



A Critical Dissection of Media Narratives in the Salma Al-Shihab Case: Insights from Murray Jacob Edelman

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ABSTRACT

Every media has a certain tendency towards the reality of the issues constructed in the news, including the Arab media which recently reported the arrest of Saudi Arabian feminist activist Salma Al-Shihab for voicing freedom of speech on her Twitter account. Through Murray Jacob Edelman's critical analysis, this study aims to examine the construction of Arab media through Edelman's 4 framing elements consisting of categorization, ideology, rubrication, and classification. This type of research is descriptive qualitative. Data sources were taken from three Arabic news texts in BBC Arabic, CNN Arabic, and Amnesty International. The results of research from the four elements consisting of categorization, ideology, rubrication, and classification in the BBC and CNN Arabic media display objective news construction, in this case the two media do not show a tendency towards any party. This finding is supported by Amnesty media's explicit support for the human rights case against Salma Al-Shihab. In conclusion, in general, the Arab media provides support for the Salma Al-Shihab case.

1. INTRODUCTION

In recent years, Saudi Arabia has been discussed by the public regarding human rights issues (Heibach, 2024). Human Rights Watch noted that Saudi Arabia has committed serious human rights violations (Almutawa, 2021). Among the current issues carried by the media include mass executions, oppression of minorities, imprisonment of activists and the issue of discrimination against women (Roth, 2022). Among these issues, there is the issue of arresting activists who fight for their rights, especially female activists. Although at the same time, crown prince Muhammad bin Salman gave women the freedom to move in the public sphere as part of Saudi Arabia's 2030 reforms (Specia, 2019).

Among the issues of arresting rights activists is Salma Al-Shihab, a doctoral student at Leed University in the UK, as well as a Saudi Arabian female activist (Kirchgaessner, 2022). Launching from ALQST (2022) Salma is accused of providing assistance to those who disturb public order, public safety and state stability, as well as creating false rumors and sparking debate on Twitter. Under Article 6 of the Anti-Cybercrime Law, Salma was initially sentenced to six years in prison in March 2022, but was increased to 34 years in prison after an appeal (Dadouch, 2022). Not stopping at Salma's case, according to the results of Clarke & Frary (2023) in recent years, hundreds of rights activists and opponents of the Royal regime have been sentenced to up to 50 years in prison, and some have even been sentenced to death. For this phenomenon, Saudi Arabia has been heavily criticized by various international parties (Altaher, 2019).

Quoting a statement in the research collection of the Press Council Journal, some media are known to show favoritism with the government so that some issues raised in the news are considered based on the interests of the government, especially on news that is considered sensitive to power politics (Firdausi, 2021). Among the media operating in the Middle East region are BBC Arabic, CNN Arabic, and Amnesty International. BBC Arabic media is based in London, England and financed by the British government (Msaddek, 2020). CNN Arabic media is based in Dubai, UAE and is owned by the American media company, Warner Bross Discovery (Huynh, 2023). The Amnesty media is an independent government organization engaged in voicing and defending human rights around the world (Bardarova et al., 2013).

Looking at the origin of BBC and CNN Arabic media ownership, a perception arises that western-centered media such as BBC and CNN Arabic are allegedly closely related to the government of Saudi Arabia, considering that Saudi Arabia has diplomatic relations in several fields of cooperation with the two countries where the media centers operate (Kusuma & Muryantini, 2019). Departing from this perception, does the close relationship between countries also affect media construction related to sensitive government issues?

When the same issue is reported by several media, there will be differences in its construction because the reality is the result of the editor's subjective interpretation of the reality he covers, this process is called categorization (Launa, 2020). Edelman in his theory views that in news a reality can be subjectively constructed, because reality can be changed as understanding is categorized (Edelman, 1993). Edelman interprets the concept of categorization as an abstraction function that helps facilitate the public in understanding the

news (Daulay & Meutia, 2022). The abstraction function works in simplifying the public's understanding of an issue or event into a more general concept, so that the public can create certain patterns in understanding reality. Edelman included this concept in his construction theory which consists of categorization, ideology, rubrication, and classification (Catlin & Edelman, 1966).

