


The Extralinguistics of Conflict-Related Political Discourse: Towards a Systematic Framework for Simultaneous Interpreters

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Abstract: Simultaneous interpreting is a challenging task that necessitates the concurrent management of multiple tasks. To effectively navigate such challenges, Interpreters draw upon linguistic and extralinguistic knowledge. This article tries to assist interpreters' efforts in acquiring the relevant extralinguistic knowledge pertinent to conflict-related political discourse by proposing a framework for conflict analysis. The Palestinian-Israeli conflict is utilized as a case study to illustrate this framework. The study employed qualitative document analysis (QDA) to investigate the conflict and utilized thematic analysis to discern themes and identify extralinguistic factors. The proposed framework encompassed additional factors than those suggested in previous translation and interpreting theories; the located factors, which define the reality of the conflict, included the parties involved, roots of conflict, factions and alliances, history narratives, geography and demography factors, and the dynamics political power. Also, the study determined the speakers' role is in designing the message that reflect the reality of the conflict. Additionally, the extralinguistic anticipation developed by interpreters' extralinguistic knowledge, stemming from their understanding of the conflict's reality, can help reduce the likelihood of misinterpretations.

Keyword: Simultaneous interpreters' extralinguistics

Introduction

Simultaneous interpreting (SI) is an intellectual activity that aims to facilitate interlocutors' comprehension. Many scholars such as Christoffels et al. (2003), Chen & Dong (2010), Hervais-Adelman & Babcock (2019), and Wang (2014) assert the complexity of the activity. SI is a cognitively demanding task that involves a complex of multiple concurrent tasks. Various processes, such as listening, comprehension, the transformation of a message from one language to another, speech production, and self-monitoring, are performed concurrently (Hervais-Adelman & Babcock, 2019). Addressing the extra challenge that implicatures pose in translation and interpreting, Cui & Zhao (2017, p. 112) state that "considering that translation and interpretation involve linguistic, social, cultural, and even psychological factors, implicature is not easy to replicate, and there are more aspects that the translator and the interpreter need to consider than lexical meaning and communicative principles."

The interpretive theory, which originated in the 1960s and 1970s, was formulated by the Paris School of Translation and Interpretation (Millán and Bartrina, 2013). This theory focuses on the cognitive mechanisms involved in the process of interpretation, especially within the context of conferences. Seleskovitch, in partnership with Marianne Lederer, contested the methods of literal translation, asserting that the essence of meaning is paramount. The theory considers the interpreter's functions as a facilitator of understanding, emphasizing cognitive and contextual interpretation rather than mere linguistic translation. According to Interpretive theory, the first stage of interpreting is to *understand sense*; an interpreter's comprehension is influenced by their linguistic proficiency and their understanding of the world. The capacity to discern the intended sense of the original text relies on both cognitive and linguistic skills. Gile (2009, p. 252) asserts that "interpreters and translators use their knowledge of language as well as *extralinguistic knowledge* to extract the meaning or 'sense' from source text."

This article focuses on the initial phase of interpretive theory, which involves comprehending meaning, and its relationship to a particular genre of discourse, namely conflict-related political discourse, within the specific context of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Anthony et al. (2015, p. 15) stated, “For much of the past century, the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians has been a defining feature of the Middle East.” The impact of such conflict affects all aspects of Arab life, including language. Alduhaim (2019, p. 148) explained that “political speeches are often shaped in a specific cultural and social context, using various linguistic features to persuade the public of the speaker’s goals.” Thus, the conflicts in the Arab region would, at least partially, shape the Arabic political discourse as being related to conflict. Further, the conflict in the Middle East has had an impact on the international study of political discourse of conflict; Królikowska, (2015, p. 121) asserted that “the ongoing Middle East conflict has had major influence on global politics and the identities and interests of all conflicted parties.”.

