



A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS ON THE
FRAMING OF POLITICAL NEWS ON
PRINCE HAMZEH ACCUSATIONS
IN AL GHAD AND AL RAI
ONLINE NEWSPAPERS.



MOHAMMAD HAMZEH MOHAMMAD
ALMOMANI

SULTAN IDRIS EDUCATION UNIVERSITY

2023



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NEWSPAPERS.**

MOHAMMAD HAMZEH MOHAMMAD ALMOMANI

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DR. LOH YOKE LING
Pensyarah Kemahiran
Jabatan Komunikasi & Media
Fakulti Bahasa & Komunikasi
Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris
lohyokeling@upsi.edu.my

Tarikh

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Jabatan Komunikasi & Media
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ABSTRACT

Jordan is a small and developing country that lacks good proper journalism. In addition, media bias is considered good journalism due to its wide use and because of governmental interference through laws and policies. This research aims to identify the framing of politics in Jordanian media through a comparative content analysis on the Al Ghad and Al Rai newspaper's online coverage. Furthermore, this research identifies the volume of coverage regarding the Prince Hamzeh accusations to comprehend the level of importance different media outlets show towards certain types of news stories. The slant of news partiality in the news article's regarding the Prince Hamzeh accusations is evaluated from April 2021 to June 2022. This study is conducted through content analyses included qualitative and quantitative method. The human interest, morality, conflict, responsibility and consequence frames are used to identify the framing of politics and to be specific, the coverage of the Prince Hamzeh issue in Jordanian online news. The findings of this study display a stronger emphasis on the coverage of the Prince Hamzeh issue by the official newspaper Al Rai, with 118 news publications. Al Ghad also displayed a form of importance to the Prince Hamzeh issue with 44 news publications. High implementation of the five types of news frames selected is found in the news headlines and body text of the news articles in Al Ghad and Al Rai. In addition, the language used in the selected news articles carried a dominant volume of slant.

ANALISIS PERBANDINGAN PEMBINGKAIAN MEDIA TERHADAP LIPUTAN BERITA TUDUHAN POLITIK PUTERA HAMZAH DALAM TALIAN AL-GHAD DAN AL-RAI

ABSTRAK

Jordan merupakan sebuah negara kecil dan sedang membangun yang kurang menitikberatkan kewartawanan telus. Dalam pada itu, media yang berat sebelah dianggap sebagai kewartawanan yang baik atas sebab campur tangan kerajaan melalui penguatkuasaan undang-undang mahupun polisi dan juga kerana penerapan luas budaya media tersebut. Tujuan utama kajian ini adalah untuk mengenal pasti kerangkaan politik dalam media Jordan melalui analisis perbandingan kandungan terhadap liputan berita yang disediakan oleh akhbar atas talian *Al Ghad* dan *Al Rai*. Selain itu, kajian ini akan mengenal pasti jumlah liputan berita yang berfokuskan tentang pertuduhan Putera Hamzah untuk memahami jenis-jenis berita yang dianggap penting oleh saluran media di Jordan dalam bentuk analisis kandungan. Kecondongan berita yang berkaitan dengan Putera Hamzah telah ditaksirkan melalui sorotan berita dari April 2021 sehingga Jun 2022. Kajian ini menggunakan analisis kandungan di mana analisis kandungan akan dilaksanakan dengan pendekatan kualitatif dan kuantitatif. Rangkaian kepentingan manusia, moral, konflik, tanggungjawab dan konsekuensi digunakan untuk mengenal pasti kerangkaan politik dan juga, secara lebih spesifik, liputan berita terhadap isu berkait Putera Hamzah dalam berita atas talian di Jordan. Dapatan kajian ini menunjukkan bahawa terdapat penekanan yang kuat dalam liputan berita yang berkaitan dengan isu Putera Hamzah oleh surat akhbar rasmi *Al Rai* dengan 118 terbitan berita. *Al-Ghad* juga mengetengahkan isu Putera Hamzah dengan 44 terbitan berita. *Al Ghad* dan *Al Rai* juga menerapkan lima rangka berita dalam penulisan tajuk berita utama dan juga isi artikel. Tambahan pula, jenis bahasa yang digunakan secara dominan dalam artikel-artikel berita tersebut bersifat condong.



CONTENTS

	Page
DECLARATION OF ORIGINAL WORK	ii
DECLARATION OF DISSERTATION	iii
ACKNOWLEDGMENT	v
ABSTRACT	vi
ABSTRAK	vii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	viii
LIST OF TABLES	xii
LIST OF FIGURES	xiv



LIST OF ABBREVIATION

xv

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.0	Research Background	1
1.1	Problem Statement	5
1.1.1	Research Gap	8
1.2	Research Objectives	10
1.3	Research Questions	10
1.4	Theoretical Framework	10
1.4.1	Research Framework	13
1.5	Conceptual Framework	14
1.6	Research Scope	16
1.7	Operational Definition	17



