



Framing of Israel's Attack on Doha in Al Jazeera and Al Khaleej: A Robert Entman Perspective

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Abstract

The escalating geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, particularly Israel's attack on Doha, Qatar, on 9 September 2025, received extensive coverage from Al Jazeera and Al Khaleej. This study aims to examine how both media outlets framed and narrated the event using Robert Entman's framing analysis model. This research adopts a qualitative descriptive approach. The findings reveal that Al Jazeera framed Israel's attack not merely as a military action but as part of a broader hegemonic project and strategy of regional domination. The causes of the aggression were portrayed as Israel's expansionist efforts to reshape the regional security structure. The moral evaluation emphasized violations of sovereignty and regional stability, accompanied by recommendations advocating regional political consolidation and the establishment of a new security order. Meanwhile, Al Khaleej framed the attack as a serious violation of Qatar's sovereignty and highlighted its causes as a deliberate criminal act planned by Israel to target Hamas leaders. Its moral judgment condemned the aggression as a violation of international law and a threat to civilian safety. The proposed recommendations focused on Qatar's diplomatic assertiveness and the enhancement of security preparedness. This study contributes to media framing scholarship within the context of Middle Eastern geopolitics and enriches the application of Entman's model in international news analysis.

Keywords: Al Jazeera; Al Khaleej; Israeli Attack; Media Framing; Robert Entman;

مستخلص البحث

شهد تصاعد التوترات الجيوسياسية في منطقة الشرق الأوسط، ولا سيما الهجوم الإسرائيلي على الدوحة، قطر، في ٩ سبتمبر ٢٠٢٥، تغطية إعلامية مكثفة من قبل قناتي الجزيرة والخليج. تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى تحليل كيفية قيام كل من الوسيلتين الإعلاميتين ببناء التأطير الإعلامي (*Framing*) في سردهما الإخباري لهذا الحدث، وذلك من خلال نموذج التأطير الذي طرحه روبرت إنتمن. وتعتمد الدراسة على المنهج الوصفي النوعي. وتُظهر نتائج البحث أن قناة الجزيرة لم تُعرّف الهجوم الإسرائيلي بوصفه عملاً عسكرياً فحسب، بل قدمته كجزء من مشروع هيمنة واستراتيجية للسيطرة الإقليمية. كما صوّرت أسباب العدوان على أنها خطوة توسعية تسعى إسرائيل من خلالها إلى إعادة تشكيل بنية الأمن الإقليمي. أما من حيث الحكم القيمي، فقد ركزت الجزيرة على انتهاك السيادة والاستقرار الإقليمي، وقدمت

توصيات تدعو إلى تعزيز التنسيق السياسي الإقليمي وبناء نظام أمني جديد. في المقابل، عرّفت صحيفة الخليج الهجوم باعتباره انتهاكاً خطيراً لسيادة دولة قطر، وسلطت الضوء على أسبابه بوصفها عملاً إجرامياً مخططاً له عمداً من قبل إسرائيل لاستهداف قادة حركة حماس. كما أدانت العدوان من منظور أخلاقي بوصفه خرقاً للقانون الدولي وتهديداً لأمن المدنيين، مع توصيات تؤكد على ضرورة الحزم الدبلوماسي القطري وتعزيز الجاهزية الأمنية. وتسهم هذه الدراسة في إثراء بحوث التأطير الإعلامي في سياق الجيوسياسية الشرق أوسطية، وتوسيع تطبيق نموذج إنتمن في تحليل التغطية الإخبارية الدولي.

كلمات أساسية: الجزيرة؛ الخليج؛ التأطير الإعلامي؛ روبرت إنتمن؛ الهجوم الإسرائيلي.

Introduction

Framing practices have become a strategy frequently employed by mass media in constructing news coverage. Nuruddin (2017) emphasizes that the media do not merely function as conveyors of information, but also actively produce social reality through interpretive processes influenced by ideological perspectives and particular interests. Therefore, framing plays a crucial role in the media's construction of meaning, shaping the public's viewpoints and perceptions of events (Butsi, 2019). As explained by Eriyanto (2012) framing involves the selection of facts, the organization of narratives, the emphasis on certain aspects, and the omission of others, all of which can generate specific meanings in the minds of readers. In other words, the way the media frame an event largely determines how the public understands and evaluates the issues presented.

The existence of mass media has become an inseparable part of human activity in seeking and understanding events. This can be understood as explained by Respati (2014) who argues that human beings inherently possess a strong need for information in their daily lives, whether related to their immediate environment or to developments on a global scale. Therefore, mass media emerge as the primary means through which society fulfills these information needs. In this regard, the media play a crucial role in delivering information that is timely, accurate, and up to date regarding various events occurring within society (Paramitha & Karim, 2021). Furthermore, a number of observers position the mass media as agents of social construction that play a significant role in framing and shaping public perceptions of major events, particularly those related to global political issues (Prayetno et al., 2023). In this context, news coverage concerning the dynamics of the Middle East region has become one of the main focuses of international media.

The Middle East region has, for many years, been one of the epicenters of international conflict (Kusuma et al., 2020). This condition is inseparable from the complexity of geopolitical relations, strategic interests, and the involvement of numerous countries in various protracted conflicts in the region. In recent years, the intensity of conflict has once again escalated, including a recent event that has drawn global attention, namely Israel's attack on Doha, Qatar, on 9 September 2025,

which targeted a leader from Hamas's political activist base. This incident not only triggered new tensions in the Gulf region but also disrupted regional diplomatic stability and expanded the scope of the conflict into areas previously considered relatively secure (Mustafa, 2025).