Skopos Theory

Skopos Theory serves as a fundamental principle within the functionalist framework of translation studies, asserting that the intended Skopos, Greek word for “purpose”, of a translation dictates the strategies employed and the resulting outcomes. Formulated by Hans J. Vermeer in the late 1970s and further developed in collaboration with Katharina Reiss, this theory redirects attention from the concept of equivalence to the role of the target text within its specific cultural and situational context (Du, 2012). Skopos theory included a number of rules; the first is skopos rule which indicates that the translation must function in the situation in which it is used and with the people who use it, precisely in the way they want it to function. In other words, each discourse is created with a specific skopos, objective, in mind and must fulfil that objective.

The Skopos rule can be articulated as to interpret in a manner that allows your discourse to operate effectively within the context of its intended use and for the audience that seeks to utilize it, precisely as they require it to function. Pradas Macías (2023, p. 70) addressed Nord’s (1988) distinguish between the concepts of *intention* and *function* and states that “while intention refers mainly to the aims of the sender, function refers specifically to the needs of the receiver.” The purpose of a translation emanates from the purpose of source discourse, source discourse, target discourse, time, situation, place, etc. the coherence rule in skopos theory can be categorized into intertextual coherence which ensures that the translation does not deviate unjustifiably from the source discourse, which also referred to as *fidelity* (Schjoldager, 2008). Intratextual coherence pertains to the coherence and logical progression of the target text within its specific cultural and linguistic framework, guaranteeing that the translation is comprehensible to the target audience (Snell-Hornby, 2006).

Engaging with a particular discourse genre may yield more precise insights into the specific background knowledge interpreters need to effectively interpret conflict-related political discourse. Furthermore, Nord (2005) emphasized the influence of extralinguistic factors on the decisions made in translation and interpretation. Nord’s extratextual analysis guarantees that translations are not only linguistically precise but also functionally suitable for their intended context. This approach effectively connects the meaning of the source text with the objectives of the target text, rendering her model indispensable for professional translators. In Nord’s (2005) extratextual analysis, she identifies the following extratextual factors:

- Sender: refers to *who* produced the source text, which includes the author’s identity, role, and intentions.

- Purpose (Skopos): refers to *why* was the source text created? What is the intended function?
- Receiver: the receivers may be the source text's receivers whom the source text is intended for them or the target text receivers for whom the translation is produced. Nord (2005) asserted the translators' role in identifying the receivers' background on the topic.
- Time: The timing of communication, or “text production,” is a crucial factor in the analysis of source texts created during specific periods, as languages evolve over time in their usage and norms due to socio-cultural transformations. This linguistic evolution within texts over time influences not only the “area of text type,” such as weather reports, but also the sender's intentions, the medium employed, the motives behind the communication, and the intertextual characteristics. Additionally, it impacts the “genre conventions,” meaning that the expectations of a typical text type held by the receiver or translator may differ based on the time of production, potentially leading to misinterpretations or incorrect expectations regarding temporal deixis. Furthermore, translating an older text for a contemporary audience may elicit different responses than those experienced by the original audience. Translators and receivers can glean information about the temporal dimension from various sources, including the “date of publication,” the “textual environment,” or “secondary literature” that provides an approximate timeframe for when the text was composed, such as “the author's lifetime,” or from “features indicative of a historical variety of the source language” (Nord, 2005, pp. 70-74).
- Place: Nord (2005, p. 67) asserted that “The dimension of space [place of communication] refers not only to the place of text production, i.e. the actual situation of the sender and the text producer but also, at least in conn- action with certain media, to the place of text reception.”
- Medium: according to Seresová & Breveníková (2019, p. 2):
- The question about the medium concerns the channel through which the translated text reaches the recipient; this factor greatly affects the form and methods of translation. The choice of media largely determines the way of communication (oral/written communication, acoustic/visual communication). Therefore, the translator needs to know if the translation will be published as a book, a journal (or magazine) article, a feature article in newspapers, or as a leaflet or a letter .
- Motive: The dimension of motive, derived from specific situational elements such as medium, location, and time, plays a crucial role in both the creation and interpretation of texts. It offers insights into the “other situational factors”; for instance, a death announcement in a newspaper typically serves to inform the public of an individual's passing or to invite them to the funeral. In this context, the motive dimension reveals the sender's intent. Additionally, the motive dimension provides indications, such as “non-verbal symbols,” regarding the characteristics of the text. This information shapes the receiver's expectations concerning intertextual features, including content, vocabulary, and sentence structure, as well as suprasegmental features and non-verbal components.

