NEWS OUTLETS' STANCES ON *HEZBOLLAH* IN THE 2024 HEZBOLLAH-ISRAEL CONFLICT

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Abstract

This study examined news coverage from two news outlets namely, Al-Jazeera and the British Broadcasting Corporation or BBC for short. The study investigated the political stance of which each news outlet holds on the topic of the 2024 Hezbollah-Israel conflict as seen in how they employ language patterns in their news coverage. The study used a mixed-method approach, using the corpus tool Sketch Engine to assist in the quantitative analysis and then using qualitative analysis on the gathered data to examine the political stance of each news outlet. The result of the study shows that in Al-Jazeera corpus, two out of six significant collocates of *Hezbollah* suggest a favorable stance, while the other four were neutral. In comparison, an analysis of the BBC coverage reveals that three out of six collocates suggest a favorable stance towards *Hezbollah*, two portray it unfavorably, and one remains neutral. These findings indicate a slightly positive portrayal of *Hezbollah* from both news outlets, although with distinct narrative approaches.

Keywords: *corpus linguistics, Hezbollah, Israel, news outlet, stance*

INTRODUCTION

The Hezbollah-Israel conflict is one of the most severe and enduring in modern history, with roots tracing back to Lebanon's civil war after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982. This event heightened regional instability, with Lebanon breaking into multiple factions that include the right-wing Lebanese militia supported by the Israeli army and Lebanese resistance groups such as one hailing from the Shia Muslim community in Lebanon, Hezbollah. Widely recognized for its armed resistance against Israel, Hezbollah has also become a significant political force within Lebanon. The group was formed during the Lebanese Civil War in the early 1980s, initially emerging as a direct response to Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982. On the other hand, Israel is the central figure in the Middle East geopolitical landscape, often at the heart of the regional conflict, particularly with Lebanon (CNN, 2024).

Over the decades, the conflict has been marked by recurring violence, territorial disputes, and deep political and religious divides. In 2023, following Israel's bombardment of Gaza,

Hezbollah showed its support for Gaza by launching rockets on Israel, igniting the conflict once again. Strongly Hezbollah showed its support for Gaza by launching rockets on Israel, igniting the conflict once again. Strongly supported and influenced by Iran, Hezbollah received substantial backing from the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), which helped shape its military capabilities and ideological foundations (CNN, 2024).

With the escalation of the Hezbollah-Israel conflict, numerous news outlets have focused their coverage on the ongoing developments, including prominent media organizations like Al Jazeera and the BBC. The language used in their news articles can subtly or overtly frame events that favor one side over the other, influencing public perception and shaping the narrative around the conflict. Thus, the research questions addressed in this study are as follows:

1. Is there a significant difference in frequencies of the word *Hezbollah* between the two news outlets?
2. What are the significant collocates found for the word *Hezbollah* in the two news outlets?
3. How do the news outlets present their stances as seen in the concordance list for each collocate?

In answering the question, the authors built two corpora, comprising news reports from Al Jazeera Media Network (Al-Jazeera) and the BBC to systematically analyze the languages they used and explore the political stances buried behind their coverage.

The study aims to uncover the "why" behind the way Al-Jazeera and the BBC cover the 2024 Hezbollah-Israel conflict as seen in the concordance lines for the collocates of *Hezbollah* in the context of the 2024 Hezbollah-Israel conflict as seen in news articles published by two different news outlets: Al-Jazeera and British Broadcasting Corporation (the BBC). By uncovering the collocational and prosodic behavior of the words *Hezbollah*, it is understood the political stances of which are held by the news outlets.

Corpus Linguistics

Corpus linguistics as a method is widely used in collaboration with other fields of studies or methods and approaches namely critical discourse analysis, systemic functional linguistics, semantics, etc. Meyer (2023) noted that corpus-based research began as early as the fifteenth century, when biblical concordances were created based on passages from the Bible. Corpus linguistics is the study of language data on a large scale with the aid of computers in analyzing

an extensive collection of transcribed utterances or written texts (McEnery, 2011). As Cheng (2012) puts it, "Corpus linguistics is the compilation and analysis of corpora." The term "corpora" refers to the plural form of "corpus" which is defined as a collection of texts based on a set of design criteria, one of which is that the corpus aims to be representative (Cheng, 2012). Corpus linguistics allow authors to examine hypotheses about language use scientifically, without their preconceptions influencing the conclusions (Baker, 2009). Simply speaking, corpus linguistics is similar to mathematics where the final result is scientifically proven through a series of steps objectively.

