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## Corpus-based critical discourse analysis of Chinese media's news reports on the Israeli Palestinian conflict

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### Abstract

In order to investigate China's attitude toward the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, China Daily's reports on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict from April 7, 2023 to May 16, 2024 are selected. And the corpus is combined with Critical Discourse Analysis, and the discourse-historical analysis method is applied to analyze the reports on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict in China Daily in terms of frequency for thematic analysis, collocation for linguistic analysis. And the researchers explored the use of discourse strategies in terms of denotation strategy, predication strategy, argumentation strategy, and perspectivization strategies. The results of the study found that the reports emphasized people's security and humanitarian aid, and called for a peaceful resolution of the Israeli Palestinian Conflict; China has always adhered to a humanitarian stance in the Israeli Palestinian Conflict, and insisted on fairness and justice; China expressed its abhorrence of the war, and called for a peaceful resolution of the conflict through the two-state solution; and China has tried to play the role of an active image of maintaining peace in the international arena.

**Keywords:** Critical discourse analysis, the Israeli Palestinian conflict, corpus, national image

### Introduction

The Middle East issue has always been a hot issue of concern to the world, since April 6th, 2023, Israel launched air strikes on the Gaza Strip, until October 7th, 2023, Hamas launched a large-scale attack on Israel, so the Israel-Hamas war began, and since then the related conflicts have been constantly, in response to these conflicts, both domestic and foreign media have published relevant reports. Different news reports convey different viewpoints behind them, which in turn show the ideology and national interests behind them. Therefore, the study of Chinese media reports can reveal China's viewpoints and attitudes on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which in turn can reveal China's ideology and values, which is of great significance for spreading China's image and expanding China's discourse in the international arena.

The Israeli Palestinian Conflict is a conflict that has lasted since 1948 and the reasons behind it are extremely complex. Regarding the study of this event, most scholars have studied its historical roots and solutions (Wang Lincong, 2024) <sup>[1]</sup>, or its intelligence operations (Shi Runfeng, Li Jinglong, 2022) <sup>[2]</sup>, intelligence failures (Xu Peng, Liu Chuanping 2024), and so on. Linguistic scholars have done very little research on this related aspect, and the author will try to explore China's attitude towards this event of the Israeli Palestinian Conflict from the perspective of critical discourse analysis.

Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) links discourse and society, not only focusing on the discourse itself, but also emphasizing the social structure as a way to dig out the reasons for its emergence, so the focus of CDA is on social issues. CDA studies discourse or text, puts the discourse or text into the social context, and digs out the relationship between the discourse and the ideology and power behind it.

Corpus Linguistics Approach (CLA) is a new research perspective. In recent years, most scholars often combine it with critical discourse analysis. Corpus-based critical discourse analysis combines the advantages of both corpus and critical discourse analysis to form a research method that combines qualitative and quantitative; corpus technology helps researchers collect a large amount of data in order to reduce the researcher's subjectivity and increase the objectivity of the research (Liu Ning, 2018) <sup>[4]</sup>.

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Discourse Historical Approach (DHA), proposed by Wodak, is a perspective for critical discourse analysis. Discourse Historical Approach places the discourse in a historical context and fully examines the causes and ideologies that gave rise to the discourse. The method of discourse historical analysis analyzes the discourse from three aspects: linguistic forms of expression of the text, discourse strategies, and topic or content; linguistic forms of expression of the text unfold at the levels of discourse, sentence, and vocabulary, exploring the forms and linguistic means of linguistic realization in the text; content, which means the specific topic or content of the discourse under study; and discourse strategies study the various strategies used in the text as a mediator that connects the different communicators' intentions and forms of realization as mediators (Sun Xiuli, 2021: 23)<sup>[9]</sup>. Among them, the study of discourse strategy is the most important part of DHA. Discourse strategies usually include: denotation strategy, predication strategy, argumentation strategy, perspectivization strategy, and strengthening and weakening strategies (Yang Min and Shui Yijun, 2021: 8)<sup>[10]</sup>.