Conflict-related political discourse

Political discourse related to conflict, similar to other forms of political communication, is meticulously crafted by politicians who serve as representatives of their nations rather than merely reflecting their personal views. Furthermore, the potential risks associated with misinterpretation of the original message can be profoundly detrimental. For instance, in 2025, the king of Jordan encountered significant misinterpretation concerning the displacement of Palestinians by the Al-Jazeera news agency, which led

to considerable backlash on various Arab social media platforms. In light of this, the king responded by tweeting his commitment to opposing the displacement of Palestinians. The threats arising from misinterpretation in conflict-related political discourse extend beyond the interests of specific stakeholders; they can also affect national leaders, thereby presenting considerable risks to news organizations. While extralinguistics has been recognized as an essential component of interpreters' capacity to convey meaning (Kim, 2006), there remains a lack of research on the specific extralinguistic elements necessary for conflict-related political discourse; this article primarily seeks to address this gap.

This paper aims to develop a thorough framework for identifying the fundamental elements of simultaneous interpreters' extralinguistic or extratextual knowledge, using the Palestinian-Israeli conflict as a case study. Identifying extralinguistics is vital for interpreters to grasp and convey the speaker's intentions while effectively engaging the audience in the context of political discourse related to conflict. Additionally, the research aims to identify the limitations of skopos theory in addressing such discourse.

Method

Participants

The participants were classified based on their level of engagement to primary and secondary stakeholders. Primary stakeholders include those directly involved in the conflict, such as Palestinians and Israelis, along with their respective internal factions. Each group comprises various representatives, including political leaders, spokespersons, and official media representatives. Secondary stakeholders refer to the allies associated with each side or its factions, along with international organizations that play a role in conflict resolution.

Instrument

The study employed qualitative document analysis (QDA), which Bowen (2009, p. 27) defined as "a systematic procedure for reviewing or evaluating documents—both printed and electronic (computer-based and Internet-transmitted) materials." The method of document analysis necessitates the examination and interpretation of data to extract meaning, enhance understanding, and cultivate empirical knowledge (Corbin and Strauss, 2014).

Procedures

The research employed QDA through a systematic approach. Initially, the process began with the identification of the core conflicting parties, followed by the collection of data from various sources, including news articles, reports from international organizations, scholarly articles, and books. Additionally, the gathered information encompassed resolutions, historical accounts, narratives, maps, and definitions. Subsequently, significant areas of inquiry, or initial themes, were delineated for further analysis. The data collected indicated initial themes related to the conflicting parties, internal factions, allies, international organizations, the roots of the conflict, historical context, geographical factors, demographic information, power structures, power dynamics, and specific demands.

Data Analysis

The research employed a contrastive thematic analysis approach, wherein themes were identified and delineated in a comparative context between the Palestinian and Israeli perspectives. Subsequently, each theme underwent a process of refinement and review to facilitate a comprehensive analysis for conflict-related political discourse.

Results

At this point, we initiate a comprehensive analysis of the identified themes to facilitate a logical conflict analysis of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, which may also hold significance for other disputes and offer analysts a sufficient comprehension of the circumstances.