Biber (1998) defines corpus linguistics as a methodological approach that allows authors to investigate how people use language in speech and writing by examining naturally occurring texts and spoken language samples. As cited in Liu (2024), Biber et al. (1998) conclude three features of the corpus-based approach that is recognized as strengthens of corpus linguistics methodology, namely:

1. It analyzes language in natural texts and provides empirical evidence;

2. It uses an extensive collection of natural texts, also known as corpus, as its analysis basis;

3. It depends on the extensive usage of computers for both quantitative and qualitative analysis.

Stance

Stance is a concept referring to ways people position themselves in conversation, often in terms of politeness, certainly, or affect/emotion (Kiesling, 2022). Du Bois (2007) argues that stance can be approached as a linguistically articulated form of social action whose meaning is to be construed within the broader scope of language, interaction, and sociocultural value (Du Bois, 2007). News outlets often cover news with subjectivity in mind. The way they employ language patterns in reporting the news is a part of their stancing. Underlying ideology of news outlets has an important role in shaping the public perception of certain news topics that are covered by said news outlets, and this ideology is seen in the language pattern they employ which uncovers their political stance. As Fowley (1991) explains that media discourse is frequently biased and imbued by the political, economic and social contexts within a country (Al-Gamde & Tenbrink, 2020).

The potential influence of political, economic, and social context greatly affects the case of political stancing done in news coverage of news outlets on certain news topics.

Previous Studies

Many studies have conducted corpus-based analysis on how news outlets present certain topics in their coverage. In 2024, Ononiwu investigated the ideologies embedded in the news reports and discourse structures of Russia-Ukraine conflict in Russian and Ukrainian news media (Ononiwu, 2024). In the same year, Pervukhina explored New Zealand newspaper texts about Covid-19 from the point of view of emotions and emotivity (Pervukhina, 2024). Murugaiah et al. (2024) examined how people with mental illness are ideologically represented in mainstream and independent online newspapers. Reynolds (2024) analyzed mass media coverage of The Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act (FOSTA) and Stop Enabling Online Sex Traffickers Act (SESTA). In 2023, Alanazi investigated how Christians and Muslim are portrayed in U.S. media outlets (Alanazi, 2023).

On the matter of stances, In 2024, Jiang conducted a comparative study on how the British and Chinese mainstream media cover the Russia-Ukraine conflict (Jiang, 2024).. In 2020, Al-Gamde & Tenbrink conducted a media bias study on online Iranian coverage of the Syrian revolution through the method of corpus linguistics (Al-Gamde & Tenbrink, 2020). Yuliawati et al (2024) did a study examining the online comments posted on political news articles driven primarily by the politically polarized views of the readers (Yuliawati et al, 2024). Prahtel (2024) did a study on how two major US media, CNN and Fox News, cover the January 6 capitol event. Garayagh-Zandi (2022) conducted a study on the BBC and Sputnik's portrayal of Iran's role in Syria's conflict (Garayagh-Zandi, 2022). In 2021, Al-Badawi & Al Najjar (2021) conducted a critical discourse analysis on CNN and the BBC's political news' headlines on the Christchurch Mosque Massacre in New Zealand. It was found that the two news outlets used passivization to describe the victims and activization to show the positive behavior of different groups in New Zealand in expressing their solidarity with the victims (Al-Badawi & Al Najjar, 2021). Liu (2024) analyzed how Al-Jazeera, China Daily, and CNN constructed language to depict the 2023 Israel-Hamas war, revealing their ideologies and political stances. Therefore, this study aims to uncover the underlying ideology of Al-Jazeera and the BBC as seen in their news articles on the 2024 Hezbollah-Israel conflict. Instead of discussing the portrayal of both Hezbollah and Israel,

this study focuses on the portrayal of Hezbollah based on concordance lines of the top six significant collocates. The study also investigates the stance taken by each news outlet toward Hezbollah.

METHOD

This study employs a mixed-methods approach (Creswell & Creswell, 2018), this particular method consists of two primary stages, the collection of quantitative data followed by a qualitative stage of which the authors analyze the quantitative data. According to Creswell and Creswell (2018), this design was used to achieve a more thorough understanding of the topic. This approach was chosen to provide an in-depth understanding of the phenomenon of language usage, which in this case relates to the stances on *Hezbollah* in the two news outlets.

