

Our Bias Guideline:

Biased Language: presents a specific matter from one point of view (framing bias) or manipulates "the believability of a statement" (epistemological bias) (Gipp *et al.*, 2021) through certain word choice that show a tendency to a specific group of people or ideology causing stereotypes and discrimination against other groups.

- **Objectives:**

- providing data for Arabic NLP
- unravel bias in news media outlines

- **Task description:**

- background reading
- building the guideline
- distributing the texts and annotating
- meetings before & through the annotation
- updating the guideline
- continuous feedback from the supervisor

- **Categories and their guidelines:**

- Unbiased
 - Does not present a specific matter from only one point of view (framing bias) or manipulate "the believability of a statement" (epistemological bias) (Gipp *et al.*, 2021) causing stereotypes and discrimination against one or more groups.
- Biased against Palestine
 - presents a specific matter from one point of view (framing bias) or manipulates "the believability of a statement" (epistemological bias) (Gipp *et al.*, 2021) through certain word choices causing stereotypes and discrimination against Palestine.
 -
- Biased against Israel
 - presents a specific matter from one point of view (framing bias) or manipulates "the believability of a statement" (epistemological bias) (Gipp

et al., 2021) through certain word choices causing stereotypes and discrimination against Israel.

➤ Biased against Palestine and Israel

- presents a specific matter from one point of view (framing bias) or manipulates "the believability of a statement" (epistemological bias) (Gipp *et al.*, 2021) through certain word choices causing stereotypes and discrimination against both Palestine and Israel.

➤ Biased against others

- presents a specific matter from one point of view (framing bias) or manipulates "the believability of a statement" (epistemological bias) (Gipp *et al.*, 2021) through certain word choices causing stereotypes and discrimination against groups other than Palestine or Israel.

➤ Unclear

- There are no specific words, terms, or structures presenting a specific matter from only one point of view (framing bias) or manipulating "the believability of a statement" (epistemological bias) (Gipp *et al.*, 2021) causing stereotypes and discrimination against one or more groups.

➤ Not applicable

- the text is not exclusive to the Israel-Palestine conflict but rather inclusive of all media coverage (e.g. breaking)

● **Detailed Category Guidelines**

➤ According to Gipp *et al.* (2021), there are two types of bias that characterize biased language:

- framing bias: "alters the reader's opinion by describing an event only from one particular point of view or frame through:"
 - labelling with subjective intensifier
 - one-sided terms
- epistemological bias: "encompasses language constructs that aim at manipulating the believability of a statement"

(the following examples are from Recasense *et al.*, 2013):

- factive verbs
 - ◆ e.g. reveal Vs. indicate
- entailments
 - ◆ murder Vs. kill
- assertive verbs
 - ◆ point out Vs. say
- hedges
 - ◆ “are used to reduce one’s commitment to the truth of a proposition, thus avoiding any bold predictions or statements.”

➤ Reported speech and quotes are either biased or unbiased depending on how the media outlet presents it, not on what is said in the quote.

- an example of “unbiased” text that neutrally quotes the speaker although the speaker is against Palestine.

(ID:752)

الامام حسن شلغومي ينتقد بشدة الفظائع التي ارتكبتها دواعش حماس من قتل الاطفال والنساء والاغتصاب مؤكدا الا تشفي في الاسلام والواجب ان نقول ان هذا حرام وشرعا لا يجوز ! استمعوا اليه

(Imam Hassan Chalghoumi strongly criticizes the atrocities committed by ISIS, Hamas, including the killing of children and women and rape, stressing that there is no cure in Islam. We must say that this is forbidden and is not permissible according to Islamic law! Listen to him)

- An example using the same biased language as the previous example ‘دواعش_حماس’, but categorised as biased against Palestine because it is a direct speech. The phrase “دواعش_حماس” “Hamas_ISIS” is biased against Palestine as it is a one-sided term. It also suggests that Hamas is similar to ISIS and that they pose a danger to the world if Israel did not destroy them.:

(ID: 739)

من داخل نفق حماس الاستراتيجي في شمال القطاع نعيد الكلمات الثلاث الجديدة التي دخلت
القاموس العربي #حلل_يا_دويري فبينما يختبئ قادة #دواعش_حماس والمتحدثين بلسانهم نحن
...نتجول بكل اطمئنان داخل أنفاقهم ومعقلهم

(From inside Hamas's strategic tunnel in the northern Gaza Strip, we repeat
the three new words that entered the Arabic dictionary

#Analyze_ya_Dwairi. While the leaders of #Hamas_ISIS are hiding and
their spokesmen, we are roaming with complete reassurance inside their
tunnels and strongholds...)

