

Mapping the New Middle East: A Critical Discourse Analysis of Netanyahu's Speech at UNGA in 2023

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ABSTRACT

The present study focuses on the Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu's vision of the "new Middle East" by identifying the lexical choices and rhetorical strategies he has used in his speech at UNGA in 2023 which was aimed at reshaping the regional dynamics and setting Israel's position within global peace and prosperity. By conducting a critical discourse analysis of the language used by Benjamin Netanyahu, the research indicates how language constructs and expresses power in addition to the realization of overt and covert ideologies. By Applying Norman Fairclough's model of CDA (2005), this study elucidates how Netanyahu orients Israel as a historical and geographical pivot after the declaration of its alliance with Saudi Arabia and some other Arab states. The findings have established the centrality of language in the construction of ideologies and set it as a junction of discourse and power in Netanyahu's visualization of the Middle East. The study implicates how language is employed to legitimize the political authority, perpetuate national interests and reinforce structures of power on the international stage.



Introduction

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has presented his views about "new Middle East" while addressing at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in September 2023. His speech proved to be a significant piece of language demonstrating Israel's role as a crucial player in constructing and maintaining peace, paving ways for prosperity and cooperating with the other regions to lessen the gap between Asia, Middle East and Europe. Israel has been formulated as the foremost important unit by Netanyahu as he proved it to be the core participant in the most innovative initiatives, for instance Abraham Accords and the potential regularization of relations with Saudi Arabia. The discourse of his speech has focused on the redefinition of regional

dynamics while Israel has been portrayed as the leader in erecting a time ahead of returned benefit and stability (Alsemeiri, 2024).

Although, the prime focus of the speech was a promising peaceful future but it has also aimed to culminate Israel's continual security concerns, particularly Iran's nuclear intent. Netanyahu's eloquent discourse has highlighted that Israel's actions were unavoidable but also necessary for regional stability. This speech has linked optimism for the future with the absolute assertions about Israel's security, demonstrating the country as both a defender of its own jurisdiction and a force of peace (Perry, 2023). However, Netanyahu's speech reflected philosophical power and its dynamic implications. By mapping out Israel as a beam of peace, he has strengthened its moral and diplomatic position in the region while concurrently legitimizing the state's future actions including its safety measures and diplomatic enterprise.

The current study critically analyzes Netanyahu's speech delivered in 2023 at UNGA by using Norman Fairclough's three-dimensional model of CDA (2005). Netanyahu's speech provides a deep insight of how political leaders create political discourses for the transformation of the global perceptions, legitimizing the politics through the narrative and constructing an ideology that coincides with their national profits. The study offers a perception into the ideological dynamics analyzing the use of language in serving to build a geopolitical and regional narrative (Van Dijk, 2001). By the critical evaluation of the rhetoric of Israel's prime minister (a key political figure) this study contributes in the critical understanding of how a political discourse controls the construction of power dynamics, legitimacy and identity in global politics. CDA uncovers the use of language in building power relations and ideologies within discourses acting as both a reflection and a tool of political power (Fairclough, 1995). Three key elements of Netanyahu's eloquence have been analyzed: the lexical choices reflecting his desire for a new regional order, the awareness of power and ideology within the discourse and the discursive strategies used to authorize Israel's future doings. The study seeks to analyze how Netanyahu sets up a vision for the future of the Middle East and how his language fortifies Israel's role as a presiding regional performer, reshaping international understanding of the country's geopolitical agenda.

Research Objectives

- To find the lexical choices made by Netanyahu to indicate his desire of constructing a new Middle East.
- To identify Netanyahu's ideological stance about the new world.

Research Questions

- What lexical choices have been made by Netanyahu to indicate his desire of constructing a new Middle East?
- How does Netanyahu's speech showcase his ideological stance about the new world?

