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Linguistic Echoes of War: Neologisms in Palestinian Arabic amid the 2023 Gaza War

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Abstract

Language by its nature is dynamic. It keeps evolving in order to adapt to the changing needs and experiences of its speakers. Language often evolves rapidly in response to crises, conflicts and up-to-date events. It is highly influenced by the surrounding happenings since it is assumed to be lively and dynamic. New words are created and some existing ones gain new meaning. This sociolinguistic research sought to identify the most common neologisms in Palestinian Arabic which were coined as a response to the 2023 Gaza war. A long list of war neologisms (warologisms) was compiled through a survey distributed to university students during the summer term of the academic year 2024-2025. In addition, the researcher referred to social media and news reports to add to the list. A group of 108 neologisms was purposively selected, thematically categorized and then analyzed to meet the purpose of the current study. Frequencies, percentages and ranks were used to treat the collected data. Findings reveal that compounding, phraseological units, borrowing, and derivation are the most frequent processes in forming neologisms, while blending and reduplication are rare. In addition, these warologisms reflect social, emotional and cultural response to the current war. The study terminated with recommendations to enrich the area of research in sociolinguistics.

Keywords: neologisms, warologisms, language dynamism

Introduction:

Language serves several functions, but basically communication. In any speech community, people use their own language to express their basic needs, feelings, emotions...etc. in the different conditions and under various circumstances. The relationship between language and

society which is the main concern of sociolinguists has various aspects. One of those addresses the utilization of language in the interaction between individuals in a community. How does language express the different functions necessary in social interaction? Speech serves different functions. The most frequent and common ones are: the expressive, directive, phatic, poetic, metalinguistic...etc. To mention but few. (Kharma & Bakir, 2010: 230-231)

Language by its nature is innovative and creative, i.e. users of language or certain varieties of a specific language are able to create new words, phrases and sentences that express their everyday requirements. Language in the different communities affects and is affected by other languages in contact thanks to mass media, social media and communication systems. Interaction between people belonging to different speech communities with different cultural backgrounds is one reason beyond language evolution.

Language often evolves rapidly in response to crises, conflicts and up-to-date events. In the time of crises such as plagues, pandemics, natural phenomena and wars, like people, language is highly influenced by the surrounding happenings since it is assumed to be lively and dynamic. Language users may revive and activate expressions rarely used in their everyday communication. They also import loan words and expressions from other languages they are exposed to due to the vast use of social media. Such imported expressions maybe not heard or used before in the community dealings. Those are linguistically and pragmatically referred to as neologisms. Palestinian Arabic, a variety of modern standard Arabic language MSA, has exhibited a noticeable surge in neologisms—newly coined words and expressions that reflect political, emotional, social and cultural realities. This came as a response or a reaction to the current situation of the Israeli war launched against Gaza Strip since October 7th 2023.

In this article, we are tackling the phenomenon from its different aspects and angles. Then, what is neologism? Why are neologisms used in the community? What functions do they serve? How are they formed? Those questions will constitute the theoretical framework for the current article. Answers to these questions in particular will provide the reader with information about language dynamism and evolution.

Language is not static but evolves and adapts to the changing needs, experiences and influences of its speakers. Therefore, language dynamism refers to the evolving nature of language, its adaptability across different environments, which makes it change and develop over time in response to various factors such as cultural, social, technological and historical influences. It is responsible for shifts in meaning, creation of new words and expressions as well as the emergence of language varieties. Language dynamism is a continuous process in any language which encompasses the ongoing adaptable nature of languages as they interact with society and culture. Language dynamism is a reflection of the changing nature of human societies and their ever-changing needs and aspirations. Embracing it allows languages to remain relevant and inclusive. Different authors and linguists have various viewpoints about language dynamism which range from the structural aspects of language to its evolution, variations of language and its adaptation to the societal and communicative needs (Orji & Umeobi, 2023).

Language dynamism has several aspects. One aspect is lexical change where new words are devised and abandoned or outdated words disappear. A second aspect is semantic shift, i.e. words get new meanings in other fields such as the word 'mouse'. Another aspect of

language dynamism is grammatical flexibility. That is the sentence structure may change a bit due to contact with other languages. One more aspect is sociolinguistic influence, which is mainly the concern of the current study. We observed a considerable number of words, phrases and expressions were created in response to the wartime in Gaza. Technological influence is also another aspect. Accordingly, due to technological and information technology innovations, a vast number of words emerge such as 'emojis' and the like. Another aspect is borrowing where new words are loaned and become in use in another speech community. (Wardhaugh & Fuller 2015, Crystal, 2003, Haugen, 1972 & Labov, 1972).

Background to the study:

On October the seventh 2023 we {Gazans} astonishingly woke up in the early morning on the sound of dozens of missiles launched from Gaza against the 1948 occupied lands. The Israeli reaction came in the afternoon starting with air raids and guided missiles targeting the houses and the people in the streets of Gaza. Everybody thought it would be a short war like the preceding ones of 2011, 2014, 2018, 2021. The Israeli drones and F16, F15 and F 35 aircrafts and fighters started attacking everything, everybody and everyplace.

We, habitants of the city of Gaza, received telephone calls from captains from the claimed Israeli Defense Forces IDF to evacuate southward Gaza Valley to the pretended safe zone. Under the unprecedented fire launched from the sea, from the ground and even from the sky, the majority of the people of north Gaza Strip positively responded. A number of them were targeted there and killed in the pretended safe zone.

In their new places of residence, the evacuates experienced the hardship of living in tents in the streets, fields or in the cultivated plots of land. They suffered the hardship of life in winter and summer. Everything changed accordingly. The stable living styles that they used to have vanished and were replaced by very bad alternates. Most people even the well-to-do ones became unable to afford the necessary life requirements and hence sought food and water free portions where killing was their fate.

The people of Gaza have been exposed to one of the most prolonged destructive wars in the modern history (The 660 days war so far). The results were over than 65,000 killed people, and 150,000 injured and missing and entire neighborhoods were reduced to rubble with thousands of people corpses under them. Universities, schools, hospitals, were not spared from the Israeli stream of geocoding. Families were split and torn apart and houses were changed into gravesites. This, no doubt, almost negatively impacted people, their style of life, way of thinking or speaking, culture and manners who only struggle to survive.

This war not only transformed the physical landscape of Gaza, but also reshaped its language, including the people's expressions of grief, resilience and survival. Unexperienced words and expressions emerged, new metaphors and ironic neologisms flooded people's casual speech as well as the social media, mainly TikTok, Instagram, Facebook, WhatsApp, and Telegram. In short, in the absence of normal life and stability, language has become part of the battlefield itself.

Literature Review

The emergence of new words and expressions which is considered one facet of language change is referred to in the linguistic and rhetorical contexts as neologisms. In this

respect, neologism is any newly devised word, phrase or an expression which has achieved wide popular or institutional recognition and become in use since then. Some of neologisms may enter the dictionary while others may fade up as soon as the situation changes. According to Gryniuk (2015) and Anesa (2018), newly created words and expressions fall in three types; those are 'protologism', i.e. when the newly coined term is used within a small group of people in the community, 'prelogism' when the term gains usage but is still not a mainstream and 'neologism' when the term becomes accepted and recognized by social institutions. In the current research, all types will be referred to as neologisms.

Neologisms, thanks to the popular social media, are spreading faster and faster nowadays. They become common and widely used in the speech community. Some of neologisms are intentionally devised to express very recent ideas, concepts or objects; meanwhile others are hard to trace (Dienstag, 2023). Neologisms sometimes devised due to change in the popular culture or their exposure to the social media. They are often derived in several ways.

Neologisms fall in twelve types. Those are: old words, old collocations with new meanings, abbreviations, derived words, new coinages, eponyms, transferred words, phrasal words, acronyms, internationalisms, pseudo neologisms and collocations (Newmark, 1988). These types are not necessarily to apply all to the current study since the target language is Palestinian Arabic, a variety of modern standard Arabic MSA. In this respect, Al-Dala'ien et. al. (2022), stated that MSA utilized only five word formation processes to coin neologisms related to COVID-19, i.e. compounding, semantic extension, Arabicization, hybridization and loan- translation.

According to prominent linguists, English neologisms are mainly coined according to the following word formation processes: derivation, clipping, compounding, conversion, abbreviation, eponymy or coinage, abbreviation, loanwords, onomatopoeia, reduplication or blending (Karpova, 2019). Due to the fact that the current study tackles newly coined Palestinian Arabic words during the 2023 war launched on Gaza, and since word formation processes differ from those used in English, we will scrutinize, analyze and then categorize the collected data according to the principles and ways they are generated.