1.8	Study Limitations	22
1.9	Importance of Research	22
1.10	Upon Completion of The Study	23
1.11	Chapter Outline	24

CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1	Introduction	26
2.2	Media Bias	28
2.3	Censorship	30
2.4	The Power of Communication Through Media & Journalism	32
2.5	Previous Research	33
2.6	Fundamental Theories of the Research	34
2.6.1	Media Framing	35
2.6.2	Types of Frames	36
2.6.3	Conflict Frame	37
2.6.4	Human Interest Frame	38
2.6.5	Responsibility Frame	39
2.6.6	Consequence Frame	39
2.6.7	Morality Frame	39
2.6.8	News Sources	40
2.7	Online News Platforms	43
2.7.1	Al Rai	43
2.7.2	Al Ghad	43
2.8	Framing of Politics	44

2.9	Framing of Conflicting Events	45
2.10	The Al Hamzeh Event	45
2.11	The Media Environment of Jordan	46
2.12	Jordans Constitutional Monarchy	47
2.13	Prince Hamzeh	48
2.14	Media Bias in Jordan	50
2.15	Negative Affects of Polarized Media	55
2.16	Media & Journalism Influence in Jordan	56
2.17	Laws & Policies Anent Media in Jordan	56
2.18	Contemporary Developments	59
2.19	Social Media Impact in Jordan	59
2.20	Summary	60

CHAPTER 3 METHODOLOGY

3.1	Introduction	62
3.2	Research Approach	62
3.3	Methods / Techniques of Analyzing Data	63
3.4	Data Collection Procedures	65
3.5	Content Analysis	67
3.6	Sampling	68
3.7	Instruments	71
3.8	Validity and Reliability	74
3.9	Methodological Triangulation	81
3.10	Summary	82

**CHAPTER 4****FINDINGS**

4.1	Introduction	84
4.2	Content Analysis	87
4.2.1	Volume of News	88
4.2.2	Framing of News Headlines	92
4.2.3	Framing of News Article's Body Text	104
4.2.4	Slanted Language That Was Used in the News article's	119
4.3	Content Analysis Part Two	126
4.3.1	Background	127
4.3.2	News Volume	127
4.3.3	News Sources	128
4.3.4	Comparing Al Rai and Al Ghad	129
4.3.5	The Framing of Al Hamzeh Considering Slant in The Headlines	130
4.3.6	The Framing of Al Hamzeh Considering Slant in The Body Text	132
4.4	Summary	141

CHAPTER 5**DISCUSSION, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

5.1	Introduction	138
5.2	Discussion and Conclusions	142
5.3	Significance of The Study	179
5.4	Recommendation of Future Research	181
5.5	Interview with Practitioners	182
5.6	Summary	184



REFERENCES	189
Appendix A	202
Appendix B	208



LIST OF TABLES

No. Table		Page
1.0	Displays the conceptual and operational definitions	18
3.0	The interpretation of Cohan Kappa's level of agreement.	75
3.1	The results of Cohan Kappa's inter-rater reliability test.	77
4.1	Frequency of news coverage of the Prince Hamzeh in Al Ghad and Al Rai online	88
4.2	News Sources used by Al Rai and Al Ghad in the coverage of the Prince Hamzeh accusations.	89
4.3	Al Ghad & Al Rai use of the Human Interest Frame in its News Headlines	92
4.4	Displays the uses of the Human Interest Frame in the news headlines	93
4.5	Al Ghad & Al Rai use of the Morality Frame in the News headlines	95
4.6	Displays the uses of the Morality Frame in the news headlines.	96
4.7	Al Ghad & Al Rai use of the Conflict Frame in the News headlines.	97
4.8	Displays the uses of the Morality Frame in the news headlines.	98
4.9	Al Ghad & Al Rai use of the Responsibility Frame in the News Headlines	100



4.10	Al Ghad & Al Rai usage of the Responsibility Frame in the News headlines	101
4.11	Al Ghad & Al Rai use of the Consequence Frame in the News headlines	102
4.12	The uses of the Consequence Frame in the Headline of the selected news Articles.	103
4.13	Al Ghad & Al Rai use of the Human Interest Frame in the article's body text.	105
4.14	The application of the Human Interest frame in the body text of the selected news Articles.	105
4.15	Al Ghad & Al Rai use of the Morality Frame in the Article's body text.	107
4.16	Displays the uses of the Morality Frame in the Article's body text	108
4.17	Al Ghad & Al Rai use of the Conflict Frame in the Article's body text.	109
4.18	Examples of the Conflict Frame in the news Article's body text.	111
4.19	Al Ghad & Al Rai use of the Responsibility Frame in the Article's body text	113
4.20	Examples of the Responsibility Frame in the news Article's body text.	114
4.21	Al Ghad & Al Rai use of the Consequence Frame in the Article's body text	116
4.22	Examples of the Consequence Frame in the news Article's body text.	116



4.23	Al Ghad and Al Rai use of Slant (Supportive) in the coverage of Prince Hamzeh news case.	119
4.24	Al Ghad & Al Rai use of Slant (Neutral) in the coverage of Prince Hamzeh news case.	120
4.25	Al Ghad & Al Rai implementation of the category of Neutral Slant.	121
4.26	Al Ghad & Al Rai use of Slant (Oppose) in the coverage of Prince Hamzeh news case.	123
4.27	Al Ghad & Al Rai implementation of the category of Oppose Slant.	125





LIST OF FIGURES

Figure No.		Page
1.0	The framework of this research.	13
1.1	The conceptual framework of this research.	15





LIST OF ABBREVIATION

CDFJ	Centre for Defending Freedom of Journalists
JRTVC	Jordan Radio and Television Corporation
MENA	Middle East & North Africa
PM	Prime Minister
PBUH	Peace Be Upon Him
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
UAE	United Arab Emirates



CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Research Background

The government of Jordan is an authoritarian government that consists in a framework of a parliamentary monarchy where the Prime Minister takes the head of the government, bearing in mind a multi-party system; the ruling King of Jordan has the power to change any law and any governmental official (Augustyn et al., n.d.).