Based on a small self-constructed corpus, this paper adopts critical discourse analysis as a research perspective, and uses discourse history analysis to explore the attitudes and viewpoints that Chinese media only adopt when reporting on events related to the Israeli Palestinian Conflict, and to reveal the ideologies and values behind them, so that they can promote China's status in the international arena and expand China's discourse power in dealing with international affairs.

### Literature Review

In recent years, scholars at home and abroad have continuously combined corpus with critical discourse analysis to expand the scope of application of critical discourse analysis and also promote the development of corpus technology. Corpus-based political discourse analysis has been a hot spot of critical discourse analysis. Based on the report of the "19<sup>th</sup> National Congress of the Communist Party of China", domestic scholars Cao Wei and Zhao Yuanyuan (2019)<sup>[5]</sup> summarized the characteristics of its node words and related categories of association, and analyzed its semantic tendency and semantic rhyme, and finally found that the mainstream media in Argentina creates a positive image of the country in terms of its economy and comprehensive national strength. The study helps China construct a positive image in Latin America, promotes cooperation between China and Argentina and Central America, and enhances China's discourse power and status in Argentina and Latin America. Except the synchronic perspective, discourse analysis can also be carried out from the diachronic perspective. Liu Man (2020)<sup>[6]</sup> adopts discourse historical analysis to analyze the news reports of the three major mainstream newspapers in Japan on the Belt and Road, and her method can reflect the relationship between social context and discourse in a more dynamic way. Liu Dingjia (2022:17)<sup>[7]</sup> also adopts a diachronic perspective to explore the reports of the "Chinese Dream" in the United States, Britain and India, and examines the changes in the construction, dissemination and acceptance of China's national image as a result of the reports of the "Chinese Dream" in the three countries. However, the focus of the study is to prove the applicability of the usage fluctuation analysis method in diachronic discourse analysis,

which can be an important method to supplement corpus-based discourse research. With the development of the economy, ecological problems have attracted people's attention, and ecological discourse has gradually been studied by scholars of critical discourse analysis. Based on a self-constructed small corpus of reports on China's haze, Liu Ning (2018: 37)<sup>[4]</sup> adopts a dialectical-analytical perspective to comparatively analyze the similarities and differences between the Chinese and American media reports on it, and then discovers the ideology behind the similarities and differences. Liu Ming (2023)<sup>[8]</sup> explores China's ecological image by analyzing reports on climate, drawing not only on the theoretical results of critical discourse analysis and corpus linguistics, but also on the results of ecological discourse analysis and harmony discourse analysis, thus constructing a multidimensional analytical framework for corpus-assisted ecological discourse research. Ecological issues promote the global energy transition, which brings challenges and opportunities for energy enterprises, and the identity construction of energy enterprises has also attracted the attention of scholars. Sun Xiuli (2021)<sup>[9]</sup> analyzes news reports on the official website of PetroChina to explore corporate identity construction, and finds that energy companies use discourse to construct a positive corporate image by using discourse history analysis. Also using discourse-historical analysis is Yang Min and Shi Yijun's (2021)<sup>[10]</sup> study, which focuses on how the U.S. legitimizes trade wars, and finds that the U.S. legitimizes trade wars by portraying China in a negative image, such as destroying trade and stealing. In terms of diplomatic discourse, Tian Xujun and Li Xiaoqian (2020)<sup>[11]</sup> studied the theme words of Chinese diplomatic discourse from the perspective of time, and found that Chinese diplomacy has different characteristics in different periods. There is another type of research on institutional discourse. Li Duanyang, Wang Zhijun (2018)<sup>[12]</sup> studied the corpus of World Customs Organization News, which used a variety of research methods, combining the corpus method, the semantic association analysis method, and the tertiary coding of the rooting theory to reveal the relationship between the institutional language and social change. The above discourse types are biased towards politics and economy, and there are also discourses about Chinese cultural types, such as reports about Chinese medicine. Zhang, Ruihua, and Shi, Xinyuan (2023: 17)<sup>[13]</sup> explored the western media's perceptions and attitudes towards Chinese medicine in general, and found that there is a great tendency for western media to report on Chinese medicine. With the rise of self-media, people pay more and more attention to the language in the network, Jin Yan and Yang Yi (2022)<sup>[14]</sup> explored the derivation and interaction process of online language violence. Regarding war discourse, Wang Xiaoxi, Liu Hong (2022)<sup>[15]</sup> analyzed the language characteristics of Russian media news reports on the war in Syria, and comparatively explored the state images of the United States and Turkey in the eyes of Russian media.