The continuation of this conflict is also inseparable from mass media coverage, which has positioned it as a major issue and a focal point of international public attention. In the context of Israel's attack on Doha, two international media outlets that reported extensively on the incident are Al Jazeera and Al Khaleej. Al Jazeera is a Qatar-based international media organization widely known for its critical coverage of Israeli aggression and its close engagement with the Palestinian issue (Al Jazeera, 2025). Meanwhile, Al Khaleej is a media outlet based in the Gulf region that frequently highlights geopolitical issues with an emphasis on regional security and the dynamics of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states (Al Khaleej, 2025). Differences in background, geopolitical orientation, and editorial interests between these two media outlets often result in framing that is not always aligned. Therefore, it is important to understand how each media organization frames the Israeli attack on Doha, so that readers can discern the differing constructions of meaning that emerge and avoid misunderstandings in interpreting the information presented.

Based on the foregoing discussion, this study seeks to examine how the two media outlets, namely Al Jazeera and Al Khaleej, construct their narratives regarding Israel's attack on Doha, which occurred on 9 September 2025. To address this issue, the research employs Robert Entman's framing theory. This theory is selected because, as explained by Eriyanto (2012) Entman's framing concept provides a comprehensive analytical framework for explaining how events or social realities are constructed and presented by the media through their news focus. In this context, framing functions as a device used by the media to shape information so that the content presented aligns with the media's interests.

According to Entman (2007), framing refers to the selection and emphasis of certain aspects of news with the purpose of shaping coverage in ways that can influence the public in line with the media's own interests. In this regard, the media do not merely convey information, but also possess the ability to select particular issues and highlight specific aspects of an event in accordance with the meaning they seek to construct (Sukri & Yesicha, 2017). Consequently, framing in news reporting can shape how audiences understand an issue through word choice, narrative focus, and the contextualization used in constructing a social reality that may differ from the objective conditions on the ground.

Robert Entman's framing analysis model consists of four categorical elements: (1) define problems, (2) diagnose causes, (3) make moral judgement, dan (4) treatment recommendation (Entman, 2010). First, Define Problems is the stage used to focus on how the media interpret or define an event (Entman et al., 2009).

Attention is directed toward how the narrative of the event is explained and presented by journalists. Second, Diagnose Causes refers to how an event is framed in order to identify the actors involved and to explain which actors play supporting roles in the event (Entman, 1991). Third, Make Moral Judgments relates to the justification or moral evaluation of the discourse previously presented (Entman, 2009). At this stage, journalists use subsequent narratives to reinforce the initial framing. Fourth, Treatment Recommendations refer to the stage in which journalists or media outlets present proposed solutions or courses of action regarding the reported event (Entman, 1993). Overall, the framing analysis proposed by Robert Entman is highly dependent on the perspective from which an event is observed (Putra & Nasionalita, 2018).

In conducting this research, the author reviews a number of previous studies relevant to the present topic in order to strengthen the research foundation and avoid duplication. Several prior studies include those conducted by (Alfriandi & Zuhriah, 2024; Arsyad, 2025; Hardilla & Zawawi, 2024; Herlina, 2024; Khair et al., 2024; Mustofa et al., 2025; Palendika Alandira et al., 2025; Utami, 2024; Zahra et al., 2020; Zawawi et al., 2024). Referring to the aforementioned previous studies, this research shares similarities in terms of the use of framing theory, its focus on Middle Eastern issues, and the selection of Al Jazeera as one of the objects of analysis, given that Al Jazeera is a media outlet frequently examined in the context of Middle Eastern affairs. However, this study differs significantly in terms of its object of analysis and contextual focus. To date, no research has been found that specifically addresses Israel's aggression against Doha on 9 September 2025, an event that is relatively new in the geopolitical dynamics of the region.

Moreover, previous studies have tended to focus on widely examined international media outlets such as Al Jazeera, CNN, BBC, or *Kompas*, while Al Khaleej despite being an important media outlet in the Gulf region has not been used as an object of framing analysis, particularly in the context of the Israel – Qatar conflict. Therefore, this study seeks to offer a novel contribution in terms of its object of analysis, which has not been highlighted in prior research, as well as through the selection of a combination of two media outlets, namely Al Jazeera and Al Khaleej, originating from different geopolitical contexts.

Based on the background elaborated above, this study aims to examine how Arab media outlets, namely Al Jazeera and Al Khaleej, frame and narrate Israel's attack on Doha that occurred on 9 September 2025 through Robert Entman's framing analysis model. Through this approach, the study is expected to provide a comprehensive depiction of how the media construct their news content regarding the aggression. In addition, the research is expected to contribute to enriching media framing studies in the Middle Eastern geopolitical context, to serve as a complement to and reinforcement of previous research findings, and to offer additional insights

into framing analysis based on Robert Entman's perspective for future mass media studies.

Method

This study employs a qualitative descriptive method to comprehensively and in depth describe the framing processes carried out by the international mass media outlets Al Jazeera and Al Khaleej in their coverage of Israel's attack on Doha on 9 September 2025. The qualitative method is chosen because it is able to generate descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words from the observed objects and to provide a rich understanding of social phenomena (Moleong, 2007). In addition, this method is relevant as it enables a systematic, factual, and accurate depiction and analysis of the research object based on the data obtained (Abdussamad, 2021).

The researcher selected two primary data sources from Al Jazeera and Al Khaleej. The Al Jazeera article is entitled "قمة الدوحة في مواجهة خطط إسرائيل للهيمنة" while the Al Khaleej article is titled "عدوان إسرائيلي سافر على الدوحة يستهدف قادة حماس". These sources were chosen because they originate from credible Arab media outlets that intensively cover international issues, including Israel's attack on Doha. In addition to the primary data, this study also employs secondary data in the form of scholarly works that support the research process. Data were collected using a reading and note-taking technique. The researcher carefully read the news articles from Al Jazeera and Al Khaleej, recorded relevant textual content, archived the data, and prepared it for analysis using Robert Entman's framing categories.