Media and journalism are affected negatively by many laws and practices in Jordan, such as management and censorship; furthermore, there is still little research done on the issues surrounding the press (Spies, 2017; Sakr, 2015; Lewis & Nashmi, 2019).

Spies, as a former journalist in the U.S. who reported on online journalism,



ensorship, and the creation of knowledge in Jordan, found that Jordan is one of the MENA (Middle East & North Africa) region countries where media bias is the accepted norm (Spies, 2017), and this is because what is considered a problem and a complication developed into what has become a widely accepted implication in the society.

Under current Jordanian Law, notably Law 35 of 2000, the publicly funded Jordan Radio and Television Corporation (JRTVC – created in 1985, merging the Jordan Radio and Jordan Television) is not constituted to represent or engage groups across the spectrum of Jordanian society, nor is there explicit recognition that JRTVC has the mandate of public service broadcaster (Sakr, 2015). JRTVC is categorized as a state-controlled broadcasting system, thus disqualifying it from being a Public Service Media due to the lack of independence, impartiality in terms of funding, programming, and management (Miladi & Mellor, 2020). The JRTVC broadcasts only what is in the interest of the state.

This study investigates the framing of politics considering slant (a form of news partiality and media bias) in online Jordanian news media considering governmental and independent news agencies. In addition, articles about the Prince Hamzeh accusations are chosen as the main units of analysis.

Prince Hamzeh of Jordan was arrested with two highly diplomatic figures, the two diplomatic figures are Bassem Awadallah and Sharif Zeid; these two figures were later sentenced to prison. The two figures, Bassem Awadallah, a former royal court chief and an advisor to the Saudi crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman, and King



Abdullah II's first cousin, Sharif Hassan bin Zeid, were found guilty of sedition (Arraf, 2021).

Due to the background of the news case and because of who is involved in the news story makes it a highly political case for research, opposing the idea of it being a case for social issue studies, and because the news issue is about a political figure criticizing government and corruption.

Authoritarian Government laws in the Middle East that shape the media industry into a tool that renders their agendas is the current situation; not only are those laws played out in the media industry, but they play a crucial role in the education system as well, Spies states:

Further acculturation to media red-lines takes place in Jordan's university journalism programs and media training institutions (Spies, 2017).

In Jordan, the constitution is set to protect freedoms; however, the different laws and policies that are adjusted outside the constitution implement non-direct forms of oppressing media freedoms and self-expression; due to certain policies, the media outlets are practising self-censorship, fearing to cross the red-line and getting shut down (Lewis & Nashmi, 2019).

Media bias is the bias of journalists and news producers within the mass media in the selection of many events and stories that are reported and how they are covered (Mackey & Jacobson, 2019). Factors influencing media bias can include ownership or



source of income of the media outlet or a specific political or ideological stance of the outlet and its audience (Hamborg et al., 2018).

Due to the status of Jordanian news media, news partiality is focused on in this research, especially considering the slant that is used in the language of each article selected from AL Rai and al Ghad online news; this is conducted through a content analysis to identify the application of the five types of news frames and identify the volume of coverage to fully comprehend the media environment in Jordan.

Slant is the primary element that is examined in this study and on the units of analysis; in addition, there are several types of media bias that are covered in the literature review; each type of media bias has a special role in misleading, the different forms of media bias that are covered in this research are Spin, Unsubstantiated Claims, Opinion Statements Presented as Facts, Sensationalism/Emotionalism, Mudslinging/Ad Hominem, Mind Reading, Slant, Flawed Logic, Bias by Omission, Omission of Source Attribution, Subjective Qualifying Adjectives and Bias by Placement (Mastrine, 2021).

Media bias does not always mean fake information or news; however, it does always mislead; this is done by manipulating the language or tone of the news that is presented (Hamborg et al., 2018).





1.1 Problem Statement

According to Media Use In The Middle East (2019), Jordan is a Middle Eastern country that lacks good world ranking and has declining standards when it comes to media and journalism practices, one of the biggest issues in news production in Jordan is media bias, which is an ongoing problem that differs in concentration depending on the location and country, but is not considered a problem in Jordan, due its wide use it has become a normal phenomenon (Spies, 2017).

News partiality has negative consequences on both public and individual perceptions of the news information and highly impacts politics in Jordan. The negative affects of media bias include limited social cohesion of the population and negative affects on education (Hamborg et al., 2019). Although the internet has introduced many developments in the fields of communication, popular media outlets are still the primary source of information on contemporary events; thus, when the news outputs media bias in Jordan, the news consumers are subject to shaping similar bias views. One of the negative affects of media bias on society is the polarization of public opinion, which complicates conflicts (Hamborg et al., 2019).

