Söylem Analizi (ESA) yöntemini kullanarak, söz konusu bu başlıkların ideolojik nüanslarına dair bilgiler sunmayı, gazetelerin ideolojik özelliklerinin keşifsel bir şekilde anlaşılmasına katkıda bulunmayı ve dil bölümlerindeki söylem çalışmalarını zenginleştirmeyi hedeflemektedir. Analiz, her biri farklı ideolojik perspektifleri temsil eden dört Türk gazetesinin (Sözcü, Habertürk, Yeni Akit ve Türkgün) başlıklarına odaklanmaktadır. Bir dilbilimsel analiz yoluyla, çalışma, gazetelerin genel olarak Filistin-İsrail çatışması bağlamında benzer insani mesajlar üzerinde birleşebileceğini ortaya koymaktadır. Ancak, bu gibi insani durumlarda bile farklı ideolojilere sahip olan bu gazeteler haber başlıkları vasıtasıyla bu çatışmada kimi açıkça Filistin'i desteklemiş kimi ise daha tarafsız bir çizgide olmayı tercih etmiştir. Araştırma, altta yatan ideolojileri ortaya çıkarmak için dil ve söylemi incelemenin önemini vurgularken, daha fazla araştırmaya duyulan ihtiyacı da ortaya koymaktadır.

Abstract

This research aims to provide insights into the ideological nuances of headlines from various newspapers related to the Palestine-Israel conflict using Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), to contribute to an exploratory understanding of the ideological characteristics of these newspapers, and to enrich discourse studies in language departments. The analysis focuses on headlines of four Turkish newspapers (Sözcü, Habertürk, Yeniakit, and Türkgün), each representing different ideological perspectives. Through a linguistic analysis, it demonstrates newspapers may converge on similar humanitarian messages within the context of the Palestine-Israeli conflict. However, even in such humanitarian situations, these newspapers holding different ideologies either openly supported Palestine in this conflict or preferred a more neutral stance through their headlines. It emphasizes the importance of examining language and discourse to uncover underlying ideologies, highlighting the need for further research.

Anahtar Sözcükler: İdeoloji, söylem, ideolojik söylem, medya, Filistin-İsrail Çatışması.

Key Words: Ideology, discourse, ideological discourse, media, Palestine-Israel Conflict.

Makale Türü: Araştırma

Paper Type: Research

1. Introduction

Various elements shape what individuals express while communicating in a language. Hymes (1972) identified these elements as the nature of the event, subject matter, purpose, environment, participants, form and content of the message, and interactional norms. As outlined by Hymes, these factors significantly impact the message

¹ Bilim Uzmanı, Amerikan Kültür Dil Okulları, İngiliz Dili Eğitimi, turkislam6@gmail.com, ORCID No: 0009-0007-4489-7752

someone intends to convey, thus forming their discourse. Additionally, context is a crucial determinant of discourse, impacting grammar structures and vocabulary selection. Holmes (2013) highlights the significance of pragmatics, which focuses on context, suggesting that context establishes deeper meanings based on interpersonal relationships rather than just the literal meanings of words. Therefore, social context profoundly shapes individuals' discourse. Furthermore, discourse analysis serves the purpose of uncovering the intended messages and delving into their primary motivations. While examining the dictionary definition of discourse analysis, the Cambridge Dictionary defines it as "the examination of spoken or written texts consisting of more than one sentence, including their social context." Within this framework, various analysis approaches, such as Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), Conversation Analysis (CA), and Narrative Analysis (NA), are employed to comprehend the discourse of individuals or entities. However, CDA stands out among these approaches, particularly in its exploration of how language constructs power dynamics in society. This analysis aims to elucidate the connection between language and ideology, ultimately aiming to reveal the concealed ideological messages embedded within written or spoken texts (Holmes, 2013). With careful consideration of word choice, pronouns, adjectives, and sentence structures, individuals can effectively convey their desired ideology to others using the power of language (De los Heros, 2009). In this context, one significant arena for employing this power of language in shaping ideology is through news outlets such as newspapers and magazines (Cotter, 2010). Journalism operates as a conduit for disseminating information, where journalists meticulously select language to convey specific meanings to their target audience. This process involves not only choosing the right words but also framing stories in a way that engages and informs readers. This issue is essential when considering the media's ability to influence public opinion and human behavior (Iyengar & Kinder, 2010). Research in the field underscores the influential power of newspaper headlines and messages that newspapers aim to convey can vary. For instance, Omidian Sijani (2023) conducted a critical discourse analysis of headlines about Syrian refugees in Canadian newspapers. This study found that the newspapers exhibited prejudice and discrimination against war refugees. It is clear from this research that newspapers can shape public perception by manipulating language through their choice of words and phrases. Thus, the role of language in shaping public opinion is undeniable. Furthermore, examining newspaper headlines in Turkey through critical discourse analysis has highlighted various issues such as Syrian refugees, cybersecurity, and the quality of foreign language education. Studies by Onay-Coker (2019), Ulum (2016), Burak (2020), and Demirkol and Erdoğan (2023) have aimed to uncover the ideological ideas embedded in these headlines. These works reveal that newspaper headlines, regardless of their subject matter, strive to impact readers by embedding different ideological meanings through specific grammatical structures and word choices. On the other hand, the Palestine -Israel conflict is one of the hottest topics on the agenda these days. This conflict is not only