Literature Review

CDA is a method of discourse analysis which tries to systematically uncover the often-opaque relationships between texts, patterns in the use of language and social and cultural structures which shape these. CDA is particularly interested in the ways power relations and struggles bounded up with hegemony have an effect on such interactions. Indeed, it confers that hegemony and power are maintained by the very opaqueness of those relationships between speech and society (Fairclough, 1995). CDA investigates the interrelationship between language, power and social structures. For many reasons, CDA befits an analysis of political rhetoric primarily because it

allows an in-depth possibility of discussing how language can reinforce or challenge existing power dynamics and ideologies. According to Fairclough (1995), one of the pioneers in this area, discourse is a method through which social power is produced and reproduced. In political discourses, however, it is more than a means of communication; it is a mechanism through which politicians create meanings, influence public opinions and maintain dominant ideologies. An excellent case for CDA is Netanyahu's speech, which has been encrusted with political messaging, ideological framing, and power dynamics.

CDA scholars have long expressed concern with the role of language in the construction and maintenance of power relations (Rababah, 2019). Van Dijk (2001) has argued that political discourse is one of the major mechanisms through which ideologies are represented and reproduced. In this context, ideology refers to the common beliefs and values underpinning social practices including political ones. Netanyahu's peace and cooperation talk is indicative of an ideological vision of the role and place of Israel in the Middle East. This is not a neutral vision but one which is carefully constructed to serve the interests of the Israeli state in its projection of power and influence within the region. Political discourse is viewed as an important means of constructing national identity particularly in the context of international relations (Perry, 2023). It is through speeches that politicians express their vision for the future regarding the fate of their respective countries where national interests are diligently defined and policies are legitimized. According to Billig (1995), national identity is constructed through "banal nationalism" or the set of everyday practices and discourses reminding citizens of their memberships within a nation. Political speeches particularly those at the UNGA, serve as sites for leaders to construct these kinds of identities on the world stage. The speech of Benjamin Netanyahu at UNGA represents same sort of case. His rhetoric defines Israel as a nation that has been truly transformed and in so doing, fundamentally reimagines its identity as a peaceful and prospering state that might be capable of fostering regional cooperation.

In this lieu, one of the most salient elements of Netanyahu's rhetoric is the appeal to Israel's history, the traumatic events involving Holocaust and the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948. Indeed, scholars have always argued that political leadership especially within a conflict-prone region like Middle East tends to use historical narrative as a tool for justifying a certain course of action in contemporary times (Loughran & Dorsey, 2014). Emphasizing the history of suffering, invasions and existential perils of Israel, Netanyahu opens up a discursive frame in which the actions of Israel can be framed as not only justified but as a part of a greater moral imperative. And it is through this 'victimhood' narrative that different states have been strategically articulating Israeli legitimacy on international platforms as a morally defensible state that has surmounted its adversities. Additionally, through Netanyahu's speech, a vision of the future is built in which Israel turns out to be the "bridge" of peace and prosperity between Asia, Europe, and the Middle East. With these techniques, Israel is framed as a land of strategic geopolitical importance-regional economic cooperation, particularly with the new "corridor" that will link India, Europe, and the Middle East together. By focusing on the prospects of peace and economic prosperity, Netanyahu rebrands Israel's national identity to one that positively contributes to regional stability and development, rather than to conflict and violence-defined narratives (Khaled, 2020).

One of the central elements in every political speech is a lexical device which later builds meaning and transmits an ideological message. According to Fairclough (2005), the fact that politicians use certain words, metaphors and ways of framing is to establish a certain world. In Netanyahu's 2023 UNGA speech, metaphors such as *peace*, *prosperity*, *bridge* and *corridor* outline Israel's role in the future as a country which unites and stabilizes the Middle East. These are not just metaphoric

expressions but strategically chosen to reinforce Israel's image as a peacemaker fostering regional cooperation and economic growth (Bello, 2013). The metaphor of Israel as a "bridge" is particularly apt. By positioning Israel as a connecting point between Asia, Europe and Africa, Netanyahu not only expands the geopolitical relevance of Israel but also juxtaposes Israel as a state that can transcend historical animosities. The language throughout Netanyahu's speech presents an Israel still in continuing conflicts with Palestinian groups, Iranian forces and other regional actors. By framing the country as a "bridge, Netanyahu's speech diverts attention from the complexities of Israel's relations with these groups and focuses instead on the positive potential of Israeli-led cooperation.