The types of discourse selected for foreign studies in this area seem to be a bit more novel. There seem to be more studies about COVID-19 discourse, Yu Hangyan, Lu Huiling, Hu Jie(2021)<sup>[16]</sup>, Li Zhuoran, Zhao Ronghui, Lou Baocui(2023)<sup>[17]</sup>, Yu Yating, Tay Dennis, Yue Qian (2024)<sup>[18]</sup> have analyzed the discourse about COVID-19. The first study focuses on the relationship between discourse features and the implementation of epidemic prevention and control,

while the third study aims to investigate how China is reproduced through language in the news media, and explores China's image during the epidemic, and also employs discourse-historical analysis, and finds that China is portrayed as a victim, a fighter, and a collaborator. Regarding the marketing type of discourse, Mısır Hülya, Işık-Güler Hale (2022)<sup>[19]</sup> analyzed the marketing language in emails and websites of MOOC platforms. In religious discourse, studied the characteristic of Islam and the Muslim religion in American media. In immigration discourse, O'Regan Veronica, Riordan Elaine (2018)<sup>[21]</sup> examined the coverage of refugees and immigrants in the UK and Ireland; Coschignano Serena, Minnema Gosse, Zanchi Chiara (2023)<sup>[22]</sup> studied Italian news headlines about immigrants' news headlines, although their research also incorporates relevant findings such as cognitive linguistics. Other scholars have studied the special vocabulary of social phenomena, for example, Yating Yu (2019)<sup>[23]</sup> studied the linguistic characteristics of the word "leftover women" in Chinese English news media. It can be seen that the types of discourse chosen by scholars are all relevant to hot issues or international issues.

Since there has been less critical discourse analysis of war discourse in recent years, and the Israeli Palestinian Conflict has attracted widespread attention from all walks of life, this paper analyzes the linguistic features of the Chinese media's coverage of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict with the help of corpus technology and the results of critical discourse analysis to reveal China's attitudes, values, and image of the country behind it.

## Research Design

### Research Data

*China Daily* is the preferred Chinese English-language media for high-end people at home and abroad, and it is the only Chinese newspaper that effectively enters the international mainstream society and has the highest reprint rate in foreign media, so the corpus selected for this paper comes from *China Daily*. First of all, in *China Daily* website, input "Israel", "Palestine", "Gaza", and set the time from April 7th, 2023 to May 16th, 2024; then use Octopus Gatherer to automatically capture the news, and import the captured news into an EXCEL table; then delete the headlines, pictures, reporter information, etc., and only retain the body of the news, and then convert the body into txt format to generate the primary corpus; finally, Text Organizer V5.0 was used to clean the data in the primary corpus to get the final corpus. Finally, a total of 358 news articles were collected in the corpus.

### Research Method

The corpus software used in this study is AntConc 3.5.8. First, the high-frequency words of this corpus are retrieved with the help of the corpus software, and the thematic dimensions in the DHA are examined by studying the high-frequency words; then, the collocation and concordance functions are used to examine the linguistic forms of expression of the text; and finally, the discourse strategies employed in the corpus are summarized, and how China's attitudes towards the Israeli Palestinian Conflict are presented through these discourse strategies.