rooted in nationalistic sentiment but also in religious foundations. Examining its historical background reveals that its continued relevance attracts the attention of both the public and media outlets such as newspapers. Various countries play active roles in this conflict according to their different political and ideological stances. In this context, it was concluded that examining the headlines of current newspapers through discourse analysis would provide insight into how Türkiye approaches this issue politically and ideologically.

1.1. Media Landscape and Ideological Framework in Türkiye

Before examining the ideological undertones reflected in newspapers, it is useful to look at Türkiye's socio-political landscape. With the collapse of the Ottoman Empire and the establishment of the new Republic of Türkiye, it experienced a significant process of social modernization. Reforms in every area of the country led to intense change. The media, in this process, played a crucial role in supporting secular modernization and building national identity. As will be discussed below, the Sözcü newspaper embraced the ideology of this period and designed its publications accordingly. The period from the 1980s onwards is interpreted as a time when liberalization came to the forefront in Türkiye and the country opened up to the world. The media was also affected by this, resulting in ideological diversity among media outlets, including Islamist, nationalist, and liberal viewpoints. Although the newspapers Yeni Akit, Habertürk, and Türkgün, which are included in our research, did not publish during this period, they still represent this diversity today. Mardin (1973) explains this situation with the center-periphery theory. According to him (1973), units such as the state and the judiciary, playing an active role in the modernization process of the state, are in the center position, whereas the segment representing the conservative Anatolian people constitutes the periphery position. Newspapers, on the other hand, have chosen to represent both segments. Newspapers like Sözcü, supporting the center, focus on maintaining secular values, while newspapers like Yeni Akit, Türkgün, and Habertürk prioritize the sensitivities of the periphery. Furthermore, Göle (1996) states that Türkiye's modernization is compatible with the Western lifestyle and that the periphery, as described by Mardin (1973), intervenes in this area. In this context, secular newspapers like Sözcü tend to maintain this modern system. Conversely, newspapers that emphasize the sentiments of the periphery can be seen as a reaction to modernization (Göle, 1996). In short, in Türkiye, which was born as a secular republic, ideological views have diversified over the years, and this has naturally been reflected in the media. Starting with Sözcü newspaper, which began active publication in 2007, it has been a newspaper that opposes the government and follows a secular ideology since its establishment. It is one of the most well-known opposition organs in the mainstream media. It would not be wrong to state that the main reason for the newspaper developing this discourse is due to the party that has been in power for approximately

25 years, as the ruling party does not share the same ideology as Sözcü newspaper. In addition, Yeni Akit newspaper, although its origins go back further, is a print and visual media outlet founded in 2010. Operating with an Islamist ideology, this newspaper forms the opposite poles of Sözcü newspaper. Both newspapers develop discourses within the framework of their own ideologies. The basis of the discourses is a political idea, since Yeni Akit, being religiously based, has shown the applicability of religion to politics. Unlike Sözcü, Yeni Akit newspaper follows a line closer to the government. Another ideology-based newspaper is Türkgün, which is closely linked to an active political party in Türkiye. Adopting a nationalist-conservative ideology, this newspaper represents a different pole due to its affiliation with that political party. Finally, Habertürk newspaper has been operating in Türkiye since 2001. Compared to the others, this newspaper has positioned itself as neutral and central. It has taken a pro-government stance at times and a critical one at other times. This approach can be said to stem from a professional journalistic approach. In short, these three different newspapers constitute the instruments of this research in that they reflect the ideologies of the extreme ends of society, while one newspaper represents a relatively more impartial principle of journalism. It is estimated that the discourse analysis obtained from these four different ideological points will provide a general overview of Türkiye's position on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

