

The Palestinian Narrative in Podcast after Al-Aqsa Flood- An Analytical study of Jisr Podcast

السردية الفلسطينية في البودكاست بعد طوفان الأقصى دراسة تحليلية لجسر بودكاست

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الملخص:

يشكل البودكاست جزءا من الثورة الصوتية المعاصرة، حيث يتيح إمكانيات متجددة لسرد القصص تجعله منصة ثقافية متعددة الوظائف. وفي السياق الفلسطيني، برز كأداة سردية فعالة لمعالجة القضية الفلسطينية ضمن إطار عالمي، خاصة بعد طوفان الأقصى. تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى تحليل كيفية تقديم جسر بودكاست للسردية الفلسطينية في الفضاء الرقمي الصوتي، ومدى إسهامه في ترسيخ الهوية الوطنية ومواجهة السرديات الإقصائية عبر الإعلام البديل. بالاعتماد على المنهج الوصفي التحليلي وتحليل المحتوى الكيفي لـ 12 حلقة تناولت الطوفان، خلصت النتائج إلى أن جسر بودكاست ساهم بفعالية في بناء وترويج السردية الفلسطينية المقاومة، من خلال توظيف أدوات السرد الصوتي والمرئي باحترافية وإبداع، مما جعله نموذجا وبصمة فارقة لإبراز دور الإعلام الصوتي البديل في إعادة تشكيل الوعي العربي والإسلامي والعالمي اتجاه القضية الفلسطينية.

الكلمات المفتاحية: السرد، البودكاست، القضية الفلسطينية، طوفان الأقصى.

Abstract:

Podcasting, as part of modern sonic revolution, extends beyond being a media tool to function as a cultural platform for storytelling. In Palestine, it has become an effective medium for presenting the Palestinian issue globally, especially after Al-Aqsa Flood. This study examines how *Jisr Podcast* conveyed the Palestinian narrative in the digital audio sphere, its role in strengthening national identity, and its challenge to exclusionary narratives through alternative media. Based on a descriptive-analytical study and qualitative content analysis of 12 purposively selected episodes, findings show that *Jisr Podcast* significantly contributed to promoting the Palestinian resistance narrative against the Zionist one. Its professional and creative use of audio-visual storytelling established it as a unique model in reshaping Arab, Islamic, and global public awareness of the Palestinian issue.

Key words: Narration, Podcast, Palestinian Issue, Al- Aqsa Flood

Introduction:

Podcasting is becoming increasingly significant in the Arab world, with a raising interest among content creators and journalists. According to the Arab Podcasting Platform, the number of active podcast programs in the Arab world reached 413, with over 40 podcast episodes produced in 2021.¹

Data published by Northwestern University and the Doha Film Institute further show rising podcast listenership in the Arab region, indicating that three out of ten Arab citizens listen to podcasts. Podcasting has not only contributed to shaping audio media trends tailored to personal tastes and preferences but has also generated its own directions in content creation, values, and diverse standards. Its reliance on sound storytelling techniques and accompanying professional tools for narrative construction underscores the dominance of conversational podcasts within audio content production.²

In the current context, as in other Arab countries, podcasting has emerged in Palestine as an effective narrative medium for addressing the Palestinian issue within a global framework, particularly following the events of Al-Aqsa Flood. It enables the re-articulation of the Palestinian narrative in its own terms and breaks the media blockade enforced by dominant Western discourses. Podcasting's audio-visual storytelling techniques allow Palestinian creators and other marginalized voices to narrate their experiences in their own voices, thereby reinforcing narrative authenticity and resisting disinformation. Within the global "war of narratives," especially under the pressures of Western media on the Palestinian story, podcasting functions as a form of epistemic resistance, exposing bias and distorted terminology that obscure the political roots and colonial nature of the conflict.³ Moreover, podcasts employing multi-voiced interactive storytelling highlight the importance of engaging guests from Palestinian society and academia, adding intellectual depth and fostering solidarity. Constructive dialogue models can also be used as educational tools for diverse Palestinian audiences⁴.

Accordingly, this article seeks to raise a set of questions regarding the nature of the narrative constructed through podcasting—particularly after the events of *al-Aqsa flood*—and the extent to which it can reshape collective consciousness beyond official narratives.

Among these podcasts, *Jisr Podcast* stands out as a digital audio medium that focuses on the issues of Palestinians from within, through personal stories, accounts of displacement, and narratives of resistance that represent an extension of the broader narrative of struggle. Accordingly, the main research question is formulated as follows:

How does *Jisr Podcast* present the Palestinian narrative in the digital audio space after *al-Aqsa flood*, and to what extent does it contribute to reinforcing national identity and challenging exclusionary narratives through alternative media?

Alongside the central research question, this study articulates a series of subsidiary questions that aim to further clarify and deepen the scope of inquiry:

1. What are the main themes addressed by *Jisr Podcast* concerning the Palestinian issue?

2. How does *Jisr Podcast* employ audio storytelling tools (narratives, testimonies, music, and production) to serve the Palestinian narrative?
3. What are the characteristics of the Palestinian narrative as presented through *Jisr Podcast*?