Conflicting parties

The starting point is with the participants in the conflict; at the centre of the conflict, two main parties hold the centre of the circle of conflict, namely, Palestine and Israel. Standing against each other, each side has a set of beliefs that contradicts the other side's and constitute the source of conflict. Palestinian and Israeli sides are almost disagreeing on every possible belief. The ethnic beliefs are one of the core reasons for the political conflict; although Waxman (2019) does not see religion as the cause of conflict between Palestinians and Israelis, the second Intifada¹ erupted after Ariel Sharon², the Likud head entered Al-Aqsa mosque in 2000. According to The Economic Cooperation Foundation³, approximately 3,000-5,000 Palestinians and about 1,000 Israelis, as well as 64 foreign nationals were killed. The fundamental religious conflicts between Israelis and Palestinians do not stem from the foundational tenets of their respective faiths; rather, they are primarily concerned with the religious claims to the holy land. In this context, religion serves as a catalyst for the ongoing strife between these two groups. Consequently, we observe the formation of religious *alliances* between Palestinians and various Muslim nations, who share the same religious scope with Palestinians. Framing these religious disagreements as the primary cause of the conflict obscures the deeper underlying issues. The Palestinian-Israeli conflict religious conflict is related to the capital of each side; Israel and Palestine claim *Jerusalem* as the capital for both countries because of its religious status.

Examining the perspectives of the directly involved parties reveals further internal divisions within each faction. On the Palestinian side, the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) operates in the West Bank and is represented by the Palestinian authorities. In contrast, Gaza is governed by Hamas, which has held power since 2006. This complexity underscores the challenges inherent in resolving the conflict. The alliances of the PLO can be characterized by strong relations with the majority of European nations in addition to Arab and Islamic countries. Conversely, Hamas's alliances are primarily aligned with Iran and Shia groups in regions of Yemen and Lebanon. These alliances reflect the historical political positions of the official representatives involved. The political affiliations of each side are marked by significant disputes and differing international partnerships. While the Palestinian Authority's allies tend to share common interests with the United States and Europe, Iran's allies, notably Russia and China, often find themselves in opposition to American and European

¹ This term is used exclusively to describe the uprising of Palestinians against Israel in intense protests times.

² <https://www.britannica.com/place/Israel/The-second-intifada>

³ Israeli policy planning think-tank. <https://ecf.org.il/issues/issue/230>

interests. Iran does not share good relations with the Palestinian authorities due to their refusal to adopt the Irani principles in their struggle with Israel (Al-Labad, 2013).

Recently, Israel achieved good relations with some Arab countries especially after Abraham Accords⁴ in 2020; the accords normalize the relations between Israel and Bahrain, UAE, Morocco, and Sudan. We need to notice that we are regarding the country's official speech rather than the peoples' different opinions.

The United States represents a unique scenario in this conflict; each American president reaffirms the steadfast partnership with Israel while simultaneously vetoing Palestine's bid for full membership in the United Nations. In this regard, the direct alliance between Israel and the United States significantly surpasses the support Palestine receives from its Arab allies. Understanding the landscape of these alliances enhances the comprehensive knowledge of interpreters and their capacity for extralinguistic predictions, given the stability of these alliances. Recognizing the relationships among the allies of the conflicting parties enables interpreters to better comprehend the intentions of politicians in relation to their political positions.

In addition to the conflicting parties and their allies, it is essential to consider involved institutions. League of Arab States or Arab League launched Arab peace initiative adopted at Beirut summit. The summit calls for Israel withdrawal from occupied territories before June 4, 1967, which has been mentioned in every Arab leader speech as an acceptable path of peace by Palestinians and Arabs. Moreover, Organization for Islamic Cooperation is highly involved in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Further, the international organizations like the United Nations, security council, and International Criminal Court are highly involved in the conflict since their decisions affect each side greatly. The use of reference numbers, dates, and the use of the resolutions as evidence is very common in conflict. The resolutions and its reference number are listed in Table 1.

