

## Resolving the Sudan Crisis: A Critical Discourse Analysis of Norman Fairclough's Perspective

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### Abstract

The conflict between South and North Sudan is worsened by racial differences. It has also destroyed public infrastructure, including healthcare. The healthcare system's collapse puts the Sudanese population at serious risk now and in the future. The purpose of this study is to reveal the text analysis dimension, the discourse practice dimension, and the sociocultural dimension in Sudan's famine news. A qualitative method is used as the foundational approach, with a critical paradigm as the research perspective. The approach used is Norman Fairclough's Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) to uncover the relationships between language, power, and ideology in the discourse on the Sudan crisis. Data is collected from news articles discussing the Sudan crisis from multiple media, using manual recording tools and translation software to understand multilingual texts. The findings indicate that the choice of sentence structure reflects tense social relations within this conflict situation. The discourse created by the Sudanese government seeks to maintain legitimacy by diverting attention from internal issues like famine to external threats. Furthermore, the sociocultural dimension highlights the inability of international diplomacy to resolve the conflict, creating an impression of deadlock and underscoring the role of the international community in responding to Sudan's complex and historical crisis. Recommendations for future research include conducting field studies that involve perspectives from various groups and performing long-term analyses on the development of the Sudan crisis to understand the impact of government discourse within the context of dynamic socio-political change.

**Keywords:** Critical discourse analysis; Norman Fairclough analysis; Text analysis; Sudan Crisis

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## INTRODUCTION

Before the conflict erupted, Sudan was already experiencing a humanitarian crisis due to extreme weather, socio-political tensions, and rising food prices, leading to increasing poverty, hunger, and population displacement. Over the past 30 years, South Sudan has become one of the fastest-warming regions (Lutvihana & Kusuma, 2023). The conflict between the SAF and RSF broke out on April 15, 2023. Although fighting is largely concentrated in the capital, Khartoum, the conflict has affected other regions in the country and continues to spread, limiting humanitarian access. As the conflict persists despite failed diplomatic efforts, humanitarian needs will continue to rise while the ability to meet them will decline (Yuniarti et al., 2021).

The conflict in South and North Sudan is further exacerbated by racial differences (Taskiyah & Meigen, 2021). Additionally, the conflict in Sudan has devastated the

country's public infrastructure, including the healthcare system. The collapse of Sudan's healthcare system, among other essential services, poses a serious threat to the Sudanese population now and in the future. Economically, even before the conflict, Sudan had faced economic deterioration due to rampant inflation and shortages of essential goods, sparking protests nationwide. People also faced internet and communication blackouts in some areas, making it difficult for millions to contact family, seek safe zones, access basic necessities, and use mobile money services. The international community (third parties) has consistently sought to ease tensions and conflicts in South Sudan to achieve global peace through peace in South Sudan. The failure of these efforts to resolve the South Sudan conflict is not an excuse to let South Sudan remain in its current condition (Aulia et al., 2021).

Each year, the International Rescue Committee's Emergency Watchlist analyzes which countries are most likely to face worsening humanitarian crises. This year, Sudan is at the top of the list due to escalating conflict, mass displacement, economic crisis, and near-collapse of healthcare services. In this context, this study focuses on analyzing famine news in Sudan as reported by the international media outlet BBC. The study employs Norman Fairclough's critical discourse analysis theory to examine the dialectical relationship between discourse, social practices, and social structures. Fairclough breaks down discourse analysis into three dimensions: text analysis, discourse practice, and sociocultural practice, enabling the study to explore the intricate connections between the linguistic features of the text and Sudan's socio-political dynamics.

Uniquely, this study contributes by applying Fairclough's framework to analyze how BBC's reporting on Sudan's famine not only portrays the crisis but also reveals the complex interaction between global discourse and local contexts. By utilizing the dimensions of text analysis, discourse production, and sociocultural practice, this research aims to explain how media shape public understanding of humanitarian issues in Sudan and how these discourses contribute to a broader comprehension of social and political crises.