Regarding the data analysis technique, this study employs the Miles and Huberman model, which consists of three stages: (1) data reduction, (2) data display, and (3) conclusion drawing and verification based on the research objectives (Miles et al., 2014). The first stage of data analysis is data reduction. In this process, the researcher reduces the complexity of the news articles collected from the two selected news websites into more manageable units that are relevant to the focus of the study. This stage involves several steps, including data filtering, grouping, and coding to identify emerging patterns or themes, classifying data based on similarities or differences, and summarizing key information relevant to the research objectives. After the data have been reduced, the researcher proceeds to the second stage, data display. At this stage, the reduced data from both media outlets (Al Jazeera and Al Khaleej) are organized and presented in narrative form. This stage also involves the visual and narrative representation of the reduced news content. The researcher explains the main findings and illustrates them with direct quotations from the Al Jazeera and Al Khaleej news articles based on Robert Entman's framing analysis model. The final stage of data analysis is drawing conclusions based on the research objectives. Here, the researcher analyzes the

results of data reduction and data display to identify patterns or significant findings that support the aims of the study. In addition, the researcher ensures that the analytical results are relevant to the research context and contribute to a deeper understanding of the construction of framing in Arab media, particularly in relation to the coverage of Israel’s attack on Doha.

Results and Discussion

This study analyzes the construction of Arab media coverage regarding Israel’s attack on Doha on 9 September 2025 through reports published by Al Jazeera and Al Khaleej. Both media outlets reported intensively on this event and constructed particular narratives based on Robert Entman’s framing perspective. Presented below are samples of news coverage that serve as the objects of analysis in this study, as shown in the table below.

Table 1. Samples of News Coverage Highlighting Israel’s Attack on Doha.

News	News Title	News Source/Media	URL
	قمة الدوحة في مواجهة خطط إسرائيل للهزيمة	Al Jazeera	https://www.aljazeera.a.net/
	عدوان إسرائيلي "يسهدف قادة حماس" - سافر على الدوحة	Al Khaleej	https://www.alkhaleej.ae/

The Table 1 above contains a list of news articles that serve as the primary data sources for this study, including the news titles, media channels, and access links for each item. The selection of the articles was based on their relevance to the issue of Israel’s attack on Doha, which constitutes the main focus of coverage by the

two Arab media outlets. All data were subsequently analyzed using Robert Entman's framing analysis framework, which comprises four elements: *Define Problems*, *Diagnose Causes*, *Make Moral Judgement*, and *Treatment Recommendation*, the detailed explanations of which are presented in the following section.

Framing of News Coverage on Israel's Attack on Doha in Al Jazeera Online Media

News	News Title	News Source/Media	URL
	قمة الدوحة في مواجهة خطط إسرائيل للهيمنة	Al Jazeera	https://www.aljazeera.net/

In conducting framing analysis of news coverage, Robert Entman divides it into four main components: define problems, diagnose causes, make moral judgement, dan treatment recommendation. In this first sub-section, the results of the framing analysis of Al Jazeera's coverage of Israel's attack on Doha on 9 September 2025 are presented. Through this analysis, it becomes evident how Al Jazeera constructs and frames its news content to produce particular narratives for the public. The discussion is elaborated in the section below.

a. Define Problem

Define problems is a stage in Robert Entman's framing analysis used to examine how the media define a problem and construct narratives that explain the background behind the emergence of an event (Entman, 2018). In its report on Israel's attack on Doha titled "قمة الدوحة في مواجهة خطط إسرائيل للهيمنة", Al Jazeera positions the incident not merely as a military aggression, but as part of a broader strategic dynamic concerning Israel's role in the region whether as a hegemonic power or a revisionist force. This framing is evident in the opening of the news report, which states "هناك منظوران لتقييم دور إسرائيل في المنطقة: الأول كقوة مهيمنة، والثاني كقوة تعديلية". Through this formulation, Al Jazeera defines Israel's aggression against Doha not simply as an isolated event, but as part of a larger Israeli project aimed at dominating and reshaping the regional order in the Middle East.

Furthermore, in constructing the background of the issue, Al Jazeera states that Israel's attack on Doha on 9 September was initially perceived as an attempt to demonstrate military strength and dominance. This is reflected in the news

narrative, which reads “بدت الضربة في البداية تأكيداً على هيمنة إسرائيل المتصورة واستعدادها للتصرف دون عقاب في ”جميع أنحاء المنطقة”. This wording indicates that the attack was framed at the outset as a confirmation of Israel’s claimed hegemony and its readiness to act without fear of legal consequences. However, this construction is subsequently challenged by the fact that Israel’s military operation failed to achieve its objectives. As explained in the report أن الهدف الرئيسي، وهو كبار قادة حماس، نجوا من الهجوم. وبذلك فإن ”ضربة الدوحة الفاشلة تبديد الوهم بأن إسرائيل قادرة على استخدام القوة متى شاءت وأينما شاءت”. This formulation emphasizes that Israel’s intended goals in carrying out the aggression ultimately resulted in failure, thereby strategically undermining and embarrassing its self-proclaimed image as a dominant military power.