Table 1.
Resolutions related to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Resolution number\ year	Resolution
UN General Assembly main resolutions ⁵	
194\1948	"Refugees wishing to return to their homes and live at peace with their neighbours should be permitted to do so at the earliest practicable date, and that compensation should be paid for the property of those choosing not to return and for loss of or damage to property which, under principles of international law or equity, should be made good by the Governments or authorities responsible."
3236\1974	Acknowledging that the Palestinian people have the right to self-determination as outlined in the Charter of the United Nations.
3237\1974	The resolution accorded the PLO the status of an observer organization in the United Nations.
3379\1975	The resolution equated Zionism with colonialism and South African apartheid and determined that "Zionism is a form of racism and racial discrimination."
86/46\ 1991	Decides to revoke the determination contained in its resolution 3379 (XXX) of 10 November 1975.
124/59\ 2004	Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.
67/19\ 2012	The resolution accorded Palestine the status of a non-member observer State in the United Nations, akin to that of the Holy See (Vatican), based on the Palestinian people's right for self-determination and a large number of relevant General Assembly and Security Council Resolution.
UN Security Council main resolutions ⁶	
242\ 1967	Withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories occupied in the recent conflict. Termination of all claims or states of belligerency and respect for and acknowledgment of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of every State in the area and their right to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries free from threats or acts of force."

⁴ Retrieved from the U.S. department of State <https://www.state.gov/the-abraham-accords>

⁵ General Assembly resolutions retrieved from <https://research.un.org/en/docs/ga/quick/regular/79>

⁶ Retrieved from <https://main.un.org/securitycouncil/en/content/resolutions-0>

338\ 1973	Calls upon all parties to the present fighting to cease all firing and terminate all military activity immediately, no later than 12 hours after the moment of the adoption of this decision, in the positions they now occupy. Calls upon the parties concerned, to start immediately after the cease-fire the implementation of Security Council resolution 242 (1967) in all of its parts. Decides that, immediately and concurrently with the cease-fire, negotiations shall start between the parties concerned under appropriate auspices aimed at establishing a just and durable peace in the Middle East.
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History narratives

Interpreting history within the context of conflict presents significant challenges, as interpreters often encounter multiple narratives for each historical event, which can be a distinctive feature for conflict-related political discourse. This complexity arises from the divergent viewpoints of the conflicting parties; for instance, figures celebrated as heroes in Israel may be viewed as adversaries by Palestinians, and vice versa. It is crucial for interpreters to recognize these varying perspectives on identical historical occurrences. While there are ongoing debates regarding religious history, this discussion primarily focuses on the political history of the conflict that began in the 1930s, as religious disputes tend to hold less weight in political discussions. The main events of the conflict are shared between both parties; however, the terms used to describe the event may differ. The main historical events are introduced in Table 2.

Table 2.
Historical events narratives in Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Event\ time period	Term for Palestinians	Term for Israeli
Late 1800s, Rise of Zionism and Arab nationalism.	Colonization resistance	Return to Zion
Balfour Declaration, 1917	Colonial denial of Palestinians right (the promise of the one who does not own to the one that does not deserve)	Jewish state first step
British Mandate Period 1920-1948	Systematic displacement under colonization	Aliyah (immigrating to Israel)
1936-1939 revolt	Arab revolution against occupation	Arab riot
UN partition plan 1947	Foreign state on Palestine land	Legitimacy for the Jewish state
1947-1948 war	Nakba (catastrophe)	War of Independence
1967 war	Naksa (expansion of occupation to West Bank)	Six-day war (liberation of Judea and Samaria)
1973 war	October war	Yom Kippur war
1987-1993 clashes	First Intifada	Riots or terrorist unrest
1993-1995 Oslo Accords	Un fulfilled promise of statehood and peace	Old agreement
2000-2005 clashes	Al-Aqsa Intifada (second Intifada) in resistance to occupation.	Al-Aqsa Intifada (Palestinians violence)
2008-2009 war between Israel and Gaza	Attack on Gaza	Operation cast lead
2012 war between Israel and Gaza	Attack on Gaza	Operation pillar of defence
2014 war between Israel and Gaza	Attack on Gaza	Operation protective edge
2017 U.S. embassy move to Jerusalem	Violation of international law	Affirming historical right
2020 Abraham Accords	Betrayal of Palestinian cause	Historic peace and regional stability
2021 clashes in Jerusalem and war between Gaza and Israel	Sheikh Jarrah clashes	Operation guardian of the walls against Gaza

Power and impact

Power can be conceptualized as the ability to influence the actions of others through coercive measures or incentives, predominantly utilizing military and economic strategies (Nye, 1990). In essence, the political power under discussion pertains to the capacity to exert influence based on military and economic capabilities. In this framework, political conflict serves as an indicator of the relative strength of the parties

engaged. However, not all countries participating in the conflict take part in military operations; the Palestinian faction remains isolated due to the absence of military alliances supporting them, whereas Israel enjoys the advantages of a significant military coalition. Consequently, the role of countries supporting Palestine is confined to diplomatic efforts and political negotiations, whereas Israel's allies are active in both diplomatic and military interventions. Thus, the political power of Israel, bolstered by its allies, is significantly more formidable.