Furthermore, Jordan's media problems are directly linked to governments control and laws & policies; according to Spies (2017), it is because of political agenda, government interference, and control in the media industry that causes a challenging place to work in for journalists and media outlets. Oppression, aggression consequences, self-censorship, and governmental are some of what the major journalist population faces in Jordan (Husseini, 2019). In an oppression-free media industry in





Jordan, the professional workplace standards would be higher for journalists; journalists would not fear censorship and aggression, nor would they output partial news that they would publish due to different forms of oppression. Due to laws and customs enabling censorship, both formal and self-imposed by educational systems (Spies, 2017; Sakr, 2015; Lewis & Nashmi, 2019), there is not enough evidence nor literature that identifies or analyses the news partiality, especially on politics in Jordan through legitimate research.

To further explore and provide more insight into media operations in Jordan, this study identifies the framing of Jordanian politics considering slant in online news; slant is a type of media bias. The Prince Hamzeh accusations is chosen for content analysis as it is one of a kind event that took place recently in Jordan and is highly political on a national level. In April 2021, Prince Hamzeh, who is the King's brother, criticized the government of Jordan and its management, thus creating a national outrage yet at the same time, many supporters (Sweis et al., 2021), furthermore different laws & policies that are put by the government are used to shut down media outlets for making even the slightest criticism such as the press and publication law and the cybercrime law, both laws are used to oppress and aggress both media outlets and journalists (Alsondos, 2021). Many Jordanian figures and journalists face arrest due to laws & policies that do not favour the constitution, such as the cybercrime law, which is used as a legal justification for arrests and requesting a license for broadcasting live on social media (Alsondos, 2021). The previous crown Prince of Jordan, Prince Hamzeh, was arrested for criticizing the amount of corruption in the country without even pointing fingers.





This research starts by highlighting the different Journalism and media issues in the literature review while using specific examples such as the UAE, Israel & Jordan water deal, corrupted laws & policies, and the Prince Hamzeh accusations. While different studies acknowledged media bias in Jordanian media, little research is yet to uncover its implication in the news systems (Spies, 2017; Sakr, 2015; Lewis & Nashmi, 2019); this study proceeds further in depth by analyzing online news and identifying the news slant through a comparative analysis of the framing of political online news coverage in Jordan. Without this research, slant and partiality will continue to be uncovered in the literature, and the problems mentioned will continue unacknowledged. Furthermore, this research has its own approach to addressing the Jordanian online news; it identifies the framing of politics in online news in Jordan while focusing on slant and considering government and independent news agencies Al Rai & Al Ghad, which are also two of the biggest news agencies in Jordan. The Jordan Press Foundation was established in March, 1971 by Prime Minister Wasfi Al-Tal with the aim of producing a media communication establishment capable of delivering messages to the public (Jones, 1989). Al Rai newspaper is a pro-government Jordanian newspaper established by the Jordan Press Foundation and owned by stakeholders, the government of Jordan holds stakes in many media entities as well. Through the Social Security Corporation, the Jordanian government holds 55% of Al Rai shares (Richter & Kozman, 2021). Al Ghad is a privately owned and 10th most visited website in the MENA region; Al Ghad is an independent Jordanian newspaper that was founded in August, 2004. Al Ghad publishes five main sections which are local news, international and regional news, sports news, economic news and health and lifestyle news (Adwan, 2020).



In addition, through a comparative content analysis, this study analyzes the political news coverage by analyzing the Prince Hamzeh news story, which was intensively covered locally. This research identifies the level of importance each news outlet emphasized regarding the Prince Hamzeh news story through identifying the volume of coverage in Al Rai and Al Ghad; the framing of Prince Hamzeh news story is then analyzed through a hybrid coding approach considering the five news frames which are commonly used in the media discourse and are also known as “ the generic frames or structural themes” (Semetko & Valkenburg, 1999). Furthermore, the news articles of Prince Hamzeh are evaluated using supportive, neutral or oppose considering slant.

1.1.1 Research Gap

Some research studies have covered topics such as media independence in Jordan and laws & policies regarding the press. However, no research has been conducted using the framing to identify the way media covers politics in online news media in Jordan and compare independent to governmental online news coverage to display a full comprehension of the media environment. According to Lewis & Nashmi (2019), Across the region, investigative journalism is hampered by limited access to information, state control that imposes blinders both explicit and presumed, and norms that favour continuity and eschew confrontation. Due to the lack of access to information and lack of independence in public institutions and universities, even such research would be considered criticizing the government and can lead to profound consequences in Jordan (Spies, 2017; Sakr, 2015; Lewis & Nashmi, 2019).



Current literature shows that laws and customs enable censorship, both formally and self-imposed (Lewis & Nashmi, 2019), by education systems that may not prepare journalists for independent thinking (Lewis & Nashmi, 2019).