This study offers insights into the ideological nuances of newspaper headlines by employing Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) as a multidisciplinary approach. The findings highlight the ways in which language is used to shape public opinion and perpetuate certain beliefs or values. This research contributes to a deeper understanding of the role media plays in shaping societal discourse and perceptions. It intends to ensure a deeper understanding of how these newspapers mould public perception through their language and ideological framing. Moreover, it makes use of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) in order to scrutinize news headlines from various publications concerning the Palestine-Israel conflict so as to uncover the ideological disparities reflected in these headlines. In conclusion, this research aims to examine the headlines of Turkish newspapers such as Sözcü, Yeni Akit, and Türkgün, which are actively publishing and hold differing ideological views, through critical discourse analysis, in order to reveal the hidden meanings, they intend to convey to their readers and whether they differ from each other in the context of the Palestine-Israel conflict.

1.2. The Palestinian-Israeli Conflict in Global and Local Contexts

To understand the reflections of Turkish newspapers on this conflict, it is first appropriate to examine the sociological development of this conflict on a global scale and Türkiye's stance on it. The causes of the conflicts that have continued to this day could be the Balfour Declaration of 1917, in which Britain approved the establishment of a Jewish state. As a result of the increasing Jewish population, the United Nations

created a partition plan in 1947, which led to a dispute, a war, and the declaration of Israel's independence. Another turning point was the Six-Day War of 1967. Israel occupied areas such as Gaza, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem. Since then, a state of constant conflict in the region has continued to escalate (Khalidi, 2020; United Nations, 2020). World countries have adopted different views on this conflict from their geopolitical and ideological perspectives. Western countries have shown a tendency to support a Jewish state rather than a Muslim one in the Middle East in this conflict, viewing this as legitimate self-defense in favor of Israel. Muslim countries have generally labeled these conflicts as genocide due to religious considerations. On the other hand, Türkiye's approach to this conflict is quite different; Turkey was the first Muslim state to officially recognize Israel. After the establishment of the Republic, the country underwent a secular modernization process, and especially from the 2000s onwards, it put forward a two-state solution proposal, emphasizing the bonds of Islamic brotherhood in the periphery, as described by Mardin (1973). The center, while experiencing occasional tensions with Israel, has also stressed the need for a Palestinian state. In this socio-political environment, newspapers have published content consistent with their adopted ideologies. However, there is a notable gap in the literature regarding studies that analyze the discourse of newspapers in Turkey on the Palestine-Israel conflict using critical discourse analysis. Therefore, it is necessary to examine the headlines of four different Turkish newspapers, each with distinct ideological perspectives, from a critical standpoint.

2. Methodology

The specific type of discourse employed for the analysis in the current study is Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA). CDA is a methodological approach that examines the ways in which language, power, and ideology intersect within texts. This research makes use of CDA so as to scrutinize newspaper headlines concerning the Palestine-Israel conflict, aiming to unveil the ideological underpinnings embedded within these headlines. CDA refers to the systematic plan or strategy used to conduct research, encompassing the specific methods, procedures, and techniques that researchers employ to collect, analyze, and interpret data. The study focuses on 24 headlines drawn from four prominent Turkish newspapers—Sözcü, Habertürk, Yeni Akit, and *Türkgün*—each representing diverse ideological viewpoints. The selection of these newspapers ensures a broad spectrum of ideological perspectives within the Turkish media landscape. The primary objective is to determine if newspapers, despite being from the same country and purporting to raise public awareness, convey differing meanings through their headlines. In selecting data from the aforementioned newspapers, an attempt was made to consider periods of heightened conflict. The rationale for this approach was to gain access to as many news articles as possible to enable detailed discourse analysis. All news headlines from these newspapers within the select-

