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Framing Human Tragedy: A Semiotic Analysis of War Images in the Israel-Palestine Conflict

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ABSTRACT

The present study examines the human tragedy during Post-October 2023 Israel-Palestine conflict through the lens of Riera (2020)'s semiotic model, which consists of three levels: a) Concept (Sign, Context, and Meanings), b) Construct (semiosis), and c) Proposition (reader response). It focuses on how contextual elements, visual signs, and semiotic relationships build reflective and embedded meanings in war images. The study is qualitative with a sample of four war-related images, selected purposively from the Moscow Times news website for analysis. The findings show that there is a human tragedy in Palestine in the shape of social and cultural disturbance, as well as residential areas, healthcare facilities, religious spaces, and shelters. The selected images also show the unequal power relations such as vertical relations of the people being dependent on the war choices and bombing by IDF (Israeli Defense Force) from sky. In contrast, horizontal relations between people and places are abandoned, resulting in the destruction of houses, worship places, hospitals, and shelters. Despite making geopolitical statements, the study explores how these visual representations construct meanings of loss, displacement, and humanitarian crisis through semiotic processes. Humans have to suffer not only because of the actions of Israel but also due to the birth of human tragedy; supported by international powers with Israel. The current study contributes to visual semiotics and conflict discourse analysis by showing how war images construct different meanings about tragedy through semiotic processes.

Keywords: *Concept, Construct, Proposition, Human Tragedy, Semiotic Analysis*

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1. Introduction

Human tragedy is a grave and disastrous occurrence that leads to a great deal of suffering, death, or destruction of human life. The phrase is often used to characterize circumstances like poverty, starvation, or disease outbreaks that cause great suffering and fatalities, as well as occurrences like war, natural catastrophes, terrorist attacks, or other acts of violence. Individual tragedies that affect an individual or a family are also considered as human tragedies. Human tragedies are often regarded as terrible and profound occurrences that significantly affect both individuals affected and the larger community. The term "human tragedy" typically refers to the emotional reactions of people and groups to the incident, in addition to the harm done, the loss, and the grieving process (Santos, 2023).

War, a human tragedy, involves large-scale violent conflict affecting the large number of people by putting an enormous toll on those who are involved in it (Sturma, 2019). The Israel-Palestine conflict is one of the major conflicts of the century. It has affected all the major surrounding countries due to conflict of ideology and culture between the two nations (Global Conflict Tracker, 2024). Hamas (the militant group of Palestinians) launched an operation against IDF (Israeli Defense Force) on October 07, 2023. The reason behind the attack was to drive the IDF back from the Gaza Strip (Global Conflict Tracker, 2024). Despite launching the ground operation against militants, IDF started airstrikes on Palestinians. About 34,000 deaths have occurred during the operation of IDF in the name of defense, including women, children, and the elderly (Global Conflict Tracker, 2024). About 1,200 people were killed by Hamas, and 250 people were kept as hostages (BBC, 2024). It was 1947 when UN (United Nations) split the land of Palestinians into Jewish and Palestine states, but Palestinians rejected it, and the conflict started (BBC, 2024). Thousands of people have been killed in this conflict while millions have been displaced (Alsaafin, 2023). The displacement of people has led to the birth of human tragedy.

United Nations Human Rights (2024) disclosed that about 1.9 million people have been displaced out of 2.3 million in the Israel-Palestine conflict. Moreover, the sanitary conditions are dreadful, and shelters are cramped after the IDF bombing (United Nations Human Rights, 2024). Humans suffer, and there is a massive scarcity of food, medicine, water, tents, and basic necessities (United Nations Human Rights, 2024). The international media broadly captured these humanitarian consequences and expressed them through news photographs and other forms of visual media. These visual representations not only present clash but also signify meanings of suffering, displacement, resilience, and war.

The occurrence of human tragedy results in severe human sufferings. In the recent conflict, 30,000 tons of bombs were dropped, and 13,000 people were killed, including approximately 5,600 children and 3,550 women (Tehran Times, 2023). Wars create their dynamics with language and images. The semiotics and the semantics are redefined in the war images to disclose the communication system, legitimization, and collective mass violence (Jacob, 2021). IDF has bombed all the Palestinian structures with their rage without considering the international law and ethical considerations. War images present the core aspects and the

semantics through different codes. The present study is conducted to reveal human tragedy through the war images due to IDF bombing.