## Results and Discussion

### Theme

Word frequency statistics is the most commonly used method for corpus searching, and the use of high-frequency words can reflect what is emphasized in this paper as well as the author's attitude tendency. In this paper, the selected corpus is imported into the corpus analysis software AntConc 3.5.8 for word frequency statistics, and a total of 7,997 results are retrieved. Because of the large data, the first 50 high-frequency words were selected in this paper, and after the definite articles, indefinite articles, prepositions, and conjunctions were eliminated, 31 words were left, as shown in Table 1.

**Table 1:** The Results of High Frequency Words

Rank	Frequency	Word	Rank	Frequency	Word
1	1794	israel	17	617	people
2	1595	is	18	595	hamas
3	1566	gaza	19	584	are
4	1538	said	20	579	will
5	1074	has	21	563	security
6	1025	it	22	549	humanitarian
7	1006	palestinian	23	542	two
8	998	China	24	529	state
9	964	US	25	524	more
10	847	israeli	26	522	united
11	847	its	27	491	been
12	809	conflict	28	490	was
13	777	palestine	29	472	peace
14	759	have	30	469	countries
15	714	international	31	461	this
16	690	he			

As shown in Table 1, the high frequency words related to war are *conflict*, *security*, these words indicate that the reports focus on describing conflict and security issues. The high-frequency words related to the parties involved in the war are *Israel*, *Gaza*, *Palestine*, *China*, *US*, *people*, *hamas*, and the behavior of these parties plays a decisive role in the direction of the war. The high-frequency words for attitude are *security*, *humanitarian*, *united*, *peace*, which indicate that China attaches more importance to security issues, emphasizes humanitarian behavior, and hopes that the Palestinians and Israelis can solve the problem peacefully.

### Analysis of Linguistic Expressions

This paper analyzes the language with the help of corpus in terms of collocation and concordance. Israel and Palestine are the main subjects of this event, so this paper sets them as collocation node words, and semantic analysis of collocations helps to deepen lexical understanding and deeply expose ideology (Liu Ning, 2018: 45)<sup>[4]</sup>. In the collocation search, this paper sets the minimum collocation frequency to 5, and sorts according to statistics, extracting the collocation word list of *Israel*, *Palestine*, respectively. There are 541 collocations of *Israel*, and due to the length of the paper, only the top 20 collocations of *Israel* are selected, and the list of *Israel* collocations is shown in Table 2.

Table 2 shows that the words with negative meanings are *ruthless*, *blindly*, *retaliatory*, *infiltrated*, *denounced*. In addition, the verbs are *occupy*, *lift*, *launch*, *pound*, *infiltrate*, *defend*, *outbreak*, *denounce*.

**Table 2:** The Collocation Words of *Israel*

Rank	Frequency	Freq (L)	Freq (R)	Stat	collocate
1	6	2	4	7.25129	ruthless
2	6	1	5	6.92936	katz
3	6	1	5	6.92936	kan
4	7	6	1	6.47368	blindly
5	7	0	7	6.30376	occupying
6	9	0	9	6.25129	lift
7	10	5	5	6.18090	launching
8	6	0	6	6.08136	pounding
9	6	0	6	6.08136	daniel
10	7	1	6	6.01425	retaliatory
11	5	5	0	5.98825	infiltrated
12	5	2	3	5.98825	colombia
13	6	1	5	5.92936	owned
14	20	18	2	5.90079	rockets
15	10	1	9	5.90079	defend
16	24	20	4	5.82502	outbreak
17	5	3	2	5.81833	equipment
18	5	3	2	5.81833	denounced
19	10	1	9	5.74033	idf
20	12	11	1	5.72773	coexistence