As information continues to evolve, the role of mass media becomes increasingly crucial, making news an essential need for the public (Vatimah & Hamdani, 2023). To study phenomena in BBC's international news coverage on Sudan's famine, the researcher employs Norman Fairclough's critical discourse analysis theory. This theory focuses on analyzing the dialectical relationship between discourse and other elements and examining internal relationships within discourse. Additionally, critical discourse analysis emphasizes the interrelation between social practices and language, systematically examining the connection between the characteristics of social processes and the nature of textual language (Fairclough, 1995).

Critical discourse analysis views language use in spoken and written communication as a social practice. Understanding discourse as a social practice reveals a dialectical relationship between discourse events and the surrounding situation, institutions, and social structures. This dialectical relationship demonstrates that discourse events both influence and are influenced by the situation, institutions, and social structure. Amid various social phenomena, the recent events in Sudan have captured attention. Fairclough regards language as a social practice in discourse analysis (Khotimah, 2024).

Fairclough divides discourse analysis into three dimensions: text, discourse practice, and sociocultural practice. His analytical framework includes text analysis, analysis of text production and consumption practices, and sociocultural practice analysis (Fairclough, 1989). Critical discourse analysis is not limited to text analysis but

also involves systematically analyzing relationships among elements in social processes (Fairclough, 2010). According to Fairclough, critical discourse analysis encompasses language use as a tool for social groups to compete and convey their ideologies (Erawati et al., 2022).

Several studies have examined Norman Fairclough's critical discourse analysis, including the Turkish teacher candidate program's portrayal of Turkish multiculturalism through an overly simplistic East-West binary (Keleş et al., 2024), online media coverage of the Kanjuruhan tragedy in Malang (Ajwan et al., 2023), news on online sites (Satria, 2023), reporting on al-Arabiyah.net (Hasan, 2023), slogan language analysis (Mudiawati et al., 2023), public consultation fatwas (Egan & Caulfield, 2024), community power (Julia McCartan, 2022), policy, professionalism, and education (Mcluckie & Kuipers, 2024), analysis of outdoor media (Kana et al., 2022), advertisement poster analysis (Asri & Nurhayati, 2024), and cartoon analysis (Arrafi & Surur, 2024).

Based on these preliminary studies, this research shares both similarities and differences with previous studies. The similarity lies in the theme, which is Norman Fairclough's critical discourse analysis, and the type of research object, which is news (Ajwan et al., 2023). The differences lie in the focus of the critical discourse analysis, as seen in the Turkish teacher candidate program's construction of multiculturalism using an overly simplistic East-West binary (Keleş et al., 2024), text structure and implicit interests in public response to Halloween news in Saudi Arabia on the online news site al-Hurra (Satria, 2023), analysis of textual, discourse practice, and sociocultural dimensions in reporting on the Türkiye-Syria earthquake on al-Arabiyah.net (Hasan, 2023), Fairclough's three-dimensional analysis of slogan language in teacher demonstrations in Samarinda (Mudiawati et al., 2023), public rejection of a proposed redistributive active travel scheme in Ireland to examine political support for car-based mobility (Egan & Caulfield, 2024), complex ethical issues regarding roles, responsibilities, and appropriate methodologies for non-Indigenous researchers studying Indigenous communities and contexts (Julia McCartan, 2022), construction and performance of professional identity in sociocultural contexts (Mcluckie & Kuipers, 2024), analysis of Indonesian language signage in outdoor media on T. Nyak Arief Street, Banda Aceh (Kana et al., 2022), advertisement poster analysis (Asri & Nurhayati, 2024), and cartoon image analysis to reveal an issue (Arrafi & Surur, 2024).