■ An example of biased in reporting individuals' speech

MAIN, ID: 2218

نفى حركة حماس الأحد صحة مشاهد زعمت إسرائيل أنها لاستسلام عناصر من مقاتلي كتائب
القسام (الجناح العسكري للحركة)، ووصفتها بـ"المسرحية المكشوفة والسخيفة"، مؤكدة أن من
ظهروا في الفيديو ليسوا سوى مدنيين عزل. وأمس السبت نشرت حسابات وصفحات إسرائيلية على
مواقع التواصل الاجتماعي مقاطع فيديو وصوراً قالت إنها تُظهر مقاتلين من حماس وهم يسلمون
أنفسهم وأسلحتهم إلى قوات الجيش الإسرائيلي المتوغلة داخل قطاع غزة. وقال عضو المكتب
السياسي لحماس عزت الرشق في بيان إن "أبطال القسام لا يستسلمون، وأكاذيب الاحتلال لا تنطلي
على أحد".

English: (On Sunday, the Hamas movement denied the authenticity of
scenes that Israel claimed were of the surrender of fighters from the
Al-Qassam Brigades (the movement's military wing), describing them as
"an open and ridiculous theatrical play," stressing that those who appeared
in the video were nothing but unarmed civilians. Yesterday, Saturday, Israeli
accounts and pages on social media published video clips and photos that
they said showed Hamas fighters surrendering themselves and their weapons
to Israeli army forces penetrating into the Gaza Strip. A member of the
Hamas political bureau, Izzat al-Rishq, said in a statement, "Al-Qassam
heroes do not surrender, and the occupation's lies do not deceive anyone.")

When the media chooses a word like “claimed” when reporting Israeli speech, while “stressing” when reporting Hamas’ speech, then it is considered biased against Israel.

- When a biased text fits more than one category, we categorize it as “Biased against others,” and clarify in the comments column.
- context:
 1. The context of the text matters to determine if it is biased or not. For example, The phrase “Israel-Hamas war” is a one-sided term but it can be biased against Israel in one text and unbiased in another depending on the context.
 2. Our team only depended on the text given in the Google Sheet without doing further research on each text’s background due to the limitation of time.

- **Examples for Application of Each Category**

- Unbiased

- Main, ID: 714: “Protests were held across Europe on Sunday to show support for Israel and to demand Hamas release the hostages taken on October 7th.”
 - There is no occurrence of biased language against any party; it is merely describing the event.

- Biased against Palestine

- MAIN, ID1499: “We accompanied a family, returning to their #Kibbutz, more than a month after the #Hamas massacre. The son, a 16 year old boy, is held hostage in #Gaza. #JT20H #reportage #Israel Agnès Vahramian Maël Benoliel @SoufianeYassine Info France 2”
 - This is biased against Palestine because it describes the event from one point of view, which is the Israeli side. The language used like “Hamas massacre” is another indicator of the biased language against Palestine.

➤ Biased against Israel

- IAA-2, ID: 720: “#Urgent | “# Hamas Movement”: “The statements of the occupation leaders about displacing our people from #Gaza are daydreams that our people will fail with their steadfastness and resistance.”
 - This is biased against Israel, because it presents it as an occupation and colonial force.

➤ Biased against Palestine and Israel

- MAIN, ID: 578: “‘Palestinians walk among the rubble, as they inspect houses destroyed in Israeli strikes during the conflict, amid the temporary cease-fire between #Hamas and #Israel, at Khan Younis refugee camp in the southern #Gaza Strip on Monday’”.
- This is biased against Palestin and Israel because 'conflict' is a term used by western media to reduce the level of the severity of damage. Palestinian and Israeli media outlets usually refer to it as 'War' as it was declared by the two parties.