The statement above is further reinforced by Al Jazeera through a renewed definition of the problem, highlighting the diplomatic and regional impacts of Israel’s aggression, which resulted in widespread condemnation from Gulf countries and the broader international community. This is articulated in the report through the wording “غضباً واسع النطاق و”إدانة حادة” من قطر، والمملكة العربية السعودية، والإمارات العربية المتحدة، وجهات فاعلة”. This framing positions the incident as having evolved into a crisis of international legitimacy. Moreover, the report also points to the unease felt by the United States as Israel’s principal ally, a consequence emphasized by Al Jazeera through the statement أعربت القيادة الأميركية، بمن في ذلك الرئيس دونالد ترامب، عن ”أسفها”. This quotation illustrates that Israel’s attack on Doha shook public trust and the security assurances provided by the United States, as well as the status of its relationship with Israel. Therefore, the define problem constructed by Al Jazeera presents Israel’s aggression against Doha as an action initially perceived as an attempt to assert regional hegemony, but which ultimately transformed into an event that exposed Israel’s failure to achieve its objectives, weakened its image as a hegemonic power, and generated political and diplomatic turmoil that destabilized the Middle East region, particularly the Gulf states.

b. Diagnoses Causes

Diagnose causes is the second stage in Robert Entman’s framing analysis, focusing on how the media identify the causes of a problem, who or what is considered responsible, and the reasons underlying the occurrence of an event (Launa, 2020). In its coverage of Israel’s aggression against Doha titled “قمة الدوحة في ”مواجهة خطط إسرائيل للهيمنة”, Al Jazeera explicitly attributes the primary cause of the incident to Israel’s aggressive and revisionist political–military strategy aimed at reshaping the regional order. This framing is evident in Al Jazeera’s portrayal of Israel as a “قوة ”تعديلية” (a revisionist power), referring to efforts to enact far-reaching changes through military force. This is reflected in the statement “تغيير جذري في النظام الإقليمي القائم، أو ”

This excerpt demonstrates that Al Jazeera constructs the source of the problem underlying the attack on Doha by emphasizing Israel's strategic orientation, which is portrayed as a serious threat to stability in the Middle East.

Furthermore, Al Jazeera presents additional causes underlying the incident by referring to various expansionist political motives attributed to Israel. Al Jazeera outlines four strategic objectives pursued by Israel, namely “منع قيام دولة فلسطينية, توسيع”

. فرض معادلة أمنية إقليمية جديدة تهيمن فيها إسرائيل عسكرياً, استخدام الضربة لاستعراض قوتها, حدود إسرائيل. These four objectives indicate that Israel's military aggression against Doha is understood as part of a broader project to expand its regional dominance. Within this framework, Al Jazeera positions Israel as an actor that deliberately takes provocative actions to secure its geopolitical interests. On the other hand, Al Jazeera also explains the factors behind the weakening of Israel's position following the attack, which is attributed to its failure to achieve its military targets, namely Hamas strongholds. As stated in the report “أن الهدف الرئيسي, وهو كبار قادة حماس, نجحوا من الهجوم. وبذلك

This excerpt indicates that the failure of the operation became the primary factor undermining Israel's image as a hegemonic power. In other words, the failure exposes the limits of Israel's capacity to employ violence as an effective political instrument.

Furthermore, Al Jazeera also identifies another cause behind the weakening of Israel's position after the aggression, namely the strong reactions from Gulf countries and the international community, which further exacerbated Israel's standing. This is reflected in the quotation “أثارت 'غضباً' واسع النطاق و'إدانة حادة' من قطر, والمملكة العربية

This excerpt indicates that Israel's weakened position following the aggression was, in effect, self-inflicted, as its actions were perceived as violations that undermined the sovereignty of another state and threatened regional stability. This dynamic is further reinforced by the unease expressed by the United States, as captured in the wording “أعربت القيادة الأميركية, بمن

This statement illustrates that Israel's aggression generated diplomatic pressure even from its closest ally. Therefore, in the diagnose causes stage constructed by Al Jazeera, the framing focuses on attributing the primary cause of the event to Israel's ambitious and aggressive strategies, its expansionist objectives that exceed international norms, and the post-aggression consequences that ultimately weakened Israel's position in the region. The failed military action against Doha, which did not achieve its intended targets, triggered strong reactions from Gulf states, the international community, and even the United States as Israel's closest ally.

c. Make Moral Judgement

Make moral judgment is the third stage in Robert Entman's framing analysis, which explains how the media assign moral evaluations to events, actions, and the actors involved, as well as how they construct moral legitimacy to justify or condemn certain parties in a conflict (Siregar & Qurniawati, 2022). In Al Jazeera's report titled "قمة الدوحة في مواجهة خطط إسرائيل للهزيمة", the media outlet clearly delivers a moral judgment that delegitimizes and marginalizes Israel's actions, portraying its aggression against Doha as ethically and legally unjustifiable under international law. This moral evaluation is evident in the way Al Jazeera depicts Israel's actions as deviating from international norms and rules. This is reflected in the wording *قوة تعديلية*; بسبب طبيعتها أحادية الجانب والعنصرية والمتحيزة للأعراف. Through this formulation, Al Jazeera conveys a moral judgment that Israel's actions are aggressive, unilateral, and disrespectful of international order, and therefore deserving of criticism. Within this frame, Israel's use of military force against Doha is positioned by Al Jazeera as morally unacceptable because it was carried out unilaterally, violated another state's sovereignty, and undermined ongoing mediation processes.

Furthermore, Al Jazeera presents additional moral evaluations by emphasizing that Israel's actions crossed humanitarian boundaries and violated the fundamental principles of interstate relations. This is evident in the quotation *كانت انتهاكا استثنائيا وخطيرا للسيادة*, which underscores that the aggression constituted an extraordinary and serious violation of Qatar's sovereignty. Through the use of the terms *استثنائيا* (extraordinary) and *خطيرا* (serious/dangerous), Al Jazeera delivers a moral judgment portraying Israel's actions as highly dangerous and as severe violations within the framework of international relations. Al Jazeera's moral assessment is further reinforced by highlighting the consequences of the attack on regional stability and peace processes. As stated in the wording *إحدى القنوات القليلة المتاحة* "لحل الصراع" the report suggests that Israel's actions are morally unacceptable because they undermine diplomatic efforts by jeopardizing ceasefire processes and obstructing negotiations for the release of hostages.