Significance of the Study

The significance of this study can be outlined as follows:

- It contributes to understanding the role of alternative digital media in constructing counter-narratives to the dominant discourse on the Palestinian cause.
- It provides a methodological approach for analyzing Arabic audio content related to political and human rights struggles.
- It offers deeper insights into how the Palestinian narrative is constructed in the digital space by independent actors.
- It presents useful perspectives for Palestinian activists and content creators regarding mechanisms for building effective and influential narratives.
- It uncovers the media strategies adopted by *Jisr Podcast* in representing the Palestinian issue after a pivotal event such as *al-Aqsa flood*.
- It falls within broader research efforts that seek to understand podcasting as a medium of political and cultural influence in the digital public sphere.

Objectives of the Study

This study aims to achieve a set of objectives, specifically:

1. Analyzing the content of *Jisr Podcast* and deconstructing its narrative and media components.
2. Revealing the representations of the Palestinian issue within the content of *Jisr Podcast* episodes.
3. Highlighting the role of alternative audio media in reshaping public awareness of the Palestinian issue.
4. Assessing the role of *Jisr Podcast* in confronting dominant Israeli and international narratives.
5. Examining the podcast's impact on preserving Palestinian historical memory through both individual and collective accounts.

1- Concepts of the Study

1.1- Narrative:

Defined as “the structure through which stories and discourses are constructed to generate meaning. It is not limited to literary stories, but encompasses all forms of expression that use narration as a means of conveying an experience, a vision, or a stance”⁵. According to (Ghanem, 2020)⁶, narrative is “not merely the transmission of events, but a method of

organizing, interpreting, and reconstructing the real or imagined world according to a particular perspective.”

1.2- The Palestinian Issue

A legal term that emerged in 1336 AH / 1917 AD, when Britain occupied Palestine and General Allenby entered Jerusalem on December 18, 1917, declaring “*Now the Crusades are over.*” This term refers to all matters connected to Palestine—its people, land, and civilization—while facing, alongside its Arab homeland and Islamic civilizational sphere, the alliance of Western hegemonic powers, the so-called new Qarunites, with racist Zionism in an attempt to usurp it and turn it into “a national homeland for the Jews,” as stated in the Balfour Declaration. It also denotes the establishment of a colonial, settler, and racist base for domination over the Arab homeland in particular and the Islamic world at large.⁷

1.3- Podcast

According to (Maria Ristani, 2024)⁸, podcasting is “a hybrid form of audio storytelling that combines voice, dialogic format, and digital technology, reviving old radio traditions such as radio dramas and sound archives, while deploying them in new, flexible, and personal ways.” Similarly, (Llinares, 2018)⁹ defines podcasting as “a form of audio storytelling that blends journalistic, literary, and documentary traditions, delivered digitally and often consumed individually, thereby offering a personal and intimate listening experience.”

1.4- Al-Aqsa Flood

“An operation launched by the Palestinian resistance in the Gaza Strip against Israel at dawn on Saturday, October 7, 2023, involving land, sea, and air assaults, as well as infiltration into several settlements in the Gaza envelope.” The operation was announced by Mohammed Deif, Commander-in-Chief of Al-Qassam Brigades, the military wing of Hamas, and was considered the largest attack on Israel in decades.¹⁰

2- Literature Review:

The study compiled a body of literature in both Arabic and foreign sources that engaged with the two central variables. Arabic studies primarily explored the Al-Aqsa Flood and the Palestinian issue as represented across different media platforms, whereas foreign studies concentrated on the podcast variable, examining its narrative dimensions, defining features, and communicative affordances.

2.1- The Palestinian Issue Variable

2.1.1- (Abdel-Maqsoud, 2025)¹¹: *Digital Narrative Frames of Humanitarian Conditions During the War on Gaza – A Case Study of the “Stories from Palestine” Podcast.* This study aimed to highlight the Arab narrative of events from the Palestinian perspective under continuous Israeli aggression since *Al-Aqsa Flood*. It examined how digital narratives were employed by the “Stories from Palestine” podcast, part of Sowt network, as a humanitarian tool to document violations and suffering during the Israeli assault on Gaza in October 2023. Using a mixed-methods design (quantitative and qualitative), combining a survey and qualitative content analysis of podcast episodes from October to December 2023, the study

found that the podcast emphasized individual stories reflecting civilians' daily suffering, with humanitarian framing dominating. Responsibility framing was also evident, explicitly holding Israel accountable for the assault and humanitarian crisis in Gaza. The findings demonstrated the effectiveness of digital storytelling in podcasting—through tools such as music, emotional narration, and linking past to present—in attracting audiences and increasing empathy for the Palestinian cause.