In her study, Karpova (2019) sought to investigate the increasing number of words which have recently appeared in English language due to the changes in social, political, economic, science and technology fields. She aimed to provide linguistic research of innovative food-related words, collocations and expressions and to identify the most frequently -used word formation process to generate neologisms in English language in the field of gastronomy. The study concluded with the result that blending is the most common word formation pattern followed by derivation and compounding.

In addition, Song (2020) examined the rapidly evolving Chinese English neologisms (CENs) in terms of their reasons, features and values. Those are the Chinese English words some of which have entered Oxford English Dictionary. It was found out that CENs take on the grammatical and morphological characteristics of English words, such as inflection and derivation. Moreover, CENs belong to specific semantic domains, which are closely related to China's latest social, economic, cultural development in the network era. The study also concluded that CENs are the production of language contact between Chinese and English in the time of Internet.

Moreover, Januševa and Jurukovska (2015) aimed to analyze the conceptual formulation of neologisms in some dictionaries of Macedonian language and in primary school Macedonian language textbooks, which is useful for both linguistics teachers and students. The study put special emphasis on the role of time criterion and lexicographic criterion. The results of the analysis showed that the various conceptual formulations of the term neologism are compatible but too general and lacking precision and hence it is uneasy to determine what the term neologism should signify in the analyzed dictionaries. In addition, in the Macedonian language textbooks there is a degree of inaccuracy, incompatibility, and inconsistency, which affects students' understanding and assimilation of term neologism and its treatment in the language.

By the same token, Kramar and Ilchenko's (2023) study examined English neologisms associated with the Russia-Ukraine war in the year 2022. The study found out that abundance of lexical neologisms appeared after the beginning of the war in February 2022. In addition, some neologisms existed before the war but gained new meaning due to the war such as deputinization and digital blockade, i.e. semantic neologisms. It was also found that some of the neologism terms were coined in the Ukrainian or Russian languages and spread to other languages such as 'missile terrorism'; however others are confined to English only and have no equivalents in Ukrainian or Russian languages, e.g. 'sanctionista'.

Kalugina et.al. (2019) carried out a study which aimed to shed some light on the creative neologisms used in the publicistic texts. It also aimed to consider the phenomenon of creative neologisms by the example of text fragments of English-language newspapers and to implement an adequate classification of creative neologisms. The findings suggest that the potential of using creative neologisms in the publicistic texts is high though the percentage of literary creative devices is rather unstable as compared with the formal ones. Although the corpus study is not very big, this trend is quite visible. The experiment has also shown that the level of students' awareness of literary creative devices that are less frequently used in the publicistic texts is high and can be explained by the differences in perception of creative neologisms by the writers and readers.

The reviewed studies though tackled different topics, deal with neologisms as their mainstream. They dealt with neologisms from different perspectives, i.e. social, cultural and military. Despite the fact that they used different instruments and adopted different methods, their outcomes are likely to agree that neologisms are almost the consequence of adversities. The previous studies handled the topic of neologisms from its different aspects, namely morphological, syntactic, rhetoric and semantic.

Rationale and Scope:

Palestinian territories in general and Gaza Strip in particular witnessed a number of Israeli aggressive military assaults, escalations and most recently genociding since the 1948 Nakba. The Palestinian people experienced hardship, aggression, suffering since the mid of the previous century. Those have been an integral part of their daily life. The hardship and suffering have reshaped the Palestinians culture, language, lifestyles and way of thinking. The current article primarily seeks to check the different popular social media in order to investigate one of the linguistic, pragmatic and even sociolinguistic aspects of language in use during the 2023 war.

The phenomenon of neologisms is worthy to be highlighted in order to avail data for other scholars and researchers to study its different aspects. Therefore, the strong reason beyond carrying out this research is to shed the light on language change, evolution and elasticity in the time of crises in the Palestinian community. One more reason is to record the different words and expressions that have been coined as a response to the current war in order to preserve them even after the end of the war, which later avails database for linguists, psycholinguists, sociolinguists and anthropologists to study the nature of Palestinian Arabic dynamism from its different angles.

Problem Statement:

Language change and innovation is a phenomenon that is worthy to be investigated in any speech community. With respect to the cognitivists' perspective that native speakers of any language are able to produce unlimited number of sentences and utterances they never experienced or heard before, I would assume that in such a situation, the aggressive war, dozens of new expressions are heard among people. This is as a react to the basic needs, feelings, emotions...etc. they have.

Scholars' interest in studying the language of the Holy Qur'an is vast in different fields. Arabic dialects have been the area of concern for many sociolinguists, phenologists, structuralists and hence abundance of research is observed. Despite sociolinguists' interest in the different Arabic dialects, little research exists on how Palestinian Arabic dialect generates and coins new expressions during times of war. Therefore, there is a pressing need to investigate the linguistic creativity born out of the womb of crises. Studying these neologisms reflects the people's identity, resistance and resilience.

Research Questions:

With reference to the current study's background, scope and rationale, and in light of the study problem, the following research questions which will discuss the phenomenon of neologisms from particular angles merged.

1. What are the most common and frequently used Palestinian Arabic neologisms amid the Gaza 2023 war?
2. What are the most frequent word formation processes used in coining these neologisms?
3. How do these neologisms reflect social, emotional and cultural response to the war?

Objectives:

This study seeks to achieve the following objectives:

1. Compiling a corpus of the most frequent and common war-related neologisms from Palestinian Arabic.
2. Categorizing and classifying these neologisms in accordance with the word formation processes used to coin them.
3. Investigating the newly coined neologisms' ability to reflect cultural, social and emotional response to the war.
4. Interpreting their meanings and their sociocultural functions.
- 5.

Significance of the study:

The present study is of paramount importance for many parties interested in language from its different levels, i.e. phonological, morphological, semantic, pragmatic and even sociolinguistic. It seeks to shed the light on how Palestinian Arabic adapts in crises. The study will be a contribution in the fields of Arabic morphology, wartime linguistic and cultural resilience. It may assist translators, educators as well as humanitarian communicators in understanding evolving local expressions.

Methodology:

Method:

In light of the study objectives, the focus is availing database of the newly coined words and expressions in Palestinian Arabic in the time of adversity. For this end, the following steps were followed: First, the researcher navigated the different most common and frequently visited social media aiming at collecting as many neologisms as he can. The targeted social media were WhatsApp, Instagram, telegram and Tick Tock. In addition, five WhatsApp groups of university students were asked some questions which invites them to provide the most common newly coined terms they used or heard during the 2023 war. Finally, the compiled expressions were categorized according to the fields they belong to and then analyzed to identify the word formation processes used to coin them.

Participants:

As mentioned above, the data was collected from five WhatsApp groups of university students in the summer course of the academic year 2024/2025. These five groups included about 800 students from different levels and different majors. A validated survey sheet with seven open-ended questions was distributed to them to answer. 124 students responded and completed the sheet almost fully. Those constitute the sample of the current study.

Data collection:

Due to the current horrifying situation of the 2023 war where it is impossible to have personal face-to-face interviews, the validated survey sheet was electronically distributed to the targeted subjects to collect the data of the current study. The survey sheet distributed to the study subjects on the WhatsApp groups comprised seven questions divided into three categories. The first section included two warm up questions asking them how the war affected their daily communication and if they noticed or used any new words. The second section comprised four core questions on the most common new words, their meanings and if they think they are temporary ones. The last section, which is the closing asks how language helped people cope during the war.

Results and Discussion

For the purpose of the current study, a collection of over than 375 newly coined lexical items was compiled from the responses of the study subjects as well as from the different mass media reports, particularly Al Jazeera and Al Arabi Satellite channels and from social media, mainly Instagram, Tick Tock, telegram after excluding irrelevant and inconvenient lexical items and expressions. The collected neologisms are frequented between October 7th 2023 and July 25th 2025. The researcher classified them thematically into 17 categories as

opposed to Newmark's (1988) classification which was confined to the following 12 types based on semantic and morphological criteria: old words, old collocations with new meanings, new coinages, derived words, abbreviations, collocations, eponyms, phrasal words, transferred words, acronyms, pseudo neologisms, and internationalism.

In response to the first research question stated as follows: What are the most common and frequently used Palestinian Arabic neologisms amid the Gaza 2023 war?, the compiled neologisms have been checked if they go in line with the core definitions of neologisms or not. For the purpose of the present study, I coined the blend 'warologism' to refer to the newly created words amid the Gaza 2023 war and the already existing words which gained a new meaning due to the current situation.