In addition, Al Jazeera constructs a moral judgment by highlighting the consequences faced by Israel as a result of its own actions. In this regard, the media outlet presents the strong reactions from Gulf states and international institutions as forms of external moral legitimation, asserting that Israel's actions are unequivocally unjustifiable. This is reflected in the wording *أثارت "غضباً" واسع النطاق و"إدانة"* "حادثة" من قطر، والمملكة العربية السعودية، والإمارات العربية المتحدة، وجهات فاعلة عربية ودولية أخرى. This phrasing demonstrates a collective condemnation that serves as moral evidence that Israel's aggression is illegal and lacks approval from the international community. Even Israel's closest ally, the United States, expressed dissatisfaction, as indicated in the

الرئيس دونالد ترامب، عن "أسفها" quotation referring to President Donald Trump's expression of "أسفها" This further reinforces the moral judgment that Israel's actions cannot be justified, as they contradict the values of partnership, stability, and international law. Therefore, in the make moral judgment stage, Al Jazeera constructs a narrative that evaluates Israel's aggression against Doha as immoral, illegitimate, and irresponsible. Morally, Israel is positioned not only as a violator of another state's sovereignty, but also as an actor that obstructs peace, disrupts regional stability, and acts outside established diplomatic norms.

d. Treatment Recommendation

Treatment recommendation is the fourth stage in Robert Entman's framing analysis, which addresses how the media propose solutions, recommendations, or courses of action considered appropriate for responding to the problems previously defined (Entman, 2010). In Al Jazeera's coverage titled "قمة الدوحة في مواجهة خطط إسرائيل" "للهمنة", the media outlet constructs its recommendations by emphasizing the importance of a collective regional response, strengthening the diplomatic positions of Gulf states, and rebuilding regional security strategies to confront Israel's aggressive behavior. The series of recommendations presented by Al Jazeera can be seen in its emphasis on the need for political and diplomatic consolidation among Arab-Islamic countries in responding to the aggression. In its narrative, Al Jazeera asserts that the upcoming Arab-Islamic Summit in Doha represents a strategic momentum for formulating coordinated and responsive measures. This is reflected in the wording "القمة العربية الإسلامية بالعاصمة القطرية الدوحة منعطفًا حاسمًا للمنطقة لمعالجة التحولات الجيوسياسية العميقة التي تحاول أن تفرضها إسرائيل وحلفاؤها، وإعادة تعريف موقفها الأمني الجماعي، وتخطيط مستقبلها الدبلوماسي". This excerpt indicates that Al Jazeera views the solution to the crisis as requiring a comprehensive response in the form of a regional security approach to counter Israel's aggressive expansion.

Furthermore, Al Jazeera advances another set of treatment recommendations by emphasizing the need for four international legal and political measures aimed at exerting global pressure on Israel. This is reflected in the narrative "اتخاذ إجراءات قانونية دولية ضد إسرائيل، وفرض عقوبات اقتصادية، وتعزيز التحالفات العسكرية، وإعادة التوازن". By incorporating these four forms of action legal, economic, military, and strategic partnerships Al Jazeera underscores that an effective resolution requires multidimensional pressure capable of restraining Israel's behavior and restoring regional stability. Another recommendation emerges through Al Jazeera's emphasis on the importance of Gulf states reorienting their strategic relationships, particularly with the United States. The media highlights the erosion of Gulf trust in U.S. security guarantees through the wording "الضربة تقوض بشدة".

مصادقية الولايات المتحدة كضامن للأمن. From this perspective, Al Jazeera recommends the diversification of security alliances as a necessary step forward.

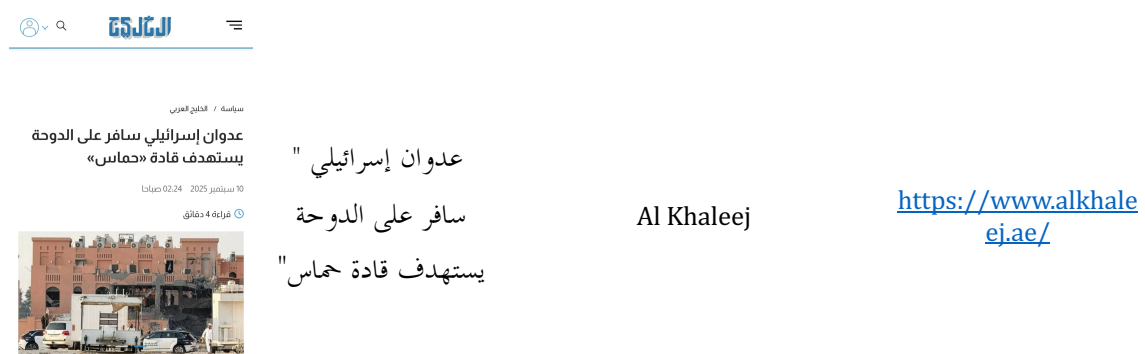
In addition, Al Jazeera emphasizes another recommendation concerning the importance of political solidarity and a unified stance among Gulf states as a key element in addressing the issue. This is reflected in the quotation *أما عززت الوحدة والتضامن بين دول الخليج*. This wording indicates that such solidarity is not merely a consequence of the event, but also an implicit recommendation, positioning regional unity as a primary mechanism for containing Israel's influence and stabilizing the region. Through these emphases, the treatment recommendations constructed by Al Jazeera demonstrate that resolving Israel's aggression against Doha cannot rely solely on condemnation, but requires a comprehensive response encompassing unity, strategic regional politics, international legal action, the reorientation of security alliances, and the strengthening of Arab diplomatic positions. In other words, Al Jazeera's treatment recommendations encourage Arab states to use this event as a foundation for redefining regional security architecture one capable of curbing Israel's aggressive expansion while reinforcing geopolitical stability in the Middle East.