2.1.2- (Salem, 2025)¹²: *Coverage of Al-Aqsa Flood Events on News Channels' Websites and Its Relation to Media Elites' Attitudes – An Applied Study.* This research investigated the relationship between the coverage of *Al-Aqsa Flood* by Arabic and Arabic-directed news websites and media elites' attitudes. Using a descriptive survey method (content analysis and field survey), the researcher analyzed four news websites (Al Jazeera, Al-Qahira Al-Ikhbariyya, France 24 Arabic, and CNN Arabic). A questionnaire was also distributed to 200 Egyptian media elites, both academic and professional. Results revealed that Al Jazeera provided the most extensive coverage among Arabic and Arabic-directed websites. Conflict framing dominated the news stories across all websites. Findings also showed no statistically significant differences in elites' attitudes based on type or age, but significant differences were observed according to gender.

2.1.3- (Allague, 2024)¹³: *The Role of Arab Digital Media in Confronting Israeli Narratives: A Narrative Analysis of "Palestine, Story of the Land" by Al-Daheeh on the New Media Academy YouTube Channel.* This study analyzed Al-Daheeh's video, coinciding with *Al-Aqsa Flood*, to understand how a prominent Arab content creator showcased the Palestinian narrative while deconstructing Israeli myths. Using narrative analysis based on Freytag's pyramid, it found that Al-Daheeh employed a conversational and informal style to engage audiences, moving from aesthetic descriptions of "Tantura" to exposing tragic events. The video critiqued Zionist myths such as "*a land without a people*" and "*2,000 years of Jewish persecution.*" The analysis concluded that such digital storytelling promoted critical reflection on historical narratives and underscored the importance of unveiling hidden truths.

2.1.4- (Fayez, 2024)¹⁴: *Framing of Al-Aqsa Flood Events in Foreign Arabic-Language Websites – A Comparative Analytical Study of CNN Arabic and BBC Arabic.* This research examined the framing of *Al-Aqsa Flood* news coverage using framing theory and spiral of silence theory. Through qualitative content analysis of news published in October 7–14, 2023, the study revealed that both websites privileged news accompanied by statistics and reports while marginalizing stories with historical context. The findings indicated bias toward Israel, portraying Gaza negatively while presenting Israel in a polished, positive image. Religious references were minimal (3%), reflecting a tendency to avoid framing events through religious justification.

2.2- The Podcast Variable

2.2.1- (Mombo, 2025)¹⁵: *Podcasts as the New Radio: Shaping the Future of Storytelling.* This study explored how podcasting redefines narrative structures and engages listeners innovatively. Using mixed methods (quantitative surveys of 100 listeners and qualitative interviews with 10 podcasters in Nairobi), it found that podcasts expanded creative

possibilities, fostered deeper audience connections, and increased accessibility in urban areas compared to rural ones due to the digital divide.

2.2.2- (Kavya E K, 2024)¹⁶: *The Rise of Podcasting and Its Influence on Communication Patterns*. This study examined podcasting as a transformative force in communication, emphasizing its role in democratizing voices and challenging traditional media hierarchies. Using qualitative surveys, results showed that podcasts amplified marginalized voices, diversified media landscapes, and reshaped communication by blurring boundaries between sender and receiver.

2.2.3- (Abdel-Lahai, 2024)¹⁷: *Digital Storytelling in Transcontinental Media – Podcasting: An Analytical Study*. This research applied Walter Fisher's narrative theory and Catherine Riessman's four-dimensional narrative analysis (thematic, structural, dialogic, and visual) to study *Fannjan* and *Wa'i* podcasts. Findings highlighted narrative diversity, the role of time and place in storytelling, dialogic relationships between narrators and listeners, and the use of sound and multimedia elements to enhance engagement.

2.2.4-(Dhiman, 2023)¹⁸: *The Rise and Power of Audio Storytelling in the 21st Century – A Critical Review*. The study examined the growth of audio storytelling in the digital era, attributing it to smartphones and podcast platforms. It argued that audio storytelling promotes empathy, awareness, and social change, while also anticipating future directions such as personalization, interactivity, augmented reality, and AI integration.

2.2.5- (Patrik Kolenčik, 2022)¹⁹: *Narrative as an Element of Podcast Production: The Case Study of Nezhasinaj!* This study highlighted narrative as the backbone of podcasting, especially in academic and cultural contexts. Through qualitative analysis of 10 episodes of *Widmo Brockenu* podcast, it concluded that narrative not only reconstructs memory and documents events but also strengthens affective connections with audiences. Voice, sound effects, and silence were seen as integral narrative tools.

2.3- Critical Review of Previous Studies

The reviewed studies concerning the Palestinian issue, particularly *Al-Aqsa Flood*, reveal the growing scholarly and academic attention to the event across multiple media, highlighting its social and humanitarian impacts. They also show clear divergences in coverage depending on media background, with some affirming the Palestinian narrative and others reproducing biased Israeli/Western perspectives.

On the other hand, studies on podcasting and narrative offer valuable insights into the dynamics of transformation in audio media, emphasizing podcasting's ability to empower marginalized voices and challenge traditional hierarchies. Collectively, these works enrich the academic understanding of podcasting as an evolving form of digital storytelling.