Warologisms in the current study fell into the following domains: education and instruction, economy and finance, military, politics, manners and religious expressions, health and medical terms, relief and humanitarian aids, crises management, transportation, technology and electronics, mental health, rescue, habits and everyday dealings, geographical places, food and drinks, vandalism, and housing and sheltering.

With reference to appendix (1), a hundred and eight warologisms have been purposively selected out of the long list of expressions which exceeded three hundred and seventy-five. The researcher meant to include all the categories to which these newly coined terms belong with a range of approximately six items under each category. The selected expressions have been explained in terms of their literal meaning, metaphorical meaning, if any, and the current context in which it is used with its very specific meaning.

It is noteworthy that the thematic categorization of the compiled data is aligned with the privacy of wartime. The number of warologisms belonging to military and political domains ranked first and second respectively, i.e. %19.73 and %10.13, followed by food and drinks and crises management domains with a percentage of 6.93 each. Neologisms referring to rescue ranked fifth, i.e. 0.05. The least frequent domain was manners and religious expressions whose percentage was only 0.02. The rest came in between.

In this respect and with reference to the previous studies, Song (2020) found that Chinese English neologisms belong to specific semantic domains, which are closely related to China's latest social, economic, cultural development in the network era, which is the result of language contact between Chinese and English in the time of Internet. In the current study, neologisms belonging to economy ranked eighth with a percentage of 0.048. In addition, Kramar and Ilchenko (2023) examined English neologisms associated with the Russia-Ukraine war in the year 2022. The study found out that abundance of lexical neologisms appeared after the beginning of the war in February 2022. In addition, some neologisms existed before the war but gained new meaning due to the war. These results align with those of the current study which emphasized that a considerable number of warologisms are already existing in Palestinian Arabic before the year 2023; however, got new meanings associated with the nature and culture of the war. A vast number of warologisms are completely newly coined expressions which we never experienced or heard before the war.

In relation to the second research question " What are the most frequent word formation processes used in coining these neologisms?", the following section will answer it thoroughly. With regard to the compiled list of neologisms, it is noted that different word

formation processes were used in coining them. Table (2) illustrates the different morphological processes used in creating warologisms.

Table (2): Frequency, percentage and rank of word-formation processes

Morphological Process	frequency	percentage	rank
Compounding	33	30.55	1
Derivation	15	13.88	4
Loan words	18	16.66	3
Eponymy	13	12.03	5
Phraseological units	22	20.37	2
Blending	4	0.37	6
Reduplication	3	0.27	7
Total	108	100	

The table above clearly shows that compounding is the most frequent word formation process in creating war neologisms, with a percentage of 30.55 followed by phraseological units which ranked second with a percentage of 20.37. Loan words came in the third position with a percentage of 16.66 and derivation whose percentage is 13.88 ranked fourth. In the fifth rank came eponymy with a percentage of 12.03. It is also obvious that the least common word formation processes of war neologisms are blending and reduplication which ranked sixth and seventh respectively.

It is noted that %30.55 are formed via compounding and ranked first. So compounding is the most common and frequent morphological process of forming warologisms. Following are illustrative examples:

مندوب مخيم	/mandūb muxayyam/	قطاع طرق	/guṭṭāq ṭurug/
الرزم التعليمية	/alruzam altaṣli:mya/	هندسة الجوع	/handasat aldžūq/
ديك اسمر	/dīk asmar/	طابور التكية	/ṭābūr iltikyā/

Compounding here refers to joining two or more existing words together to create a new notion or meaning. In the examples above, the lexical item مندوب/mandūb/ is added to another lexical item مخيم /muxayyam/ to form a new meaning or a new notion which did not exist before the recent war. And if the former is added to other lexical items such as مبيعات /mabīṣāt/ or so it will give different senses. The same, of course, can be applied to the other lexical items in each compound. It is important to mention that all examples of compounds are compound nouns. No compound adjectives or verbs existed in the compiled examples. Morphologically, compounds fall in different subcategories, the most prominent and common among which are two subcategories, namely Noun+Noun, e.g. الرزم التعليمية / alruzam altaṣli:miya / or Noun + adjective, e.g. ديك اسمر /dīk asmar/. Hybridization is yet one of the different subclasses of compounding where a compound noun is formed of words belonging to two different languages. Only few examples of hybridization are caught among the selected neologisms. Those are: /bāzindžān stikāt/ , باذنجان ستيكات / and /fīrat alkartawn/ , فرقة الكرتون /.

Phraseological units is the second common process of creating warologisms. In the war slang, there is abundance of already existing expressions however used with totally new metaphorical ironic or sarcastic meanings. The following are supporting examples:

كنافه كزابه	/knāfa kazzāba/	على عبد الكابونه	/ʕala ʕīd ilkābawna/
مقلوبة كزابه	/maglūba kazzāba/	الشباب راحوا يسرحوا	/alʕabāb rāhu yisrahu/
راح عالجنه	/rāh ʕaldžanna/	هندسة المجتمع	/handasat almudž tamaṕ

Those are groups of words with specific non-literal meaning usually different from the meaning of independent words making them. They are almost non-fixed or alterable expressions used with figurative or metaphorical way. I mean part of these expressions may be substituted by another word and still would have a figurative rather than denotative meaning. For example, in كنانة كزابة /knāfa kazzāba/ the second word which is adjective can be replaced by مزيفة /mzayafa/ and in على عيد الكابونه /çala çīd ilkābawna/ the second word can be altered by another word حفلة /haflat/ and still will keep a similar meaning.

In the third rank, comes loan words or borrowing as one of the non-deniable processes of forming neologisms. It is apparent that those constituted %16.66 of the total number of the selected neologisms. Here are few examples:

نايلون	/naylun/	اللغات	/allidāt /
كافي نت	/kāfī net /	عجلا	/çagalā/ עגלה
التيتمز	/altīmz/	كوابتر (كوادكابتز)	/kwādkābter // kwābter

Loan words or borrowing as it is also called, are the expressions that come from another language; most often English and sometimes Hebrew as in عجل /çagalā/ עגלה. Those undergo different processes, i.e. loan words with no change as in نايلون /naylun/, loan words with some morphological change such as adding the definiteness marker 'the' as in التيتمز /altīmz/ adding a definite article and the Arabic feminine plural as in اللغات /allidāt / or arabicizing the term as in كافي نت /kāfī net /.

Derivation whose percentage is 13.88 came next. We will deal with it with ample explanation. Derivation refers to forming new words based on existing ones. It is one of the common morphological processes of generating new words both in English and Arabic. This is by adding an affix to the existing word; a prefix or a suffix or both in the case of English and a prefix, a suffix or an infix in the case of Arabic language. Here are some representative examples:

مفقودين	/mafğūdīn/	المقترح	/almuqtarah/
مبادرة	/muba:dara/	المنسق	/almunassiq/
الحلابة	/ alhallaba/	مبادلة	/mubadala/

Eponymy or coinage is yet one of the less common processes of forming new words both in English and Arabic. The results show that only %12.03 of neologisms are coined in this way. Here are some representative examples:

مؤسسة غزة الانسانية	/muʔasasat razza	المدفع	/almadfaç/
	alʔinsānya/		
جماعة ابو شباب	/jamāçat abū ʔabāb	الطيارة	/alʔayāra/
نتساريم	/nitsārīm נצרים	تبة النويري	/tabbat alnuwayri/

Eponymy is a word formation process where a name of a person, a place, a brand or an institution becomes the name of an event, concept, object or action. The resulting words are called eponyms. Eponymy is also defined as the derivation of a new term from a proper noun. Eponyms fall in three types: scientific terms, brand names or genericized trademarks, political and social ideologies (Yule, 2020, Lipka, 2002, Cannon, 1987). With reference to the examples cited above, for instance, جماعة ابو شباب /jamāçat abū ʔabāb/ as well as تبة النويري /tabbat alnuwayri/ are derivations from a proper noun particularly family names not initials

where the former refers to an unofficial militia or an armed gang collaborating with Israeli forces in east Rafah and the latter refers to a name of a place. Other terms such as مؤسسة غزة /muʔasasat ʔazza alʔinsānya/ refers to a proper noun, i.e a name of a city 'Gaza' and names one of the American food distribution centers working in Gaza Strip. The other examples الطيارة /alʔayāra/, المدفع /almadfaʕ/, are names of things which lately referred to popular places, i.e. squares in the cities of Rafah and Deir AlBalah respectively. In addition, نتساريم /nitsārīm /נצרים/ used to refer to a name of a settlement in the middle of Gaza Strip (1967-2005) is used nowadays to refer to a military axis devised by the Israeli forces at the same region of the settlement.

