



Analysis of journalistic photos about Israel and Palestinian military wars on Instagram @hariankompas

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ABSTRACT

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The integration of the app within Instagram facilitates the prompt and effortless sharing of photographs and videos, enabling users to showcase their creative output, such as photography. Given the information provided, the researchers opted to carry out a study titled "Journalistic Photo Analysis of the Israel and Palestine Military Battle on the Instagram account @Hariankompas." This study falls under the category of qualitative research and employs Roland Barthes' semiotic approach to analyze journalistic photos found on the @hariankompas Instagram account. The study will focus on the denotations, meanings, and myths associated with journalistic photography. The data analysis technique employed in this study is the Miles and Huberman analysis model. This approach has stages for data collection, data reduction, conclusion writing, and data verification. Data triangulation is employed in this study to validate the data. Triangulation is a method employed in credibility testing to verify data obtained from many sources at various points in time. The results indicate that the denotation refers to the literal meaning of the picture, specifically how the scenario arose as a consequence of the Israel-Palestine conflict. Secondly, the importance of connotation lies in the fact that it adds depth and complexity to the true meaning of a photograph, imbuing it with additional layers of significance, emotion, and subjective value, in addition to its more generic interpretation. Journalistic photography typically eschews artificial lighting techniques due to the nature of the business. Instead, they predominantly rely on natural sunlight, capturing images during daylight hours.

1. Introduction

Photography encompasses a significant issue that is currently occurring and evolving within society. Photography can encompass several aspects of human existence, including political, social, economic, cultural, and other elements that are universally experienced. Mass media and social media photographs not only convey news but also convey specific meanings through the symbols they include (Sobur, 2006). Journalistic photography is a branch of photography that focuses on creating photographs that are considered newsworthy and may be offered to the public through mass media for a specific purpose.

The primary factors influencing journalistic photography encompass the innate human curiosity, which serves as the fundamental instinct driving progress; the expansion of mass media as a visual and auditory platform that encompasses both written and visual content, including moving images; and the continuous advancements in technology that facilitate swift developments in photography. Journalistic photography is categorized into many categories, including documentary photography, street photography, and celebrity shots, based on the degree of temporal precision (Utoyo, 2018).



Convey messages indirectly using photos tailored to the preferences of the intended viewers, with the aim of achieving the desired impression. We must redefine the concept of communication, delve into its intricacies, and anticipate its potential ramifications.

A photograph is an additional symbol employed for non-verbal communication. Photography has the ability to depict and convey thoughts or emotions. Photos can surpass text in certain instances, yielding greater efficacy. Social media serves as a necessary platform for obtaining information and expressing emotions, which in turn elicit a range of responses, including happiness, fear, and uneasiness. Instagram has numerous advantages compared to other applications, aside from its rapid and user-friendly nature (Enterprise, 2012). Instagram is an app that facilitates the immediate and efficient sharing of photographs and videos, enabling users to showcase their creative output. Photography is one of the possible works that can be exhibited. Instagram provides a platform for photographers to showcase their skill and innovation, particularly in the realm of photography. One notable Instagram account, Darian Kompas, serves as an online media gateway, featuring a diverse collection of journalistic pictures.

Harian Kompas is an Indonesian newspaper of national scope that was first published on June 28, 1965, in Jakarta. PT Kompas Media Nusantara, a subsidiary of Gramedia Kompas, publishes the newspaper. The headquarters of the company are situated in Tower Kompas Lt. 5, South Palmerah No. 21, Gelora, Tanah Abang, Jakarta Central. The newspaper's slogan is "The Voice of the People's Conscience." Based on a 2021 survey by the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism and the University of Oxford, Kompas is the predominant newspaper in Indonesia, with 39% of respondents having accessed it within the past week. Furthermore, Kompas is the second-most reliable media outlet in Indonesia, with a confidence rating of 67%. It falls behind CNN Indonesia, but it is unclear if this includes all Kompas-branded media under Kompas Gramedia (including Kompas TV) or solely refers to the newspaper.

One of the journalistic photographs featured on the Instagram account @hariankompas depicts the military conflict between Israel and Palestine. During that period, the Palestinians expressed their opposition and hindered the establishment of the State of Israel until the outbreak of the war. The Israel-Palestine conflict reached a high level of intensity in 1967. Currently, Israel has launched an offensive against Palestine with the aim of capturing the Gaza Strip and the Sinai region, as well as annexing the West Bank and East Jerusalem from Jordan. It is inevitable to prevent a war. A significant number of Palestinians, including children, lost their lives, and a large number of residential, educational, and commercial structures were demolished. Given the information provided, the researchers chose to undertake a study named "Journalistic Photo Analysis" on the Instagram account @Hariankompas.