ed time period were used as research data. Furthermore, it was paid attention to ensure that the data obtained was quantitatively balanced across all four newspapers. The analysis utilizes a linguistic framework based on Olewe's (1993) approach, specifically examining three linguistic features: topicalization, passivization, and information subcategories. Topicalization involves identifying how the placement of information at the beginning of headlines shapes the reader's focus. Passivization deals with how passive constructions are employed to either emphasize or obscure agency and responsibility. Information subcategories pertain to the categorization and framing of content within the headlines to determine the flow and prominence of information. By dissecting these elements, the study aims to reveal the ideological nuances and biases present in the reporting of the Palestine-Israel conflict. This methodological approach enhances the understanding of how language and discourse shape public perception.

3. Data Analysis and Results

This section contains the analyses and findings of how Sözcü, Habertürk, Yeni Akit, and Türkgün newspapers, which are actively published in Türkiye, covered the Palestine-Israel conflict and the discourse they developed with these news stories. The ideologically significant linguistic features of these headlines are as follows.

Linguistic Features of Headlines in Presenting Ideologies

This section attempts to present the linguistic features of the headlines in the four newspapers mentioned above regarding the Palestine-Israel conflict. The main goal of this section is to reveal the linguistic structures and discourses employed by the newspapers in their headlines. These findings are discussed under the headings of Topicalization, Passivization, and Information.

Topicalization

Topicalization is an essential component in revealing the hidden meaning behind newspaper headlines. The headlines of nationally published newspapers, how they have reflected the Palestine and Israel conflict, and the topics they have covered are as follows.

The headlines of Sözcü Newspaper

- Sınır kapıları kapatıldı... Gazze'de 'kıtlık' kabusu [Border crossings closed... The nightmare of 'scarcity' in Gaza] (May 18, 2024, Sözcü)
- İsrail'de kriz çıkmıştı: İşte savunma bakanının Gazze saldırıları sonrası planı [Crisis erupted in Israel: Here is the defense minister's plan following the Gaza attacks] (May 17, 2024, Sözcü)
- Hamas'a destek veren yabancı öğrencinin vizesi iptal edildi. [The visa of the foreign student supporting Hamas has been canceled.] (May 17, 2024, Sözcü)

- Hamas'ın öldürdüğü dövme sanatçısının bedeni bulundu. [The body of the tattoo artist killed by Hamas has been found.] (May 18, 2024, Sözcü)

In light of the headlines mentioned above, Sözcü newspaper follows a more republican and secular ideology compared to other print media in Türkiye. However, looking at the first two headlines mentioned above, it would not be wrong to say that it addresses the humanitarian aspect of this conflict. Even so, in the last two headlines, a subtle distinction between Hamas and Palestinians can be observed. From this, it conveys the message that this conflict is not one-sided and that Hamas has also engaged in various actions. In short, Sözcü newspaper appears to adopt a more objective stance on this conflict. Nonetheless, it is important not to overlook the fact that it addresses the humanitarian dimension of the issue with keywords such as "famine" and "attack."

The headlines of Habertürk Newspaper

- İsrail, Beyt hanunu kuşattı [Israel besieged Beit Hanoun.] (May 17, 2024, Habertürk)
- İsrail mülteci kampını vurdu. [Israel bombed the refugee camp.] (May 18, 2024, Habertürk)
- Refah'a saldırılar sürüyor: İsrail ordusu ek askeri birlik gönderdi. [Attacks on Rafah continue: Israeli army sends additional military units.] (May 16, 2024, Habertürk)
- ABD Temsilciler Meclisi, İsrail'e hızlı silah sevkiyatı öngören tasarıyı onayladı. [The U.S. House of Representatives approved the bill providing rapid arms shipment to Israel.] (May 17, 2024, Habertürk)

When examining the aforementioned headlines from Habertürk newspaper, key concepts such as siege, shooting, attack, and arms shipment stand out. Furthermore, it is noteworthy that the news reports not only focus on Israeli military attacks but also highlight the fact that the US actually supports Israel's operations through arms shipments. Given that this newspaper generally focuses on attacks against Palestinians, it would not be wrong to say that it presents a pro-Palestinian stance.

