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A Pragmatic Study of Fabrication in Israeli Newspaper Articles

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
	The present study is concerned with the concept of fabrication through the lenis of pragmatics. The study aims to investigate the aspects of fabrication in Israeli news reports concerning the war of Gaza. The present study aims at finding out the cues of fabricated news reports and finding out what are the speech acts that are mostly used in news fabrication. The study come up with the following results: Israeli news reports use certain cues to fabricate their reports such as delivering half of the truth and lying. The reporters resorts mainly to representative speech act of reporting as they deliver the fabricated news from the military leaders.

1. Introduction

Language is used as means of communication, that is used to deliver and receive ideas, thoughts, or even news. There is an urgent need to hear the news around the world especially during war time. Unfortunately, news are not reported in an honest way from one side or both sides of conflict. As such there is a strong necessity to deal with the topic of fabrication. Strachman and Steck (2008: 385) define it as the ability to make something appear different than it is. Furthermore, Handelman (2009: 4) defines fabrication as an attempt by one person to persuade another to act in a certain way and/or for a specific aim. This suggests that the purpose of fabrication is to advance the targets' interests.

The present study is set to investigate the concept of fabrication and pointing its types and its features. Also finding out the pragmatic techniques used to achieve the fabricator aims. As for the limits of the study, it is only concerned with one article published in the newspaper namely Times of Israel. The article was published on 21 of December 2023 by Emanuel Fabian.

2.Literature Review
Etymology of fabrication
In the fifteenth century, the term "fabrications," which also implies "manufacturing, construction," was first employed in the English language. The word fabrication was taken from a medieval French word. The name came from the Latin word Fabricationem (nominative fabricatio), which meaning "a structure, construction, or making." In 1790 it was extended to denote "lying, forgery, falsehood."(web source1)

The Concept of Fabrication
The conept of fabrication has been tackled by different linguist, scholars, and even psychologist. In this section, the researcher will shed the light on some points of view concerning fabrication.

Van Dijk (2006: 361) views fabrication as a "communicative pursuit" in which fabricators attempt to manage and lead their targets without being alert or heedful to their wills. Fabricators, in this sense, supply false, fabricated information to their targets using a variety of techniques that serve to meet their intended, tendentious purposes (ibid.). They do everything they can to destroy their targets' rational visions. As a result, falsification is viewed as a violation of social norms.

1

Cambridge dictionary defines fabrication as the act of inventing false information in order to deceive someone, or the false information itself

Steneck (2006: 13) defines fabrication as "making up data or results and recording or reporting them". This means that fabrication entails modifying and removing data from research materials (ibid.). As a result, to fabricate is to create data. It follows, as indicated by Steneck (2006: 13) and previously by Saarni and Lewis (1993: 10), that fabrication is regarded as "a universally unethical practice" and, as such, appears to be purposely offensive. For Kooijman (2008: 10), fabrication is falsification per se. It is a fake; something which is not genuine, or something which is presented fraudulently. In a more detailed view, Strachman and Steck (2008: 385) argue that fabrication, which is capacious in human interactions, journalism, mass communication, and warfare, is the capacity to make something appear as different from what it really is. It is, thus, an affirmative, deliberate phenomenon intended to restrain others from knowing about a fact of which they would else have known (ibid.).

Handelman (2009: 4) defines fabrication as an attempt by one person to persuade another to act in a certain way in order to achieve a specified purpose. This suggests that the purpose of fabrication is to further the fabricators' interests. Thus, Handelman (ibid. 6) associates fabrication with maneuvering, which is an illusive term. The reason for this association is that the fabricators, by maneuvering the targets, attempt to influence their decision-making process by giving the impression that they (the targets) choose their actions freely and independently, when, in fact, the fabricators are maneuvering them not to perceive the fabricators' intentional goals.

Markham (2011: 2) takes a more psychological approach, defining fabrication as "a form of misconduct." Furthermore, Markham (ibid. 3) adds that the term fabrication is frequently glossed as the inverse of truth-telling; it represents the act of integrating, shaping, and/or organizing pieces into a whole in order to achieve fraudulent, dishonest, deceptive, elusive, crafty, or devious aims. As a result, the phrase bears negative, dyslogistic implications.