3- Methodology of the study:

This study is descriptive; “*aims to collect accurate descriptions of phenomena in order to interpret, analyze, and determine their nature, without seeking to uncover causal relationships*”.²⁰ The study adopted qualitative content analysis to answer its research questions, examining selected episodes of *Jisr Podcast*.

The analysis adopts a descriptive-interpretive approach and avoids normative judgments regarding the political actors involved, focusing instead on how meanings are constructed and circulated within the podcast narration.

3.1- Research Population and Sample

The research population consists of episodes of *Jisr Podcast*, launched by the digital platform *Sama Al-Quds* and hosted by journalist Khair Al-Din Al-Jabari. The podcast serves as a forum for documenting the Palestinian issue, featuring academics and politicians who provide analyses, testimonies, and narratives. Following *Al-Aqsa Flood*, several episodes were dedicated to the event. This study purposefully selected **12 video episodes** from the YouTube channel of *Jisr Podcast* for qualitative analysis, using a coding sheet. The following table presents the analyzed episodes.

The sample was selected purposively according to qualitative sampling principles. Selection criteria included thematic relevance to Al-Aqsa Flood, richness of narrative and analytical content, diversity of guests and perspectives, publication within the post-October 7 context, and the episodes' visibility and circulation on Jisr Podcast platforms. The aim was to achieve thematic saturation and analytical depth rather than statistical representativeness or generalizability.

Table N°1. The Study Sample

Episode No.	Title	Publication Date	Duration	Guest	Guest's Description (as presented by the podcast)
1	How Did the Wall Collapse Before the Flood?	October 24, 2023	01:22:49	Saad Al-Wahidi	Activist and journalist from Gaza City, who suffered the same losses as its people
2	How Did the Flood Undermine the Occupation's Security Doctrines?	November 22, 2023	01:23:45	Ahmed Moulana	Researcher in Security Studies
3	Is Gaza Accelerating the Decline of the International Order?	December 4, 2023	01:03:12	Waddah Khanfar	President of the Al Sharq Forum and former Director-General of Al Jazeera Media Network
4	The Map of Dismantling the Entity After the	December 12, 2023	01:16:59	Dr. Sami Al-Arian	Palestinian intellectual and academic

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	Flood				
5	Today We Invade Them... How Did Al-Dhaif and Al-Sinwar Think?	January 15, 2024	01:27:26	Mohammed Al-Akhras	Palestinian writer and political analyst from Khan Younis
6	Gaza Creates Its Own School of "Wars of Liberation"	March 4, 2024	01:33:30	Dr. Mohammed Mukhtar Al-Shanqeeti	Professor of International Affairs at Qatar University
7	"The Best of Your Ribat is in Ashkelon"... The Rules of Jihad and the Flood	March 13, 2024	01:11:25	Sheikh Mohammed Al-Hassan Ould Al-Dedew	Renowned Islamic scholar and jurist
8	Between Hope and Fear: How Do We Prepare for What Awaits Us?	May 30, 2024	01:31:06	Tareq Khamis	Core member of the "Jisr Podcast" team and lead producer
9	From Creating Certainty in the Flood to the End-Time Struggle	July 17, 2024	01:41:01	Ahmed Al-Sayed	Preacher, educator of reformers, member of the Rising Generation Academy
10	Deconstructing the Zionist Narrative and Building a Universal Palestinian Project	September 27, 2024	01:47:15	Naif Bin Nahar	Academic and researcher
11	One Year of the Flood: Gains, Challenges, and the Future of the Battle	October 11, 2024	02:41:30	Osama Hamdan	Senior Hamas leader, former representative in Iran and Lebanon, long-time head of Hamas's international relations
12	The Road to the Flood... How Did the Resistance Build Its Strength?	November 19, 2024	01:43:35	Saeed Ziad	Palestinian researcher

Source: The researchers.

3.2- Data Collection Tool

The study relied on qualitative content analysis as a primary tool, defined as “*a method used to systematically describe the meaning of qualitative data by classifying and interpreting recurring patterns, themes, or categories within texts, discourses, or visual material*”.²¹ Qualitative content analysis focuses on the inductive coding of data in order to construct categories and concepts from within the material itself. It is particularly suitable for analyzing interviews, media texts, and documents where the goal is to uncover deeper contextual meanings.²²

3.2.1- Content Analysis Form

The content analysis form used in this study included the following:

A. Jisr Podcast Identification Data

- **Producer:** Sama Quds Platform (Sama Quds). As introduced on YouTube “*A digital media system addressing Palestinians everywhere, reflecting their reality and needs, under the hashtags #SamaQuds #Homeland_and_Human.*”
- **Theme:** Political
- **Format:** Conversational–narrative
- **Broadcasting Mode:** Pre-recorded
- **Streaming Platforms:** Facebook /sama qudspl, Twitter /sama qudspl, Instagram /sama qudspl, TikTok /sama qudspl, YouTube /sama qudspl, Sound Cloud /samaqudspl, Spotify, Google Podcasts, Apple Podcasts.