2. Theoretical Framework

2.1 Journalistic Photo

Within the realm of journalism, photography is sometimes referred to as news photography due to the presence of newsworthy features in journalistic photographs. A journalistic photograph must encompass the 5W+1H aspects: what, who, when, where, way, and how. These factors ensure that the shot has comprehensive information, making it suitable to be classified as journalistic photography. A journalistic photograph typically includes a description or a caption (Frank, 1986). Due to their efficacy as a form of documentation, journalistic photographs have the ability to evoke recollections of past experiences in individuals, so prompting contemplation over future events. Journalistic images have the ability to provide an accurate representation of how time influences and molds history. Journalistic images serve as a means for individuals to gain insight into their own lives and environment, aiding in the identification of noteworthy subjects (Taufan, 2011).

Journalistic pictures can depict visually striking images that stand independently and effectively convey an ongoing event. The inclusion of journalistic images enhances the comprehensiveness of the news narrative (Syafudin, 2010). Journalistic news pictures can have a dual purpose, functioning as either a supplement or an accompaniment to news, or even as the news itself. The photo-biography book by Karto Riyadi, featuring the role he plays in modern Indonesian journalism, is authored by Atok Sugiarto. The book describes the journey of photography and highlights how a journalist's photographic work can complement written news. Furthermore, it emphasizes how a

journalistic photo can effectively convey and depict an event, providing a strong visual narrative. (Atok, 2011).

The message sent by a journalistic shot can be of utmost significance, even in a fleeting or transitory occurrence. It is within the realm of possibility for a photographer to intentionally construct a narrative surrounding an event (Syafudin, 2010). In a journalistic photograph, the presence of the message should be inherent, as the primary purpose is to inform and captivate the reader through its visual elements. Messages and information should be encapsulated within a journalistic photograph. In a journalist's photograph, a message might be conveyed through a sequence of narratives depicting a transient occurrence. Photographers have the ability to intentionally craft messages or narratives about the event. Journalistic photographs occasionally convey guidance or provide advance notifications (Taufan, 2011).

2.2 Semiotics

Roland Barthes posited that the comprehension of semiotics is tantamount to the examination of people in the process of conceptualizing objects. In this scenario, digestion should not be considered synonymous with communication. A sign undergoes a complete integration of idea and visual representation. In the initial system, it initially functions as an indicator, and subsequently as an indicator in the second system. The symbol here pertains not only to language, but also to all aspects of human existence (Danesi, 2012). The Roland Barthes map displays a denotative sign composed of indicators and symbols. Nevertheless, denotative signs are sometimes regarded as connotative indicators. Barthes's analysis is based on the concept of connotation and denotation, which he refers to as the Two Orders of Signification. These orders include the first order of marking and the second order of digestion. When a symbol acquires a connotation, it then evolves into a denotation, which in turn signifies mythology.

Denotation refers to the degree of correspondence between markers and signals with reality, resulting in a clear and definite meaning. Denotations refer to words that carry meaning as defined in the official Indonesian language dictionary. This meaning can either be the literal or accurate interpretation of the written or visual content. Denotation refers to the initial and literal meaning of a sign, which is descriptive in nature. It is easily understood by the majority of individuals within a specific culture, without requiring any interpretation. This type of sign is also known as an analogue.

Connotation refers to the implicit and unclear meanings associated with a word or symbol, contrasting with denotation which represents the explicit relationship between the word or symbol and its meaning. In essence, a connotation can be defined as a symbol that carries an extra significance, a certain emotion, or a particular value of a flavor, in addition to its fundamental, universal meaning. According to Barthes' concept, connotation refers to a secondary level of meaning. Barthes suggests three stages of interpreting conceptual/discursive photography: perceptual assimilation, cognitive assimilation, and ethical-ideological assimilation. This process consists of two main components: meanings generated by alterations or direct interventions against reality, such as trick effects, stances, and objects. Next, the associations that arise from the visual qualities of photographs, such as their attractiveness, sensory perception, and compositional structure.