Based on the four stages of Robert Entman's framing analysis discussed above, Al Jazeera's report titled *”قمة الدوحة في مواجهة خطط إسرائيل للهيمنة* positions Israel's aggression against Doha not merely as an ordinary military incident, but as part of Israel's geopolitical project to maintain and expand its dominance in the region. At the define problem stage, Al Jazeera frames the event as a conflict between Israel's claims of hegemony and the reality of its failure, while emphasizing that the attack is part of a broader strategy linked to Israel's ambitions as both a hegemonic and a revisionist power. At the diagnose causes stage, Al Jazeera consistently identifies the primary cause of the event as Israel's aggressive and expansionist political-military strategy. The media emphasizes that Israel's actions stem from ambitions to expand its influence, reshape the regional order, and impose a new security formula that favors its own interests. Additional causes, such as the failure to achieve military objectives and the strong reactions from Gulf states and the international community, are positioned as factors that contributed to the weakening of Israel's regional standing in the aftermath of the aggression.

Furthermore, at the make moral judgment stage, Al Jazeera delivers a strong moral evaluation by portraying Israel's aggression as illegitimate, unilateral, and a violation of another state's sovereignty. The use of terms such as *انتهاكاً* (violation), *قوة تعديلية* (aggressive), *خطيراً* (serious/dangerous), *استثنائياً* (extraordinary), and *قوة تعديلية* (revisionist power) indicates that Israel's actions are judged as immoral because they undermine mediation efforts, threaten regional stability, and contradict the norms of international relations. Even the collective condemnation by Gulf states

and the unease expressed by the United States are employed to reinforce the moral delegitimization of the aggression. At the treatment recommendation stage, Al Jazeera proposes a series of solutions, including regional political consolidation, the pursuit of international legal measures against Israel, the strengthening of Gulf defense cooperation, and the reorientation of geopolitical alliances so that the region no longer relies on fragile security guarantees. The Arab-Islamic Summit in Doha is depicted as a strategic moment for regional states to formulate a new security strategy, reinforce Gulf solidarity, and restructure diplomatic frameworks in order to prevent similar provocative actions by Israel in the future.

Framing of News Coverage on Israel's Attack on Doha in Al Khaleej Online Media



In conducting framing analysis of news coverage, Robert Entman divides it into four main components: define problems, diagnose causes, make moral judgement, dan treatment recommendation. In this second sub-section, the results of the framing analysis of Al Khaleej's coverage of Israel's attack on Doha on 9 September 2025 are presented. Through this analysis, it becomes evident how Al Khaleej constructs and frames its news content to produce particular narratives for the public. The discussion is elaborated in the section below.

a. Define Problem

Define problem is the initial stage in Robert Entman's framing analysis, used to examine how the media define an event, position the actors involved, and construct the background that explains why an event is considered significant from the media's perspective (Wijoyo, 2023). In Al Khaleej's report titled "عدوان إسرائيلي سافر على الدوحة يستهدف قادة «حماس»", The media outlet clearly frames the incident from the opening of the article as an act of aggression that deliberately established limits and violated Qatar's sovereignty. This framing is evident in the diction used, تجاوزت إسرائيل، أمس الثلاثاء، خطأً أحمر في الخليج, which indicates that Al Khaleej defines the event as a serious breach of norms and security

boundaries in the Gulf region. By employing the headline phrase “عدوان إسرائيلي سافر”, (blatant Israeli aggression), the media positions Israel as an actor engaging in overt aggression and violating the principles of international law.

Furthermore, the definition of the event is reinforced by the way Al Khaleej describes the attack as an assassination attempt targeting Hamas leaders in Doha. This is reflected in the wording «مهاجم على قطر لمحاولة اغتيال استهدفت قيادة حركة «حماس»». This narrative emphasizes the criminal dimension of Israel's actions, portraying them as a full-scale operation directed at specific political figures within the territory of another sovereign state. At the time, Hamas leaders in Qatar were reportedly engaged in discussions regarding المقترح الأمريكي الجديد. In this context, Al Khaleej implicitly defines Israel's aggression as an attack that not only had broad geographic implications, but also disrupted ongoing international diplomatic processes. This framing further reinforces the construction of Israel as an actor operating beyond the bounds of legal legitimacy.

Furthermore, in constructing the background of the issue, Al Khaleej positions Qatar as the victim of the attack and as a country playing a crucial role as a mediator in the Gaza conflict. This is reflected in the media's citation of an official statement from Qatar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which reads اعتداء إجرامي «يشكل انتهاكاً صارخاً لكافة القوانين والأعراف الدولية، وتهديداً خطيراً لأمن وسلامة القطريين والمقيمين في قطر». This wording emphasizes that the State of Qatar strongly condemns what it describes as Israel's cowardly attack targeting Hamas residences in Doha. By presenting this strong official statement, Al Khaleej frames the event as an international security and legal crisis, portraying Qatar as a threatened and aggrieved party.

In addition, Al Khaleej broadens the context of the issue by highlighting the direct impact of the attack, namely the death of a Qatari security officer, Corporal Badir Sa'ad Muhammad Al-Humaidi Al-Dosari, as stated in the quotation استشهاد الوكيل عريف بدر سعد محمد الحميدي الدوسري. Furthermore, the media emphasizes Qatar's subsequent stance of suspending its mediating role, as noted in the wording أن قطر أعلنت تعليق الوساطة. This development is positioned as a consequence of Israel's actions, which are portrayed as having disrupted ongoing diplomatic processes. Therefore, based on this overall construction, the problem framed by Al Khaleej presents the incident as an illegal act of aggression that threatens Qatar's sovereignty. Although the direct target of the attack was Hamas-related locations, the action is framed as unlawful because it was carried out within the territory of a sovereign state without any legal legitimacy. This narrative positions Israel as an actor that violates geopolitical boundaries and international law, while Qatar is constructed as the legitimate victim of the violation. The attack is also projected as an event that destabilized the Gulf region by undermining ongoing international diplomatic efforts.

b. Diagnose Causes

Diagnose Causes is the second stage in Robert Entman's framing analysis, which focuses on how the media explains the causes of a problem, assigns responsibility to specific actors, and elaborates the motives underlying the occurrence of an event (Raharjo et al., 2024). In Al Khaleej's coverage entitled "عدوان" *إسرائيل*, the media explicitly positions Israel as the primary cause behind the aggression. This is evident from the very beginning of the report through the wording "تجاوزت إسرائيل، أمس الثلاثاء، خطاً أحمر في الخليج", This quotation indicates that the media locates the root of the problem in Israel's bold action of crossing a "red line" that should not be violated within the Gulf region's security order.