The least word formation processes used to coin warologisms are blending and reduplication respectively. As for blending which is commonly referred to as the mixing of the first part of already existing word with the last part of another to generate a new word. Here are some examples to clarify: كوابتر /kwābter/ and سولاريڭ /sūlāriḏ/. The first is a blend of two English words 'quad' which means 'four' and the last part of 'helicopter' and refers to a drone with four small fans and is used for military tasks such as reconnaissance or attacking small places such as flats or persons and the like. In the case of سولاريڭ /sūlāriḏ/ the blend is made of a Hebrew word /sūlār/ which refers to a type of fuel and another Arabic one /sīriḏ/ which is the brand name of any cooking oil. Due to the shortage of fuel amid the 2023 war, many people tended to mix fuel with cooking oil at the time the latter was available and at reach.

Reduplication is yet one of the processes of coining words with totally new meanings and never heard before the war. It is a morphological process where the stem or the root of a word or part of the word is repeated sometimes with some phonological change (Katamba, 1993, Crystal, 2008 & Lieber, 2010). In the examples, ظهرك...ظهرك /zahrak... zahrak / which indicates 'aware your back' when a cart is passing in crowded streets or markets and الرمل... الرمل /alraml... alraml/ which indicates that some people ate sand due to shortage of bread and other food stuff, one notices that full duplication is used with no change.

With regard to the results of previous research, Song (2020) found out that Chinese English neologisms CENs take on the grammatical and morphological characteristics of English words, such as inflection and derivation. In addition, Karpova (2019) concluded with the result that blending is the most common word formation pattern followed by derivation and compounding in forming innovative food-related words in English. In contrast, the current study found out that compounding, phraseological units, loan words, derivation and eponymy are common ways of coining neologisms in Palestinian Arabic amid 2023 war, meanwhile, blending and reduplication are the least morphological processes of forming warologisms.

In response to the third research question which states "How do these neologisms reflect social, emotional and cultural response to the war?", it is well known that there are two types of neologisms the first is completely new words which are never heard before and the second are already existing words with special meaning due to the nature of the war. During this long unprecedented destructive war, a lot of things have changed physically and emotionally, which affected all traits of life. The social, economic, cultural, psychological, emotional aspects of life are observed to have been influenced by the consequences of war. Since the outbreak of war against Gaza in October 2023, a number of new words and

expressions have been created to convey novel ideas and express overwhelming emotions caused by the war.

As observed in our response to the first research question, the newly coined expressions thematically fall in seventeen categories ranging from military and political fields to everyday life dealings. This is no doubt a clear response to the war and its required linguistic repertoire. For instance, in the field of food and drinks, many related words are created such as names of meals, e.g. كنافه كزابه /knāfa kazzāba/ fake or unreal Kunafeh is a humorous or sarcastic name for the traditional dessert Kunafeh. It is so called since it is made without cheese or semolina due to shortages. The term 'fake' became common among the names of different types of food. Similarly, مقلوبة كزابه /maglūba kazzāba/ (fake Maqluba) where Maqluba is a traditional Palestinian cuisine made from rice, fried potatoes, eggplants, cauliflower and meat almost chicken. In the time of war, due to the unavailability of meat, people used to cook it without chickens, one of its basic ingredients and hence it is called fake Maqluba. Likewise, بادنجان ستيكات /bāzindžān stikāt/ literally means eggplant sticks which is a mock one. This is fried or baked slices of eggplant served as a meat substitute in the absence of actual meat. This is an ironic expression to justify offering it to a guest or to the family members. Moreover, ديك اسمر /dīk asmar/ which formally means 'black cock or rooster'. This is a satirical name for eggplant used as a meat replacement. The expression adds humor to a dire reality where eggplant became a stable dish in the place of others. It indicates the abundance of eggplant and the lack of meat and other food.

In this respect, Cornelia & Frobenius & Ley, (2013) state that eating and talking are universal human traits and language and food are culturally dependent and vary according to factors such as gender, age, or situational context, or even lifestyle. The expressions derived above signify cultural shift and adaptation which is widely rife at the time of war. Such linguistic creativity indicates the ability of the community to maintain cultural identity amidst adversity.

Some neologisms emerge to articulate new realities and foster communal identity during conflict. They reflect social response to the status quo of the war. For instance, مبادرة /muba:dara/ 'an initiative' is a voluntary effort to provide the necessary services for the evacuees reflects social solidarity and communal support. In addition, ما حدا متحمل حدا /mā ḥada mithammil ḥada/ 'no one can tolerate others anymore' indicates social exhaustion, pressure and tension. It reflects psychological fatigue among civilians living under bombardment and displacement and even reflects weak social relations among community members.

Other neologisms capture the emotional landscape of the people affected by the war. You find expressions like تحت الأنقاض /taḥt alanqād/ 'under the rubble' describes people alive or dead trapped under collapsed buildings due to Israeli bombings convey the pervasive sense of loss and devastation. Moreover, مفقودين /mafğūdīn/ which means 'missing persons' refers almost to civilians whose whereabouts are unknown. Most often they are either under rubble, dead, displaced somewhere or arrested by the Israeli forces. Likewise, مقابر جماعية /magābir dżamāḥiya/ which means 'mass graves' is very common at the time of wars. This normally happens due to the high number of casualties, overwhelmed morgues, the complicated state of the battlefield and absence of single graves. Hence, many victims are buried in mass graves without full identification or family presence. In addition, زهقنا /zhigna/ 'we are fed up'

indicates widespread frustration due to shortage of the necessities, frequent displacement, loss and the everyday war routine and إنذلينا /inzalayna/ which means 'we have been humiliated' reflects perceived loss of dignity. This is almost said at the time of displacement, evacuation or search for the necessary goods at the market. These terms have become part of the collective vocabulary, enabling individuals to express grief, fear, and hope and indicate a psychological and emotional response to war.

Conclusion

The latest Israeli war on Gaza which was launched in October the 7th 2023 has captured the attention of millions of people since it constitutes a genocide in the genuine meaning of the word. It has also gained interest of mass media and social media platforms, pages and groups. Gazans, no doubt, are socialized even amid the aggressive war; they used social media in many different ways to describe the daily events of war. In their use of Palestinian Arabic, it is noticed the abundance of new unprecedented words and expressions in addition to already existing ones which gained new meanings due to the war.

Worthy of attention, the newly coined words and expressions responded to the different fields of life in the time of such adversity. At least, 17 themes or domains dealing with people's everyday use of language ranging from military and political expressions to social and economic ones, from educational, nutritional and health lexical items to transportation, communication and technology terms. The majority of these neologisms are neither heard nor experienced before the war time. They came as a natural and unconscious reaction to reflect social, emotional and cultural response to the war. Worth mentioning, the use of certain expression humorously, and ironically indicates, the Gazans' resilience and adaptation to the warfare and adds humor to a dire reality of aggressiveness, destruction, cruelty and hardship of war to debrief their trauma and relieve the stresses of life.

Despite the fact that Arabic and English are languages belonging to different origins, cultures and grammatical systems, they influenced each other thanks to direct or indirect contacts. In coining the selected neologisms, a variety of morphological processes are followed; some are common and others are less common. Compounding, phraseological units, borrowing and derivation are common morphological processes in creating neologisms; however, eponymy, blending and reduplication are the least word formation processes used to create new words in Palestinian Arabic.

Recommendations

In light of the study results, the following recommendations are proposed:

1. There is a need to carry out further research which enlists all the neologisms that appeared at the time of the war in order to reserve them since they constitute a cultural repertoire of the evolution of Palestinian Arabic at the time of adversity.
2. A specialized dictionary or glossary of war-related neologisms (warologisms) should be compiled. Such a resource would not only safeguard these linguistic innovations from being lost after the war but also serve translators, educators, humanitarian

agencies, and future researchers who need a systematic reference to understand these terms in their cultural and historical context.

3. Further sociolinguistic research is required to shed more light on the particularity of linguistic properties that characterize the language used by different age, sex and social groups in the Gazan community amid the 2023 war.
4. Other studies can dive deeper and analyze war neologisms to identify euphemisms and/or taboos used in Palestinian Arabic amid the latest war in order to explore how the war affected people's way of speaking positively and negatively.