- Biased against others

- MAIN, ID: 134: Angelina Jolie chose to side with Gaza and actually with Hamas against Israel, this is my message to her! Angelina Jolie- don't twist the facts, speak out and share the real truth!
 - This is biased against Angelina Jolie when she declared her support for Palestine.

➤ Unclear

- Main, ID: 120 : “A glimmer of hope in his suffering...”

This Text is missing context that provides clear information of who is this person is, and if their suffering is even related to the war/conflict.

➤ Not applicable

- IAA-1, ID: 5044: “Following the communications minister's appeal to the communications companies, they announced that they have decided to grant significant benefits to citizens staying abroad and subscribers in Israel, in the surfing packages and on television: yes The company has opened many

channels to all of its customers, including sports channels, various dramas and a variety of children's content and movies. Hot Communication HOT The company has opened a variety Premium channels also for subscribers of the Next tv service, such as sports channels, various dramas, and children's channels. For Hot customers in the Gaza Envelope, the Next tv service will also be added to cellphones so that they can continue watching in the event of Internet failures. HOT mobile | Hot Mobile The company provides unlimited browsing to its customers in all active programs In Israel. In addition, the company provides all its customers staying abroad with a 2 GB surfing benefit at no cost in 90 destinations around the world.....”

- This is an advertisement for an Israeli telecommunication company which is using the opportunity to show services and it has nothing to do with the war/conflict itself.

- **The process:**

- read the text
- refer to the guideline
- detect words and phrases that show biased language according to the guideline
- decide the correct category

- **Quality Standards:**

- our work will follow the guidelines strictly and each annotation will be based on words, phrases or structures that occur in the texts. In case there is no such evidence in the text, the annotator has to provide reasons for their choice.
- The first Quality Check Procedure:
 - The annotators annotated 5 texts separately, then discussed their choices and updated parts of the guidelines based on the discussion. The 5 texts were annotated as follows:

(ID: 7171): “South Africa dragged Israel to the International Court regarding the Gaza attack. news 24”

- 1 annotator deemed it as “Biased against others” because the word “dragged” implies that South Africa is violent.

- 3 annotators deemed it as “Biased against Israel” because the word “dragged” implies that Israel is reluctant to take responsibility.
- discussion: the media outlet is owned by SA’s government; therefore, it cannot be biased against SA.

(ID: 7119): “Military affairs experts say that compared to the previous conflict with Israel, Hamas is using sophisticated weapons.”

- 1 annotator deemed it as “Biased against both” because the word “conflict” is a one-sided term that is not used by both Israel and Palestine to describe the ongoing war.
- 2 annotators deemed it as “Biased against Palestine” because the term “sophisticated weapons” implies that it is only Palestinians who are using advanced weapons and the term “conflict with Israel” implies that Hamas is the one that starts the conflicts.
- 1 annotator deemed it as “Biased against Israel” because it does not mention the Israeli frame.

(ID: 7083): “Iran gave strong reaction to the killing of Hamas leader in Beirut.”

- 2 annotators deemed it as “Biased against others” because the word “strong” implies that Iran is over-reacting.
- 2 annotators deemed it as “unbiased” because they did not detect any use of biased terms, including the word “strong.”

(ID: 7042): “#israel #palestine #hamas #news24 Israel-Gaza war: These countries came together against Israel, opened a front against the devastation in Gaza..”

- The 4 annotators deemed it as “Biased against Israel” because the word “devastation ” is a subjective intensifier that implies Israel is brutal.

(ID: 7008): “Has America made a move on Israel-Hamas war?
#israelpalestineconflict #israelhamaswar #palestine #gaza #israel”

- 1 annotator deemed it as “Biased against Palestine” because the term “Israel-Hamas war” is a one-sided term that is only used by pro-Israel
- 2 annotators deemed it as “Biased against others” because the text implies that America intervenes in foreign countries' policies.
- 1 annotator deemed it as “unbiased” because she did not detect any biased language.
- discussion: Each annotator has their reading based on individual differences; thus, it is better to depend on the linguistics of the texts.