Besides metaphorical language, Netanyahu's discourse is also full of framing techniques regarding Israel's actions as one of necessity and benefit for the region. His most recurring catchphrase of "the new Middle East" is framed in a light insinuating transformation that will bring peace and prosperity to the whole region. This framing strongly suggests that this is the Israel which is the main agent behind this change, making the country the solution to regional instability. Focusing on this, Netanyahu constructs an ideological framework that legitimates Israel's regional actions, framing any opposition as an obstacle to progress and peace.

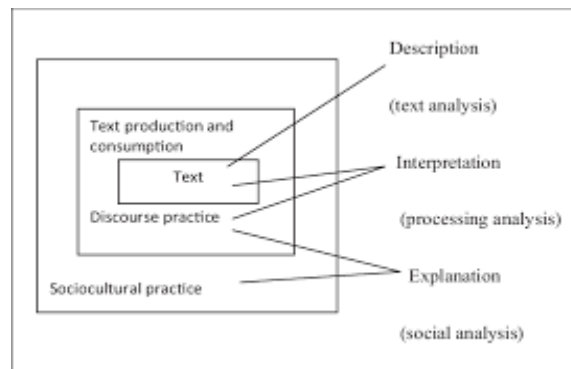
What stands at the core of Netanyahu's speech is one central ideological theme: to present Israel as a peace-seeking nation which is ready to collaborate with its neighbours for mutual benefit. That particularly functions as an ideological diachronic narrative in which the state of Israel legitimates its political action such as those referring to peace treaties reached with the Arab states of UAE and Bahrain through the Abraham Accords (Cohen, 2020). While framing Israel as a regional champion of peace, Netanyahu's discourse thus legitimizes its foreign policy actions and mobilizes international support for its foreign policies. At the same time, the speech underlines Israel's concerns about its security linked to Iran's nuclear program to support the ideological frame of the state in continuous threat. Therefore, legitimizing its military and diplomatic action in the region (Khaled, 2020). According to scholars such as Wodak (2001), however, this may be the very purpose of political discourse: to veil the underlying power relations. While Netanyahu's rhetoric may cast Israel in the role of a peaceful actor, his words simultaneously contribute to and amplify the power. In this speech, Netanyahu focuses on the dividends of peace and regional cooperation without mentioning anything about Palestine, portraying Israel as a victim of illogical hate and violence. That framing has legitimized Israel's position and has deflected any potential international criticism on its treatment of Palestinians.

Norman Fairclough (1995) underlines three dimensions of CDA: description, interpretation, and explanation. Description focuses on the linguistic features of the text, entailing vocabulary, syntax and grammatical setting. Interpretation looks into explaining how such linguistic choices reflect social practices, ideologies and relations of power inscribed in discourses. Finally, explanation explores the larger social and political import of the discourse and its possible repercussions on society (Sharififar, 2015). To be sure, in Netanyahu's speech, CDA may briefly bring to the fore what lexical devices were employed in building up Israel's identity as a peacemaker, the ideological underpinnings of his argumentation and how his rhetoric attempts to legitimize Israel's position within the global order.

Research Methodology

In the present research, the qualitative method (Creswell, 2005) of analysis for Benjamin Netanyahu's speech at UNGA (2023) has been used. This research has adopted Norman

Fairclough's model of CDA (2005) as its theoretical and research framework which serves as an effective tool in making the use of power dynamics and ideologies visible in a text.



Fairclough model of CDA (1995)

This study identifies how language used in the said narrative constructs Israel's role in New Middle East. Transcript part of Netanyahu's speech is the data, that is publicly available and has significant political applicability.