Appendix (1)

A list of the most frequent warologisms and their categories

Category	Warologisms & Transliteration	Meaning
1. Education & instruction	الرزم التعليمية /alruzam altaqlmya/	Educational backages: This is the reduced and compressed version of the textbooks which emphasize the basic skills.
	شات جي بي تي /ʃāt dʒī bī tī /	Due to total shift to online/digital learning at the Gaza Strip, activities, assignments and exams are entirely online. Students almost refer to artificial intelligence Chat GPT in doing the tasks and even exams. Some students are caught cheating from Chat GPT.
	التيمز /tīmz/	Teams is one of the widely used platforms for online meetings as one of the alternates for F2F classes. This technology is adopted in most universities and schools due to Israeli eradication of academic and educational institutions.
	مخيم تعليمي /mukhayam taqlimi/	Educational Camp is a group of tents where educational tasks for school students are held F2F by volunteering staff.
	مبادرة /mubādara/	An initiative is a voluntary effort and sometimes funded projects to provide the necessary services for the evacuates in the tents. The services are either instructional, food supply, ...etc.
2. Economy & finance	بياع الحطب /bayaq alhaṭab/	Seller of firewood. This is one of the newly created jobs due to the current situation where firewood is the only source of fire for cooking and baking as a result of Israeli ban of cooking gas in Gaza Strip as a mass punishment policy.
	طحين مسوس /مدود /ṭhīn msawis /mdawid/	Bug-infested and worm-infested flour is the result of bad storage or outdated. People during the war used to make their bread from such flour in the time of famine and starving.
	التجار الفجار /altujjār alfujjār/	The wicked merchants: This expression is widely used to indicate people's anger of the merchants who almost exploited goods and sold them for very high prices which are in most cases decouple of their normal price or so.
		Literally "thieves' market". This is a special corner or part

سوق الحرامية /sūg alharamyya/	of a market in which stolen stuff such as clothes, cooking pots, dishes pans and the like from the destroyed or evacuated houses are sold. Ironically, when you negotiate the prices with them, they keep saying "it doesn't worth".
تطبيق /taṭbīg/	This lexical item refers to any of the digital bank application through which one can make different transactions via any of the local banks particularly buying goods where cash money is not available at the banks two or three months after the onset of war. Israeli forces ban any source of money to enter Gaza Strip since then as a collective punishment and as a pretext of besieging Hamas.
كاش /kāf/	Cash or money in hand is one of the most common loan words from English language which entered the daily use during the wartime. It is nowadays one of the biggest and most complicated issues at the time since one cannot get it from any bank where he/she keeps his savings. One alternate is to get cash money from exchange offices which deal with-but work for- merchants for a percentage of 40 or 45. At the early months of war the percentage of cashing used to be 3-5 and it started rising as a frog leap to reach 17-18%, 23% a month later, then 30% and lately 45%. Cash money is urgently needed for affording transportation, buying stuff such as food and the like.
مبادلة /مقايضة /Mubadala // muqayaḍa/	Bartering: This is one type of trade by which people exchange one good or commodity for another. At the current time of war this became one of the common ways of trade among people in the Gaza Strip. One swaps a commodity which they have plenty of with another commodity they lack or urgently need.
ملييه /mlabya/	Metaphorically, this expression refers to a penniless person who lacks money to buy the necessities. It was not used before this war and now it is commonly used among people.
يا ازرق يا باخدش /ya ʔazrag ya baxudiʃ/	Literally, either blue or I won't take it. Blue is the color of the Israeli banknote of 200 new Israeli Shekels NIS. This means notes other than the 200 NIS will not be accepted by the merchants in the market. It is worth noted Israeli Shekel is the currency used for everyday dealings such as buying food, drinks, clothes and other stuff. However, for buying second-hand cars as well as plots of land Jordanian dinar is required. As for buying new modern cars US dollar is used.
سوسه ولا فلوسه /sūsū wala flūsū/	Literally, "with bugs better than its money." This expression metaphorically refers to flour even with bugs, I will not sell it but bake it for my kids so I won't sell it for any price. Ideationally, whatever the product is with bad quality, it is worthier than money.
تصليح عملات /taṣlīḥ ʕumlāt/	This is translated as money fixing or repairing. Actually, this is one of the recently devised jobs during the war where you find a number of people in the market glue the torn money notes for an agreed amount of money. Ironically, when you ask the fixer to take his sum of money, and to give you the change, he refuses and insists on you to

		give him change.
3. Military	الحلابة /alhallāba/	Literally, this term means "to milk". This is one of the common wartime slang lexical items. It is a sarcastic term used in Gaza to refer to exploiting people by the Israeli forces on a military checkpoint where people are asked to leave all their belongings and sometimes jailed or even assassinated.
	حزام ناري /hizām nāri/	Literally, "fire belt", whereas in military contexts it means a barrage zone which refers to a continuous and concentrated area of intensive bombing, or shelling resulting in a barrier of a siege zone around a target area. It is one of the military tactics that Israeli forces uses where heavy artillery and/ or airstrikes are used to isolate an area always resulting in dozens of victims from the civilians.
	كوادكابتير (كوادكابتير) /kwādkābter // kwābter/	A quadcopter or "quapter" as a blended term in Arabic refers to a military drone controlled via a specialized team of Israeli Airforce soldiers. This type of drones, according to the Gazans is a combat one which is used to shoot using bullets, drop explosives or explodes itself in the targeted people leading to a number of killed civilians. It is responsible for reaching the targets in their flats, in the street or anywhere else. Due to its small size, it can enter the house from the window or the door.
	روبوتات /rubūtāt/	It refers to the Israeli military ground-based robotic systems, i.e. machines or devices that are programmed and remotely controlled to carry out tasks automatically such as surveillance, explosive ordnance disposal, urban reconnaissance and entering tunnels or buildings without risking soldiers. Some of those were used in Jabalia and; other zones in Gaza Strip to destroy buildings in neighborhoods and camps with very narrow roads.
	اسطوانة /ziṣṭwānā /	Literally means compact disc CD usually including recorded data which can be referred to or repeated many times. In the war slang, it refers to Israeli Defense Forces' military verbal messages sent to the Gazan mobile phones almost warning or ordering them to evacuate the house or the town and to leave to AlMawasi pretended safe zone west Khanyounis.
	كمين مركب /kamīn murakkab/	This is one of the widely used military expressions in the mass media by military expert analysts. It means a complex ambush or a multi-layered or planned ambush involving more than one phase of trap using already planted underground mines and crossfire. Palestinian resistance militants tended to use it several times during the war to catch enemy forces off-guard in a staged area usually resulting in a number of killed and injured Israeli soldiers every time.
	المنسق /almunassiq/	Literally means "The Coordinator". In the military context, this is a high official military post in the IDF where an officer of high military rank such as Lieutenant General or so with special qualities is chosen for this high post. It is Major General, Ghassan Eleyan, who is chosen for this task since he is originating from a Durzi community and has the

	فرقة سهم /firqat sahm/ جماعة ابو شباب (ميليشيا) /jamāḩat abū jabāb /	post of Coordinator of the Israeli Government at the Palestinian Territories. During the Gaza 2023 war, many Gazan people have been following his Facebook page where maps of evacuation are presented. 'Sahm' literally means "arrow" which indicated power and strength. In the time of Gaza 2023 war, as a result of stealing and plundering humanitarian aids by some gangs and groups of militants, this unofficial armed group was found to protect and save the humanitarian aids until they reach to their destination, namely UN, WFP, stores. Worth mentioning, this group has been targeted several times by Israeli Forces and drones and a number of its members have been killed. Abu Shabab Militia is one of the unofficial armed groups or gangs working in east Rafah which is currently under the Israeli army control. This group. according to Al-Jazeera news report on 12th June 2025, ranging from 100-300 militants, is led by Yaser Abu Shabab, an ex-prisoner in Gaza though discharged at the beginning of the war by the Hamas police in order not to be targeted in prisons by Israeli air raids. This group is very active at the eastern province of Rafah and has many tasks according to mass media and social media reports as plundering humanitarian aids, reconnaissance tasks and helping officials of the American aid centers.
4. Politics	الممر الامن /almamar alāmin / المقترح /almuqtaraḩ/ هندسة المجتمع الفلسطيني /handasat almuḩḩ tamaḩ alfilisṩīni/ هندسة الجوع / handasat alḩḩḩ /	Mass displacement corridor and also known as safe corridor refers to a designated route for civilians to evacuate from one place to another within the Gaza Strip. Gazans have very bad experience with such corridors controlled by Israeli Armed Forces. Hundreds of people were killed or at best conditions arrested and led to Israeli prisons. Still a number of civilians who crossed from these paths are missing. The proposed plan or suggestion by the mediators offered to the two negotiating parties, i.e. Israeli and the Hamas for discussion or implementation. This lexical term has been commonly redundant especially via the recent American Administration. Every day we hear of Witkoff's recent and latest Proposals for a truce or ceasefire. Palestinian society engineering is a recently coined expression which means strategic restructuring or manipulation of the Palestinian social fabric. This is one of the Israeli strategic policies approved by the American Trump Administration which aims at displacing more than a million of the Gazans to some proposed countries mainly Arab or African countries where they can refuge and restart their life. Famine engineering: This expression is widely used in the mass media to refer to the policy of deliberate food scarcity as a war weapon or control. Israeli government used this policy several times during the 2023 war as a means of pressure on the Palestinian negotiating party at Doha. It is also used as a collective or mass punishment policy in order

