

Presidency of Council of Ministries

Shiite Endowment office

Imam Al-Kadhim College - Babylon

**News Treatment in the Electronic Journalism of Gaza
Issues: Analytical Study of the Iraqi News Agency**

Asst. Lect. Akram Khaleel Mohammad

Asst. Lect. Mohammad Dhafir Raheem

Asst. Lect. Anas Fadhil Mohammad Al Rubaiee

2022

Chapter One: Theoretical Background of the Study

1.1 Introduction

The new media has achieved an unprecedented revolution in the content of electronic journalism, the speed of its spread, and the journalistic work environment in the Internet era, until it has become a richer and more fertile content , the journalists found themselves in front of novel responsibilities and great tasks, its primary goal is to satisfy readers who are no longer believers of the enormous amount of information across the internet of what they believed in until a few years ago.

It has become necessary to monitor the impact and importance of the information era on the various journalistic arts, especially at a time when there is a lot of discourse about the future of the paper press, which is threatened with extinction alongside the electronic press, whose presence is increasing daily. Therefore, a scientific opportunity is discovered by studying news articles in electronic journalism to monitor the impact of the information era on the news as (the master of journalistic arts) and through its study, a road map can be drawn for the study of other journalistic arts.

1.2 Problem of the Study:

The problem focuses on how websites deal with news articles in the electronic journalism, in light of the large space it occupies on the Internet and the intensification of competition between the electronic newspapers themselves after exploiting the multiple features and advantages that the Internet has, which resulted in a diversity of technical methods in editing news, especially in terms of topics, genre, news values, nature of news material and technical templates used in constructing and drafting news, as well as its sources.

These categories formed the basis for the study problem, which will be addressed through study and analysis, as well as through answering the researcher questions, which are:

1- What is the level of interest that websites have (Iraqi News Agency website) in press coverage of a sudden global event?

2- The extent to which modern editing methods are used in forming and structuring of news articles (news, news story, news report), especially in terms of modern artistic templates in the Iraqi News Agency.

1.3 Importance of the Study:

It was embodied in seeking to reach accurate and clear scientific conclusions about how the electronic journalism deals with news material during immediate crises at the global level, through scientific research that establishes other research steps that can reinforce what this researcher went to that the method of dealing with news material, a news story, a news, or a news report in the electronic press took a different path from the traditional method recognized in the world of paper journalism.

1.4 Aims of the Study:

Throughout this study, the researcher sought to reach the following objectives:

1- Recognizing the extent of the interest of the electronic journalism (Iraqi News Agency) in the media coverage of the events in Gaza.

2- Getting to know the technical editorial templates used in the electronic journalism to formulate the news article according to modern editing methods in the electronic press (Iraqi News Agency).

3- Coming up with results that serve the community and the concerned institution, as well as providing a service to researchers and scholars in the field of scientific research.

1.5 Limitations of the Study:

Since it is customary for every scientific study to stand at certain limits, given that a single research cannot encompass all the different variables and factors; The limits of this study include the following:

A. Spatial limits: Due to the large number of websites that deal with journalistic arts, especially news material, the Iraqi News Agency was chosen in order to determine how it pays attention to news material compared to other events.

B. Time limits: The time limits for the study started on August, 1st, 2022 and ended on August, 7th, 2022, the period that represented the crisis in the Israeli attack on Gaza, ie: a period of one week during which the researcher followed up about two days of the news article published on the site and came out with a good outcome. One of the news articles that was put to study and analysis.

1.6 Design of the Study:

To choose a scientific method in scientific study is not an arbitrary matter, but rather a clear scientific path, so the researcher chose the descriptive survey method in his research, because it is based on studying the phenomenon of the problem as it is in real time and describing its current situation, the researcher also used the content analysis method to collect, record and analyze data through the appropriate categories and subcategories of the study, its problem and objectives.