Based on the similarities and differences with previous studies, the complexities surrounding Sudan's famine, as reported by international media, highlight the need for a deeper understanding of how news discourse reflects and shapes socio-political realities. This study seeks to address the following research questions: How does the text dimension in Sudan famine news represent the crisis linguistically? What are the practices of text production and consumption in the discourse of Sudan famine news, and how do these practices influence its interpretation? Finally, how do the sociocultural dimensions underlying the discourse contextualize Sudan's famine within broader socio-political and historical frameworks? By addressing these questions, the study aims to reveal the interplay between language, media practices, and sociocultural dynamics in shaping global perceptions of humanitarian crises.

## RESEARCH METHOD

### Research Design

Using the Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) approach developed by Norman Fairclough, this study applies a method that is highly relevant to its objectives. CDA enables researchers to uncover the relationships between language, power, and ideology embedded within the discourse on the Sudan crisis. The choice of Fairclough's CDA

perspective is based on its ability to deconstruct the power structures inherent in the discourse surrounding the Sudan crisis. A comparison with alternative methods demonstrates that CDA is more effective in addressing the research objectives, particularly in revealing how discourse influences public understanding and policy, as well as how solutions can be promoted through more equitable and inclusive discourse representation.

### **Research Object**

The research object consists of news articles discussing the Sudan crisis from specific media outlets. BBC was chosen due to its global reach, reputation for journalistic reporting, and the availability of documentation in various formats. However, to enhance transparency, this study also explains why other news sources were not selected, emphasizing the focus on data consistency and scope. These news sources were chosen to represent diverse perspectives, including voices from the Sudanese government, opposition groups, and international actors. This approach ensures that the analyzed discourse reflects a wide range of viewpoints, encompassing both dominant and subordinate narratives.

### **Research Instruments**

This research relies on two main instruments: manual data recording tools and translation software. Manual data recording tools are essential for capturing raw data accurately, allowing researchers to document textual content before analysis. The translation software facilitates the understanding of multilingual texts, ensuring that language barriers do not hinder the research process. To enhance translation accuracy, the software is carefully selected based on its ability to provide precise and contextually relevant translations. However, machine translations are not entirely error-free, so the translated data undergoes thorough review and verification. Furthermore, the study applies discourse analysis guidelines grounded in Fairclough's theory. These guidelines help structure the analysis, ensuring consistency and reliability when examining textual data. Fairclough's approach to discourse analysis is particularly useful in understanding power relations, language use, and hidden meanings in texts. By integrating translation tools with discourse analysis methods, the research maintains methodological rigor and enhances interpretative accuracy.

### **Data Collection Technique**

Data is collected using reading and note-taking methods, focusing on BBC news articles published within a specific time frame related to the Sudan crisis. To enhance justification, the study explains the exclusivity of BBC as a data source, citing its extensive accessibility and consistent coverage. The researcher also considered alternative news sources but chose to focus on BBC due to the need to delve deeply into a single, consistent perspective to explore the discursive structure in greater detail.

### **Data Analysis Technique**

This study employs Fairclough's three-dimensional framework, encompassing text analysis, discourse practice, and social practice. The text dimension focuses on linguistic structures such as word choice, grammar, and style; the discourse practice dimension examines the processes of text production and consumption, including the context of the media publishing it; while the social practice dimension highlights the relationship between discourse and broader socio-political contexts. To ensure reliability, the analysis results are evaluated by more than one researcher through an inter-rater process, ensuring consistency in data interpretation and validity of the findings.



## RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

### Research Findings

Table 1. Text Analysis Dimension, the Discourse Practice Dimension, and Sociocultural Dimension in Sudan's Famine News

Dimension	News Source	Data	Analysis
Teks	News Source 1 في ظل تدفقات السلاح وشبح المجاعة، هل تتجح جهود السلام في إنهاء الأزمة في السودان؟	<p>Data 1:</p> <p>قال مساعد قائد القوات المسلحة السودانية، اللواء إبراهيم جابر، لهيئة الإذاعة البريطانية المسلحة ستواصل شن الهجمات على الرغم من الجهود الدولية للتوسط في وقف إطلاق النار وإنهاء الحرب الأهلية التي استمرت 17 شهرًا</p> <p>"Sudan's Assistant Chief of Staff, General Ibrahim Jaber, told the BBC that the armed forces would continue launching attacks despite international efforts to mediate a ceasefire and end the 17-month-long civil war."</p>	<p>The phrase "launching attacks" indicates an aggressive action taken by the armed forces. This shows that the military has chosen violence as the primary method of dealing with the conflict. The phrase "for 17 months" references the duration of the civil war, reinforcing the image that the conflict has been ongoing for a long time, with the armed forces still reluctant to accept a peaceful solution. This creates a sense of deadlock and prolonged tension.</p>
		<p>Data 2:</p> <p>تستمر المعارك بين الطرفين منذ أبريل الماضي، عندما اختلفت قادتتهما حول مستقبل البلاد، مما أدى إلى كارثة إنسانية، حيث يعاني أكثر من نصف جين سكان السودان من الجوع، في أجبر الملايين على مغادرة منازلهم</p> <p>"The battle between the two sides has been ongoing since last April, when their leaders clashed over the country's future, resulting in a humanitarian disaster in which more than half of Sudan's population faces starvation, while millions have been forced to flee their homes."</p>	<p>The term "battle" implies a physical and destructive conflict. It indicates that the conflict in Sudan is not merely ideological or political but has escalated to a level of violence leading to destruction and humanitarian crisis. Furthermore, the phrase "humanitarian disaster" emphasizes the large-scale negative impact of the conflict. This signifies that the crisis is not just political or military but has extended into a broader humanitarian dimension.</p>
	News Source 2 المجاعة تجتاح السودان مع تعثر محادثات السلام مرة أخرى	<p>Data 3:</p> <p>اتخذت القوات المسلحة السودانية هذا الأسبوع خطوة صغيرة لتخفيف آثار الجوع في البلاد بالسماح بدخول 15 شاحنة مساعدات من الأمم المتحدة عبر الحدود مع تشاد لتوزيع الطعام على المحتاجين</p> <p>"The Sudanese Armed Forces took a small step this week to alleviate the impact of hunger in the country by</p>	<p>The phrase "small step" suggests that the action taken by the Sudanese Armed Forces in response to the hunger crisis is insignificant or only a fraction of what is needed to address the issue. This implies that the measure is minimalistic and insufficient to tackle the larger crisis. Additionally, the</p>

Dimension	News Source	Data	Analysis
		allowing 15 United Nations aid trucks through the border with Chad to distribute food to those in need."	term "alleviate the impact of hunger" indicates that the focus of the action is to reduce the effects of the crisis, not to resolve or end hunger entirely. The text implies no long-term solution, only a temporary relief.
Discourse Practice	News Source 1 في ظل تدفقات السلاح وشبح المجاعة، هل تنجح جهود السلام في إنهاء الأزمة في السودان؟	Data 4: صرح اللواء جابر بأن الدعم المزعوم من الإمارات العربية المتحدة لقوات الدعم السريع 'كان له تأثير كبير في الحرب، لأنهم مليشيات تتلقى دعمًا بأسلحة متطورة. ومع ذلك، في النهاية، لن ينتصروا في الحرب؛ سيقفون مجرد مليشيات'، على حد تعبيره "General Jaber stated that the alleged support of the United Arab Emirates for the Rapid Support Forces 'has had a significant impact on the war, as they are a militia receiving advanced weaponry support. However, in the end, they will not win the war; they remain a militia,' he said."	General Jaber reflects the position of Sudan's regular military as the primary actor in the ongoing conflict. In this context, the military is positioned as the official state force acting against the threat from the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), which he refers to as a "militia." The use of the term "militia" serves to undermine the RSF's legitimacy as a combat force, despite their significant support from the United Arab Emirates. This reinforces the narrative that the regular military has the rightful authority to defend the country, while the RSF is regarded as an illegitimate entity despite having advanced weaponry.
		Data 5: أشار فريق من خبراء الأمم المتحدة إلى أن الأوضاع الإنسانية في مخيم الزمالك للاجئين خارج الفاشر تشير إلى احتمال حدوث مجاعة، بناءً على البيانات التي لديهم. لكنهم أكدوا أيضًا أن أجزاء أخرى من السودان تواجه نفس المخاطر "A group of United Nations (UN) experts indicated that the humanitarian conditions at the Zamalek Camp for refugees outside El Fasher point toward a likelihood of famine, based on the data they have. However, they also stressed that other parts of Sudan face the same risk."	The UN employs a rhetorical strategy focused on data and facts to draw attention to the humanitarian crisis. By mentioning the possibility of famine and the risks faced by refugees, this discourse serves to raise awareness and urge action from the international community. This data-driven presentation of information can function to motivate action and support from international donors and humanitarian organizations.
	News Source 2 المجاعة تجتاح السودان مع تعثر محادثات	Data 6: أدان سفير السودان لدى الأمم المتحدة، الحارث إدريس الحارث محمد، الحديث	This statement serves to lend legitimacy to the narrative put forth by the Sudanese