	انتاج الموت /ʔintādʒ almawt/ الهدنة /alhudna/ مؤسسة غزة الانسانية /muzasasat ʔazza alʔinsānya /	for the Palestinian negotiating party to offer a waiver in the indirect negotiations in Qatar. Literally, production of death and metaphorically refers to the systematic killing, bombardment and militarized oppression of the Palestinian civilians in Gaza by the Israeli Armed Forces. This expression highlights normalization of mass killing every day and everywhere. 'Truce or a temporary stoppage of fighting often under negotiation' This normally happens for exchanging prisoners or hostages between the two fighting parties. Here, in Gaza for civilians, truce is a chance for a rest of death. It is one of the most frequently used words among Gazans as they consider it a break of the deadly routine. Gaza Humanitarian Foundation GHF. This is likely an institution which provides Gazan people with food. It is a security American institution whose staff are armed with light weapons. This institution came to Gaza according to the Israeli Government request. Since it started providing food supply, this institution proved responsible for killing a number of food seekers.
5. Manners & religious expressions	راح باي/ عالجنه /rāh bye // ʕaldʒanna / حسبنا الله على التجار أولاد الحرام /hasbuna Allah ʕalattujjar ʔawlād alharām / ما حدا متحمل حدا /mā ḥada mithammil ḥada /	Literally means "he has gone to Paradise". This is a childish expression to reconsolidate them and to support children psychologically. It indicated that the dead person is a martyr whose ultimate residence is Paradise. It is a common expression of grief mixed with religious hope. Literally, May Allah hold the merchants, the illegally born ones/ unlawful sons, accountable. This is a curse or an expression of frustration towards greedy and exploitative traders particularly during crises such as the Gaza 2023 war. This is because they make the prices of essential goods rise unfairly to become unaffordable by the majority of people. Those are war profiteering. 'No one can tolerate others anymore.' This expression indicates social exhaustion, pressure and tension. It reflects psychological fatigue among civilians living under bombardment and displacement.
6. Health & medical terms	هيكل عظمي /haykal ʕazmi/ يقطع البعوض وأهله /yigṭaʕ ilbaʕūd wʔahlu /	Literally, skeleton: It is an expression which refers to someone who has become extremely thin due to hunger or malnutrition as the case of eating canned food for a long time which have no real nutritional value. The expression is often used to describe starvation victims among children and elderly people due to food shortages during wartime. This expression literally means "God kill mosquitos and their families". It indicates the vast spread of mosquitos in Gaza Strip due to the state of not fighting them through spreading insecticides via municipalities as the Israeli forces ban insecticides to enter Gaza Strip. One more reason for the spread of mosquitos is the piles of rubble everywhere and the sewage and rubbish which spreads everywhere in the streets and neighborhoods. Means 'yours is a two-colored face.' This refers to walking

	وجهك لونين /widʒhak lawnayn/ سوء التغذية /sūʔ altawzya/ الريقان /alrīgān/ الجرب /aldʒarab /	long hours under the burning sun from a place to another at the time where there are no trees in the streets for shade to protect from the hot sun as most of the trees have been uprooted by the Israeli forces. In addition, most people may not have cash money to pay for the few transportations means. It means malnutrition. This expression despite it is a medical term is widely used in health centers, by international institutions, in mass media reports and even by mothers whose children suffer from malnutrition. This is the result of shortage of the essential food elements which is rife at the time of crises and wars. This is a medical term which means "Jaundice" whose synopsis are reddening of face and eyes. This is normally the consequence of malnutrition or liver disease. This serious disease is almost one of the common diseases among babies and children. Medically means "Scabies" which is one of the skin serious infectious diseases resulting from lack of sanity and cleanliness due to shortage of water and cleaning materials. Such a disease is rife among the evacuating people in the tent camps.
7. Relief & humanitarian aids	كابونات /kabūnāt/ مساعات حيوانية /musāqadāt haywānya/ مراكز التوزيع الأمريكية /marākiz altawzīṣ alamrīkya / كود Code	This is one of the commonly used loan words from English 'coupon' which is normally a small piece of paper or a ticket that allows one to get a service or product for free. Those are generally issued by international institutions such as WFP and UNICEF responsible for providing food and other necessities for the refugees or evacuates at the time of crises. Locally, Gazans use this word to refer to the food portion they get for free from the humanitarian aid organizations. Literally means "Animal Aids". It is a sarcastic and ironic expression which basically refers to " Humanitarian Aids". It is caught from Al-Jazeera Satellite Channel reporter field interview with a lady who headed one of the American Humanitarian Foundation centers to fetch food for her kids. She referred to it this way due to the intentional non-organization and chaos state there which normally results in killing a number of food seekers every time. This very common expression pertains to American aids distribution centers spreading in four positions across the Gaza Strip belonging to the so called " Gaza Humanitarian Foundation GHF" These centers are supposedly to provide food aids to the evacuates at Gaza Strip This loan word from English is part of a message from any of the humanitarian aid institutions in which people are informed to head a particular food distribution center in their neighborhood or at any of the near regions. Every message has a special code for the food portion which facilitates the task of workers.

	رسالة توجه /risālat tawadʒah / التكية /altikkya/ طيارة المساعدات /ʔajarat almusāʕadāt /	Literally means the message "Head" or just go. The text message sent to the Gazans to head particular center to receive their food portion includes this word 'Head' which for them is the most important word and which makes them content. So, to facilitate the matter for all users they use this word as a code to substitute the whole message which almost lengthy. Currently a very common lexical item which means 'Charity Kitchen' where free food is distributed. The term is dated back to the Islamic State at the Ottoman Empire. There used to be Islamic charities providing food for the poor people. In the Gaza 2023 war context, it refers to emergency kitchens feeding displaced people. This literally means 'Aid Plane'. It originally refers to planes that drop parachutes with humanitarian aid such as food parcels. During the Gaza 2023 war, we witnessed at certain times Jordanian and Egyptian Military planes which flew in the skies of Gaza Strip dropping Parachutes with urgent aids for the evacuated people. Surprisingly, and ironically these parachutes sometimes fell on the tents killing some people or sometimes fell in the Gaza Sea shore. Those proved ineffective in dealing with hunger crises as they only symbolize international performative aid rather than real relief.
8. Crises management	شنطة الطوارئ /ʃanʔat ʔawarī/ إخلاء تكتيكي /ʔixlāʔ taktīki / تخزين /taxzīn/ شواذر /ʃawādir /	"Emergency bag "or Go -bag. This is a prepacked bag including the essential documents such as identity cards, passports, birth certificates and important contracts and sometimes including some necessary clothes in case of sudden evacuation. This is very common during the current war where every family member kept his/her emergency bag nearby for sudden displacement due to sudden bombardment or military incursion. 'Tactical evacuation' relates to forced movement from an area due to an expected military attack. This is a sarcastic expression widely used among people in Gaza to mean that I evacuated myself and not forced to. And sometimes it refers to a day or a couple of days' evacuation in response to the IDF orders which is almost imposed as a collective punishment procedure. Mainly means storing or stockpiling. It is related to storing the different types of food such as canned food and fuel in preparation for shortages. This is one of the highly common behaviours among people in Gaza during the 2023 war which results in economic crisis due to the disappearance of certain goods from the market. The term can also negatively refer to and describes merchants who store certain stuff to drive their prices up. This means large canvas 5x4 or 6x4 meter sheets used to cover shelters or makeshift tents. People in Gaza used to use them in camps, schools or streets as a symbol of displacement and loss of housing during the 2023 war. Those are almost donations from different countries and distributed for free.