Fraser (1994: 145-6), has asserted that fabrication falls within the large system of misrepresentation wherein misrepresentation is "the transfer of erroneous information (incorrect content) or a false attitude toward the information that is presented". In this sense, dexterous fabricators have a large collection of strategies, whether deceptive, manipulative, or other strategies, to present fraudulent, invented information. They, for example, can use a direct approach such as rumouring or a serpentine, circuitous (roundabout) one in which the message is not stated overtly and straightforwardly, but can be inferred by readers/ hearers. In a similar line, Galasinski (2000: 36-7) has stated that the notion of misrepresentation is the focal point of fabrication in the sense that fabricators attempt to misrepresent reality by misrepresenting what they believe to be true accounts of a state of affairs.

Cues of Fabricated Speeches
There are two types of cues used in fabricated or fake newsreports so that the fabricator can easily send the required message to the targets.

Linguistic cues
Burgoon et al. (1996: 726) stated that fabrication can be accomplished through particular types of linguistic signals that are associated with it. Word counts, pronoun usage, and terms related to feelings and senses are examples. In terms of word counts, DePaulo et al. (2003: 77) demonstrate that fabricators use fewer words when they aim to fabricate than when they speak the truth in order to avoid providing details that may be inconsistent with their fabrication.

As for pronoun usage, According to Newman et al. (2003: 667), fabricators do not commonly use first person pronouns when fabricating a piece of speech because they want to distance themselves from the lies or half-truths being told. As a result, they prefer to use "other" pronouns such as "they" and "he" to draw attention away from themselves. Bachenko et al. (2008: 43) argue that fabricated speeches contain some linguistic hedges such as (sort of, to our knowledge, I think, I could only assume, and the like). According to Fraser (2010: 201), hedging refers to "the use of particular terms or structures that signal a lack of commitment to an utterance". This reduces the value of the utterance attenuated. hence, fabricators avoid providing the required information by creating vagueness. Furthermore, Perloff (2010: 71) stresses the fact that emotional appeals, triggered by concepts calling for fear, hope, and the like are often common in fabricated speeches.

In (2009: 1152-61), Dilmon has argued that there are certain criteria that characterize fabricated speech, also called the discourse of invention. These criteria are as follows: (1) vagueness, (2) exaggerated behaviour that deviates from normal discourse patterns, (3) a tendency to short messages, (4) fewer factual declarations and more general ones, (5) repeated double declarations.

General cues

There are genral cues that is present in any fabricated report . these can be listed as follows:(1)Fake news is vague and indefinite; biased and slanted. (2). It does not present enough support or evidence to prove a claim. (3) playing on emotions . (4)displaying half-truths.) (5) lack of evidence.

Types of fabrication
Manipulation

It is a widespread type of fabrication which is prevalent in almost every corner of our social life. It is defined by Tarasov (1990: 26) as an issue intended to achieve pre-planned goals. For Blass (2005: 19), manipulating others means having them adopt specific goals and viewpoints that put the manipulators' goals and interests in the forefront i.e.   the manipulators intend to control the manipulated (ibid.).

According to Handelman (2009. 2) ,Manipulation pertains to mental and emotional influence because it is harnessed to influence the decision-making of others (the targets of manipulation); yet, it creates an illusion of free choice. Posteriorly, Goodin (1980: 19) has accentuated the "trickery-based" features of manipulation, defining it as an influence causing others to act contrary to their purported will.

Hoaxing

Hoaxing, Robin et al. (2015: 3) state, is a type of unobtrusive, deliberate fabrication which is mainly common in journalism and social media. Simply, it is a trick which is intended to make someone believe something that is not true and take action based on that belief (ibid.). In this respect, "to hoax" means "to cheat" or "to impose upon" (ibid.). Hoaxing is also meant to cause social and political change by raising people's awareness of something. In (1998: 875), Brunvand has differentiated between hoaxing and pranking or practical joking. He has emphasized that a hoax is "a relatively complex and large-scale fabrications" (ibid.). Accordingly, hoaxing is not only farcical but also harmful; it is intended, especially in political arenas, to embarrass, deride, or smirch opponents or political institutions (ibid.).

Deception

Menges (1973: 1031) describes deception, which is a type of fabrication, as an instance where "the subject is given misleading or erroneous information". For Zuckerman et al. (1981: 2), deception is "an act that is intended to foster in another person a belief or understanding that the deceiver considers false". In the same view, Whaely (1982: 183) states that deception is the distortion of the perceived reality wherein the deceiver's task is to "profess the false in the face

of the real". McCornack (2009: 4) sees deception in terms of the violation of one or more of Grice's maxims of conversation. He argues that messages which violate one or more of those maxims are valued as being less honest than those messages that do not violate any maxim (ibid.).