Speech of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

Two weeks ago, we saw another blessing already in sight. In the G20 conference, President Biden Prime Minister Modi and European and Arab leaders announced plans for a visionary corridor that will stretch across the Arabian Peninsula and Israel. It will connect India to Europe with maritime links, rail links, energy pipelines, fiber optic cables. This corridor will bypass maritime checkpoints, or choke points rather, and dramatically lower the cost of goods, communication and energy for over 2 billion people. What a historic change for my country. You see, the land of Israel is situated in the crossroad between Africa, Asia and Europe. And for centuries, my country was repeatedly invaded by empires passing through it in their campaigns of plunder and conquest elsewhere. But today, as we tear down the walls of enmity, Israel can become a bridge of peace and prosperity between these continents. Peace between Israel and Saudi Arabia will truly create a new Middle East. To understand the magnitude of the transformation that we seek to advance, let me show you a map of the Middle East in 1948, the year Israel was established. Here's Israel in 1948. It's a tiny country, isolated, surrounded by a hostile Arab world. In our first seven years, we made peace with Egypt and Jordan. And then in 2020, we made the Abraham accords – peace with another four Arab states. Now look at what happens when we make peace between Saudi Arabia and Israel. The whole Middle East changes. We tear down the walls of enmity. We bring the possibility of prosperity and peace to this entire region. But we do something else. You know, a few years ago, I stood here with a red marker to show the curse, a great curse, the curse of a nuclear Iran. But today, today, I bring this marker to show a great blessing, the blessing of a new Middle East, between Israel, Saudi Arabia and our other neighbors. We will not only bring down barriers between Israel and our neighbors, we will build a new corridor of peace and prosperity that connects Asia, through the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Israel, to Europe. This is an extraordinary change, a monumental change. Another pivot of history. Now, as the circle of peace expands, I believe that a real path towards a genuine peace with our Palestinian neighbours can finally be achieved. But there's a caveat. It has to be said here, forcefully. Peace can only be achieved if it is based on truth. It cannot be based on lies. It cannot be based on endless vilification of the Jewish people. For Peace to prevail, the Palestinians must stop spewing Jew hatred, finally reconcile themselves to the Jewish state. Two days ago, I discussed this vision of peace with President Biden.

We share the same optimism for what can be achieved. And I deeply appreciate his commitment to seize this historic opportunity. The United States of America is indispensable in this effort. And just as we achieved the Abraham Accords, with the leadership of President Trump, I believe we can achieve peace with Saudi Arabia, with the leadership of President Biden. Working together with the leadership of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, we can shape the future of great blessings for all our peoples.

Data Analysis

It involves the critical evaluation of Netanyahu's speech at (UNGA) in September 2023. The analysis is based on the three levels of analysis as described by Fairclough (1995):

1. **Description:** It is the foundational stage which focuses on the text's linguistics features and examines the elements such as lexical choices, structure and discourse patterns. The objective is to identify linguistic patterns which may have social, political or ideological significance.
2. **Interpretation:** It is the interpretive stage which focuses on the social and cognitive aspects of the discourse while analysing how the linguistics features of the text contribute to construct meaning.
3. **Explanation:** It is the critical stage which addresses the broader socio-political context. It not only evaluates the text's meaning but also creates a connection between the different meanings. It also explains how the discourse functions to maintain or change social norms, hierarchies, ideologies and power.

Description (Text Analysis)

It is the initial stage of analysis which focuses on the text itself. It examines the lexical choices, structures, metaphors and other linguistic features. Speech of Israeli President Netanyahu in 2023 at UNGA is replete with these linguistic strategies which help in framing Israel's position in the Middle East and its vision for the future.

Lexical Choices

His lexical choices play a significant role in constructing his vision of the "New Middle East." Words like "Historic change," "peace," "prosperity," "Visionary corridor," "blessing" and "New Middle East" emphasize the idea of cooperation and transformation.

1. "Historic change"

The phrase like "historic change" indicates a significant change Netanyahu has been promoting. It frames Israel as a key to this transformation and reinforces Netanyahu's authority by portraying his leadership as indispensable. Which demonstrates that it will be viewed as it as a landmark in history, accentuating Israel's part in initiating this change.