Reviewing research related to news framing analysis based on Murray Jacob Edelman's perspective, researchers found several relevant studies including, Jordantimes.com's Framing of Israel in the Palestinian Conflict (Wafi, F., Arif, E., & Chatra, 2024); Murray Edelman's Framing Analysis on the News of Romahurmuzy's Arrest Operation (Launa, 2020); Murray Edelman's Framing Analysis on the News "PT Medco's Impact on the Mining Circle Community" on AJNN.net Media (Dwita et al., 2023); Construction of LGBT News Reality on Online Media (Ramadhan, 2023); Coverage of Political Corruption Cases in Media Construction (Launa & Tawaang, 2021); The ideology behind the reporting on Habib Rizieq's trial: A framing analysis on cnnindonesia. Com (Suprpto, 2023); Indonesia COVID-19 task force statement framing in September–November 2020 (Nabila, 2021).

Looking at the studies described previously, researchers found similarities in the objects and theories used, namely online news texts and Murray Jacob Edelman's perspective framing analysis theory. The differences that can be observed are in the cases and media studied, namely the human rights case against Salma Al-Shihab taken from three media that have a wide reach in the world, namely BBC Arabic, CNN Arabic and Amnesty International.

Based on the similarities and differences above, the position of this research is to add to the findings of previous research in the context of Arab media coverage of human rights cases, which in this study reveals the construction of Arab media on the case of the arrest of Saudi Arabian feminist activist Salma Al-Shihab. Therefore, to reveal the construction of Arab media coverage of the case, this study aims to find the media tendencies of BBC Arabic, CNN Arabic, and Amnesty International in their news construction of the Salma Al-Shihab case. This research was conducted by examining the construction of the three media in terms of Murray Edelman's four framing elements, namely categorization, ideology, rubrication, and classification.

2. METHODS

This type of research is descriptive qualitative because this research aims to dissect the news construction of the Salma Al-Shihab case from three Arabic media sources based on Murray Edelman's perspective. Qualitative research is research with analysis covering various forms of social conflict with a scientific approach with concepts and objectives so as to produce concrete scientific findings with reality (Weathington, 2010)

Data sources were taken from three news articles published in BBC Arabic, CNN Arabic, and Amnesty International. The selection of BBC and CNN Arabic media is based on the assumption of cooperation between the media and the government of Saudi Arabia, considering the origin of the two media is centered in the west, namely America and Britain. While diplomatically the two countries have cooperative relations in several sectors with

Saudi Arabia (Wirachmi, 2022), so it is assumed that there is media alignment with the government regarding sensitive issues of the kingdom. As for the selection of Amnesty media based on the firm neutral stance of the media (Lebert, 2013), researchers made this media as a balance between the two previous media. These three media are generally considered quite appropriate to represent the voice of the Arab media towards the Salma case, considering the reach of the three of them which is quite extensive in the world.

The researcher used the Miles & Huberman (1994) analysis technique through data reduction, data presentation, and conclusions. In the data reduction stage, researchers sorted out the 20 data findings from 13 relevant data on each element. After the reduction stage, researchers categorized 13 data from 3 news articles into categorization, ideology, rubrication and classification, then analyzed each data based on Murray Edelman's framing theory followed by data interpretation by researchers. In the conclusion section, the researcher draws an understanding of each news to outline the Arab media's framing of the Salma Al-Shihab case.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Results

Arabic media construction related to the news of the Salma Al-Shihab case published in August 2021 was taken from three international media consisting of BBC Arabic, CNN Arabic, and Amnesty International. Data is taken based on Murray Jacob Edelman's framing categorization which consists of elements of categorization, ideology, rubrication, and classification. There are 4 data in categorization element, 3 data in ideology element, 3 data in rubrication element, and 3 data in classification element.

Categorization

Data (1)

شغل اسم الناشطة السعودية في مجال حقوق المرأة سلمى الشهاب الرأي العام العربي والعالمي في الأيام القليلة الماضية بعد الحكم عليها بالسجن ٣٤ عاماً، وهو أطول حكم سجن بحق ناشط مدني في

السعودية (BBC Arabic, paragraph 1)

Saudi women's rights activist Salma Al-Shehab has been the talk of the Arab and international public in recent days after she was sentenced to 34 years in prison, the longest prison term for a civil activist in Saudi Arabia.