1.7 Terms of the Study:

Given the importance of research dealing with journalistic arts used in the electronic press, and the overlap of terms and concepts in the searches related to this topic, the researcher considered setting a definition for some of the terms included in the current study for their importance, which are as follows:

1- Press treatment: part of the news coverage. After the media outlet or channel decides to adopt the event's full coverage of its various types seeks to obtain distinguished and current information about the event from its various sources,

and then the institution submits the raw media material to television, radio or journalistic treatment according to the medium and its arts.¹

2- News Articles in the Electronic Journalism: “a flowing means of communication through which events and facts are conveyed in an editorial style based on modern artistic templates imposed by the nature of the Internet, representing interaction through commenting on published articles.”²

3- Electronic Journalism Editing “digital writing”: simply, it means replacing the paper tools used by the editor with electronic tools that achieve a higher level of accuracy during the writing process, and changing the methods of receiving texts, the method of writing, the stability or movement of texts, fonts, and their branching, Or its interaction with other parallel texts or homonyms.

¹ Abood, M. Khalid, H. (2021). Frameworks for Dealing with Issues of Normalization in the UA. Al Ittihad Electronic Newspaper, Journal of Media Studies and Research, Iraqi University, Volume:3 issue:186

² Mahmood, A. (2020). Journalism Communication Techniques. Al Yazurdi Publication. Jordan, Amman.p16

Chapter Two: News ... Concepts and Characteristics

Section One: Press Release.. Concept .. Types

2.1.1 Press Release Concepts:

The news is the basis on which the “modern press” is based, with its many and varied means, written, audio, and audio-visual. It was also said that it is the creator of speech, investigation, report, article, post, interview, dialogue and other journalistic arts.

News in Arabic language is “what is conveyed and narrated by word or writing,” which is what carries truth and falsehood for its own sake, and the news is known linguistically “every statement that informed its listener with that he did not have.” And what is informed, for example, “ I gave him knowledge, and informed him of the true news, It is the news that has come to you about whom you are seeking information.”³

The concept of the news or its definition means that it is an “order” i.e. something that happens and is transmitted by people through their conversations or writing; Or it is the information about “cases that took place” and we are interested in knowing them so we will ask about them, so the news becomes “a report you received about the thing you ask about.”⁴

Dr. Farouk Abu Zaid states that there is no single definition of press news, because the concept of news is something that varies from era to era, and this means that adopting an absolute concept of news that applies to any time or any society is a matter that involves a disgraceful simplification or abstraction that ignores the reality of the discrepancy in circumstances. The difficulty of providing a comprehensive definition that prevents the news should not push to ignore the importance of the limitation this definition. Such type of ignorance may cause to confuse the concept of news with many terms related or close to it, such as confusing the concept of news on one hand with the elements of the news on the other hand. Or the confusion between the concept of the news and its elements on one hand and the essentials or conditions

³ Al-Mu’jam Al-Waseet, Volume 2, Al-Maaref Publication: 2nd Edition, Cairo, 1973. Al-Husseini, M. & Al-Zubaidi, M. (1965). Taj Al-Arous. Kuwait, Kuwait Government Press.

⁴ Khayat, Y. Ibn Manzur in Lisan Al Arab Al Muheet. Lisan Al-Arab Publication. Beirut. Volume,1

on the other hand, and it is also vital to understand that defining the news elements does not dispense the definition of the news itself.⁵

2.1.2 Press Release Types:

Identification of press release depends on the criterion on which the division is based, and can be divided into the following types:

A. Types of news according to geographical division, the criterion for this division is the place of occurrence of the news or its home, which is at the same time the location of the newspaper. According to this criterion, there are two types of news:⁶

1- Local news: It is the news that occurs in the community in which the newspaper is published.

2- Foreign news: It is the news that occurs outside the community in which the newspaper is published.

B. Thematic division of the news:

The subject of the news here is the criterion for division. There are political news, economic news, sports, artistic, literary, cultural, military, scientific and other news according to the type of facts presented by the news.

C. The chronological division of the news: This division is based on the time in which the event occurs, and therefore it is divided into two types:⁷

1- Expected news, and this is the news that the delegate knows in advance of its occurrence in terms of the place and time.

2- Unexpected news: It is the news that the informant doesn't know about and is not expected to happen, that is, those news that occur suddenly, such as news of disasters and accidents.