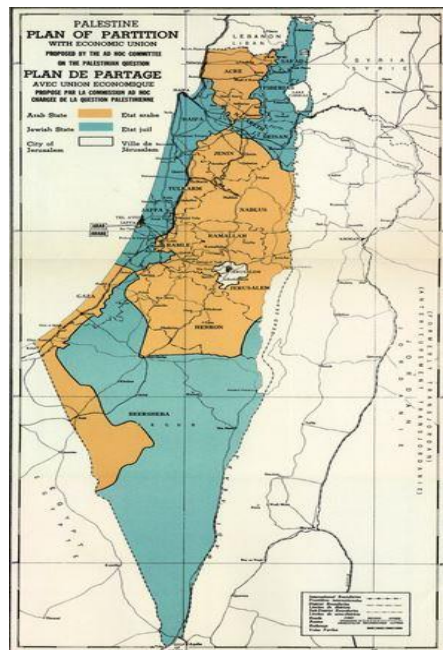
Interpreters should pay close attention to the fact that power influences discourse and provides those in authority with the freedom to articulate and act in ways that align with their objectives; consequently, it constrains others from making impactful statements or suggestions. Interpreters must be aware of the limitations faced by each speaker, taking into account the power dynamics and influence of their respective countries. In this context, interpreters should recognize that the power held by a speaker may complicate the prediction of their statements. Israeli representatives openly criticized the UN and the ICC while addressing the UN, indicating significant forthcoming shifts in the exercise of power among nations embroiled in conflict.

Geography and demography

The Palestinian-Israeli conflict affected the geography and demography of the whole Middle East since the early 1900. Mühlberger & Alaranta (2020, p. 35) considered the geographical and demography changes in Palestine post 1948 as an "earthquake." The land and population are one of the centric cores of the ongoing conflict. Starting from 1917, only 6% of Palestine were Jews. After Balfour declaration, from 1918-1947 the immigration to Palestine increased and Jews were 33% of the population (Haddad, 2020). The conflict escalated greatly and the resolution 181 by the UN recognized a partition of Palestine, which includes 55% for Jewish state and 45% for Palestinian state. According to the United Nations (1947), the following map shows the borders of each state.

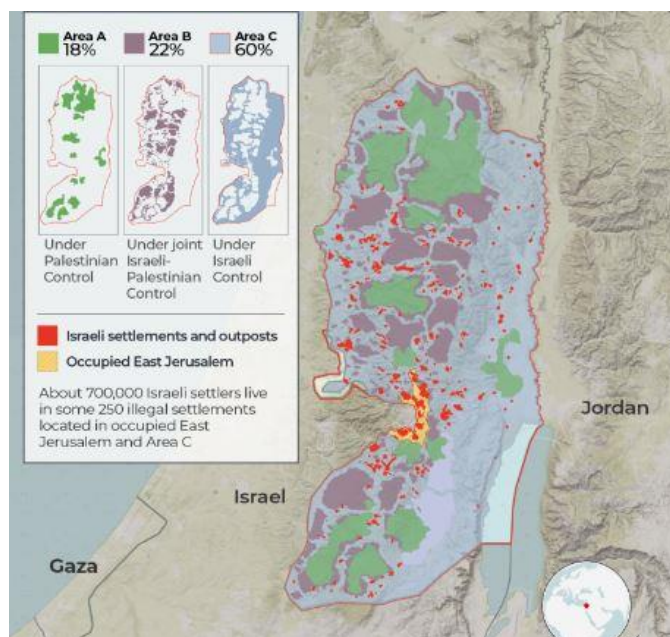
Figure 1.

