

**CHARLES UNIVERSITY**  
**Faculty of Social Sciences**  
**Institute of Communication Studies and Journalism**

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**MA THESIS REVIEW**

**NOTE: Only the grey fields should be filled out!**

**Review type** (choose one):

Review by thesis supervisor  Review by opponent

**Thesis author:**

Surname and given name: Lobna Sabet Amin Awwad

**Thesis title:** Echoes of a War: A Multimodal Discourse Analysis of Egypt's Al-Ahram's Five-Decade Coverage of the 1973 Egyptian-Israeli War

**Reviewer:**

Surname and given name:

Affiliation: IKSŽ

**1. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RESEARCH PROPOSAL AND THESIS** (mark one box for each row)

		Conforms to approved research proposal	Changes are well explained and appropriate	Changes are explained but are inappropriate	Changes are not explained and are inappropriate	Does not conform to approved research proposal
1.1	Research objective(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2	Methodology	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.3	Thesis structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

COMMENTARY (description of the relationship between the research proposal and the thesis. If there are problems, please be specific):

**2. EVALUATION OF THE THESIS CONTENT**

Use letters A – B – C – D – E – F (A=best, F= failed)

		Grade
2.1	Quality and appropriateness of the theoretical framework	B
2.2	Ability to critically evaluate and apply the literature	B
2.3	Quality and soundness of the empirical research	A
2.4	Ability to select the appropriate methods and use them correctly	C
2.5	Quality of the conclusion	A
2.6	Thesis originality and its contribution to academic knowledge production	A

COMMENTARY (description of thesis content and the main problems):

Lobna Sabet Amin Awwad explores how the relationship between media narratives in the Al-Ahram daily newspaper and political power has evolved over 40 years. Her study focuses on the newspaper's coverage of the October 1973 War as a vital example of this dynamic interplay. She outlines clear objectives and aims for the research. The use of multimodal discourse analysis (MDA) and semi-structured interviews (SSI) is appropriate given the research's extensive time frame and has the potential to yield valuable insights. The literature review presents a few scholarly works focused on the topic.

Given that the author intends to employ MDA, I would appreciate more context and details on the 1973 October War and its aftermath. Furthermore, the author does not need to limit the scope of the literature review on studies considering media coverage of the October War if this is innumerable. Instead, she could have confused the scholarly literature examining the media and political power more broadly and provided some specific examples of similar events.

The theoretical framework centers on the media's construction of reality theory, which fits the study. The writing is clear, and the author effectively overviews vital concepts and core scholarly references. However, given the frequent mention of war memory and its relationship to media narratives, it would be beneficial to delve deeper into this concept.

The methodology provides and presents the research design and the selected method's theoretical background. The chapter is comprehensive and gives the reader a solid understanding of how the research is being carried out. The table used in chapter 3.4.1 is missing the title and the description.

The presentation of the findings is clear and well-structured. Initially, the Multimodal Discourse Analysis (MDA) results are presented. The author discusses each front page of Al-Ahram individually, providing detailed explanations. However, some parts of the analysis, particularly those concerning the visuals, become somewhat technical. A deeper, more contextual analysis in these areas would be beneficial.

Overall, the author successfully identifies and elaborates on the main narratives in the analysis chapter, summarizing the MDA findings and categorizing them into five distinct periods. The attempt to connect MDA results with semi-structured interview (SSI) findings is noteworthy, but it would have been more effective with a more apparent integration. The role of SSI results in the findings is not entirely evident, and the chapter lacks a precise analysis. Currently, the SSI findings serve primarily as supplementary comments to the MDA results.

The discussion and conclusions are well written. The author connects her findings to the theoretical framework and literature review.

### 3. EVALUATION OF THE THESIS FORM

Use letters A – B – C – D – E – F (A=best, F= failed)

		Grade
3.1	Quality of the structure	B
3.2	Quality of the argumentation	B
3.3	Appropriate use of academic terminology	A
3.4	Quality, quantity, and appropriateness of the citations (both in the theory part and in the empirical part)	A
3.5	Conformity to quotation standards (*)	A
3.6	Use of an academic writing style, and correct use of language (both grammar and spelling)	A
3.6	Quality of the textual lay-outing and appendices	A

(\*) If the text contains quotations without references, the grade is F; if the text contains plagiarised parts, do not recommend the thesis for defence and suggest disciplinary action against the author instead.

COMMENTARY (description of thesis form and the main problems):

### 4. OVERALL EVALUATION (provide a summarizing list of the thesis's strengths and weaknesses):

Lobna Sabet Amin Awwad's MA thesis comprehensively analyzes how media narratives in the Al-Ahram daily newspaper have interacted with political power over 40 years, focusing on its coverage of the October 1973 War. The research has well-defined objectives and a suitable methodological approach using Multimodal Discourse Analysis (MDA) and semi-structured interviews (SSI). While the study offers valuable insights, there is room for improvement. More contextual detail on the 1973 War and its aftermath would enrich the analysis. The literature review could benefit from a broader scope, incorporating more media and political power studies. The theoretical framework is apt, but further exploring war memory in media narratives would improve the theoretical par. The methodology is sound. The presentation of findings is clear, though some sections would benefit from deeper contextual analysis. Integrating SSI findings with MDA results could be more effective, as their current role appears supplementary. The discussion and conclusions are well-articulated, linking findings to the theoretical framework and literature. Overall, Lobna Sabet Amin Awwad delivers good work, and I suggest evaluation A or B, depending on the defense.

**5. QUESTIONS OR TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED DURING THE THESIS DEFENSE:**

5.1	How can the semi-structured interview findings be integrated with Multimodal Discourse Analysis results to improve their combined impact on the study's conclusions?
5.2	
5.3	
5.4	

**6. ANTIPLAGIARISM CHECK**

The reviewer is familiar with the thesis' score in plagiarism analysis in SIS.

If the score is above 5%, please evaluate and indicate problems:

6.1	Turnitin shows 18% similarity. However, quotations are handled correctly.
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**7. SUGGESTED GRADE OF THE THESIS AS A WHOLE (choose one or two)**

- A**  Excellent (excellent performance)
- B**  Excellent (excellent performance)
- C**  Very Good (above the average standard but with some errors)
- D**  Very Good (above the average standard but with some errors)
- E**  Good (generally sound work with a number of notable errors)
- F**  Fail (unsatisfactory performance)

**If the mark is an "F", please provide your reasons for not recommending the thesis for defence:**

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Date: August 5, 2024

Signature: .....

*A finalised review should be printed, signed and submitted in two copies to the secretary of the Department of Media Studies. The electronic version of the review should be converted into a PDF and uploaded to SIS, or sent to the Department of Media Studies secretary who will upload it to SIS on the reviewer's behalf.*

*Do not upload PDFs with a scanned signature, the review uploaded to SIS must be without signature.*