The data above reveals news related to the case of a feminist activist Salma Al-Shihab of Saudi Arabian nationality who is being discussed by the Arab to international public who was sentenced to 34 years in prison, it is known that this sentence is the longest sentence for a public activist in Saudi Arabia.

Data (2)

وقضت المحكمة على الطالبة السعودية في جامعة ليدز بالسجن ست سنوات، بتهمة "جريمة" استخدام موقع إنترنت "الإثارة الاضطرابات العامة وزعزعة الأمن"، لكن محكمة الاستئناف أصدرت عليها حكماً مغلظاً، يوم الاثنين، بالسجن لمدة ٣٤ عاماً يليه حظر سفر لمدة ٣٤ عاماً أيضاً - بعد أن طلب المدعي

العام من المحكمة النظر في جرائم مزعومة أخرى. (BBC Arabic, paragraph 2)

A court sentenced a Saudi student at the University of Leeds to six years in prison, for the "crime" of using an Internet site "to incite public unrest and destabilize security." He was sentenced, on Monday, to 34 years in prison, followed by a 34-year travel ban as well.

The case against Salma was only disclosed in data (2), namely in the form of accusations of criminal acts through internet sites by provoking the public and disturbing the stability of state security. Regarding the sentence, Salma was initially only sentenced to 6 years in prison, but after an appeal the court issued a more severe sentence, increasing the sentence to 34 years plus a travel ban for the duration of the sentence.

Data (3)

حُكِمَ على الناشطة السعودية في مجال حقوق المرأة سلمى الشهاب بالسجن ٣٤ عاماً، يوم الاثنين،

في اتهامات تتعلق بنشاطها على تويتر، وفقاً لوثائق المحكمة التي اطلعت عليها شبكة CNN. (CNN

Arabic, paragraph 1)

Saudi women's rights activist Salma Al-Shehab was sentenced to 34 years in prison on Monday on charges related to her activities on Twitter, according to court documents seen by CNN.

Data (3) states CNN Arabic media coverage related to Salma Al-Shihab, an activist who actively voices the rights of Saudi women. On Monday, Salma was sentenced to 34 years in prison for her alleged actions on Twitter. This news information was obtained by CNN from court documents that had been decided.

Data (4)

قالت منظمة العفو الدولية اليوم إنه يجب على السلطات السعودية الإفراج فوراً ودون قيد أو شرط، عن سلمى الشهاب، وهي طالبة دكتوراه في جامعة ليدز حكم عليها بالسجن لمدة ٣٤ عاماً لمجرد كتاباتها

ونشاطها السلمي على تويتر (Amnesty International, paragraph 1)

Saudi authorities should immediately and unconditionally release Salma Al-Shehab, a PhD student at the University of Leeds who was sentenced to 34 years in prison solely for her peaceful writing and activism on Twitter, Amnesty International said today.

Data (4) contains information in the form of a statement from the editor of Amnesty International regarding the demand for the unconditional release of Salma Al-Shihab to the Saudi authorities. The next information just explained the main idea of the

news which states a doctoral student at the University of Leeds who was sentenced to 34 years in prison because of his posts and peaceful activism on Twitter.

Ideology

Data (5)

ويذكر أن الحساب مثبت به تغريدة نصها: "أرفض الظلم، و أنصر المظلوم، و أنكر على المحتل و أبرئ من كل هذا الجحيم يا الله، الحرية لمعتقلي الرأي و لكل مظلوم في العالم". (BBC Arabic, paragraph 5)

It is noteworthy that the account is embedded in a tweet that reads: "I reject injustice, support the oppressed, denounce the oppressor, and deliver me from all this hell, O Lord. Freedom for prisoners of conscience and for every oppressed person in the world".

It is noteworthy that the account embedded a tweet that read: "I reject injustice, support the oppressed, denounce the oppressor, and deliver me from all this hell, O Lord. Freedom for prisoners of conscience and every oppressed person in the world".