The headlines of Yeni Akit Newspaper

- Katil İsrail mülteci kampına savaş uçakları ile saldırı düzenledi. [Israel, the murderer, launched an attack on the refugee camp with warplanes.] (May 18, 2024, Yeni Akit)
- Gazzeliler açlıkla savaşırken yahudi yerleşimciler yardım tırlarını gasbetti! [While Gazans fight hunger, Jewish settlers hijacked aid trucks!] (May 15, 2024, Yeni Akit)
- Mücahid Kassam Tugayları Refah'ta direniyor! [The Mujahideen Qassam Brigades resist in Rafah!] (May 14, 2024, Yeni Akit)

- ABD'nin Gazze'ye kurduğu 'işgal limanı' tamamlandı! [The 'occupation port' established by the USA in Gaza has been completed!] (May 17, 2024, Yeni Akit)

Yeni Akit newspaper stands out as a print media outlet that, compared to other newspapers, advocates an ideology based on Islamic unity. A careful examination of the aforementioned headlines reveals the newspaper's strong support for Palestine. Furthermore, the newspaper, which refers to important concepts such as murderers, settlers, resistance, and occupation, believes that Israel is an occupying entity in that region, which is consistent with its overall ideology.

The headlines of Türkgün Newspaper

- İsrail, Refah Sınır Kapısının Filistin tarafındaki yardım depolarına saldırdı. [Israel attacked the aid warehouses on the Palestinian side of the Rafah Border Crossing.] (May 06, 2024, Türkgün)
- Filistin'e destek veren Fransız gazeteci, terör propagandası yaptığı gerekçesiyle ifade verecek. [The French journalist supporting Palestine will testify on charges of terrorist propaganda.] (April 20,2024, Türkgün)

Based on the headlines analysis of Türkgün newspaper which is a print media outlet that advocates a Turkish nationalist and conservative ideology. An examination of its headlines reveals that, while not as strong as Yeni Akit's, it exhibits a pro-Palestinian stance, particularly with crucial statements such as those concerning attacks on aid depots and terror investigations against support efforts. Indeed, these statements appear consistent with the newspaper's overall ideological discourse.

Passivization

The fundamental reason behind newspapers' use of passivization is to direct the reader's attention to what is happening rather than who is involved. This section analyzes the headlines and discourses developed by the four newspapers in question using this technique.

- Refah sınır kapısı açılacak mı? [Will the Rafah border be opened?] (May 17, 2024, Habertürk)
- Dünyanın dört bir yanından Filistin için İstanbul'a geldiler. [They came to Istanbul from all around the world for Palestine.] (April 27, 2024, Türkgün)
- Eurovision'a "Filistin" damgası [The 'Palestine' stamp on Eurovision.] (May 08, 2024, Türkgün)

As can be seen, newspapers have not employed this method extensively. Rather, they have preferred the Topicalization and Information categories more. It would be accurate to determine that these newspapers did so, intending to expose who organized the actions mentioned in these news stories. On the other hand, when looking at the

headlines, Trkn newspaper, with its statements such as "They came from all over the world for Palestine" or "Palestinian stamp," has taken a pro-Palestinian stance, as mentioned in the previous category. Additionally, Habertrk emphasized the closure of the border crossing, underlining it is still closed.

Information

Providing information to the reader is the primary duty of newspapers. However, as seen below, each newspaper conveyed different information within the framework of the ideology it represented. Information about the Palestinian and Israeli conflict varies regarding providing information to its readers according to different ideologies.

There are some headlines the four different newspapers, which has four different ideologies:

- İsrail sivilleri vurdu: ok sayıda l ve yaralı var. [Israel hit civilians: Many dead and wounded.] (May 16, 2024, Szc)
- Gazze de 4 gazeteci hayatını kaybetti. [Four journalists lost their lives in Gaza.] (May 16, 2024, Habertrk)
- İsrail, Gazze'de mlteci kampına saldırdı: ok sayıda l ve yaralı var. [Israel attacked a refugee camp in Gaza: Many dead and wounded.] (May 16, 2024, Habertrk)
- Kassam'ın operasyonunda en az 15 iřgalci asker ld! [At least 15 occupying soldiers killed in the Kassam operation!] (May 15, 2024, Yeni Akit)
- Filistinlilerin "felaketi" 76 yıldır sryor. [The 'catastrophe' of Palestinians has been ongoing for 76 years.] (May 15, 2024, Trkn)
- İsrail saldırıları nedeniyle Refah'tan ayrılan Filistinlilerin sayısı 360 bine yükseldi. [The number of Palestinians displaced from Rafah due to Israeli attacks has risen to 360,000.] (May 13, 2024, Trkn)
- ABD niversitelerinde Filistin'e destek srerken gzaltı sayısı 2 bini geti. [While support for Palestine continues in U.S. universities, the number of arrests has exceeded 2,000.] (May 03, 2024, Trkn)
- İsrail ramazanda katliamlarını durdurmadı! 2315 Filistinliyi ldrd. [Israel did not cease its massacres during Ramadan! Killed 2,315 Palestinians.] (May 09, 2024, Trkn)