Dimension	News Source	Data	Analysis
	السلام مرة أخرى	عن المجاعة، واصفًا إياه بأنه مؤامرة من أعداء البلاد لتبرير تدخلهم "Sudan's Ambassador to the UN, Al-Harith Idris Al-Harith Muhammad, condemned the discussions on famine, calling it a conspiracy by the country's enemies to justify their intervention."	government. By referring to the famine discussions as a "conspiracy," the Ambassador claims that the famine issue is being politicized by certain parties aiming to undermine the country's credibility and stability. This indicates that he is attempting to control the public discourse on famine, framing the issue as an attack on the nation's sovereignty and integrity.
Sociocultural	News Source 1 في ظل تدفقات السلاح وشبح المجاعة، هل تنتج جهود السلام في إنهاء الأزمة في السودان؟	Data 7: تعود جذور المجاعة في السودان إلى الفساد في إدارة الاقتصاد على مدى عقود، والحروب المدمرة، والجفاف الناتج عن تغير المناخ "The historical roots of famine in Sudan stem from decades of corruption in economic management, devastating wars, and drought due to climate change."	This understanding highlights that famine in Sudan cannot be separated from a broader historical context. Identifying the "historical roots of famine" indicates that this issue has persisted over a long period and is not a new phenomenon. In the sociocultural context, this reflects an awareness of the influence of a long history that encompasses corruption, conflict, and climate change.
	News Source 2 المجاعة تجتاح السودان مع تعثر محادثات السلام مرة أخرى	Data 8: رتب المبعوث الخاص للولايات المتحدة، توم بورييلو، اجتماعًا بأمال كبيرة أن يلتقي القائدان العسكريان المتنازعان وجهًا لوجه ويوقعوا اتفاق وقف إطلاق النار "U.S. Special Envoy Tom Burriello arranged a meeting with high hopes that the two warring military leaders could meet face-to-face and sign a ceasefire agreement."	This reflects the complex sociopolitical context in Sudan, where military conflict has created tension and instability. U.S. Special Envoy Tom Burriello acts as a mediator in this tense situation. In this case, the text expresses a desire to seek a peaceful solution amidst conflict, highlighting the importance of diplomacy in addressing complex issues. This statement also reflects the role of international actors in conflict mediation.
		Data 9: اعترف السفير الأمريكي لدى السودان، توم بيريللو، هذا الأسبوع بأن الجهود الدبلوماسية الجديدة للتفاوض على وقف إطلاق النار 'فشلت في تحقيق تقدم' "U.S. Ambassador to Sudan, Tom Perriello,	This highlights an awareness of the challenges faced in the diplomatic process, leading to the reality that diplomatic efforts failed to create a narrative about the perception of international

Dimension	News Source	Data	Analysis
		acknowledged this week that new diplomatic efforts to negotiate a ceasefire 'failed to make progress.'"	diplomacy. The public may begin to question the effectiveness and commitment of international actors, including the U.S., in resolving the conflict. This statement could spark discussions about the role and responsibility of major countries in promoting peace and stability in conflict-ridden nations.