Data (6)

وقالت "القسط" إن التهم التي رفعتها النيابة العامة تضمنت "توفير العون لمن يسعون إلى الإخلال بالنظام العام والنيل من سلامة الجمهور واستقرار الدولة، ونشر إشاعات كاذبة ومغرضة على تويتر.

(CNN Arabic, Paragraph 5)

Al-Qast said that the charges filed by the Public Prosecutor include "providing assistance to those who seek to disrupt public order, undermine public safety and the stability of the country, and spread false and malicious rumors on Twitter."

Data (6) reveals information that among the charges addressed by the Public Prosecutor to Salma Al-Shihab regarding her actions, Salma is considered to provide access to individuals who seek to disrupt public order, public safety and state stability, and is considered to voice the issue of lies and crimes on the Twitter platform.

Data (7)

يمثل الحكم الصادر بحق سلمى الشهاب تصعيداً يثير القلق بشأن استخدام نظام مكافحة الإرهاب في

السعودية لتجريم وتقييد الحق في حرية التعبير دون مبرر. (Amnesty International, paragraph 7)

The sentencing of Salma Al-Shehab reflects growing concerns about Saudi Arabia's use of its counter-terrorism regime to unfairly criminalize and restrict the right to freedom of expression.

Data (7) presents the editor's commentary on Salma Al-Shihab's case, that her conviction raises concerns about Saudi Arabia's use of its counter-terrorism regime to unfairly criminalize and restrict its citizens' right to freedom of speech.

Rubrics

Data (8)

وضع الخبر في الموضوع "منتشر" (BBC Arabic)

This news is placed in the rubric "Tranding"

Data (8) states that this news was published in the Tranding section, this news was published on August 18, 2022 followed by the same news on the same day.

Data (9)

وضع الخبر في الموقع "السرق والأوساط" (CNN Arabic)

This news is placed in the "Middle East" section

Data (9) states that this news was placed in the Middle East section, considering that this conflict occurred in the Eastern part of the world, namely in the country of Saudi Arabia. This news was published on August 19, 2019 and followed by other news in different media with the same content.

Data (10)

وضع الخبر في الموقع "الأخبار" (Amnesty International)

This news is placed in the rubric "News Collection"

Data (10) states that this news is placed in the News section, the news classification at Amnesty International has three categories, namely news, campaigns, and research. This news was published on August 19, 2022 to coincide with the publication of CNN Arabic news on social media.

Classification

Data (11)

وفور انتشار أنباء الحكم الجديد تفاعل معه كثيرون عبر مواقع التواصل الاجتماعي عبر وسمي #سلمى_الشهاب و #freeSalma، إذ أعرب ناشطون وحسابات معنية بالدفاع عن حقوق الإنسان

عن تضامنهم مع سلمى. (BBC Arabic, paragraph 7).

As soon as news of the new ruling spread, many people interacted with her on social networking sites using the hashtags #Salma_Al-Shehab and #freeSalma, as activists and accounts concerned with the defense of human rights expressed their solidarity with Salma.

Data (11) shows that many people on social networking sites provided support for the Salma Al-Shihab case by writing the hashtags #Salma_Al-Shehab and #freeSalma, this support has been massively spread since the news related to the 34-year sentence against Salma was decided. Many of the activists and digital accounts defended and expressed their solidarity with Salma.

Data (12)

وبحسب وثائق المحكمة، حكم على سلمى الشهاب "مدة ٣٤ سنة نافذة اعتباراً من تاريخ إيقافها"، وفصلت الـ ٣٤ عاماً إلى أحكام بمدد تتراوح بين ٥ و ١٠ سنوات في اتهامات بموجب نظام مكافحة جرائم الإرهاب وتمويله، وحكم بالسجن لمدة سنة في اتهام بموجب نظام مكافحة جرائم المعلوماتية، و ٥ سنوات "تعزيراً مرسلًا لقاء ما أسند إليها مما لم تشمله عقوبة منظمة"، بالإضافة إلى منع من السفر خارج المملكة مدة ٣٤ سنة "بعد اكتساب الحكم القطعية وخروجها من السجن (GNN Arabic, paragraph 6)".