Current literature displays a large amount of research done on the framing of a wide range of topics such as feminism, terrorism, refugee crisis, national identity and international affairs, however not the framing of politics in Jordanian online news, considering the government's interplay and media bias.

The closest research to this study that is found in the literature is on the news values in the Jordanian press of Al Rai and Al Ghad newspapers. The findings of this research by Al Adwan (2020) show support to the main cause of this study. Al Adwan concluded 64.3% of the contents of Al Rai newspaper reflect the attitudes of the individuals, coalitions and political parties of Jordan, whereas only 35.7% for Al Ghad. Al Adwan (2020) research states in a general manner relating to this research that Al Rai newspaper is the closest in demonstrating the media and the political speech of the government. Whereas the ownership of Al Ghad newspaper belongs to the private sector (Al Adwan, 2020). This study dives deeper into identifying the framing of politics in Jordanian online news, considering independent and governmental news agencies by overviewing online media news and analyzing the Prince Hamzeh accusations. This research judges the media environment in Jordan and is proof for many questions regarding the media coverage standards.





1.2 Research Objectives

By the end of this research, this study aims to meet the following objectives:

- i. To identify the volume of coverage of the Prince Hamzeh accusations devoted by Al Rai and Al Ghad news agencies.
- ii. To analyze the news frames and news slant used by Al Rai and Al Ghad news outlets about the Prince Hamzeh accusations.
- iii. To evaluate the news frames and news slant used by the news agencies Al Rai and Al Ghad on the Prince Hamzeh accusations.

1.3 Research Questions



The objective of this study is to answer the following research questions:



- i. What is the volume of coverage devoted to the Prince Hamzeh accusations online by Al Rai and Al Ghad?
- ii. What types of news frames and news slant were used by the online news agencies Al Rai and Al Ghad to portray the Prince Hamzeh accusations?
- iii. How were the news frames and news slant used by the different news agencies Al Rai and Al Ghad regarding the Prince Hamzeh accusations

1.4 Theoretical Framework

Framing theory suggests the interpretation of how information is presented to the audiences and viewers, which is called “the frame” influences the decisions and views people make about how to process the information (Arowolo, 2017), is used to evaluate media practices in Jordan and to understand the framing of politics considering online





independent and governmental news outlets. The framing theory is implemented and analyzed through an evaluation of a recent accusations coverage and a content analysis. The framing theory is the most suitable to evaluate Jordanian online news, while the coverage volume of the accusations is tested to provide further comprehension of the media environment and the Prince Hamzeh accusations 's level of importance considering the media it was published in.

Identifying media practices in the framing of the Prince Hamzeh accusations in popular Jordanian news outlets will provide clear recognition of the media status in Jordan, especially comparing official and independent news sources on news politics. The media framing is conducted through a comparative content analysis of how different Jordanian news outlets, independent and official, covered the Prince Hamzeh accusations, also an overly sensitive and political news case.

The approach of this framework consideration is mainly deductive since it investigates frames defined before any investigation or evaluation is conducted.

A national independent news agency (Al Ghad) and a governmental news agency (Al Rai) are chosen for the content analysis, which are to be compared with each other.

The main reason for choosing two national news agencies to be compared with each other is to identify the differences in the framing of political news in Jordan, considering the different news sources and types of news. Furthermore, the





independent news agency Al Ghad and the official news agency Al Rai are chosen for this study to overview and uncover the media environment in Jordan and other media practices.

There are three main objectives that the content analysis aims at succeeding: the first one is to identify the extent of coverage of the Prince Hamzeh news story, and the second objective focuses on evaluating the slant in the news articles from Al Ghad and Al Rai. The third and last objective of this research study is to explore & analyze the frames used by Al Ghad & Al Rai online newspapers to fulfill this research's requirement and to fully understand the framing of politics in Jordanian media news through the analyzation of the Prince Hamzeh news case.



using the article's collected for this research to be analyzed using the statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) software in the following format:

1. The volume of coverage and the extent in which the two Jordanian newspapers Al Rai and Al Ghad reported on the Prince Hamzeh news story will be calculated manually regarding the number of articles published online and chronicled in the content analysis.
2. To identify and evaluate the use of news frames and slant, the content analysis, which is used for part 1, is used to portray the five types of frames, which are human interest, consequences, responsibility, morality and conflict. The content analysis reports the five types of news frames in a quantitative approach.
3. In examining the framing of the Prince Hamzeh accusations news coverage, SPSS software will be used considering the qualitative and quantitative approaches through a content analysis in identifying whether the slant used is supportive, neutral or opposed.



1.4.1 Research Framework

The content analysis is executed on the framing of Prince Hamzeh's accusations in Al Rai and Al Ghad's online news coverage. News headlines and body text in varied articles are evaluated and coded to be analyzed. The findings of the content analysis are to provide certified & detailed comprehension of the Jordanian media environment.