Previously, Buller and Burgoon (1996: 205) have argued that deceptive discourse, as fabricated discourse, is explicated as false beliefs that are intended to be induced in the targets. Thus, the essence of this definition is that deceptive discourse revives when "a speaker transmits a message that is intended to create or foster a false belief in the target" in a way that suits the deceiver. As such, Robinson (1996: 33) argues that deception is an intentional means of

constructing and maintaining a distorted version of reality which always aims at attaining a "tactical" advantage for one party. Hence, intentionality is an important characteristic of deceptive communication. For Nicks et al. (1997: 70), deception is viewed as an "explicit misstatement of fact". Formerly, Elliot and Culver (1992: 72) have argued that deception is a routine especially in journalism and mass communication. As such, Elliot and Culver (ibid.) define journalistic deception as "the act of communicating messages verbally (a lie) or nonverbally throughout the withholding of information with the intention to initiate or sustain a false belief". Briefly, then, deception involves falsity or untruthfulness which are considered as the distinctive properties of deception and of fabrication, by extension.

An overview of Pragmatics

Pragmatics is a branch of linguistics inquiry has its origin in the philosophy of language. Its root can be traced back to the work of the philosophers Charles Morris, Rudolf Carnap in 1930s. Mey (1993: 42) defines pragmatics as the science of language seen in relation to its users, as it used by real, live people, for their own purposes and determined by the context of society. Hence speech act theory is one of the main theories in pragmatics and it is used in this research as an analysis tool. Thus , the theory is dealt with in the following section.

Speech act Theory

According to Cutting (2002: 16) speech act t theory is one of the cornerstones in pragmatics; the interest in which can be traced back to the idea that people use language, whether orally or in writing; whether honestly or dishonestly, to do things. Searle, Archer et al. (ibid. 39) mention, continued the work initiated by Austin suggesting a number of dimensions to classify SAs into five categories.. These five categories, according to Searle (1969: 65), are the following:

1. Representatives: These are illustrated by acts expressing the speaker's/ writer's belief that something is true. They show word-to-world fit since the speakers/ writers, in using them, make a belief fit an already existing state of affairs in the world. The illocutionary point of these acts is to provide faithful representation of facts. Examples are SAs of stating, suggesting, claiming concluding, insisting, describing, hypothesizing, predicting, announcing, attributing, affirming, alleging, classifying, denying, disclosing, disputing, identifying, informing, insisting, reporting, predicting, ranking, stipulating, and deducing.

2. Commissives: By using a commissive, speakers/ writers commit themselves to do some future act showing world-to-word fit since the speakers/ writers undertake to make the world fit the words. Examples of such acts are promising, pledging, threatening, refusing, volunteering, and vowing.

3. Directives: They are SAs in which the words are aimed at making the hearers/ readers do something. They show word-to-world fit because the hearers/ readers are supposed to carry out an action. Examples include asking, advising, permitting, forbidding, excusing, instructing, urging, warning, requiring, and inviting.

4. Expressives: These are acts in which the words state what the speakers/ writers feel. Thus, the illocutionary point of these acts is to communicate attitudes of their performers about certain facts and events. Examples of such acts are deploring, welcoming, praising, regretting, apologizing, and thanking.

5. Declarations: These SAs, such as acquitting, disqualifying, declaring, and the like, change the world by their very utterance. Thus, their illocutionary point is to create facts and events.

Fabrication and Speech act Theory

a wide range of SAs can be exploited as tools in the communicative process of fabrication in order to achieve intended perlocutionary effects on their receivers. In most cases, particularly in media discourse, SAs are resorted to in the processof fabrication (Zheltuhina, 2004: 14). In this regard, Rigotti (2005: 68) claims that SAs serve fabricators' goal in garbling the vision of the world in the minds of the audience by providing them with statements whose sincerity conditions are violated, while, at the same time, asserting them as truthful. Following Rigotti (ibid. 70), insincere SAs are essential tools in fabricating a piece of information because they serve the purpose of changing receivers' beliefs and attitudes. In other words, they are intended to produce a pre-planned perlocutionary effect on the audience. This effect, Rigotti (2005: 71) asserts, is an attempt to get the audience form some correlative attitude and act in a specific way. Thus fabricative SAs will be utilized as pragmatic sub-strategies .