⁵ Abu-Zaid, F. (1981). *The art of Press News: A comparative Study Between Newspapers in Developed and developing societies*. Al-Shurooq Publication, p21. Beirut.

⁶ Lutfy, N. (1988). *Press News*. Al Taiseer Publication: p24. Cairo

⁷ Abu-Zaid, F. (1981). *The art of Press News: A comparative Study Between Newspapers in Developed and developing societies*. Al-Shurooq Publication, p27. Beirut.

D. The Prepared News and the Manufactured News, the prepared news is the news that the press representative does not make an effort to obtain, but rather comes ready through the public relations departments in the ministries and agencies. While the manufactured news is done by the efforts of the informant to procure, and its by his own creation and creativity.⁸

Section Two: Press News.. Editorial Templates, Elements and Values

Dr. Karam Shalaby believes that what is meant by news editing templates is that they are “forms” “models” or “methods” that are imitated when writing news, or in the forms and templates in which the information contained in the news is placed, and these information or facts that make up the news, are usually presented in one of The following three methods:⁹

1. The Narration Method:

It is the mention of information and facts in the manner of one who tells others something he has seen or conveys it to them.

This method is considered to be the easiest way to formulate the news, whether it is a "simple" story that depends on one fact, or a "combined" report that depends on a number of facts, that is gathered in one frame at the end.

2. The Transmission Method:

This method is used to publish the news that the delegate has obtained from statements by officials or official statements by the official spokesman, or speeches, letters etc.

3. The Narration and Transmitted Method of Speech:

It is the method that combines the two previous methods, so it uses narration, as it is transmitted from speakers or speeches, announcements, statements, etc., but this

⁸ Khayat, Y. Ibn Manzur in Lisan Al Arab Al Muheet. Lisan Al-Arab Publication. Beirut. Volume,1

⁹ Al-Mu'jam Al-Waseet, Volume 2, Al-Maaref Publication: 2nd Edition, Cairo, 1973. Al-Husseini, M. & Al-Zubaidi, M. (1965). Taj Al-Arous. Kuwait, Kuwait Government Press.

method is overly complicated, it is used only within narrow limits, when there are multiple resources of the news, and the variations of facts and angles. This method is limited to the compound news and in certain cases only.¹⁰

2.2.1 News Resources:

The resource of the press release is meant to refer to the tool through which the newspaper obtains the press release. This source may be a person such as senior official figures or foreign figure and other live sources, and this source also may be a party such as news agencies, local and foreign radio stations, advertisements, official and popular bulletins, ministries, authority and private and public institutions.¹¹ Many other sources that can be received on computers, which are networks full of provided information from different parts of the world on different topics, and many newspapers.¹²

2.2.2 Private News Services

There are private publishing agencies, companies or authorities that are obtaining some news, information or special topics uniquely and sell them to some newspapers according to special agreements with these newspapers. They also may be unique in giving some newspapers the right to publish some news press scoops, curtail books or exciting press campaigns or some private topic.

2.2.3 News Values:

Making a decision regarding the vitality of events and topics that must be addressed in the news is one of the most important things that the journalist should pay attention to, especially if there are a huge number of events that the world witnesses daily. Determining the news values is the guarantor of reaching this decision.

¹⁰ Lutfy, N. (1988). Press News. Al Taiseer Publication: p48. Cairo

¹¹ Abu-Zaid, F. (1981). The art of Press News: A comparative Study Between Newspapers in Developed and developing societies. Al-Shurooq Publication,p101. Beirut.

¹² Abu-Zaid, F. (1981). The art of Press News: A comparative Study Between Newspapers in Developed and developing societies. Al-Shurooq Publication,p40-41. Beirut.

News values are the set of physical and mental criteria on the basis of which the event is transformed into a press release. They are the characteristics associated with the interaction between the event and the audience, which reveal the essence of the event and its social usage, that is: changing it into a subject for viewing, knowledge and understanding.