Negative vocabulary in this table accounts for about 1/4, so it is possible that negative vocabulary accounts for a large part of the corpus, and the verbs in the table are all closely related to the war, and you can imagine that the war is very intense and brutal through these words. The nouns in Table 2 are *katz*, *kan*, *daniel*, *colombia*, *rockets*, *equipment*, *idf*, *coexistence*. By looking specifically at the concordance lines of these nouns, it is found that the words, *katz*, *daniel*, *kan*, refer to Israeli politicians and Israeli media; the words appearing to the left of *rockets* are mostly *palestinian militants*, *fire*, *launch*, *thousands of*, *hamas*, and the words on the right of *rockets* are *against Israel*, *into Israel*, *at Israel*, and the number of victims, which semantically expresses the large number of victims in Israel due to the large number of rocket weapons launched by settlers and Hamas against Israel. The words that appear with *equipment* are *US*, *China*. The semantic meaning is that both the United States and China have provided Israel with war preparations

and resources. The full name of the word “idf” is *Israel Defense Forces*. The words that appear with *coexistence* are *two-state solution*, *peaceful*, *Palestine and Israel*, which indicates that the two-state solution is the key to solving the Israeli Palestinian Conflict and that the two-state solution can realize peaceful coexistence between the two sides. This shows that the Chinese media use a lot of negative words when describing Israel, not only to describe Israel's tyrannical behavior, but also to report on the brutal behavior of Hamas and other regimes, and their reports involve the brutality of the war as well as the proposed solutions to the conflict. Thus, China has remained largely impartial and objective, expressing sentiments of distaste for war.

The same operation is performed for *Palestine* to get a total of 232 search items, and the first 20 collocations are selected to get the *Palestine* collocation table, as shown below.

**Table 3:** The Collocation Words of *Palestine*

Rank	Frequency	Freq(L)	Freq(R)	Stat	collocate
1	11	0	11	7.87152	crescent
2	13	0	13	7.66507	liberation
3	29	29	0	7.40758	works
4	20	19	1	7.14906	recognize
5	10	1	9	7.10599	tv
6	8	8	0	7.06417	recognizing
7	12	12	0	6.93292	coexistence
8	41	8	33	6.90715	membership
9	35	0	35	6.85106	refugees
10	7	5	2	6.77199	spain
11	21	0	21	6.67888	near
12	6	1	5	6.64913	plo
13	7	5	2	6.59141	resumption
14	9	0	9	6.58202	application
15	10	0	10	6.54959	society
16	6	2	4	6.54959	bid
17	29	28	1	6.50069	relief
18	5	4	1	6.49301	sovereign
19	38	4	34	6.33809	full
20	14	12	2	6.25261	outbreak

Nouns dominate in Table 3. Combining the concordance lines, it is found that *crescent, liberation, works, refugees* are all part of the organization's name, and their full names are the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS), the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA). The words that appear with *coexistence* are *two-state solution, peaceful, Palestine and Israel*, indicating that the two-state solution is the key to resolving the Israeli Palestinian Conflict. Words co-occurring with *membership* include *the UN, grant, admit, support, application* and the semantics expressed in the concordance lines of *membership, application, full is* that Palestine applies for full membership of the United Nations and this application is supported by many countries. Words that occur with *resumption* are *facilitate, peace, talks*, which are expressed to accelerate the resumption of peace talks. *sovereign* in the concordance lines is refer to *the sovereign state of Palestine*. And the verb *recognize* means *to recognize Palestine as a sovereign state*. It can be seen that the Chinese media, when describing Palestine, highlights a number of Palestinian organizations and institutions, describes their destruction as a result of the war, and emphasizes the urgency and necessity of recognizing Palestine as a sovereign state. This shows China's support and affirmation of the two-state solution and its efforts to promote the two-state solution and the resumption of the peace dialogue, reflecting China's efforts to portray an image of a peace-keeping nation.

**Discourse Strategy**

Discourse strategy analysis is a central part of the historical analysis method of discourse. In this paper, we will explore how reports use discourse strategies to express attitudes and shape images from denotation strategy, predication strategy, argumentation strategy, and perspectivization strategy.