B. Thematic Categories

The extracted categories applied in analyzing the narrative and dialogue content of the sampled episodes of *Jisr Podcast –Al-Aqsa Flood* are:

1. **Core Narratives:** The main frameworks used to interpret and analyze Al-Aqsa Flood within the podcast, including how hosts and guests explained the event’s significance in the Palestinian issue and its political, religious, historical, and cultural dimensions.
2. **Pivotal Events:** Key events in the trajectory of the Palestinian issue that shaped the narrative, including decisive historical moments of the Islamic nation, recalled by guests to contextualize the Flood.
3. **Pivotal Figures:** Individuals from Gaza and Palestine who were repeatedly highlighted as shaping the history, present, and future of resistance, as well as figures produced by the resistance before and after the Flood, in addition to historical Arab and Islamic personalities.

4. **Key Locations:** The most frequently mentioned and influential locations in the geography of the Palestinian issue before, during, and after the Flood, with particular focus on Palestine.
5. **Objectives of the Narrative:** The intended objectives embedded in the podcast's content to influence listeners' understanding and perceptions of the Flood and the Palestinian issue.
6. **Prevailing Values in the Narrative:** The value systems reflected in the narratives, drawing from Arab-Islamic traditions as well as, at times, Western value frameworks.

C. Formal Categories

These are the classifications through which the podcast's artistic structure and narrative delivery were analyzed:

1. **Structural Composition:** The organizational framework of episodes, typically including introduction, main body, and conclusion.
2. **Duration of Episodes:** time devoted to the episode.
3. **Language and Style:** The linguistic expressions and stylistic choices, including vocabulary, phrasing, tone of narration, and their persuasive or emotional appeal.
4. **Rhythm of Dialogue and Narration:** The temporal pace of speech (fast, moderate, slow, charged, or calm).
5. **Narrative Audio-Visual Tools:** The technical and aesthetic elements (sound and visual) employed to enhance the podcast's storytelling impact and audience reach.

D. Units of Analysis

Idea – Word – Context.

4- Results:

The thematic and structural analysis of Jisr Podcast episodes led to several key findings, which can be summarized as follows;

4.1- Findings of the Thematic Categories analysis

4.1.1- Core Narratives

The analysis of *Jisr Podcast* revealed a set of core narratives that framed and interpreted the events of *Al-Aqsa Flood*. These narratives constituted the central axes around which the episodes revolved, and through them, the hosts and guests provided interpretive frameworks that linked the event to broader political, historical, cultural, and religious contexts of the Palestinian issue.

The narratives were not presented as isolated stories, but rather as interconnected discourses aiming to simplify, explain, and re-situate the Flood within the continuum of the Palestinian

struggle. They highlighted the symbolic and strategic significance of the event while situating it as part of a larger process of resistance and identity affirmation.

Among the most salient core narratives were:

A. Al-Aqsa Flood: A Victory for the Resistance and a Defeat for the Occupation

The analysis of the podcast episodes demonstrates that the discourse surrounding the Al-Aqsa Flood operation framed it as both a spiritual and strategic victory, countering narratives of resistance fatigue or defeat. Guest speakers offered multidimensional interpretations—religious, political, military, and strategic—emphasizing that steadfastness itself constitutes victory, as articulated by Nayef bin Nahar through Qur’anic exegesis. The operation was presented as a decisive blow to Israel’s military doctrine, exposing failures in security, intelligence, and deterrence strategies, and dismantling long-held perceptions of the “invincible” Israeli army. Material and moral defeats were highlighted, including economic decline, mass emigration, and reputational damage, as noted by Saad al-Wahidi and others.

B. Religious Doctrine as the Secret of the Resistance’s Resilience and Its Popular Base in Gaza

The analysis highlights a dominant narrative centered on Gaza’s resilience amid massacres, displacement, and starvation. Guest interpretations emphasized that this steadfastness stems from Gaza’s unique socio-cultural fabric, rooted since the 1980s in faith-based, mosque-centered Qur’anic education. This perspective refutes Zionist claims of division between Hamas and people, instead underscoring strong societal cohesion through family and communal solidarity. It also challenges discourses equating the love of life with surrender, affirming instead that dignity and true victory—both worldly and spiritual—are achieved through resistance and jihad.

C. Al-Aqsa Flood as a Decisive Battle in the Trajectory of Palestinian Resistance and the Liberation Project

The podcast discussions framed the Al-Aqsa Flood operation not as a temporary episode but as a decisive turning point in the broader trajectory of Palestinian resistance. According to Muhammad Mukhtar al-Shanqiti, the operation reflected long-term preparation, military sophistication, and the emergence of a distinctly Palestinian model of liberation warfare. The narrative emphasized the cumulative experience of resistance across political, military, and organizational domains, underscoring that negotiation should complement rather than replace armed struggle. More broadly, the event was seen as restoring the Palestinian issue to regional and global agendas, while undermining discourses of defeat and liquidation advanced through normalization accords, the “Abrahamic faith” framework, and political-security arrangements with the Palestinian Authority.