2. "Peace"

Universally positive term "*peace*" used by Netanyahu illustrates the ultimate goal of Israel's efforts which symbolizes harmony, stability and positions Israel as a leader determined to bring peace. It reinforces their authority, frames their actions and suggests that their pursuit of peace is both necessary and justified.

3. "Prosperity"

The term "prosperity" highlights Israel's role in promoting political stability and economic growth which evokes a vision of welfare and success that Netanyahu seeks and fosters peace and cooperation for the Middle East. Further, it highlights Israel's power to reshape the region into prosperous, thriving and vibrant zone solidifying its role as a leader.

4. "Blessing"

The term "blessing" positions Israel's actions spiritually or morally justified and connotes a sense of divine favor, moral integrity and righteousness in portraying Israel's role in the Middle East as both beneficial and virtuous. Netanyahu frames the changes as a "blessing" indicating that Israel's leadership is not only strategic but also ethically justified.

5. "Visionary corridor"

The term "visionary" accentuates Israel's strategic significance in the transformation of the region. It conveys a sense of long-term planning, forward-thinking and ambitions indicating that the corridor project is more than just a logistical endeavor but a transformative, ambitious and far-reaching initiative. Netanyahu frames Israel as the leader of an innovative and progressive project by naming it a "visionary corridor that will reshape regional infrastructure and connectivity.

6. "New Middle East"

The phrase "new Middle East" embodies Netanyahu's vision of future. He uses the term "new" to depict the Middle East as progressing and influencing the geopolitical framework, enhancing its influence and elevating its authority. It represents Middle East as interconnected, unified and peaceful region.

Metaphors in the Speech

Metaphors in the selected speech are a key to shape and influence the audience's perception.

1. "Tear down the walls of enmity"

It illustrates the process of dismantling the obstacles of hostility between Israel and its neighbours. "Walls" symbolize separation, division and conflict. Whereas, "tear down enmity" signifies a shift towards cooperation and collaboration with Israel at the forefront in this transition.

2. "Bridge of peace and prosperity"

It portrays Israel as a "bridge" and underscores its role in uniting disparate regions or areas. It also fosters cooperation and depicts Israel as a central link steering the Middle East towards peace and prosperity.

3. "Curse" and "Blessing" (nuclear Iran vs. new Middle East):

The juxtaposition of "curse" and "blessing" frames the Iranian nuclear threat as a harmful force, while the "new Middle East" is presented as a hopeful, positive, transformative opportunity. Netanyahu employs this contrast to underline the urgency of his speech.

4. "Pivot of history":

The "pivot of history" indicates that the present moment is a crucial crossroads where Israel's actions will shape the future of the region and frames Netanyahu as the key figure charting the path of historical transformation.

5. "Marker" (used for both curse and blessing):

The lexical item "marker" highlights the role of the state in resolving the key issues in the region. He has used it to highlight the contrast between the "curse" of a nuclear plan of Iran with the "blessing" of a new Middle East, illustrating the pivotal role of his leadership in framing these conversations.

6. "Circle of peace":

The "*circle of peace*" symbolizes the peace expanding outward, bringing more countries into cooperation. It suggests that Israel is at the center of a growing movement for peace and stability in the region and signifies the key of Israel role in spreading it.

7. "Path towards genuine peace":

The word "*path*" portrays peace as a journey or process emphasizing that it requires effort and direction. Netanyahu frames Israel as leading the way towards this path, guiding the Middle East towards lasting peace through diplomatic efforts.

Grammatical Structures in the Speech

Netanyahu has used the **active voice** frequently, emphasizing the subject's agency and the action being taken. For example, "Israel can become a bridge of peace and prosperity" the use of "can" here implies potential and agency in Israel's role in shaping the future. The **future tense** has also been used repeatedly to indicate Netanyahu's forward-looking vision particularly in his discussions of the new corridor of peace and prosperity while underscoring the potential changes Israel hopes to bring about.

Interpretation

The second stage of analysis involves the understanding how the linguistic features mentioned above reflect the social and political ideologies embedded in the selected speech. Netanyahu's lexical choices, metaphors and grammatical structures are not neutral. They reflect particular worldviews, power structures and ideologies about Israel's place in the Middle East.