The study adopted the semiotic model of Riera (2020), which consists of three aspects of analysis: a) Concept (Sign, Context, and Meanings), b) Construct (Semiosis), and c) Proposition (reader response). This framework provides a clear examination of how visual images construct distinct layers of meaning and outline audience interpretations of contemporary conflict imagery.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

Human tragedy is the broad term that encompasses human loss, displacement, and subjugation. The concepts of destruction present the hidden meanings of war, which results in the construction of human tragedy. Such human tragedy contributes to the disruption of human civilization, which can be better understood through sign construction.

1.3. Research Objectives

- To understand the human tragedy in Palestine through war Images.
- To explore the inlaid meanings in the signs of war images of Palestine.

1.4. Research Questions

- How do the concept, construct, and proposition present the human tragedy in Palestine?
- What intended meanings are constructed through representation of destruction in Palestine?

1.5. Significance of the Study

The study is descriptive, which helps to understand the core aspects of human tragedy in Palestine by Israel's heavy shelling. The present study can help to understand the inlaid meanings of signs, and their relations with the context. This study can also help to explore the recipient's response being the inhabitant of the planet.

2. Literature Review

International Humanitarian law is based on the Geneva Convention with the additional Protocols of 1977 including the protection of victims of war conflicts (ICRC, 2024). All the states have agreed to these laws, which include the safety and protection of those people and their goods which are not involved in the war as well. The major international treaties of the laws are as follows which are agreed by the international community:

- Convention for The Protection of Cultural Property in The Event of Armed Conflict, Plus Its Two Protocols (1954);
- Biological Weapons Convention (1972);
- Conventional Weapons Convention and Its Five Protocols (1980);
- Chemical Weapons Convention (1983);
- Ottawa Convention on Anti-Personnel Mines (1997);

- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (2000).

All these laws and protocols are applied at the time of international conflict.

Brown (2007) explored "Tragedy, 'Tragic Choices' and Contemporary International Political Theory". The study mentioned that the fundamental idea of the tragic worldview is that human behavior occasionally, if not frequently, presents a choice between two drastically different but equally awful consequences, and thus, from one point of view, our actions in every given circumstance would be seen as improper. The study also suggests that tragedy is the significant element for understanding political and humanitarian consequences in international relations. However, Brown's research does not explore human tragedy through semiotic analysis and visual representation. The tragic vision is generally rejected by analytical political theory, and most of the current literature on humanitarian intervention and global distributive justice also opposes the idea that there are always clear-cut appropriate responses and acting is always bad. Refusing to acknowledge the sad aspect of human existence has negative effects on one's intellect as well as one's political standing (Brown, 2007).

Segell (2023) studied "An Alternative View of The Israel-Palestine Dispute: The Eschatological Dimension". This study used eschatology (a theological concept about end-of-age expectations that frequently provoke violent reactions) to analyze the Israel-Palestine conflict. The study described that comprehensive studies examining the function of eschatology in this setting are lacking despite a wealth of studies on the Israel-Palestine conflict. Extreme hatred and bloodshed are greatly fueled by religion in the Middle East, which includes Israel and Palestine. The impact of religious traditions, especially eschatology, which often elicits violent reactions, is the main topic of discussion. This was examined in five aspects of the study: daily religion, Jerusalem's function, eschatological prophecy, expansion beyond Jerusalem, and the message delivered. The study concluded that eschatology plays a major role in this struggle and that violent apocalyptic prophecies exacerbate it. Different interpretations of eschatological and apocalyptic prophesies, as well as an awareness of religion's role in the struggle, are necessary to resolve this dispute (Segell, 2023).