From a discourse analysis perspective, *News Source 1* reflects the military's narrative in the conflict. General Jaber's statement about the alleged UAE support for the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) attempts to delegitimize them by labeling them as a "*militia*". This terminology serves to portray the RSF as an illegitimate armed group, reinforcing the Sudanese military's claim as the rightful national defense force. Despite acknowledging the RSF's advanced weaponry, Jaber insists that they will not win the war, subtly positioning the Sudanese military as the dominant force in the conflict. Meanwhile, UN experts have issued warnings about potential famine in refugee camps such as Zamalek, using data-driven evidence to highlight the worsening humanitarian crisis. The use of factual information and statistical evidence serves as a rhetorical strategy to draw attention to the dire situation and appeal for international intervention.

Conversely, in *News Source 2*, Sudan's Ambassador to the UN, Al-Harith Idris Al-Harith Muhammad, dismisses discussions about famine, framing them as a "*conspiracy*" orchestrated by enemies of Sudan to justify foreign intervention. His statement aligns with a broader political strategy aimed at discrediting external criticisms and preserving national sovereignty. By politicizing the issue, the Sudanese government attempts to shift the narrative away from its own shortcomings in managing the crisis, instead attributing blame to external actors. This rhetorical move illustrates how discourse can be manipulated to control public perception and maintain governmental authority in times of crisis.

The sociocultural analysis sheds light on the deeper, historical roots of Sudan's famine crisis. *News Source 1* traces the origins of famine to long-standing economic mismanagement, corruption, war, and climate change-induced drought. This framing suggests that the current crisis is not merely a consequence of the ongoing war but the result of systemic issues that have persisted for decades. By acknowledging these root causes, the discourse highlights the need for long-term solutions rather than temporary aid measures. Meanwhile, *News Source 2* focuses on the role of international diplomacy in conflict resolution, reporting on efforts by U.S. Special Envoy Tom Burriello to broker peace between the warring factions. However, the failure of diplomatic negotiations, as acknowledged by U.S. Ambassador Tom Perriello, raises concerns about the effectiveness of international efforts. The admission that peace talks have "*failed to make progress*" questions the commitment of global actors to resolving Sudan's crisis, reinforcing skepticism about the role of international diplomacy in war-torn regions.



## Discussion

Data 1, 2, and 3 illustrate that the conflict in Sudan is not merely ideological or political but has escalated to a stage of violence leading to destruction and a humanitarian crisis. This is evident from the use of terms like "launching attacks" and "battle" in data 1 and 2. In data 3, the phrase "small step" indicates the insignificance of the Sudanese Armed Forces' response to the famine crisis there. The use of words and phrases in these data further portrays that the actions taken by the Sudanese Armed Forces are minimal and insufficient to address the larger crisis or only provide temporary relief. This aligns with Fairclough's view that vocabulary, grammar, and sentence structure can be used to trace how the world is represented in the views of the text producers and to track the social relations raised through the discourse (Fairclough, 2003). According to Fairclough, every text can essentially be analyzed and deconstructed based on its representational elements—how events, people, groups, situations, or conditions are depicted in the text—and relational aspects, which refer to how the relationships between participants are presented and portrayed in the text.

Data 1, 2, and 3 also highlight that the use of sentence structure and careful word choices can emphasize the urgency, severity, and global impact of the Iranian president's death. The construction of these sentences effectively reinforces the notion that the conflict has been ongoing for a long time and that the armed forces are still reluctant to accept a peaceful solution. This creates the impression of a stalemate and prolonged tension. This is consistent with previous studies that using careful word choices and sentence structure to shape specific understandings can avoid language that could trigger controversy or refer to separatism (Keleş et al., 2024).