Trick Effect trickery in image manipulation refers to the deliberate alteration of an image, such as adding, reducing, or replacing elements, in order to diminish the legitimacy of a photograph. Pose refers to the subject's stance, the expression captured, the object's attitude, and the photographic manner of the subject. The posture assumes great significance during the connotation phase as it plays a crucial role in shaping the interpretation of the meaning conveyed by the photograph. Objects in a photograph are the focal point or main subject that draws attention. In this scenario, decision is contingent upon several things discovered in an analogy, which can subsequently be linked to the topic.

Photogenics refers to the application of many photographic techniques in the areas of lighting, picture sharpness, perspective, and other related aspects of photography. Aesthetics refers to the visual appearance or arrangement of an image as a whole, which can evoke certain meanings or associations (Barthes, 2012).

A myth is a symbol that initially carries a figurative meaning and later evolves into a literal meaning. The literal meanings of these symbols often become enigmatic, or in other words, a myth is a recurring event within a society that is acknowledged as a cultural element of that particular group or society. Barthes' Myth is referred to as a speaker archetype. He also asserts that myth functions as a communication mechanism and conveys a message. It enables us to perceive that a myth cannot be regarded as a tangible entity, a theoretical construct, or an abstract notion. In Barthes' experience, myth is a process of encoding social significance and principles as something perceived as inherent or innate (Sobur, 2009).

3. Method

This study employs a qualitative descriptive approach to depict and summarize the diverse conditions, situations, or phenomena of social reality within the researched society. The goal is to uncover and present the distinctive features, attributes, patterns, signs, or representations of specific conditions, situations, or phenomena (Sugiyono, 2016). The study employs a semiotic analysis methodology based on Roland Barthes' theories to examine journalistic photographs depicting Israeli-Palestinian armed conflicts on the @hariankompas Instagram account. This study will analyze the signified concepts depicted in images, encompassing both literal interpretations (denotations), symbolic associations (connotations), and cultural narratives (myths).

The methodology employed in this study involves the utilization of observation and documentation as the primary means of data collection. Observations refer to the act of directly observing phenomena in the natural world, typically conducted by researchers in the field (Margono, 2007). The researchers conducted observations on journalistic photographs depicting Israeli and Palestinian military conflicts on the Instagram account @hariankompas. They selected two current photos that were posted in October 2023. Documentation is a comprehensive record of an individual's history, encompassing both research-related and non-research-related occurrences (Yusuf, 2014). This data collection strategy relies on capturing all events occurring within the research environment as a means of gathering data. This is achieved through the use of audio recording, video recording, and accessing information sources online.

In qualitative research, data analysis involves the systematic processing, organization, categorization, and identification of significant content in order to facilitate comprehension and dissemination. The data analysis methodology employed in this study involves the utilization of Miles and Huberman's interaction models, which encompass data gathering, data reduction, conclusion drafting, and verification (Saldana, 2014).

Data validation techniques are methods used to verify the accuracy and integrity of data. The process of triangulation in this credibility test involves cross-referencing data from multiple sources at various points in time. By employing triangulation of sources, researchers discover additional subjects related to the issues under investigation by analyzing sources that are derived from active involvement (Helaluddin, 2019).

4. Result and Discussion

Journalistic photography is a method of documenting events or news using photographs. Journalistic photography differs from other forms of photography in its emphasis on documenting events and creating images that hold significant news value. Photographic works are the primary method of gathering factual information and reporting news in the field of journalism. Journalistic photography sometimes falls short in capturing the intricate details conveyed through verbal explanations received by journalists in the field.

Nevertheless, by utilizing visualization capabilities, journalistic photography can offer a distinct perspective in its presentation. A journalistic photograph must adhere to six essential criteria: technical perfection, visual excellence, honesty, accurate representation at the moment of capture, expressive qualities, and the inclusion of a descriptive caption. Furthermore, Indonesian journalists must adhere to certain extra criteria, including avoiding any form of discrimination based on ethnicity, religion, or race (SARA), maintaining a respectful tone, refraining from instigating harassment, and avoiding any activities that are explicitly prohibited.

A journalistic photograph should include four key elements, including the depiction of the event's climax, similarities in photo headlines across different media outlets, a tendency to neglect displaying the other side of an object due to time constraints, and the infrequent use of large or half-page photo formats. The photographs examined in this essay, employing Roland Barthes' semiotic methodology, comprise three recent images posted in October 2023 on the Instagram account @hariankompas. These shots depict the ongoing military conflicts between Israel and Palestine. The images will be analyzed using Roland Barthes' semiotic theory, which involves three stages of semiotic reproduction: denotation, connotation, and myth.