This research which conducts a content analysis on the five types of news frames that are most familiar and used in media discourse identified as “generic frames” or “Structural themes” (Semetko & Valkenburg 1999; Matthes & Kohring 2008), and the volume of coverage regarding the Prince Hamzeh accusations, extends further to reveal and analyze the language in the news article's that the media platforms published and considering slant in a comprehensive content analysis. Identifying the volume of news

coverage on the Prince Hamzeh case also provides support in comprehending the media environment in Jordan

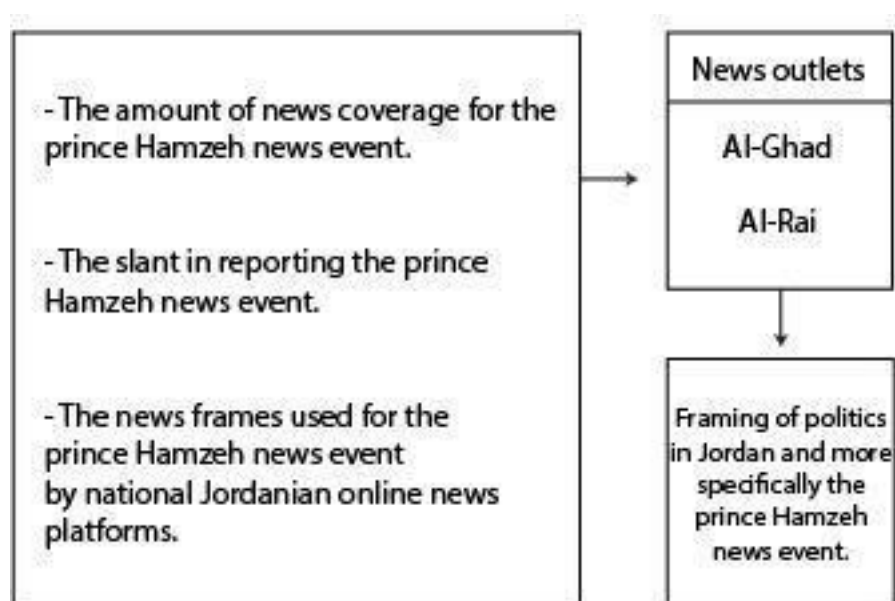


Figure 1.0. The framework of this research.



Figure two explains the three main objectives of this research study and the two news agencies that are being analyzed to identify the framing of politics in Jordan and, more specifically, the Prince Hamzeh accusations.

1.5 Conceptual Framework

This study reveals a conceptual framework such as the one illustrated in Figure 1, which is drawn from the comprehension of the news description and considering the qualitative and quantitative approaches of the content analysis. Online news agencies such as Al Rai and Al Ghad play a crucial role in interpreting and constructing the Prince Hamzeh news story. The mass media, such as newspapers and TV news, are considered the primary mechanism of influence in modern society by operating, transforming, and limiting information (Alloh et al., 2021).

This research has two parts, the first being a quantitative content analysis, which includes the following variables:

- (i) The two online newspapers: Al Ghad and Al Rai.
- (ii) The two different types of online news are:
 - Official or governmental (Al Rai)
- (iii) Independent news (Al Ghad) The other two variables are:
 - (i) The volume of coverage, & attention on the Prince Hamzeh news.
 - (ii) The five types of news frames.



The content analysis will examine how the coverage and framing of Prince Hamzeh's news articles selected by Al Rai and Al Ghad help in identifying the way politics in Jordan is broadcasted to the public by the news media.

The second part is a qualitative content analysis which includes the following variables:

- (i) It is a supportive, oppose and neutral story.
- (ii) Similarities and differences in reporting by the independent and official newspapers.

Figure 1.1 presents the research in a conceptual framework that includes two distinct news classifications (official or governmental and independent), each classification is with a background consisting of a different industrial outlook.