**Denotation Strategy**

The denotation strategy in discourse history analysis refers to how to name and refer to behaviors, actors, events, objects, etc., and to highlight the participants by constructing them as “in-group” and “out-group” identities, respectively. This paper analyzes the following examples.

- 1) Our biggest wish, our biggest hope, our biggest prayer now, is for a quick, immediate cease-fire.

- 2) Western leaders not only refuse to condemn the crimes committed by their so-called allies and partners, they also try to whitewash them, as evident in Germany's announcement that it will defend Israel at the International Court of Justice in The Hague against South Africa's charge that Israel has committed genocide in Gaza.
- 3) The US government's emphasis on competing for influence with other major powers in Africa, Latin America and Asia is increasing tensions. US interventionism aims at global dominance, breeding instability and violence across the world. The US must shed the Cold War mentality and cease interference in other nations' internal affairs.

Example (1) from the founder of the Gaza Platform for Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture has three *ours* in a row, emphasizing his strong desire for a truce. The word *our* is a collective referential concept that helps to construct an identity and image of a united ‘own side’ (Yang Min, Shih Yijun 2021:10) [10]. Thus, example (1) also shows the strong desire for a truce and the resumption of peaceful dialog in Gaza. In examples (2) and (3), the words, *they, their, other major powers, other nations*, help to construct the image of an out-group, and construct the image of the United States and other Western countries as a country harboring crimes committed by its allies, interfering in the internal affairs of other countries, and competing for influence. It can be seen that behind the Palestinian-Israeli conflict there is the negative influence of the United States and other Western countries, which contribute to the deterioration of the Israeli Palestinian Conflict

**Predication Strategy**

Predication strategy refers to the use of positive or negative evaluative words in the predicate components of a discourse to give a positive or negative image to the actor. Since this paper studies China's attitude towards the Israeli Palestinian Conflict, the word, *China*, is used as a node word for concordance analysis and is analyzed to investigate the verbs collocated with *China*. Due to the large number of search results, 10 items are randomly selected as shown in Table 4.

**Table 4:** The Search Results of surrounding predicate of *China*

Development, and improving the existing world order, by the Chinese people. Li said that	China	also advocates that conflicts be resolved through
to further strengthen bilateral relations with	China	also offered cash aid to Zambia to
of the two peoples, said the statement.	China	and deepen bilateral dialogue and cooperation in
Mutually-beneficial cooperation between	China	and Egypt appreciated each other's efforts
batteries, and photovoltaic products. Noting both	China	and Germany creates no "risks", but serves
an early date. Saudi Arabia fully trusts	China	and Germany support free trade and economic
long been at odds with each other.	China	and is willing to push for the
At the UN Security Council,	China	believes that reconciliation among Arab and Islam
When asked about how	China	called for an immediate ceasefire,
	China	firmly safeguards international fairness and just

As shown in Table 4, most of the predicates around *China* are positive. Positive verbs are *advocate, offer, deepen, appreciate, support, create, push, believe, call for, safeguard*, and positive adjectives are *willing, firmly*. Positive nouns and noun phrases are *cash aid, bilateral dialogue and cooperation, free trade, an immediate ceasefire, international fairness and just*. These words

portray China as a country that actively practices humanitarian behavior, maintains world peace and defends fairness, reflecting China's adherence to fairness and justice in *the Israeli-Palestinian conflict* and its stand for fairness and justice and humanitarianism from the side.

### Argumentation Strategy

Argumentation strategy in the method of discourse history analysis refers to the use of appropriate debate topics to make positive or negative descriptions argued (Yang Min, Shih Yijun 2021:11) <sup>[10]</sup>. The analysis of argumentation strategy will be analyzed from the following examples.