4.1 Analysis Photo Journalism @hariankompas 1

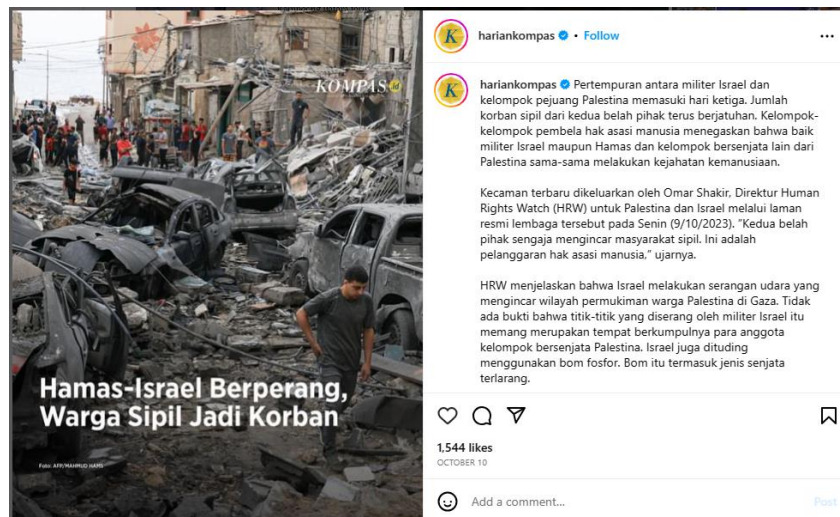


Fig. 1. Battle between Israeli military and Palestinian militant groups

Source: instagram @hariankompas

1. Denotation

The meaning conveyed by a picture or by what the camera records is known as denotation. According to the researchers, the image depicts a conflict that is about to begin its third day between the Israeli force and a violent Palestinian group. Both sides' total number of civilian deaths is declining. Human rights organizations confirm that crimes against humanity have been committed by the Israeli military, Hamas, and other armed Palestinian factions. According to information gathered by the publication Haaretz on Monday night, October 9th, the Israeli government claims that 700 people have died. 493 Palestinian civilians have reportedly died in Gaza, according to the Palestinian Ministry of Health. There were women, children, and foreign nationals among the victims on both sides.

2. Connotation

The meaning of the connotation will appear in several stages and each photo will be cut to make it easier to read the meaning of each photo. The photo is analyzed based on some of the following connotation elements: (a) Trick Effect, The aforementioned image has been edited to take on its original shape without the use of any trick effects or object additions or subtractions. The image captures the initial post-combat state because there has been no alteration done to it, such as removing or adding things. In order to make the image appear wider and better capture the action and fallout from the actual combat, photographers employ wide-type lenses. (b) Pose, In this instance, pose refers to the demeanor, gesture, and expression that the subject of the picture displays. The images depict how the fighting has left the Palestinians bewildered and terrified. Additionally, some individuals were observed leaving the wreckage and battle casualties.

Object, There's not a single object in this image that the camera could have detected to add background information. The focus of the object, however, is mostly on the people in the picture who are in the aftermath of the struggle. The photographs show the belongings that people are evacuating. Photogenic, The art of photography, or photogenia, is the application of specific

photographic processes to create a picture. Since the images above were taken in real time, no special shooting technique was used. The eye level angle was chosen in this picture. The normal angle of view is at eye level. When the camera lens is viewed at an angle equal to the height of the item being photographed, this is the most typical viewpoint. Aesthetic, This step deals with the overall composition of the picture so that images with illustrations can be used for certain purposes. All things considered, the contents of the pictures accurately depict what transpired following a military conflict. The composition of this image may be broken down horizontally into three sections: the background, which consists of burned houses and explosives; the foreground, which consists of burned vehicles; and the primary objects, which are the police and evacuated residents.

Syntax, This stage consists of a sequence of narratives drawn from the image's content, which is typically found in the caption and has the power to both define and expand the connotation's meaning. "The third day of the conflict between the Israeli IDF and a militant Palestinian group has begun. Both sides' total number of civilian deaths is declining. Human rights organizations reiterate that crimes against humanity were committed by the Israeli military, Hamas, and other armed Palestinian factions".