Al Khaleej also identifies another cause of this aggression as a form of a premeditated assassination operation carried out by Israel against Hamas leaders in Doha. This is evident from the media's wording "بمجوم على قطر لمحاولة اغتيال استهدفت قيادة حركة حماس". The use of the phrase "محاولة اغتيال" (assassination attempt) indicates that the cause of the incident is constructed not merely as a conventional attack, but as a criminal act specifically directed at a delegation associated with Hamas. In this context, the media confirms that Israel deliberately undertook this action to eliminate Hamas leaders, positioning the assassination operation as the core motive driving the aggression.

Furthermore, Al Khaleej implies that the aggression was also triggered by Israel's perception of Hamas's role in the context of the Gaza conflict. This is reinforced by the report that Israel acknowledged the operation and linked it to the events of 7 October. This narrative appears in Israel's admission, as quoted by the media "استهداف العمل ضد حماس المسؤولة عن السابع من أكتوبر". This quotation frames another cause of the incident as part of Israel's retaliatory strategy against Hamas, which Israel holds responsible for the earlier attack. The Israeli military reportedly referred to the operation as "يوم الحساب" (the Day of Reckoning), signifying an act of retaliation or punishment. Therefore, based on the narratives outlined above, the *Diagnose Causes* frame constructed by Al Khaleej positions Israel as the primary source of the escalation both through its actions that violated Qatar's sovereignty and through its assassination-oriented operation directly targeting Hamas leadership. The media also frames the cause of this aggression as part of Israel's post-7 October retaliatory strategy, constructed as a military reprisal cloaked in the rhetoric of "يوم الحساب".

c. Make Moral Judgement

Make Moral Judgement is the third stage in Robert Entman's framing analysis, which explains how the media deliver moral evaluations of events, actors, or particular actions, including how the media justify or assign blame to certain parties in a conflict (Mahalingam, 2022). In Al Khaleej's coverage entitled "عدوان إسرائيل" *إسرائيل*, the media explicitly positions Israel as the primary cause behind the aggression.

الدوحة يستهدف قادة حماس, He media explicitly construct a moral judgement that condemns Israel's actions as illegitimate, immoral, and in violation of international norms. One form of this moral evaluation is reflected in the wording تجاوزت إسرائيل، أمس الثلاثاء، خطاً أحمر . This quotation conveys the impression that Israel not only carried out a military action, but also violated the moral order and security ethics upheld in the Gulf region. The use of the phrase خطاً أحمر The use of the phrase "red line" signifies a boundary that must not be crossed. Through this phrase, the media frame the aggression as an act that challenges the ethical values upheld by the Gulf states. This labeling reinforces the media's moral judgement frame, portraying Israel as acting inappropriately and deviating from the moral boundaries governing interstate relations.

Furthermore, Al Khaleej presents another moral judgement through an official statement from the Qatari government describing the attack as اعتداء إجرامي . The use of the diction اعتداء إجرامي (criminal act) and انتهاكاً صارخاً (blatant violation) emphasizes the media's moral condemnation of Israel's actions, portraying them not merely as wrong, but as morally reprehensible behavior that cannot be justified. In addition, Al Khaleej highlights another moral dimension through the phrase تهديداً خطيراً لأمن وسلامة القطريين والمقيمين في قطر, This narrative frames the Israeli aggression as a grave threat to civilian security. In this context, Al Khaleej constructs a moral judgement that Israel's actions are inhumane and endanger the lives of innocent people, which is ethically deeply condemnable.

Furthermore, another moral judgement articulated by the media originates from a statement by the Qatari authorities describing the incident as هجوماً إسرائيلياً جباناً, This phrase positions Israel's actions as morally cowardly (جباناً) thereby attributing an explicitly negative ethical character to the aggression. At the same time, Al Khaleej also frames Israel's failure to achieve the objectives of its aggression as a moral failure rather than merely a military one. This is implied in Hamas's statement asserting that, although the Israeli attack failed to eliminate the negotiating delegation, Israel deliberately pursued another motive namely, to sabotage the peace process as reflected in the quote أن نتناهبه وحكومته لا يريدون التوصل إلى أي اتفاق، وأنهم يسعون . This narrative underscores Israel's positioning as an actor that morally rejects peace and systematically disrupts all international initiatives toward conflict resolution. Overall, at the Make Moral Judgement stage, Al Khaleej constructs a moral framing that marginalizes Israel's actions as criminal, immoral, in violation of international law, and contrary to fundamental humanitarian principles.

d. Treatment Recommendation

Treatment Recommendation is the fourth stage in Robert Entman's framing analysis, which explains how the media proposes solutions, courses of action, or policy directions that are considered appropriate in responding to a defined problem (Hafidli et al., 2023). In its coverage titled "عدوان إسرائيلي سافر على الدوحة يستهدف" Al Khaleej formulates resolution recommendations oriented toward strengthening Qatar's position, enforcing international law, and constraining Israel's actions through diplomatic pressure. Several of Al Khaleej's treatment recommendations are reflected in official Qatari statements emphasizing the country's firm stance against allowing Israeli aggression to go unanswered. This is evident in the media's wording "لن نتهاون مع هذا السلوك الإسرائيلي المتهور", This quotation indicates that the solution projected by the media involves a firm state response aimed at safeguarding national sovereignty and security by taking decisive measures against any violations committed by Israel.