Constructing Israel as a Peace Builder

The frequent use of the word "peace" and the phrases like "bridge of peace" depicts Israel as a peace constructing nation. This configuring is not only ideological but also calculated. It seeks to present Israel as a supportive actor in a region known for conflict. Netanyahu's speech is a straight forward challenge to the cliché of Israel as an invader or hindrance to peace. By developing Israel as a peace-maker in the narrative, Netanyahu aims to reflect Israeli actions and doings as ethically justified, ensuring an image of Israel that is connected with the Western democratic principles such as cooperation, prosperity and peace. This serves to sanction Israel's political, economic and military actions in the region.

Legitimation through Historical Framing

Netanyahu refers Israel's history particularly the trauma of its founding in 1948, the legacy of the Holocaust and Israel's defence concerns. These chronological references serve to justify Israel's current policies and prove its actions being precautionary and significant. This is a classic example of chronological discussion used to prove the contemporary power relation (van Dijk, 2001). By invoking Israel's history of invasion and conflict, Netanyahu connects Israel's current political situation with a narrative of defense and morality. This construction is specifically designed to attain sympathy and aid from the global community especially when discussing Israel's defense considerations and the possible threat posed by Iranian government.

Emphasis on Israel's Agency

Netanyahu's frequent use of action verbs like *tear down, create and build* displays Israel as an active agent in the development of "New Middle East". This approach emphasises Israel's commanding power and impact over the region's future asserting the nation's agency in constructing geopolitical outcomes. The use of the phrases "we will" and "we being down" portrays Israel at the core of the future reformation implying that Israel is not only responding to external forces but it is activated in the derivation of regional transformation in the region.

The Exclusion of the Palestinian Issue

While Netanyahu emphasises on peace and posterity, the issue of Palestine has been eliminated. The only time he directly has discussed the Palestinians is when he had constructed the potential of peace prevalence in the region opposed by the Palestinians keeping hatred for Jews in their hearts. This framing connects the Israel's dominant narrative with peace and prosperity although aligning Palestine as a hinderance to peace. This indicates an extensive power dynamic in which the Palestinian perspective is marginalised, eliminated and devalued (Schaffner, 2001).

Explanation of the Speech

The final level of CDA analysis examines how the speech functions within the broader social and political contexts. It addresses the role of discourse in perpetuating power relations and constructing ideologies.

Ideological Construction of the "New Middle East"

Netanyahu's structuring of the "New Middle East" has been ideologically infused. It expresses a perspective about a region in which Israel is not only protected but also the leader in the encouraging economic cooperation, serenity and stability. By declaring Middle East as an entity on the brink of revolutionary shift, Netanyahu has positioned Israel as the initiator of the regional shifts. This underlines Israel's role as a leading power in the region, affecting its surroundings politically, economically and socially. The idea of the "New Middle East" also gives an account to diminish other forms of the political and ideological visions specifically those which focus on the Palestinian rights or the restructuring of the Israeli-Palestinian relations. Netanyahu's discourse not only minimizes the significance of the Palestinian issue rather focuses on the broader territorial and political changes that Israel wishes for.

Power and Control over Regional Narrative

Netanyahu's speech reflects Israel's account for the command over the Middle East's future. By emphasizing on harmony, peace, affluence and regional unity, the prime minister seeks to present

Israel as the sole answer to the regional problems. This allows Israel to outline itself as peace-seeking state, mitigating any negative global perceptions specifically those connected to Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This speech also reflects Israel's wish to strengthen its affiliations with international powers like the United States and Europe. Netanyahu's admiration for USA president Biden and the mention of Abraham Accords confirms Israel's association with the western political powers and control which further authorizes its actions.

Legitimizing Israel's Actions in the Context of Global Politics

Netanyahu's request to the "historic chance" and his sanction of the global companionship specifically with Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries presents Israel as a validating partner in the international political order. The main focus is on the regional partnership, especially the economic pathways, reflecting Israel's efforts to connect itself with the global economic and political patterns, thereby, authorizing its regional actions. Similarly, Netanyahu's rhetoric aims to justify Israel's position on the problems such as defense and Iran by portraying them as a part of broader approach for peace and stability.