3. Myth

The myth's significance can be seen in the damage the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has wrought. Israel launched airstrikes against Gaza's Palestinian settlements. There is no proof that the locations that the Israeli military targeted were really the gathering places for the armed Palestinian group. Another charge against Israel is the use of phosphorus bombs. In addition to illustrating the state of Gaza City, the photos also highlight the Palestinian people's tenacity, as they have consistently managed to rebuild their homes after being destroyed by Israeli army fire and missiles. People learn from the brutality of war and all of its ills that conflict is wicked and only serves to cause harm.

4.2 Analysis Photo Journalism @hariankompas 2



Fig. 2. Battle between Israeli military and Palestinian militant groups

Source: instagram @hariankompas

1. Denotation

The meaning conveyed by a picture or by what the camera records is known as denotation. According to the researchers, the image represents a number of nations pleading with the parties to the conflict in southern Israel and the Gaza Strip to reduce hostilities and establish lines of communication in order to stop the fighting from getting worse. De-escalation is desperately required given the growing victim count. Before this information was made public on Sunday night, August 10, 2023, there had been about 1,000 fatalities on both sides. Authorities in Gaza report thousands of injuries and at least 370 deaths. The press office of the Israeli government reported that 600 Israelis had died.

2. Connotation

The meaning of the connotation will appear in several stages and each photo will be cut to make it easier to read the meaning of each photo. The photo is analyzed based on some of the following connotation elements: (a) Trick Effect, The aforementioned image is created in its original shape by editing; it does not make use of trick effect or the addition and subtraction of elements. Since no items have been added or removed from the image, it accurately captures the post-battle situation as it actually happened. (b) Pose, In this instance, pose refers to the demeanor, gesture, and emotion that the subject of the picture displays. Seeing how the battle caused the city to be destroyed, one of the residents is shown in the picture yelling in confusion, fear, and rage. (c) Object, This image shows an object that the camera recorded and that may have some significance. The subject of the object, however, is primarily the person pictured in the scenario. Amidst the destruction produced by the conflict, I witness one of the citizens screaming. Cameras also record a variety of objects, some of which have symbolic implications such as smoke, burning buildings, and so forth.

Photogenic, The art of photography, or photogenia, is the application of specific photographic processes to create a picture. The images above were taken in real time, therefore there is no specific shooting method. The eye level angle was chosen in this picture. The normal angle of view is at eye level. When the camera lens is viewed at an angle equal to the height of the item being photographed, this is the most typical viewpoint.

Aesthetic, This step deals with the overall composition of the picture so that images with illustrations can be used for certain purposes. All things considered, the contents of the pictures accurately depict what transpired following a military conflict. The burning and destroyed houses form the background, the terrified and perplexed Palestinians serve as the primary objects, and the blazing and wrecked ruins make up the foreground of this image when viewed horizontally.

Syntax, This stage consists of a sequence of narratives drawn from the image's content, which is typically found in the caption and has the power to both define and expand the connotation's meaning. "To stop the confrontation from getting worse, a number of nations have urged the parties fighting in Israel's southern regions and the Gaza Strip to defuse tensions and maintain lines of contact. There is an urgent need for a de-escalation because the number of victims is rising".

3. Myth

The myth's significance can be seen in the damage the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has wrought. Before this information was made public on Sunday night, August 10, 2023, there had been about 1,000 fatalities on both sides. Authorities in Gaza report thousands of injuries and at least 370 deaths. The press office of the Israeli government reported that 600 Israelis had died. A policeman in Egypt killed two Israeli tourists who were traveling with their driver. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs on behalf of the Indonesian government has voiced worry over the Palestinian-Israeli conflict's increasing intensity. According to Kemenlu Lalu Jubir Muhammad Iqbal, Indonesia is pleading for an end to the violence in order to prevent the number of casualties from escalating. Additionally, the Indonesian government recommended that the origins of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict be resolved.

Article 3 of the 1949 Geneva Convention contains the human rights protections, which have been revised in international humanitarian law and are so well documented. This article's content is acknowledged as being extremely significant since it places responsibility on the disputing parties to uphold individual protection by keeping belligerents out of the conflict in accordance with the law or the circumstances surrounding the armed conflict. Since many victims of armed conflict are unable to safely exercise their universal rights due to behavior that still deviates from international humanitarian law and results in suffering that should not have happened, the United Nations organized international human rights conventions in Tehran in 1968, formally tying human rights to international humanitarian law.