As far as the current study is concerned, different types of SAs are expected to be fabricatively utilized by news reporters in their attempt to misrepresent reality and persuade the audience to accept what they report as true. Searle's (1969) taxonomy is adopted in the present study as it is considered more comprehensive than other taxonomies. Thus, in the scope of political and war news reports, the following SAs are expected to be resorted to by fabricators to trigger certain fabricative strategies:

1. Representative SAs of , concluding, reporting, and stating, are expected to be used insincerely in order to fabricate facts and events. Such acts, Archer et al (2012: 39-40)assert, are used to form a belief, which may be insincere when they are used infelicitously, and to get the audience form the same belief. which may be insincere when they are used infelicitously, and to get the audience form the same belief.

2. Directive SAs of warning and recommending are expected to be used fabricatively in war news reports so as to get the audience carry out a certain course of conduct.
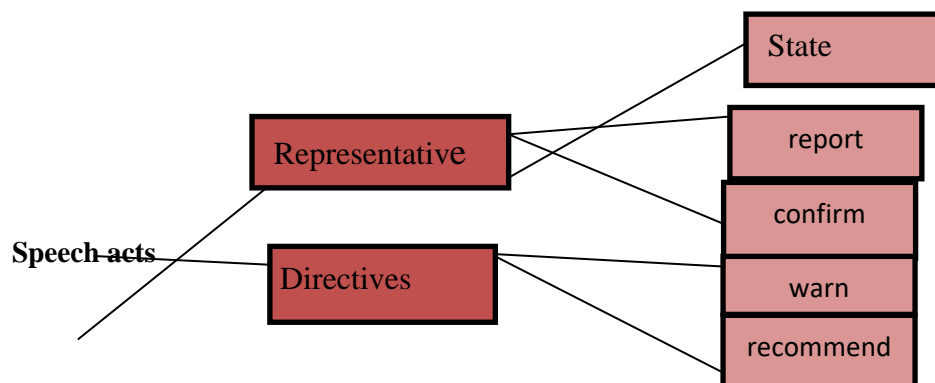
Figure (1): Speech Acts Used Fabricatively

3. Methodology and Procedures
Research Objectives
Based on the research introduction discussed earlier, this study aims at:
1. Defining the concept of fabrication and pointing the cues to fabricated news article
2. identifying the speech at that are used to show fabrication in the selected article
3. identifying the most and least speech acts that are used in the article

Data description
The data of the study selected to be analyzed represent one article taken from the Israeli news site "the times of Israel" . The article is about the war in Gaza. It is published on 21 of December 2023 by Emanuel Fabian

4. Data Analysis
Method of analysis
A qualitative approach of analysis is adopted in this research. It starts with identifying the cues of fabrication used in each extract and then showing the type of speech act used in the fabricated article.

*"IDF Spokesman Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari **said** on Wednesday evening that the military had begun to battle **terror operatives** in the Gaza City neighborhoods of Daraj and Tuffah, where one of the last of Hamas's northern Gaza battalions remains, **indicating the military appears to be nearing the end of its ground offensive in the northern part of the Strip."***

The above extract of the report is considered fake or fabricated because there are certain cues appeared in it, starting with the use of sense verb "said" as well as it is biased and slanted as it described fighters in Gaza as being "terror operative". Also the use of expression " *the military appears to be nearing*" is very general and there is no confirmation. The fabricated speech is delivered through using the representative speech act of reporting as the reporter reports about the latest action occurred in Gaza.

*"The IDF has said it has operational control over Beit Hanoun, Jabaliya, and several other areas of northern Gaza, as it works to **dismantle Hamas's battalions**. The IDF has also indicated that it will take **only several more days** to complete operations in Shejaiya, where some of the **fiercest fighting** took place."*
The extract above is also fabricated for the presence of certain fabricated cues such as using the sense verb "said" and it doesn't present a prove to support the claim of "*dismantle Hamas's battalions*." As Hamas is still fighting up to the time of writing this research and the losses of Israeli soldiers are very big as Hamas announce. The exaggerated behavior *"only several more days"* up till now they didn't prove about the time they would spend to achieve their goal in Gaza.