Corpus-Building

In order to narrow down the scope of the study, the authors build two (2) corpora based on each news outlet that is being analyzed, instead of using already existing corpora namely the British National Corpus (BNC) and the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA). The data collected for each corpus in this study are news reports related to the 2024 *Hezbollah* and *Israel* conflict compiled from Al-Jazeera and the British Broadcasting Corporation (the BBC). The reasons why these two news outlets are chosen are as follows:

1. Al-Jazeera being an independent Arab news channel headquartered in the Middle East funded in part by the Qatari government, is known to favor Arab countries such as Lebanon, Iran, and Palestine in their reportage, independent news organization funded in part by the Qatari government. According to Liu (2024), Al-Jazeera took a strong pro-Palestine political stance and criticize Israel's genocide activity, which means that Al-Jazeera is against Israel and not supporting Israel.

2. the BBC or British Broadcasting Corporation, is a public service broadcaster based in the United Kingdom. The BBC aims to uphold a reputation for impartiality and neutrality in its journalism.

These two news outlets represent different ideologies which are buried under the language they employ in their coverage. Their stance coming from their respective ideologies stem from certain background influences such as the social, political, and economic context of

the country they are from. The authors aim to systematically analyze the languages they used and reveal political stances reflected by the language of each news outlet.

The data are organized in two different corpora using corpus manager software, Sketch Engine, to assist the study. The total tokens from the two corpora are 210,442 as described in the following table.

Table 1. News outlet corpora

No.	Source	Token (Total)	News articles collected
1.	Al-Jazeera	142,545	185
2.	the BBC	67,897	75
	TOTAL	210,442	260

Table 1 presents the source of two corpora, detailing the total number of tokens and occurrences across two news sources, Al-Jazeera and the BBC. The total number of tokens across the two corpora is 210,442, with the total number for Al-Jazeera being 142,545 and the BBC 67,897 tokens. The news articles collected for the two corpora are 185 from Al-Jazeera, and 75 from the BBC.

Corpus Linguistics as a Method

Corpus Linguistics is the study of patterns and variations in a language by utilization of computer resources in analyzing a collection of texts which is called a corpus. McEnery & Hardie (2011) suggests that corpus linguistics is an area which focuses upon a set of procedures, or methods, for studying language (McEnery & Hardie, 2011). Corpus linguistics is widely used in contemporary linguistics, largely as a method to ease the analysis of patterns in language. It covers a wide range of sciences and is not limited to social and humanities. As the nickname given to domesticated dogs is "man's best friend", corpus linguistics is "a researcher's best friend" for its contribution to contemporary research, mostly in linguistics.

Data Analysis Technique

The first stage of this study uses a quantitative approach to examine the frequency, and the collocations. The tools used in this study are word list, word sketch, and concordance feature of Sketch Engine to identify the frequency of *Hezbollah* and to identify high-frequency collocates of *Hezbollah*. The range of the concordance used in this research is four (4) from the Keyword in context. In addition, statistical analysis of collocated words is conducted to map the

semantic profile for the word *Hezbollah* along with its accompanying collocates. This method allows for identifying patterns contained within the tokens.

After the quantitative data is analyzed, the qualitative stage is conducted to explore the meanings emerging from the quantitative results. The authors rank the significant collocates based on MI scores with a threshold of ≥ 3 and frequency with a threshold of ≥ 5 according to theory from Biber & Reppen (2015) to identify 10 significant collocates. The collocates are found in a span of four words to the left and four words to the right. The semantic prosody are identified after analyzing their semantic categories. This analysis involves interpreting the context of the lexical usage. This approach helps to understand how these meanings are influenced by the social and political factors of each news outlet. Furthermore, insights from the qualitative analysis provide additional context that enriches the quantitative findings.

The results of the data analysis are presented in the form of concordance tables, collocation frequency graphs, and qualitative descriptions. The quantitative data is presented first to provide a comprehensive overview of the semantic prosody of the two pairs of words. Subsequently, the qualitative findings are presented in the form of interpretations of the context of word usage across different media.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

Essentially, the study uses a mixed-method design as illuminated in the previous chapter to conduct a study on word frequency analysis as well as collocation, concordance and stance analysis. The following chapter discusses the findings acquired from the analyses. The authors use corpus linguistics as a methodology for quantitative analysis, utilizing the corpus tool and text analysis software *Sketch Engine* to help compile the data.