Furthermore, Al Khaleej offers another recommendation in the form of strengthening the state's rapid-response capacity. This is reflected in the quotation "باشرت على الفور التعامل مع الحادث واتخاذ الإجراءات اللازمة لاحتواء تبعاته", This wording indicates that, according to the media, one appropriate operational step is to emphasize the need for the state to enhance its readiness in anticipating and responding to any potential incidents. In addition, Al Khaleej also presents a strategic recommendation through Qatar's decision to suspend its role as a mediator in the Gaza negotiations, as stated in the wording "قطر أعلنت تعليق الوساطة في مفاوضات إطلاق النار في قطاع غزة". This illustrates that Al Khaleej frames the decision as a legitimate and necessary form of diplomatic pressure in response to Israel's violation. By highlighting this action, the media recommends that Qatar temporarily halt the mediation process in order to send a political message that aggression against a mediating state is unacceptable within international diplomacy. Therefore, the Treatment Recommendation constructed by Al Khaleej emphasizes that the appropriate response to Israeli aggression is to reinforce state assertiveness, enhance security preparedness, and apply calibrated diplomatic pressure against Israel.

Based on the four stages of Robert Entman's framing analysis that have been examined, Al Khaleej's coverage in its report entitled "عدوان إسرائيلي سافر على الدوحة يستهدف" constructs a frame that positions Israel's aggression against Doha not as an ordinary military incident, but as an illegal attack that openly the sovereignty of a Gulf state. At the Define Problem stage, Al Khaleej constructs the event as a serious violation of international norms, highlighting that the attack was motivated by a planned assassination attempt targeting Hamas leaders. At the Diagnose Causes stage, Al Khaleej firmly identifies Israel as the primary source of

the escalation, emphasizing the motive of an assassination operation (محاولة اغتيال), and a retaliatory strategy linked to the narrative of October 7, while labeling the operation with the term “يوم الحساب” (Day of Reckoning).

Furthermore, at the Make Moral Judgement stage, Al Khaleej delivers a very strong moral evaluation by portraying Israel's aggression as criminal, cowardly, immoral, and in violation of international law. The use of diction such as “اعتداء” (criminal aggression), “انتهاكاً صارخاً” (a blatant violation), “هجوماً إسرائيلياً جباناً” (a cowardly Israeli attack), as well as phrases emphasizing threats to civilian safety such as “تهديداً خطيراً لأمن وسلامة القطريين” (a serious threat to the security and safety of Qataris), is employed to reinforce the moral delegitimization of Israel. At the Treatment Recommendation stage, Al Khaleej proposes solutions focused on state firmness, the enforcement of international law, heightened security preparedness, and diplomatic pressure on Israel, one manifestation of which is the suspension of its role as a mediator in the ceasefire process.

Conclusion

Based on the results of Robert Entman's framing analysis of Al Jazeera's and Al Khaleej's coverage of Israel's attack on Doha on 9 September 2025, it is evident that the two media outlets construct different framing narratives in portraying the event. In Al Jazeera's coverage, the framing process begins at the Define Problems stage, where Israel's aggression is framed not merely as a military attack but as part of a hegemonic project and Israel's ambition to maintain and expand its dominance in the Gulf region. At the Diagnose Causes stage, Al Jazeera emphasizes that the aggression is rooted in Israel's expansionist political strategy and its desire to reshape the regional security structure in line with its own interests, including as a response to international pressure following its failure to achieve its military targets. At the Make Moral Judgement stage, Al Jazeera delivers a moral assessment that characterizes Israel's actions as violations of state sovereignty, as disruptive to regional stability, and as contrary to the fundamental principles of international relations. Finally, at the Treatment Recommendation stage, Al Jazeera proposes solutions in the form of strengthening political consolidation within the Arab and Islamic world, building more robust defense cooperation, and encouraging the formation of a new security architecture through the Arab-Islamic Summit as a strategic effort to prevent the recurrence of similar acts of aggression.

Meanwhile, Al Khaleej's framing reflects a different narrative construction. At the Define Problems stage, Al Khaleej frames Israel's aggression as a serious violation of Qatar's sovereignty and a criminal act that exceeds the geopolitical boundaries of the Gulf region. The attack is positioned not as an ordinary incident, but as an overt act of aggression against a sovereign state. At the Diagnose Causes

stage, Al Khaleej argues that the aggression was driven by Israel's planning of an assassination operation targeting Hamas leaders, which is also linked to a strategy of retaliation following the events of 7 October. At the Make Moral Judgement stage, the outlet condemns Israel's actions as violations of international law, as threats to civilian safety, and as immoral acts that cannot be justified. Finally, at the Treatment Recommendation stage, Al Khaleej recommends firm measures by Qatar to defend its sovereignty, enhanced security preparedness, and the use of diplomatic pressure as the most appropriate responses to Israel's aggression.

In addition, this study has limitations related to its data sources, which focus only on two international media outlets, namely Al Jazeera and Al Khaleej. As a result, the framing analysis remains confined to representations within Middle Eastern media and does not yet incorporate perspectives from Western media or other Gulf-based outlets that may construct different framing narratives. Therefore, future research is recommended to broaden the scope of data sources by including media from various geopolitical spectrums whether from Western countries, Asia, or other independent media in order to obtain a more comprehensive mapping of media framing. Further studies may also adopt multidisciplinary approaches, such as critical discourse analysis or geopolitical media analysis, to deepen understanding of the relationships among political interests, editorial orientations, and mass media communication strategies.

Author Contribution Statement

RM contributed to determining the research objectives, formulating the title, collecting data, and discussing the results of this study. Meanwhile, HHS contributed to compiling the background, conclusions, and translation process in this study. All authors agree that the manuscript is final upon submission.

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