According to court documents, Salma Al-Shehab was sentenced to "a term of 34 years effective from the date of his suspension," and the 34 years were separated into sentences with terms ranging between 5 and 10 years on charges under the Anti-Terrorism, Crime and its Financing Act, and a one-year prison sentence on charges under the Anti-Cybercrime Act, and a 5-year "sentence for what was imposed on him that does not fall under an organized sentence," in addition to the organized sentence of prohibition from traveling outside the Kingdom for a period of 34 years "after obtaining his final judgment and release from prison."

Data (12) provides information regarding the classification of sentences along with the charges against Salma Al-Shihab based on court documents.

Data (13)

واختتمت ديانا سمعان قائلة: "يجب على السعودية وضع حد لحملتها القمعية التي لا هوادة فيها ضد ناشطات حقوق المرأة، وأي شخص آخر يجرؤ على التعبير عن آرائه بحرية. يجب تقدير نشاط النساء مثل سلمى وتوفير الحماية لهن، وليس استهدافهن بسبب تعبيرهن عن آرائهن. ويجب على السلطات أيضاً التوقف عن مساواة حرية التعبير بـ"الإرهاب". يجب عليها إلغاء أو تعديل نظامي مكافحة الإرهاب وجرائم المعلوماتية، اللذين يجرمان المعارضة، وسن قوانين جديدة تتوافق تماماً مع القانون والمعايير

الدولية لحقوق الإنسان (Amnesty International, paragraph 9)

Diana Sam'an concluded, saying: "Saudi Arabia must end its relentless campaign of repression against women's rights activists, and anyone who dares to express their opinions freely." Women's activism like Salma's should be valued and protected, not targeted for speaking out. Authorities must also stop equating freedom of expression with "terrorism." "They should repeal or amend anti-terrorism and cybercrime laws, which criminalize dissent, and enact new laws that are fully consistent with international human rights law and standards."

Data (13) continues Diana Sam'an's previous statement with the conclusion that Saudi Arabia must end all forms of oppression that continue to be directed against feminist activists and against anyone who dares to voice their rights independently. The authorities are also asked to stop equating freedom of speech with acts of terrorism, they should create new laws that are in line with international human rights laws and standards.

3.2 Discussion

Categorization

Data (1) and (2) elements of BBC Arabic media categorization reveal the reality of the Salma Al-Shihab case with dense language without explaining the case raised in the news. Meanwhile, data (2) reveals the case against Salma Al-Shihab. These two data are abstraction functions that help the public understand the reality of the case raised in the news. This concept is in accordance with Edelman's statement regarding the element of categorization, that categorization plays a role in helping to understand complex and irregular realities into regular and easily understood realities (Catlin & Edelman, 1966).

In addition to the reality of the case revealed in the findings above. The editor added information related to the sentence imposed on Salma, along with the charges against her. This reality does not stop at the Salma Al-Shihab case, this finding is supported by Poniscjakova research (2022) which states that a few weeks after the legal verdict on Salma Al-Shihab, the Saudi Arabian authorities sentenced Nourah bint Said to 45 years in prison on the same charge, namely voicing her opinion as a women's rights activist on social media.

Data (3) in the CNN Arabic media categorization element is not much different from the previous media categorization, namely, the editor reveals the reality related to the Salma Al-Shihab case. The difference found from the previous categorization is that the editor reveals the reality limited to information obtained from court documents, this shows the editor's objectivity in narrating the news. The editor's objectivity in this categorization element is considered very crucial considering that in this aspect the audience can see which party wants to win themselves and which party wants to bring down their opponents (Aryadi, 2014).

The sentence of 34 years in prison for Salma Al-Shihab, who was arrested in January 2021 for social networking activities on her Twitter platform, has raised the perception of Arab public concern over their freedom of expression on social media, because these activities are claimed to be prone to legal cases by the Saudi Kingdom. This finding is supported by Nereim's research (2023) which states that in the Saudi state, one Twitter post that is considered to be disruptive to the stability of state security can result in decades of imprisonment.