Frequency and collocation

The occurrence of the word *Hezbollah* is identified using the word frequency list tool in Sketch Engine. The data are provided in the form of a table to display the frequency of each word within two (2) corpora.

Table 2. The word frequency list of the word Hezbollah per 50,000 words

No.	Corpora	Token (Total)	Frequency	Normalized Frequency
1.	Al-Jazeera	142,545	1079	378
2.	BBC	67,897	768	565
	TOTAL	210,442	1,847	943

Table 2 presents the word frequency list of the word *Hezbollah* across two corpora, Al-Jazeera and the BBC. The table includes the total token count and the specific frequency of the word *Hezbollah* within two corpora. From the 210,442 tokens, the word *Hezbollah* occurs 1,847 times from the two corpora. In Al-Jazeera, which has the highest token count, *Hezbollah* occurs 1079 times and in the BBC, Hezbollah occurs 768 times.

The normalized frequency column presents a relative measure of the word *Hezbollah* frequency within each corpus. It is calculated by dividing the frequency of a word by the total number of tokens in the corpus and then multiplying by 50,000 which is the lowest total token from the two corpora. This process allows the authors to provide a more accurate comparison of word frequency between two corpora of different sizes. The normalized frequency for the word *Hezbollah* in the corpus of Al-Jazeera is 378, meaning that the word *Hezbollah* appears 378 times per 50,000 words. Meanwhile, the normalized frequency for the word *Hezbollah* in the BBC corpora is 565. It is seen that the word *Hezbollah* occurs more frequently for every 50,000 words in the BBC corpus than the other two.

Collocation of the word *Hezbollah*

a. Al-Jazeera

Table 3. The six top significant collocates of the word Hezbollah

Rank.	Collocates	Frequency	MI
1.	strongholds	6	7.05
2.	structure	7	6.75
3.	Naim	8	6.68
4.	weakened	7	6.62
5.	exchanging	10	6.59
6.	deputy	12	6.53

Table 3 illustrates the top six words that are most closely related to *Hezbollah* in Al-Jazeera Corpus. This table is sorted by Mutual Information (MI) score. MI score is used as a measurement tool that quantifies the strength of the association between collocates and nodes. As presented in the table, *strongholds* are the collocate with the highest MI score, 7.05, followed by *structure* and *Naim*. On the other hand, the most frequent collocates are *deputy* with 12 frequency, followed by *exchanging*, and *Naim*. Despite its low frequency, the collocate *stronghold* has a strong semantic relationship with *Hezbollah* within Al-Jazeera corpus.

b. BBC

Table 4. The six top significant collocates of Hezbollah

Rank.	Collocates	Frequency	MI
1.	steadily	5	6.68
2.	operatives	6	6.45
3.	belonging	6	6.26
4.	stronghold	9	6.26
5.	attacking	5	6.19
6.	Islamist	5	6.19

As shown in Table 4, the collocate with the highest number of frequency for the word *Hezbollah* in the the BBC corpus is *stronghold*. However, the collocate with the highest MI score is *steadily*, followed by *operatives*, *belonging*, *stronghold*, and *attacking*. These collocates of high MI scores demonstrate that they are the most significant words that co-occur with the word *Hezbollah* in the the BBC corpus, although they are low in frequency. Moreover, there is a collocate that appears in both corpora; *stronghold*.

Concordance

After finding the significant collocates for the word *Hezbollah* through the collocation feature in Sketch Engine, the concordance lines for each collocate are then analyzed respectively using qualitative analysis. The concordance lines are as follows:

Concordance lines for the node *Hezbollah* alongside the top six significant collocates.

a. Al-Jazeera

Table 5. The collocate *strongholds*

Left Context	Node	Right Context
more than 1,000 targets in Lebanon claiming they were	**Hezbollah**	**strongholds** or military facilities placed in people's homes.
but through limited and targeted raids that take aim	**Hezbollah**	**strongholds**."Our war is with Hezbollah, not with the people"
smoke rose from its southern suburbs, **strongholds** for	**Hezbollah**	, shortly after Israel ordered residents of three buildings
Hezbollah by bombarding southern Beirut and other	**Hezbollah**	**strongholds** in Lebanon with deadly air strikes.
when Israel launched a wave of strikes against	**Hezbollah**	**strongholds** in Lebanon. "Peacekeepers have been confined
The time has come for you to withdraw UNIFIL from	**Hezbollah**	**strongholds** and from the combat zones,

From the concordance lines above for the collocate *strongholds*, it is inferred that the term *strongholds* is frequently associated with references to military facilities or strategic positions linked to Hezbollah. The word *strongholds* itself is used in the context of Israel targeting Hezbollah strongholds, the context suggests that Hezbollah is a military in southern Lebanon

that requires countermeasures, it also explains that Hezbollah is a key player in the Middle East conflict against Israel. Based on the context, Al-Jazeera stance is favorable towards Hezbollah.