Chapter Three

Section One: Iraqi News Agency (INA)

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) is the first news agency in Iraq, and the second agency to be launched in the region after the Egyptian Middle East News Agency. It was established during the era of former President Abdel Karim Qassem in March of the year 1959, as an official news agency, and a number of Iraqi journalists contributed to its establishment, including Mohsen Hussein, Hamid Rashid and Ahmed Kattan.

Agency Law No. 158 was issued in 1959, and after it was published in the official newspaper on October 6 of the same year, the first news bulletin printed on paper bearing the agency's name was launched on November 9, 1959.

Nine months prior to that date, particularly, in the early days of March 1959, two journalists who were working in Al-Bilad newspaper, Mohsen Hussein and Hamid Rashid, were summoned to meet the director of the radio at the time (Salim Al-Fakhri), and he informed them that the government had decided to establish an official news agency similar to the Egyptian Middle East News Agency (Middle East News Agency M.E.N.A.), and that they were chosen to create a heart for this agency and that it will be linked to the radio until the completion of the necessary legal procedures for the establishment of the agency.

The agency started its work in a room located on the right side of the radio entrance in the Salhiya area in central Baghdad, in the name of (the Liaison Office), and the work was initially daily rounds to ministries and organizations to collect news and return to the radio at noon to edit, print and reproduce these news. A copy of it is delivered to broadcasters for broadcast and distribution The rest is up for local newspapers to be published the next day. The office received the statements of the ministries and official statements from the ministers for inclusion in the bulletin, as well as the statements of the Council of Ministers and interviews of senior officials. The bulletin of the liaison office continued to be issued regularly for nearly nine months.

On October 6, 1959, the agency law and its system were issued in the Official newspaper, and Ahmed Qattan was appointed as the first director general of the Iraqi News Agency (INA), and the Minister of media, Dr. Faisal Al-Samer, made a great effort in establishing the agency and issuing its law.¹³

Section Two: Practical Aspect

Table (1): Shows the news sources that Elaph electronic newspaper relied on to cover the events in Gaza

S	Category	Repetition	Percentage	Value Scale
1	Official statements	9	28.64%	1
2	Websites	2	28.14%	2
3	International news agencies	1	14.7%	3
4	Other resources	1	14.7%	3
5	Reporters	0	0	0
	Total	14	100%	

Table (1) shows that the first category of official statements received 9 recurrences, with a rate of 28.64 %. This indicates that the newspaper relied directly on official statements by the Palestinian and Israeli perspectives in reporting the events in Gaza.

As for the second category, websites got a repeat rate of 2 with a rate of 28.14%. This shows that the agency depends indirectly on reporting Gaza events on international news agencies in covering the events in Gaza.

As for the rest of the categories, they came in lagging positions and at very low rates, indicating that the agency did not rely on international agencies and press sources for its press coverage, and there is no coverage of its correspondents in the field.

¹³ The Iraqi News Agency Website: <https://www.ina.iq/aboutus.html>

Table (2): Shows the journalistic forms expressed by the Iraqi News Agency in its coverage of the events in Gaza

S	Category	frequency	Percentage	Value Scale
1	Press reports	10	40%	1
2	Press Images	10	40%	1
3	Press releases	5	20%	2
4	articles	0	0	0
5	Investigations and reports	0	0	0
	Total	25	100%	

Table (2) shows that the first category of press reports got a frequency of 10 and a percentage of 40%. This indicates that the newspaper relied directly on the press report template in reporting the events of Gaza.

As for the second category, press images got a frequency of 10 and a percentage of 40%, which shows the agency's dependence on digital reinforcements from direct images of Gaza events.

As for press interviews, they got 5 frequencies, with a rate of 20%. It shows that the agency in its coverage relied on media statements about the events in Gaza.

Recommendations:

1- The researchers recommend the necessity of expanding the coverage of the Iraqi News Agency of the events in Gaza due to its representation of a media importance that may push the followers to move to other agencies to find out more events.

2- The importance of the presence of reporters in the field to cover the exclusive events of the agency and not to rely on the statements of the two parties.

3- The vitality of having investigations and press reports about the events because they represent a journalistic depth that feeds the recipient with information.