Resolution 181: Partition of Palestine into Arab and Jews states.



From 1947 to 1948, 750,000 Palestinians were made refugees outside Palestine borders, due to Nakba, and 15,000 Palestine were killed (Loewenstein, 2023). The armistice *green line*, which Palestinians call 1967 borders, was created in 1949 surrounding the West Bank and Gaza strip. Since then, the Palestinian refugees' case is on table. Later in 1967, Naksa, Israel took over all the Palestinian territories. Inside the green line, a huge number of Israeli settlements has been built. In 1993, the Oslo Accords established a division of the occupied West Bank into three distinct areas: A, B, and C, with Area C comprising 60% of the territory. Initially, Area A constituted 3% of the West Bank, expanding to 18% by 1999, where the Palestinian Authority oversees the majority of administrative functions. Area B accounts for approximately 22% of the West Bank. In these regions, the Palestinian Authority manages education, health, and economic matters, while Israel maintains complete authority over external security, allowing them the right to intervene at any moment (IBP, 2016; Mahler and Hazan, 2024). The Accords stipulated that governance of this area would be handed over to the Palestinian Authority; however, Israel maintains full control over all facets, including security, urban development, and construction. The expected transfer of authority to the Palestinian Authority has yet to take place. Haddad and Ali (2024) illustrate the recent distribution of settlements in the West Bank with the following map.

Figure 2.
Distribution of Israeli settlements in West Bank.



Quigley (1998) examined Israel's justification for the legality of settlements based on several factors; the primary factor pertains to the settlements' contribution to Israel's security, as they symbolize Israel's presence in the occupied territories. Another justification concerns land ownership: Quigley (1998, p. 16) notes that "another claim made in favour of Israel pertains to the ownership of the land upon which the settlements were established." Additionally, Israel interprets international conventions, such as the Geneva Civilians Convention, which forbids settlements in cases of displacement, a claim that Israel contests.

Interpreters ought to be well-acquainted with these facts, as they play a significant role in shaping the discourse surrounding conflict. Typically, politicians from both factions, along with their supporters, rely on empirical data to formulate their subsequent demands.

Demands

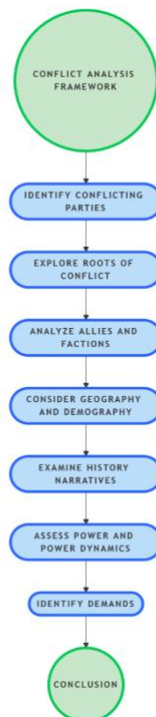
The requests articulated by politicians play a vital role in their interactions with the public. Furthermore, these requests are context dependent. They can be historically grounded, exemplified by calls for the execution of resolutions or adherence to the Arab Peace Initiative, or they may emerge spontaneously in response to particular incidents, such as the provision of food and water to Gaza. Additionally, the nature of these demands can vary based on the location of the address; for instance, Netanyahu discussed the Iran deal during a speech in Congress. To understand the speaker's intentions, interpreters must recognize the potential expectations of a specific audience in relation to a particular context or timeframe.

In political conflicts, demands typically arise through a bottom-up approach, where those with less power seek concessions from those with greater power. In the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Israeli demands primarily focus on *security* (Shalom, 2005), often aimed at ensuring the defeat of their adversaries, frequently aligned with American interests. The sub-demands of security as a primary goal change over time, but still meet the primary goal.

Conversely, the Palestinian demands are varied and fundamentally tied to issues of *statehood* and self-rule (Khalidi, 2013). Palestinians commonly advocate for religious freedom in Jerusalem, access to land in the West Bank and Gaza, the right of refugees to return, cessation of Israeli military actions against them, adherence to international resolutions, and accountability for Israel under international law.