Assaiqeli (2021) studied "Palestine in Visual Representation: A Visual Semiotic Analysis of the Nakba". The study mentioned that Israel has made a concerted effort to erase historical Palestine from Arab and international public consciousness since its de facto creation. National themes are constructed and maintained in part through visual discourse. Through a critical discourse analysis of a corpus of visual representations, this paper sought to understand how visual representation memorializes and reconstructs national themes. In doing so, it can act as a counter-hegemonic discourse against attempts to mystify history and memorize the other. This social semiotic research examined the role of visual representations in the memorialization of important Palestinian national themes and, consequently, the reconstruction and preservation of historic Palestine by using Kress and van Leeuwen's (2006) grammar of visual design as a framework for visual analysis. The study highlighted the sociopolitical and emancipatory

function that graphically expresses national themes, such as ethnic cleansing and the Right of Return, in creating the collective consciousness of the Palestinian people about their past, present, and future. Further investigation into visual signals may provide more light on the role that multimodal and visual communication play in national emancipation and the maintenance of significant national themes (Assaiqeli, 2021).

Adawiyah et al. (2020) did a study "Multimodal Depiction of Israelis and Palestinians on Gaza Conflict in Two Middle Eastern Press". This study intended to investigate the portrayals of Israelis and Palestinians in the Gaza conflict by two Middle Eastern Press publications: Daily Sabah and Iran Daily. To identify media ideology, this study used multimodal critical discourse analysis. In other words, it emphasized semiotic resources manifested through visuals in addition to language qualities. Clauses containing Van Dijk's ideological square discourse are analyzed using Halliday's (2004) transitivity. Kress & van Leeuwen's (2006) symbolic function of the image was used to analyze the pictures included in the chosen articles. It was evident from the data that both media outlets portrayed Israelis as the "Other" group and Palestinians as the "Self" group. They depicted the "Other" as the agent of offensiveness, while the "Self" was seen as the victim and the righteous warrior (Adawiyah, Junining, & Tabiati, 2020).

A resent study done by Azher et al. (2025) "Media coverage of Israeli air strikes and aftermaths in Palestine: A visual semiotic analysis" compared two newspapers side by side that is Dawn (Pakistan), and the Guardian (UK) specifying how they portray the aftermath of Israeli airstrikes on Gaza through published pictures. They collected data from June and July 2024, characterizing the images by portrayals of deaths/ mourning, destruction of infrastructure, displacement, starvation, and military actions in Gaza, using Kress and Leeuwen's (2006) framework of visual semiotics, focusing on four major components of the framework namely gaze, social distance, camera angle, and modality. The other framework applied was Martin & White's (2005) Appraisal Theory of Emotions namely affect, judgement, and appreciation. 100 news images were analyzed, 50 from each newspaper. The findings uncover that Dawn newspaper covers more about displacement, deaths, and diseases, prompting more emotional engagement of the viewers. The Guardian focused on the images of wreckage, highlighting the landscape damage associated with humanitarian disasters, also stressing on some armed forces misconducts. The study aids to multimodal discourse investigation and focuses on the hidden principles and political schemes in the graphic depiction of the Israel-Palestine war. (Azher, Jawad, & Arshad, 2025)

Jawad, Azher, and Zehra (2025) did a study "Media Coverage of Israel-Induced Palestinian Starvation Crisis: A Visual Semiotic Analysis" that further used visual semiotics on the issue of Israel-Palestine conflict. They examined three newspapers namely Dawn, the express tribune, and the guardian, using images that portrayed hunger and starvation of Gaza from July 2025 issues. The data existed of 45 images, 15 images per newspaper. The study applied the framework of Kress and van Leeuwen, 2006, mostly focused on compositional markers namely

information value, salience, and framing along with Martin and White's Appraisal Theory (2005) with emotional components of affect, judgment, appreciation. The findings revealed that dawn and the express tribune used images that emphasized the struggle and reliance of people stuck in the disaster while using weak frames and crowded displays of aid distribution. On the other hand, the guardian used close images of malnourished children which portrayed their misery and naivety. The study stresses how print media plays a role in determining thoughts and inducing emotions with visual representation on Israel-Palestine conflict (Jawad, Azher, & Zehra, 2025).

Research Methodology

The current study is descriptive and qualitative in nature. Descriptive study discusses the current scenario of issues (Manjunatha, 2019). Qualitative study, on the other hand, explores the issues of the given situation and according to Gay et al. (2012), is based on the textual analysis (Gay, Mills, & Airasian, 2012). This study is based on the semiotic analysis in which the non-verbal aspects are explored with respect to the semiotic analysis. The study has adopted the semiotic analysis model of Riera (2020) which discusses the three aspects of analysis.