Conclusion

Applying Fairclough's model of CDA to Netanyahu's address has revealed how language constructs power, reinforces ideologies and legitimizes political actions. Netanyahu has used such words, metaphors, framing devices which appeal to history in an attempt to justify the actions of Israel and relate its interests to stability and growth in the region. Words like *peace*, *prosperity* and *bridge* confirm Israel as a positive agent, appealing to the West and Arabs alike. Which overlooks/suppresses all the other prevalent issues especially the issue of Palestine in order to promote the statements of power and dominance only. CDA therefore, has indicated the contribution of language in formation of political discourse. Furthermore, Netanyahu's address draws world's attention towards breaking down the "walls of enmity" between Israel and the Arab countries accentuating Israel's role in establishing peace and cooperation in a region commonly known for conflicts. Framing Israel's actions in this manner, Netanyahu distances his country from historical hostilities, showing it as a proactive rather than reactive agent in regional diplomacy. This is a linguistic move that gives legitimacy to the growing diplomatic relations of Israel with many Arab states, like reconciliation with UAE, Bahrain, Sudan and Morocco through the Abraham Accords and the possible future peace with Saudi Arabia. Through his lexical choices, Netanyahu positions Israel at the forefront of leading diplomatic efforts in coordination with the world community in an interest of peace prevalence in Middle East, while at the same time advancing Israel's interests.

Netanyahu has avoided the discussion of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as being relevant in any respect whatsoever to the topic at hand, instead he has focused on the notion of peace with Arab nations and creation of a new regional order which may eventually have an impact on peace with Palestinians. In framing peace with Israel's Arab neighbours as a necessary precursor to broader peace in the Middle East, Netanyahu has used a hegemonic discourse, commonly deployed to justify Israel's policies. It is viewed as a second-order issue, with the Palestinian problem acknowledged but placed within a framework where the final peace and stability of the region depends on the acceptance of Israel into the regional fold and the resolution of other regional conflicts. And so, by not squarely addressing the intricacies of the Israeli-Palestinian problem, Netanyahu has spared formidable Arab states from every motive that might alienate them and portrays Israel's vision as a foreordained future-one that makes over anew the political and social order in the region. Fairclough's model also stresses the social context within which language

functions relevant to the understanding of Netanyahu's discourse. His speech at the platform of UNGA was delivered in a geopolitical framework in which Israel, particularly in view of its actions in Palestine and in general in the Middle East, has continuously challenged the opinions about its legitimacy. The overwhelmingly positive rhetoric of Israel, anticipating the potential to achieve peace acts as a counterbalance to negative perceptions and sustains a framing of a narrative that legitimizes the foreign policy and security actions taken by Israel. In this regard, Netanyahu's discourse functions as an instrument of ideological viewpoints and reproduction, which consolidates the status of Israel as a legitimate state in the international community of states where in doing so, the attention has been successfully diverted from hot topics such as Palestinian sovereignty.

From a broader perspective, the current study illustrates how leaders employ particular linguistic devices to conceptualize and constitute international relations. Netanyahu's speech acts as a discursive strategy for the legitimization of his government's actions and asks for international support for the foreign policies of Israel. By framing Israel as a force for good in the region, he positions his country as an imperative entity in achieving stability and prosperity in Middle East, an argument that aligns with the interests of powerful Western nations, particularly the United States. The present research underlines metaphorical language and lexical choice as playing a constitutive role in the making of political reality. The analysis in the current research has revealed that political discourse actively constructs reality in the pursuance of an envisaged political and social order. Through metaphors and framing, Netanyahu sets up a storyline in which the region of Middle East stands at the threshold of a new era of cooperation with Israel at the centre. This discourse not only solidifies existing power relationships but also presents Israel as a global player. In other words, this study finds out how language constructs ideologies and legitimizes power; it points to the need for further investigation of the role that language plays in shaping the political identity and global attitude.

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