Szc newspaper's headline "Israel Killed Civilians," and Habertrk newspaper's headlines about the killing of journalists and the attack on a refugee camp, all reveal a serious narrative suggesting that Israel killed people unrelated to the war. Yeni Akit's labeling of the killed Israeli soldiers as "occupiers" is quite striking, and as we have previously stated, it is closely linked to the newspaper's ideology. On the other hand, Trkn newspaper, using headlines such as "disaster," "Palestinian support in US

universities," and "massacre," has developed a narrative consistent with its own ideology, arguing that it is revealing the deaths of Palestinians as a result of the conflict and the suffering experienced by those who support them.

4. Discussion

Discourse analysis facilitates identifying the intended messages and exploring the underlying motives. Furthermore, Critical Discourse Analysis examines how language shapes social power structures. This analysis aims to clarify the relationship between language and ideology, with the ultimate goal of exposing the ideological signals subtly conveyed through spoken or written texts (Holmes, 2013). On the other hand, Omidian Sijani (2023) emphasizes the significant role of the media in the ideological use of language. The media, particularly newspapers and magazines, serve as a crucial platform for directing language to fulfill various ideological purposes. In light of the above information, it can be said that while written publications such as newspapers and magazines reflect accurate information and news to their readers, they also convey a hidden meaning beneath this written information and news, and they do so in accordance with their own ideologies. In this context, numerous studies have been conducted to uncover how newspaper headlines are employed to convey specific ideologies through their language, utilizing critical discourse analysis. These investigations reveal the intentional use of linguistic choices in the written media to shape public perception and advance ideological agendas. In a study by Sanz Sabido (2015), the headlines of four British newspapers were critically analyzed in the context of the Palestine-Israel conflict, founding that the ideological messages embedded in the headlines varied at different historical stages of the conflict. According to Sanz Sabido (2015), these newspapers adjusted their headlines to align with Britain's shifting political stance. Despite the conflict and the involved parties remaining consistent, the ideological perspectives presented in the headlines were influenced by Britain's own interests. In a related study, Kandil (2009) examined the Palestinian-Israeli conflict using a corpus-based analysis of American, Arab, and British newspapers, highlighting keywords such as terrorism, occupation, and settlers. Kandil (2009) found that each country selected words that aligned with its own ideology and incorporated them into newspaper headlines. This research suggests that various countries manipulate language to reflect their political stances on this conflict. Both studies emphasize that political interests are prominently reflected in headlines, indicating that the primary concern for countries involved in this conflict is their own national interests. When this study is compared with the existing study, the following difference emerges: British newspapers developed news in line with their own country's interests and acted accordingly. However, the newspapers included in the research in Türkiye, especially two of them, developed a discourse in line with the Turkish state's Palestine policy, while the other two newspapers tried to present a more neutral image and drew attention to the humanitarian dimension of the conflict. Additionally, whereas Mohammed

(2023) demonstrated that headlines in Middle Eastern newspapers tend to support Palestine, Amer (2022) analyzed headlines from the BBC and The New York Times, revealing a clear bias in favor of Israel, which is quite contradictory to the existing research. These studies collectively indicate that newspapers in both Western and Arab countries aim to influence readers and public opinion by manipulating language in line with their political interests when reporting on the Palestine-Israel conflict.