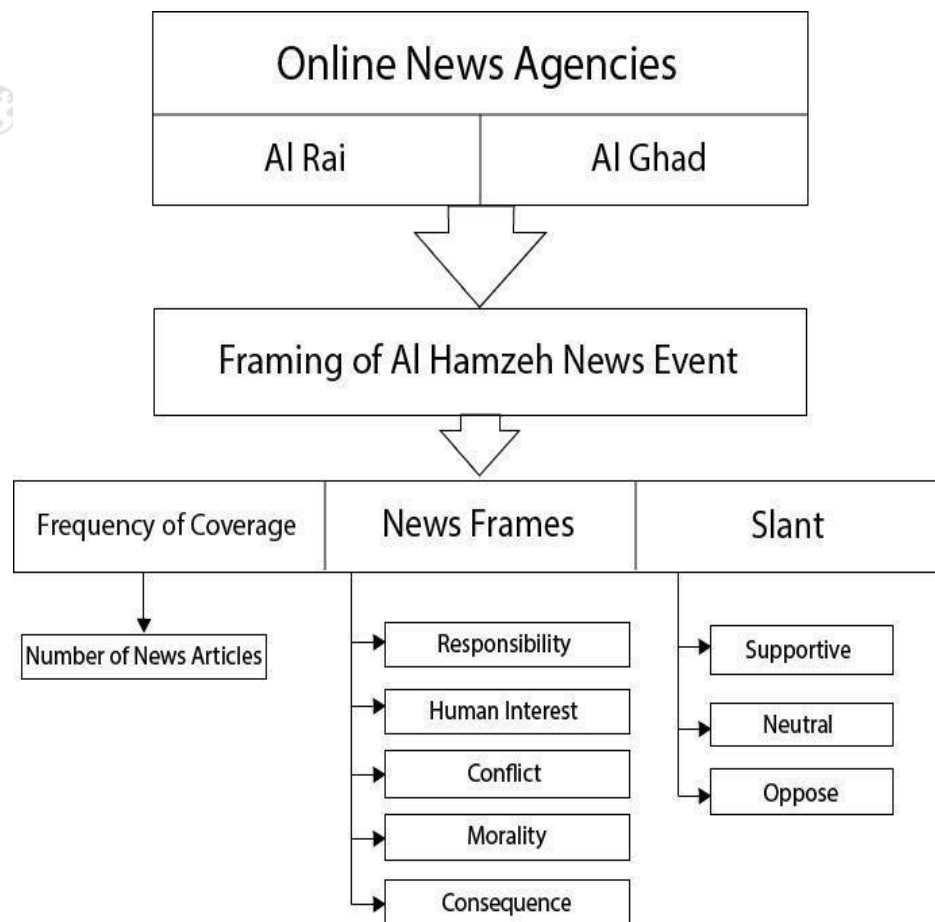


Figure 1.1. The conceptual framework of this research.



In the news frames section, as seen in figure 1.1, the articles are analyzed for the Responsibility frame first, the Human-Interest frame second, the Conflict frame, the Morality frame, and the final frame to be analyzed in the news articles is the Consequence frame. Each frame is identified and analyzed by the coders; the process is done manually using the data collected from the news text.

The slant, however, is analyzed using a qualitative and manual coding method; this is done with three key points, which are oppose, neutral and supportive. SPSS is used as a tool in coding to provide assistance and recording.

1.6 Research Scope

Whilst the framing of many topics in Jordanian news media has been studied, the framing of politics especially has been barely touched on; the framing of politics in Jordanian news considering the independent and governmental news agencies is poorly understood. The framing of politics is also the most descriptive of the media environment of Jordan since it is a sensitive area that tackles the core of the media issue in Jordan. The aim of this study is to research the framing of politics in the Jordanian media considering governmental and independent online news through investigating and identifying the framing of Prince Hamzeh's accusations.

The Prince Hamzeh accusations is chosen for the content analysis because it was covered extensively on a national level by all newspapers and media platforms, the accusations is entirely political, thus making it a great topic for the content analysis, and since this study identifies the framing of politics in Jordanian news media.





In this research, an essential approach is taken to overview updates regarding freedom of the press and media independence to fully understand the media environment in Jordan.

This research implements the content analysis on two of the most popular Jordanian newspapers, Al Rai and Al Ghad newspapers and considers the Prince

Hamzeh accusations over fourteen months, starting April fifth 2021 and ending June fifth, 2022.

The main theory that is emphasized in this research is the framing theory because it unravels the way the news media covers the Al Hamzeh news issue.



1.7 Operational Definition

This study is conducted using the qualitative and quantitative approach. The main approach or tactic that falls under the content analysis is a comparison of news coverage between official and independent online news outlets regarding the Prince Hamzeh accusations, considering the framing of language tone that is used to portray Prince Hamzeh and slant, the second main approach is identifying the five types of news frames and slant through a content analysis. The volume of coverage of the accusations in the two different online news platforms is also covered in the content analysis with an extra step of identifying the news sources used.

Data collection contains news articles related to Prince Hamzeh's accusations





in the online news platforms of Al Rai and Al Ghad. Different samples of articles are used to conduct a conceptual analysis. Word, word sense, phrase, sentence and themes are analyzed. The content analysis is conducted on the framing of Prince Hamzeh accusations from April fifth, 2021, to June fifth, 2022.

This study uses the categories of supportive, oppose and neutral for the analysis of slant in the two online news platforms.

The following table displays key terms and concepts that are essentially used in this research and are to explain the conceptual and operational definitions.

Table 1.0

The conceptual and operational definitions

Source	Conceptual Definition	Definition	Operational Definition
(Semetko & Valkenburg, 2000; Arowolo, 2017)	Human interest frame	News presented using emotions through pictures, phrases or dramatization, in-order to capture the interest and attention of the news consumers, different approaches or elements go into this but mainly generating feelings such as sympathy, Compaction or outrage.	Identifying the framing of Prince Hamzeh accusations is described through a content analysis and considering the human interest frame.

(continue)



Table 1.0 *continued*)

Source	Conceptual Definition	Definition	Operational Definition
(Semetko & Valkenburg, 2000; Muhamad & Yang, 2017)	Morality frame	Issues in this frame are mainly related to moral values and religion.	Identifying the framing of Prince Hamzeh accusations is described through a content analysis and considering the morality frame.
(Semetko & Valkenburg, 2000; (Fatima, 2020)	Conflict frame	This frame focuses on the different conflict components, disputes and arguments between the two parties.	Identifying the framing of Prince Hamzeh accusations is described through a content analysis and considering the conflict frame.
(Semetko & Valkenburg, 2000)	Responsibility frame	This frame overlooks the source of the situation and who may be responsible for it.	Identifying the framing of Prince Hamzeh accusations is described through a content analysis and considering the responsibility frame.
Stromback et al., 2013)	News sources	The news sources are vital in journalism because sources play a major role in shaping the framing and how the news is presented. There are different news sources that journalists refer to, source	The news sources are recorded and noted to further identify the framing of Prince Hamzeh news coverage.