As for the type of speech act, Representative speech act of reporting , as he reports about the deveiopment as delivered by military leaders. Also representative speech act of announcing is also used as he announced on the tongue of the military leaders *"it will take **only several more days** to complete operations in Shejaiya…"*

*"In Gaza City's Jabaliya, **a school where civilians had been sheltering was** cleared out by troops of the 551st Brigade, who found several weapons belonging to Hamas operatives inside, **the army said."***

The aforementioned extract is considered fabricated as it holds half of the truth; the school in Jabalia ***"where civilians had been sheltering** "* this is only half of the truth because what follows is only fabricated news. There is no evidence for finding weapons as well as the civilian were shot or arrested and taken to unknown place.

Concerning the speech act used in this fabricated extract, representative speech act of reporting is utilized to report events that occurred in Jabalia.

*"The IDF **is still expected to remain in northern Gaza for a long period after the main offensive,** to continue **dismantling Hamas's infrastructure**, including the **terror group's tunnels** and **caches of weapons."***

This extract is considered fabricated for the appearance of certain cued. Firstly, avoiding first person pronoun. Secondly, excess in the use of words with negative sematic load such as *" dismantling Hamas's infrastructure*" and " **terror group's tunnels**".

The use of vague hint like " *is still expected to remain in northern Gaza*" there is no clear declaration for the period of war against Gaza.

As for the type of speech act used here, the representative speech act of predicting . the reporter reports the predictions of the IDF concerning time of fightin in Gaza and the achieved aims.

"Hagari in his Wednesday press conference described a Hamas tunnel network found hidden beneath Palestine Square in Gaza City, saying that "senior Hamas members managed the fighting on October 7 [from the area]."
*"From this infrastructure, they were able to spread across Gaza. From the heart of Gaza City, **senior Hamas officials were able to reach Shifa Hospital, leave there in an ambulance to travel south, and return to Shifa Hospital, enter the [tunnel] network, and go north to Rantisi Hospital**," he said."*

the extract above can be considered fabricated because it meets the following criteria of fake news: (1) there is no sufficiency principle because there is no evidence in what they narrate about the action happened on the 7th of October , it is only prediction; even after destroying the hospitals , they didn't find any evidence that lead them to the tunnels of Hamas or even a single weapon used by them. (2)reporting false declaration about the journey of Hamas on the 7th of October. As for the speech act, the representative speech act of reporting is being used here the reporter is reporting what Hagari said in his press conference on Wednesday.

*Hamas's media office in the Gaza Strip said Wednesday afternoon that the death toll in Gaza since the start of the war had crossed 20,000. **The number cannot be independently confirmed**, and **it doesn't differentiate between civilians and combatants,** whom an IDF spokesperson said earlier this month have been killed at a two-to-one ratio. Hamas's toll also includes **those killed in failed Palestinian rocket attacks.***

The pervious extract is considered fabricated because it meets certain cues of fabrication, starting with avoiding the use of first person pronoun and using other constructions, using sens verb such as "said". Also appealing the number of victims who were killed by Israeli destructive operations claiming that" the number cannot be confirmed" without giving sufficient reason. The claiming that Hamas is also responsible for killing Palestinian people by mistake which is very fake speech and there is no prove for this claim.

As for the speech act, representative speech act of stating is used as the reporter is taking an official position about the number of Palestinian who were killed in war.

*"Israel says it is making an effort to **avoid harm to civilians** while fighting a **terror group** embedded within the civilian population. It has long accused Gaza-based **terror groups** of using Palestinians in the Strip as human shields, operating from sites, including schools and hospitals, which are supposed to be protected"*

The aforementioned extract is considered fabricated because of the presence of certain fabricated cues: (1) the use of sense verb such as " says", (2) overusing words with negative semantic load while referring to Hamas describing them as " ***terror group'',*** (3)using lies to justify its bloody actions with civilian in Gaza. It is clear to everyone that Israel commit genocide in Gaza by killing civilian who take cover in hospitals, schools , mosque , and even refugee camps. So what they report about protecting civilian is just fake. As for the speech act, representative speech act of stating is used in this extract as the Israeli government officially and falsely state its position towards the people of Gaza.

5.Conclusion

On the basis of what has been discussed earlier , the current study come up with the following conclusions: fabrication is a an effective tool in reporting war news as the fabricators deliver the message as they desire and as it serve their interest regardless any human rights. There are certain cues that are used in the fabricated article such as delivering half-truth i.e. mixing the truth with lies to serve their ambitions and to deliver the message they want to their targets. The speech act that act that are used in fabricated news reports are the representative speech acts especially reporting and stating.

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