Table 6. The collocate *structure*

Left Context	Node	Right Context
as Israel may believe that	**Hezbollah**	control and command **structure**
Hassan Nasrallah, saying Israel had not seriously hurt	**Hezbollah**	'solid **structure** '.
damage on the solid **structure** of Lebanon's	**Hezbollah**	," he said in a statement that was also posted on X.
Nasrallah's fate, saying Israel had not seriously hurt	**Hezbollah**	"strong **structure** ", and urging Muslims
damage to the strong **structure** of	**Hezbollah**	in Lebanon," said Khamenei in reference to Israel.
What is the internal **structure** of	**Hezbollah**	? Hezbollah's internal **structure** is highly

The concordance lines above for the collocate *structure* indicate that Hezbollah is a well organized military group, the context of the term *Structure* explained that Hezbollah structure remains intact despite Israeli military attempts to weaken it. This context shows that Hezbollah is an organized military force with strength and stability. The news report avoids assigning value judgments, instead highlighting Hezbollah's operational continuity.

Table 7. The collocate *Naim*

Left Context	Node	Right Context
the killing of leader Hassan Nasrallah,	**Hezbollah**	deputy chief **Naim** Qassem says the group
since Nasrallah's assassination,	**Hezbollah**	deputy chief **Naim** Qassem said it is prepared
since Nasrallah's assassination,	**Hezbollah**	deputy chief **Naim** Qassem said the group was
The televised speech by	**Hezbollah**	deputy chief **Naim** Qassem on Monday
also senior Hezbollah commanders. However,	**Hezbollah**	deputy leader **Naim** Qassem insisted
Israel's top adversaries, including	**Hezbollah**	deputy chief **Naim** Qassem and Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar.

From the concordance lines above, it is inferred that *Naim* refers to Naim Qassem, the deputy leader of Hezbollah. The concordance lines highlight his role in responding to or commenting on the conflict, as well as his leadership status within Hezbollah. This collocate shows the hierarchical and leadership aspects of Hezbollah, portraying it as a group with clear command figures. Al-Jazeera took a neutral stance in this collocate.

Table 8. The collocate *Weakened*

Left context	Node	Right context
Iran's supreme leader said that while	**Hezbollah**	has been **weakened** , it will survive.
devastating effect on Lebanon's civilian population.	**Hezbollah**	, although **weakened** , would likely respond
even if Hezbollah has been **weakened** ,	**Hezbollah**	still has the capacity to inflict harm on Israel.

Could rival Lebanese factions exploit a **weakened**	**Hezbollah**	? Rival Lebanese parties may exploit
But with the group now clearly **weakened** ,	**Hezbollah**	domestic rivals could seize
With Hamas severely **weakened** and	**Hezbollah**	destabilised and suffering important

From the concordance lines above for the collocate *weakened*, it is inferred that the term *weakened* is used to describe a decline in Hezbollah's power, influence, or military capabilities. This decline is often associated with external factors, such as military conflicts or internal challenges. Al-Jazeera appears to take a neutral stance in this collocate.

Table 9. The collocate *Exchanging*

Left context	Node	Right context
Beirut's southern suburbs, shortly after	**Hezbollah**	and Israel began **exchanging** cross-border attacks
people killed in Lebanon since Israel and	**Hezbollah**	began **exchanging** fire across
What's the broader context? Israeli forces and	**Hezbollah**	began **exchanging** fire last year when the group launched
The Israeli military has been **exchanging** fire with	**Hezbollah**	domestic rivals could seize
Kaouk served as the deputy head of	**Hezbollah**	has been **exchanging** cross-border fire

From the concordance lines above for the collocate *exchanging*, it is inferred that *exchanging* refers to military engagements or confrontations between Hezbollah and Israel. These engagements often involve cross-border attacks or firefights. The occurrence of *exchanging* suggests that there is a military clash between Hezbollah and Israel, these clashes occur across the Lebanese-Israeli border, indicating a high level of tension and instability in the region. It is inferred also that Al-Jazeera took a neutral stance in this context.