	نايلون /naylun/ خريطة الاخلاء /xarīʔat ʔalʔixlāʔ/ الك نصف ر غيف طول اليوم /ʔilak nuʃ irʔif ʔūl ilyawm/	Nylon is a loan word from English which basically means plastic sheeting used for covering roofs, walls or privacy. During the Gaza 2023 war, due to eradicating houses and buildings, people used it to make their makeshift shelters to live under. It is worth mentioning this material proved unfit and inconvenient in the different seasons. Evacuation map is one showing pretended safe zones and/or evacuation routes. In Gaza, this became a very common procedure since October 7th 2023. Such maps are distributed via SMS messages, recorded voice, or on the coordinator's Facebook page. This means 'you get half a loaf for the whole day'. It bitterly indicates extreme food shortage or rationing. This behaviour reflects daily suffering and hardship during aid scarcity.
9. Transportation means	الكارو /alkārru/ التكتك /altuktuk/ العجلا /ʕagalā/ עגלה بنزين صناعي /banzīn ʃināʕi/ سولاريڭ /sūlāridʒ/	'A cart' is a carriage pulled by a donkey or a horse used for transporting people water or goods. Amid the 2023 war, it became and still a popular transportation means due to fuel shortages and infrastructure collapse. This can be a symbol of poverty and resilience in crisis. Means auto-rickshaw which is a small three-wheeled vehicle used for local transport. This means became very popular and expensive means of transportation which constituted a lifeline in areas inaccessible to cars due to destruction of streets and sometimes according to Israeli military orders as in the case of moving from south Gaza strip northwards and vice versa. A loan lexical item from Hebrew which means 'wagon' and pertains to a four-wheeled metal or wooden cart sometimes pulled by animals or pushed by hand to carry water tanks food or belongings. In Gaza 2023 War slang it is usually pulled by a car and used mainly as a transportation means and sometimes for carrying goods. This indicates return to primitive transport means due to the Israeli procedures. It stands for homemade or synthetic fuel. It is normally locally produced unrefined and often poor-quality fuel made from burning plastic and other waste materials. Due to the Israeli policy of banning fuel to enter the Gaza Strip, some people tended to produce it as an alternate to let life go. This type of fuel only worked with old cars rather than modern automated ones. This term is a blend from two words the first of which is a loan word and the other is an Arabic word. This refers to gasoline mixed with cooking oil as a fuel which works with old gasoline-engine cars and engines. Many cars at the first few months of the war used this type of fuel particularly for transportation means. This type of fuel proved negatively affecting respiratory system and ends with serious diseases. Literally means 'your back' doubled or tripled. This might be one of the most frequently used slang expression

	ظهرك ... ظهرك /zahrak... zahrak /	particularly in crowded markets and in the streets. This is a shouted warning phrase which means move now or watch your back. This warning phrase is made by riders of carts pulled by horses or donkeys.
10. Technology & electronics	بطاقات نت /biṭāgāt net / اللدات /allidāt / شحن (الجوال، البطارية) /ʃahn dʒawwāl // baṭṭāriya / كافي نت /kāfi net / لوح طاقة /lawḥ ṭāgā/	Meaning 'Internet Cards'. Those are small pieces of paper on which a username and a password are provided to access internet service for an identified sum of money, e.g. one, two or so shekels each for a limited period of time: one hour, two, three, five or twelve hours. This type of line internet grid is vastly used in the different regions of Gaza strip since the majority of infrastructure has been destroyed amongst which are telephone cables which used to provide internet connection before the 2023 war. This lexical item is a technical term. It is a loan word from English and has the Arabic morphological plural form. The singular form 'LED' stands for light-emitting diode. LEDs are widely used in the Gaza Strip during the 2023 war due to the blackout of electricity and they are battery-powered lights. Charging mobile phones & batteries became a daily demand and behaviour since the start of the 2023 war due to the blackout of electricity power since then. Charging became one of the recently devised jobs in Gaza as you pay money for each charge. Worth mentioning, solar power is used as an alternate for electricity current in this respect. This loan expression 'Net Café' though inverted stands for a place where people go for internet services and maybe mobile phone or laptop charge. This place might be a basement at a house, a flat, a tent or a place to sit beside the road. Net cafes became very common places for investment and income for many people which is found everywhere in the Gaza Strip since the start of the 2023 war. This refers to 'solar panel' which is used to generate electricity. Solar power became the only alternate for electricity current due to the total grid collapse by the Israeli armed forces. Nowadays a panel is decouple of its normal price before the current war.
11. Mental health	الهلع /alhalaṣ/ لقاءات تفريغ /liqāʔāt tafirīʔ/	This noun stands for 'panic' which is extreme fear due to bombardment. This psychological term became a war slang used by mental health centers, international organizations, mass media and even by the normal people. An adjective /mahlūṣ/ is newly coined from this already existing word to refer to people being panicked. "Trauma debriefing sessions are psychological support sessions which aim for emotional relief and trauma unloading through specialized teams of counselors. This is urgently needed procedure for most people particularly children under bombardment who watch their families, relatives and neighbors killed every moment. Literally means 'should I change myself?'. This expression is commonly used as an expression of despair and

	أغير حالي؟ /ʔaxayyir hāl/ زهقنا /zhigna/ انذلينا /ʔinzalayna/	depression. It is a reaction to the merchants' behaviour who always ask you to change the money note whatever its state is when you go to the market to buy any commodity and most of the time you do not have any other note. This verb means 'we are fed up' which indicates widespread frustration due to shortage of the necessities, frequent displacement, loss and the everyday war routine. The verb here in the plural form means we have been humiliated which reflects perceived loss of dignity. This is almost said at the time of displacement, evacuation or search for the necessary goods at the market which have been already hidden by merchants for raising up their prices.
12. Rescue	بتنفس؟ /bitnaffas/ فيه الروح /fī alrawḥ/ تحت الأنقاض /taḥt alanqāḍ/ اشلاء مش معروفة /ʔaʃlāʔ miʃ maʃrūfa / جثث متحللة /dʒuθaθ mitalila/ مقابر جماعية /magābir dʒamāʕiya/ مفقودين /mafɣūdīn/	This widely used verb means 'Is he breathing?' It is an emergency question during rescue to explore whether the person under rubble is a life or dead. For the same purpose, the phrase literally 'he still has soul' which stands for 'he is still alive.' is frequently used by rescue teams and by ordinary people to give information about people being targeted by Israeli bombardments. This phrase mainly means 'under rubble'. It describes people alive or dead trapped under collapsed buildings due to Israeli bombings. This expression is one of the most frequently used in media, social media, news reports and the like. It means unidentifiable body parts or remains and pertains to bodies torn apart by explosions making identification of people impossible. This expression is frequented by rescue teams, medical and news reports. 'Decomposed corpses' describes bodies left unrecovered for days or months under rubble or in the evacuated neighborhoods due to ongoing shelling or inaccessibility. Those often result in emitting strong unbearable odors. This term means 'mass graves' which is very common at the time of wars. This normally happens due to the high number of casualties and overwhelmed morgues where no single graves are available. Hence, many victims are buried in mass graves without full identification or family presence. This is a non-strange behavior of the Israeli forces during the 2023 Gaza war where dozens or even hundreds of victims are being covered with sand or rubble by the Israeli bulldozers. This means 'missing persons' and refers almost to civilians whose whereabouts are unknown. Most often they are either under rubble, dead, displaced somewhere or arrested by the Israeli forces. The term is common in humanitarian reports news reports, governmental records and among ordinary people.
13. Habits & everyday dealings,	غسل الملابس في البحر /ʔasl ilmalābis fil	Washing clothes in the sea is one of everyday habits particularly for the evacuated people in the tents by the