3.1. Riera (2020)'s Model of Semiotic Analysis

Riera (2020) proposed a new theory of semiotic analysis with respect to Berger and Luckmann's grand theory of social constructionism (1966), which involves three aspects:

- Concept (Sign, Context, and Meanings)
- Construct (Semiosis)
- Proposition (the signs that convey the precise context of the object, which can trigger the appropriate response from the recipient)

Thus, the model of semiotics theory defined as the sign provides the precise context as well as conveys its designed meaning to elicit the intended response.

3.1.1. Concept

The semiotic model consists of three main concepts: signs, context, and meanings.

The sign is the composition of the physical reality called the signifier and its conceiving and interpretation by the viewer (signified). Different things, including smells, body language, sounds, etc., manifest a sign.

Context is the provision of relevant and particular meanings to a particular exchange occurring (Bowcher, 2018). It helps the recipient interpret the proposed interactional sense and derive the intended meaning.

Meanings are the relationship between the recipients of a sign and the personal experience of the world around the recipients (Zlatev, 2018). The meanings are created by connecting and interacting with the sign and the surrounding reality.

3.1.2. Constructs (Semiosis)

Construct refers to the relationship between the sign, the context, and the meanings. Peirce (1873) proposed that semiosis involves the sign, including the production of the meaning. The interplay and the interaction are presented by semiosis between the concepts of sign, context, and meanings.

3.1.3. Proposition

The proposition is the response of the recipient in response to the sender's intended meanings of the social and cultural image. The main intentions of the sender are to enhance the comprehension and the response to the received information (Riera, 2020).

3.2. Population and Sample

Population is the set of all those participants on whom the research has to be generalized (Daniel, 2016). The population of the present study is all those war images which are of Israel-Palestine Conflict.

A sample is the representative part of any population which has certain characteristics of a population (Shorten & Moorley, 2014). A sample is selected to save time, resources, and energy (Shorten & Moorley, 2014). For the analysis of the current study, a sample of four images is selected through purposive sampling from the Russian agency, The Moscow Times. Using purposive sampling, four war-related images were selected from The Moscow Times. Purposive sampling is the process of selecting a sample based on choice (Thomas, 2022). The four images from The Moscow Times were selected purposively because they clearly portray humanitarian circumstances, destruction of civilian infrastructure, displacement, and other visual representations associated with the objectives of the study.

3.3. Process of Data Collection and Analysis

The data of four images were collected systematically from The Moscow Times. The analysis is based on the semiotic theory of Riera (2020) which has three aspects of analysis: Concept, Construct (Semiosis), and Proposition (reader response). The analysis included recognizing the major visual signs, construing their contextual meanings, examining the process of semiosis, and evaluating the responses of viewers. The findings were explained according to the research objectives and questions to ensure coherence and consistency.

4. Data Analysis

4.1. Image 1: Destruction in Gaza after Israeli Airstrikes



Source: (Smirnov, 2023)
https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2023/10/24/russian-propaganda-seizes-on-wests-double-standards-as-israeli-strikes-pound-gaza-a82850

4.1.1. Concept

Signs: Smoke, Demolished Building, Destroyed Streets, Scattered Material

Context: The war between Hamas and Israel continues while Israel bombed the residential buildings.

Meanings: The image describes the inhuman action of bombing, which not only destroyed the building but also proved that the places were not worth living. The image describes the destruction of life structures, inhibiting living and movement in the modern age

4.1.2. Construct

The sign presents the results of inhuman actions that the IDF does not believe in morality. The buildings are presenting the cruelty of bombing. There are vertical relations between the smoke and the building, which presents the strike of bombs to prove that it is not worth living the land. Smoke presents the cruelty of the IDF and rage of the force on the humans as well as on the buildings. Vertical relations from IDF in the shape of smoke and targeting the building present that inhuman actions are taken to prove supremacy, unethical practices, no love for humanity and land, are symbolic of savagery, and the construction of human tragedy. The vertical relations between the destroyed street and the scattered buildings relate to the human dispersal, which has made it not worth living. It is proved that the lands coming under the range of air strikes by IDF have no right of safety, security, and peace

4.1.3. Proposition

According to the image, social structures and cultural aspects are ruined alongside the violation of international law and values. The image presents the sufferings of humans and their tragic lives. Humans lose their homes and residential areas. Smoke presents that the shelling is made with inhumanity. The image conveys that the life of Palestinians is totally dependent on the choice and thinking of the IDF. The rage of the IDF shows the conversion of solid buildings into particles due to heavy bombing.