Table 10. The collocate *Deputy*

Left context	Node	Right context
Naim Qassem The 71-year-old is	**Hezbollah**	**deputy** secretary-general, and has often
less reliant on other members of his coalition.	**Hezbollah**	**deputy** delivers defiant message following killing
broadcast address since Nasrallah's assassination,	**Hezbollah**	**deputy** chief Naim Qassem said
the killing of leader Hassan Nasrallah,	**Hezbollah**	**deputy** chief Naim Qassem says the group
Meanwhile, the Lebanese armed group	**Hezbollah**	Executive Council. He was killed in an Israeli air strike

From the concordance lines above for the collocate deputy, it is inferred that the collocate deputy frequently appears in the context of Naim Qassem, Hezbollah's deputy secretary-general, indicating the importance of leadership figures in Al-Jazeera's reporting on the group. The concordance lines reveal that Naim Qassem is often portrayed as a core person representing the group, delivering messages following significant events, such as assassinations and killings.

Al-Jazeera appears to take a neutral or balanced stance, the focus on leadership conveys the organization as structured and capable. Overall, based on the analysis of the six significant collocates of the word *Hezbollah* in the Al-Jazeera corpus, two out of six collocates show a favorable stance towards *Hezbollah*. This shows that Al-Jazeera supports *Hezbollah's perspective* or actions and antagonizes the opposing group of *Hezbollah*, mainly *Israel*. On the other hand, the remaining four collocates show a neutral stance, focusing on the reporting facts without bias. Al-Jazeera presents *Hezbollah* in a positive view, balanced, and objective.

a. BBC

1. The collocate *steadily*

Left Context	Node	Right Context
The hostilities have escalated **steadily** since	**Hezbollah**	began firing rockets into northern Israel in support of Palestinians
The hostilities have escalated **steadily** since	**Hezbollah**	began firing rockets into northern Israel in support of Palestinians
Hostilities in the region have escalated **steadily** since	**Hezbollah**	began firing rockets into northern Israel on 8 October 2023
The hostilities have escalated **steadily** since	**Hezbollah**	began firing rockets into northern Israel in support of Palestinians
The hostilities have escalated **steadily** since	**Hezbollah**	began firing rockets into northern Israel in support of Palestinians

From the concordance lines above for the collocate *steadily*, it is inferred that the collocate *steadily* refers to the escalation of hostilities between Hezbollah and Israel. The word *steadily* itself means to grow in an even manner. The BBC's usage of *steadily* shows their undramatic way of covering the 2024 Hezbollah-Israel conflict. However, as seen in the concordance list above, the collocate *steadily* refers to the escalation of hostilities done solely by Hezbollah, making it looks like Hezbollah as the only active participant in the conflict. Furthermore, in the concordance list above for the collocate *steadily* in the BBC's coverage, Hezbollah is not portrayed as favorable.

2. The collocate *operatives*

Left Context	Node	Right Context
targeting what it has said are the armed group	**Hezbollah's**	**operatives** , infrastructure and weapons.
intelligence-based strike on several	**Hezbollah**	terrorist **operatives** who were using a fire station
it had conducted a "precise" strike on "several	**Hezbollah**	terrorist **operatives** who were using a fire station
"responsible for co-ordinating Hamas's terror	**Hezbollah**	**operatives**"

activities in Lebanon with	targeting what it says are
Hezbollah's	**Operatives,** infrastructure and weapons

From the concordance lines above for the collocate *operatives*, it is inferred that the collocate *operatives* refer to members of Hezbollah who gather intel on Israel. Based on the concordance list above, it is seen that the Hezbollah operatives are targeted for strikes from Israel. It can also be seen that the operatives are titled as terrorists. From the concordance list above, it is inferred that the BBC presents the Hezbollah operatives as victims of Israel's attacks but also as terrorists as seen in the second, third, and fourth concordance lines. the BBC's choices of quotations that regard Hezbollah as terrorists portray Israel's attack on the operatives as a good deed. This means that the BBC presents Hezbollah to be unfavorable in the concordance list above.