(continue)

Table 1.0 *continued*)

			selection is chosen by journalists or news outlets depending on the type of news and based on their choice.	
(Semetko & Valkenburg, 2000)	Responsibility frame	This frame overlooks the source of the situation and who may be responsible for it.	Identifying the framing of Prince Hamzeh accusations is described through a content analysis and considering the responsibility frame.	
(Semetko & Valkenburg, 2000; Fatima, 2020)	Consequence frame	Mainly focuses on the impact the accusations will have on Jordan and its people, whether its political impact nationally or internationally.	Identifying the framing of Prince Hamzeh accusations is described through a content analysis and considering the consequence frame.	
(Semetko & Valkenburg, 2000; Reese et al., 2003)	Theory of framing	Framing refers to the way events and issues are organized and made sense of, especially by media, media professionals, and their audiences.	The framing theory is the main theory in conducting this research.	

(continue)

Table 1.0 *continued*)

(Stromback et al., 2013)	News sources	The news sources are vital in journalism because sources play a major role in shaping the framing and how the news is presented. There are different news sources that journalists refer to, source selection is chosen by journalists or news outlets depending on the type of news and based on their choice.	The news sources are recorded and noted to further identify the framing of Prince Hamzeh news coverage.
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The five news frames that are used in this research were created by Semetko & Valkenburg (2000), these frames are Conflict, Human Interest, Responsibility, Morality and Consequence.

1.8 Study Limitations

This study has some limitations, the first limitation is that this research is only covering Jordanian online news but not the MENA (Middle East & North Africa) region as a whole, making the sample size smaller.

The second limitation is that this research conducts Jordanian online news from



The last limitation of this study is the lack of previous studies and current literature. Spies (2017) mentions in his study on Jordanian journalism that the main reason for this research gap is the censorship of institutions and self-censorship journalists practice. It seems this topic is too sensitive for many.

1.9 Importance of Research

This research holds the key to an infinite number of benefits to the development of Jordanian media, journalism and policies, starting with providing reliable information for further research, which can eventually lead to changes and modernization, as Veronica (2021) states,





“Research, revolution, and development are the driving force for the economic and social development of every country”.

This study identifies the problems in the news media of Jordan. This research contributes to foreign policy by addressing unconstitutional laws & policies such as the cybercrime law and the publication law; freedom of the press is another major issue in Jordan that this study highlights generally and through oppression examples in Jordan. Considering that the news media in Jordan is treated and cured of the problems addressed in this research, diversity, distinctiveness, representativeness, and credibility are to be born in Jordanian news media. Addressing the online news problems in Jordan provides a gateway for further research and possible developments.



This research applies qualitative and quantitative research approaches to investigate and observe the media practices in the Jordanian news media. Jordanian online news coverage of the Prince Hamzeh accusations compares governmental and independent news agencies. Identifying the volume of online news coverage of the Prince Hamzeh accusations through the daily online news, which are Al Rai & Al Ghad, will provide information regarding the importance portrayed by the two news agencies of the Prince Hamzeh issue in their online news platforms and media coverage.

1.10 Upon Completion of The Study

Contribution to the development of knowledge that will occur upon completion of the





proposed study are in the literature and academic database, those developments will be strict on this topic, which is yet to be available due to censorship and because Jordan is an Arabic country which makes it hard for many researchers to understand and cover such topics on. In addition, for the first time, there will be a framing analysis and the evaluation of slant on political news coverage in online Jordanian news.

1.11 Chapter Outline

The introduction of this chapter introduces the research background, which highlights the most important aspects of this research study, next is a problem statement that discusses and helps form the research questions and objectives. Following are the research significance, research scope, study limitations and operational definition, which are the last agendas of chapter one. Furthermore, chapter one ends with the chapter outline.

The literature review chapter highlights in-depth information regarding the media in Jordan. The introduction states what the second chapter will be discussing. The literature review covers the following topics: the introduction to Jordanian media journalism, laws and policies, Prince Hamzeh, the Jordanian government, the royal family of Jordan, media developments, social media in Jordan, previous research, Jordanian news agencies used in this research, fundamental theories of this research, conceptual framework and theoretical framework of this study. Chapter two highlights what media framing is, meanwhile, it explains the different frames, chapter two also introduces the different online news platforms that this research uses.





Under the methodology chapter, the research design and process are discussed. The content analysis and frameworks are also explained further. Furthermore, the methodology chapter discusses the sampling, which explains and justifies this research.

Chapter four, which is the findings chapter, unravels the answers to research questions one to three. Chapter four displays the volume of coverage and the content analysis, which analyzes the use of the five types of news frames discussed and the slant implementation in the news articles about Al Hamzeh accusations.

Chapter five, which is the discussion and conclusion chapter, interprets the findings in chapter four. The findings are discussed considering current literature and future research. The significance and implications of the research conducted in the field of communication are stated in this chapter, as well as future research possibilities.