Though international law, ethical and religious norms give guidelines for conducting the war to make sure the safety of residential places and properties, but these rules are not followed during the conflict. The image asks the viewer to feel the pain and the sorrow to reshape the thinking that the international community is silent and does not consider the inhuman actions. It seems that the current policies observe that US and other European allies are supporting all the inhuman actions of Israel. A recipient can view that the violation of international laws is supported by the lawmakers, which reinforces the question of character and role. It illustrates that Israel is not only involved in producing human loss, suffering, and tragedies, yet the international community of powerful countries supports these inhuman actions

4.2. Image 2: The Aftermath of an Israeli Air Strike on the Gaza Strip



(The Moscow Times, 2023)

https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2023/10/12/400-russians-seek-evacuation-from-besieged-gaza-strip-a82748

4.2.1. Concept

Signs: Destroyed Ships, Destroyed Roads, Despaired Humans

Context: In response to the Hamas attack, civilians and their life structures are attacked through an air strike by Israel.
Meanings: The image presents that the life of a common man is made critical and threatening by Israel after the air strike to prove the superiority. Additionally, roads and shops are not saved. It presents a threat to the source of livelihoods and the life infrastructures

4.2.2. Construct

The sign presents that there are vertical relations where the invisible power is of the IDFs, and they have the right to demolish any Palestinian area where they wanted. Destroyed shops and streets present the loss of peaceful and safe places even in the modern age. Despaired humans can only show their rages but are unable to fight the forces. It looks like human loss and human tragedy are going to be produced due to the airstrikes by IDF on shops and streets. Destruction of the shops and markets presents that IDF not only believes in the destruction of the businesses but also believes in closing the movement. Horizontal relations are there between the despaired humans by watching their destroyed shops and streets that they are unable to rejoin and remake them. IDF relates the air strike to the targeting of the same ethnic group without the distribution of the enemy and the common man.

4.2.3. Proposition

Destruction of the business places and the roads reveals the inhuman actions of Israel. It expresses that all types of properties are not safe from the attacks of Israel. The international law protects the properties and the life structures of a common man, but these do not seem reliable and applicable. Human is losing its business places, minor shops, and roads. They are seeing their things desperately and are helpless to resume or rebirth their life. Business structures are presented as the loss, while the running fire presents the heavy shelling, proposing the high rage of Israel on the Palestinians. Though the war is between Israel and Hamas, the life structures of the common Palestinians are destroyed by Israel, giving the message that their life businesses are not important. Destruction of businesses and workplaces denotes the rebirth of starvation in society, but the war criminals neglect it. Though humanity is suffering and humans have to lose their property, working places, and life sources, the international community is silent too. The culture of war, the destruction of social structures, and the violation of international law presents that the life of the Palestinians is totally dependent on the choice of the Israelis. The birth of human tragedy is there when the business structures are not saved, while the heavy shelling in the shape of fire can be proved as a continuous threat and fear for the Palestinians. It can affect their brains and their thinking about life, too.

4.3. Image 3: Palestinians carry belongings as they leave al-Ahli Hospital, which they were using as a shelter, in Gaza City.