The current study focused on the Palestinian and Israeli conflicts as reported by four newspapers with distinct ideologies that are actively operating in Turkey. The headlines were analyzed based on their topics, informational content, and the final messages conveyed through critical discourse analysis (CDA). The analysis revealed that these four ideologically diverse Turkish newspapers also covered the conflict in their headlines. Importantly, all the newspapers emphasized the humanitarian aspect of the conflict, describing the deaths as a tragedy. While most of the newspapers prominently supported Palestine, one newspaper refrained from taking sides but still highlighted the humanitarian dimension. Compared to newspapers from other countries, Turkish newspapers place greater emphasis on the human tragedy of the conflict rather than their own political interests. Finally, even in the same country, different ideologies may approach different issues differently, but when it comes to humanitarian issues, they can reach almost the same point.

5. Limitations

Examining Language and discourse through an ideological lens is a standard scholarly practice, particularly within the humanities and social sciences. The underlying assumption of such analyses is that authors or reporters may reveal their ideologies through language use, consciously or unconsciously. These ideologies can be uncovered through attentive reading, comprehension, or systematic analysis (Van Dijk, 1985). In this study, we utilized a Discourse Analysis Approach to scrutinize newspaper headlines from various publications representing diverse communities. However, it is essential to note that our study was confined to a limited selection of newspapers. Thus, the data collected may only partially represent the breadth of content found in newspapers overall. Furthermore, the current study has limitations in that it focuses only on the Palestine-Israel conflict (Joma et al., 2022); therefore, analyzing different newspaper headlines with different topics with CDA may reveal different ideologies. Conducting different studies in this field will be helpful in this context.

6. Conclusion and Recommendations

In conclusion, this study's application of CDA to news headlines regarding the Palestine-Israel conflict has illuminated the ideological disparities and convergences within Turkish media. Despite varying ideological orientations, newspapers such as Sözcü, Habertürk, Yeni Akit, and Türkgün can sometimes align on humanitarian is-

sues, highlighting common tragic elements in their coverage. This convergence suggests a complex interplay between ideology and reporting on human suffering. The research underscores the critical role of language in shaping public perception and reveals how underlying ideologies are subtly conveyed through linguistic choices in headlines. While this study offers insights, its scope is limited to four newspapers and a specific conflict, indicating the need for broader research across different contexts and media outlets. Future studies could expand on these findings by exploring a more comprehensive array of publications and conflicts, further enhancing our understanding of the relationship between language, ideology, and media discourse.

6.1. Implications

The present study also includes some possible implication within the scope of teaching English as a foreign language. In English language teaching, language teachers utilize various materials to enhance students' language skills. It is known that making these materials engaging and related to daily life positively impacts student motivation (Handayani & Dewi, 2021; Al-Faj'rii et al., 2025). These newspapers, offered to students, stand out as an unusual material in language teaching. Furthermore, the fact that these news items are current and relevant can lead to a more motivating learning process for students. Studies also exist on the use of newspapers in various areas of English language teaching, such as writing and grammar instruction (Özkan, 2015; Setyowati & Sukmawan, 2021; Joraboyev, 2021). Although the use of authentic newspapers is emphasized, it is considered that they can also be used effectively in texts adapted to the students' levels. In this context, in future studies, the following activity suggestions can be tested through an experimental teaching treatment in English language classrooms so that their effectiveness can be revealed. Newspaper headlines can be used as pre-reading activities in reading classes for advanced EFL students. They can be prepared to read these newspaper headlines with techniques such as brainstorming about these conflict situations under the theme of humanity. Moreover, to enhance their speaking skills, students may be asked to read news on this subject and share their thoughts on it with the help of discussion and debate techniques. In this context, since Turkish society actively knows this issue, it may be helpful to activate students' schemas. In addition, one of the speaking activities can be about the harmful consequences of such conflict situations for humanity. Moreover, EFL students can be asked to write a paragraph on this topic, which might benefit their writing skills. Finally, they can also assist in developing students' critical thinking abilities and enhancing their overall language proficiency.

Araştırma ve Yayın Etiği Beyanı

“Bu makale için etik kurul izni alınmasına gerek yoktur. Araştırma ve yayın etiğine uygun hareket edilmiştir.”

Yazarların Makaleye Olan Katkıları

“Makale tek yazarlıdır.”

Destek Beyanı

“Arařtırma herhangi bir kurum veya kuruluş tarafından desteklenmemiřtir.”

Çıkar Beyanı

“Makale tek yazarlıdır. Herhangi bir çıkar çatıřması yoktur.”

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