4.3 Analysis Photo Journalism @hariankompas 3



Fig. 3. Battle between Israeli military and Palestinian militant groups

Source: instagram @hariankompas

1. Denotation

The meaning conveyed by a picture or by what the camera records is known as denotation. The researchers interpret the picture to mean that the Israeli military gave all people in Gaza City until Friday, March 10, 2023, to evacuate and relocate to the enclave's southern region. They have just twenty-four hours. It is anticipated that this ultimatum will serve as notice of an impending ground assault by Israel on Gaza. The Israeli military has been stationing its tanks close to the Gaza Strip border in recent days. Moreover, they have summoned at least 300,000 reserve soldiers. Israeli fighter jets engaged in combat with Gaza till Thursday in reaction to a startling strike that Hamas carried out against southern Israel on Saturday, July 10, 2023. More than 1,300 Israelis, primarily civilians, were killed in the strike. More than 300 captives were taken by Hamas during the attack.

2. Connotation

The meaning of the connotation will appear in several stages and each photo will be cut to make it easier to read the meaning of each photo. The photo is analyzed based on some of the following connotation elements: (a) Trick Effect, The above image has been edited to restore it to its original shape without the use of trick editing or object addition and subtraction. The picture shows the post-battle situation exactly as it happened; no modification has been done, either by removing or adding items. (b) Pose, The attitude, gesture, and expression that the object in the picture is displaying in this instance. Seeing how the battle caused the city to be destroyed, one of the residents is shown in the picture yelling in confusion, fear, and rage. (c) Object, This image shows an object that the camera recorded and that may have some significance. But the subject of the object is primarily the individual in the frame. Amidst the destruction produced by the conflict, I witness one of the citizens screaming. Cameras also record a variety of objects, some of which have symbolic implications such as smoke, burning houses and automobiles, and so forth.

Photogenic, The art of photography, or photogenia, is the application of specific photographic processes to create a picture. Since the images above were taken in real time, no specific photography technique was used. The eye level angle was chosen in this picture. The typical viewing angle is at eye level. As long as the camera lens is viewed parallel to the height of the item being photographed, this is the most widely utilized viewing angle.

Aesthetic, This step pertains to the image's general composition, enabling the illustrative shot to be used for specific purposes. All things considered, the contents of the pictures accurately depict what transpired following a military conflict. The burning and destroyed houses form the background, the terrified and perplexed Palestinians serve as the primary objects, and the blazing and wrecked ruins make up the foreground of this image when viewed horizontally.

Syntax, This stage consists of a sequence of narratives derived from the image's contents, which are typically included in the photo's caption and have the power to both define and expand the meaning of connotations. "Israeli military, Friday (13/10/2023), issued an ultimatum to all civilians to leave Gaza City and move to the southern territory of the enclave," reads the description for this picture. They have just twenty-four hours. It is anticipated that this ultimatum will indicate when an Israeli ground assault on Gaza is about to occur".

3. Myth

The myth's significance can be seen in the damage the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has wrought. In order to maintain security on the Gaza Strip, residents of Gaza City have urged one another to leave and keep a safe distance from Hamas. The image shows a man outside a building in Gaza City that was destroyed by Israeli rioters and set on fire. The fear, disarray, and turbulence that the subject's face and expression convey are indicative of the image's second mythological interpretation. In general, war has detrimental effects that include upsetting the social and economic order, creating chronic trauma, starvation in children, disability, and the rise of several diseases. However, battle can also bring to light more idealistic principles like the value of honor, the need to respect individual and collective human dignity, the beauty of harmony and peace, and the rise of resilience.

5. Conclusion

Through an examination of photojournalistic images depicting military conflicts between Israel and Palestine, specifically sourced from the Instagram account @hariankompas. By applying Roland Barthes' semiotics, scholars can deduce that the journalistic pictures showcased on the Instagram account @hariankompas can be understood in terms of denotation, connotation, and myth. The denotation in the two photographs highlights the aftermath of the conflict between the Israeli and Palestinian armies, revealing casualties and the destruction of buildings. The connotation pertains to photographs depicting the devastation resulting from the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, without any alterations made during the editing process, ensuring that the images are authentic representations captured by journalists. In addition, there is no incorporation of flash illumination, resulting in images that possess natural lighting and adhere to the arrangement of journalistic photo elements. The myth's significance lies in its portrayal of the devastation and grief witnessed in the Israeli and Palestinian wartime conflicts.

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