Source: (Buketov, 2023)

https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2023/10/20/russian-propagandists-are-dancing-on-the-bones-of-israel-hamas-victims-a82840

4.3.1. Concept

Signs: Destroyed Vehicle, Human Migration, Despaired People
Context: Al-Ahli Hospital was kept as the shelter and was targeted by the Israeli air strike, so the people are fleeing from the Hospital in search of new shelters.
Meanings: The image presents the lifeless and despairing feelings of the people in search of safety and shelters

4.3.2. Construct

Hopeless humans are not allowed even in a healthy place that has distinctive protection during the war. Human migration has direct relation with the inhumane bombing by the IDF to prove that their lives are dependent on the behavior and the policies of the IDF. On the other hand, destroyed vehicles show that means of communication are also destroyed by IDF to prove no relation with the immigrants. Immigrants holding minimal luggage and kids show that they keep the necessary things with them so that they can spend their terrible days straightforwardly. Leading male presents that the front person will face the danger and the issues. There is an invisible vertical relationship between the shelling to the lives and the health places, proving the supremacy and the cruelty of IDF to make people migrate. There are no horizontal relations between the places and the people as the people have to flee from the grounds. The grounds

and the health facilities are not worth living in. Even though the hospital is targeted, the surrounding areas are not safe to live in. It presents the detached structures of life when the common places are not worth living in for humans.

4.3.3. Proposition

The culture of the war and the inhuman actions present the lifeless and disguised situation of the people of Palestine. The movement of the people with minor things presents the idea that people are in a worse situation and helpless. The sufferings of the people are high level as they have no shelter, even in the hospitals too. Though international rules ask the warring countries to take care of the women, children, and health places so that the health facilities can continue to be offered, the IDF does not care about these aspects. The hospital has exemption from other places, too. Besides, the encouragement of the international powerful countries with Israel presents the interests of their own rather than of the people. Besides the hospital, the nearest places are asked to be empty, too. This presents the distress where the people cannot avail of the shelters as their homes are demolished. International war crimes committed in the shape of inhuman actions lead to the tragic suffering of children, women, and older people. All of it asks the reader about the parameters of humanity and the implementation of the rules. Still, these are lacking by the major international powers as they support their interests rather than the humans in the world. The culture of war and the imbalance of social power made the people suffer, and the image asks the recipients to revise their preferences set by the international powers.

4.4. Image 4: Smoke Rises Following an Israeli Airstrike in The Gaza Strip, As Seen from Southern Israel.



Source: (AFP, 2023)
https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2023/10/14/russian-diplomat-hopes-to-meet-hamas-for-talks-to-free-hostages-agencies-a82769

4.4.1. Concept

Signs: Smoke from Buildings, Demolished Fields

Context: Residential places around the mosque are struck by Israel to target its suspicious opponents.

Meanings: The image depicts that the worship places were not saved in the war and the surrounding areas were special targets. The image also presents the demolished grounds and fields.

4.4.2. Construct

Smoke shows the cruelty of IDF against the Palestinians and indicates that even worship places are not safe to live due to destruction. The horizontal relationship shows that the common places are not equally saved due to the attacks on worship places of the Muslims. Demolished fields and new smoke of bombing illustrate their vertical relations with IDF as the sky is not safe; any time the bombing can happen. On the other hand, worship places are not safe from the bombs of the IDF. Besides, the close relationship of the surrounding building with the worship places proves that the worship places are the main targets where the opponents can take shelter.

4.4.3. Proposition

There is a difference between war and crime. A reader can understand that the war is based on the ethics and moralities in which the worship and the common places are not attacked. The

common places, worship places, and movement places are not safe in the hands of Israel. Support from the international powers has given them the free hand to perform such actions that cannot be considered ethical or based on morality. The culture of war has destroyed the social structures. Being the reader of the planet, it can be said that the life of people living around religious places is not safe. Smoke relates to the dispersion of human thought, through which human tragedy can be better understood. No human is found in the given image, which shows the heavy shelling conducted against the Palestinians. Displacements, human loss, sufferings, and pain are much more evident. Still, the birth of the human tragedy in Palestine has asked the readers to revise their perception of international standards and the ways of working. Though international institutions assure the security of nations and the common people as well as world places, but all the rules are abandoned here, and inhabitant areas are especially targeted, which shows that humanity has lost the game. At the same time, the inhuman and the supporters have gained victory by giving birth to human loss and displacement.