1. The latest tally by the Gaza-based Health Ministry showed on Sunday that the Palestinian death toll from Israeli attacks has reached 20,424, and 54,036 others were wounded since the conflict broke out on Oct 7.
2. Since Oct 7, 2023, at least 29,782 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza and 70,043 Palestinians have been injured, OCHA quoted the Ministry of Health in Gaza as saying.
3. The above two examples present the Palestinian casualties and show that the Palestinian casualties are heavy and the war has brought disaster to Palestine and seriously threatened the lives of the Palestinian people. Both examples present the Palestinian casualties through concrete figures, which are more objective and realistic, allowing readers to better feel the severity of the casualties, and more likely to arouse readers' sympathy, as well as readers' hatred for the war and their call for peace.
4. In a scenario where the war continues for nine months, poverty is estimated to reach 60.7 percent, 2.25 times of pre-war levels, pushing over 1.86 million additional people into poverty. Unemployment across Palestine could reach 46.7 percent after seven months of war, compared with 25.7 percent before the war.

Example (6) also reflects the poverty and unemployment situation in Palestine through the use of concrete figures, showing that the number of poor and unemployed people in Palestine has doubled due to the war, which has led to the unsatisfactory situation of the Palestinian economy, and has also aroused the reader's sympathy and concern for the Palestinian people. These three examples show that China is also very concerned about the situation of the Palestinian people and the development of the Palestinian economy, thus reflecting the danger of war and the urgency of a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

### Perspectivization Strategy

Perspectivization strategy mainly uses quotes, including direct quotes and indirect quotes, to present the author's point of view. Perspectivization strategy will be analyzed from the following example.

China is "shocked by the attack" on the hospital, said Zhang Jun, China's permanent representative to the UN. "We strongly condemn this heinous attack. The protection of civilians in armed conflict is a red line under international humanitarian law," he said at a UN Security Council meeting on Wednesday. "Civilians and civilian facilities, such as hospitals and schools, should not and must not be targeted by military operations; the indiscriminate use of force is unacceptable; and the safety of humanitarian and medical workers must be guaranteed," said Zhang.

The sources in example (7) are all accurate, which is in line with the objective nature of news reporting and enhances credibility. Example (7) uses the words of a member of the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations, indicating its strong condemnation of the attacks on civilians, hospitals, schools and other innocent victims, its

rebuke of the abuse of force, and its appeal for humanitarian behavior, which further demonstrates China's firm adherence to its humanitarian stance and its indictment of the abuse of force in war.

### Conclusion

By combining corpus and critical discourse analysis, this paper adopts discourse-historical analysis to linguistically analyze *China Daily's* reports on the Israeli Palestinian Conflict in terms of word frequency and collocation, and explores the use of discourse strategies in terms of denotation strategy, predication strategy, argumentation strategy, and perspectivization strategy. The results of the study find that the reports emphasize people's security and humanitarian behavior, and call for a peaceful resolution; China has always adhered to a humanitarian stance in the Israeli Palestinian Conflict and insisted on fairness and justice; China has expressed its abhorrence of war and called for a peaceful resolution of the conflict through a two-state solution; and China has endeavored to play a role of actively maintaining peace in the international arena. The research in this paper may contribute to the positive spread of China's image in the international arena, as well as help official media such as *China Daily* to play a leading role for other domestic media in China and guide the attitude of the general public within China. However, since the author is Chinese, it is inevitable that there will be subjectivity in the investigation and analysis. Future research can compare and analyze Chinese media reports on the Israeli Palestinian Conflict with those of other Western countries to enhance objectivity and persuasiveness. With the development of the self-media, many of the self-media have their own attitudes and views on the Israeli Palestinian Conflict, and in the future, we can also study the attitude of the self-media towards it, and explore the attitude of the general public towards the Israeli Palestinian Conflict and their views and opinions. As this paper adopts a text collector to collect news reports automatically, the corpus may contain irrelevant news or a certain report may be missing, thus the future research should increase the comprehensiveness and accuracy of the corpus collection to improve the accuracy of the research results. This corpus also excludes the information of the pictures, which is also a part of the news reports, and in the future, we can also study the information conveyed by the pictures in the news reports, and increase the analysis from a multi-modal perspective.

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