Arab and Islamic nations align with the Palestinian perspective, as they do not possess the requisite influence on effect significant alterations in the political landscape; nonetheless, they remain dedicated to advocating for Palestinian rights. In contrast, most Western countries consistently affirm their commitment to the security of Israel. Diagram 1 explains conflict analysis framework.

Diagram 1.
Conflict Analysis Framework.



Discussion and conclusions

According to the results, analysing a conflict can be challenging due to the variety of included elements. However, it is essential for interpreters to be acquainted with the facts from each side's perspective in order to form a comprehensive view of the situation. In contribution to Nord's (2005) extratextual analysis elements, the regarded elements in the established framework can constitute a detailed investigation of the sender, who constitutes the main element in the political discourse. The sender's importance is not by his personal perspective but as a result of the elements' interaction in the sphere of reality. In other words, the identified elements in conflict analysis are the generators that decide the skopos of the speech, while the sender is responsible for the design of the message. In this sense, senders may not contradict the source discourse skopos, motivated by all the mentioned elements in the analysis.

Analysing conflict can be the interpreters' first step in their training to fulfil the skopos theory rules. Being internally coherent, intratextual coherent, or intertextual coherent, between multiple texts, counts greatly on realising the reality that shapes the skopos of the discourse and later aids the interpreter's decision-making. On May 25, 2021, Antony J. Blinken, American Secretary of State, in his visit to Ramallah, stated:

“Durable resolution of the conflict between Palestinians and Israelis, which ultimately requires two states.”

Arabic interpretation backtranslation: “at the end, we demand a two-state solution.”⁷

The interpreter has made a slight change that contradicts the sender's original message. Historically, the United States refused to recognise the state of Palestine, which can be realised by the alliance with Israel and from the history of the conflict. In this sense, Blinken would not make such statement. Gile (2009, pp. 173-175) suggested “linguistic anticipation” and “extralinguistic anticipation” to minimise the capacity allocated for comprehension. Linguistic anticipation involves the interpreter's application of grammatical structures, common word pairings, and likelihoods of transitions. In contrast, extralinguistic anticipation pertains to the interpreter's understanding of the subject matter, the surrounding context, and the identity of the speaker. In other words, extralinguistic anticipation is related to the interpreters' familiarity with the reality of the conflict.

Another example is the Egyptian president, Abd-Al-Fattah Al-Sisi, at the Second Arab Islamic Extraordinary Summit, November 11, 2024.

The literal translation of the original: On behalf of Egypt, I declare openly that we will stand against all plans that aim to liquidate the Palestinian cause, whether through the displacement of the local civilian population, their forced transfer, or turning the Strip into a place unfit for living, which is something we will not accept under any circumstances.

Simultaneous interpretation⁸:

On behalf of Egypt, I announce that we will stand against any plans or plots that target the extermination of the Palestinian cause, whether through expelling

⁷ Interpretation retrieved from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lov9ImpAVtI&t=336s> [07:00-07:05]

⁸ Interpretation retrieved from <https://tinyurl.com/y3hyud6y> [27:43-28:07]

civilians or local citizens or prevent or expelling them to other places that are not well prepared for life. That's something that we will never accept.

We can clearly see that the misinterpretation is misleading, considering the contradiction with the source discourse and the conflict reality. In this sense, being aware of the conflict reality contributes to the quality of the interpretation. In other words, the severe impact that an interpreter can commit is related to contradicting the conflict reality.

The reality in conflict-related political discourse is relative according to the audience. In this sense, realising alliances does not contribute to the knowledge of the senders only but can aid the interpreter to realise the audience perspective and provide an interpretation that can function according to the senders' intentions.

In contrast to Nord's (2005) approach, conflict-related political discourse is centred over the narratives of the opposing parties rather than the sender; additionally, the realisation of the audience is enhanced by their previous knowledge on the topic, which is also enhanced by their stance in the conflict. Time is not restricted to the production of the discourse but extended to the conflict's timeframe. Furthermore, power is a necessary factor in conflict and other political genres that has to be included, as it influences the sender's intentions. The senders' demands stem from the interaction of narratives and power obtained by alliances.

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