1. The collocate *belonging*

Left Context	Node	Right Context
The Israeli military said it had struck "terror infrastructure" **belonging** to	**Hezbollah**	.
it was targeting what it said were facilities **belonging** to	**Hezbollah**	in the area of the city known to be its stronghold.
The Israeli military said it "struck a target **belonging** to the	**Hezbollah**	terrorist organisation".
strikes on a number of weapons storage facilities" in the area **belonging** to	**Hezbollah**	.
strikes on fuel depots located inside military compounds **belonging** to	**Hezbollah's**	Logistical Reinforcement Unit 4400 in the Bekaa Valley".

From the concordance lines above for the collocate *belonging*, it is inferred the collocate refers to Hezbollah's properties or possessions. In the concordance list above, it is seen that several possessions of Hezbollah were struck by Israel and targeted to be destroyed. This puts Hezbollah, as the possessor of those properties, to be victims of Israel's attacks. However, the BBC's chosen quotations that regard Hezbollah as a terrorist organization imply that the attack on Hezbollah's properties is just. Furthermore, this puts Hezbollah's portrayal in the BBC to be unfavorable.

2. The collocate *stronghold*

Left Context	Node	Right Context
Orla Guerin says that is disputed by residents of the central Bekaa Valley, a	**Hezbollah**	**stronghold** that has been bombed repeatedly in the past week.

The airport borders the suburb of Dahieh,	**Hezbollah's**	**stronghold** in the city, and a continued target of Israeli air strikes.
The overnight air strikes in Beirut follows heavy strikes in Dahieh,	**Hezbollah's**	**stronghold** in Beirut's southern suburbs.
Explosions lit up the night sky on Monday as airstrikes hit	**Hezbollah's**	**stronghold** of Dahieh, in Beirut's southern suburbs, near the airport.
after several buildings were hit in Dahieh,	**Hezbollah's**	**stronghold** in the south of the city.

From the concordance lines above for the collocate *stronghold*, it is inferred that the collocate refers to a place or area of which Hezbollah controls. From the concordance list above, it is seen that the *stronghold* is a target of Israel's attacks, which means Hezbollah, as the possessor of the *stronghold*, to be victims of those attacks. Furthermore, from the concordance list above, the BBC portrays Hezbollah to be a victim of unfair attack by Israel, putting Hezbollah as favorable.

1. The collocate *attacking*

Left Context	Node	Right Context
The Iranian-backed	**Hezbollah**	began **attacking** Israel on 8 October 2023 in solidarity with its ally Hamas
By **attacking**	**Hezbollah**	On multiple fronts, Israel hopes to degrade the group and let its people return home.
	Hezbollah	says it is **attacking** Israel in support of its Palestinian ally, Hamas, and will not stop
	Hezbollah	says it is **attacking** Israel in support of its Palestinian ally, Hamas, and will not stop
Netanyahu said Israel would continue **attacking**	**Hezbollah**	to achieve its goal of returning about 70,000 displaced Israelis to their homes

From the concordance lines above for the collocate *attacking*, it is inferred that the collocate refers to an action done by Hezbollah. In the concordance list above, Hezbollah is seen as the actor of the attacks. However, there is one concordance line that shows Hezbollah as a victim of an attack. Most lines above describe Hezbollah who carry out the attacks for the purpose of helping its allies. In the BBC's coverage, the context describing Hezbollah's support for its allies justifies its attack against Israel, making Hezbollah look favorable in the eyes of the news readers.

1. The collocate *Islamist*

Left Context	Node	Right Context
	Hezbollah	is a Shia Islamist military, political and social organisation
has carried out thousands of strikes targeting the armed Shia Islamist group	Hezbollah	-

Hezbollah	is a Shia Islamist political, military and social organisation
Hezbollah	- a Shia Islamist political, military and social organisation
Hezbollah	is a Shia Islamist political, military and social organisation

From the concordance lines above for the collocate *Islamist*, it can be inferred that the collocate refers to a modifier that modifies Hezbollah. It can be seen above that most lines describe Hezbollah as a Shia *Islamist* group. Shia *Islamist* itself is a branch of Islam, believing that Ali is the designated successor of Muhammad. BBC does not only portray Hezbollah as a Shia *Islamist* group but also one that is political, military, and social. Overall, the concordance list for three out of six collocates in the BBC corpus favors Hezbollah, two collocates portray Hezbollah unfavorably, and only one stands neutral with Hezbollah. Therefore, the BBC portrays Hezbollah favorably in their reportage.

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