D. Al-Aqsa Flood as Foundation of the Palestinian Global Project and the Disruption of the Global Zionist Project (The War of Narratives)

The podcast frames *Al-Aqsa Flood* operation as a decisive narrative and event that has reshaped regional and global public discourse. Guests argue the operation dismantled

dominant Zionist narratives and produced a global grassroots mobilization that transcends opposition to Israel and challenges perceived Zionist-imperialist hegemony. Two competing but complementary readings emerged regarding the Arab world's response: one reproaches the Ummah for moral and popular failure to mobilize adequately for Gaza, while the other assigns primary responsibility to Arab regimes for political betrayal and weakness. Across episodes, Gaza constructed as the first line of defense for the Ummah and for universal values; this rhetorical repositioning reinforced by appeals to historical analogies (e.g., the Crusades) and by empirical indicators from polling and media coverage. The discussions also spotlight the United States and the West as complicit actors—either in structural alignment with Western interests or, per another interpretation, as instruments influenced by pro-Israel lobbies—an argument linked to debates popularized by Mearsheimer and Walt. Finally, several guests advocate leveraging the emergent global consciousness to reframe the struggle as not only territorial liberation but as resistance against broader forms of global domination and cultural-political marginalization.

4.1.2- Pivotal Events

All episodes of *Jisr Podcast* center on the *Al-Aqsa Flood* operation, presented as the most significant and prolonged armed struggle in Palestinian history since the 1930s. The event is depicted as a turning point in the history of the Islamic nation and the world. Guests provide in-depth analyses of the operation within Palestinian, Arab, and Islamic historical contexts. In addressing narratives focused on the resistance's human losses, they reference Islamic historical examples to show that sacrifice can be a source of strength and perseverance, emphasizing that defeat and victory are both inherent possibilities in such struggles.

Within the trajectory of the political settlement, the Oslo Accords emerged as a recurrent reference point in the analysis and evaluation of the causes and circumstances surrounding the launch of Operation *Al-Aqsa Flood*, as well as its negative repercussions, including the expansion of settlements and Judaization policies. This is further confirmed by the findings of (Abu Asida, 2022)²³, which observed that all plans and projects during this stage focused heavily on advancing and consolidating the “Greater Jerusalem” expansionist settlement scheme. This was pursued by intensifying the establishment and enlargement of settlements through the construction of additional settlement housing units in Jerusalem and its surroundings, alongside encouraging settler migration to reside there, in an attempt to Judaize and dominate the city.

In the regional context, the *Deal of the Century*, the *Abraham Accords*, and normalization agreements were mentioned. Within the trajectory of the evolution and growth of resistance, the narrative returns to the several events (eg: Intifada 1987 and the Al-Aqsa Intifada. These references serve as reminders of the bloody and criminal history of this enemy against the Palestinian people, “who have endured for decades various repressive Israeli policies such as killing, displacement, ethnic cleansing, imprisonment, forced exile, and collective punishment, among other practices that flagrantly violate international conventions and treaties related to human rights”²⁴.

4.1.3- Pivotal Figures

This category refers to the figures most frequently mentioned in *Jisr Podcast* as central to the history, present, and future of the Palestinian resistance. The analysis revealed three primary types of figures:

- A. Contemporary Palestinian actors:** individuals from Gaza and across Palestine who were recognized as key contributors to shaping the trajectory of resistance. Their names and stories were invoked to embody resilience, sacrifice, and leadership.
- B. Figures shaped by the resistance before and after the Al-Aqsa Flood:** these included emerging leaders and activists whose roles became prominent because of the event, positioning them as part of a new generation of struggle.
- C. Historical Arab and Islamic figures:** leaders, thinkers, and warriors from the broader history of the Arab and Islamic world also referenced, serving as moral and symbolic anchors. By evoking these personalities, the podcast constructed parallels between the Palestinian resistance and the wider legacy of civilizational struggles for liberation.

Through these figures, the podcast underscored the **human dimension of resistance**, framing it not only as a political or military endeavor but also as a deeply personal and collective journey rooted in historical continuity.

4.1.4- Key Locations

The narrative within *Jisr Podcast* predominantly revolves around **Gaza** and **Jerusalem**, emphasizing their symbolic and strategic significance in the Palestinian struggle.

- A. Jerusalem and Al-Aqsa Mosque** repeatedly highlighted as the central cause of the Palestinian issue, particularly in relation to ongoing Judaization projects and settlement expansion.
- B. The West Bank** was referenced in the context of the history and present of resistance operations, its suffering under settlement and displacement projects, and its strategic role in future resistance scenarios, including annexation plans by the occupation.
- C. Gaza** was consistently portrayed as *unyielding and unconquerable*—a “graveyard for invaders.” Each city, camp, and neighborhood carried symbolic weight, embodying defiance against the occupation.

Particular focus was given to locations such as **Jabalia Camp**, **Shuja'iyya**, **Beit Hanoun**, **Rafah**, and **Khan Younis**, which have historically been—and remain—epicenters of fierce battles, as well as strongholds where the occupation army has repeatedly suffered defeats.