5. Conclusion

Riera (2020)'s Model of Semiotic Analysis not only explored meanings and the context but also the relational meanings and the response of the reader due to the intended message of the image. The birth of human tragedy in Palestine is not a new phenomenon; it has its history of different stages. In recent times, huge bombing by the IDF on the social and cultural structures of Palestinian life gave birth to the human tragedy and the loss of lands in Palestine. Insecure feelings and destruction of life put the people in a trauma from which they cannot recover their previous state of stability.

5.1. Findings

- There are vertical relations between the smoke and the building, which presents the strike of bombs to prove that the land is not worth living on.
- Smoke presents the cruelty of the IDF and rage of the force on the humans as well as the buildings.
- Vertical relations from IDF in the shape of smoke and targeting the building indicates that inhuman actions are taken to prove supremacy, unethical practices, no love for humanity and land, are symbolic of savagery, and construct human tragedy.
- Moreover, the vertical relations between the destroyed street and the scattered buildings related to the human dispersed situation, which has made areas difficult to live.
- It is proved that the lands coming under the range of air strikes by IDF have no right to safety, security, and peace.
- Despaired humans can only show their rages but are unable to fight the forces.
- Human loss and human tragedy are going to be produced due to the air strikes by IDF on shops and streets.

- Destruction of the shops and markets presents that IDF not only believes in the destruction of the business but also believes in checking the movement.
- Horizontal relations are there between the despaired humans by watching their destroyed shops and streets that they are unable to rejoin and remake them.
- Burning fire relating the inhuman actions that the heavy shelling is conducted to demolish the minimal things coming in the range of the place.
- There is an invisible vertical relationship between the shelling to the lives and the health places, proving the supremacy and the cruelty of IDF to make people migrate.
- There are no horizontal relations between the places and the people as the people have to flee from the grounds.
- The grounds and the health facilities are not worth living in. Even though the hospital is targeted, the surrounding areas are not safe to live in.
- The horizontal relationship suggests that the common places around the worship places are also not safe.
- Demolished fields and new smoke of bombing illustrate their vertical relations with IDF as the sky is not safe. On the other hand, worship places are not safe from the bombs of the IDF.
- Besides, the close relationship presented of the surrounding building with the worship places proves that the worship places are the main targets where the opponents can take shelter.
- The images ask the viewer to feel the pain and sorrow to reshape the thinking that the international community is silent and does not consider the inhuman actions merciless.
- It seems that US and other European allies are supporting all the inhuman actions of Israel.
- A recipient can view that the violation of international laws is supported by the lawmakers, which reinforces the question of character and role.
- Both Israel and international community of powerful countries are responsible for producing human loss, suffering, and tragedies in Palestine.
- The rules and principles of conducting war are neglected during the conflict as Israel attacked on children, women, elderly people, religious and health places.
- Support from the international powers has given them the free hand to perform such actions that cannot be considered ethical or based on morality.
- The inhuman and destructive actions by Israel and its supportive parties on Palestine results in the construction of human tragedy that fills the heart of Palestinians with pain and sorrow.

The findings show that the selected war images represent several meanings through visual and contextual elements with the help of Riera's (2020) semiotic framework. Different visual signs such as damaged buildings, smoke, healthcare facilities, religious sites and abandoned streets construct themes of displacement, human sufferings, destruction and social disturbance. The

findings align with previous studies such as Assaiqeli (2021), who claimed that visual elements provide the themes of identity and displacement in accordance with semiotic resources. Likewise, the current study also supports Adawiyah et al. (2020), who proposed that public opinions are affected by visual representations by creating certain meanings. Inclusively, the findings indicate the significance of Riera's (2020) semiotic model in examining the visual representation of Israel-Palestine conflict.

5.2. Recommendations

- Riera (2020)'s Model of Semiotic Analysis not only explores the meanings of the signs yet it expanded the analysis with respect to the recipient's responses so it can be applied to explore the collective and personal meanings in the images.
- There is relationship between the signs, context and meanings so the new joint meanings can help a researcher to expand the meanings of the research with the help of Riera (2020)'s Model of Semiotic Analysis.
- A researcher can employ the model to understand the meanings of the signs both in given and in present time too

5.3. Gap for Further Studies

There can be future research on the images based on multimodal, pragmatics and the systemic functional analysis of the images. There can also be comparative research on the depiction of different media channels about the presentation of the Israel-Palestine conflict.

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