➤ The second Quality Check Procedure after updating the guidelines:

(ID:6987): “Has Hamas once again launched a rocket attack on Israel? #Gaza | #Palestine”

- 3 annotators deemed it as “Biased against Palestine” because the term “once again” implies that Hamas is repeatedly hitting Israel, and “launched” indicates that Hamas is the one who started the fight.
- 1 annotator deemed it as “Unclear” because the context is not enough.

(ID:6968): “Gaza war completes 60 days today, know what has happened so far #Gaza #IsraelHamasWar #IDF”

- 1 annotator deemed it as “Biased against Palestine” because it does not mention Israel’s role in the War.
- 3 annotators deemed it as “Biased against Israel” because “Gaza war” is a one-sided term, mentioning only Gaza without Israel as

another party in this war. Having the hashtag #IDF only without the other party as it framing it for the disruption of the state of Gaza.

(ID:6960): “ Hamas's deputy chief Sinwar... will be killed by 'Nahal' #FullandFinal | #WarCoverageOnTV9 | #IsraelHamasWar”

- 2 annotators deemed it as “Biased against Palestine” because it is promising the death of Sinwar
- 2 annotators deemed it as “unbiased” because they did not detect any biased language.

(ID:6949): “Turkey has expressed concern over the division in the Muslim world amid the ongoing war between Hamas and Israel. Turkish Parliament Speaker Numan Kurtulmus has said that Israel's greatest strength lies not in its own capabilities, but in the divisions within the Islamic world. Commenting on the ongoing Israeli attacks in Gaza, Kurtulmus said that "This is disappointing. That even after almost 60 days of the attack, the reactions of Islamic countries and organizations are not sufficient." On Wednesday, Turkish Parliament Speaker Numan Kurtulmus said in a conversation with the Qatari newspaper Al-Shark, "Today Israel's biggest strength is its Not our capabilities, but unfortunately there is division in the Islamic world. Turkey is making efforts to send all types of humanitarian aid to the needy people in Gaza. But it is unfortunate that even after 60 days, the responses of Islamic countries are inadequate." #ATCard #turkish #Parliament #Israels #NumanKurtulmus #IslamicWorlds #Hamas”

- 4 annotators deemed it as “unbiased” because it neutrally reports speech.

(ID:6935): “Attack on Gaza...Guerrilla war of Hamas #IsraelPalestineWar #WarZone”

- The 4 annotators deemed it as “Biased against Palestine” because it does not mention Israel’s role in the war while mentioning Hamas’ role, and “Guerrilla war” is a one-sided term.

- **Handling Ambiguities:**

in case the annotator encounters an ambiguous case, she may:

1. refer to the provided machine translation
2. search about the context
3. ask the supervisor

- **Consistency:**

- We provided clear and concise guidelines detailing the set categories with examples.
- we provided a protocol for handling ambiguous cases
- we conduct meetings between members and members and the supervisor to discuss the guidelines

- **Ethical Considerations:**

- the annotator shall refrain from any personal tendencies so that the annotation is based on existing linguistic units in accordance with the guidelines.

- **Training and Support:**

- dr. Najma Alzidjali;
 - online workshops
 - clarification and explanation
- Dr. Wajdi
 - clarification

- **Review and Update:**

- We were updating the guidelines twice every week based on annotators’ notes and quality check procedures.

- **Feedback Mechanism:**

- Our feedback mechanism depended on team work. We are analyzing and discussing notes and unclear ID’s from each annotator’s part during our

meetings, which leads to refinement and updates of the guideline . Each team member have provided and got comments other members.

- **References:**

- Gipp, B., Krieger, D., Plank, M., & Spinde, T. (2021). Towards A Reliable Ground-Truth For Biased Language Detection [Data set]. Zenodo.
<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4625151>
- Recasens, M., Danescu-Niculescu-Mizil, C., & Jurafsky, D. (2013, August). Linguistic models for analyzing and detecting biased language. In Proceedings of the 51st annual meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (volume 1: long papers) (pp. 1650-1659).