In sum, these places were not merely geographical references but sites of memory, symbolism, and resistance, shaping the collective imagination of Palestinians and their

supporters, while reinforcing the centrality of land in the struggle for liberation.

4.1.5- Objectives of the Narrative

Based on the analysis of narrative categories, locations, characters, and major events featured in *Jisr Podcast*, it was evident that the overarching objective was to support and strengthen the Palestinian resistant narrative, delivering it to Arab and Islamic audiences through media, awareness, persuasion, and cognitive as well as emotional influence on listeners and viewers. At the same time, the podcast sought to mobilize them toward action and responsibility in relation to the resistance project.

In addition to this central aim, several secondary objectives identified:

- Reinforce awareness of the Palestinian issue and *Al-Aqsa Flood* through deep, multidimensional analysis.
- Counter Western and Zionist portrayals of resistance as terrorism by framing it as a liberation movement.
- Expose U.S. support as a central pillar of the Zionist project.
- Emphasize the role of narrative warfare, public awareness, and global solidarity in sustaining the struggle.
- Reinsert the Palestinian issue into regional and international agendas.
- Mobilize Arab and Islamic public opinion to support resistance.
- Document resistance history and preserve memory through storytelling.
- Highlight martyrs, leaders, and groups as models of heroism and inspiration.
- Foster emotional bonds with audiences through personal stories and testimonies.
- Reaffirm Arab and Islamic identity and values as alternatives to declining Western systems.

4.1.6- Prevailing Values in the Narrative

The analysis of *Jisr Podcast* episodes reveals that the narrative conveyed is not limited to events and figures, but rather seeks to highlight a system of values and principles that guide the Palestinian resistance and shape collective awareness. These values can be categorized as follows:

- **Religious and spiritual values:** Emphasizing faith, jihad, martyrdom, and sacrifice as central components of the Palestinian resistance, particularly the role of Islam in mobilizing and sustaining resilience.
- **National values:** Stressing belonging to the homeland, preserving identity, protecting

the land, and maintaining the continuity of resistance across generations.

- **Humanitarian values:** Underscoring justice, freedom, human dignity, and the right of peoples to resist occupation and colonialism.
- **Social values:** Promoting solidarity, cooperation, altruism, patience, and the shared destiny of Palestinians as a unified people.
- **Moral values:** Highlighting honesty, loyalty, courage, resilience, and steadfastness in the face of adversity.
- **Universal values:** Affirming the right to self-determination, confronting oppression, and standing against Zionist and imperialist hegemony.

Through the articulation of these values, the narrative not only reinforces the legitimacy of Palestinian resistance but also positions it within a broader moral and humanitarian framework, thus making it more persuasive and acceptable to both Arab-Islamic and global audiences.

4.2- Findings of the Formal Categories analysis

4.2.1- Structural Composition of the Episodes

The analysis of the formal dimension of *Jisr Podcast* shows that the structure of the episodes is coherent and adheres to the principles of narrative and discourse construction, while employing various audio-visual tools to deliver content that balances substantive value with aesthetic storytelling. The structure includes the following elements:

A. Introduction

Each episode begins with an engaging and suspenseful introduction, often opening with a quote from the guest, followed by a musical segment and the *Jisr Podcast* title. This is then accompanied by the introduction of journalist *Kheireddine El-Jabri*, who alternates between directly addressing the audience about the episode's topic, introducing himself and the theme, or outlining the key discussion points before presenting the guest. This reflects the producer's ability to fully utilize the creative space afforded by a digital media product. While such work requires mastering journalistic fundamentals and adhering to professional standards, it also offers broad opportunities for innovation, creativity, and renewal—keeping the audience, whether listeners or viewers, engaged and eager for variety, rather than bound by the rigid uniformity of traditional media formats.

B. Main Body

Each episode focuses on a specific aspect of the event, clearly indicated by its title—phrased in either declarative or interrogative form. The episode content is divided into main themes, marked by textual captions in the video, which is segmented into clips. Each clip specifies the beginning and end of a theme, providing the audience with flexibility and the option to selectively engage with preferred topics.

The discussion flows methodically and logically, with smooth transitions between themes. Typically, the last idea of one theme serves as the opening for the next, creating a natural continuity that encourages sustained audience engagement. Content presentation combines dialogue and narration: the guest often assumes the role of the *external narrator* when recounting *Al-Aqsa Flood* and its contexts, and the role of the *internal narrator* when sharing personal experiences and memories. Guests also recount episodes with key figures—martyrs, fighters, and political or military leaders—as fellow Palestinians from Gaza and other cities, thus anchoring the narrative in lived experience across generations of the struggle.