The data categorization element (4) in Amnesty International media reveals the same reality with a fairly subjective narrative, which contains demands for the release of Salma Al-Shihab. Related to the editor's subjectivity, Edelman stated that the reality in the news is sometimes the result of the editor's subjective thoughts on one side, this could make readers believe in a fact that is processed raw. Thus, in understanding news reality,

audiences must have a broad perspective because understanding it requires deep study (Robbins, 2020).

The BBC Arabic and CNN Arabic media abstraction functions tend to be neutral in revealing the reality of the Salma Al-Shihab case. The Amnesty International media tends to be subjective in revealing the reality of the case. However, both have the same function, which is to help the public understand the news.

Ideology

Data (5) in the BBC Arabic media symbolically reflects the interests of certain ideas that Salma Al-Shihab expressed demands for justice which she pinned on her Twitter account. The editor emphasized the ideological element in this news to suggest that there was no crime planned by Salma, she only voiced the rights of justice that should be heard and realized by the state. This interest is in line with Edelman's principle, which states that from the ideological aspect, the media narrative tries to express certain ideas so that they can be understood and interpreted by the reading audience. Therefore, ideological construction is carried out to convey certain ideas to the public (Burton, 2005).

Data (6) represents a certain idea that the Public Prosecutor accused Salma of being an activist who helped people who tried to provoke the public by voicing the issue of lies and crimes through her posts on Twitter. As a matter of fact, Salma actually voiced justice for the rights of the oppressed through her posts. This finding is supported by Edelman's (1985) statement that the interests expressed by editors through the legal language used affect how facts about a person are portrayed, from this depiction will give birth to a broad perception by the audience how they view the figure. In this case, Salma is reported by CNN media, whether the audience views negatively or positively towards cases related to Salma.

More explicitly, regarding the legal injustice received by Salma, Madawi's research (2023) revealed that various forms of human rights suppression that occurred in the Saudi state were due to contradictory policies within the government itself. The policy decided calls for freedom of reform for its citizens, but on the other hand there is oppression and violation of human rights on the part of the Kingdom's authorities. Based on this decision, many of the activists who voiced their right to justice were caught up in political cases, including the case against Salma Al-Shihab.

Data (7) in Amnesty International demonstrates the importance of Diana Sam'an's statement regarding the legal injustice imposed by Saudi Arabia against Salma, which is considered to increase public concern over Saudi Arabia's policies that continue to criminalize and limit the rights of its citizens. This finding contains the media's interest in trying to defend Salma's case by presenting the comments of the figures and the facts. This finding is in line with Althusser's opinion that the media with all its interests always carry out certain missions as a means of conveying information to the public, both in the social, cultural, political and other domains (Smith, 1989).

The interest related to this idea is in line with the research findings of Ropret Homar & Knežević Cvelbar (2021) which state that to raise public awareness of a

phenomenon, it is necessary to emphasize the negative consequences of the presence or absence of action from society. The negative consequences in this aspect are the policies of the government of Saudi Arabia, so that action or action is needed by the world community for such criminalized policies.

The interests of the ideas of BBC Arabic and CNN Arabic media reinforce the reciprocal facts related to the Salma Al-Shihab case. The Amnesty International media is more focused on criticizing the Saudi Arabian government for imposing the law on Salma.

Rubrics

The rubrication element of data (8) on BBC news places the Salma Al-Shihab case in the Tranding section. This is done because of the many searches made by the public regarding Salma's case, while the public's tendency to choose trusted media refers to the extent of the media's reach in various parts of the world. The BBC media has occupied these qualifications, this is evidenced by the BBC's own statement where its news has reached more than 400 million readers around the world every week (Nielsen, 2023).

The reality of rubrication by the BBC media is in line with the principle of rubrication in Edelman's perspective, which states that the main purpose of placing news in certain rubrics is so that there is no misunderstanding in the audience in understanding the news displayed. The important aspect of rubrication is inseparable from framing techniques, because the placement of news in certain rubrics has a conceptual impact in producing the direction of the mind and the audience's concentration on the information they read (Edelman, 1993). This finding is reinforced by Reveilhac & Blanchard's research (2022) which found that people are still very dependent on information accessed from social media. This dependence is an aspect of media consideration in presenting the easiest access for public consumption.