Previous research also mentions that analyzing how media texts portray a tragedy, including word choices, sentence structure, and writing style, can reveal the role and image of an institution (Ajwan et al., 2023). Data 4, 5, and 6 highlight how General Jaber's statements reflect the position of Sudan's regular military as the primary actor in the ongoing conflict. This strengthens the narrative that the regular military has the right to defend the country, while the RSF is viewed as an illegitimate entity despite possessing advanced weaponry. By calling discussions of famine a "conspiracy," the Ambassador claims that the famine issue is politicized by certain parties trying to undermine the credibility and stability of the country. This aligns with Fairclough's discourse practice, where this dimension is related to the production and consumption processes of texts. The value of experience becomes one of the signals of how texts are represented and linked with content, knowledge, and beliefs (Fairclough, 2015). Discourse practice focuses on how the production and consumption of texts, formed through discourse practices, determine how texts are produced (Fairclough, 1988, 1994).

The findings showed that the discourse also creates an image of the Sudanese government as the party under pressure and threat, trying to defend itself from external attacks, which strengthens their legitimacy in the eyes of the public. In this context, the Ambassador uses discourse to divert attention from internal issues such as famine and the humanitarian crisis, emphasizing that these problems are not isolated but part of a larger agenda by the country's enemies. This is a strategy to maintain power and control domestically. As seen in previous studies, the production and consumption of texts, including how the media selects, edits, and disseminates news about a tragedy, can be influenced by the social and political context that affects how news about institutions and tragedies is presented and received by the public (Ajwan et al., 2023).

Data 7, 8, and 9 convey the understanding that famine in Sudan cannot be separated from the broader historical context. Identifying the "historical roots of famine" shows that this issue has been persistent for a long time and is not a new phenomenon.

In a sociocultural context, this reflects awareness of the long history encompassing corruption, conflict, and climate change. This aligns with Fairclough's sociocultural practice dimension, which suggests that social contexts outside the discourse influence the emergence of discourse. The sociocultural practice level is related to social differences within organizations, such as situations, institutional contexts, and social contexts (Fairclough, 2010).

This stage seeks an explanation of the interpretation results by referring to the sociocultural conditions surrounding the production of the text (Fauzan, 2013). Fairclough's analytical theoretical basis is social structures (e.g., class relations) that dialectically relate to social activities (Fairclough, 1990). Fairclough defines discourse as a form of "social practice," implying a dialectic between language and social conditions, and on the other hand, social conditions are also influenced by discourse (Fairclough, 1996).

Data 7, 8, and 9 also reflect the complex sociopolitical context in Sudan, where military conflict has created tension and instability. The fact that diplomatic efforts have failed to create a narrative about perceptions of international diplomacy suggests that the public may begin to doubt the effectiveness and commitment of international actors, including the U.S., in resolving the conflict. This statement could spark discussions about the role and responsibility of major countries in promoting peace and stability in conflict-ridden countries. This is consistent with previous studies stating that the analysis of historical, colonial, and contemporary factors can influence the relationship between one community and another (Julia McCartan, 2022). Furthermore, examining social, political, and cultural contexts can reveal the impact that discourse has on the lives of a community (Mcluckie & Kuipers, 2024).

The discourse practices evident in the analyzed data highlight significant implications for Sudan's sociopolitical environment. The vocabulary and sentence structures employed emphasize the prolonged nature of the conflict, the insufficiency of responses to humanitarian crises, and the polarized narratives surrounding the Sudanese Armed Forces and RSF. These practices shape public perceptions by portraying the military as a legitimate protector against external threats while framing issues like famine as politically motivated conspiracies. This approach diverts attention from internal accountability and sustains power dynamics favoring the military.