	baħar / عبي قداحتك /çabbi gaddaħtak/ على عيد الكابونه /çala çîd ilkābawna / لحق عربيه الميه اجت /lahhig çarabyat ilmayya zîdžat/ طابور التكيه /tābūr iltikyya/	seashore. People used to do so due to shortage of water, fuel crisis and destruction of infrastructure. Many people resorted to washing their clothes in the sea whose water is salty and may damage clothes. This behaviour is symbolic of the collapse of basic services. The expression at hand means 'refill your lighter'. A number of young men dwell in the streets repeating this clause and hence it became a job for many people. This is one of the recently created jobs at the time of war. Currently, the lighter which was sold for one shekel only before the war, is now sold for seventy shekels. So, people keep them as long as they can and if damaged there are special people who repair them. Repairing lighters is yet another created job during this war. Literally means on the Fest day of food parcel' and metaphorically means in your dreams. This is a sarcastic expression mocking the delay or improbability of receiving aid package. It implies something unlikely to happen. Here, it means 'Hurry to fetch water, the water truck has arrived'. The context of using this expression during the war time is with water cut off, families rely on mobile water trucks particularly in the evacuation camps where a large number of people gather sometimes in queues. It reflects the urgency and competition to get drinking water or just clean water before the water runs out or the truck leaves. The phrase means 'the charity food line or queue' which is always so lengthy. Charity kitchens provide food for free for many families, which is the only source of food for them. The phrase reflects long queues of displaced or starving people waiting for food meals during the war.
14. Geographical places	محور موراج /mihwar mūrādž / نتساريم /nitsārīm/ المواصي /almawaṣī/	Morag Axis refers to the former Israeli settlement 'Morag' which was located to the south of Kanyounis and north Rafah since the occupation of Gaza Strip in 1967 and evacuated in 2005. During the 2023 war, it became a significant military axis for Israeli ground operations near Rafah. Often mentioned in media reports and it is one of the complicated issues of the late negotiations round (July 2025 round). This is a loan word from Hebrew which means 'people who plant'. Politically, refers to a former Israeli settlement between Gaza city and the Middle area camps. It is currently used by Israeli forces as a strategic corridor or buffer zone. 'Netzarim Axis' became widely used in 2023-2024 to describe Israeli troops movement effectively dividing the Gaza Strip during the war. Al-Mawasi is a coastal strip in the southern Gaza Strip west of Khanyounis and Rafah. During the 2023 Gaza war, the Israeli army designated Al-Mawasi as a humanitarian safe zone and warned the people to evacuate to it for safety. It was mentioned frequently in military orders and media reports as well as humanitarian communications. Over than a million people evacuated to it at the first few days of the war, becoming overcrowded with displaced people living in

	المدفع /almadfaç/ الطيارة /alṭayāra/ تبة النويري /tabbat alnuwayri/	tents with limited food, water and medical care sources. The area being by the seashore, did not protect people from the burning sun in summer and the cold weather in winter. It became a symbol of suffering and refuge, an area lacking infrastructure to support the huge number of evacuees. Semantically, means 'the cannon'. This is a small square in the middle of Deir El Balah town. It became very popular for the majority of evacuees since it is an economic center. It is so called due to the 'Cannon' placed in the middle of this square which is previously taken from one of the Israeli destroyed Merkava tanks. This name was not popular before the 2023 Gaza war. The formal equivalent in English is 'the plane' ;however, it refers to a square nicknamed 'Tayyara' in the west south of Rafah. Before the war of 2023, the name of this square was not popular, though it gained popularity by evacuees from the different parts of Gaza Strip. Since then, it became one of the most popular places in the city of Rafah. 'Al-Nuwairi Hill' is a small elevated high area west Nusairat overlooking the Mediterranean seashore. It is named after 'Al-Nuwairi' family inhabiting it. This small place has become very popular among people in the Gaza Strip since it is the area where people have to stop at when heading north Gaza Strip from the south and vice versa.
15. Food & Drinks	ايتا (مياه حلوة) /zita Eta / حلويات بالحمص /halawiyāt bilhummuṣ/ كنافه كزابه /knāfa kazzāba / مقلوبة كزابه) / maglūba kazzāba / بازنجان ستيكات /bāzindžān stikāt /	'Eta' refers to a name of a popular company producing filtrated drinking water mainly south the city of Gaza. This became a popular local slang and gained much popularity after the start of the war since the company shifted its work to Rafah near the large population of evacuees to serve them. The popularity of the name distinguished the company from other ones providing clean water. This means 'chickpea-based sweets'. Due to the lack of traditional baking ingredients mainly flour, Gazans innovated desserts using available items like chickpeas. This became symbolic of creativity at the time of war due to food scarcity. Fake or unreal Kunafeh is a humorous or sarcastic name for the traditional dessert Kunafeh. It is so called since it is made without cheese or semolina due to shortages. The term 'fake' became common among the names of different types of food. (fake/ unreal Maqluba): Maqluba is a traditional Palestinian cuisine made from rice, fried potatoes, eggplants, cauliflower and meat almost chicken. In the time of war, due to the unavailability of meat, people used to cook it without chickens, one of its basic ingredients and hence it is called fake Maqluba. Literally means eggplant sticks which is a mock one. This is fried or baked slices of eggplant served as a meat substitute in the absence of actual meat. This is an ironic expression to justify offering it to a guest or to the family members.

	ديك اسمر (بتنجان) /dīk asmar /	Formally means black cock or rooster. This is a satirical name for eggplant used as a meat replacement. The expression adds humor to a dire reality where eggplant became a stable dish in the place of others. It indicates the abundance of eggplant and the lack of meat and other food.
16. Housing & sheltering	شرنج /ʃring shring/ نايلون /naylun/ خيمة /xayma/ مندوب مخيم /mandūb muxayyam / نازح جوة والابرة /nāziḥ dzuwwa walla barra / رجعوننا للمدارس /radʒdʒaṣūna lilmadāris /	This is very thin roll of nylon usually used for piling stuff and goods. It is widely used at the time of war for covering windows and doors to protect houses from dust, wind and insects. It is the only available material used in most of house remains whose widows and doors are off. Nylon is a loan word from English which means plastic sheeting. This has several uses; however, at the time of war, it is mainly used as roofing or wall material for tents and shelters due to lack of construction materials at the evacuation camps where tents are sometimes unavailable. 'Tent' is the primary form of shelter in displacement areas like schoolyards, streets, vineyards and the seashore. Almost made of plastic and hence it is hot in summer and freezing in winter. Tents are generally distributed by international humanitarian institutions working in Gaza. It means camp representative whose responsibility is organizing aids and distributing them. In addition, his duty is to provide information to the international humanitarian associations about displaced people in the camp he represents. This job is very common in the displacement zones such as Al Mawasi. This literally means if you are 'displaced inside or outside'. This question is commonly posed to get information about displaced people if they are displaced in a school so they are 'inside' and if they are in a rent house, a tent or with relatives outside school, then it is 'outside'. This expression has become a common lingo among aid associations and the local people as well. Literally means 'they returned us back to schools'. Ironically, this is a claim or just a joke made by displaced adults in schools where maybe this is the first time they enter school after they left it long ago.
17. Vandalism & theft	العصابات /alṣabāt / فرقة الكرتون /firqat alkartawn/	'Gangs' This term describes armed groups or looters who exploit the current situation of war where the police is unable to spread order and control. So, they exploit the breakdown of order to steal or control aids. Many of such gangs appeared during the 2023 war some of whom are protected by the Israeli forces such as Abu Shabab militia. Literally means 'cardboard box group'. This is a sarcastic nickname of thieves who go for the GHF centers just for getting particular cardboard boxes filled with precious commodities such as sugar, biscuits, flour, chocolates and the like which they sell in the market for high prices.

	قطاع طرق. /guṭṭāq ṭurug /	The phenomenon of 'bandits' is a recent one during this war. Those are groups of armed young men who get active at night who steel from individuals their money, mobile phones or any other valuable belongings. Others are responsible for steeling from convoys of aids in areas with no security presence.
	حواجز تفتيش ليلي /ḥawadḡiz taftiḡ layli/	'Night inspection checkpoints' Those are unofficial armed young men who make checkpoints at particular remote areas to control movement and arrest thieves and gangsters who work under the cover of night.
	السطو على مراكز المساعدات /alṣaṭw ʕala marakiz almusāʕad āt/	This means 'looting aid distribution centers'. This refers to forced break-ins on food and supply centers belonging to international institutions and seizing all their belongings. This has been a common behavior since the start of war in October 2023.
	الشباب راحوا يسرحوا /alṣabāb rāḥu yisra ḥu/	Means young men have left early to work'. This is a euphemism that means they went to get aids despite the fact that they steel them and sometimes under force from the aid stores or even from others who already got some.

Appendix (2)

A Survey sheet

Warm-up Questions:

- 1 .Can you describe how the 2023 war affected your daily communication?
- 2 .Did you notice any new words or expressions being used?

Core Questions:

- 3 .Can you share any new words (or phrases) you used or heard during the war?
- 4 .What do these words mean? What do they refer to?
- 5 .Where did you first encounter them (e.g., social media, friends, mass media, the family)?
- 6 .Why do you think people used new words instead of older ones?

Closing:

7. How do you feel language helped people cope during the war?

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