Conclusion

Episode conclusions are diverse and not bound to a single formula. Some end abruptly with the final idea, while others feature the host inviting guests to deliver closing messages, often directed toward the Arab audience or the people of Gaza. Episodes frequently close with mutual expressions of gratitude between *El-Jabri* and his guests, or with prayers for victory and empowerment for Gaza, Palestine, and the wider Muslim community. In other cases, conclusions summarize the main discussion points, subtly prompting reflection on “the post-Flood phase.” Notably, episodes consistently avoid commercial advertising or promotion, reflecting the podcast’s political and analytical orientation and its specialization in the Palestinian issue. This suggests a targeted, elite audience, as many guests emphasize that advancing the liberation project requires prioritizing influence over quality rather than quantity.

4.2.2- Episode Duration

The analyzed episodes typically run for about one hour, a moderate length well-suited to the podcast’s goals of analyzing *Al-Aqsa Flood* in its multiple dimensions—neither excessively long to cause fatigue nor overly brief to compromise meaning. The exception is the episode titled “*The Flood One Year On: Gains, Challenges, and the Future of the Struggle*”, which extended for over two and a half hours and featured Dr. Osama Hamdan, a senior leader of Hamas, official spokesperson, and key narrator of the movement’s account.

4.2.3- Language and Style

Jisr Podcast blends Palestinian colloquial Arabic with simplified Modern Standard Arabic, creating a clear, direct, and accessible linguistic style understood by both general and educated audiences. The discourse combines historical narration with analytical depth, as guests support their arguments with data, research, and media references, including those from the occupying state, while occasionally citing Qur’anic verses to add moral and cultural weight.

The overall tone is rational and objective, with limited emotional appeal appearing mainly in the warm and informal interaction between the host and guests—reflected in the host’s calmness, casual gestures, and friendly exchanges. This approach builds audience intimacy while maintaining a focus on evidence-based reasoning.

The linguistic and stylistic choices align with the podcast’s political and intellectual

orientation, centered on Al-Aqsa Flood and the broader Palestinian issue, highlighting the professionalism and scholarly depth of its production team and guests.

4.2.4- Rhythm of Dialogue and Narration

The dialogue and narration in the analyzed episodes proceed at a moderate pace, facilitating concentration and comprehension for the audience. The host maintains a balanced distribution of time and content between himself and the guests, a skill attributable to his professional expertise. Meanwhile, the guests display notable command over pacing and rhythm, which can be explained by their prior experience with both traditional and new media platforms, as well as their frequent participation in talk shows and analytical panels. For those engaged in preaching or public speaking, their rhetorical practice further sharpens their communication and dialogue skills.

4.2.5- Narrative Audio-Visual Tools

The podcast demonstrates a high level of technical and aesthetic professionalism. Its audio production is marked by clear sound quality, a calm and steady tone from both host and guests, and controlled pacing. Visually, it adopts a minimalist and elegant style that prioritizes seriousness over spectacle. The set alternates between two designs—one with dark tones and golden lighting, another with green backgrounds and a bookshelf—both emphasizing professionalism. Filming uses steady camera angles focused on the dialogue, avoiding sound effects, visual tricks, or background music to maintain an analytical tone. Overall, *Jisr Podcast* follows a deliberately conservative and serious production philosophy. The visual component broadens its audience reach, but the podcast's true strength lies in its intellectual depth, professional execution, and the caliber of its guests. Despite its simplicity, the production achieves aesthetic harmony aligned with its core mission of addressing the Palestinian issue thoughtfully and with integrity.

Conclusion:

Based on the thematic and structural analysis of the *Jisr Podcast* episodes addressing *Al-Aqsa Flood*, the following conclusions can be drawn:

- *Jisr Podcast* has made a counter-narrative constructed in opposition to dominant Zionist framings.
- The episodes appear to employ audio-visual storytelling techniques in a structured and deliberate manner, combining aesthetic and communicative dimensions in ways that support the transmission of the intended meanings and messages.
- The podcast may be considered an example of the role that alternative audio media can play in shaping public perceptions of the Palestinian issue at Arab, Islamic, and international levels. This is reflected in its production orientation, the composition of its production team, the platforms used for dissemination, and the selection of topics and guests, including Palestinian and Arab specialists. In this context, the podcast can be approached as a case study within digital and alternative media research.

- The narration of the Palestinian issue in the podcast frames it within Arab-Islamic references while also extending it to broader humanitarian and global dimensions. The episodes emphasize cultural, historical, religious, and political connections associated with Palestinian identity and collective memory.
- The guests of *Jisr Podcast* proposed both immediate and long-term projects to build and reinforce the Palestinian narrative and to capitalize on its ascendancy over the Zionist narrative, which had dominated global—especially Western—public opinion for decades. They advanced a comprehensive strategy with clear guidelines for states, organizations, and individuals wishing to contribute to its realization.
- Through its analytical and interpretive discussions of the Palestinian issue and the Al-Aqsa Flood events, the podcast may also be viewed as contributing to the digital documentation of the conflict. The episodes incorporate historical, social, cultural, political, and military dimensions, thereby participating in the preservation and circulation of narratives related to the Palestinian experience and resistance trajectory.

Future research could benefit from comparative analyses between *Jisr Podcast* and other Arab or international podcasting initiatives dealing with conflict narratives, in order to better situate its narrative strategies within a broader digital audio ecosystem

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