The rubrication of data (9) on CNN Arabic media places the Salma Al-Shihab case in the Middle East rubric. This placement is based on editorial technical considerations aimed at directing readers in understanding and interpreting the cases presented. The rubrication applied by CNN Arabic media is in accordance with Edelman's opinion, which states that rubrication is not only a technical issue in the placement of news, but also reviews how the reality in the news is placed in certain classifications so as to facilitate the audience in understanding the events that have been constructed (Catlin & Edelman, 1966).

Data rubrication (10) in Amnesty International media places the Salma Al-Shihab case in the news collection rubric. The placement of the Salma Al-Shihab case in the news collection rubric is a form of media technical consideration so that audiences can follow and interpret information about human rights constructed by the media. this finding is in line with Launa's research (2020) which states that the placement of news in certain rubrics is carried out to lead the audience's perspective in order to understand and interpret the cases presented based on certain rubrics, this is done because rubrication builds a map of the audience's mind towards cases, phenomena, and news that they consume.

In essence, the three media rubrications above provide the same goal, which is to facilitate the public in accessing news and understanding the news displayed.

Classification

Elements of Classification Data (11) BBC Arabic media shows attention implicitly by presenting several forms of support from various groups, among the forms of support is the writing of the hashtags #Salma_Al-Shehab and #freeSalma which are massively spread through the media. This finding is in line with Edelman's statement that classification is the most decisive part related to media support or disagreement over the events or cases it raises, this provision is closely related to how a reality is communicated, thus affecting public perception of media coverage (Edelman, 1985). This finding is corroborated by McGrath's (2007) research which found that the extent to which the language construction carried out by the media related to political issues is presented is the main factor that determines whether the issue is accepted and supported by the public.

Furthermore, the data classification element (12) of CNN Arabic media describes the classification of the sentence imposed on Salma, from the time the sentence was first imposed to the time of her release. This shows that the media is neutral regarding the reporting on Salma's case. The neutral attitude of the media in reporting a reality based on Sucipta & Kurniawan's research (2021) found that a neutral attitude can build a positive view in the audience of readers. This positive view is in line with Edelman's view which states that classification has a certain impact on the audience, this impact can be in the form of emotions that arise due to the influence of media framing on readers, whether the effect is positive or negative (Edelman, 1985).

As for the classification elements of data (13), Amnesty International media provides a full defense of Salma's case. In the classification element, the media strongly criticized the Saudi Arabian government's policy of imposing severe punishment on Salma. This finding is in line with Edelman's statement that classification determines approval or rejection by the public, this is determined by the way the media presents and communicates the reality that occurs. It is in this process that reality is categorized and classified in the news by the media (Edelman, 1985). This finding is confirmed in research Webster's (2020) which states that the influence of news construction on public audiences is not limited to the construction of words in the news, but also related to how the construction of words is expressed and reinforced in news framing.

Based on the classification of the three media above, it can be seen that the BBC and CNN Arabic media show explicit attention through the data presented. The Amnesty media shows explicit support for Salma's case.

4. CONCLUSION

After going through a series of stages of analysis and discussion, it can be concluded that, both from the elements of categorization, ideology, rubrication, and classification, BBC and CNN Arabic media display news construction objectively, in this case both media do not

show a tendency towards any party. This finding is supported by Amnesty's explicit support for the human rights issue that befell Salma. So it can be concluded, in general, the Arab media provides support for Salma's case.

The practical implication that can be drawn from this conclusion is that not all media affiliated with certain groups show favoritism towards these groups, thus providing subjective news framing to the public. A wise media certainly maintains the objectivity of its thoughts on any issue, so that the public can understand and draw objective conclusions from any information stated by the media. This research contributes to the field of critical linguistics by showing the application of Murray Edelman's thinking to news construction related to human rights issues, educating readers about the objectivity and subjectivity of the media in framing news, along with how it works in leading public opinion. It is hoped that future studies will conduct more varied studies related to the construction of media framing in the Middle East, especially in human rights issues which so far there have not been many studies on related issues except in the global realm.

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