Additionally, the sociocultural dimensions of the discourse underscore the historical roots of famine and conflict, illustrating how systemic issues like corruption and climate change are interwoven with contemporary crises. By reflecting broader social and institutional contexts, such discourse influences how the Sudanese public interprets their circumstances and how international actors perceive their roles in conflict resolution. This aligns with Fairclough's framework, which suggests that discourse both reflects and shapes social realities, reinforcing specific power structures and ideologies.

In addition to Sudan, which is experiencing a crisis, many other Middle Eastern countries are also facing crises due to war and political instability. One such country is Lebanon, which, although not directly involved in a major war like Sudan, still suffers significant impacts from complex economic, social, and political pressures. In Lebanon, the effects of the crisis are more diverse, encompassing the health sector, education, and the psychological well-being of its people. Various studies have shown that the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated this situation, disrupting essential health services such as childhood vaccination and non-communicable disease care, highlighting the fragility of the country's healthcare system.

For instance, the study *"Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on sexually transmitted infection testing and diagnosis in Lebanon"* demonstrates how the pandemic has worsened

access to essential healthcare services, reflecting challenges also faced in Sudan in meeting basic needs amidst conflict. Furthermore, the study *"Identifying vulnerabilities in essential health services: Analysing the effects of system shocks on childhood vaccination delivery in Lebanon"* reveals the fragility of healthcare systems in the face of shocks, similar to the situation in Sudan, which is grappling with health crises caused by conflict and famine (Ismail et al., 2024; Sunji et al., 2024).

In the education sector, studies such as *"Students are bringing the revolution into the classroom!"* and *"Mediating and moderating factors between economic pressure and turnover intention among school teachers in Lebanon during the ongoing crisis era"* highlight the impact of the crisis on students' psychosocial well-being and teachers' welfare, paralleling Sudan's challenges in maintaining government legitimacy through narratives that shape public perception. Additionally, the study *"Providing continuity of care for people living with noncommunicable diseases in humanitarian settings"* in Lebanon illustrates the struggle to ensure sustainable healthcare in a highly pressured context, reflecting Sudan's urgent need to enhance humanitarian services amidst its prolonged conflict (Akik et al., 2024; Fekih-Romdhane et al., 2024; Schenzle & Schultz, 2024). Overall, both crises exhibit similar patterns in how conflicts and systemic pressures damage essential sectors such as health and education, although with different foci and contextual factors. The crisis in Lebanon is more varied in its manifestations, while the crisis in Sudan is more concentrated around political and military conflict.

## CONCLUSION

This study summarizes findings that indicate the conflict in Sudan is not merely ideological or political but has escalated into violence resulting in a widespread humanitarian disaster. The data reveal that the limited actions taken by the Sudanese Armed Forces are insufficient to address the larger crisis, offering only temporary relief without providing long-term solutions. Additionally, the position of Sudan's military as the primary actor in the conflict, coupled with narratives emphasizing the challenges faced by international efforts, raises questions about domestic legitimacy and authority.

The practical applications of these findings underscore the importance for policymakers and media to utilize this analysis to enhance discourse on the humanitarian crisis in Sudan. Policymakers can leverage this information to consider more effective approaches to addressing the conflict and providing substantial aid to mitigate the humanitarian disaster. The media, on the other hand, can use these findings to present a more critical and comprehensive perspective on the situation in Sudan, fostering recognition of the root causes and encouraging more cohesive action from the international community.

## RECOMMENDATION

This study has several limitations, particularly because it relies solely on discourse data without directly examining the views of the general public or international actors. This may limit the understanding of how these discourses are received or rejected by the public and external parties. A recommendation for future research is to conduct field studies that involve perspectives from various social groups and international actors involved in diplomatic efforts. Additionally, future research should include a long-term analysis of the development of the Sudan crisis to understand the impact of government discourse within the context of dynamic socio-political changes.

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